



# Strait Stamp Talk



Jan-Feb 2021

Your Stamp Collecting Newsletter

Volume 23 Issue

Strait Stamp Society meets the first Thursday of the month at the Sequim Library 630 N. Ave., Sequim, Washington at 6:00-8:00 pm. No dues - Donations only. Strait Stamp Talk is a bi-monthly newsletter for the Strait Stamp Society. Send Philatelic news and articles to the editor Dick McCammon, 76 Roberson Rd., Sequim, WA 98382-7335.

Wes Falor - President, Ph. 360-796-4984 Email [wftcrs@centurylink.net](mailto:wftcrs@centurylink.net)  
 Bill McClellan - Vice President, Ph. 575-522-9977 Email [olympiclog7@gmail.com](mailto:olympiclog7@gmail.com)  
 Cathie Osborne - Secretary/Treasurer/Show Chairperson, Ph. 360-683-6373  
 Email [rickcath@wavecable.com](mailto:rickcath@wavecable.com)  
 Dick McCammon - Newsletter Editor/Webmaster Ph. 360-681-0521  
 Email [mccammon@olypen.com](mailto:mccammon@olypen.com)  
 Richard Tarbuck - Club Photographer, Ph. 360-912-3513  
 Email [eagles-roost@olypen.com](mailto:eagles-roost@olypen.com)

## President's Message

Welcome to our Jan-Feb Newsletter



Photo by Karen Mckee

### Wes Falor

Hope all is well with everyone and that you are all enjoying the holiday season, as best you can, under the present conditions. For the month of January the letter "R" is carried forward and there will be a presentation by Rick Kunz, that there was not enough time for in December. Eventually we will get back to some kind of normalcy as the vaccine becomes available to most of us, probably in April or May. I hope we will be able to get some show activity going by summer and our regular meetings at the Library back on.

For February The letter of the month is "S" as in Special Delivery, Spain, Saar, Specimen, South Georgia, San Marino, Switzerland, Southern Antarctic Territories, State Revenues, Silver tax etc.. I am sure many more ideas will come to you as the letter "S" is rather common.

As I am sure most of you have begun to realize, the majority of business is being done in an online basis as most venues for shows are shut down.

## January 7th MEETING

At the Zoom meeting, there will be a presentation by Rick Kunz on U.S. Railroads, Route Agents and Railway Post Office Postmarks. There will be time for any other questions you have about stamps or stamp collecting.

## February 4th MEETING

At the Zoom meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "S." No Silent Auction until further notice.

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## Excerpt from article on 'More Philatelic Afflictions'

Bill Welch

My column on afflictions peculiar to our hobby ("Philatelist, Heal Thyself," September AP, page 773) seems to have touched a throbbing nerve with many readers. A number of you sent detailed diagnoses of other diseases that affect stamp collectors. As promised, we herewith share them with our fellow patients.

For those of you who think I made all of this up, here's an item that Cathie Osborne wrote for the August 1978 *Bulletin of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs*.

It was the second day of PIPEX 78. My noncollector husband and I had spent the first hours of the show poring over the exhibits. Then, in the evening while I attended a judging critique, Rick searched through cover boxes for covers relating to my topic. But now, as we woke and prepared for another day of excitement, he kept flexing and massaging his wrist.

"Boy, I must have slept on my arm wrong. My wrist sure is sore!"

His right wrist, strong from shooting baskets and, in more recent days, hours of driving, did indeed bother him.

With wifely concern, I discussed it with him, trying to determine whether it might have been caused by the unfamiliar mattress, an unnoticed injury, some heavy lifting while packing. And then, over breakfast, while I mused to myself about how long it would be until I could visit the bourse, it hit me. What Rick had was a healthy case of **Cover Collector's Wrist**, contracted while hovering the dominant hand over a dealer's box for hours at a time, filing through covers. Oh, the peril of a stamp show to the uninitiated!



## Stamping in Sequim

Vera Felts

### About the American Topical Association

The American Topical Association (ATA) was founded in 1949 to bring together people who enjoy collecting postage stamps by topics. Throughout ATA's history, that mission has not changed, but ATA has grown as topical collecting has become one of the most popular areas of philately.

Through its numerous programs and services, ATA has encouraged beginning, as well as experienced, topical enthusiasts to collect, research, study and share their topics. Members have enthusiastically shared knowledge and research and have encouraged others.

Another important aspect of ATA is to hold competitive exhibitions, where topical philatelists can display their work. The ATA holds the only all-thematic stamp exhibition in the U.S. each year.

The ATA also is assembling a collection of the best videos on the web for your education and enjoyment. One of these is **Stamping in Sequim** by Vera Felts.

To watch this video, logon to [americantopical.org](http://americantopical.org) and under **Resources**, click on **Videos & Presentations**, and select **Stamping in Sequim**. Enjoy!



**Simplifying the Machins 2020**

SIMPLIFYING THE  
MACHINS

*aka Machins 101*



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Updated: October 11, 2020

*Price: Free*

# The PhilateliKid

*The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)*

*Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)*

[www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org](http://www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org)

December 1, 2020 Stay Safe Indoors! Collect Stamps!

Below is a quiz to take. You can write your answers right on this.

The correct answers will be provided next month

1. What does SCCFK stand for?
2. Where is SCCFK headquartered?
3. Regarding time zones, what does HST stand for?
4. Name the island where Honolulu is located.
5. Name the island where Pearl Harbor is located.
6. What is the 2-letter designation used by the Postal Service for Hawaii?
7. What was the population of the State of Hawaii in 2019?
8. How many states have a population that is less than Hawaii (as of October 2020)?
9. What is the cost to mail up to a 1-ounce first-class envelope from Honolulu, Hawaii to New York City? (As of October, 2020)
10. What was the cost to mail a ½ ounce or less first-class envelope from Honolulu to New York City in 1852? (Hint: This is about \$4.50 in current money.)
11. What form of government was Hawaii before it was a state?
12. Immediately prior to that, what type of government was Hawaii?
13. Immediately prior to that, what type of government was Hawaii?
14. What country's stamps were used by Hawaii from June 14, 1900 to the present?
15. The City of Honolulu's governmental leader is called "Mayor." What is the governmental leader of the County of Maui called?
16. After their vacation is over, visitors to Hawaii often say that they are returning to "the States." What do the people of Hawaii think of a person who says that?
17. What State has its own language (in addition to English) and what is that language?
18. What State of the United States has a Palace where a king and queen actually lived, and what is the name of that Palace?
19. What is the nickname for the first four stamps issued by Hawaii?
20. Who was the first King featured on a stamp of Hawaii? He was the fourth King of Hawaii. Scott # 27, 28, 29, & 31
21. What years did he reign?
22. When he died at age 29, what relationship to his did his successor have? (His successor reigned from 1863 until his death in 1872 at age 42 )
23. What was his name? Scott # 32



## Vertical Lozenges and Varnish

*Stamp-Collecting World*

Beginning in 1909, the Russians experimented with varnish coating on definitive stamps, to prevent their cleaning and re-use. For the philatelist, this resulted in the creation of many minor collectible varieties. Additionally, the stamps of the Russian Empire were produced, in various forms, well into the Civil War period, which yielded even more philatelic varieties.

In some cases the lozenges of varnish are barely discernible. In other cases, the varnish is so heavy that it distorts the appearance of the stamp. A margin copy with very distinct lozenges is shown below.



### Vertical Lozenges of Varnish

The best detection method is to place the stamp in front of a bright light and then examine the stamp surface by looking across the surface of the stamp from one of the edges. The lozenges should appear as irregular light discoloration spots against the surface of the stamp.

Shown below is what the lozenges look like when printed on the gum side. Perhaps this helps to show what you are looking for.



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## Fifty Years of Jolly Times



For 50 years, Diamond Point's Don McIntyre (aka stamp collector) has portrayed Santa Claus to benefit the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots. *Sequim Gazette photo by Matthew Nash*



### Pres. Message (continued from Page 1)

This has provided an opportunity for some people to try and take advantage of us at our expense. So please be careful about online purchases and know whom you are dealing with. Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Late Breaking News

For all you would-be Zoomers, all you need to join our meeting is to click on the Zoom link in your email from Rick. There isn't much more that is needed.

During the Zoom meeting, a suggestion is to remain on mute unless you want to say something, in which case click on unmute. This helps to keep the background sounds down.