

# Central Florida Stamp Club – A Brief Remembrance

A. Stephen Patrick

The **Central Florida Stamp Club** produced its first souvenir [Figure D1] in 1950 and obtained a special cancel for the 100th anniversary of the Orlando Post Office.

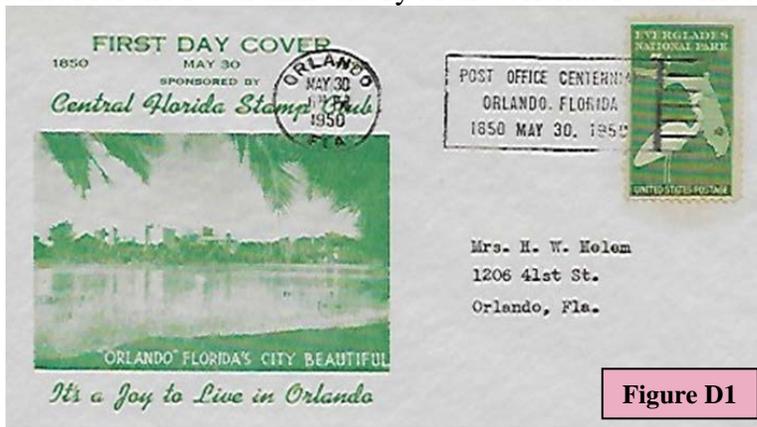


Figure D1

The original name of Orlando was the Jernigan settlement in south Orlando near the old army fort at Ft. Gatlin. The first postmaster was named Wright Patrick who is the third Great Grandfather of club member **Steve Patrick**. In 1857, the name was changed to Orlando by Judge Speer after an election to choose a site for the Orange County seat of government.

The secretary in 1964 was **Laura Maschmeyer** and in 1965 was **Thomas Barder**. [Figure D2]

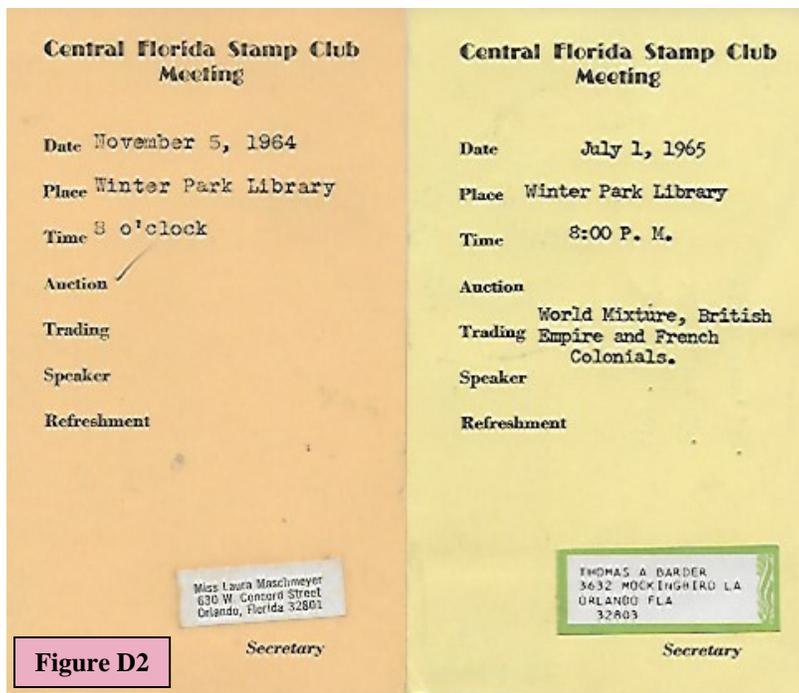


Figure D2

In the 1970s, meetings moved to the John Young Museum in Loch Haven Park [Figure D3]. As you entered the front door, the Foucault pendulum was to the right, then the planetarium, and our meeting place was the last room on the right on the north end. The Orange County History Museum was to the left. Today the building houses the Shakespeare Theater. After the rent went up in 1988, we moved, for several years, to the Lake Island Recreation Center in Winter Park, then to the new Winter Park Library for a short time, and spent almost a decade at the Maitland Presbyterian church, before finding the Marks Center.

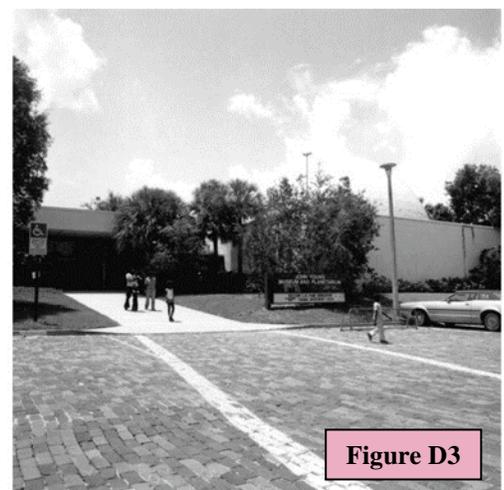


Figure D3

The 1960s brought in three important members. First was **Lynn Cohen** who is thought to be our oldest continuing member; however there is a lack of historical documentation as virtually no club records exist from the 1960-1975 time-frame. Next was **Wade Beery** who served as club secretary for many years and helped organize the club shows known as SUNPEX in the 1970s and 1980s. He was a retired Navy Chief who came to Orlando about 1964 and was a member until his death. Wade was a 50-year member of the APS, editor of newsletters, and leader in the Scandinavian Collectors Society. He was the discoverer of the “smooth faced Washington coil” noted in Linn’s by Belmont Faries and used to remind us to bring our “fat pills” otherwise known as deserts for the Holiday party.

In the late 1960s, **William J. Bomar** moved to Orlando from Atlanta and joined the club. Soon his talents were recognized, and he became a leader in the club until his death in 1996. This is hearsay, but he told me that there

were two factions in the club he joined that sat on opposite sides of the room, one led by old timer **Ray Von Klippstein**. Bomar soon put the club on a more professional basis by registering the club with the state and organizing the constitution and by-laws. The club rejoined the American Philatelic Society in August 1968 thus prompting this 50th anniversary in 2018.

When I joined the club in 1979, Bill Bomar was the vice president. He was always “the power behind the throne” whether serving as president or vice president or just a board member. He always took the first program in November and gave a talk on “Something U.S.” His stamp knowledge was encyclopedic although by the time I knew him, he wore a badge that said “strictly U.S.” He held the best collection known of “tin foils”, revenue stamped paper that wrapped chewing tobacco. He was the authority on World’s Fair material and literally “wrote the book” on that topic. His house was full of memorabilia from World’s Fairs especially the 1893 World’s Columbian Exhibition.

Bomar became an apprentice APS judge, but before that he would look at FLOREX exhibits and do his own judging. He would show me his estimates and would never be more than one or two levels off on what the judges would produce. He had a huge safe in his house that kept his treasures like his set of 1901 Pan American inverts. His pre-cancels, seals, automobile advertisements were the oldest and rarest of any club member. He served also as president of the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs and was one of the founders of the Florida Postal History Society (FPHS).

The divorced Bill Bomar went to the 40<sup>th</sup> reunion of his high school class in Mexico, Missouri, and rekindled a romance with a high school girl friend Ruth. They were married and had 10 good years together until his failing heart gave way in 1996 at the 50th reunion in Missouri. On the Membership Directory you will find the Bomar Award winners. This was instituted as a “sparkplug” award suggested by John Hotchner in Linn’s. I believe that Wade Berry suggested the award in 1996 to honor Bill Bomar, but Wade Beery was the next awardee in 1997.

When I joined the CFSC (1979), the president was **Charles Micarelli PhD**. Who was a dean at UCF. He authored the Micarelli Guide to identification of classic U.S. stamps that was bought by Scott and is still sold. **Mike Rogers** was the new young stamp dealer on Park Avenue. He encouraged his assistant **Alvin Hintz** to attend the club, but seldom attended himself, but always supported the club. **William Brownell** recruited me into the club at one of the bourses at the old Mount Vernon Inn. Bill had travelled the world and sold me his Cuban collection. When he could no longer drive, I took him to club, and we had a cake at the club for his 90th birthday.

In those first years the **Reverend Eisley** would sit on the back row and usually fall asleep and snore a little. He had made his philatelic reputation by an exhaustive study of the common 1900 one cent Ben Franklin stamp.

**William McPeter Jones** was club treasurer for several terms and also treasurer for the Federation. He was joint editor for the Jones Roy Catalogue of Cuban Stamps. **Jane Morrison** served as club treasurer from 1980 through 1985. She opened her home for the club’s holiday celebration each December for years. She lived on a lake east of Florida Hospital and the club enjoyed a cold cut plate and a big bowl of egg nog. Bomar would lead a philatelic gift exchange and call for a moment of silence for the “closed albums” of those that had passed that year. Jane was a collector of the great American illustrator Harrison Fisher whose framed works help decorate her house.

**Herb McNeal** was a Southern gentleman born in Ocala and a noted collector of Florida postal history and helped found the FPHS. After Bomar passed, we could count on Herb for a well prepared yearly presentation on U.S. or Florida postal history.

[Continued on Insert 08.2018e]