

THE PERFINS NATIONAL EXHIBIT by John Burns

The Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles is a full story in itself, sitting elegantly and defiantly, surrounded by one of the most ultra-modern "skyscraper" complexes in the world. Probably no hotel of its vintage is as active or has its history of national events, which include visits by presidents, movie stars, world-renowned heads of state, and other events too numerous to dwell upon here. In competition with the World Series, college football, pro football and hockey, the Ambassador, in its nostalgic elegance, provided the space and arrangements for an over - all outstanding philatelic event: SESCAL - National Perfins Exhibit - 1977.

The showing made at this exhibit by Perfins has put the philatelic community on notice that "What are Perfins?" is a phrase of the past. At SESCAL the Perfins walked away with ten of the show's awards, plus five special awards.

There were over 600 pages of Perfins on display. Also, Joe Balough's prize-winning exhibit was on exhibit in the Court of Honor. Also included was an entry from Czechoslovakia by Vojtech Maxa. All in all, it was one of the largest assemblages of Perfins ever put together.

Not only did the Perfins exhibits set a new mark for the Club, but the number of Club members in attendance also set a new mark.

The full impact of the Perfins National Exhibit began to be felt by John and Sadie Burns, Perfins Club hosts for the event, on Thursday, October 13th, when Perfinner's started to arrive in Los Angeles. Dave and Dorothy Stump arrived at Union Station at 9:00 in the morning. They had stopped over in Chicago, where the annual book of the American Philatelic Congress was dedicated to a much-surprised recipient - Dave, who served for a number of years as editor of the Congress Book. Later in the afternoon, Joe Balough arrived by plane from Texas and went immediately to the Ambassador to deliver his Court-of-Honor exhibit. Others arrived - Ed Haack from Oregon, Alan Miskimin from Texas, Albert Spencer and his mother, Mrs. Nellie Spencer, from high up on the San Bernardino Mountains, Dr. John A. Doering from Tucson, Arizona, Everett Stiles from the Hemet Valley, and various others on into the day.

October 14, the first day of the show, found the general chairman, Art Thomas, very actively engaged in the event. Many thanks are in order to Art for his individual effort to make our event the success it was, and for providing a key location for our Perfins Club booth. Joann Thomas, who was in charge of SESCAL publicity, was just as busy. Joann not only got Perfins information out for SESCAL, but she had a fine article in the Southern California Federation's publication, and she was a winner in the Perfins National Exhibit.



Dr. John Dearing looks over some of the Perfins exhibits at SESCAL.

Needless to say, Barbara de Violini, who was in charge of exhibits, had been going at double time to get the show set up. She did an outstanding job, not only for the Perfins Club, but also for SESCAL, with one of the best exhibit arrangements seen in Southern California, if not the whole U.S. Barbara's assistant, Dulcie Apgar, offered her services to the Club early. All during the show, night and day, she could be found active in show duties. John Fluck coordinated in getting Vojtech Maxa's exhibit into the show. John Blessington's efforts in providing much space in the program enhanced the Club greatly. Articles by Floyd Walker dominated the SESCAL program (incidentally, copies of the SESCAL program are on file in the Club Library).

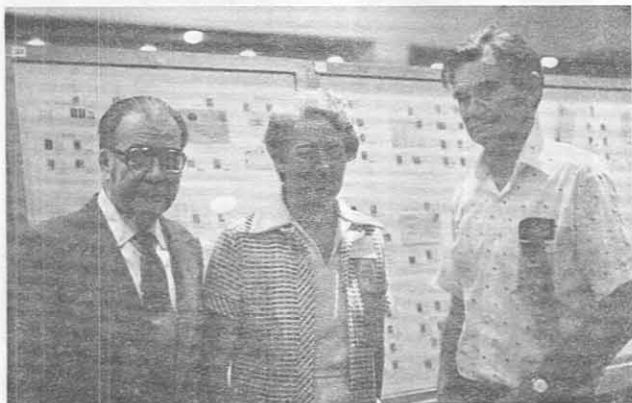
Judging got started early. There were seven on the board of judges, plus three apprentice judges. President David Stump and Catalog Chairman Joe Balough were two of the judges. The judging was a long and difficult task, which normally would be completed by early afternoon, but lasted late, an indication of the problems in choosing winners.

The Perfins Club booth was open at the start of the show. Dorothy Stump and Sadie Burns, assisted by a host of members, manned the booth and became permanent SESCAL fixtures - answering questions, perforating stamps, giving out packets of Perfins donated by members, and referring visitors to various Club members to get special questions answered.

Vice President Dorothy Savage put in much time at the booth, meeting old friends and seeking new members. A show lecture was presented several times each day, using the slides of David Stump. John Burns conducted the showings, assisted at different times by Everett Stiles, Dr. Dearing, Ed Haack, Albert Spencer and others, including Dave. Each

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perfinners at sescal



President David Stump with Joann Thomas and Art Thomas, the show chairman.



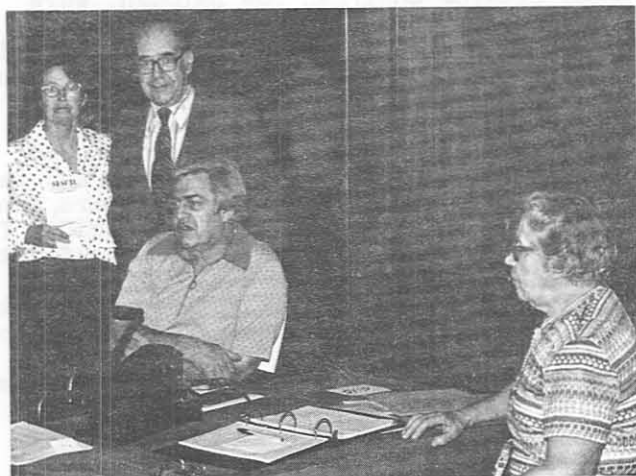
Dave Stump strikes a happy pose in front of the exhibition frames.



Jack Gooding and John Burns contemplate the Club's "PF" Perfin device.



Everett Stiles and Dr. John Dearing at the Perfins table.



Vice President Dorothy Savage, President David Stump, Jack Needham and Dorothy Stump at the Club table.



Joe Balough - gentleman from the Lone Star State.



Dot Stump and Sadie Burns deep in (Perfins?) conversation.



Another view of the attentive group at the Club meeting includes Everett Stiles, Wayne Kramer, Joann Thomas, an unidentified member, Jake Jacobson, Glenn Savage and Jack Needham.



Dot Savage and Albert Spencer in conversation with Judge Alfred Dibbs.



This active group of Perfinner includes Judge Alfred Dibbs, Dorothy Stump, Sadie Burns, Dorothy Savage, and Albert Spencer.



Joann Thomas, Jack Needham, L. R. (Jake) Jacobson and Glenn Savage form part of attentive audience at Perfins Club meeting.



Joe Balough ponders plans for the new illustrated catalog of U. S. Perfins.



Top Perfins award winner, Albert Spencer, relaxes at the Club table.

time the slide program was shown, a door prize was awarded, and each person was given a gift packet of Perfins.

After the judging a tour of the show was made with Dave Stump. The exhibits were among the best seen to date at any SESCOAL show. This was a show which you were glad someone other than you had to judge. To be a judge and explain to entrants why one won over another in this case would be a difficult task.

As mentioned on page 1, some of our members figured in awards other than Perfins. Dr. Harvey Tilles won a gold award for his "Postal Security Endorsements" and Ray Crow won a silver award for his "A Postal Tour of United States Expositions" - exhibits which would compliment any show.

The Perfins exhibits were well placed, well lighted, and reflected a truly competitive effort with varied subjects. The list of Perfins award winners is printed on page 1. Other Perfins entries in the Open Class, all of which could be winners, were Paul T. Jackson's "The New Jersey Perfin," Alan R. Miskimin's "Perforated Control Markings," and Dorothy Savage's "Perfins-Something About Them." The Show gave the Club a frame which included a brief history of Perfins, a display of publications available at the show, and selected pages from Dave Stump's award-winning exhibit.

The Perfins Club held its general meeting in the Oval Room "A" on Saturday, October 14. John W. Burns acted as master of ceremonies in introducing the speakers at the head table, who included Maj. Joseph J. Balough, catalog chairman; Dorothy Savage, vice president and membership chairman; and President David Stump.

This meeting was one of the largest gatherings of Club members, and one of great significance. Members who attended were enthusiastic, interested, responsive and reflected a mature cooperative attitude. An introduction was informally made in which attending members identified themselves and stated where they came from. When Al Spencer introduced himself, he also introduced his mother, who is well past 90 years of age and reaching for the century mark. She is a remarkable lady who attended SESCOAL, including the banquet and reception given by key officials of SESCOAL.

Lea Blauvelt covered the show and the meeting. She is not only a Perfiner, but a journalist and philatelic writer. Ed Linn got down from Sacramento for the meeting. Don East, a long-time member from Merada, came into L.A. for the meeting. Bart Mass, in from Burbank, is also long-time member. Others present included Al and Florence Harrell from Pudea, Calif., William Chappell from Hawthorne, Bob Simms from Hemet. Wayne Kramer from the University of California was the newest member attending the meeting.

President Dave Stump set the scene by giving a brief history and background of the

Club and bringing the membership up to date on its progress. His remarks were brief but explicit, covering the obstacles the Club has overcome to get where it is today. His message was constructive and optimistic. President Stump informed the membership of the death of Alfred S. Bartleson (#146). This early member of the Club willed his valuable collection, along with many fine duplicates, to the Perfins Club. Dave suggested that certain items be auctioned and the proceeds go to the publication of the new catalog, which would be dedicated to Al Bartleson. This was accepted with approval and it is expected that the Executive Committee will soon take official action to put this suggestion into effect.

Joe Balough, past president and current catalog chairman, covered some of the Club's main topics and projects. He pointed out that one of the best ways to acquire Perfins is through our Club auctions. He further explained that, to get the item you want, bidding has to be realistic. He suggested that you check the successful bids of previous auctions to get an idea as to what you will have to bid for an item. If that isn't possible, he recommended checking the current catalog list price for a given stamp and bidding accordingly. He further pointed out that bidding is becoming more and more realistic, with more and more demand for Perfins. He predicted that the price of Perfins will be going up.

A most important area covered by Balough was the status of the new catalog. It was pointed out that there is still much work involved, which will carry on far into 1978 before the catalog can go to press. One of the questions arising was in regard to sales circuits. It was pointed out that material is needed by the sales manager in order to get it out to the membership. It was also mentioned that Dr. Robert L. Moore (#861) is expected to release a catalog on Austrian Perfins.

Way in the back of the Oval Room, Glenn Savage took up a seat and tried to be unnoticed. Glenn made it possible for John Burns to devise the PF patterns used for SESCOAL by digging up an old perforator and giving it to John, who devised the patterns. Also in the back was Scottie Glassbrook with his "Columbian" Perfin. He doesn't have it any longer - Joe Balough is now the proud owner of it.

As a result of this general meeting, the attendance, remarks, response and suggestions offered by this group should help the Club greatly in the future. You left feeling proud that you are a member of the Perfins Club.

The interest in Perfins was high during all three days. Many applications for membership were given out. Visitors signed up as members included Judge Alfred W. Dibbs of the Los Angeles Superior Court, Mitch S.

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Braiman of Los Angeles, who is 11 years old and also interested in automobiles, Joseph V. Bush of Bonita, and Wayne L. Kramer from the University of California, Riverside.

In addition to the stamps being perforated with the PF pattern, a surprise Perfin was available on Saturday. Jack Needham, who is confined to a wheel chair, consented to bring his perforator with the design of the International wheel chair sign for use at SESCAL. Many of us left there with a new design to enhance our collections.

Before Dave and Dorothy Stump returned to Pennsylvania, they spent a couple of days of leisure with the hosts. On Monday night following SESCAL, Dave was welcomed to the City by Mayor Hank Freeze, who expressed appreciation on behalf of the City of La Palma for Dave's and the Club's support of the City's "LP" Perfin. The LP project sold and sent out over 6,000 "LP" Perfins.

SESCAL ended as quickly as it started. When Dave and Dorothy got on the train, SESCAL was over. However, the memories and accomplishments of Perfins at SESCAL will be unforgettable.