



# WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB NEWS

## Volume 22, Issue 8, August 2024

*Wilkinsburg Stamp Club is a member of APS #12293*

[www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com](http://www.wilkinsburgstampclub.com)

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Meeting Schedule: 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month. Doors open at 12:30 PM and meetings start at 2:00 PM.

Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

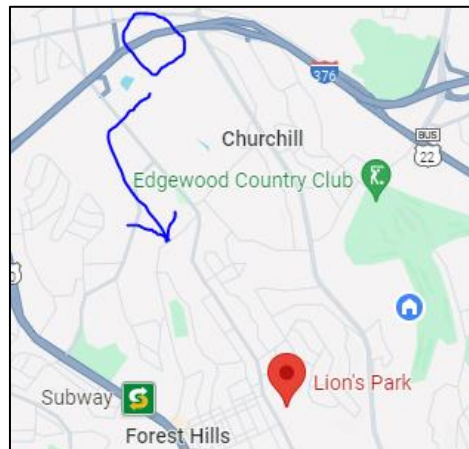
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**WILKPEX 2025** –Saturday and Sunday April 12 & 13 (Times TBD), 2025 – Holiday Park Fire Department, Plum PA.

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### Wilkinsburg Stamp Club News

The 2024 Club Picnic will be held in Lion's Park in Wilkins Township (just down the road) on Sunday September 22 (11 AM until finished – food to be served at 12 noon). The Club will provide hamburgers & hotdogs. If you are planning on attending please sign up at the next meeting with how many will be attending with you and what you will be bringing (sides, desserts, etc.). If you are planning to attend but do not get to meetings regularly please email Maureen (see last page) with that information. {Map below shows the Churchill Borough Building where the circle is, and you just go down Greensburg Pike! More detailed directions next month!}



Rebecca Folytn has also curated some beautiful First Day Covers with hummingbirds and manatees to go with recent stamps issued in 2024. If interested in these or her other stationary please let her know! She is considering other upcoming issues for creating cachets as well - if you have a topic you would like her to do as a cachet or First Day Cover let her know!



Wylie is petitioning Dr. Joseph Kelley of the Citizen’s Stamp Advisory Committee (475 L’Enfant Plaza SW, Room 3300, Washington DC 20260-3501) for a Circus Wagon stamp series, using photos of classic circus wagons, many of which have been preserved and restored around the country. If you would like to help, please ask Wylie for a template to send in your own letter.



John Harding gave a presentation on the upcoming Pinback Button issue for possibly being part of the Souvenir Sheet, and he added that the Alex Trebek stamp is also a possible topic.



If you can think of something appropriate that might look like it belongs on a button or could be on a “Jeopardy” stamp, please let John know.

Stevan had some ideas about getting speakers or presentations for meetings. If someone would like to be the point person to contact potential speakers or work with APS to get videos, etc, please let the club know. A working knowledge of Zoom and projectors is recommended.

Maureen has the old APS Circuit books for sale and will bring them to future meetings.



While Danielle is stepping back from the club for a bit, she is planning to possibly go up to Bellefonte again this summer – let her know if you are interested in going!

For WILKPEX- If you can think of something to make Day 2 special (auction, presentations, etc.) please bring that idea to the meetings. We are working to get a separate room at the Fire Hall for this. We want good attendance on both days!

## Philatelic News

- August 2024 US Stamps issues (as of now):
  - Dungeons and Dragons – (8/1) – 10 stamps commemorating the popular board and computer gamewith the funny dice.
  - Pinback Buttons – (8/15) – 10 stamps showing popular topics people wore on buttons in the 1970's.
  - Autumn Colors – (8/16) – 10 stamps showing the beauty of fall foliage in the US.





## The Kid is in the Mail

From Uncle John's Bathroom Reader #34 – Hindsight is 20/20 © 2021

### Special Delivery

On January 1, 1913, the US Post Office launched the Parcel Post Service, which allowed customers to mail parcels weighing up to 11 pounds. Before that, if you wanted to send something heavier than 4 pounds, you had to hire a private delivery company to do so. And if you lived in a small town or some other place where there weren't any such companies, you either delivered the parcel yourself...or you were out of luck.

The Parcel Post Service proved to be so popular that the maximum weight limit was raised to 50 pounds, greatly increasing the variety of items that could be sent in the mail. Including...kids? There wasn't anything in the postal regulations that said you *could*, but then again, there wasn't anything in the regulations that said you couldn't. Within weeks of the service being introduced, some parents gave it a try.

### Simpler Times

Mailing a kid in those days wasn't considered nearly as impersonal or dangerous as it might be today. In those days more people lived in small towns, had done so their entire lives, and knew everyone else in town, including the mail carrier. And they lived close to other relatives. In such a place and time, if someone wanted their child to visit a relative who lived nearby, it wouldn't be unheard of to ask a trusted mail carrier to accompany the child if no one else was available. In the rare cases in which a child was actually "mailed" to another destination, this is often what happened: the mail carrier picked up the child – with the proper postage

attached – at one address on their mail route, and either dropped them off at another address on their mail route, or took them to the post office, where they were either picked up by a family member or handed off to another mail carrier, who saw them to their final destination.

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a lot of mail traveled by train in special railway mail cars attached to passenger trains. Train tickets weren't cheap, and the temptation to have children declared as "freight mail" so they could be sent by cheaper postage rates instead of by paying for a passenger ticket, was considerable. There were instances when parents did manage to pull this off. The child rode in the mail car with the postal employees, who then saw them to the local post office when they arrived at their destination.

### Return to Sender

Not surprisingly, the U.S. Post Office didn't much care for the practice, and in June 1920, the assistant postmaster in charge of the Parcel Post Service specifically forbade it on the grounds that children "did not come within the classification of harmless live animals which do not require food or water while in transit". The change in regulations didn't stop the practice entirely, but by the late 1920s, the golden age of sending kids in the mail was over,

Here are some of the most famous cases:

James Beagle (Glen Este, Ohio) – A few weeks after the Parcel Post Service began operations in 1913, Jesse and Mathilda Beagle mailed their 8-month-old son to his grandmother's house about a mile away from Batavia. Both homes were on the route of mail carrier Vernon O. Lytle. Jesse weighed in at 10¾ pounds, just under the 11-pound limit for parcels mailed by Parcel Post. His parents paid 15¢ in postage and insured the boy for \$50.

Charlotte May Pierstorff (Grangeville, Idaho) – On February 9, 1914, four-year-old Charlotte was mailed from her parents' home to her grandparents' home 73 miles away. Charlotte traveled by train; she rode in the mail car with her mother's cousin, a postal clerk who worked on the train.

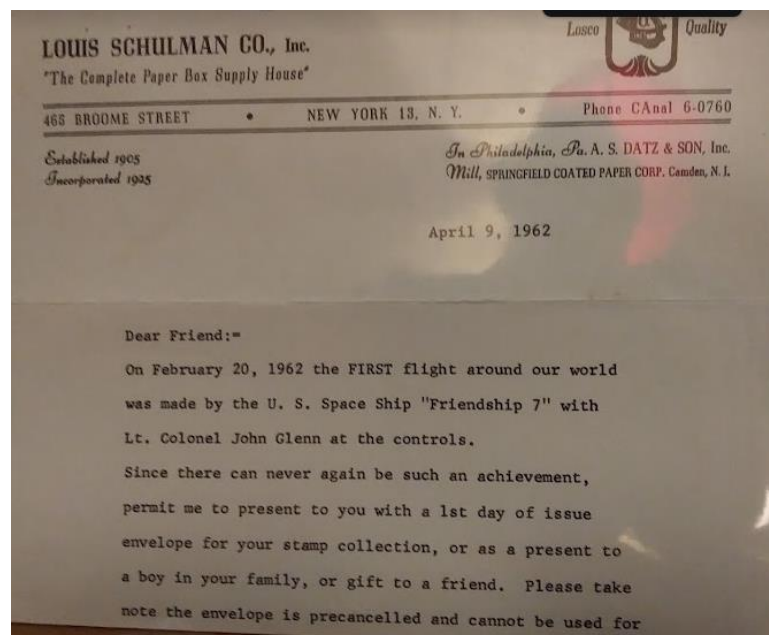
Edna Neff (Pensacola Florida) – Neff, who was 6 years old, may hold the record for the longest trip of a child sent through the mail. On March 27, 1915, she climbed aboard a mail train in Pensacola and as transported some 720 miles to the post office in Christiansburg, Virginia, where her father lived. She weighed just under 50 pounds. Cost of postage: 15¢.

Maude Smith (Jackson Kentucky) – On August 31, 1915, three-year-old Maude was mailed from Caney, Kentucky, to her home in Jackson, Kentucky, 25 miles away. The girl traveled by mail train; a shipping tag with 33¢ in postage was sewed to her pink dress. Printed on the tag were the words "To Mrs. Celina Smith, care of Jim Haddix, Jackson, Ky., from R.K. Madden, Caney, Ky." Aboard the mail train, the postal clerk, J.T. Sebastian, attached his own note to the child's dress. It read "Baby received 8:15 by postmaster in person. I doubt the legality of the sending, but it was put on the train and I must deliver and report."

Russell Nickerson (Pontiac, Michigan) – Nickerson, who was four years old in 1927, was perhaps the luckiest kid to be sent through the mail, because he was sent by *air mail*, at a time when few people had ever traveled by airplane. Dressed in a sailor suit with a mail tag and postage attached, he climbed aboard the mail plane in Pontiac and, sitting in a passenger seat next to the pilot, he was delivered to Detroit following an 18-minute flight.

## Collector's Corner

- Show and Tell is at the second meeting of each month. Please bring an item to show and talk about. It can be about a topic other than stamps. Sharing the story is the important part.
- Show and Tell – July 28, 2024:
  - Maureen brought in 2 first day covers that were used as advertising – one from the company that made the glass for the first automated US Mail sorting center and one from an office supply store that had a Mercury Space stamp first day cover.
  - Mike told a story about a stamp club he had belonged to in LaSalle County IL where one of the members was a monk who worked at a nearby Catholic Academy for boys. The monk had the kids assist with the academy's stamp collection.



## Upcoming Events Nearby

- August 10, 2024 – The Big Erie Stamp Show 2024
- August 15 – 18, 2024 – Great American Stamp Show, Hartford CT
- August 18, 2024 – Canton Stamp Bourse, Canton OH
- August 24, 2024 – August Stamp Fair, Buffalo NY
- August 25, 2024 – K2 – Lancaster PA
- September 8 - K2, Churchill PA
- September 14, 2024 – TUSCOPEX, New Philadelphia OH
- November 16 -17, 2024 – PITTPEX – **NEW LOCATION!** Fairview Sunset Room 3326 Washington Pike, Bridgeville, PA 15017
- April 12 – 13, 2025 – WILKPEX – Plum PA
- May 9 – 10, 2025 – Butlerpex, Lyndora PA (tentative)

For more details google the stamp club or look at the latest issue of the American Philatelist Magazine or the calendar at APS - (<https://stamps.org/events/events-calendar>)



2024 APS Volunteer Work Week group photo – Stevan at left – Wylie's group not included – please see the next American Philatelist Magazine and APS Website for more photos and stories!

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Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill PA 15235

*All are welcome! Free admission! Wonderful snacks! Stamps! Fun for all!*

## WILKPEX – Our Annual Stamp Show

2025 – Saturday April 12 & Sunday April 13 (Times TBD) – Holiday Park Fire Hall, Plum PA.

### Officers:

President & Membership: Danielle Weaver ([dmm742000@yahoo.com](mailto:dmm742000@yahoo.com))

Vice President & Circuit Manager: John Harding ([hardingeb@gmail.com](mailto:hardingeb@gmail.com))

Treasurer: Lois Gregg ([mooneymanor@yahoo.com](mailto:mooneymanor@yahoo.com))

Secretary/Newsletter Editor: Maureen McKeever ([maurmomck@gmail.com](mailto:maurmomck@gmail.com))

Web Tech: Dave Duggins ([davidfduggins@gmail.com](mailto:davidfduggins@gmail.com))

WSC c/o Danielle Weaver, 3710 Henley Drive, Pittsburgh PA 15235

### Newsletter:

Original articles for the newsletter can be submitted from any member to Maureen at a meeting or emailed to her (see above) or via regular mail:

Maureen McKeever, 118 Larchwood Drive, Turtle Creek PA 15145.

Club members will be mailed a black and white copy of the newsletter each month. Anyone can request a color copy to be delivered at a meeting, but please let Stevan or Chris ([stevanw2020@gmail.com](mailto:stevanw2020@gmail.com)) know ahead of time.



(Stop bringing all those counterfeit stamps!!!)