

Hen's Teeth – Quantity Three

By Francis Ferguson & Stephen L. Strobel

The Philatelic Missive for the month of September detailed two circumstances where being a member of the CFSC benefited the person tremendously. In both cases the outcome was beneficial to the club member, in ways that seem random, but were more directly predicated with the associations the person had with the club as an active member.

A third story has emerged.

Late in the evening of August 19th I received an e-mail to my account as president of the CFSC. The contents of the communication were stunning; there was not only a written description but also a couple of pictures. As a life-long collector, I know enough about a lot of things to recognize a true rarity when I see it. This was a booklet that contained 200, two cent citrus revenue stamps. If complete there would be 10 sheets of 20 plus the glassine interleaving between each sheet of 20. CFA 15, sheets of 20 can be found in the marketplace with some hunting and sell for \$50 to \$75. The price of a complete (or even partial) booklet is unknown as far as I can tell. The big attraction is the booklet being mostly intact with a front & back cover. The piece shows obvious signs of wear – after all it was produced in the early 1930s and was actually used for the purpose intended – paying a “tax” revenue to the state of Florida to support citrus advertising. To put this into perspective – I have never seen a complete booklet (let alone a partial one) offered for sale. This was a remarkable find – any way you looked at it.



I immediately forwarded the e-mail to the only person I know who collects this material. I got the attention of Stephen L. Strobel pretty quickly. Stephen quickly made contact with the holder of the CFA 15 booklet and consummated the deal. He summarized the purchase;

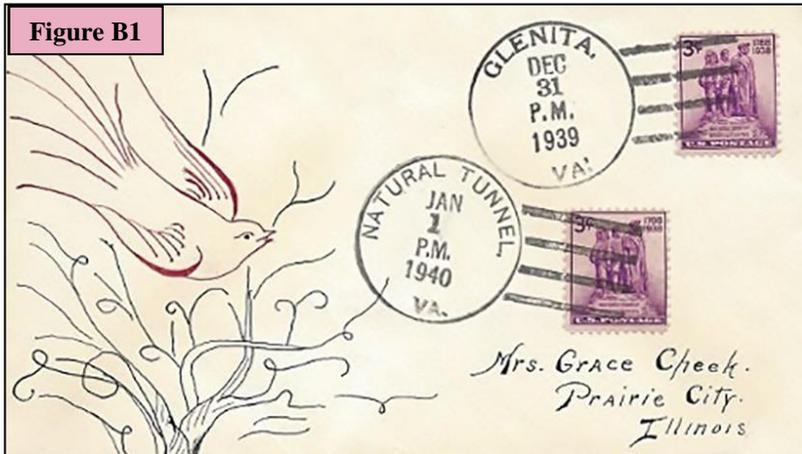
“200 Florida Citrus Advertising Stamps 2 cent Denomination booklet -- CFA 15, a partial booklet, consisting of 5 pages of 20 intact stamps per page and a partial page of 7 stamps intact with one separated stamp from this 6th page, for a total of 108 stamps. There are some perf separations on some perimeter stamps on two of the pages and two stamps with a tear, also two stamps with minor edge staining mark. Interleaving is included for only the pages in the booklet with none of the extra interleaves. Gum appears complete and undisturbed. Four stamps on the last page have partially adhered to the interleaving at the binding. The cover appears with normal wear for its age with some light pen markings -- that looks like 'Mike'. Staples and binding are intact. The back cover has worn from age.”

Sometimes simply being in the right place at the right time makes a stamp collector's day. You can't predict when and where some of this material will come out of hiding. Generational shifts often play a part in what comes out for the next generation of collectors to appreciate. Keep your eyes open!

Where Was Woodside, L.I.?

by Thomas Lera

The Glenita Post Office was established September 25, 1923, 1600 feet from the Norfolk Southern Railway train depot. Elbert R. Walker as its first postmaster, then on October 15, 1924, Ernest D. Qualls was appointed postmaster. On January 1, 1940, its name was changed to Natural Tunnel and it operated until February 28, 1955, with mail then going to Clinchport for processing. **[Figure B1]**



[Figure B2] 4-Bar Last Day and First Day cancels. Ernest D. Qualls sent the below First Day Cover with a letter to H. B. Miller, M.D., 54-02 32nd Avenue, Woodside, L.I.

Where was Woodside L.I., most likely it was Long Island, N.Y.? There were six states with active Post Offices, that had the town name Woodside (California, Delaware, Louisiana, New York, Pennsylvania and Utah).

On the reverse of the cover is a duplex cancel dated January 3, 1940, Flushing N.Y., Woodside Station **[Figure B3]**. Woodside originally had two stations. One was built in 1861 on 60th Street by the New York and Jamaica Railroad; the other, larger station was built by the Flushing and North Side Railroad on November 15, 1869.

After several renovations, today Woodside is a station on the Long Island Rail Road's Main Line and Port Washington Branch in the Woodside neighborhood of Queens, New York City.

The letter took two days to be delivered. How the post office knew “L. I.” meant Long Island is a mystery. Maybe there was a grassroots movement to make Long Island the 49th State, 19 years before Alaska joined the Union. If so, this could be a valuable cover. Or maybe the Post Office had seen this abbreviation before and knew where to deliver it.

