

# Oh, The Things You Can Learn Stamp Collecting!

## Harding Memorial Issue

by Mike Schumacher

Warren Gamaliel Harding was born on November 2, 1865 in Blooming Grove, Ohio and died on August 2, 1923 in San Francisco, CA. He was the oldest of eight children born to George Tryon Harding (farmer & doctor) and Phoebe Elizabeth (Dickerson) Harding (midwife).

At age 10, Warren began working for his father's weekly newspaper, *The Argus*. At age 14, he began attending college at Ohio Central College and obtained his B.S. degree in 1882. While at college he worked on the school newspaper and gained recognition as a gifted public speaker. After college he taught school for a year and then in 1884 bought and successfully ran the *Marion Star* newspaper. In 1899, he was elected to the Ohio State Senate (four-year term). He was then elected lieutenant governor. In 1910 he ran for governor but was defeated. In 1914 he was elected to the U.S. Senate. In 1920 he ran for and was elected as the 29<sup>th</sup> U.S. President, becoming the first U.S. sitting Senator to be elected President. He ran on the theme of a "return to normalcy" of the pre-World War I period. During his Presidency, he was very popular, however, that changed as a result of several scandals by some of his administration (that came to light after his death) and his extramarital affairs with Carrie Fulton Phillips and Nan Britton.

After Harding's death the Postmaster General ordered a special commemorative stamp to be issued to honor President Warren G. Harding. The stamp was rushed into production in less than a month and demand for the stamp was high. The stamps were printed on the Stickney Press, which was rather ironic considering that President Harding had fired Stickney and several others from the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on March 31, 1922, on what turned out to be false rumors about the BEP. Just six months before Harding's death he had conceded his mistake and they were all rehired.

The 1923 Harding Memorial issue is quite unique in that due to the high demand for the stamp it was the first stamp to be printed by using both the flat plates and rotary press. Thus, the four listings in Scotts (#'s 610 – 613). Eventually, over one billion of the stamps were issued.

			
<b>610</b> , Flat press, perf 11	<b>611</b> , Flat press, imperf	<b>612</b> , Rotary press, perf 10	<b>613</b> , Rotary press, perf 11

[Editor's note. One of the rarities in U.S. philately is Scott #613, with a price of \$37,500 for a used single and \$85,000 for a used pair. There are no known mint copies available to the philatelic market and far as I am aware -- there are none recorded. A quick look at <https://siegelauctions.com/> which is an online repository for certified 613 -- shows of the 47 recorded, 24 are known to be sound, 17 are faulty to some degree and 6 are unknown as to soundness. This is truly the hidden gem that could be lurking in an old-time collection or in a generic mix of common stamps. This is what makes the philatelic hobby so interesting!]

# What's in a Name? Or a spelling?

by A. Stephen Patrick

The south Orlando community of Pine Castle gets its name from a large pine wood house built by Will Wallace Harney who in the post-Civil War settled near old Ft. Gatlin. He was a journalist who came from Louisville, KY, who wrote colorful articles extolling the virtue of Central Florida that spurred many to move south. From 1874 he would dateline his writings with “My Castle in the Pine” or “Pine Castle.”

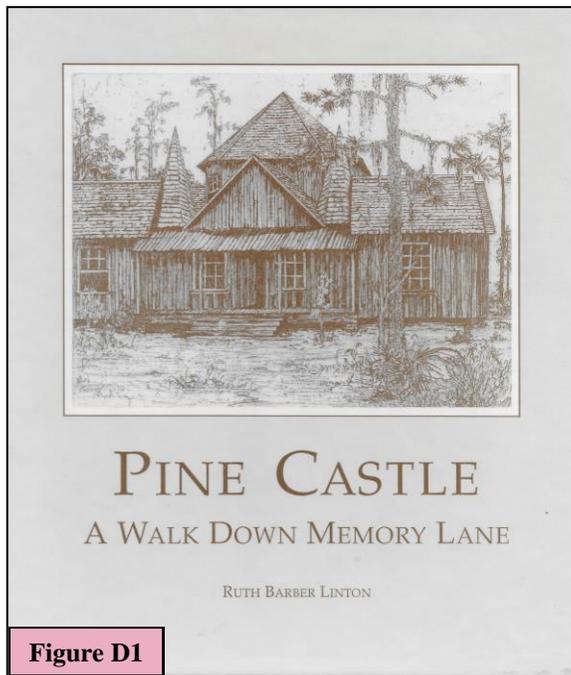


Figure D1

The illustration is an artist's concept of the house that was made with vertical pine boards and a turret or tower at every corner; however, it burned in 1894. Harney died in 1912 and is buried in the Greenwood Cemetery.

According to *A Chronology of Florida Post Offices* published by the Florida Federation of Stamp Clubs in 1962, a Pine Castle post office opened on December 8, 1879, and became a branch of the Orlando post office on June 1, 1955. During WW II, the Orlando Army Air Force Base was moved from what is now the Orlando Executive Airport and renamed the *Pinecastle* Air Force Base. It later became known as McCoy Air Force Base and today is Orlando International Airport.

Sometime in this process the spelling of Pinecastle went to one word. The second illustration shows a postal card from June 30

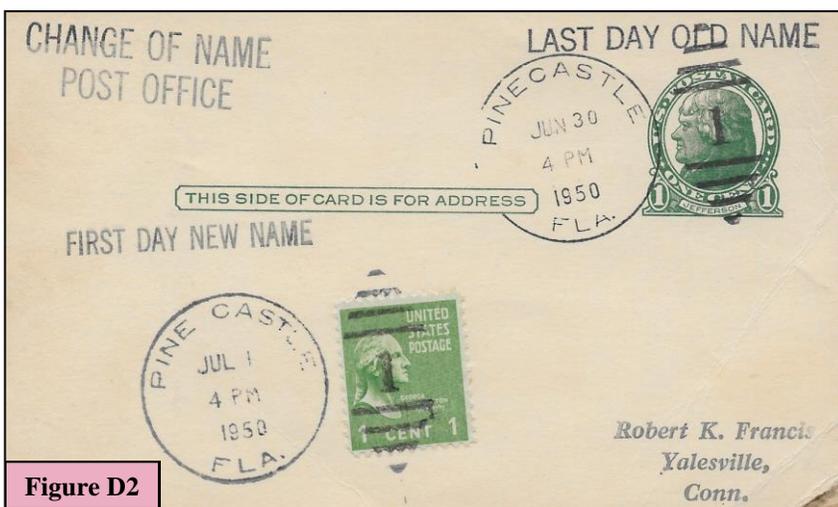


Figure D2

and July 1, 1950, when someone motivated the USPS to change to the original correct spelling. Some think of Pine Castle as “a name without a town.” Maybe it died when the town lost its charter soon after WW I or in 1977 when the post office moved a block south of town and became Orlando zip code 32809.

Think of this the next time you drive south on Orange Avenue which was once part of the Dixie Highway and meet the split in the four-lane road that runs several blocks through the incorporated town of Edgewood. You will pass the Pine Castle

Women's Club on the NW corner of Oak Ridge Road where several CFSC members attend meetings of the Greater Orlando Civil War Roundtable. This includes **Steve Strobel**, **Tom Tomlinson**, **Carlos Guffain** and **Steve Patrick**. **Robert Fisher** is the past president of the Pine Castle Historical Society.

Some of this information comes from the book by Ruth Barber Linton shown in **Figure D1**.

**Figure D1** – An artist's sketch of the original Pine Castle that burned in 1894.

**Figure D2** – A UX27 postal card canceled June 30, 1950, as last day of the old name Pinecastle, and a #804 George Washington canceled July 1 on the first day of the new name Pine Castle.