



Strait Stamp Talk



Jul-Aug 2018

Your Stamp Collecting Newsletter

Volume 20 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.

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President's Message

Welcome to our July-August issue



Wes Falor

Photo by Karen Mckee

As we get into the full swing of summer, keep in mind that it is now less than 2 months until our show. If you are going to do a display at the show, time is growing short. We will need to know how many frames you will need to plan for table use, as that is going to be at a premium, it appears. At the July meeting the letter of the month is "O", as in official, on cover, Orange Free State etc.. There will be time to share any other items you may have. For the August meeting, just before the show, the letter of the month is "P", as in Paraguay, postage due, Philippines, etc..

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July 5th MEETING

After the general meeting, the show and tell is for the letter "O." Bring any questions you have about stamps or stamp collecting.

August 2nd MEETING

After the general meeting, there will be a show and tell that begins with the letter "P." This will be followed by a Silent Auction. Forms can be downloaded from our website straitstamps.org

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The Bicycle Post

by Bill McClellan

There have been many different, and creative, ways of delivering the mail, i.e. dog sled, pony express, balloon post, and in 1894, in California, there was yet another unique method, the bicycle post. On May 11, 1894, there was a nationwide strike by railroad workers, that naturally affected the mails which traveled mostly by rail. In Fresno, California, a bicycle shop owner, Alfred Banta, decided to start a private post to get mail to and from San Francisco and Fresno, a distance of 210 miles. He advertised that it would have 8 relays and take 18 hours-- an overly optimistic time, since Superman had not yet been born. For this he collaborated with a local engraver, Eugene Donze, to make a set of 25 cent stamps and stamped envelopes for letters to be carried (Scott lists these as locals). Operation began on July 7, 1894, but on August 15, the railroad strike ended, and so did the bicycle post. A reported total of 315 stamped letters and 40 stamped envelopes were carried during the 5 weeks of operation. And then, trouble started. Donze, who had retained the plates, made a new fake set in response to news reports of the stamps in the New York papers. These fake plates, however, were never used because Banta was wise and went to court. On August 23, 1894, the State officially recognized the defacement of the original dies with with a cross over each stamp and Donze agreed not to use the fake dies. Later, he advertised these defaced stamps at 7 cents apiece (Filatelic Facts & Fallacies, 11/1894).

The figure below is a defaced stamp printed in September, 1894:



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Osborne Award at PIPEX



photo by Judy Newblom

Cathie Osborne was given the Northwest Distinguished Philatelist Award at PIPEX held May 11-13 in Portland, Oregon. The award is given to a philatelist who has distinguished themselves as an exhibitor, judge, leader, researcher both locally and nationally in philatelic circles, philatelic publications and organizations. The Strait Stamp Society has been holding Annual Stamp Shows since 1994 and Cathie has been the Showperson for all of these. She has been active in submitting Exhibits in national, regional, and local shows and has won numerous awards as a result of her efforts. She has served as our delegate to the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs for the past several years. Her particular interest in stamp collecting has focussed on bells on stamps. She has traveled internationally, regionally, and locally to talk about her specialty. She was an invited speaker at the John D. Arn Philatelic Symposium. When our Society offered a Stamp Collecting 101 course at our Senior Center a few years ago, Cathie served as lecturer on Exhibiting.

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Save the Lowlands or put away his loose stamps?

The Bicycle Post (continued from Page 18)

These were printed in sheets of six, as was the original issue but, due to the diamond stamp shape, they were aligned differently on the sheet. Thus, the stamp that is shown can be identified as in the lower left position on a sheet of six, from Die 1-R-D (defaced Die 1 reprinted), numbered 12L2, Bicycle Mail, 1894, in the Scott Catalog. Today, memory of this short-lived post continues with an annual bicycle ride that closely follows the original route.



Pres. Message (cont'd from Page 17)

We will also have a silent auction to get you primed for the show and all the goodies that will be available to browse through from the various dealers. Have a fun and happy summer.

Wes

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Osborne Award (cont'd from page 18)

More recently, Cathie was featured in an article published in Living on the Peninsula, a quarterly publication of the Sequim Gazette, on stamp collecting on the Olympic Peninsula. All of these efforts have made Cathie one of the best known and respected philatelists in the area. There can be no doubt that Cathie is fully deserved of this award. Congratulations!

Secretary Cathie Osborne Notes



May 3rd Meeting

Twenty-one stamp collectors met for this month's meeting. We had two guests with us, Debbie from Port Angeles and Diane from Portland. Cathie gave a report on show progress--we have our cancel request in at the Post Office, Dick has started preparing the envelopes. It was agreed to look into getting a banner for Washington Street to advertise the show. Angela is spearheading this project. We also need to be working on our own exhibits for the show. And we are reminded that rides are needed for our Canadian visitors. The next Burger King meeting will be May 16 at 9:30 .

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Secretary's Notes (Continued from page 19)

The first show planning meeting is at Cathie's house, 284 W. Maple in Sequim, May 22 at 9:30. For the letter "M", Rick showed part of a new exhibit of mobile post offices on stamps and covers. Mekaela showed Madagascar dinosaur stamps. Phil talked about the history of Machins. Bruce showed marsupials and monotremes. Neil showed the book about mobile postal marks. Judy talked about a Minnesota lighthouse which is lit once a year in honor of the "Edmund Fitzgerald." Cathie brought covers with musical bells and bells related to medicine and Angela had an old cover from the Mickey Mouse Magazine. Phil gave us a wonderful slide show program about London and philately, with one part showing the old headquarters of the Royal Philatelic Society, one part about the new Postal Museum, and the last, a video of the new "Rail Mail" exhibit. By the time we finished with a small auction, the library was ready to kick us out. But we went home happy!

June 7th Meeting

The June 7 meeting of the Strait Stamp Society was a celebration! The club frame of the letter "H" won the Club Exhibit Award from the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs. We brought home the silver cup, to keep for a year.



photo by Judy Newblom

Pageowners of our club exhibit

This was accompanied by a delicious cake.

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Continued from below left



photo by Dick McCammon

Cup, Cake and Club Exhibit (above)

Cathie gave correspondence news, and reminded members of the need for exhibits, and rides for our Canadian friends. Bruce Munn gave us an informative presentation of the 138 stamps.com that are listed by Scott, and showed his album of almost all of them. By the way, Bruce's page for our "H" frame was stamps.com showing hearts, Halloween and other 'h' objects. For the letter "N" this month, Roger showed a Swiss personal stamp he had made at the National show held every six years in Switzerland. Rick showed stamps from New Zealand that picture a traveling railway mail car. Angela talked about the National Parks on the Farleys, with different rates and destinations. Phil showed a 'nasty and needless' pen cancel of some beautiful stamps. Judy had a great show and tell about our own New Dungeness Lighthouse. Bruce presented Navigation, which included Naval and Native transport. Carol brought her stockbook of "Neat Stuff." And Cathie had a sampling of bells on Norwegian philatelic material. This was all followed by silent and live auctions. We barely made it out of the library before it closed. A good time was had by all!

