

MEETINGS - 2ND WEDNESDAY OF EACH MONTH
STAUFFER MANSION - 7:30 P.M.
1241 Lititz Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601
Next Meeting - Wed. JULY 12, 1995

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT OUR CLUB
CALL MARILYN SHIRLEY (717)872-2479
OR MICHAEL SHIRLEY (717)394-0186.

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In recent years time and illnesses have taken their toll on our members, their families and friends. Now we must reflect on the passing of another fine individual, JIM FIKE. A member of the LCPS for the past three years, JIM departed this life on April 30, 1995. Born in Bruceton Mills, West Virginia on February 23, 1924, JIM received his education locally before earning his B.S. from W.V.U. and his Master's from Maryland University.

During WWII, JIM served in the infantry seeing action in several battles in Southern Germany. His marriage to June Frazee on August 24, 1946 subsequently produced twins, Connie and Lane, and a second son, Gary.

JIM taught Dairy Husbandry at W.V.U. until moving on to Penn Walt Company as a Technical Services Engineer and relocating his family to the Philadelphia area where he worked until retirement and settling in Lancaster. Collecting the stamps and postal history of Russia and U.S. First Day Covers comprised his philatelic interests. His other collecting interests varied widely, from rare and unusual bottles, to coins and aeroplane paraphernalia. At our "Anything But Stamps" night, he withstood quite a bit of ribbing as to how he amassed a punch bowl full of variously colored swizzle sticks.

In the time we knew him, JIM displayed a quiet, sly wit and an inquisitiveness that made him knowledgeable in many fields. Though health problems slowed him down in his last years, they failed to diminish his friendly, pleasant demeanor. This issue of the newsletter is dedicated to the memory of our friend and fellow member, JAMES FIKE.

JULY HOST

PETER BILLIS will be host for our July Meeting. Mary Husson, the scheduled hostess will be touring Egypt in July and PETER graciously consented to switch months. Eat a light supper as we anticipate many goodies from PETER.

JULY PROGRAM

Stamp Games will be the program for July and LESLEY BOTTE will be "Mistress of Games".

THE NEW MARSHALL STREET SORTING AND DISTRIBUTION FACILITY

After an earlier mix-up when half the members gathered at the Stuafter Mansion and the other half outside of the new Lancaster Sorting and Distribution Center, we finally assembled in the storage/meeting room in the new facility. We were greeted by Mike Sheely, Plant Manager and "Sis" George, Postmaster's Assistant. A table containing hot coffee, soda and a variety of snacks was there for our pleasure. A prepared talk by Postmaster William Sheehan, was followed by a question and answer session and a guided tour of the huge plant.

We learned that this type of facility is the largest on the East Coast. It was needed to relieve the Harrisburg Building of overcrowding and to make the sorting and distribution of mail more efficient. Neither is there canceling of mail nor sales of stamps/or customer services at the Marshall Street facility.

The postal employees work 6:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. They sort mail for the first three hours before going out on their routes and returning by 2:50 p.m. before leaving at 3:00 p.m. Each mail person has his own cubicle. Mail volume is determined by linear footage. An easy route, i.e., close to this mail center, might be responsible for 13 feet of mail while a difficult route, i.e. farthest from the Center, rough terrain, might be 10 feet. Each employee's performance is rated against standards set for him/her individually.

One club member asked why they had two mail deliveries a day back in the '30's and a third for business mail around the holidays yet the cost of a stamp was only three cents. Mr. Sheehan explained that back then the P.O. was a branch of the government and any time it needed money they just submitted a request and the one was forth coming. Today the U.S.P.S. must make revenues equal expenses, hence the eight billion debt, that must be made up to remain solvent. Increasing the rates for various types of service cannot do it alone. Hence the P.O. merchandizes and computerizes wherever possible. Productivity is maximized as efficiency is increased while the P.O. must do with less employees.

Another member asked why doesn't the P.O. do away with junk mail as the huge volume taxes postal service equipment and increases the work load of its employees in the canceling, sorting and delivery of mail most frequently assigned to the waste basket without being read by its recipients. Mr. Sheehan explained that contrary to popular belief, junk

mail shows a profit for the P.O. In fact, studies show that any junk mail to which you respond generates on the average seven pieces of first class mail and more revenue if the transaction results in bulky packages being shipped. Mr. Sheehan further enlightened us by stating all classes of mail show a gain in revenues except non-profit. Originally used for charitable organizations on a small scale, now large corporations mailing out millions of pieces of correspondence and advertisements daily are taking advantage of the way the law is written. This week newspapers carried separate articles stating that the I.R.S. would investigate both the AARP and AARP's abuses of their non-profit stand. The NRA mails 3.5 million magazines, and the AARP 23 million magazines monthly at greatly reduced non-profit rates. Additional millions of pieces of promotions, membership recruitments, etc., go out each month as well. Perhaps congress would do the P.O. and the taxpayer who is subsidizing this class of mail, a great service in curtailing this practice which is instrumental in creating the large P.O. deficit each year.

Our club had the privilege of touring the Harrisburg Avenue Facility two years ago and could rate the new Marshall Street plant based on conditions observed in both buildings. The Harrisburg plant was painted a drab color with lights high above that seemed to lose their intensity at the floor level. The work area was crowded with machinery, mail carts, mail trays and employees. The enclosed cat walks reserved for Postal Inspectors further fostered the idea that we were touring a prison. I'm sure the crowded conditions have been alleviated to some extent with the transfer of the mail sorting and distribution activity to the new plant.

By contrast the Marshall Street plant is painted in pleasing colors, the lights projected a warm cast akin to sunlight and the intensity of light at floor level is much greater, creating a more pleasant work environment. Work stations are not as crowded and there is plenty of aisle space. Even the inspectors' catwalks do not seem as obtrusive.

Before leaving, at the conclusion of our tour, we were given lapel pins containing an Olympic Stamp and souvenir pens as mementos of our visit. We left with a feeling that the management of the latest post office facility in Lancaster is VERY capable and caring and that employee moral productivity will benefit because of it.



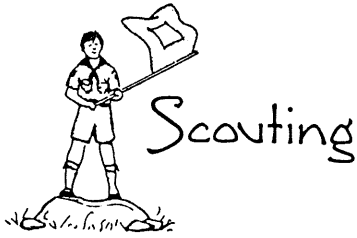
We are PLEASED to announce that we have two new members:

JAMES L. BOALS, III
665 Willow Valley Square N-204
Lancaster, PA 17602-4875
Phone: (717) 464-6701

Member of APS
Collecting interest -- U.S.

GARY KURTZ
P.O. Box 5
Brogue, PA 17309
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Collecting interest --
Postal History



* * * *

THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS OF SCOUTING

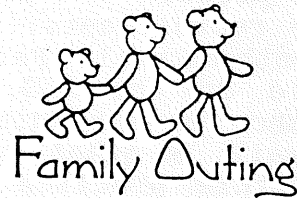
Mr. Walter Creitz of the Reading Stamp Club who was the guest speaker at the June meeting offered a slide and lecture presentation on the "First Fifty Years of Scouting" as it applied to philately. After that time period Scouting on stamps literally exploded as a topical as almost every nation got on the bandwagon and issued multiple sets and covers honoring local, national and international scouting events.

He displayed on slides many rare pieces of correspondence from and to Robert Baden Powell, founder of Scouting. Walter showed slides of the First Scout related stamps from Mafaking from 1902 as well as examples of specially printed stamps to serve the interests of various country rulers and well-placed office holders. The first stamps dedicated to scouting was a 1918 Czechoslovakian 10 and 20 heller set issued on November 10, 1918.

In 1910 the Boy Scouts of America was formed and the 1920 World Jamboree of Scouting was held in this country. Hungary issued a semi-postal set B-87 which depicted uniformed scouts for the first time.

Walter was very informed on his topic, actively associated with scouting for 50 years and a stamp collector for as many years. His easy going delivery and enthusiasm for his material kept everyone in attendance attentive. It was agreed that he would be welcome back at any time.

The club has long been in need of a publicist for some time. We watched with envy as the new postcard club grew to 200 members in two years primarily because of good publicity for the fledgling club. DICK DUDLEY, a recent addition to our club has some interesting ideas to put our club in the public eye. Brian Christopher of the Lancaster Intelligencer Journal has expressed interest in our club and is willing to write us up as the occasion arises.



The annual Summer Picnic will be upon us before you realize it. A planning committee consisting of MIKE SHIRLEY, MARILYN SHIRLEY, HERB TINDELL and DICK SHAEFER was formed. We all hope DICK will do double duty as chief cook at the picnic. Hamburgers would not taste as delicious without his delicate touch. Anyone with an idea to enliven the festivities can contact any of the above.

NOTE; THE AUGUST PICNIC WILL BE HELD

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16
INSTEAD OF AUGUST 9TH. PAVILION IS
NOT AVAILABLE THE SECOND WEDNESDAY IN
AUGUST -- THUS THE CHANGE IN DATE.

TRUCIAL STATES -- DOES ANYONE OUT THERE COLLECT THEM BESIDES ME?

A year or so ago I began to realize that the cost of new issues of my favorite countries was running into several dollars a set. In addition, it seemed that every issue was supplemented by an unnecessary souvenir sheet that doubled my cash outlay. Aware that I could not keep up with the output of the eleven Asiatic countries I've collected in recent years, I cast about for a new interest.

Through the years, I've always admired the large pictorials put out by the Trucial States. Famous paintings, rare birds, wild animals, space are a few of the topicals churned out by such entities as Ajman, Fujeira, Umm Al Qiwain, etc. usually in sets of eight or ten stamps with one or more miniature sheets or s/s's. Derisively called sand dune, sheikdom and flyspeck countries and their stamp output deemed wallpaper, they were not worthy of occupying space in the dealer's one and two cent boxes at the local stamp shows. Dealers advertising packets of 500 or 1000 different stamps hastened to assure any would-be buyer that theirs contained no CTO's from that part of the world.

Bucking the trend, I answered a few such ads but requested that my packet contain as many Trucial States stamps as he might have laying around. I did fairly well early on, but then I sent for a lot consisting of thousands of Trucial States Stamps for the princely sum of \$15 less \$1 coupon for my first purchase. I was overwhelmed by the quantity of stamps. It contained miniature sheets and s/s's in packs of 100, single stamps from sets by the hundreds, plus many complete sets. I set up one loose leaf album on blank pages containing each Trucial

States country and a second album entitled Art on Stamps. I've gotten hours of pleasure sorting and mounting my miniature works of art at practically no cost as I still have thousands more to trade with any like minded collectors.

When the Trucial States disbanded in 1965, Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujeira, Sharjah, Umm Al Qiwain and Ras Al Khaima began issuing their own colorful, mostly topical stamps. During the period between 1963 and 1972 before joining the United Arab Emirates (U.A.E.) they were joined by Oman, Nagaland, Mahra, Hadhramaut, and Dhofar in flooding the worldwide stamp market with mostly CTO packet material. If any readers have unneeded sand dune country stamps, I'll trade one for one or buy at one cent each large size only. Just say I'm the last of the big spenders.

-- Jim Lyman



Attendance has been on the upswing at recent meetings. Twenty-six members and guests were at the June meeting. Does anyone get the feeling that the "old guard" is gradually stepping aside for the young and not so young new Turks?



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