

# Birmingham - Ferndale Stamp Club Newsletter



## April 2024

We will see longer and warmer days along with a profusion of spring flowers this April. It is "National Humor" month and, for the correspondents among us, it is also "National Card and Letter Writing" month.

Don't be tricked on the 1<sup>st</sup>, "April Fool's Day"; and, be sure to thank our stamp club leadership on "Volunteer Recognition Day", the 20<sup>th</sup>. Finally, let's remember the "Sultan of Swat" on April 27<sup>th</sup>, "Babe Ruth Day".



*Scott #2046*

Notes from club meetings:

Plans are already being put in place for BIRMPLEX 2024, September 13 & 14 at Sokol Cultural Center in Dearborn Heights.

Club members reported that the March, Michigan Stamp Club's "MICHIPLEX" show at Sokol Cultural Center was successful.

Upcoming Events:

Club meetings – April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham. Meetings are currently held in room #2 or #4 at the rear of the senior center.

Modern Stamps Sale #518, April 6, 2024 12:00 Noon, at its Oak Park Facility.

West Suburban Stamp Club's 2024 "Plymouth Show" is April 21 & 22 at the Hellenic Cultural Center, 36375 Joy Road, Westland.

KAZOOPEX 2024, Kalamazoo Stamp Club's stamp show at the Kalamazoo Expo Center, 2900 Lake Street. April 26 & 27.

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

# Ann Arbor Railroad Ferries

Michael Swope



For more than a century the Ann Arbor Railroad was a fixture on the Michigan landscape. For most of those years the railroad's ferries made daily trips across Lake Michigan, hauling freight cars and passengers on a six-hour journey. Today the ferries no longer ply the Lake and only a shadow of the railroad remains. But it is worth remembering.

The line's first president, James Ashley (1824-1896) was a retired Ohio politician and he sought to revolutionize the slow, expensive process of rail transportation by building ferries which could carry fully loaded freight cars across Lake Michigan.

Ashley commissioned Frank Kirby (1849-1929), who had built the ferries used at the Straits, of Mackinac, to design and build two open water ferries. The Ann Arbor #1, launched in September 1892 and the #2, launched in December of the same year. The technology used to load and secure the railroad cars within the boat, as well as the pattern of track, was innovative and would become the standard for all future lake ferries.

The Franz Huld Publishing Company (New York) real photograph postcard shown above was printed circa 1900. The 1¢, green, Franklin postage stamp (Scott #300) was postmarked at Frankfort, Michigan on July 27, 1905 and mailed to Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Ref: Postcard from Author's collection.  
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