



BIRMINGHAM & FERNDALE STAMP CLUB

December 2022

“Winter Solstice”, December 21st, marks the beginning of winter and shortest daylight of the year.

This month we will celebrate Christmas (25th), the beginning of Hanukkah (18th), the beginning of Kwanzaa (26th), and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (7th).



*First United States Christmas Stamp
U.S. Scott #1205*

Notes from our November club meetings:

The Show venue for FERNPEX-2023 has been changed to the Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 West Warren Avenue, Dearborn, February 17 & 18, 2023.

Members were saddened by the passing of club treasurer Bob Helbig's wife, Patricia.

President Rusch confirmed that the club certificate of deposit would not be renewed. Funds will be placed into our bank account.

The American Philatelic Society has recognized the Birmingham Stamp Club's website with the 2022 “Star Route” Large Silver award.



Upcoming events:

Club meeting – December 6th at NEXT Senior Center, Birmingham (Only one meeting in December)

Modern Stamps sale #506, December 3rd at its Oak Park Facility

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

Merry Christmas!

Ford Rotunda

Michael Swope



Featured above is an unused (ca. 1945) Metropolitan Post Card Company (Metrocraft) post card of the Dearborn, Michigan, Ford Rotunda.

Originally commissioned for the 1933 Century of Progress exposition in Chicago, Henry Ford had it moved to Dearborn when the fair ended. The facility was 130 feet tall and designed to look like a stack of gears, surrounding a 92-foot-wide courtyard. An 18,000-pound dome was added in 1952. This building was the first real-world application of inventor R. Buckminster Fuller's lightweight "geodesic dome". Outside, the buildings steel frame was covered in 114,000 square feet of Indiana limestone. Inside, walls were covered with murals of the River Rouge assembly line. On the grounds were nineteen reproductions of what Henry Ford referred to as the "Roads of the World": The Appian Way; the Grand Trunk Road; the Oregon Trail; and, Detroit's Woodward Avenue were some examples on display.

The Rotunda received over 1.5 million visitors each year, making it the fifth most popular tourist attraction in the United States, surpassed only by Niagara Falls, Smokey Mountain National Park, the Smithsonian, and the Lincoln Memorial.

Sixty years ago, November 8, 1962, workmen were preparing the Ford Rotunda for its annual Christmas display, when someone overturned a firepot on the buildings tar roof. The facility was destroyed in a massive fire. Repair estimates exceeded 15 million dollars and Ford opted not to rebuild.