

The Cover Story by Stephen L. Strobel

Do You Need Diversity in Your Life? -- Part 3

There are many advantages of belonging to an organization that is associated with your likes or hobbies. There is no better example of this than my long time membership in the Central Florida Stamp Club (CFSC). Of the many advantages that are afforded club members: camaraderie with others that share your interest in philately, a monthly newsletter – *The Philatelic Missive*, access to loaner equipment and catalogs, participation in door prize drawings, membership cards, pins and shirts, a nice meeting venue, hosting and sponsorship of various stamp shows, multiple meetings per month, a wide variety of program topics for both adults and youth, a club website: CentralFloridaStampClub.org, reasonable memberships dues, Spring Picnics and Holiday Gatherings, cried and silent auctions, and a monthly *Bourse* internally produced by Director Mel Borofsky, it is the Bourse that has had a profound effect on one of those likes of mine --- The Farley's.

I had always had more than just a passing interest, but due to the shear abundance and variety, I really never expected to develop any sort of completeness in this area. At Mel's suggestion (insistence) I put an ad in the Bourse. It really wasn't a very complicated ad, just "Farley's Wanted: I have some of those silly things now and I wanted some more!" Well much to my dismay, LOL, it paid off. Another club member had some of the Farley material and put it into one of the Club's annual 'No Fee Cried Auctions' this past January.

There was yet another Club member, Phil Fettig, that had an interest in the same material as well. We 'battled' it out in the Auction, which was fun in itself, but in the end, Phil beat me out. Oh well. That is the fun of an auction and it will determine the size of one's *cojones*. That was on January 5, 2017. He did let me look at the material and offered to let me take it home to check, if in fact, that I could use or 'need' one or more of the items. That was an unexpected surprise, but he said he trusted me anyway. I brought the material home to look at and check my records, inventory and album. That was fine.

The Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition was held February 3-5 to which I made time to attend. It was very interesting and I was able to attend a meeting of the US Philatelic Classics Society with a program about Civil War covers and history and markings, another one of my interests, presented by our own members, Bill Johnston and Jim Pullin. I also went to the annual business meeting of the Florida Postal History Society, with other club members in attendance. I joined that Society then and there.

Now, back to the topic at hand. I was able to mesh with Phil's schedule right after the Sarasota show on Sunday afternoon, February 5. I picked a couple of items, (**Fig. 1 & 2, on front cover**). And we settled on a price. Well I liked what I bought, but really didn't know much about the pieces, with the exception that they were Farley's. One item was a special First Day Cover (**Fig. 1, on front cover**) with a nice cachet in purple, matching the souvenir sheet, and depicting the Nisqually Glacier in the national park and with the three cent National Parks (Mt. Rainer) Souvenir Sheet (SC #750a) imperf pane of 6 attached that was produced to compliment the American Philatelic Society, for its convention and exhibition in Atlantic City, New Jersey, August 1934 signed on the cover by one 'A. M. Simpson, Acting Postmaster'. The other item (**Fig. 2, on front cover**) was a single souvenir sheet signed by four individuals with a side notation as to who they were.

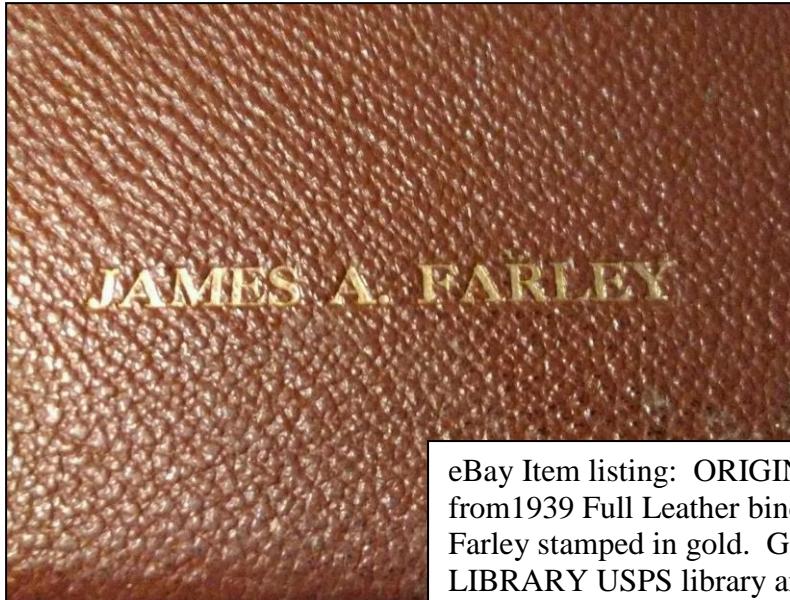
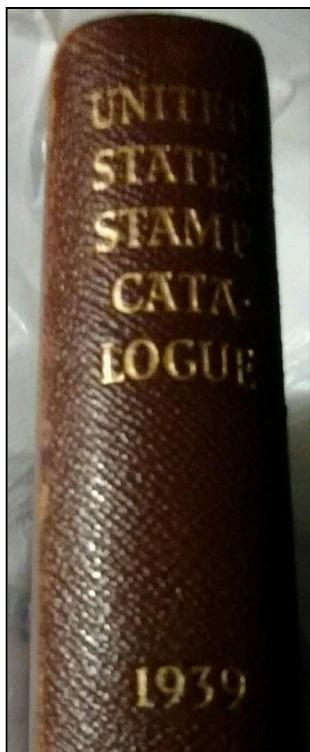
Well-armed with the names and notations, and being a new member of the Florida Postal History Society, I decided to research the New Jersey Postal History Society's archives, the state where the convention was held, hoping to ascertain if 'A. M. Simpson, Acting Postmaster, John D. Hewitt, Foreman, and O. B. Ereilsson (?) 3rd Asst. P.M.' might be listed or mentioned somewhere as a New Jersey or Atlantic City official. Alas, to no avail. Likewise, I tried to research the USPS archives for those same people during the August 1934 time period. Again, no luck. They may be lost to history and I may not find any references to them for a long time.

The fourth name noted was ‘B Bearthis, Pres. Philatelic Soc.’ I went to the archives of the American Philatelic Society (APS) and determined that the President in 1934 was listed as Roscoe B. Martin from New York. (**Fig. 3**) Further research of the August 1986/page741, *The American Philatelist*, revealed in fact, that Roscoe B. Martin of New York was elected president for the 1934-35 term, and he opened the Atlantic City Convention with 150 members present, a very substantial attendance in the depth of the Depression. The membership had fallen below 4,000 for the first time in a dozen years. And no new life members were reported. So.... for whatever reason, the signature interpretation was not correct but could be read to reveal the Roscoe B. Martin name to be correct. Yeah!!

[Editor’s note: The first and second parts of this on-going series appeared in the June & July 2013 issues of *The Philatelic Missive* and can be found online in the archives. Part 4 will appear in the May, 2017 issue.]

Year	President
1937-1937	Carter Glass Jr. <i>Virginia</i>
1935-1937	Eugene Klein <i>Pennsylvania</i>
1933-1935	Roscoe B. Martin <i>New York</i>
1931-1933	Clarence W. Hennan <i>Illinois</i>
1929-1931	Gustave M. Mosler <i>Ohio</i>
1925-1927	A. H. Wilhelm <i>California</i>
1924-1925	P.M. Wolsieffer <i>Illinois</i>

Figure 3



eBay Item listing: ORIGINAL Personal Copy from 1939 Full Leather binding with James A Farley stamped in gold. Gold edges. EX LIBRARY USPS library and Library of Congress with their discard stamps. Light wear to edges otherwise a tight very good book.

[Interesting enough in the last week the item pictured above that was owned by James A. Farley appeared on eBay for sale. While it is an interesting piece of Farley memorabilia, priced at \$299.95 -- it is priced too high to spark my interest in acquiring it. The Editor.]