

# A CFSC Retrospective.....

By Mike Rogers

Some forty years ago, I relocated from Jacksonville to work for John McDaniel. One of the perks of the job was his insistence that I join the Central Florida Stamp Club. John called it "show the flag", a military slogan he picked up from his Army days.

While I attended Oglethorpe University, I'd trek by bus to the Atlanta Stamp Club twice monthly. Great fun there. The mightiest of philatelists -- of which there were many -- were as approachable as your next door neighbor. One evening, Cliff Cole passed around an album page of all the United States 1869 inverted centers! We'd have member presentations and guest speakers.

The Central Florida Stamp Club met in the old Winter Park Library in downtown on Interlachen Avenue. Now that building is part of the Episcopal All Saints Church complex. I had a one bedroom apartment just a few blocks from the library so it was an easy walk to and fro. It wasn't like I had something better to do -- I was single then -- and about the only thing worth watching on TV was *The Waltons*.

It was a robust group of collectors. I dared not arrive late for it seemed that most every chair would be filled.

Remember this was before the internet. Stamp shows were few and far between. The club was a gathering place just for collectors, because the unspoken rule was no dealer could transact there. I've always been a collector so fit in real well.

An unintended benefit of being in the library was when the meeting hit a dry spot, a member could discreetly get up and poke around the books. One evening, I bumped into another quiet guy in the library stacks, Alvin Hintz. Alvin and I fell into an easy friendship as we were both in our 20's, amongst the younger members in the stamp club. Several years later, after I opened my own shop, Alvin came to work with me.

Old Fred Iseli would tilt his head back and snore away. Someone would gently rub his arm, encouraging him to wake up. Rev Iseli was a good sort, always taking the back row, knowing he'd be asleep soon enough. Rev Iseli explained his dilemma. Being a minister, he never had access to the sums of



money that it would take to develop a "great" collection, plus he was color blind, so he confined himself to collecting just one stamp, the US 1901 1 cent.

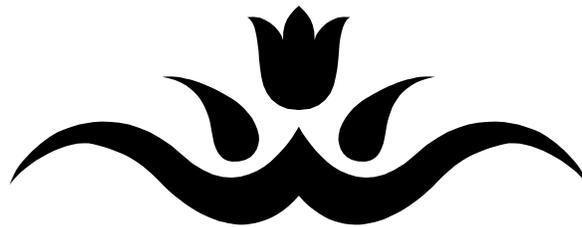
Its green! He collected it every which way you could imagine. Rev Iseli had a great time. When he passed, he had near about 100,000 of them. I know because my company sold his collection. (PS I thought it was a pretty great collection!)

I don't know if Harrington Adams became a member of the club but he invited me up to his condo on Canton Avenue after one visit to the club. You wouldn't know it from his demeanor, but Mr. Adams built a renowned collection of US precancels. And his wife sure could cook!

During the year I came to Central Florida, the Orlando Sentinel ran a survey that found, in one way or another, 44% of local residents had a connection to the military. It sure seemed that way coming to the club. We had a fair number of active duty and retired military collectors.

One of our members lost her US collection due to a burglary at her residence. Fortunately it was covered with the American Philatelic Society sponsored insurance plan. They cut her a check within weeks. [For a minimal yearly cost, your collection can be covered. Contact Hugh W. Wood Inc at 888 APS 6494 or Collectibles Insurance Company at [888 837 9537](tel:8888379537) or [info@collectinsure.com](mailto:info@collectinsure.com)]

Once in a while, we'd have a meeting without a program. Everyone would join in and bring a favorite stamp or cover to explain why it was special to them. Some folks would stumble over their presentations, then gain confidence as they went along. Kids were the best. These "pot luck" meetings were insightful and funny at the same time. It's why we became stamp collectors!



[Editor's Note: Mike is a long time member of the CFSC holding membership number 118, making him the second oldest member. While we rarely see Mike at a meeting he has been an extremely strong supporting of the club. Over the years, he has directed folks to the CFSC for evaluations of material and talked up the club to many a person who has come through his store front. In addition, quietly behind the scene Mike has provided opportunities for the CFSC to generate cash from donated materials to us that have come into his possession of which he has no business interest in. Reference books, collection remains, philatelic supplies and much more have come from Mike over the years. Every member of the CFSC has to some degree benefited from the generosity of Mike Rogers.]