**President’s Dispatch**

Here it is, December already and it seems like the year just started. This month’s meeting will be our annual Christmas party. The club will supply pizzas and a variety of sodas as usual out in the cafeteria area. Members are asked to a food item as well (though not required). We usually wind up with some great snacks, cookies, cake, etc. We will do our usual White Elephant gift exchange after eating. I ask that members bring a gift, wrapped or in a gift bag, that could be considered to be philatelic related. After the gift exchange we will move to our usual meeting room for our December auction. So if you have something you would like to sell, bring the items with you along with two copies of your auction sheet to the meeting.

January starts a new year and club dues for 2019 are due. If you pay your dues before 1st of January 2019, you will save $5.00 on your annual dues. The early 2019 dues are $15.00 for members who receive the monthly newsletters by e-mail and $20.00 for those who wish to receive the monthly newsletters mailed to their homes. Both rates are $5.00 higher for family memberships. So pay up dues by the 31st of December and get $5.00 off (that’s equivalent to 100 stamps from the club nickel books).

With the new year starts a new round of meeting presentations. Currently we have no one scheduled for any of the 2019 meetings. So if you would be willing to give a presentation on one of your favorite stamp collecting topics, please give your name and topic plus the month you would like to give the presentation to our secretary, Pat Koppel.

We will need to discuss the topic of election of club officers at our next meeting. I did some checking and discovered we should have held elections in August. Yes, it has been over two years that you have had to put up with my ramblings in the newsletter.

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**Club Calendar**

**Guests and Visitors always Welcome!**

**December 20th - 7 p.m.**

Monthly Meeting at Northeast State Community College Student Services Building Cafeteria

See you at the December meeting as we enjoy some holiday fun.

Below and on page 3 is a *Bristol Herald Courier* item featuring one of our members.

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**Steve**

**Tennessee Ernie Ford stamp sets now available**

Don Ashley shows the new Tennessee Ernie Ford commemorative stamps that are now available.
The December issue of The American Philatelist has a multi-page article written on the Trucial States. A couple, or maybe more, of our members are collectors of stamps used and issued by the Trucial States. Perhaps other members would find it interesting to know more about the Trucial States, so, following is some information I put together from a few sources.

Britain’s economic trade with the Indian subcontinent was hampered by attacks on their ships by ships from territories and states lead by emirs that made up the lower portion of the Persian Gulf, known collectively at that time as “The Pirate Coast”. Britain took action through a series of treaties from 1820 to 1853 to end attacks on its shipping and also maritime warfare between the emir led states also known as emirates or sheikdoms. The last one of these was titled Treaty of Maritime Peace in Perpetuity. English speakers refer to the emirates or sheikdoms that signed onto this treaty by multiple names: Trucial Coast, Trucial States, Trucial Oman, Trucial Sheikdoms and Trucial States of the Coast of Oman. I will just use Trucial States. (In 1971 these states became a federation under the name United Arab Emirates or UAE.)

Postal services began in 1909 when an Indian Branch Post Office opened in the emirate of Dubai. British India stamps were used and the only way to know mail originated in the Trucial States was with the postmark. British and Pakistani stamps were also used. In 1948 handling of postal matters became the responsibility of the General Post Office in London through the British Postal Superintendent in Bahrain. Began putting surcharges on British stamps to show they were used in the Trucial States. With the rise of Arab nationalism in the late 1950s the British thought it best not to continue using British stamps. Two designs were prepared and presented to the rulers of the seven emirates (Abu Dhabi, Ajman, Dubai, Fujeria, Ras al Khaima, Sharjad and Umm al Qiwain) for approval. One showed seven palm trees representing the seven emirates and was to be the lower denominations. The other for higher values showed a sambauk, a type of Arab dhow used commonly for fishing and pearling.

Abu Dhabi objected to the design but the stamps were printed anyway and used in Dubai starting in 1961 for 2½ years while the other emirates continued to use surcharged British stamps. In 1964 individual Trucial States began issuing their own stamps and there has been a profusion of them ever since.
MUSICAL MAIL

Tennessee Ernie Ford commemorative stamps are now available for purchase from Don Ashley.

BY DAVID MCGEE
BRISTOL, VA — Postage stamps bearing the likeness of Tennessee Ernie Ford are now available, and local organizers are planning to celebrate his birthday.

Ford — a recording, TV and radio star from the 1950s and 1960s — was born and grew up on the Tennessee side of town. Sheets of the unique stamps are available from former Bristol Virginia Mayor Don Ashley, who sought to honor Ford in advance of the 100th anniversary of his birth, Feb. 13, 1919.

"Several of us have been trying to get a Tennessee Ernie Ford "forever" stamp," Ashley said. "We didn’t get an approval."

See STAMPS. Page A9

Paris assesses injuries, damage after worst riot in decade

BY SYLVIE COBET
The Associated Press

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron asked for an evaluation of a possible protest security measures Sunday, a day after a Paris demonstration against increased taxes and living costs devolved into France’s worst urban riot in a decade.

Hours after he flew back to the French capital from the G-20 summit in Argentina, Macron held an emergency meeting at the Elysee presidential palace.

The Champs-Elysees Avenue and other top Paris sites were left in shambles. Police said 133 people were injured, including 23 police officers, as crowds trashed the streets of the capital Saturday. Officers fired tear gas and used water cannon to tamp down the violence as protesters torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores and tagged the Arc de Triomphe with graffiti.

The fluorescent jackets, which French motorists are required to have in their cars for emergencies, are an emblem of a grassroots citizens’ movement protestinng fuel taxes.

Fires were started at six buildings and more than 130 motorcycles were torched, Delpeuch said. Paris prosecutor René Hutz said 378 people were arrested.

Over 100 were arrested after pockets of demonstrators built barricades in the middle of streets in central Paris.

See PARIS. Page A2
It’s a city no longer known as Wenden in a country no longer known as Livonia, but it is the only administrative district in the Baltic area now known as Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania that issued stamps before the 1918 armistice ending World War I.

Wenden, the German name of the town currently known as Cesis, Latvia, is located on the Gauja river in what was once known as Livonia. Between 1721 and 1917 Livonia was a semi-autonomous province of the Russian Empire. It contained the southern half of what is now Estonia and the northern half of what is now Latvia.

During the 19th century the Russian postal service carried mail between cities but did not deliver mail within the countryside. Instead it permitted each district to deliver mail at its discretion. The Wendensche Kreispost (Wenden Local Post) was established in 1862 to provide postal service to the relatively small town of Wenden and surrounding countryside. It was the first rural post in Russia. The Wenden postal service operated until April 23, 1903. During the period of its operation it issued postage stamps to cover the cost of rural mail handling. The stamps were used on mail collected from estates in areas throughout the Wenden district. Mail directed beyond Wenden was carried by the Russian postal system and required additional Russian postage.

Because most of Wenden’s postal patrons were members of the Baltic-German elite the earliest stamps were printed in German. Only the last stamp (#L12), issued in 1901, was printed in Russian. Because the letters were rurally collected the stamps were usually pen cancelled by the postal carrier. When letters were collected at the post office they received a post office CDS. Typically this was Wenden or Sesswegen which were both in the Wenden district. However, because Wenden town was in the northeast corner of the Wenden district the post office in Stockmannshof (Riga district) was authorized to collect mail from the southern and eastern parts of the Wenden district. Mail collected in Stockmannshof carried a Stockmannshof cancellation.

Cover mailed from Wenden District to Wandersleben, Germany paid 2 kop. (Scott #L11) local postage to the Stockmannshof Post Office and 10 kop (Scott #42) Russian postage to Germany. Both stamps with pen cancellations. Received 26 Jun 1899.