

Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



April 2025



Scott #1807

For many years the U.S. Postal Service has highlighted the art of card and letter writing. To promote this important tradition, April has been designated as National Card and Letter Writing Month. Writing, sending and receiving letters, postcards, and greeting cards is a tradition that has preserved our nation's history and has changed lives - particularly in times of war and times of personal triumph and tragedy. Unlike other communications, card and letter writing is timeless, personal, and immediately tangible. Card and letter writing also helps improve literacy and promotes creativity among our youth.

Notes from our club meetings –

Club president Rusch states that our auctions are becoming increasingly profitable as a result of donated and purchased-at-discount philatelic material. Thanks to Fred Como and Jerry Rito for their efforts in evaluating these materials and breaking them into auction lots.

In an effort to create more revenue, club raffles are now 50/50. Rusch noted that due

to recent unprofitable stamp shows, our club needs to seek alternative sources of funding.

Preparations continue for BIRMPEX 2025, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, December 5th and 6th at Sokol Cultural Center.

Club Meetings –

April 1st and 15th, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. We meet in Room #4 at the rear of the building.

Upcoming Events –

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #527, April 12th, at their Oak Park facility.

The Plymouth Stamp Show, April 25th & 26th at the Hellenic Cultural Center in Westland on Friday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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Ken Rusch, President
Fred Como, Vice-President
Phil Kwasny, Secretary
Robert Helbig, Co-Treasurer
Faisal Qureshi, Co-Treasurer
Michael Swope, Editor

Girl Guides Golden Jubilee

Walter Koster



Featured above is a First Day Cover (FDC) issued to commemorate the Canadian Girl Guides Golden Jubilee on April 20, 1960. The cover is franked with the 5¢ blue and brown-orange, Girl Guides postage stamp (Scott #389). Front postal marks include an “Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, Apr 20, 10AM, 1960 circular date cancel, and a bilingual “Day of Issue / Jour D’ Emission” seven wavy line slogan cancel.

Girl Guides (known as Girl Scouts in the United States and some other countries) is the largest organization for women and girls in Canada. Membership is organized into different branches according to age: Sparks (ages 5 and 6), Embers (known as Brownies before 2023) (ages 7 and 8), Guides (ages 9–11), Pathfinders (ages 12–14), and Rangers (15–17+).

Membership, currently estimated 108,000 girls and 26,000 adults, has declined significantly over the years due to a combination of factors including increased competition from other youth activities, a perception of being outdated, busy family schedules, and the impact of the pandemic. Scouts Canada, formerly Boy Scouts of Canada, has allowed girls to join since 1993, holding girls to the same standards as boys when earning badges and awards.

Cookie sales in Canada and the United States are traditionally held from January through April. Most councils host booth sales, in front of stores, for 3-4 weeks only. You can also use the Girl Scout Cookie Finder on the Girl Scouts website (<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html>) to enter your zip code and have cookies shipped directly to your home.

Ref: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Girl_Guides_of_Canada;

<https://intellectuالتakeout.org/2024/04/why-my-daughters-wont-be-girl-scouts/#>

<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/cookies/how-to-buy-cookies.html>

Canada/BNA Postage Stamp Catalog, 10th Edition, Will Gandley & Dwight Stanley, Copyright 1979

Birmingham Post Office

Michael Swope



The Birmingham, Michigan, Post Office was originally established as the Bloomfield Post Office on March 24, 1821, with Sidney Dole as its first postmaster. The name was changed to Birmingham on April 5, 1838, and a new Post Office building at 320 Martin Street was constructed and dedicated on May 18, 1940.

A tempera mural on panel was installed in the Martin Street Post Office building on August 12, 1942. Created as part of President Franklin Roosevelt's "New Deal Post Office Murals" under the "Works Progress Administration", it was painted by Cuban-born artist Carlos Lopez, and titled, "The Pioneering Society's Picnic."

In 2006, a new Birmingham Post Office (Zip 48012) was constructed at 1221 Bowers Street, leaving the Martin Street post office building occupied by private offices.

The cacheted commemorative cover shown above was sponsored by the Birmingham Stamp Club, which celebrated the 119th anniversary of postal service to the community. The cover is franked with the purple 3¢, Michigan Centenary Issue postage stamp (Scott #775) and cancelled at Birmingham on May 18, 1940. Of special note, the Martin Street Post Office building is featured on the Birmingham Stamp Club's website.

Ref: Cover from Author's collection; WPA murals.org