

The CFSC Board Honors Francis Ferguson with a Special Service Award

by A. Stephen Patrick

The CFSC awarded Francis Ferguson a crystal plaque at the March 5th meeting in honor of his 18 years of service on the Board of Directors. In that time, Fergie served four terms as president, two as vice president, and initiated many of the successful and popular features of our club. Our club membership has more than doubled as many other service clubs have dwindled or disappeared.

He never allowed his name to be put forward for the CFSC Service Award even though he was doing more than just about everyone else. No door prizes, no Glue Awards, few individual honors for this modest man. The new board in one of its first actions in their January 30th meeting was to unanimously vote a special award to try and right this situation.



In the presentation speech, President Patrick cited a long list of things Fergie has been responsible for: the silent auction, the club web site, computerized record keeping, name tags, door prizes, new club shirts, philatelic quizzes, an improved newsletter, archiving club history and records, keeping good attendance records and a businesslike renewal process, pre-meeting dinners, birthday recognitions, board suppers, the spring picnic and his skill as grill master, Holiday Party hams, professional treatment of dealer members and booth holders at club shows,

volunteer recognition and GLUE awards.

Several other club members including Phil Fettig and Jim Archbold gave short tributes also. In response Fergie gave thanks for all the work others have done to make these things happen, especially David Allen and his computer skills. The good news is that although Fergie has retired from the board, he continues as our show chairman and newsletter editor. If you weren't at the meeting to give your applause, perhaps you could add your thanks and memories with an email. Thank you, Fergie, for your service. [Inscription reads: *The Central Florida Stamp Club Honors Francis Ferguson for 18 years of valued leadership in philately, 2020*]

[Editor's note: It was with humility that I accept this gorgeous award. It has been an honor and privilege to serve the membership of such a wonderful group of people. The award was presented at the first meeting of March which ironically was the 20th anniversary of my stepping into my first club meeting. I can say nothing more than "Thank you" to everyone who supported the goals of the last 20 years.]



Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!

Minong, Wisconsin

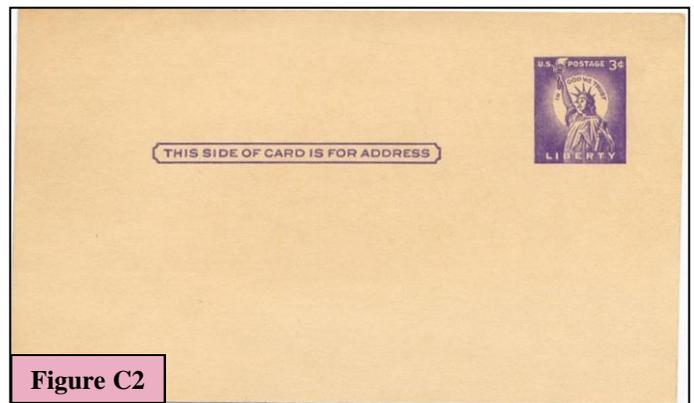
by Mike Schumacher

As I collect Stamps, covers, postcards and other philatelic related items, one of the things I find interesting is town cancels, because that leads to learning about somewhere new. Such as the Minong, Wisconsin town cancel on this very nice block of 15, three cent Statute of Liberty stamps [Figure C1].



The stamp itself was first issued on June 24, 1954. The Statute of Liberty stamp served well in 1954, as the first-class letter rate was 3 cents. Thus, this block of 15 stamps was obviously on either a larger size letter or on a package. It would have paid the postage for an item up to 15 ounces. Collecting larger used blocks like this certainly requires more than just a regular stamp album where you collect one of each stamp.

And as a side note, in 1954, the Statute of Liberty stamp was issued as a coil stamp and as a postcard [Figure C2]. The stamp was also part of a souvenir sheet for



the 5th International Philatelic Exhibition in New York, N.Y. issued in 1956 [Figure C3].



One of the nice aspects of collecting larger blocks of used stamps is of course it lends itself to collecting town cancels. As mentioned earlier, this block of 15 stamps is covered with a total of seven partial or full town cancels from Minong, Wisconsin. The village of Minong, Wisconsin is in the county of Washburn in the northwestern area of Wisconsin. The name Minong is derived from the Ojibwe language referring to the high hill just south of town. *The Minong Post Office has been in operation since 1887.* Unsure what the population would have been in 1887, however since 1920 when the population was 230 it has grown to 510 in 2010. In the mid-1950s when the block of 15

stamps was placed on the item to be mailed, the population on Minong was a whopping 350 people. The town of Minong has 7800 acres and boasts of 27 named lakes and 32 smaller ones too small to be named. An ideal Northwoods summer vacation area for fishing and hiking. Minong is also the home to the corporate headquarters of Link Snacks Inc. the makers of the internationally known "Jack Link's Beef Jerky".

So however, you like to collect stamps, keep on enjoying the hobby and learning new things!