

# Phil's Corner

## Take a Trip and Never Leave Home

By Phil Fettig

Have you ever sifted and sorted your way through a pile of letters and wondered where they might have been? Last week I was sorting a stack of rather bland items when a stamp, Australia Scott 218, on a cover caught my eye. While it was the attractive postage that was my initial focus, a little probing into the history of the envelope revealed a story of a pioneer flight between Australia and Chile, stopping at locations I would love to visit!

The end of World War II in 1945 brought increased use of aircraft for peaceful purposes such as passenger and mail transportation. However as of early 1951, these technical advances had not yet provided flight service between Australia and locations in South America, such as Chile.



Figure 1

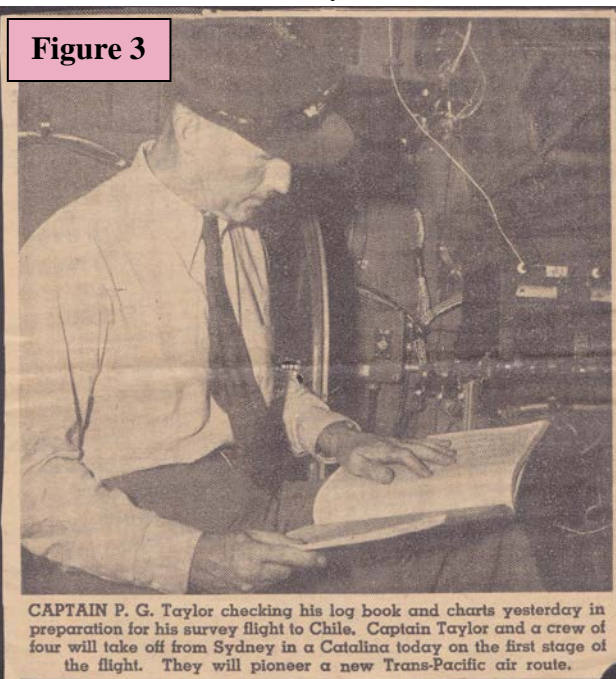
Chile. **Figure 1** shows the cover carried on the flight with a rubber stamp cachet and a cancellation applied March 12<sup>th</sup>, in Sydney prior to the actual day of departure.

I would have loved the trip island hopping across the Pacific. The first stop was in Noumea, New Caledonia followed by the Fiji Islands, Tonga and Aitutaki. French Polynesia was next with visits to



Figure 2

Tahiti and Mangareva. The Chilean Special Territory of Easter Island was the last layover prior to the destination. Not only are these places stunning and picturesque, but I can only dream of the philatelic treasures that could have been created. Of course, returning to reality, I do not know what postal services were available and the covers were not canceled at the stopovers. **Figure 2** shows the arrival cancel at Valparaiso on March 26, 1951 and the return to Sydney on April 21<sup>st</sup>.



CAPTAIN P. G. Taylor checking his log book and charts yesterday in preparation for his survey flight to Chile. Captain Taylor and a crew of four will take off from Sydney in a Catalina today on the first stage of the flight. They will pioneer a new Trans-Pacific air route.

The aircraft was returned to inactive storage and is now on display at the Powerhouse Museum in Sydney. Captain Taylor [**Figure 3**] was awarded a gold medal for the flight and even more impressive, was Knighted in 1954 for his accomplishments in aviation.





# Reminiscences The “Best of the Best”??

By Michael Rogers

Winter Park Stamp & Coin Shop was the first street level stamp shop Winter Park ever had; including “coins” in the name referred to 5% of our inventory, not much there. I included coins in the name so to deny some bright fellow competing with us down the pike the opportunity to become the Winter Park Coin Shop.

I’m no designer. Fortunately the brilliant interior designer Julie Enslow, with ASID credentials no less, stepped in. To overcome the echo effect of 20 foot high ceilings in a small space, she dropped cloth baffles from the ceiling for a more intimate feeling. A turquoise carpet accented beige and cream laminate cabinets. Beautiful!

Her daddy John Enslow collected U.S. stamps and always wanted to complete his commemoratives. Building my shop made it possible. Years later, I sold John’s complete U.S. commems to a single collector in Sanford.

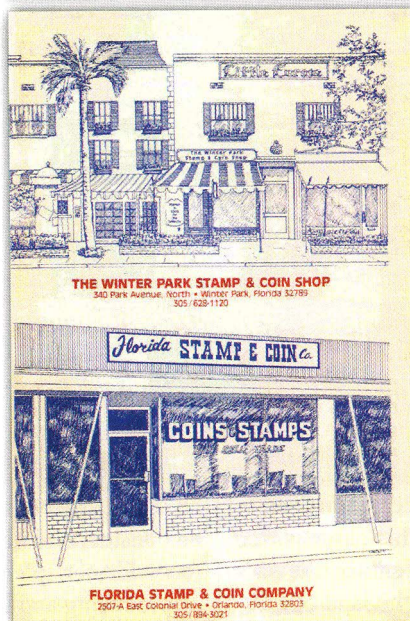
I lacked adequate capital and inventory. On the up side, I had minimal expenses both from the shop and personally, being single and concentrating on building the shop. It was really satisfying.

Back in 1978 when I opened my stamp shop, the rules were different. Right in Central Florida, there were three over the counter stamp shops beside me. Each had their way of determining a fair retail price.

Dealers in 1978 would rely upon a Brookman or H. E. Harris price guide, saying that, or a small discount from it was the price. Or pull out a Scott Catalogue and demand a percentage, usually 50-80% of catalogue.

Starting fresh, I ran my pricelists in a house organ called *Central Florida Stamp News*. Mailed monthly to any collector who visited plus potentials on a one shot basis, the newsletter reminded folks we existed Sales! Pricelists! New purchases.

I sure didn’t want to base my prices on someone else’s work so I started with a U.S. list No. 610 to date, singles mint and



Front and back covers from the Winter Park Stamp Shop’s 1982 price list. Note the quaint setting for the shop.

used, plate blocks No. 772 to date. Later on I added some early material. By 1982, the pricelist grew to 40 pages, carrying U.S. possessions, U.S. sheets, ducks, Confederates, DWI, Offices in China, and U.N. Then albums and supplies. Even Stanley Gibbons and Michel.

These days when I go through a collection formed in Central Florida, often a flyer or card from Winter Park Stamp Shop will be present. Great memories!. ☒