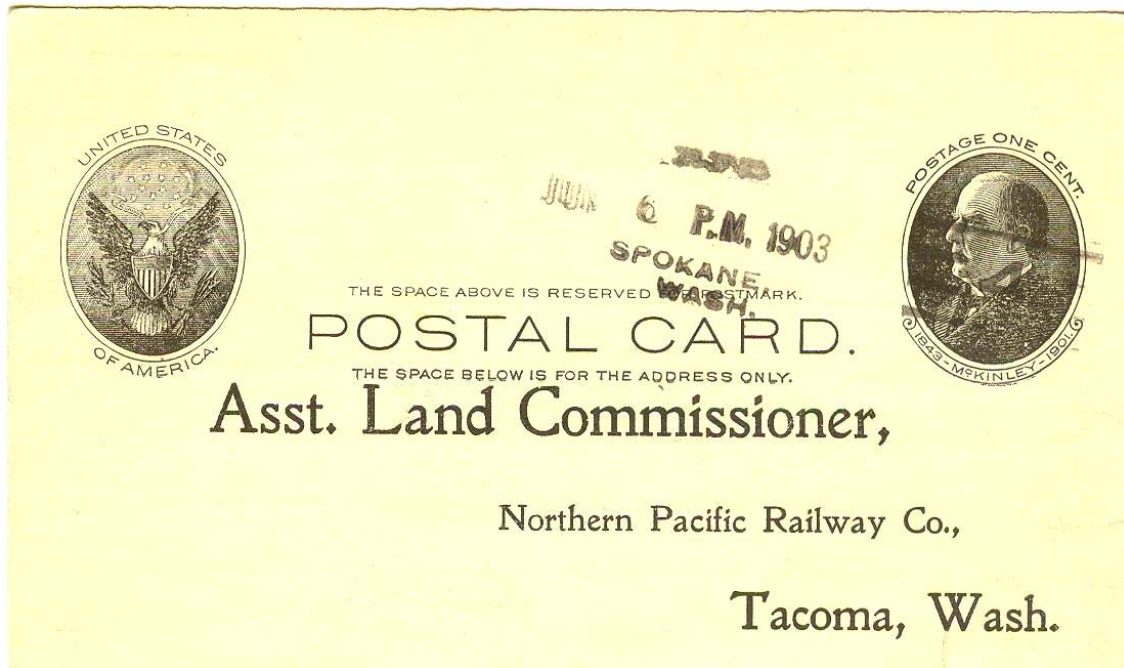


# Federated Philatelist

Newsletter of the Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs

No. 195, June, 2011

## 1903 Spokane Rural Free Delivery (RFD)



June 6, 1903 Spokane Rural Free Delivery (RFD), Route 4, to Tacoma, Washington

— *By Larry Mann*

The above postal card has a June 6, 1903 Spokane Rural Free Delivery (RFD) cancel. It is addressed to the Assistant Land Commissioner of the Northern Pacific Railway and deals with the deed for land sold to a settler. The railway received grants of land from the US government and sold them to settlers to fund construction.

RFD routes began in the United States in the fall of 1896, and provided pickup and delivery of mail to people in rural areas not served by nearby post offices. Customers could even purchase postage stamps from carriers.

Beginning in 1900, the US Post Office Department required carriers to cancel mail in route, and supplied them with pocket-sized rubber hand cancels such as the above example used by the Spokane post office. Similar cancels were used by carriers on rural routes across the United States.

By 1908, the Spokane post office had 11 RFD routes that began from either the main post office or one of the

branches. Route 4 went from the city limits, west past Greenwood Cemetery and the US Army's Fort Wright, and across White Bluff Prairie to the Deep Creek area.

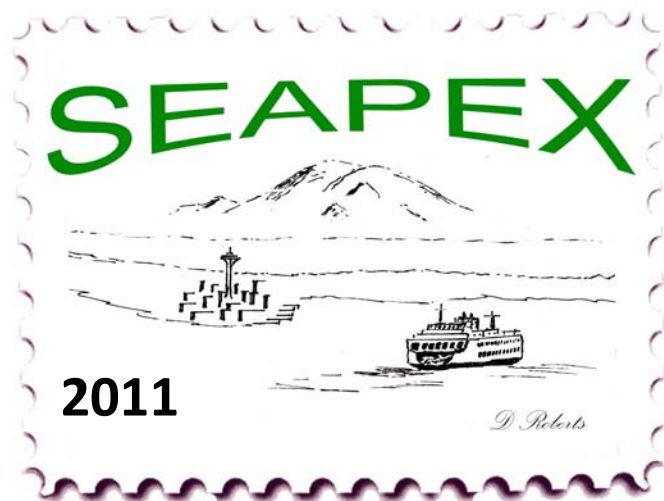
The Post Office Department stopped supplying cancels for new RFD routes beginning in July 1903. In July 1905, it ended the requirement that mail be cancelled, if it was destined for a local address. For mail to other areas, the

— *Continued on page 6*

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## Show updates...



The SEAPEX stamp show will be held in Seattle on November 5-6, 2011. The show will be at Seattle Center in the Northwest Rooms (Lopez, Fidalgo, Shaw, and Orcas).

SEAPEX will have 120 exhibit frames, an increase of 40 from the previous year. One Hundred of these frames will feature major philatelic exhibits, including those from American Helvetia Philatelic Society. Six of these frames are reserved for the *Club Showcase*, one-page exhibits from supporting clubs, and ten are reserved for *New-comer's Nook* for beginning and novice exhibitors.

Over 15 dealers will be available to serve you with stamps and covers from around the world.

The show is supported by the Collector's Club of Seattle, the Greater Eastside Stamp Society, the Inland Empire Philatelic Society, the Puget Sound Collector's Club, the Sno-King Stamp Club, the Washington State Philatelic Society, and many individual donors.

Five specialized stamp societies are meeting at SEAPEX 2011: the Pacific Northwest Chapter of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society, the Chang Qing Long Chapter of the China Stamp Society, the Scandinavian Study Group, the French Study Group, and Women Exhibitors.

Speakers include George Strubel, editor of the American Helvetia Philatelic Society (AHPS) newsletter, *Tell*; Roger Heath, Vice President of AHPS; and David Herendeen, President of the Institute for Analytical Philately.

Show hours are 11:00 AM. to 5:00 PM on Saturday, November 5, and 10:00 AM. to 4:00 PM on Sunday, November 6.

For prospectus and show information, please contact Ruth Caswell, SEAPEX@comcast.net, 206-870-2058, or P. O. Box 98403, Des Moines WA 98198.

## PIPEX 2012

May 11-13, 2012 in Portland

On behalf of NWFSC and the Oregon Stamp Society (OSS), Portland Philatelic Exhibitions will present PIPEX 2012 at the DoubleTree Hotel located at the Lloyd Center in Portland, Oregon, May 10-12, 2012.

Three national philatelic organizations will hold their annual meetings at the show: Women Exhibitors, Society of Australasian Specialists/Oceania and the Poster Stamp Collectors Club.

PIPEX 2012, an APS World Series of Philately event, will have approx. 240 frames of competitive philatelic exhibits which will be judged according to prevailing APS regulations. The jury will comprise four accredited judges from the USA and one from Canada. The PIPEX 2012 Grand Award winner will be invited to, and expected to compete in, the Champion-of-Champions event at Stampshow 2012 in August at Sacramento, California.

The PIPEX exhibit prospectus and entry forms can be obtained from the PIPEX Web site: [www.pipexshow.org](http://www.pipexshow.org).

There will be a 35-dealer bourse at PIPEX 2012. Members of the trade interested in participating are requested to urgently contact Larry Spray, Bourse Chairman ([jlspray@comcast.net](mailto:jlspray@comcast.net)).

On the Saturday of the show, there will be a cachet makers bourse; interested parties should contact Frans Geerings ([frans@geerlingsdesign.com](mailto:frans@geerlingsdesign.com)). The organizers are currently in negotiation with a well known and respected philatelic auctioneer to hold an auction at PIPEX 2012.

Other groups planning meetings are AAPE, Auxiliary Postal Markings, The Northwest Postal History Society, Boy Scouts of America, The Columbia Chapter of the Ship Cancel Society, and The Northwest Chapter of the American Air Mail Society. Ten groups will host tables to introduce you to different areas of collecting. Other groups may be added later.

PIPEX has negotiated a special rate of \$99 per night (plus local occupancy tax) and the show hotel; residents may also park free of charge (normally \$18 per day).

The Sunday of PIPEX is Mothers' Day; to mark this, the Doubletree Hotel is providing a Special Mothers' Day brunch.

PIPEX 2013, 2014 and 2015 will also be held at The Doubletree Hotel over Mothers' Day weekends.

For further information, visit the PIPEX website, or contact Len Lukens ([llukens@easystreet.net](mailto:llukens@easystreet.net)).

## The Federated Philatelist

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## From the Editor's Desk

The area covered by the Federation is large, covering two Canadian provinces and five US states. With 35 member clubs and organizations, I imagine that there are many clubs that most of us know little about. With that in mind, this issue begins what I hope will be an ongoing series with portraits of Federation member clubs. With these articles, I hope that we can publicize member clubs and even encourage contacts between clubs.

The first article, on the Anchorage Philatelic Society, is on page 7, with additional information on the club on page 8. This is an active club, with monthly meetings, a newsletter, Web site, and an annual show. Anchorage is set in a beautiful state that celebrated its 50th anniversary just two years ago. The club also seems to be a friendly group, and I enjoyed exchanging emails with Secretary Ruth Ann Farnsworth and past president David Schwantes, who provided the information in the article. Be sure to attend a club meeting if you visit Anchorage.

I would appreciate hearing from any clubs that would like to be featured in a coming issue of the *Federated Philatelist*. I contacted several other clubs, but so far the Anchorage Philatelic Society is the only one to send me any information. (I will be persistent, and plan to contact more clubs in hopes of publishing other club articles.)

If you are interested in an article on your club, please send me some information. Articles are appreciated, but a list of the information you want included would be fine too. Suggestions include a history of your club, information about shows, meetings, and special programs. Tell us about members who volunteer their time to serve as officers, help with shows and other activities, and assist new members. Tell us about unusual collecting specialties or things that your members like to exhibit. A photo or club cover would also be appreciated.

I hope that you enjoy this first article, and I look forward to publishing many more.

This issue also includes an update on PIPEX 2012, to be held next May, and an article on the upcoming SEAPEX stamp show to be held in Seattle this November. Under the leadership of President Ruth Caswell, the SEAPEX board is trying to develop a WSP (World Series of Philately) show. They have the support of five Federation member clubs in the Seattle area, the Washington State Philatelic Society, Greater Eastside Stamp Society, Puget Sound Collectors Club, Collectors Club of Seattle, and Sno-King Stamp Club. Be sure to attend this show if you are in Seattle this November.

Page 8 includes a calendar of future stamp shows by Federation member clubs. Short articles about coming shows are always welcome.

Do you read *Book Reports*? If you don't, you are missing out on a great publication. *Book Reports* is published by the Northwest Philatelic Library in Portland, Oregon. The current May-June issue features 33 pages in color, with several in-depth articles. Highlights include *Taxpaid Revenues and Special Tax Stamps* by Greg Alexander; *Wardway Station, Northwest Portland* by Charles Neyhart; *EFOs 101* by Steve Chown and Charles Neyhart; and information about the Northwest Philatelic Library. More information on the library and past issues of the newsletter are all available at their Web site: [www.nwpl.org](http://www.nwpl.org)

—Larry Mann, Editor



# Steamship Andalusia



— by Bob Burger

First Issue US Revenue stamps, issued from 1862-71, provide an opportunity to collect unusual usages. A close look at the cancellations on these stamps can result in some very interesting stories.

This copy of the 2¢ orange US Internal Revenue issue (Scott R15) has a double ring date stamp from the "Steamship Andalusia" dated March 3 1866.

The use of a date stamp from an identifiable source greatly enhances the value of this otherwise minimum value stamp. Date stamps from merchant vessels are scarce, if not just outright rare.

According to one source, the very small number of previously known types of cancels from ships are "straight-line" rubber stamps of the vessels' name.

This particular ship was formerly a US Navy vessel during the Civil War, the USS Iuka. US Navy ships did not have on-board post offices until 1908, so this is a very collectible item from several view points.

The following narrative is a compilation from several on-line resources (US Department of the Navy - Naval Historical Center, the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships - DANFS and The New York Times).

The Andalusia, a 944-ton (burden) wooden screw steamship, was built in 1864 at Fairhaven, Connecticut, as the commercial steamer Commodore. It was purchased by the U.S. Navy upon completion, on March 8, 1864, from George Griswold of New York. The ship was placed in commission as the USS Iuka on May 23, 1864. For the rest of the Civil War, she was part of the East Gulf Blockading Squadron and operated in the Gulf of Mexico off Western Florida.

Among her activities were escorting a captured steamer

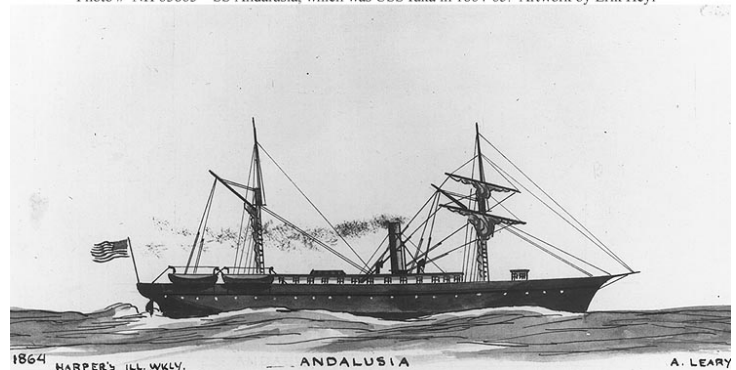
north in October 1864 and participating in an expedition to St. Mark's, Florida, in February and March 1865. On March 31, 1865, she captured the English schooner Comus, sailing from Saint Mark's, Florida., to Havana with a cargo of contraband cotton.

In June 1865 the USS Iuka was sent to Boston, Massachusetts. She was decommissioned there on June 22 and was sold at public auction to Arthur Leary on August 1.

The ship was renamed *Andalusia* by her new civilian owners, and used in merchant service until being destroyed by fire off Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, on March 3, 1867, exactly one year after the cancel on this revenue stamp.

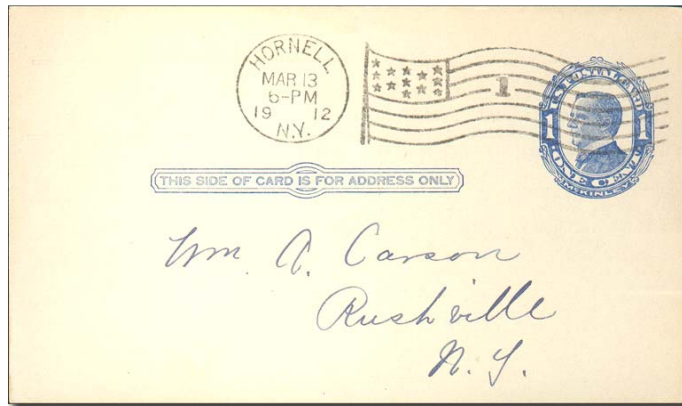
The steamship *Manhattan* rescued 35 of the crew and passengers and delivered them to Charleston, South Carolina. Four passengers and eight crewmen were lost. The ship was carrying a full cargo, partially insured. Among the items was a hose carriage "presented by the New-York Firemen's Association to Independence Engine Company of Columbia, S.C., February 1867. The carriage was silver-plated, beautifully painted, polished and decorated. Forward of the hose reel was a chime of silver bells . . . ." The carriage was built by Siceles of New York City and cost \$3000. According to the Chief Engineer of the *Andalusia*, the fire started in a coal bunker just forward of the ship's boiler.

Photo # NH 63863 SS Andalusia, which was USS Iuka in 1864-65. Artwork by Erik Heyl



Reprinted with permission from the author and from the Oregon Stamp Society Album Page, Vol. XXXIII, no. 10, December 2010, p. 6-7.

# Town cancellations may tell only half the truth



A U.S. postal card postmarked in Hornell, on March 13, 1912, the year after the author's father was born.

— By Bob Ingraham

Philatelists know that faked and forged stamps plague our hobby. Postal history collectors understand that covers sometimes have shady pedigrees. But what about a mundane letter or postcard, worth perhaps a buck-and-a-half? Should we question such ordinary things as early 20th century town postmarks? At times, yes indeed, because they are not necessarily what they seem to be.

An amusing anecdote in my father's autobiography, written before his death in 1995, unintentionally illustrates this very point. My father, Robert M. Ingraham, wrote about the winter of 1917-1918, when he was a six-year-old boy living at home with his parents and older brother, Lee, in the small city of Hornell in western New York State.

Even at this tender age, Dad understood the concept of duty to one's country. His own father was a member of a federalized National Guard company and had only recently returned home from active duty. Pancho Villa, the infamous Mexican bandit-turned-revolutionary, had attacked a U.S. Army post near Columbus, New Mexico, killing 14 soldiers, before ransacking Columbus itself, killing another 10 Americans.

Although he never received payment for his service, my grandfather spent several months in Texas, trying to prevent further incursions into the U.S. by Villa's murderous "Villistas".)

On April 6, 1917, the United States declared war on Germany and the first American troops landed in France only three months later, on June 25th.

But let my father take up the story...

*Our street ran parallel and very near to the Delaware-Lackawanna and Western Railroad over which thousands of troops were carried to the camps on the East Coast. Long troop trains went by almost every hour for a time and a shower of postcards and letters would be thrown from each one. We would go along the tracks and pick them up to be mailed. Now and then a train would be held up for several minutes until traffic cleared ahead and we would throng around it, talking to the men. The girls would take cookies out to them — sometimes even whole pies — and were often lifted up to the windows to be kissed. Everyone was in a patriotic fervour. Older women knitted like mad, making socks and woollen face masks for the boys overseas who were freezing in the bitter winter trench warfare.*

In my mind's eye I can see my father and his older brother and their friends eagerly collecting those letters and postcards and running to the post office with them, where they would be handled like ordinary mail, receiving Hornell postmarks.<sup>1</sup>



A real-photo postcard from 1916, picturing (from the left) Bob Ingraham's grandmother, Ratie Jane Ingraham; his father, Robert M. Ingraham, and his uncle, Lee W. Ingraham. Robert was five years old. The postcard is addressed, but has no stamp; it was probably mailed in an envelope.

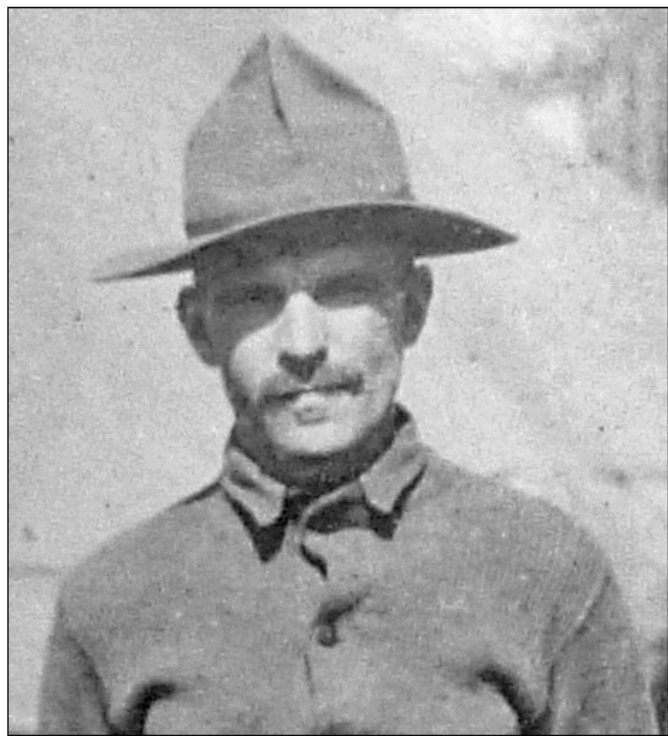
— Continued on page 6



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## Town cancellations *(continued from page 5)*

Fast forward to the 21st Century. The soldiers of the Great War are all gone now. However, some of the covers and postcards that soldiers tossed from the troop trains that sped through Hornell may still exist in long-forgotten boxes or trunks perhaps, or possibly in the stocks of postal history dealers. If or when collectors obtain them, they will no doubt assume that they originated in Hornell and are thus freighted with its history. In the absence of a return address — postcards and letters of that era often do not have return addresses — collectors with a social-history bent might well try to learn as much as they can about the sender and his life and times, but it will be a wild goose chase because the sender literally had nothing to do with Hornell except as a passenger passing through it on a troop train.



New York State National Guardsman Robert L. Ingraham. This photo is graphically cropped from a large panorama photo of his unit at Pharr, Texas, in 1916.

### Notes

<sup>1</sup>My father, who was six, knew that fathers sometimes have to heed the call of military duty. In 1916, his dad — my grandfather, Robert L. Ingraham — marched away to join Gen. John Pershing's Mexican Expedition, popularly known as the "Punitive Expedition".

In March of that year, Pancho Villa, the Mexican bandit-turned-revolutionary, ordered his thuggish "Villistas" to attack the U.S. Army post at Columbus, New Mexico. Fourteen soldiers and ten civilians were killed. President Wilson nationalized the National Guard in all 48 states — among them Grandpa Ingraham's New York State National Guard unit — and shipped them by train to the Texas-Mexico border.

My grandfather, who had had to quit his job at a silk mill, spent the entire time waiting and training near the town of Pharr, Texas, across the Rio Grande River from Reynosa, Mexico, while U.S. Cavalry troops pursued Pancho Villa in Mexico. Most U.S. troops were withdrawn from Mexico and the border area by January, 1917. My grandfather was never paid.

Early Hornell postmarks may not be Hornell postmarks at all. *Wikipedia* notes, "The town [Hornell] was first settled around 1790 in the vicinity of the City of Hornell. The Town of Hornellsville was formed from part of the Town of Canisteo in 1820. Territory from Hornellsville was used to form the Towns of Hartsville (1844) and part of Fremont (1854). In 1852, the community of Hornellsville set itself apart as an incorporated village and became a city (Hornell) in 1888."

*Robert Ingraham is a past president of the British Columbia Philatelic Society. This article was reprinted with permission from the BC Philatelic Society Newsletter, Volume 57, No. 1, January - April, 2008.*

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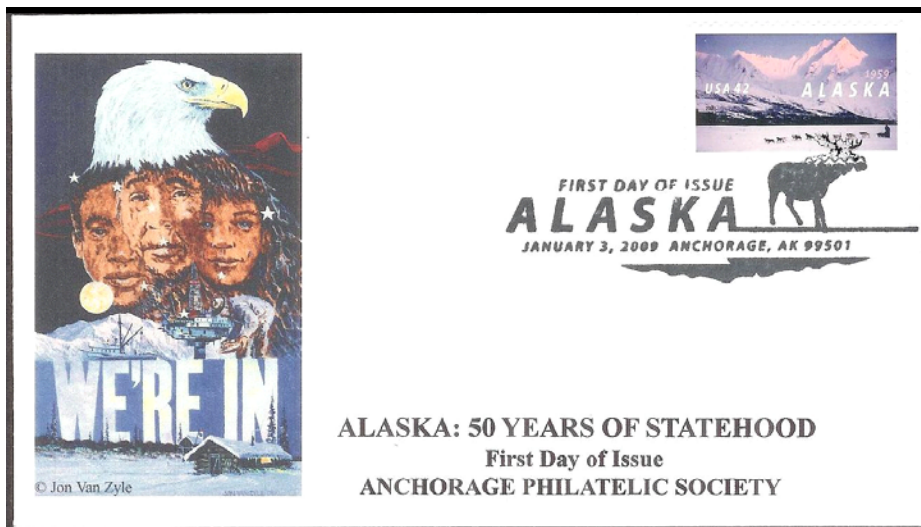
### Spokane RFD cancel *(continued from page 1)*

department recommended that carriers cancel mail with an indelible pencil, listing the RFD route number, city, state, and date. Carriers were also free to purchase hand stamps from commercial companies, and many did.

Although RFD routes still exist, most carriers stopped canceling mail by 1920, and cancels from later dates are unusual.

For more information on RFD cancels, see Richard W. Helbock, *Postmarks on Postcards; an illustrated guide to early 20th century U.S. postmarks*, and Richard B. Graham, *United States Postal History Sampler*.

# Federation clubs, Part 1: Anchorage Philatelic Society



January 3, 2009 first day cover commemorating Alaska's 50th anniversary of statehood. The cover was produced by the Anchorage Philatelic Society.

— *By David Schwantes*

The first meeting of the Anchorage Philatelic Society was held on September 16, 1950. Fred Hand was elected as its first president. The group met once or twice a month the year round. According to Seely V. Hall Jr., a charter member, the group held its first exhibit in 1951 or 1952. It was not open to the public. There were no frames, members showed what they collected, and the pages were just laid out on tables. He stated that there were about ten exhibitors. Some of the stamps shown in that first exhibit were U.S. Zeppelin singles, U.S. Columbian singles, Washington Bicentennial plate varieties, and the Winter Olympic Games issue #716. There were NO covers or topicals in the show.

The society organized and held its first Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) in 1953, and has held one every year since. The 2011 exhibit was its 59<sup>th</sup>. APEX is a three-day show with exhibits, a bourse, and a couple dealers. Each year for the show, the society has produced a special cachet to honor some aspect of Alaska living or some historical event in the state. Some of the honored events include Alaska's natural resources, winter sports, state flowers and parks, and many state anniversaries. We have honored both the 25<sup>th</sup> and 50<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of Alaska statehood, the 25<sup>th</sup> running of the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, the 50 anniversary of the MILEPOST, the 75<sup>TH</sup> anniversary of the City of Anchorage, and the centennial anniversaries of both the cities of Seward and Fairbanks. We have honored anniversaries of WWII, the Discovery of Alaska, the building of the Alaska Highway, the establishment of the Russian

Orthodox Church in Alaska, and the first Alaskan airmail flight.

Beginning with the 22<sup>nd</sup> APEX in 1974, a special cancellation related to the honored event was also used. Most of the cachets also include an insert containing historical information on the topic. Many of the cachet covers were produced from original works of art by famous Alaskan artists, including Jon Van Zyle, Byron Birdsall, and Bill Devine. These works of art, along with the cancelled cachets have been framed and presented to the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, on behalf of the Anchorage Philatelic Society. The early APEX shows were held in April, but since 1965 the show has been held in February as part of the Anchorage Fur Rendezvous celebration. For the past 30+

years the show has been held in the downtown post office lobby. Some of the members who exhibit at APEX go on to send their exhibits to other shows around the country.

When the club first started in 1950, they met on Friday nights, however, ever since I joined in 1973, we have been meeting the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays of each month. During this period, we have met at 5 or 6 different locations. Other than APEX, the club holds our annual Spring Banquet with the installation of officers and an auction, we have our annual picnic in July, and our Christmas party in December. From 2005-2009 we worked with the Alaska State Fair, promoting the cachet cover they produce, and hosting a booth at that event. We hope to be back there this year. The club produces a monthly newsletter, and works with a junior club which holds an exhibit in conjunction with APEX. We are the oldest stamp collecting club in Alaska, and have a membership of just over 70. We have about 20-25 active members who attend our meeting regularly. The club is going strong, but like many other organizations, the members are getting older, and we are working hard to bring younger members in to join us.

Besides the covers we produce for our APEX show, we have made covers for all of the U.S. stamps that have had their "First Day of Issue" in Alaska, and for other important events here in the state.

An organization does not last for 60+ years without many hard-working people. Many of us are still active members, and a great many have passed on. We are grateful to all those who are no longer with us. Their inspiration helps to keep our organization going strong.

PACIFIC NORTHWEST 2011 STAMP SHOWS / BOURSES					
includes other major shows and holidays in bold					
2011			Revised: Feb 9, 2010		
	Jun-04	Jun-05			
		Jun-12	Fenwick	Renton	bourse*
	Jun-18	Jun-19			
	Jun-25	Jun-26			
	Jul-02	Jul-03			
	<b>Jul-04</b>	<b>INDEPEDENCE DAY (Monday)</b>			
	Jul-09	Jul-10			
	Jul-16	Jul-17	Evergreen (Boeing) Stamp Club Show	Kent	show
	Jul-23	Jul-24			
	Jul-30	Jul-31			
	Aug-06	Aug-07			
	Aug-13		Strait Stamp Show	Sequim	show
		Aug-14	Fenwick	Renton	bourse*
Aug-12	Aug-13	Aug-14	<b>APS StampShow 2011 (4 days)</b>	<b>Columbus, OH</b>	<b>show</b>
	Aug-20	Aug-21	Victoria Stamp & Coin Fair	Victoria	bourse*
	Aug-27	Aug-28			
	Sep-03	Sep-04			
		<b>Sep-05</b>	<b>LABOR DAY (Monday)</b>		
Dec-24		<b>Dec-25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS (Sunday)</b>		
		<b>Jan-01</b>	<b>NEW YEARS DAY 2012 (Sunday)</b>		
<b>Repetitive events</b>					
	Rose City Stamp Fair - 2nd Saturday of the month at OSS club			Portland	bourse
	Collectors Corner - 4th Saturday of the month at OSS clubhouse			Portland	bourse

**PIPEX 2012 – May 11-13 in Portland**  
**PIPEX 2013 – May 10-12 in Portland**

**PIPEX 2014 – May 9-11 in Portland**  
**PIPEX 2015 – May 8-10 in Portland**

### **Anchorage Philatelic Society**

See page 7 for a portrait of the Anchorage Philatelic Society. The club meets on the second and third Wednesdays of each month at the Turnagain United Methodist Church, 3300 West Northern Lights Boulevard in Anchorage.

The club is an APS chapter with 45 paid members. Current officers include President Ted Ireton, Vice President Ronda Orr, Recording Secretary Pat Hoffmann, Corresponding Secretary Ruth Farnsworth, Treasurer Pat Hoffman, and Immediate past president David Schwantes.

Their May newsletter includes details on their recent Alaska Philatelic Exhibition (APEX) show. This was the club's 59th APEX show. Stan Grove won the Grand Award, Best Postal History Award, and a Gold medal for his exhibit, *U.S. Relics of the Spanish-American War in Cuba*. Eric Knapp won the Reserve Grand Award and a Gold medal for his exhibit

*Captain Cook in Russian America and the Sandwich Islands*. David Schwantes won Best Alaskana, Most Popular, and a Silver medal for his exhibit, *Alaska Political Leaders and Campaign Covers*.

Other winners included Silver medals to Arie Schwarz, Bob Britch, and Sheila Erwin and Bronze medals to Bob Britch and Sheila Erwin.

Junior club winners included Best of Show and Gold medal to Kaila Purvis for *U.S. Civil War*; and the Most Popular award and Gold medal to Brooke Newman for *Children's Books*; Other Junior club winners included Brianna Lawrence, Bernadette Williams, and Tristan Radcliffe.

For more information on APEX and on the Anchorage Philatelic Society, see their Web site:

<http://home.gci.net/~akphilsoc/>