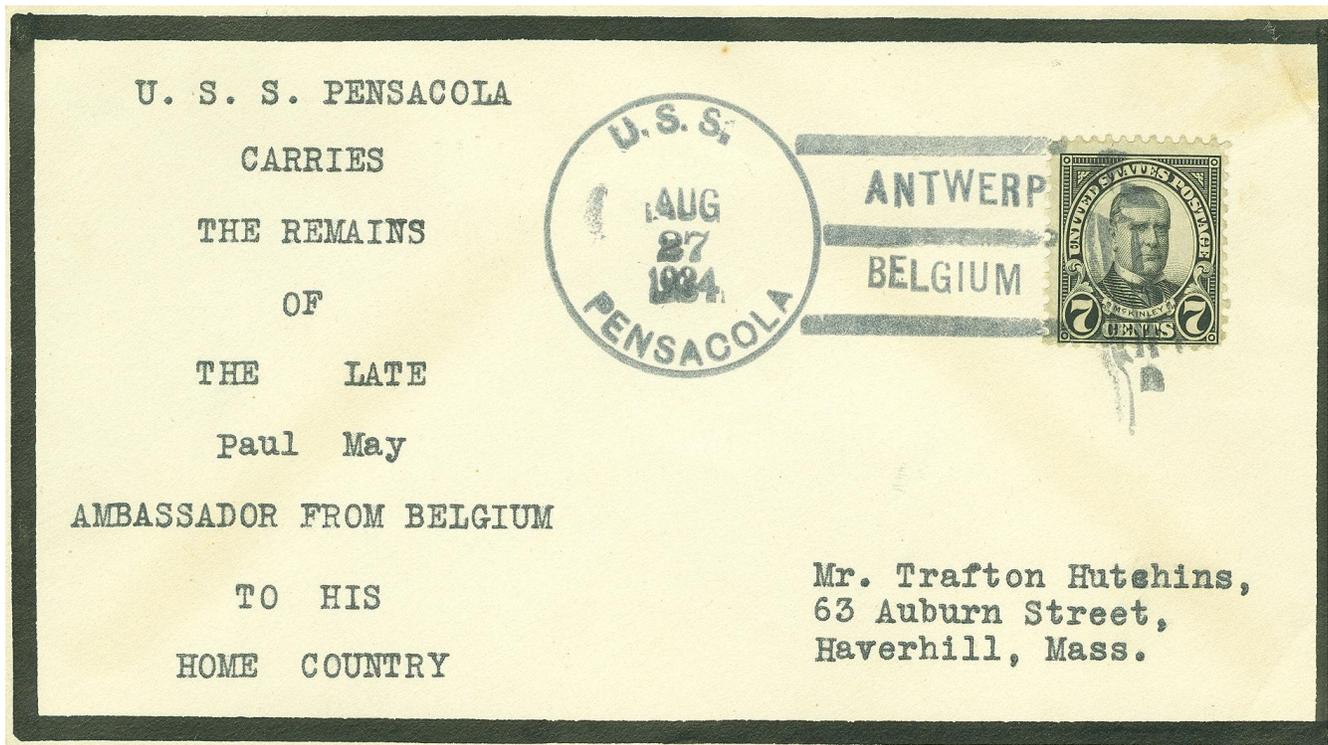


## The USS Pensacola by Phil Fettig

Four U.S. Navy ships have been named USS PENSACOLA. The first was a Steamship, launched in 1859 and fought against the South during the Civil War. This PENSACOLA led a long and varied life and sailed to all parts of the world prior to being scrapped and burned in 1911. The second PENSACOLA was built by Germany in 1901 and was a war prize to the U.S. at the end of WWI in 1918. She served as a Supply Ship until 1925. The third USS PENSACOLA (CA-24) was a Heavy Cruiser with a length of 585 feet and weighing in at 9,100 tons. During World War II, the USS PENSACOLA took part in many major conflicts, including the Battle of Midway in June 1942. Later in the war she received major damage and returned to the U.S. for repairs and returned to the war.

After the war PENSACOLA survived two atomic detonations during the 1946 testing at Bikini Atoll during "Operation Crossroads". After a damage assessment she was sunk as a target on November 10, 1948. Figure (1) is a mourning cover that resulted from the USS PENSACOLA carrying the remains of Belgium Ambassador Paul



[over]

## **The Lepich Clan and a Few Free Stamps.....**

**By Mary Lepich**

A few years ago, at the State Fair, my granddaughters received a free packet of stamps from the Central Florida Stamp Club booth. We didn't make much about it at the time, but when we got home, they were pleasantly surprised by all the different stamps. They told their uncle about it and he told them his dad had given him a stamp collection from his childhood. The next year at the State Fair, the girls wanted to find the place they got the stamps. It was then that we got information regarding the Central Florida Stamp Club. My granddaughters are home schooled and we try to find different field trips for them. After our "field trip" to the Stamp Club, the girls said they would like to come back again. And, so we did – again and again and again.

My husband died in 1990 from cancer. It was few years later when I decided to move from Wisconsin to Florida (through some encouragement from my brother). Laura and her daughter, Miranda came with me. Since that time, Ariana was born and my other 3 children moved here. I was an executive secretary for the VP of Operations at an airline service company. A few years ago, due to downsizing, I lost my job. After I spent over a year looking for another, I decided to officially retire.

Miranda, Ariana and I enjoy the Stamp Club. Especially, all the wonderful people that are now part of our lives. The girls wanted to share their experience with their neighborhood friend, Kaitlyn, and encouraged her to join. The youth group has helped the girls (and me) learn about how many differences there are in stamps. Ariana is having fun collecting Disney and animal stamps. Miranda has started collections of Egypt, Norway and Australia. She also has been able to incorporate her love of Wild Cats in their collection. She is currently searching for Piano stamps. Every meeting inspires them to pursue another new topic!

The free stamps started an activity that is not only fun, but educational and spans ALL ages.