

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle

December, 2018

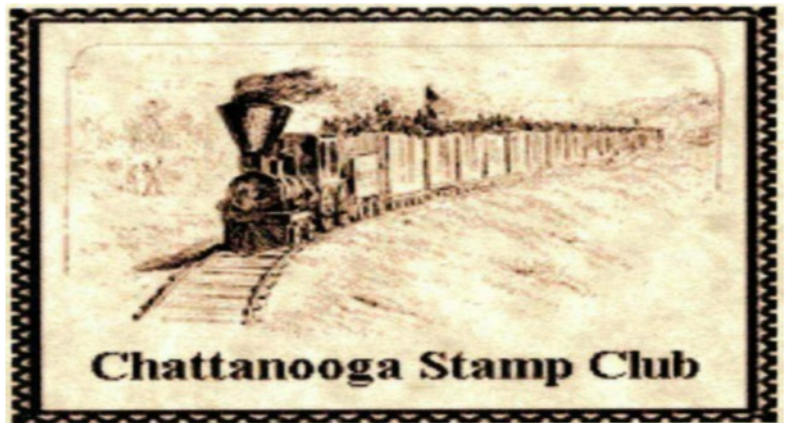


Southeast Federation
Of Stamp Clubs

www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html



American Philatelic Society
Chapter 731
www.Stamps.org



Official Journal of the Chattanooga Stamp Club

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE HICKORY VALLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH, 6605 SHALLOWFORD RD., CHATTANOOGA, TN.
DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM, MEETING BEGINS AT 7:30 PM -- VISITORS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME

December 6 Christmas Dinner
Program Dinner
January 10 Monthly Meeting
Program To be Determined

CLUB OFFICERS

PresidentMike Ezell mhezell@gmail.com
Vice-president Jim Hogue jlhoguejr@charter.net
Secretary Rebecca Gilbert grabelsvn@aol.com
Treasurer Carl Anderson connie_anderson195@epbf.com
Newsletter Gene Bricker - gbricker@catt.com

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$10.00; send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer:

Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd.
Signal Mountain, TN 37377

THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE

The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society. The club has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

SOUTHEAST FEDERATION OF STAMP CLUBS

The Southeast Federation web site is a source for information about stamp collecting activities in the region. Visit at: www.sefsc.org/federation-clubs.html

AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

American Philatelic Society (APS) is the largest nonprofit stamp collecting Foundation of philately in the world., With about 28,000 members as of 2018 worldwide. Visit at: www.Stamps.org.

CHRISTMAS DINNER!

December 6, 2018

Meet at Hickory Valley Christian Church, 6:00 p.m. to set up. Dinner served at approximately 6:30.

Meat (Ham & Turkey) furnished by the club. Members are asked to bring two side dishes - vegetables, salad, or dessert to be served with the meal.



This is the December club meeting!

See page 4 for a notice from the National Postal Museum soliciting funds for their support



NOTICE!

Membership dues for 2019 are due and payable to the treasurer! (\$10.00)

What is Postal History?

There are any number of precise and intimidating definitions of postal history. While these are all technically correct, in many ways they miss the wider aspects of the hobby.

In a word, postal history is about mail. All over the world almost everyone receives mail. This mail, where it is from, where it is going, how it is paid, how it got to its destination and tribulations it faced in its journey is postal history. It speaks of the time and place it was mailed, the way it traveled and the scars it picked up along the way.

Since mail touches almost every person, postal history touches almost every interest. If your interest is in a place, perhaps your home town, the country of your ancestors or your favorite vacation spot, postal history will enhance that interest. If transportation is a passion, the movement of mail encompassed most modes of transport. Mail was the first mover in the development of some air travel and significant in utilizing rail network. Most every significant event of the last 250 years can be traced in the mail. Since every army provides mail for its soldiers, if the military is important to you, then postal history is intertwined.

Mail is a window to the past and a mirror of the present. Postal history opens that window wide and focuses the mirror. It tells us about ourselves, our ancestors, our nation and our world. The simple journey of a letter can be the start of a personal journey to wonders of the world.

OCTOBER U.S. STAMP ISSUES



October 3
Madonna and Child
by Bachiacca

October 10
Kwanzaa



October 11
Sparkling Holidays Santa

October 16
Hanukkah



SOUTHEAST REGION STAMP SHOWS

January 18-19, 2019 NOLAPEX Stamp Show

Crescent City Stamp Club, Doubletree New Orleans Airport, 2150 Veterans Memorial Blvd, Kenner, Louisiana 70062, Doug Weisz, 773-914-4332, weiszcovers@yahoo.com, <http://www.ccscno.org>

January 25-27, 2019 Southeastern Stamp Expo

Southeastern Federation of Stamp Clubs, Hilton Hotel Atlanta Northeast, 5993 Peachtree Industrial Blvd., Norcross, Georgia 30092, Scott Mark, sestampexpo@gmail.com, <http://www.sefsc.org>

March 2, 2019 KnoxPEX 2019

Knoxville Philatelic Society, Holiday Inn Knoxville-Cedar Bluff, 9134 Executive Park Dr., Knoxville, Tennessee 37923, Tom Broadhead, broadhea@utk.edu 865-974-1151, <http://www.knoxstamps.com>

March 9-10, 2019 Nashville Stamp & Postcard Show

Gallatin Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave., Gallatin, TN 37066, Tom Tribke, show@nashvillephilatelic.org, 615-833-5161, <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org>

For every \$0.50 you invest in Forever stamps before the January increase, you will have \$0.55 in stamps after the increase - a 10% gain! :-)

U.S. Postal Rates Change In January

Here are the basic Mailing Services prices changes:

Product	Current	Proposed
Letters (1 oz.)	50¢	55¢
Letters additional ounces	21¢	15¢
Letters (metered 1 oz.)	47¢	50¢
International Letters (1 oz.)	\$1.15	\$1.15
Domestic Postcards	35¢	35¢

The price for mailing a letter will rise by 5 cents, to 55 cents for the first ounce. However, the price for additional ounces will go down, from 21 cents to 15, so a 2-ounce stamped letter will cost less to mail, decreasing from 71 cents to 70 cents.

The domestic Priority Mail Retail Flat Rate price changes are:

Product	Current	Proposed
Small Flat Rate Box	\$7.20	\$7.90
Small Flat Rate Box	\$13.65	\$14.35
Large Flat Rate Box	\$18.90	\$19.95
APO/FPO Large Flat Rate Box	\$17.40	\$18.45
Regular Flat Rate Envelope	\$6.70	\$7.35
Legal Flat Rate Envelope	\$7.00	\$7.65
Padded Flat Rate Envelope	\$7.25	\$8.00

The new rates go into effect, January 27, 2019.

Identifying rounded and square corners on the 2001 Statue of Liberty stamps

Gene H., a longtime user of the *The Philosateleian U.S. Stamp Album*, recently wrote asking what the difference is between a couple of self-adhesive die-cut varieties of the 34¢ Statue of Liberty stamps issued in 2001: those with rounded corners, and those with square corners. It's a good question, and one best answered with a picture.

In this image, the stamp on the left (Scott 3466) has rounded corners, while the stamp on the right (Scott 3477) has square corners.



The Strange Case of Nira, Iowa

How a Second Day of Issue (Almost) Saved a Ghost Town

(This column originally appeared in the July–August, 2015 issue of First Days)

In the late 1870s, a small town was founded in southeast Iowa. Its postmaster in those early days was Colonel W. B. Bell, a Civil War veteran. When the town needed a name for incorporation he selected the first name of his wife, Nira McDonald Bell.

The founding of Nira would be little more than a historical footnote had not president Franklin D. Roosevelt, more than five decades later, overseen the creation of the National Industrial Recovery Act in 1933. The initials “N-I-R-A” were quickly on the front page of every major newspaper and on the lips of millions of Americans.

At the end of July it was announced by the US Post Office Department that an “NRA Emergency Postage Stamp” would be released in the coming weeks. The issue was fast-tracked by FDR and postmaster general James A. Farley. Within days a design was selected. The first day of issue was set for August 15, 1933.

Apparently the first person to make the connection between Roosevelt’s NIRA and the Iowa town was local philatelist F. A. Spielman, who lived in nearby Fairfield, who convinced Nira postmaster Eli J. Yoder to send a telegram to Farley requesting that the stamp first be placed on sale in Nira. Iowa Congressman Edward C. Eicher petitioned Farley to grant Nira the first day sale of the stamp, one of the most controversial issues of the Roosevelt Administration.

Citing short notice as his reason for rejecting the proposal, Farley opted instead to release the stamp in Nira two days after it was placed on sale in Washington, D.C.—still in advance of a general release. The announcement was made by the USPOD on August 9, giving Nira only eight days to prepare for the inevitable

(Continued in next column)

deluge of philatelic requests.

The exact number of people living in Nira at the time varies from source to source, but the figure is most accurately given as fifty-two despite numerous claims of only twenty residents. While the town had experienced a bit of a boom in the 1890s, it had been in steady decline since the turn of the century. One article noted that two of Nira's three stores closed in 1925. By 1933 little was left of the town except for its fourth-class post office, which Yoder ran as a part-time job.

However, in August 1933, the first time in its history, Nira was making headlines. Philatelists from around the country were sending covers to be postmarked. For forty years, outgoing mail had been hand canceled by Yoder and his daughter. Now, seven of Yoder's family members, two hired clerks, and a postal inspector from St. Louis were working around the clock to fulfill orders. A special electric cancellation machine was rushed from Washington.

Despite the last-minute announcement of the August 17 release in Nira, which prohibited publications, such as Linn's Stamp News, from alerting collectors about the news, the small town still received 22,000 requests for second day of sale covers. [Editor's note: August 17 was actually the third day of sale, August 16 being the second.] In addition to the thousands of requests that were mailed in, a line of anxious customers stretching down the block greeted Yoder when he arrived at work on the morning of August 17.

Nira's initial allotment of two hundred thousand stamps were sold within days. While the number of cancellation requests dramatically dropped after August 17, philatelists continued to create unique commemorative covers celebrating the NRA throughout 1934 into 1935.

While not the economic boom Nira could have used (cynics were quick to note that the NIRA did little to help the town), the new stamp continued to keep Yoder busier than he had ever been before.

On May 27, 1935, the Supreme Court declared the National Industrial Recovery Act unconstitutional. The stamp promoting an unconstitutional act of Congress was quickly removed from sale.

What became of Nira following its brief period of fame in the eyes of the philatelic world? Not even the publicity could save the already-dying town from going under. In January 1936, the Chicago, Rock Island & Pacific Railroad (immortalized in the 1930s blues song, “Rock Island Line”) closed its depot in Nira. This proved a death-blow for the community that had managed to barely hang on for decades.

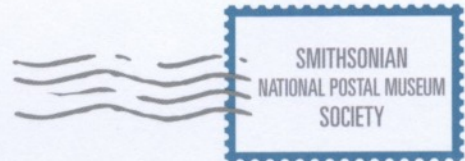
Unable to recover from the loss of its lone lifeline, it was announced on April 1, 1936, that Nira's post office was to close its doors forever. “When the NRA caved in, the hamlet went back to normal,” one newspaper reported. Yoder, the postmaster for more than two-thirds of the town's existence, submitted his resignation the same day.

Today the site where the post office once was is vacant, as is most of the land that once comprised Nira. Corn is the predominant crop in the area.

(Reprinted from November/December 2017, issue of Stamp Insider Magazine.)



You are invited to reply to
this letter from the National
Postal Museum!



Dear :

The Smithsonian National Postal Museum celebrated its 25th Anniversary this past July. For the past 25 years, the Museum has preserved, displayed, taught, and shared America's history. We celebrate the country's historic milestones through objects like the Inverted Jenny postage stamp, which commemorated the beginning of Airmail service, or the 1971 Moon Mail Cover that was stamped on the moon during the Apollo 15 mission. The history of the postal service and the stories told on stamps and through collecting are the unique ways we share the American experience and connect with millions of visitors. While celebrating this milestone year, every day we tell stories like these to honor landmark moments that highlight how the mail has created connections and driven innovation throughout the country.

We are very proud of our accomplishments over the past 25 years, including opening 121 exhibits, acquiring 515,000 objects, welcoming 10 million visitors and educating more than 37,000 lifelong learners. All of these incredible accomplishments are possible only with our community of donors like you.

The Museum still needs your support. Unrestricted annual giving is crucial to making an even greater impact for the coming 25 years by providing the funds that are vital to ensuring the quality of our exhibition displays as well as the programming and community engagement that tells our story. Your gift allows the Museum to continue to share America's amazing history and culture with future generations. On behalf of the entire staff of the National Postal Museum, **thank you for being a part of our community and for your continued support.**

Making your tax-deductible gift of \$25, \$250, \$2,500 or more to the National Postal Museum Society is easy. Please use the enclosed business reply envelope to send in your gift today, find us online at www.postalmuseum.si.edu/support, or call (202) 633-7900.

I hope to see you soon while we embark on the Museum's exciting new chapter!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliot Gruber".

Elliot Gruber
Director

P.S. Your commitment to the National Postal Museum will provide **crucial unrestricted funding** needed for our programs and exhibitions. **Please make your gift today!** Postalmuseum.si.edu/support

Or Donate online at:
www.postalmuseum.si.edu/support



Smithsonian
National Postal Museum

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