

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## June 2025



Scott #2270

Father's Day is celebrated each year on the third Sunday in June.

Father's Day is a holiday honoring one's father, as well as fatherhood, paternal bonds, and the influence of fathers in society. Be sure to remember Dad on June 15<sup>th</sup>!

Notes from our club meetings –

At our May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting we welcomed new club member Ed Bonne. He collects world-wide stamps and is partial to Minkus albums. At the same meeting we were honored by guests Earl and Darla Naumann. Earl is a sharp witted retired postal worker and philatelist with interesting stories!

The May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting brought renewed discussion regarding moving NEXT, our club's meeting facility. Nothing appears to be happening in the near future.

Also discussed was the "Plymouth Stamp Show" and how local stamp shows have changed. Because it was combined as a coin show, very few philatelic dealers showed up. President Rusch believes we will need to rely more-and-more on club auctions to raise

money in support of our club. He has been somewhat successful in obtaining stamp donations for our auctions and members are encouraged to sort these donations into box lots to be sold at our auctions.

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

Club Meetings –

June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at the NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. We meet in Room #4 at the rear of the building.

Upcoming Events –

Dearborn Stamp Club Show, June 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> at the Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights,

Modern Stamps Public Stamp Auction #529, June 28<sup>th</sup>, at their Oak Park facility.

### *In This Issue*

Page 2 – St. Lawrence Seaway, Walter Koster

Page 4 – SS Noronic, Michael Swope

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

# Opening the St. Lawrence Seaway

Walter Koster



Featured here is an Artmaster First Day Cover (FDC) issued to commemorate the official opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway on June 26, 1959. The cover is franked with a plate number block<sup>1</sup> of the 4¢ blue and red Maple Leaf and Eagle over the St. Lawrence Seaway (Scott #1131) postage stamp. Front postal markings include a “Massena, NY, June 26, 1959, 9:02 am” circular date cancel, a “St. Lawrence Seaway Development Corporation” with trident circular cancelation, and a “First Day of Issue” slogan cancel.

The first navigational channel from the Atlantic Ocean to all the Great Lakes, the seaway is made up of a system of canals, locks, and dredged waterways, extending nearly 2,500 miles, from the Atlantic Ocean through the Gulf of St. Lawrence to Duluth, Minnesota, on Lake Superior. Construction took nearly five years to complete.

Since its opening, ships on the St. Lawrence Seaway have moved more than 2.5 billion metric tons of cargo with an estimated value of more than \$375 billion. Almost 25 percent of this cargo travels to and from overseas ports. The seaway's season is typically from late March to late December. Opening and closing dates vary from year to year due to weather conditions and the demands of commerce.

The Maple Leaf and Eagle over the St. Lawrence Seaway stamp is the first stamp to be issued jointly between the United States and another country. The U.S. stamp (Scott #1131) was issued in the Village of Massena, New York, located just south of the St. Lawrence River. Canada's stamp (Scott 387) was issued in Ottawa

A variety of the Canadian stamp and possibly Canada's most famous stamp error, known as the “inverted Seaway” error (Scott #387I), was created when a few press sheets were run upside down before the red was laid down, causing the innermost portion to be “inverted.”



<sup>1</sup> A block of stamps from the edge of the sheet which shows the plate or cylinder number from which the stamps were printed.

#### References:

<https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/st-lawrence-seaway-opened>

<https://www.seaway.dot.gov/sites/seaway.dot.gov/files/docs/Seaway%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate\\_block](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Plate_block)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St.\\_Lawrence\\_Seaway](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/St._Lawrence_Seaway)

<https://www.mysticstamp.com/1131-1959-4c-st-lawrence-seaway/>

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

## Summer Solstice



The June 20<sup>th</sup> solstice marks the official beginning of summer in the Northern Hemisphere, occurring when Earth arrives at the point in its orbit where the North Pole is at its maximum tilt (about 23.5 degrees) toward the Sun, resulting in the longest day and shortest night of the calendar year. (Longest “day” means the longest period of sunlight hours.) On the day of the June solstice, the Northern Hemisphere receives sunlight at the most direct angle of the year.



# SS Noronic

Michael Swope



Shown here is a Curteich (Chicago), Colortone linen postcard produced for Zenith Interstate News of Duluth, Minnesota, of the ill-fated ship, *SS Noronic*. The *Noronic* was the flagship of the Northern Navigation Company, a subsidiary of the Richelieu and Ontario Navigation Company, and one of the largest passenger ships to ever sail the Great Lakes.

*SS Noronic* was launched June 2, 1913, in Port Arthur, Ontario. She was built by the Western Dry Dock and Shipbuilding Company for Canada Steamship Lines. Built for passenger and package freight service on the Great Lakes, *Noronic* had five decks, was 362 feet in length, and measured 6,095 gross register tons. The ship was one of Canada's largest and most beautiful passenger ships at the time, nicknamed the "Queen of the Lakes".

Having embarked on a seven-day pleasure cruise from Detroit on September 14, 1949, with 524 passengers and 171 crew members, the *Noronic* docked the night of September 16<sup>th</sup> in Toronto Harbor. At 2:30 a.m. on September 17<sup>th</sup>, a fire broke out on C Deck, eventually killing 118 passengers and one crewman. The *Noronic* was completely destroyed in the fire.

The post card is franked with the 1¢, Washington postage stamp, Scott #804, and postmarked at Duluth, Minnesota, on June 9, 1949 – just three months before the ship's tragic fire.

Ref: Post card from Author's collection; Wikipedia. org.

