

INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY
OF
WORLDWIDE
STAMP COLLECTORS

The Circuit

AFFILIATE OF: APS & COPO

The Official Journal of The International Society of Worldwide Stamp Collectors

Slow 'Happy Talk' Stamp Sales a Bad Joke for Postal Service

By **Katie Mosher**

(Grateful appreciation is extended to the *Raleigh (NC) News and Observer* for permission to reprint this article from their December 18, 1987, issue.)

Folks just haven't taken to the idea of sending a bill payment with a stamp proclaiming "Congratulations" or with one that coos "Get Well."

The Stamps -- a fireworks design on a dark-blue background and lillies on a bright yellow background, respectively -- are part of a booklet of 10 special occasion stamps offered by the U. S. Postal Service.

The Stamps, which have been available since April, have not been hot sellers at post offices in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

"We can't get rid of them," said James A. Reno, manager of the Cameron Village Post Office.

Jean Thompson, acting manager of retail sales for the

Raleigh Post-Office, said, "Some people express concerns of mailing their bills expressing 'Happy Birthday' or 'Congratulations.'"

The covers of the booklets spell out the stamps' messages, but not all buyers look carefully at what they're buying. The booklets have red and blue lettering similar to the more traditional stamps.

Some customers have been unpleasantly surprised when they put money in the stamp (vending) machines in post office lobbies. Expecting a familiar flag or possibly a seashell design on the 22-cent stamps, they find the happy-talk greetings instead. Many will ask for new stamps, clerks at several post offices have said.

The booklet also includes a "Love you, Mother" and a "Love you, Dad," as well as "Best Wishes," "Thank You" and "Keep In Touch." The stamps only come in the 10-pack variety book.

Christmas stamps however sell very well -- so quickly that some post offices had run out well in advance of Christmas Day.



Secretary-Treasurer's Report

Well, here we go on a new year and I hope it will be a good one for all of you and for our club. How about adding to your 1988 resolutions, if not already included, the following: write a short article for "The Circuit," send in renewal dues on time, recruit a new member for the club, and trade those 'good' duplicates.

We are having some difficult times in our organization now but most would be solved if we all kept the above resolutions. Let's all pitch in and show that worldwide collectors can have as viable a club as the various specialist groups do.

Last year's financial statement is included in this issue. Two matters stand out: (1) We spent more than we took in, which only the Federal Government can do, and (2) Our cash balance is dangerously low. You should also realize that less membership activity, while unfortunate, was reflected by lower expenses than 1986 and that Rita Kallal #26, our publisher, was able to publish 5 issues of "The Circuit" for \$50 less than it cost to publish 4 issues in 1986. Thank you, Rita!

The club acknowledges with thanks the following donations: Hoover #109, \$5.00, and Johannsen #172, \$10.00.

Steiner, #94, has been re-instated. Please post accordingly to your rosters.

I hope you all showed your interest in and support for your club by voting in this past election. I have not been informed of the results as of this writing so...

Dues have expired or are expiring for the following members: 1, 2, 4, 8, 9, 12, 13, 17-19, 22-26, 30, 32, 37, 39, 40-44, 46, 47, 49, 54, 59, 62, 64-70, 72, 73, 75-77, 140, 142, 143, 148-150, 152, 176-179, 181-185, 187-192, 194-217. This is almost half the membership, so please check your number carefully. If your number is here and you paid since 1 Jan. 88, then you're okay since this was written earlier. If not, please send your dues in before you forget. Individual notices cannot be sent as the number and cost precludes this.

The following members are dropped for failure to pay dues: 16, 21, 48, 56, 138, 167, 169. Please post your rosters accordingly.

ROSTER CHANGES Please Post!

- #109 Hoover, change zip to 98802
- #123 Sivak, change address to
P. O. Box 951
Notre Dame, Ind. 46637 USA
- #180 Senesak, change zip to 78133
- #280 McMillan, change address to
101 E. Springettsbury Ave.
York, Pa. 17403 USA

ROSTER ADDITIONS Please Post!

- #295 W. F. Douglass 30 Nov. 87 Yes Used
P. O. Box 4192
Margate, Florida 33063 USA
- #296 Stanley Polchinski 4 Dec 87 No Used
816 E 223rd St.
Bronx, N.Y. 10466 USA
- ~~#297~~ Gérard M. Frois 7 Dec 87
7 Siglap Valley
Singapore 1545
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

Herb Holland #31
Secretary-Treasurer

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- VICE-PRESIDENT: Ken Costilow #142
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- EDITOR: Arlene Futrell #2
- PUBLISHER: Rita Kallal #26
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- YOUTH STAMP PROGRAMS: Ken Costilow #142
- OMNI STAMP EXCHANGE: Tom Allison #42
- STAMP SALES CIRCUIT:
Roger Bergeson #132
- PUBLIC RELATIONS: Dave Nelson #25

The Editor's Line

It is so encouraging to hear from our members. Thanks to all who wrote. Keep it up. It's not only good to have a variety of ideas--it's also good to have a variety of sizes of letters in the layout. If you haven't written because you wouldn't say much, don't let that stop you--write anyway. And if you don't see your article in the next issue, look for it later. It is so interesting to get ideas from you. And if you have ideas for any other types of columns, do let me hear them.

Some of you have received only the last page of your "Circuit." I am glad to send you a full copy when this happens. Rita does send me extra copies for this purpose and for promotion. Should it

continue to happen for any of you, do let me know.

Are you letting your worldwide-collecting friends know about our club? Any new exchange partner is a possible member OF ISWSC. Send them all information about club membership. The more members we have, the more the benefits of our club are compounded--more dues in the treasury, more trading possibilities, more articles written, to name a few.

Do have a good year. Fill up lots of those empty spaces in your albums. I hope to do the same!

Arlene Futrell #2
Editor

R. D. 1 Box 65, Stokes, NC 27884

HOW I BECAME A STAMP COLLECTOR

My background in stamp collecting spans 50 years and three continents. As a small boy in Prague, Czechoslovakia, I got interested in stamp collecting when my father gave me envelopes from mail that he received from abroad. When our family moved to Quite, Ecuador, to escape the approaching war in 1940, I left my small collection behind.

In Quite, my brother and I became very sick, and our doctor gave us a batch of stamps as a therapy during our convalescence. Through my high school years there, I continued to collect, mainly by corresponding with collectors from all over South America. Because of this heavy correspondence, I needed many local stamps to trade, and so I started buying large accumulations.

My collecting took a long rest during College, while in the U.S. army, and later after I went to work. After I got engaged, my social life changed, and I started collecting again. This time I began to trade stamps in various exchanges. Trading stamps requires one to have large amounts of fairly high catalog duplicates. So again, I started to buy large lots. This method of accumulating stamps tends to produce large quantities of very common stamps that no one wants. Over the years I have come upon a number of ideas for collecting even some of this unwanted material.

J. V. Jizba #193

BOY SCOUT SEEKS HELP WITH "HISTORY OF SCOUTS" EXHIBIT

My son, Chris, age 14, is a Boy Scout working on his Eagle rank. For his Eagle service project he is putting together "A History of Boy Scouting" exhibit for our local historical museum. Part of his exhibit will be a display of "Scouts on Stamps" from around the world. Chris has a small collection to use as a beginning. If any club members have any extra Scouting stamps they'd be willing to donate, it would be deeply appreciated. Any extra stamps received will be used to help other Scouts working on their stamp collecting badges. I am the troop's stamp collecting badge counselor so I can always use extra stamps for the boys.

Chris would appreciate any help members could give. If there are Scout Members in ISWSC he would also like to receive council and camp patches for use in his exhibit.

Sincerely,
Dalene Thomas #101

Handicap Leader Reports On Health

Dear Dave, (Nelson)

I took time off for a heart attack, two weeks in bed. Am on the mend. Will write later. Stamps for Handicapped are really growing. Lots of love among stampers.

Best always,
Glenn #291

COLLECTING IDEAS:**ONE WAY**

There are many ways to collect world-wide stamps and many different goals in the process. Here's mine.

I decided from the very beginning never to buy individual stamps--to collect only those I could scrounge, that would come on my mail or be given me, or that I could trade for. With the exception of a few very old U.S., that resolve has never wavered, though I have purchased kiloware, pound mixes on paper, several old collections, and a number of accumulations--all of which provided hours and days of pleasure in sorting and cataloging. It still amazes me how many good folks are willing to save stamps for me from their mail at work and home. And, of course, my ten children (none of whom I'm sorry to say ever caught the bug) are in the van here. The stamps flood in--many damaged, many dupes, many common, but many bring joy to my heart.

What's my goal? Obviously not completion, that's not possible any more even for the rich--which I am not. No, my goal is to assemble the largest representative collection I can, to upgrade, continuously striving for good used copies, and to know as much as I can about the reason each stamp was issued and for the commems, just what they commemorate. Needless to say, this goal is like the rabbit for the dogs racing at the track---always stretching ahead.

In case any of you think I have something against dealers let me assure you this is not the case. I spend a lot with my friendly dealer in San Antonio---catalogs, albums, stock books, supplements, hinges, etc.---and yes, once in a great while he talks me into buying an old lot in a shoebox. I'm always optimistic.

Herb Holland #31



**ISWSC
Sales Circuit**

**Want to sell your duplicates?
Want to buy
someone else's duplicates?**

**The International Society of
Worldwide Stamp Collectors
(ISWSC) has set up a
Sales Circuit
so members may buy and sell
amongst themselves.**

Blank Books @ 25¢ each

15% commission on stamp sales.

1% Insurance on total value of Book.

For further information contact:

**Roger J. Bergeson (# 132)
1814 Viking Ave.
Albert Lea, MN 56007
USA**

Member Praises Club Sales Circuit

Are you buying stamps for your collection? Why not try buying from the sales books of our club! The average cost is about 1/3 catalog and that's not bad at all. Another savings is that among the members there is no sales tax.

The stamps that are circulated in our circuits are likely to be of greater value to your collection than stamps from other sources. Try it! You'll like it!

Bob Urdang #293

A dealer sold a novice collector several packages of stamp mounts to mount her stamps for safe keeping. She went back sometime later and asked, "Don't you have any larger sizes? The ones you sold me were all so small I had to trim the stamps to make them fit."

FROM THE DESK of the PRESIDENT.....

Thanks to all of you for electing me president for 1988. I hope that together we will move forward into some new and innovative ways to promote worldwide collecting. I have a few ideas and I hope that you will provide me with many more. We are only limited by our imagination and the organization's budget.

Since I mentioned budget in the preceding sentence, let's hit that area first. You have seen Herb Holland's report in the last issue of "The Circuit" giving us a balance of \$644.96, but as Herb has pointed out, we owe Rita for two issues of "The Circuit." This will cut that balance in half. As you all know, our only source of income at present is from dues. When I originated the idea of a sales circuit with the profits going to the treasury, I had envisioned a 15%-20% participation rate. I was sadly mistaken in that area. Participation is nearly zero. Roger Bergeson has footed the bills so far himself with plans to be reimbursed when it showed a positive balance. The future of the sales circuit is in doubt at present.

Another area in which we need participation and help is in public relations. Dave Nelson has business commitments that require his time so he cannot do it all by himself. We can all help in that area by promoting the ISWSC at local meetings and in local media. Dave is another one who has not received reimbursement for expenses incurred. He has taken money from his own pocket to provide the mat for our new logo which you should be seeing very soon (possibly this issue) on our masthead. There will also be stationery printed for the use of the officers in promoting the group. Dave is very much in need of help. Either someone to take over as PR entirely or at least give him some very needed help. Drop either him or me a line if you can help out.

As Mike Morrill pointed out in his article in last issue, many worldwidars are loners. That may well be, but if we are to be a viable organization we must all be willing to CONTRIBUTE SOMETHING. To

this point there have been approximately 10 members out of about 250 that have been doing nearly all of the work needed to get this organization off of the ground and keep it afloat. This ratio will have to change if we are to continue to exist.

Tom Allison also is severely in need of help to run the Omni Exchange which is the official and only sanctioned exchange of the ISWSC. His founding partner, Hal Clarke, has been forced to retire because of health problems, and if someone to pick up his half of the exchange does not come forward, it will have to be discontinued. Tom says there are not enough hours in the day for him to handle all of it. Omni is being well participated in, so how about one of you who are enjoying the benefits of it also taking a little bit of the responsibility for operating it?

We have plans for producing a color brochure that contains a membership application and promotes the ISWSC that can be handed out at stamp shows. This project is on indefinite hold until the treasury shows a balance that will handle it or an "angel" volunteers to underwrite the cost. Our immediate past president and founder, Aubrey Dunne #1, has the roughs, etc., for this brochure and will be happy to provide any information to members requesting it.

Let's not leave this without also putting in some "Kudos" for our hardworking newsletter staff. Arlene Futrell #2, our editor, got your last issue to the publisher, Rita Kallal #26 in spite of being in the middle of a move and getting settled. Rita donates her time and the facilities of her family-run printing business to get out "The Circuit" on time and "at cost" to us. This makes a huge donation to club operation from her and enables us to even have a newsletter. In order to keep things operating smoothly in this area, deadlines have been set and are published in each issue. These deadlines must be adhered to by all contributors, officers, and those advertising in "The Circuit." Mailing times must be taken into consideration as well as the time required to get the contents of the paper together. While on the subject, let's hit the contents. I received a letter from one of our foreign members expressing the opinion that he had expected there to be an article or two about worldwide collecting in the newsletter. I agree, there

of the PRESIDENT.....

should be, and those articles should come from you, the members. The man who wrote the letter has been asked to contribute an article and I hope he will. It would be nice to see something on the front page other than the president's or vice-president's column.

I have rambled on about long enough, but before I quit I must put forward a couple of ideas on increasing our treasury. First, support the sponsors. Most of those taking out ads are members and they will not continue to buy ads if they receive minimal results. Another fund raiser I am considering is an annual "donation auction." Do I have a volunteer to organize, promote, and conduct it??? and last HAVE A GREAT 88.

Ken Jenkins # 15

"Do you know any way to get transparent tape marks off a stamp without changing the stamp at all? I have some very good stamps with such marks on them."

If you have any ideas about stamps which are damaged in this way, please write the editor.

**Become a part
of the Omni Exchange*,
if you haven't already.**

Contact:

**Tom Allison (# 42)
Box 252
Wilmette, IL 60091**

*The Official ISWSC Stamp Exchange

DATES FOR FUTURE ISSUES OF
THE CIRCUIT

Deadline date for mailing to editor:	You should receive your copy about:
Mar. 1, 1988	Apr. 1, 1988
May 1, 1988	June 1, 1988
July 1, 1988	Aug. 1, 1988

**ELECTION OFFICER REPORTS ON OUR BI-ANNUAL ELECTION
AND ISSUES PLEA FOR VOLUNTEERS FOR PUBLIC RELATIONS**

Our new President will be former Vice President Kenneth J. Jenkins #15
Our new Vice President will be Kenneth Costilow #142 of Virginia Beach
Our Charter Secretary/Treasurer Herbert S. Holland #31 continues in office.

As expected, there was little suspense about the result with no write-ins and each candidate getting the vote on every ballot (except that Ken Costilow declined to vote for himself and thus was elected by 57 to 0).

Under the new By-laws, Public Relations Officer is now an appointed position; I have offered to continue helping out in this capacity until the Board can find another member willing to take on the job, but I hereby renew the appeal for volunteers who would have more time than do I to devote to this important task. If you don't want the full responsibility but can help out some, let me know and we'll form a P.R. "Committee".

Founding President Aubrey Dunne #1 chose not to stand for re-election. The new Board of Directors will consist of the 3 new Officers, two former Officers, and Harold Erickson of Las Vegas #173. All new positions become effective March 1, 1988.

Dave Nelson #25