



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWSLETTER

Meets 2nd and 4th Sundays

April 1993

Box 8711, Wilkinsburg, PA 15221

A. P. S Chapter 1214

Happy Passover/Happy Easter. There will NOT be a meeting this Sunday, April 11, because it is Easter. See you at WILKPEX '93 April 17 & 18, or at our regularly scheduled meeting April 25.

This is the first time in three years we could not mail you the Newsletter using the fancy sports cancel for the show. However, you did get a preview of this year's cachet. Unfortunately, we were not able to print it in two colors as we wished: it would have been too expensive. The good news is that Herb Douglas, the man we are honoring at WILKPEX '93, will be at the show on Saturday to autograph some cachets for the show visitors. Maybe this will be the first year we sell all 500 cachets at the show.

Two other firsts for the show this year: we would like to welcome members of the Pennsylvania Postal History Society, who will be holding their meeting at our show this year, and we will have at least 25 frames on exhibition. (At 16 pages each, that is a record for us.)

This will be our third year at Olympia Hall, but the Hall is now under different management, so we hope things go as well as in the past. We hope to be at Olympia Hall next year, too.

At last Sunday's meeting we started two ways to raise money to buy our own frames: we had our first 50-50 drawing, where WSC and a member each made \$12.50, and we started to sell some Official stamps on covers. These used Officials will be on sale at the Philatelic Phlea Market Table during WILKPEX, then the unsold, if we have any, will be returned for sale at a reduced price for WSC members at our Sunday meetings.

We would like to welcome Jeff Petzold and Andrew D. Kellerman into our club.

Congratulations to Helen and Harold Cline for their outstanding work on last year's show booklet: The American Philatelic Society Chapter Activities Committee's 1992 Show Program Critique awarded the Clines a Vermeil Award for Second Place. Their official award will be mailed to them from APS headquarters in State College, Pa.

An item from Dave Pearlman, now editor of the Newsletter from the Keystone Federation of Stamp Clubs to stamp show chairmen: be advised that if you get a request from this dealer, you should disregard it. The dealer, John McCauley, 3995 Rickyn Dr., Chambersburg, PA 17201. It seems his checks have bounced at other stamp shows.

If you plan on visiting Washington D.C. this summer you may want to think about these two items. Washington's old City Post Office, designed in 1914 by architect Daniel Burnham, has been restored to its original design for its new role as home of the National Postal Museum. This building, across the street from the Union Station, will be the newest part of the Smithsonian Institution and it opens on July 30th.

About 20-30 minutes away on the "Outer Loop" beltway around Washington at Exit #3 you can easily find the Post Office on Franconia Road in Springfield, Va. Inside this post office is located a "Postal Buddy" machine. At this machine you can easily purchase the block of 4 Postal Buddy philatelic cards that are no longer being sold through the "Stamps etc. Catalog" at the Philatelic Fulfillment Service Center.

Or, you may want to use the Postal Buddy kiosk at the L'Enfant Plaza post office. (There are supposed to be 120 kiosks in the Washington D.C. area and 70 in and around San Diego by now.)

At any location you get a separate postal buddy receipt and a plastic postal buddy money card given as change and good for two years at any postal buddy machine. Over the next eight and a half years 10,000 of these machines SHOULD appear in 146 cities or metropolitan areas with a population of at least 300,000.

So far the Postal Service has made a profit of \$25 million on the 29¢ Elvis stamp issued Jan. 8th. The 500 million Elvis Presley stamps delivered to the USPS have a total face value of \$145 million. Approximately 480 million have been sold.

A new "Pledge of Allegiance" booklet bearing a red 29¢ denomination (instead of black) has been released without notice.

The US 29¢ Olympic Baseball stamp of 1992 was withdrawn from sale Jan. 8 at the Postal Service's philatelic center in Kansas City, Mo. because of legal proceedings over the photograph used to design the stamp.

When the next rate change comes in a few years, the G-rate make-up stamp will feature a Flying Dove. It will be used with the current 29¢ stamps to pay the difference between the 29¢ letter rate and the yet-to-be-determined rate. This is at least two years away if Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyan has his way. If so, the current 29¢ rate era would be the longest period of stable U.S. first class letter rates since the 1963-68 5¢ rate, which endured exactly five years.

Our new Treasurer, David F. McConaha, would like to begin a membership drive next month to build up our Treasury. If possible, he would like you to pay your yearly dues early. See Dave at WILKPEX '93 if you can pay your dues in advance.

See you at WILKPEX '93, and bring a friend or two.

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