

Get to Know Your Fellow Members

by A. Stephen Patrick

During this down time, I have visited several of our members by phone to give cheer and see how they are spending their time. Here are some of our friends.

Roy Anderson is a 25-year member who at 88 has stopped driving to meetings but is still working away on his Scandinavian stamps. About every week he gets at least one envelope stuffed with cut corners of European stamps from his cousin in Sweden. He returns envelopes full of US stamps. I took home binders of his Sweden and Denmark extras and added 235 Swedish and 65 Danish used stamps, most of them added to my specialty of Slania engraved stamps.

Roy's is not the only dining room table that is in business. **Bill Johnston** is in the middle of a sorting program for some of his miscellaneous collection. He says, "What else do I have to do?" He and his bride Cathy recently tried the impossible burger through the Burger King drive-through.

John Bailey is continuing to sell on eBay and golf and visit his sister. He lists his only collecting interest as used Canada. But his major concentration is large queens. I asked him to consider giving an "afterglow" some time when we start up meetings.

Larry Stiles lives with his dog and with the help of a few caregivers. His medical challenges are okay for now. However, he would like to sell his two volume Europa collection. It's complete from the beginning through the 20th century. He is still looking for Chinese treaty port stamps dealing with Yangtze Patrol.

Two years ago, **Gary Byrd** gave an excellent presentation on the stamps of Tunisia where he spent time as a Peace Corps worker in his younger days. I noticed he collected "the year 1945" in the club roster. That was the year he was born, and there were over 3,500 stamps produced worldwide that year. He has all but 600 of them. He may give us a program on that hunt later in the year.

We know **Richard Blanchard** is a worldwide collector and active buyer. He says that he has so many collections backed up that he won't run out in this time. Where many of us have spouses that dislike our stamp collections spreading around the house, Richard has one solution. His mother lives across the street, and he has space to work in her house. I'm jealous.

Ray Baldwin has been a member for four years but hasn't attended many meetings. We had a great conversation on the phone. In his younger days in West Virginia, he worked for the presidential campaign for Jimmy Carter. He once got a ride on Air Force One after the election. He also owned a small factory that made wooden furniture for hotels and did a lot of business with Donald Trump. He had a great collection of vintage baseball cards that has been sold, but he still keeps a nice stamp collection.

Brad and Karen Cooper live in Davenport and have never yet made a meeting, but I met them at FLOREX. Brad has an interest in Civil War stamps, so I extended an invitation to the Greater Orlando Civil War Round Table when it starts up again. **Steve Strobel, Tom Tomlinson, Carlos Guffain, Bob Fisher, Greg Priewe and I** are all club members of both organizations. Karen collects stamps having to do with US states and makes her own stamp album.

I had a nice chat with **Don DeGraw**. His secret talent is that of a graphic artist. He keeps an easel with an art project on hand. He used his talents in the Air Force back in the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 "briefing the brass." Today he is working on his Russia collection while creating his own album pages and studying each stamp as he makes a new page. He is in 1948 now, so he has several thousand pages to go.

Josh Furman had family visiting from the north. The grandchildren enjoy the swimming pool, so there is no problem staying at home. He reports that he has many nice auction lots from the Birds of Prey donations once meetings start up again.

Steve Strobel is watching lots of Civil War on the History Channel in what he says is his well named “Lazy Boy” easy chair. He is enjoying opening his daily mail as he continues to find surprises, one of which we read about in the newsletter (April issue). He is sorry the picnic got postponed and looks forward to meeting again with his stamp friends.

Eretta Morris hasn’t spent much time on stamps -- but did have surgery recently. She continues her recovery at home.

Joe Montpellier is staying busy over in New Smyrna Beach. I asked him how he got started collection ships on stamps. He related that back in the 1960s he was serving the military in SE Asia. His ship pulled into port, and there was the damaged *USS Mayaguez* that had been recently attacked off the coast of Cambodia. He took several photos and has continued his interest in ships.

I checked in with **Charles Phillips** in Aurora, CO. He lived in Central Florida for 31 years but retired out west. But he still retains his CFSC membership as he enjoys the newsletter. One area he really enjoys is plate number coils and has been a PNC3 member from near the beginning. We may see some of his want list in the club bourse in the future.

We pray that we all stay safe in this crisis. Enjoy your “found time” and keep in touch with each other.



Voices from the Past by Phil Fettig

We all collect lots of different things. I have one interest that I suspect not too many others do - Reading old stamp publications. A sample from the past follows from the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* - June 19, 1937: (Published in Holton, KS)

- (1) At the time Amelia Earhar’s plane crashed in Honolulu, it was said she placed her 6,500 souvenir flight envelopes in the hands of the Honolulu postmaster for safekeeping. At this writing she is winging her way eastward, from South America to Africa, but the press seems to be silent on those covers she left in Honolulu, but - presumably - she has them with her. (Phil’s note: Of course, we know she never completed the entire trip, having disappeared on July 2nd, 1937.)
- (2) Stamp collecting in England has now reached the proportions that one man is making a living by searching the Whitehall dump and tearing the stamps off discarded envelopes.
- (3) Arrangements have been made in Japan for a 10-day mail service between that country and the United States by the Communications Ministry and Pan American Airways. The mail will be picked up by Chinese operated planes at Shanghai and flown to Hong Kong, from there it will take clipper wings to Manila and onwards to San Francisco.

A few ads from this issue: (Mint unless noted)

US 505 Double in block of 12 (Superb) \$43.50 (2019 -- CV \$1,200-VF & \$1,850 if NH)
C1-3 (Superb) Singles \$5.75 (2019 -- CV \$180.00 & \$360.00 if NH)