

Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Arlington Meetings: First Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bob Duncan Center, 2800 S. Center St.

Euless Meetings: Third Wednesday @ 7:30 p.m.

12750 S. Pipeline Rd, #1C (Central Station Marketing)

Lake Granbury Meetings: 4th Tuesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Bentwater Activities Center (adjacent to Bentwater Marina)



#891-076252



CHAPTER
MEMBER

#90



#53-3364

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April 2021



Another Philatelic Journey

By Rick Howell

If any of you have logged into our Mid-Cities Stamp Club Facebook Group online and taken a look at my Schedule of Events which is available to download, you will probably notice that I am a huge fan of Zoom meetings and Webinars made available worldwide since the pandemic changed our world.

The American Philatelic Society in particular, has really adapted to the situation and provided a whole new platform that none of us ever realized could so radically shrink the world of philately down to a computer screen.

The APS Series "Stamp Chats" has provided a forum for collectors and enthusiasts to come together and share their collections, ideas, and imaginations in a way none of us ever dreamed could happen. There are currently 104 episodes of "Stamp Chats" available on YouTube for you to enjoy and give yourself the opportunity to learn various things about this great hobby of ours. The APS has really been busy this past year providing for the continuation of the hobby in a whole new way.

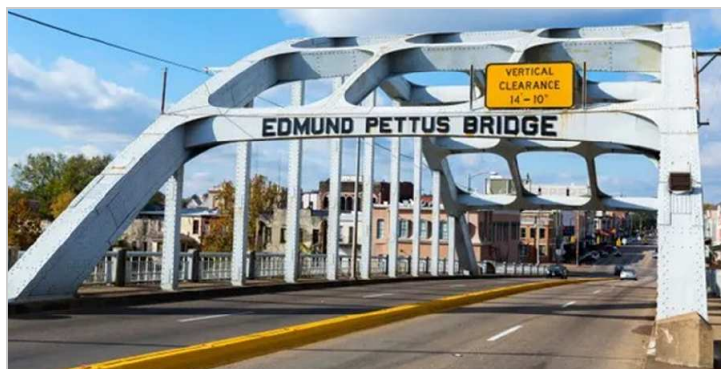
I enjoy participating in the Stamp Chats as they are being recorded because it gives me a chance to ask questions about the topic being discussed. Although all the Stamp Chats are recorded and available on YouTube after they are initially recorded, it is a great opportunity to watch them live and have the opportunity to ask questions of some of the greatest philatelists of our time. Kudos again to the APS for their diligence and hard work.

So, on Thursday, February 25th, the APS aired a Stamp Chat entitled "Slavery and the Civil Rights Movement on Stamps", so I figured I might learn something and decided to listen in. The guy leading the presentation was Clarence McKnight of ESPER (the Ebony Society of Philatelic Events and Reflections), a pro-active philatelic organization whose charter was inspired by Jesse Owens, who strived to "help black people take pride in themselves". ESPER is taking a lead in following this charter on a worldwide basis.

Anyway, I'm sitting here listening to Clarence's discussion about stamps commemorating the Civil Rights movement when he mentions Scott #3937i, a stamp depicting the 1965 march from Selma, Alabama to the capital at Montgomery, Alabama. The stamp pictures a group of protesters crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, and is a part of a pane of stamps issued with the title, "To Form a More Perfect Union". The only problem is the stamp misspells the name as Pettis,



instead of Pettus. So, is this an unknown "Error" in stamp design? That's what I was thinking when I immediately ordered the stamp online before Clarence ended his presentation. I figured, "What the heck?" and spent a couple of bucks from my retirement fund.



So, sure enough, I get my stamp in the mail and start thinking, hey, this might make a good newsletter article. So, I started doing a little more research to attempt to discover the reason behind the "Error" on the stamp. It turns out the stamp is based on a painting by a famous African-American artist named Bernice Sims, who actually misspelled the name on her painting. So much for it being a stamp design error. Anyway, this stamp encouraged me to learn more about a previously unknown-to-me African-American artist, and gave me a better understanding of the African-American side of the Civil Rights Movement. It is amazing what we can learn from stamps.

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Stamping Around

Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club

Peter Elias, Editor (news@mid-citiesstampclub.com)

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2021 - 2022 MID-CITIES OFFICERS & BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Membership in the Mid-Cities Stamp Club is available to anyone of good character interested in philately. Feel free to attend any of our 3 different meeting sites in the greater Dallas / Ft. Worth area! Dues are only \$12 per year (higher for mailed newsletters). For more information, the editor is reachable during business hours at (972) 671-0077 or : editor@mid-citiesstampclub.com

For a membership application (standard dues are \$12) write to:

Mid-Cities Stamp Club
P.O. Box 2158
Arlington, TX 76004-2158

or visit: <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>



Editor's Forum

By Peter Elias

One of the things that I try to do with my "Been There - Done That" articles is to hopefully inspire some of you to think about your own lives and how stamp, postmarks and other philatelic items can be used to illustrate a particular life experience.

If you are worried that your kids or other heirs may not have an interest in your stamp collection, instead of having a traditional photo album, enhance it with stamps, perhaps even make custom photo album pages that uses the stamps (or other philatelic items), along with photographs and a write-up. Wouldn't that make a great family heirloom item?

If you need any assistance in coming up with your own "Been There - Done That" articles, please feel free to contact me!

During these "Covid times", one would think that you would have more time to spend with your stamp collection. I've actually had very little time to spend on my regular collections. The piles are NOT getting smaller and are the same size as in 2019 ... Most of my "philatelic" time seems to be spent on the newsletter, and as you can see, there's been an uptick in the number of "Been There - Done That" articles. I suppose that my growing "Been There" collection is part of that.

How much time do I spend doing a "Been There ..." article? That depends. After the trigger, which could be from seeing a particular stamp or a memory that is triggered somehow, then the first task is to make sure I can find a stamp (or philatelic item) to illustrate the article and of course a photo (either one I'm in or one I took). Then I usually have to do a bit of research, which is generally looking up some stamp details (such as year issued or the catalog number). Then I generally have to do some minor research on the topic itself (historical information for example) and then type it all out! Googling for the information or using Wikipedia are great time savers! Total time? As I mentioned, that depends, from 20 minutes to several hours depending on the story. Do remember though, that all my write-ups are true (and if I sometimes just can't remember the exact details, I do state that). There's no reason for fiction; as they say, "truth is stranger than fiction"! Ready, set, collect!

Coming Attractions

—> Due to COVID-19 and city / county / state / national emergency ordinances, many meetings will be held virtually via Zoom at least until April 2021. For updated MCSC meeting statuses, please contact club secretary Skip Ely.

--> The decision on whether or not to have in-person meetings starting in April has not yet been made at the time this newsletter was completed in mid-March.

2021

MAR . 23	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD
APR. 7	MCSC - ARLINGTON Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD
APR. 9 - 10	TSDA Stamp Fair (Fri 10-5, Sat 9-4)
Bluebonnet Room, DoubleTree Hotel, 1981 N Central Ewy, Richardson, TX 75081 (SW corner of US75 & Campbell Rd)	
APR. 21	MCSC - EULESS Meeting
Program:	TBD (this will be an in-person meeting!)
APR. 27	MCSC - LAKE GRANBURY Virtual Mtg
Program:	TBD
--> It is possible that more meetings starting in May might be "in-person again. Watch for messages via email.	
MAY 5	MCSC - ARLINGTON Virtual Meeting
Program:	TBD

Secretary's Report

By Skip Ely



Applications Received

Christine Mays (#634)

New Members:

n/a

Deceased:

n/a

Dropped due to non-payment of 2021 dues:

Dougan, Ken (#213)	Douglass, Roy (#585)
Mullins, Austin (#496)	Moyer, Ray (#497)
Patterson, Richard (#621)	Watkins, George (#544-D)

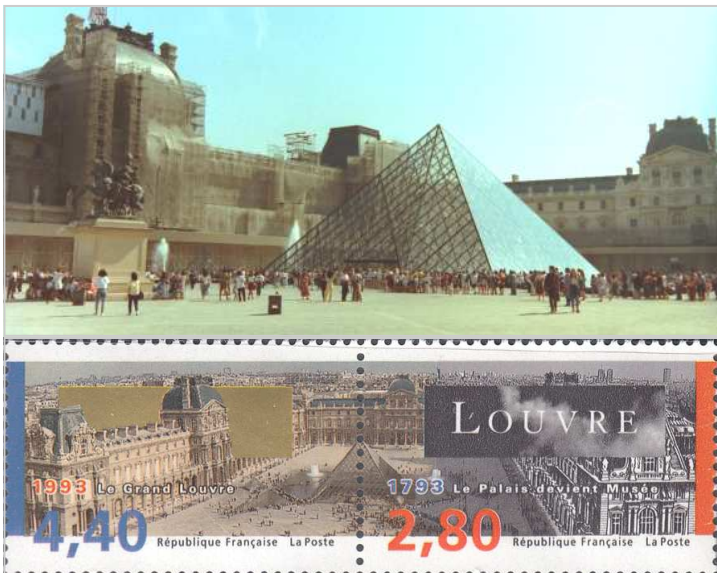
Membership Summary – March 14, 2021

Membership as of February 17, 2021	95
Applications Received	1
New Members	0
Dropped for non-payment of dues	(6)
Resignations	0
Deceased	(0)
Reinstatements	0
Membership as of March 14, 2021	89

Mona Lisa

By Peter Elias

In 1991, I found myself wandering through the Louvre in Paris, along with my brother and 2 friends. I had, what, something like 4 hours to view 3,000 years of history? I'm sure that this could be a whopping long "Been There ..." article, although I'd have to match up the relatively few photos I took (remember, those were pre-digital camera days!) with stamps that feature the various artworks & archeology on display.



The [Louvre Museum](#) is in the Louvre Palace (formerly a castle) with roots dating back to the late 12th century and was originally opened as a museum in 1793. Famous architect I.M. Pei was awarded to build the "Louvre Pyramid" which now serves as the main (underground) entrance to the Louvre; it was finished in 1989, so not long before we visited. See France, Scott#2397A above.



In addition to the 380,000 objects that are housed in the 652,000 sq. ft building, we wanted to see the Mona Lisa painting (which has been reproduced countless times on stamps from all over the world, seen here on a Hungarian stamp from 1974). But alas, I think that the closest I got to the painting that day was about 50+ feet away. Oh well, there were just 379,999 other items to see in the next 4 hours! I think I'll allot a bit more time during my next visit...



Smoking

By Peter Elias

Sometime starting in the fall of 1978, I started smoking. It was indirect "peer pressure". I mean, no one asked me to try it. But, when working as a lab technician during my senior year in high school, it seemed that everyone that I worked with smoked cigarettes. My supervisor did, as did his boss and the secretary. So, I kind of fell into this bad habit.



Initially, I kept the cigarettes only at work. After high school ended, I kept smoking when I started college. There was a "smoke shop" there that had all sorts of interesting cigarettes that one normally doesn't see at the corner gas station or convenience store, such as "clove cigarettes" from Indonesia and oval filter-less cigarettes from Egypt. I had to try them.

At one point, I even bought a pipe (which I actually found a couple of years ago and sold on eBay).

Pictures of me smoking are generally few and far between. Above is a screen shot of me from a Super8 film, from



around 1981 while on vacation in Switzerland. And to the left is a picture of me hold a cigarette while partying in St. Louis, MO. Also back around 1981, I was involved in some video productions at a local Public

Access TV Studio, and I do remember a scene we shot where I was interrogating someone and smoking the aforementioned Egyptian cigarette (called "Nil", if I remember correctly).

Flash forward another 20 or so years, and in 1999 I met Annie, to whom I am now married since 2001. That probably would not have happened if I had continued smoking. Around that time, I was at approximately a pack a day... Annie was also an RRT (registered respiratory therapist), and as such, probably didn't want to have a long term relationship with someone that was damaging his lungs!



So, I made the decision to quit. A particular medicine was proven to be successful, and I bought it (although my insurance didn't want to pay for it, it was only \$100 for a 1-month supply - yet strangely enough, they probably would have spent many thousands on me if I had gotten lung cancer - go figure!).

I made April 1, 2000 my "quit day". The day before, March 31 was the last day I smoked a cigarette (or any other form of tobacco) and I recently celebrated my 20th wedding anniversary! So luckily, that was NOT an April fools day for me! Also on that day, I got rid of all ashtrays and lighters in the house. Shown above are just a couple of the stamps that discourage smoking (the stamp images are from various sources on the internet, but I am attempting to order them).

Letter To The Editor "Returned for Postage"

By Peter Elias

I received the following email from club member Keith Parris on March 7:

Peter,

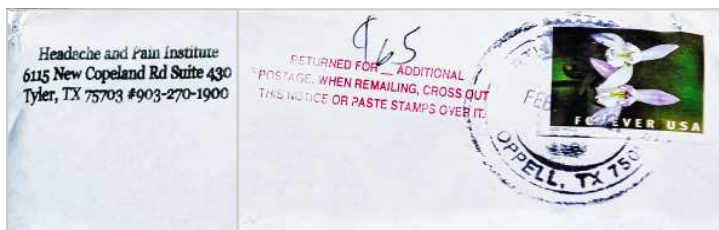
I came across a postal oddity. See attached image files; they are the same image, but different file sizes.

- 1. The first thing that got my attention is that it is stamped Returned for Additional Postage; however, it was delivered to the addressee without any more postage being affixed. (Nine sheets of 8-1/2 by 11 inch paper, a business card, and large paper clip were in the no. 10 business envelope. So, it should have been obvious to the sender that more than one unit of Forever postage would be required.)*
- 2. It puzzles me that the cent symbol was placed in front of the numbers.*
- 3. The return address indicates it was posted in Tyler, Texas; however the hand cancelation says it went to Coppell, Texas before being delivered in Tyler, Texas. (The sender also has an office in Cross Roads, Texas. Therefore, it is possible that it was posted in Cross Roads, Texas, but this begs the question of why the return address is Tyler, Texas.)*

I am thoroughly confused, so everything must be normal, and I am in my typical confused state.

Keith Parris

[The image that was attached to his message, which I've cropped to take out the large amount of white space in the middle]:

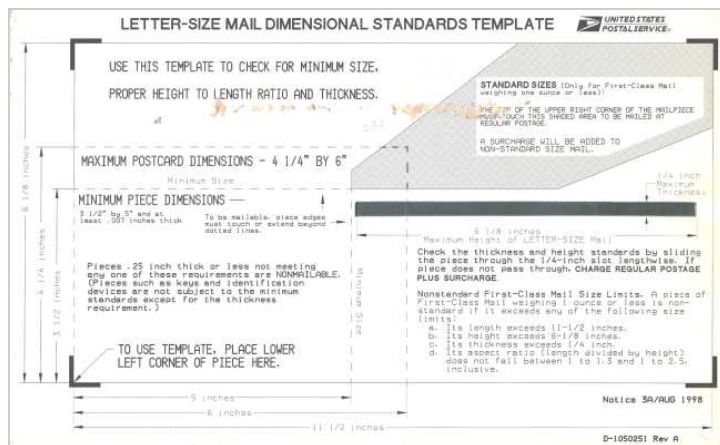


Keith,

Let me see if I can figure this out....

I weighed the kind of items you mentioned, and it comes out to about 1.7 ounces with unprinted paper, perhaps a bit more if printed. So yes, more than one Forever stamp is definitely needed! On the other hand, 9 pieces of paper, in order to fit into a #10 envelope, have to be folded into thirds, making this also extremely thick, not to mention possibly "not machinable" (in USPS jargon).

According to the USPS, the 2 ounce rate (currently) for a first class letter (such as a #10 envelope) that is "non-machinable" should cost \$0.95 (if less than 0.25" thick, if more than 1/4" thick, it would be around \$4.00 as a "1st class package"). That said, I did 9 sheets of paper, folded them into 3rd and stuffed them into a #10 envelope, and it just barely manages to slide through the slot of a USPS sizing template (see top of 2nd column); I use this a lot to make sure my 1st class letter mail does not exceed their thickness limits [note: I was given this old



template by a clerk that said they were going to throw it out, but it works fine!].

On the other hand, a 2 ounce "1st class flats" envelope costs \$1.20. So, Forever (55¢) + 65¢ postage due does add up to \$1.20; however, a #10 envelope is too small to be considered for the "1st class flats" rate, which has minimum dimensions of 6.125" x 11.5". A #10 envelope only exceeds ONE of those dimensions, but not both. So that leads me to believe that the USPS employee in question doesn't quite understand the rules about "1st class letter" vs. "1st class flats" mail...

But the way I see it (as long as that envelope wasn't thicker than 0.25"!), the postage should have been only 95¢, thus only 40¢ postage due! If the #10 envelope was indeed thicker than 0.25", it would be considered a 1st class parcel (trust me, at my post office, if they even think it's more than 0.25" thick, they try to charge me the much more expensive "1st class package" rate, which starts at \$4.00 (depending on the "from" and "to" zip codes)!

As to your question #2: Who knows ... probably the same kind of person that expresses 25¢ as .25¢, thinking that 25¢ when written with a \$ symbol is \$0.25, so they leave off the "\$" and write just 0.25¢ instead since they're confusing the fact that while 25¢ is indeed 25/100 of a dollar, it is not 25/100 of a cent...; or perhaps the person thinks that since \$ currency symbol comes before the number, than so should the ¢ symbol. Just my thoughts on the matter...

As to your question #3, pretty most mail in "North Texas" goes through the PD&C (regional mail processing facility) in Coppell; they may not do mail sorting in Tyler... But you didn't state the recipient address, but that shouldn't matter. Even "local" mail here in Plano is normally routed to Coppell first in the evening, before being sent back to Plano in the early morning hours. Normally 1st class mail processed in Coppell would get a spray-on ink-jet cancel, not a hand-cancel. But it could have been that this item was "not machinable" and kicked out, then examined (for postage due) and hand-cancelled, then presumably sent on to Tyler (most likely back to the original sender, rather than the original recipient, based on how the hand stamp reads...).

Hope this "unconfuses" you a bit! If any other member has thoughts, feel free to "write the editor"!

Buffalo Soldiers

By Ken Aldridge

After the Civil War the future of many Black soldiers was in doubt. So, in 1866 Congress passed legislation establishing two Calvary Regiments, the 9th and 10th Calvary, to be made up of only African-American men. A recruiting office was initially set up in New Orleans but later that year, also in Louisville. Most all of the recruits had served in the Civil War and most who signed up were from Louisiana and Kentucky. They had to sign up for five years with a salary of \$13 a month that included food, shelter and clothing.

When adequate troops were signed up in the fall of 1866, the 10th Calvary was ordered to Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. Their task was to fight Indian raiders, protect stagecoaches, settlers, telegraph lines and mail routes. They stayed at Ft. Leavenworth until 1875 when the headquarters was moved to Ft. Concho and several other Texas forts.

The 9th Calvary had already set up at Ft. Davis Texas in 1867 to build up the fort, fight Indians, protect stagecoach and mail routes.

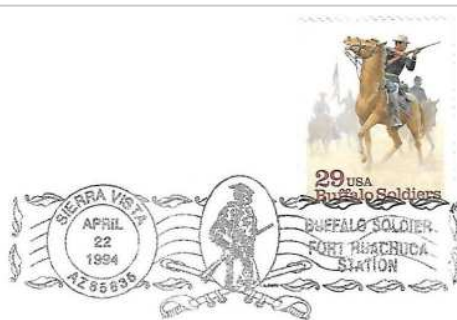
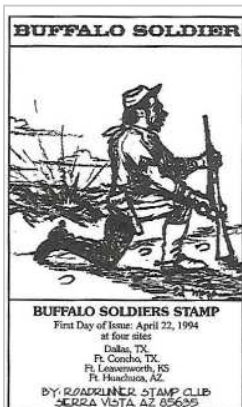
Then in 1885 both Calvary units left Texas. The 10th transferred to Ft. Huachuca at Sierra Vista, Arizona. There they fought Indians and Mexican uprisings. They were there until 1933. The 9th transferred to Ft. Robinson in Nebraska and several other forts in South Dakota and Montana. That unit in 1907 left for duty in the Philippines.

While at Ft. Robinson, Sioux leader Crazy Horse was leading Indian tribes in an all-out war with settlers as well as Calvary troops. Crazy Horse was at the Battle of Little Big Horn in 1876 but eventually surrendered to General Crook and imprisoned at Ft. Robinson. Later that year, he was shot by guards during a scuffle. Crazy Horse was 37 when he died.

Fast forward to 1953, my family and I went on a vacation from Nebraska to the Black Hills of South Dakota. One of the things we saw was a tourist stop by a small mountain being sculptured into an image of Crazy Horse. You couldn't see much of the image at that time, it took some imagination and looking over tourist brochures of plans to get the idea for the final image.

Several years ago, I was back in the Black Hills and drove by the Crazy Horse Monument. An opening was formed between the horse's head and Crazy Horse's arm and the horse head actually started to take shape. A large gift shop, parking lot and museum was there. But the sculpture was still far from complete after 65 years!

I have been to Ft. Robinson and Ft. Huachuca. Both have wonderful museums with a lot of information about the



Veterans of Foreign Wars

By Pat & Bob Weidman

In 1899, Spanish American War Veterans and Veterans of the Philippine Insurrection established local organizations to secure benefits earned on the battlefields. These organizations eventually joined together and became known as the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

The purpose of the VFW is to ensure that veterans get the benefits that they earned, are recognized for sacrifices made on behalf of our nation, and to receive respect for their service. In addition, they seek to develop comradeship amongst veterans to assist needy veterans and their families, and to organize memorial services for those who are deceased.



In the picture above I am standing outside of VFW Post 6872 in Crowley, Texas, where I am a life member. The two ladies standing on either side of me are also life members. On my left is Erin McFatridge, the post commander who served in Iran and Afghanistan (see the April 2020 issue for that article). On my right is Alysha Jackson, the post quartermaster who served in Kuwait. [Editor's note - I tried enhancing the picture as best as I could, but there's just too much shadow present].



The stamp shown is USA Scott #1525, that was issued on March 11, 1974.

Buffalo Soldiers. Shown is a front license plate popular in Arizona where only a rear plate is required. Also shown is FDC for the Buffalo Soldier Stamp issued April 22, 1994 and the Crazy Horse stamp issued January 15, 1982.

Oh, and why the name *Buffalo Soldiers*? The story handed down was that's what the Native Americans called them. Some say it was because these men resembled the buffalo's color and dark curly hair.

It took many years before the true story of the Buffalo Soldiers bravery, dedication and fortitude became known to the American people.





During our hikes in Switzerland in the summer of 1977, I carried a small booklet with me and tried to get postmarks from the various post offices that we ran across, which were generally either at the beginning or at the end of a hike. In this case, it was at the end of the hike, at 2 PM on July 12, 1977, that we ended up in Langwies.

Langwies is a village (with a current population of 295), and yet had a post office in 1977 (sadly, a quick search does NOT show there to be a post office in Langwies at present, although there is a "contract post office" inside a local store according to Swiss Post, but it now has a postal code of 7057, not 7099 as in the postmark above).



The picture above, which I took in 1986, shows the Langwies viaduct, which lies on the Chur-to-Arosa railway line of the narrow gauge Rhaetian Railway.

The viaduct itself was constructed between 1912-1914, and according to Wikipedia is the world's first railway bridge constructed of reinforced concrete! It is 932 feet long, the main span is a 333 foot long arch (at the time, the largest span of any railroad bridge in the world) and lies 203 feet above the Plessur River. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Langwieser_Viaduct for more details.

The railway trip from Chur to Arosa is approximately 1 hour, with Langwies being about 42 minutes from Chur and the line features 19 tunnels and 52 bridges; a great trip if you're into trains!

The Langwies station is one of those nice old traditional train



stations, as the picture I took shows (also in 1986, with the blue arrow pointing at the location of the building on the photo above it). We always enjoyed our train ride from Langwies to Chur, and then back to Davos.

To get to Langwies, our 6 hour hike started in Davos, where we took a funicular up the side of the mountain, then walked further up to the Strelapass and then over to the "Trittli". That literally means "small steps"! You can see those small red steps in the photo above (which was taken in 1975). The regular hiking path ends at the top, and then you descend on fairly small steps until it continues in a field of rubble (and in this case also snow - we were there in the summer). Then the hiking trail continues downhill through alpine meadows into the Muota Valley and then on to the village of Langwies. So from what I remember, we've done the "Trittli hike" at least twice (the photo above from 1975 and the postmark from two years later) with our family.

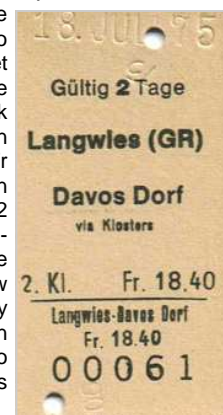
The two pictures that I took in 1986 (left column) were during a solo trip to Switzerland when I worked there most of that year, and took lots of scenic drives on weekends.



Back in the late 1960's, we did vacation in Arosa; and from what I remember, it was the first family vacation that we took while living in Switzerland. See the picture to the left (that's me on the right); a hiking sign above us points to Arosa.

While Arosa is a nice little town and probably good for skiing in the winter, since it sits at the end of a valley, it doesn't offer nearly as many hiking opportunities as Davos, which is one valley over!

As a tie-in to the 1975 Trittli photo above is a train ticket from our train ride from Langwies back to Davos. This then would also date the photo. Back in 1975, sFr 18.40 (=US\$7.00) was a fair amount for that train ticket (we had to buy tickets for 2 adults and 2 kids). Back then, the train tickets were pre-printed, and the date stamped at the top at the time of purchase. It is interesting to note the low serial number of the ticket, 61, so not that many people had taken this particular ride destination (Langwies to Davos). And yes, I do actually also still have a ticket from 1968 that is for Langwies to Arosa!



CLASSIFIED BOURSE

Announcements

All club members that are current with their dues payments are entitled to FREE ads in this space! Please send ad to: Peter Elias, P.O. Box 940427, Plano, TX 75094-0427, give it to me at a meeting, or e-mail me at: peter@pcelias.com

For Sale

US POSTAGE – from our huge surplus: 1c – 20c : 70% of FV; 21c – 50c : 80% of FV. Send any amount (min \$10), specify group (70%, 80%), and receive mix of values back in FV as indicated above. Clean, F/VF only. Plate or Zip block included for every \$10 remitted. Remit (check or MO) to: J. Myers, P. O. Box 2047, Coppell, TX 75019. TX orders, add 8% sales tax. We cover return postage, S/H charges. Can also take PayPal (same terms). jasmymers@earthlink.net 5/15

Wanted to Trade

I have general (unsorted) worldwide & used USA stamps (mostly beginning collector material) available to trade for your items such as worldwide revenue stamps & Framas. Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 9/16

Wanted

Postally used “ATM” stamps (i.e.: machine vended), such as Framas, from around the world; would prefer on cover or postcard if possible. Contact Peter Elias at info@stvincentstamps.com 8/14

For Sale

I now have a new website in which I have listed all my used **duplicates (many thousands)**. They are arranged in Scott number sequence within country. Do take a look, and select any that you want. I charge 1/3 catalogue value, post paid. The URL is www.kenwills.net Contact me at wills@airmail.net. Happy hunting! 3/19

Philatelic Reference CD's. The following self-running, philatelic reference CD's, each containing hundreds of scans, are now available:

- **APC Conversions 2012-2014 (NY2016 Vermeil Award!!)**
 - **Usage of British Empire War Tax Issues** (exhibit)
 - **Airport Philately** (800+ scans of Airports on Stamps)
 - **4 Rings—The History of Audi (Great for any car lover!)**
 - **My Life on Wheels** (autobiography via USA personalized postage)
 - **St. Vincent Philatelic Reference Scans (1,700 items!!)**
 - **St. Vincent Postcards** (300+ postcards from 1900 to 2007)
 - **Vintage Swiss Postcards 1898-1959 (900+ postcards !!)**
- Special MCSC Member price is only \$ 9.95 each. Non-members -> please inquire. Contact peter@pcelias.com 1/21

MOVED, BUT SALE CONTINUES! Special discounts to MCSC members for Swiss, Austria, Liechtenstein issues, @ 1/3 and LESS of catalog values. Also will accept US postage (any values) @ 50% of catalog. All orders postpaid! I also accept PayPal if you wish! John Barrett, Ph.D. Contact info: jstrubel-boy@aol.com 12/14

Canadian Collection housed in Scott Specialty Single Country Album. Starts with Scott#18 through 1970. Mostly mint, some used. 2013 Scott catalog value is \$4,100, now reduced to \$775 OBO! Will accept US postage at face value as part payment. Contact Dave Linn, (903) 785-7864 or at dklgonefishing@yahoo.com 8/19

Comic Strip - Shoe (Postage Increase to 6¢)

By Peter Elias



So why this published now? Primarily due to all of the severe mail delays that we have been facing during the Covid-19 pandemic; these have several causes, ranging from sick postal employees to reduced airline flights, especially to overseas destinations. Recently a letter from Bob Weidman took something like 17 days to reach me, and that's just across DFW!

This “Shoe” comic strip was published in the February 28, 2021 edition of the Dallas Morning News.

At first glance, my thoughts were, “wow, they’re republishing an old comic strip”, since it mentioned “first class mail is going to 6 cents”! But then I got the humor since it mentioned that they “just got the notice” and it was “signed by President Eisenhower” and the whole thing is about mail currently being a bit slow (which would make that notice be something like 50 years late!).

MCSC Granbury Zoom Meeting Minutes February 23, 2021

By Gene Atkinson

Introduction & Welcome:

- Nine members gathered via Zoom® at 7:00 PM.
- Hosts David Stockbridge and Rick Howell welcomed Judy & Stanley Christmas, Skip Ely, Gene Atkinson, Gary McNamee, Ken Aldridge and Joe McFarland.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell exhibited a South Korea cover that traveled from October 6, 2020 to delivery on February 13, 2021.
- Ken Aldridge had an unusual German cancel that gave the stamp portrait two "black eyes."
- Skip Ely received a large mailing with postage paid by way of one 10¢ stamp and forty-five 1¢ stamps virtually covering the whole envelope.
- Dave Stockbridge confirmed USPS difficulties with a package to Ames, Iowa, that was in transit from December 13, 2020 to February 13, 2021

Announcements:

- New member Joe McFarland introduced himself as having recently inherited a stamp collection from his father-in-law, which rekindled his own interest. He is at present sorting and selling duplicates.
- Gary McNamee reported on recent auctions from the ISWSC.
- Dave Stockbridge says the Texas Stamp Dealers are still planning an event in Richardson for April 9-10.
- Ken Aldridge reminded members of the EXPO planning session on Friday, February 26 at 7 PM.

Where In The World:

- Gary McNamee had to offer many clues to his mystery stamp again this month: its first issue in 1890, many overprints and changes in the name of the entity, independence in 1965, unrecognized status until 1978. (Answer: Southern Rhodesia).

Program:

- Members discussed how they spent the recent blizzard, blackout and water shortages with their collections. Rick Howell has been reviewing and selecting philatelic videos and compiling a list of stamp issuing countries.
- Ken Aldridge recently acquired a number of stock books of German stamps. He spent his time sorting, cataloging, preparing duplicates for sale, and replacing some of his collection with stamps in better condition.
- Skip Ely is sorting items donated to the Mid Cities Stamp Club and updating the current membership list.
- Judy Christmas is downsizing her U.S. collection and selling some of the extra "Legends of the West" souvenir sheets she had obtained.
- Stanley Christmas continues searching for examples of the 4½¢ Prexie, used, unused, on cover and pre-canceled. And he continued with an interest in stamps of the Straits Settlements and Christmas Island.
- Gary McNamee spent some time contending with blackouts and frozen water pipes, but nevertheless managed to sort through boxes of stamps from New Zealand and Australia.
- Joe McFarland is inventorying his United States collection and disposing of duplicates.
- Gene Atkinson continues catching up with his Rotary International topical and participating via Zoom with worldwide members of the Rotary on Stamps fellowship, part of the American Topical Association and the American Philatelic Society.
- David Stockbridge was sorting through a dozen large albums such as the Supreme Master Global.

Door Prizes:

- Judy Christmas has managed to restore the traditional door prizes for the meetings, this time with Gary McNamee, Dave Stockbridge and Joe McFarland winning club gift certificates.

Closing & Adjournment:

- The meeting concluded at 8:06 PM with the observation that the Arlington Branch of Mid-Cities Stamp Club meets on March 3, the Euless group on March 17, and Granbury again on March 23.

MCSC Euless Zoom Meeting Minutes March 17, 2021

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- First Vice President Stanley Christmas called the meeting to order about 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

- Attending via Zoom® were Rick Howell, Peter Elias, Ken Aldridge, Ken Wills, Sai Madhavapeddi, Ralph Poore, Evan Islam, Jim Myers, Scott English, Judy Christmas, and Skip Ely.

Officer Reports:

- Judy Christmas gave the Treasury amount.
- Skip Ely said we had 89 members and 1 application for membership. He said there were 4-5 others who had said they wanted to renew but have yet to do so, but they were being carried due to the administrative overhead of dropping and then reinstating members. He said a half dozen or so members were being dropped.

Committee Reports:

- Sales - Skip Ely said in spite of the lack of in-person meetings he had been able to get some sales books to nearby members and had about \$50 in sales. He said he was also routing some donated albums to interested members at 20% of catalog and had netted about \$200 for the Silent Auction.
- EXPO - Ralph Poore said he had received a contract from the Grapevine Convention Center for our desired dates in November. He mentioned our next EXPO planning meeting the end of April, hopefully at David's BBQ.
- Website - Jim Myers, Evan Islam and Rick Howell talked about the status and details of the new website. Jim said as soon as we had Board approval, he would work with Evan and Rick to launch it shortly thereafter. Stanley Christmas said he would talk to Rich to get that done in the next few days.

Show & Tell:

- Rick Howell began by showing a tree stamp from Malaysia he thought might be the world's tallest stamp.
- Peter Elias showed an embroidered stamp (made from recycled PET bottles) from Liechtenstein. He also talked about a visit from long ago to a house where Karl Marx was born, and how he was doing a "Been There, Done That" article on the subject. Finally, he talked about another trip he took in Switzerland where he got multiple postmarks at many small post offices during his hikes.
- Ken Wills said he had a Swiss Railway Stamp that wasn't in Scott, and wondered if it was because it was only used for revenue (as opposed to some Belgian Railway stamps that were also used as postage, and thus listed in Scott). He also showed a Queen Victoria 1 penny stamp from New Zealand with advertising on the back.
- Skip Ely showed a new Stanley Gibbons catalog he had recently purchased, and noted how small the print was in it.
- Ken Aldridge showed a souvenir sheet from Grenada that included a Pete Rose stamp. The sheet was later issued with a blank in that spot, which he had purchased for a small investment. He noted that unfortunately, the value had decreased quite a bit instead of increasing.
- Jim Myers talked about some "Trash Can" covers that he had rescued from Post Office receptacles.

Door Prizes:

- Gift certificates were awarded to Ralph Poore, Scott English, Jim Myers and Peter Elias.
- Stanley Christmas concluded the meeting by proposing our next Euless meeting be an in-person one at Evan's office on April 21. There seemed to be general agreement to try and do that.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

MCSC Arlington Zoom Meeting Minutes March 3, 2021

By Skip Ely

Attendance:

- 13 members and 1 guest participated in the meeting.
- The guest expressed an interest in joining the club. Skip Ely said he would send a membership application.

Call-To-Order:

- President Rich Hildebrandt began the meeting shortly after 7:00 PM. He suggested that we consider holding in-person meetings sooner rather than later, what with the number of members getting vaccination shots for the virus. A survey of board members will follow.

Officer Reports:

- Treasurer - Judy Christmas gave the treasury amount. We are in good shape.
- Secretary - Skip Ely said we had dues or promise of dues from 90 members. 5 members will be dropped this month. He also said the new member handbooks had been printed and will be mailed during the coming week.
- Newsletter - Peter Elias showed a preview of the April issue and made a pitch for more "Been There - Done That" articles. He also talked about how to find unused stamp images for articles if one doesn't have the stamp in question.

Show & Tell:

- Ray Cartier showed some examples of cachets he has created for his personal mail.
- Peter Elias showed a cover with underpaid postage (by virtue of having a previously used stamp on the envelope, covered with glossy packing tape).
- Ken Aldridge showed part of his baseball exhibit from 2008.

Program:

- Rick Howell presented a video on the ten most valuable stamps.

Gift Certificates:

- .. were awarded to Keith Parris, Gene Atkinson, Skip Ely, Stanley Christmas, Jim Taylor, and Ray Cartier.

Adjournment:

- The meeting adjourned about 8:00 PM.

MCSC EXPO Planning Meeting March 4, 2021

By Skip Ely

Call-To-Order:

- Ralph Poore called the meeting to order around 7:05 PM.

Attendance:

- Additional participants were Rick Howell, Ken Aldridge, Ken Wills, Peter Elias, Stanley and Judy Christmas, Ray Cartier, and Skip Ely.

Last Minutes:

- Minutes from the last meeting in the fall of 2020 were deemed irrelevant and were not reviewed.

Discussions:

- Ralph said an important item of business was to confirm our EXPO dates with the Grapevine Convention Center and put down a deposit. He said he has had difficulty contacting the appropriate people to do so. Stanley Christmas offered to assist with this effort in the next week or so.
- Ralph presented the list of EXPO Committee Volunteers and asked about changes.
- Stanley said he would accept the position of Hospitality and Registration chair in place of Janet Moyer.
- Skip Ely said Jim Case helps him a lot with the Beginners.
- Ray Cartier said he was willing to help with Exhibits but no longer has the resources to Chair that committee.
- It is also necessary to confirm whether Debbie Hathaway was still willing to chair the Awards and Rob Hathaway the Cachet committees.
- Judy Christmas offered to re-assume the Volunteer Committee. All other committee chairs seemed to be secure.
- Rick Howell talked about a booklet called "*Hidden Objects - Stamp Collecting and Bird Watching*", and wondered if it would be a useful donation at the Beginners Table for children or adults trying to interest children in stamp collecting. A discussion followed, the result being some more research was necessary to see if we could get some at a discount. The item was tabled until the next meeting.

Show Theme:

- The four U.S. stamps "Western Wear" were deemed to be the most relevant of the new issue schedule. It was suggested this could lend itself to exhibits in many things "cowboy". The vote in favor of this topic for our theme was unanimous.

Next Meeting:

- The next meeting was scheduled for Saturday, April 24, hopefully an in-person one at David's BBQ. Ralph said he would check on availability.



MCSC 2021 Donors List

By Skip Ely

Our thanks and appreciation to all who contributed something extra in their dues renewal

Ken Aldridge
Dr. James Camak
Judy & Stanley Christmas
Jack Dykhouse
Beverly & Gifford Ely
James L. Higgins
David Linn
Jim & Madeleine Myers
Ralph Poore
David Stockbridge
Bob Thompson
Kenneth Wills

Eugene Atkinson
Steve Carpenter
Tom Cunningham
Peter Elias
Alliene Franklin
Andras Lacko
Gary McNamee
Penni Phelps
Michael Smith
Dr. Ben Termini
Steven Turechek
John Withers

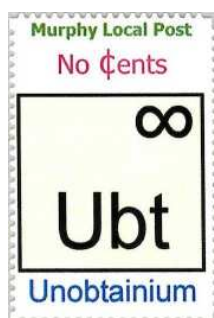
Errata

by Peter Elias

The March 2021 issue of Stamping Around incorrectly listed Skip Ely as providing the February 17 Euless Meeting Minutes; it was in fact Stanley Christmas. This is my fault, since my reporting template shows Skip as the default...

Murphy Local Post

By Peter Elias



Murphy, TX does NOT have its own post office. Mail there is delivered by the nearby Plano MPO (main post office). While I could drop off my business mail at the UPS Store or even the "Contract Post Office" in Murphy, I'd rather drive the mail to the Plano post office myself. As such, I've created some "Murphy Local Post" stamps that I put on some of my outgoing mail.

I made these using actual stamp stock that was used for US Postage for the Pitney Bowes "Mail & Go" stamp kiosks (which no longer exist). I print these in sheets of 10 using my favorite "element" of Unobtainium as the subject.

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← <http://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

For online newsletters see

or <http://mid-citiesstampclub.webs.com/newsletter.htm>

(Note: this site will only be available until March 31, 2021) →



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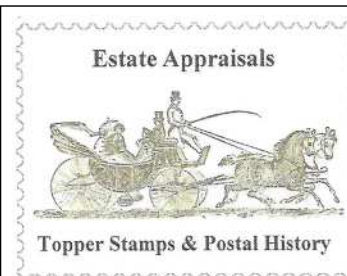
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TV Philately: Circle of Deception

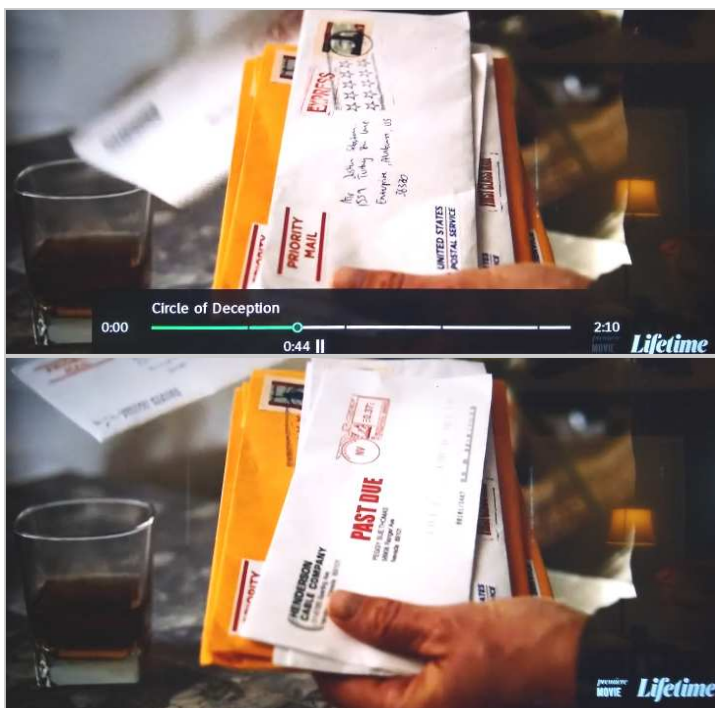
By Peter Elias

Welcome to another episode of "TV Philately", where I try to dissect the stamps and/or philatelic elements that are presented in a movie or TV series that I watched on my TV.

This month: "Circle of Deception", a made-for-TV movie on the Lifetime network about a former beauty queen that aided in murdering her best friend's husband, by having her boyfriend kill him. The bulk of the movie takes place on Whidbey Island (near Seattle) in 2003 (and also a few years later). However, when Peggy Sue Thomas (the former beauty queen) was living in Nevada with her boyfriend, there is a brief scene, about 44 minutes into the movie, in which the boyfriend, Jim Huden, was going through a stack of mail (as part of them having financial difficulties at this point). There's more info [online](#).

As usual, this "philatelic" scene is only a couple of seconds long. Luckily, I was able to get two good screen shots of the envelopes as the actor was looking at them.

The key to taking these kind of screen shots is that you need to play with the play and pause buttons to get a good paused screen where the image is in focus. On my DirecTV DVR, I can only play & pause. Once paused, I can't really advance the image one frame at a time, which I wish I could do, as it would allow me to stop at the best possible image, so it's mostly hit & miss...



While the actor is holding a bundle of envelopes shown, only on two of them can you see any details, as shown above. As always, as the images zip by on the screen, they look plausible enough, but the fun starts when you pause the screen and analyze what is there.

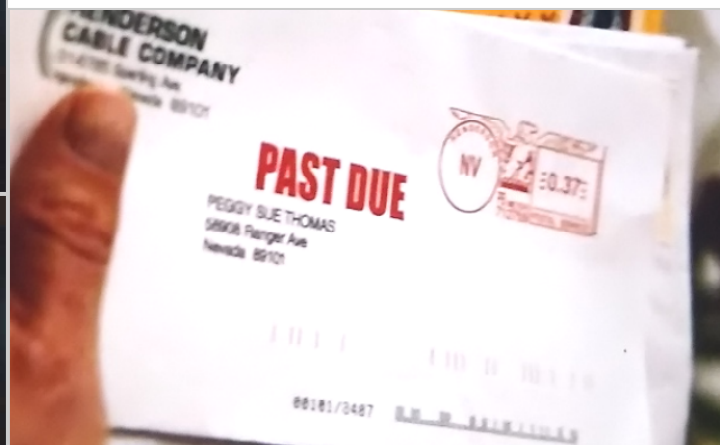
On the second column at top right is a rotated & cropped version of the first envelope shown above. Right away, nothing much makes too much sense on this envelope:

- Back in 2003, it was either Priority Mail or Express Mail (not like today when it's called "Priority Mail Express").
- The stamp looks like a badly made sticker of some sort bearing absolutely no resemblance to any real Express Mail stamp (which is after all what you'd find as a "single-stamp usage" on an Express mail piece, and there is no text (such as USA) nor



a denomination is shown. Unfortunately the image is too indistinct to see what this sticker even portrays. Other envelopes that one can partially see during this scene also seem to have similar stickers on them.

- The postmark doesn't bear any resemblance to a real postmark.
- Why is this envelope addressed to a "Justin Sebastian" in Enterprise, AL? The location of the movie at this point is in Nevada. The only thing that matches on this picture is that 36330 is indeed the Zip Code for Enterprise, AL, but I could not find a street with appears to be "Turkey B?? Lane". I also could not find any mention of a "Justin Sebastian" anywhere that would have a tie-in to this movie or the story line.
- There's no need for a "United States Postal Service" sticker on an envelope like this (it's NOT an official USPS envelope).



The second envelope appears to be a little more in line with the story, in that it is indeed addressed to Peggy Sue Thomas, the main character. However:

- The 37¢ on the meter was the correct 1st class postage in 2003, but instead of a date in the circle, the meter simply shows a "NV" in the middle, and no "US Postage" anywhere.
- The address is incomplete (no city name is shown, presumably it is Henderson. There is a "Ranger Ct" in Henderson, but not a "Ranger Ave", and the street numbers don't go that high (only from 1 - 99)).
- There is NO "89101" Zip Code for Henderson (they range from 89002 to 89077); 89101 is for Las Vegas.
- The Postnet code at the bottom also doesn't seem quite right. Usually the human readable portion includes the Zip Code, but instead of starting with 89101, it shows 00101.

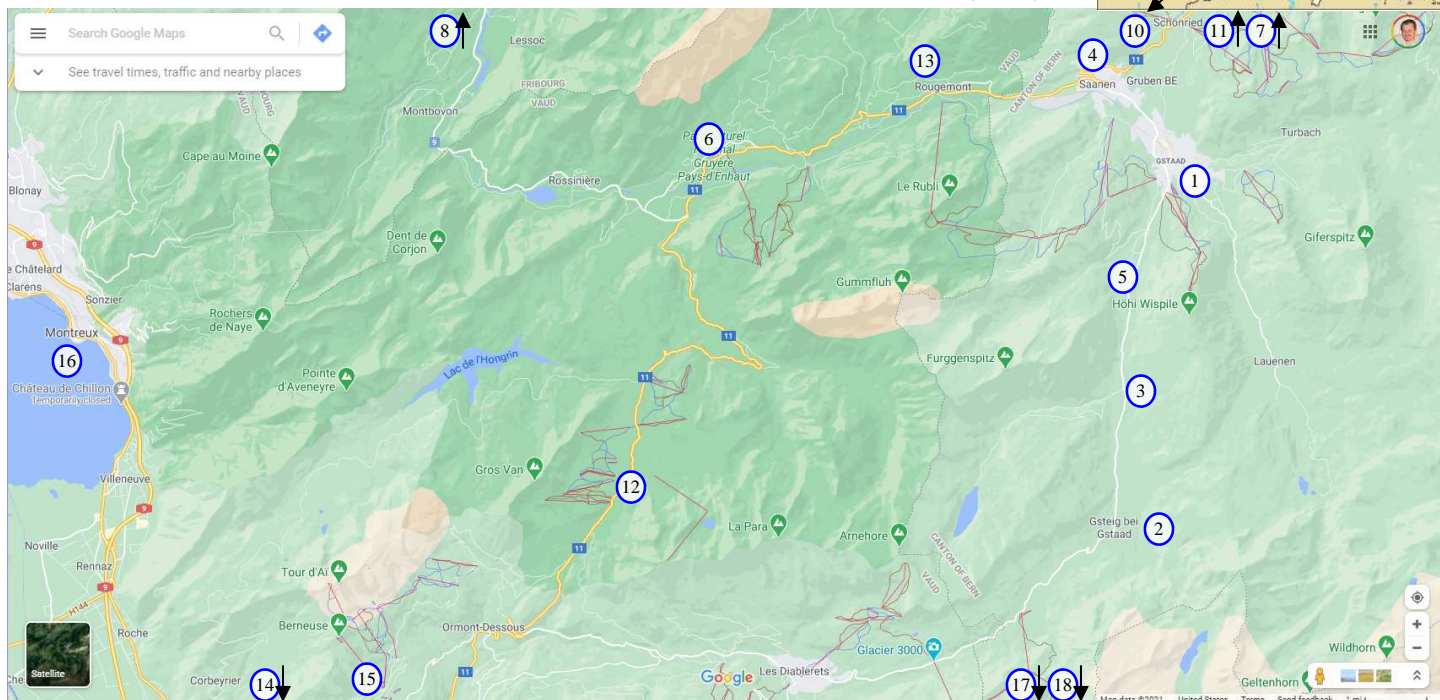
So as usual, they didn't get very much correct, but it only has to pass muster on screen for a split second ...

Postmark Vacation

By Peter Elias

In 1979, when I graduated from high school, my parents took us on a vacation to Switzerland. Due to jet engines

shown in the format of DD.MM.YY-HH. Since the hour is shown on most postmarks, that means a clerk has to change it hourly, such as in this case 15 Hours (3 PM).



falling off DC-10 aircraft right around that time, the FAA grounded DC-10's (including our Swissair flight) until the problem was resolved, and I missed my high school graduation (which was to have been on June 6 according to my diploma) as a result and we had to reschedule our flights.

The vacation that year was in Gstaad, a small city of approximately 9,000 at 3,445 feet in the Canton of Bern, and is located in the southwestern part of Switzerland (see small map at top right).

Our vacations generally revolved around day hikes in the area that we're in for roughly 4 weeks. The hikes generally ranged from 3 to 6 hours in length. On that particular vacation, I took with me a small notepad, as many of our hikes involved us either starting or stopping our hikes at a post office, or walking by them during the hike. This allowed me to quickly go into the post office and obtain a postmark!

Of course sometimes, the smaller village post offices only had limited opening hours (perhaps 2 hours each in the morning and afternoon) and the staff may have had to deliver the mail as well.

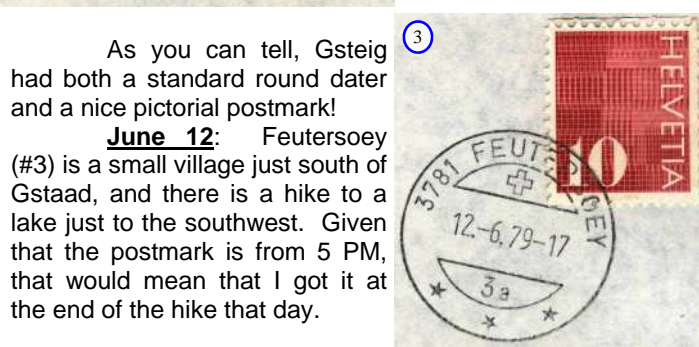
On this vacation, I was able to gather postmarks from something like 18 post offices. I've arranged them by date order and put them on the large map above. Many of the villages do not show up on this map, since in order to do so, the map would have to take up 2 full sheets of paper, but I'm noting the approximate location via the numbers (in the blue circles). The map is from a Google Map© screen shot. Note that the distances aren't really all that great (see scale at bottom right of the map).

June 11: We'll start off with our "home base" on that trip, Gstaad, shown with postmark #1 from June 11, which was only a few days after leaving Michigan.

As you can tell from this postmark (and many others), is that of course in Switzerland, the postmark dates are



On the same day, an hour after postmark #1, we ended up at Gsteig b. Gstaad (#2), just a couple of miles south of Gstaad, via a Swiss Postal Service bus. My guess is that we started in Gstaad around 3 PM and ended up in Gsteig at 4 PM, where I got both postmarks #2.



As you can tell, Gsteig had both a standard round dater and a nice pictorial postmark!

June 12: Feutersony (#3) is a small village just south of Gstaad, and there is a hike to a lake just to the southwest. Given that the postmark is from 5 PM, that would mean that I got it at the end of the hike that day.

Postmark Vacation (continued from page 12)

June 13: That day's hike took us to Saanen at Noon, with a nice pictorial cancel advertising both "Summer Vacations" and "Winter Sports". Saanen is served both by train and bus, but I don't remember which one we took.

We didn't necessarily hike every day, so there are lapses in days. In this case, I don't remember what we did on June 14, but:

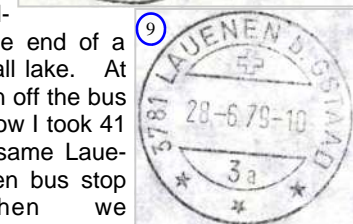
June 15: We apparently took the Swiss PTT bus from "Grund b. Gstaad" to Gstaad itself judging by the bus ticket. That distance is only 1½ miles!

June 18: We might have taken a train to Chateau d'Oex to do a hike near there. It is about 8 miles or so west of Gstaad. Most likely, with a 2 PM date, this may have been near the end of a hike. Coincidentally, I found a train ticket from 6 years earlier (1973), where we went from Chateau d'Oex back to Gstaad.

June 20: Weissenbach is "off the map", about 13 miles northeast of Gstaad. This is also the only postmark in this series where there is no time shown after the year. As with many of the hikes we did during this trip, I unfortunately don't really have vivid memories of them.

June 27: The one week gap between the previous postmark and this one means there could have been periods of rain and/or I just didn't manage to get to any post offices. On June 27, however, we ended up Fribourg, a major city about 45 miles north and we were there most likely because my dad must have had a business trip there. In any case, it was probably just sightseeing in the city that day.

June 28: Lauenen is a small village due south of Gstaad at the end of a valley that dead-ends with a small lake. At 10 AM, we would have just gotten off the bus to start our hike. The picture below I took 41 years later (2010) at the exact same Lauenen bus stop when we were headed back to Gstaad after a hike. Our 1979 bus would have been an older style bus model though...



June 29: That morning we found ourselves in Schönried, about 2 miles north of Gstaad (at the north edge of my map). The lovely pictorial postmark proclaims that Schönried is the "sun terrace of the Saanen land". The town of Saanen is just north of Gstaad. Schönried has many ski & chairlifts, so we probably took one to start our hike with.

July 3: Looking at the map, Saanenmöser is more of a bus stop than a village, located about a mile further northeast of Schönried, and thus also "off the map".

July 4: To get to Les Mosses would have been a well over 1 hour combination of train ride to Chateau d'Oex and then a bus ride. Les Mosses (at 4,757 feet altitude) is on a major route

that takes you to Lake Geneva.

The bus ticket took us from Les Mosses back to Chateau d'Oex.

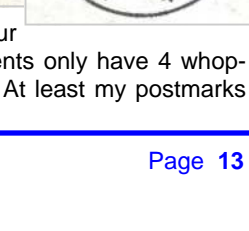
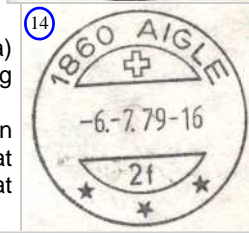
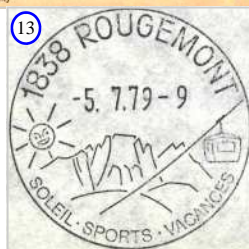
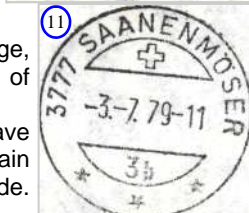
July 5: We found ourselves in Rougemont at 9 AM; this is just 4 miles west of Gstaad, and I don't remember whether we took the train or bus there (since I do also have a 1973 train ticket from Gstaad to Rougemont!). Another nice pictorial postmark. What particular hike we took that day, I don't remember.

July 6: That day we were "off the map" again (just past the end of Lake Geneva) and at 4 PM, we were probably heading back from a hike.

July 6: Still on the same day, but an hour later at 5 PM, I got a postmark at Leysin (which is just barely on the map at the bottom). My guess is that we were in Leysin first, and then Aigle, and that they didn't change the times properly.

July 6: Even later that day, at 6 PM, I got a postmark in Montreux (on Lake Geneva and home to the famous annual jazz festival). Even though nearby, we didn't get to visit the famous Chillon Castle.

July 7: We ended up "off the map" in the Valais region, at Lens & Montana-Vermala. I honestly don't remember the hike there. Looking through our family photo albums from 1979, my parents only have 4 whopping photos shown from this entire trip! At least my postmarks number more than that for memories!



From the President's Desk

by Richard Hildebrandt

Every month I need to write a short column for the newsletter and being a procrastinator of the first degree, Peter always has to remind me and usually prod me to get it in on time. In trying to come up with something intelligent to say in these letters I have been struggling as of late. I had two things cross my mind but they disappeared before I could capture them. Typical at this point in my life.

Thinking about the last year and being unable to have in-person stamp club meetings has hampered our communication. I came to the realization that many of our members live too far away from any of the three regular meeting sites to attend regularly. Maybe there has been some good to come out of this. What I refer to is all three sections of the club have been holding Zoom meetings, and while this isn't the same as face-to-face, it does allow for those who are remote to participate in a club activity.

I urge those who have not tried one of the Zoom meetings to give them a try. They last about an hour and are very informal. You can be an active participant by sharing something with the group or just be a fly on the wall and enjoy what others present. For those who do not do internet things, I believe we are getting close to being able to resume in-person gatherings. Please hang in there for a little while longer.

The second thought just flashed through my mind again and I think I captured it. Several of our club members have been very hard at work upgrading/reworking our club website. Foremost among them is Jim Myers. Also involved are Rick Howell, Peter Elias and Evan Islam. I bring this up to alert everyone that the change will be rolled out soon. An e-mail will be sent to all members to alert them to the change and I ask all of you to give it a look and provide any feedback that you think would be helpful.

I hope that all of you are staying well and that we can get back together very soon.

Philatelic Supplies

by Peter Elias



It is sad that "brick-and-mortar" (i.e.: "walk-in") stamp stores are virtually non-existent, with probably less than 100 in the entire USA (according to Linn's), and certain NONE in the Dallas / Ft. Worth area (I'm not counting the few coin stores with a mini stamp section).

So if you need some basic stamp supplies (such as hinges or stock sheets), you're out of luck.

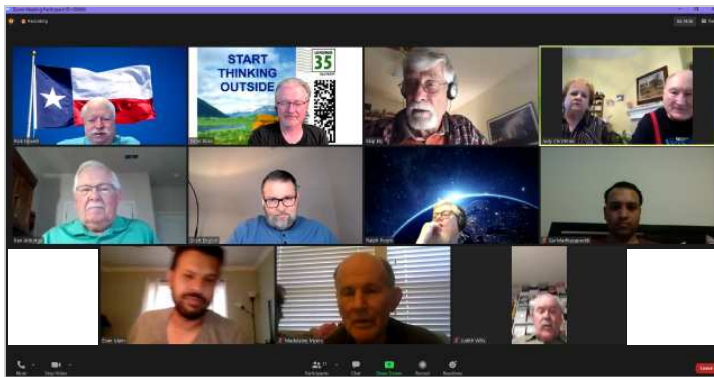
Remember way back, when one used to be able to find stamp supplies at stores like "Woolworth"?

Today, about the only regular retail store that sells anything relating to philatelic supplies is Hobby Lobby, and even their selection is fairly thin. They have a small "stamp & coin" section as shown in the photo above, and the "stamp" part is shown inside the blue border above. It consists of a couple of bags of overpriced "mystery" stamps on paper, a couple of plastic stock sheets, 2 packs of hinges (which were kind of puffed up, telling me that the hinges had been subject to high humidity and have curled up inside the packs...), and 2 sizes of basic stamp mounts. In other words, slim pickens'...

On the other hand, their "rubber stamp" area was much bigger (see below), and even had 2 philatelic-related rubber stamps ...



Attendees of the Eulless, March 17 Zoom Meeting:





MEET & EAT for

April 2021

by Judy & Stanley Christmas

"Meet & Eats" are held before our club meetings. All club members and their guests are welcome. We will gather at 5:00 PM and start ordering at that time. However, latecomers can order when they arrive or just come by for a visit. Meals should be over around 6:15 to 6:30 PM with the Arlington new meeting start time now being at 7:00 PM rather than 7:30 PM.

Meet & Eat locations will be included the club's broadcast messages. NOTE: All locations are subject to change.

--> Official Meet & Eat get-togethers prior to any in-person club meetings are cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19 precautionary measures.

ARLINGTON

Cancelled until further notice

EULESS

Cancelled until further notice

GRANBURY

Cancelled until further notice

--> Please watch for email messages from the club secretary regarding upcoming meeting schedules (including links to virtual Zoom meetings).

Mid-Cities Stamp Club "Stamping Around" Newsletter
c/o Peter Elias
PO Box 940427
Plano, TX 75094-0427

Don't Forget:
TSDA Stamp Fair - April 9 & 10
Euleless Mtg on April 21 is "in-person"!

Wanted to Buy

Texas Precancel Stamps. Contact Rick Howell at
Rick.howell1@tx.rr.com

5/19

Wanted to buy or trade for: Worldwide unusual EFOs, postal counterfeits. Odd US 20th century auxiliary markings, US 1934 and 1935 Christmas Seals on and off cover and publicity material, Korean War postal history from US and other UN contingents, and any other US philatelic material with an interesting story. John Hotchner, PO Box 1125, Falls Church, VA 22041, or jmhstamp@verizon.net 2/15

Various USA Scott #C2 & C3 on covers & cards are needed for my U.S Air Mail collection. Please forward scans of the covers / cards along with asking price(s) to Don Jones at adjaams@aol.com Thank you. 2/21

For Sale

I have over 10,000 auctions on delcampe.com @ 35% of Scott or less. Worldwide & US stamps, covers and FDCs. For more info contact Denny Ludlow @ (713) 898-1872 10/15

FREE 111-page (all varieties) or 26-page album (basic version) of Spanish ATM stamps (provided as a PDF file) with purchase of at least \$4.00 in Spanish ATM stamps (which are only 15¢ each!) Contact Peter Elias at peter@pcelias.com 1/21

--> YOUR FREE AD COULD BE HERE <--!
(for MCSC paid club members only)