



#699  
August 1968



## The Cover Story

### Fire Cancellations on U.S. Revenues

Figure 1  
Pen & Ink  
Cancellation



Figures 2 & 3

Figure 2 – R23c – 5¢ Agreement – North American Fire Insurance Company, Hartford, CT  
Figure 3 – R24c – 5¢ Certificate – American Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Providence RI

## Program Schedule (May & June)

**May 1st meeting** - CFSC Website tutorial by Francis Ferguson & David Allen; followed by a "Members Show & Tell" & Silent auction.

**2nd meeting** - First Day Canceled Souvenir Cards presented by Steve Patrick; & a silent auction.

**June 1st meeting** - Cried Auction \$5 minimum

**2nd meeting** - Transportation Covers presented by John Catailler & silent auction.

## April Meeting Recap

The first meeting of April had 26 folks in attendance & a "Cried Auction", with 8 people for dinner — Francis Ferguson won the door prize. Tom Hart called the auction with the assistance of Steve Patrick and sold 26 of 49 lots for a total of \$784. The second meeting started with 24 folks in attendance, with 10 for dinner — Richard Blanchard won the \$10 door prize and Tom Tomlinson won the \$10 Birthday prize. Mike Smith did a presentation on the Scott 11A Yellow Cancel from Placerville, California and it was well received. The silent auction sold 20 lots for \$215.50.

## Event Calendar 2022

Maitland Show	June 4
FSDA-Fall One Day	September 10
FLOREX 2022	December 2-3

For more info: [www.FloridaStampShows.com](http://www.FloridaStampShows.com)

## New Member

Still waiting, looking forward to member # 757 and beyond to join the club. Know someone who may be interested, be sure to invite them to join

## Dinner Plans

There are plans to meet at 4:30pm at the Chuan Lu Garden located at 1101 E. Colonial Drive. Located on the North side of Colonial Drive one block west of Mills Ave. There is plenty of parking in the lot behind the restaurant. Bring your appetite — and stamp or other general discussion topics.

## Quoted

*"Great minds discuss ideas; average minds discuss events; small minds discuss people."*

Eleanor Roosevelt [1884-1962]  
political figure; diplomat;  
activist, and first lady from  
1933 to 1945.

Eleanor Roosevelt



## The Editors Box

Just one of those little covers that catch your eye!

First off it is a small cover measuring 2 3/4 inches by 4 1/4 inches; it has a nice looking stamp with an interesting cancel. The postmark is from Derby Line, VT.

Where is Derby Line, VT you may ask. It is a village on the U.S.—Canadian border. It is known for the Haskell Free Library and Opera House, which was deliberately constructed on the international border line in 1904. That way people from both the United States and Canada could use the facility without having to go through border security. More could be added to the story, but I just wanted to show how easy it is to write an article for the club newsletter and encourage everyone to share a little something from your collection!



## President's Message by Mike Schumacher

The search for a new FLOREX venue is making progress and we are hopeful to have a signed contract in hand soon. Once that happens, then the work begins—to make for a smooth transition to the new location and have everything run as smoothly and efficiently as it has in the past. With that said one of the most immediate needs is for someone to step up and be the **Exhibit Chairman**. Robert Fischer has done an outstanding job over the past several years (is retiring from the position) and is willing to work with and share his knowledge and expertise with someone willing to learn the position. It is an essential position for FLOREX and is an integral part of making FLOREX a success. I recently met with Robert and obtained from him a list of duties for the position. If you are interested, please contact me ASAP! Thank you!

The regular club meetings on the First & Third Thursdays of the month have been progressing well, as we get further and further past the pandemic. There have been about 22 to 28 people in attendance at each meeting and its good to see and discuss philately with other club members in person again. In time, I am certain we will again see attendance levels return to the numbers we had prior to the pandemic. There have been some interesting and excellent presentations and plenty of items to bid on in the auctions. Be well, be safe and join us when you feel comfortable to return to the meetings.

We all wish **Mel Borofsky** a full and speedy recovery and look forward to seeing his smiley face back at the meetings real soon. In the meantime, he is still working to keep up on his duties as club secretary. Thanks Mel and may your recovery be swift and full!

Club ID badges are available for the cost of \$13.50. If you need one, email Rick Cohen or see him at a meeting to place your order. Club shirts are also available for \$15. If you need one, let me know and I can bring one to the next club meeting.

A heads up: The USPS is seeking price changes to take effect July 10, 2022 if approved by the Postal Regulatory Commission. The new rates if approved would include a two cent increase on First-Class Mail Forever stamps from 58 cents to 60 cents. Other proposed price increases include:

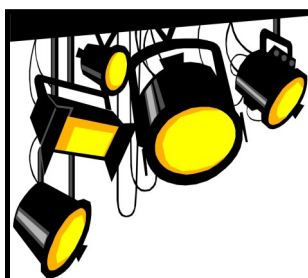
Letters (metered 1oz) from 53 cents to 57 cents      Letters (additional ounce{s}) from 20 cents to 24 cents  
Domestic Postcards from 40 cents to 44 cents      International letters (1 oz) from \$1.30 to \$1.40

Even if these price increases are approved - The U.S. Postal service will still have the lowest letter-mail rates in the world. A complete price filing by the Postal Service can be found at the PRC site under daily listings at [prc.gov/dockets/daily](https://prc.gov/dockets/daily) or on the Postal Service's website [pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index](https://pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index). So maybe its time to pay a visit to those dealers at the shows selling discounted face value stamps or your local post office to stock up on some Forever stamps.

Just think, all of those mint 2007 Liberty Bell stamps that you bought and have been saving are now worth 17 cents more than you paid for them, and if the new rate is approved they will again increase in value another .02 cents. And you don't even have to worry about price drops like you do with your money invested in the stock market. And how many other mint Forever stamps have you bought and saved since 2011 when all First class letter rate stamps have been issued as Forever stamps?



The very best to everyone, as you pursue your endeavors in philately in the years head!



### Member Spotlight!      Newton (Newt) Kulp

Author of this months cover story "Fire Cancellations on Revenue Stamps" has been an active CFSC member since August of 2010. He has been an endless contributor of his time and knowledge to assist the club and its members. He has been a regular pillar of steadfastness at FLOREX and the other stamp shows throughout the year making sure that tasks get completed. Thanks Newt!



## Cover Story - Fire Cancellations on US Revenues

By Newt Kulp

As stamp collectors, we know that there are numerous specialized areas of collection topics. Probably the largest of which is the standard postage stamp. One can collect many topics within this broad category. Most members of the club know that one of my topicals is fire related items on stamps which include fire trucks, firemen, actual fires and the like. Scott catalogs have assigned almost every letter of the alphabet to this long list of categories. One can expand the scope of a collecting interest beyond the basic postage stamp by specializing in a combination of topic and category. This article illustrates one such “marriage” from my collection – fire related cancellations on United States revenue stamps.

Before I get into the topic a little background is in order for those of you who are not knowledgeable in US revenue stamps. On October 1, 1862, as part of a broad set of taxes enacted by the United States Congress to help pay for the Civil War, an extensive schedule of documentary stamp taxes was put into effect. For the next ten years additions and modifications were enacted until all but the 2¢ bank check levy were rescinded on September 30, 1872. During that ten-year period, virtually every type of legal document and transaction document was taxed. Some were taxed at a flat rate, others at a graduated rate depending upon the value of the document or transaction. Books have been written on these taxes. A large number of stamps were issued for specific types of documents. A few examples are bank checks, insurance policies, wills, bills of lading and so on. A total of 102 different stamps were issued in various denominations from 1862 to 1871. For the most part, a stamp(s) of the correct type was placed on the document and then cancelled. At first, a document had to have the correct stamp type to be legal, but shortly after the uses began, this rule was ignored, because of the lack of a specific needed type. The only requirement was that the face value of the stamp(s) equaled the correct tax.

The cancellations were of two types. One was the manuscript version where a clerk would use a pen and ink to cancel the stamp (figure 1—shown on front cover), making sure the cancellation encompassed both the document and stamp (to prevent the soaking off and reusing the stamp). The second and the subject of this article are those stamps cancelled with a pre-made die stamp. Companies who processed large amounts of documents such as insurance companies had hand-held die cancellation devices made with changeable date inserts. There are many such cancellations found today with pricing from a few dollars to over \$100. I have limited my collection to only those companies with a tie to a fire theme and that I could purchase for \$10 or less. Thus, some of the more rare and expensive examples will not be illustrated. The rest of this article shows a few examples of various cancellations on various different stamp types. (Figures 2 & 3 shown on front cover)

Figure 2 – R23c – 5¢ Agreement – North American Fire Insurance Company, Hartford, CT

Figure 3 – R24c – 5¢ Certificate – American Fire and Marine Insurance Company, Providence RI

Figure 4 – R43c – 25¢ Bond – Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance Company, Montpelier, VT

Figure 5 – R44c – 25¢ Certificate – Williamsburgh City Fire Insurance Company, Brooklyn, NY

Figure 6 – R44c – 25¢ Certificate – New Amsterdam Fire Insurance Company, New York, NY

Figure 7 – R46c – 25¢ Insurance – Pacific Fire Insurance Company, New York, NY

Figure 4 – R43c – 25¢ Bond –  
Vermont Mutual Fire Insurance  
Company, Montpelier, VT



### NOTES:

The R##c is the Scott number and the c indicates a perforated stamp (a is imperforated, b is partially perforated, c is perforated with d and above various variations).

The cancellation next to the stamp is an image of an example of the insurance company and may not be the actual cancellation found on the stamp.

Figure 5 – R44c – 25¢ Certificate  
– Williamsburgh City Fire Insurance Company, Brooklyn, NY



Figure 6 – R44c – 25¢ Certificate  
– New Amsterdam Fire Insurance Company, New York, NY



Figure 7 – R46c – 25¢ Insurance – Pacific Fire Insurance Company, New York, NY

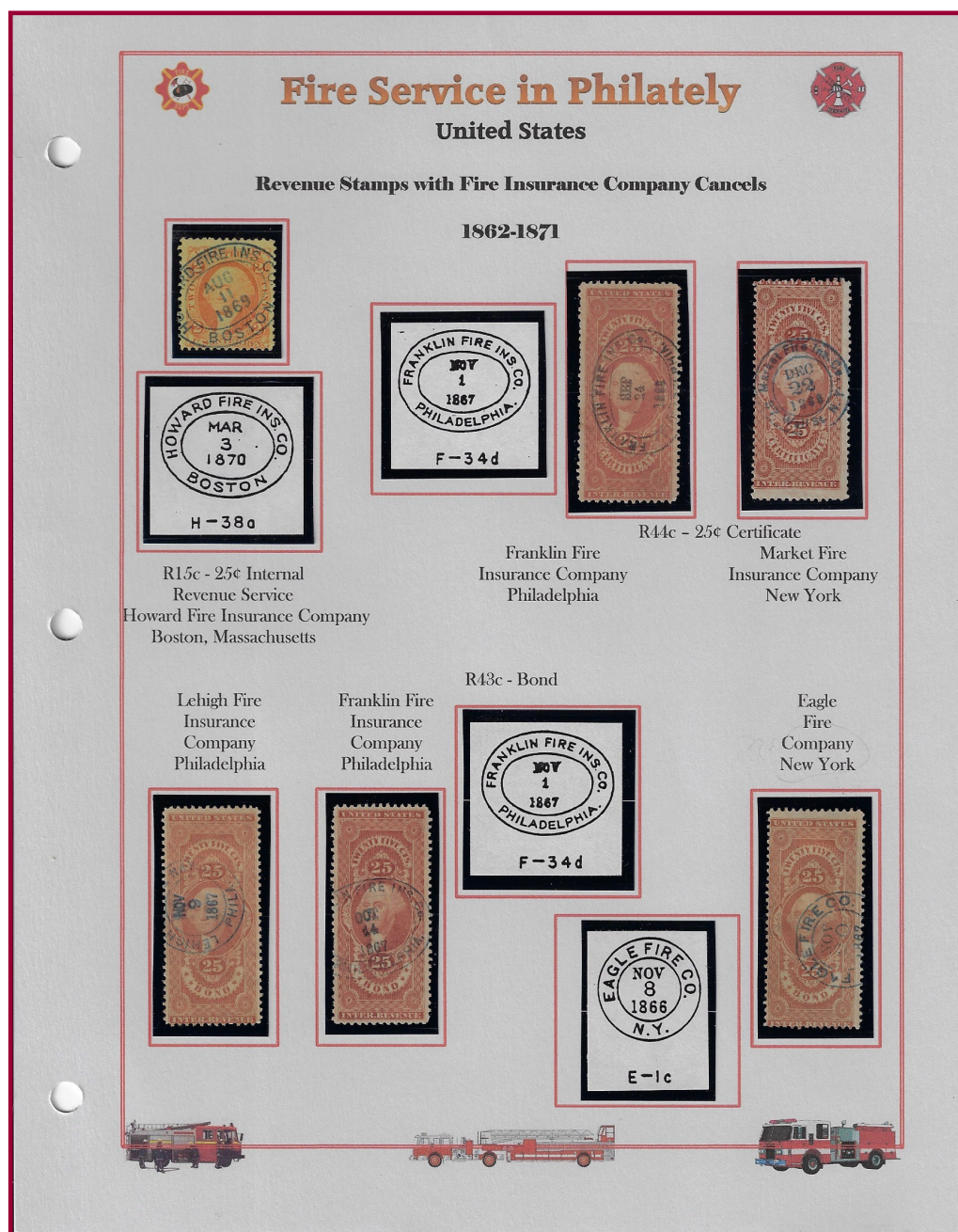


Figure 8 is a scan of one of the pages from my self-created album.



## CFSC Spring Picnic

By Mike Schumacher

What a beautiful day for a picnic! The sun was shining and the temperature was perfect. It was great to see people out enjoying some wonderful food and friends!

Thanks to Gene Perry and Steve Patrick for taking the lead on organizing the event!

Thanks to Francis Ferguson for the sweet corn!

A total of about 24 people attended including a visit from

Florida House of Representative Daisy Morales.



Thanks Steve, for bringing some albums along for people to see and enjoy!

What did you say was in the collection? I'll be over to look at it as soon as I eat.

### NEW ARRIVAL!!!



Central Florida newest philatelist has arrived. Born on Monday, April 11<sup>th</sup> to Jim Cooney and his wife Zoe, Abraham Cooney has already expressed interest in collecting. He is gravitating toward Abe Lincoln topicals and, of course, worldwide classics!

# Benjamin Franklin and Mrs. Hoffman

By Daniel Wagenknecht



Benjamin Franklin was a notorious womanizer.  
But this article is not about that.



Mrs. Hoffman wasn't even born until 180 years after the American Revolution. Mrs. Hoffman was the mother of twin boys, Sean and Sam, who went to the same parochial school I did. Mrs. Hoffman brought a bundle of envelopes to our school, which she had found as she cleaned out her grandparents' house. Most of them had stamps on them with the images of Benjamin Franklin and George Washington. She let us look at the very old stamps. I remember a cut-out envelope corner with a 1-cent green Franklin. It was the oldest stamp I had ever seen. I was 8 years old that year, 1976, and everyone was patriotic. We were all celebrating the Bicentennial and studying about the Founders.

Mrs. Hoffman let me keep some of the stamps. Pretty soon I had a paperback Treat stamp album and learned about stamp hinges, soaking, and stamps on approval. I sent for free stamps from Mystic, Harris, and Garcelon. Members of my church and relatives started clipping and saving stamps for me, and my brother Steve and my best friend Luke shared and swapped and spent a little money to build our little collections. Luke once boasted that his father had a suitcase full of stamps. Imagine that—a whole suitcase! I had another advantage—two of my uncles were foreign missionaries, one in Korea and one in the Philippines. I loved when my parents got their letters. A USPS Space album and a Statesman worldwide album became part of my habit.

Somewhere around seventh grade stamp collecting fell by the wayside. Then, high school, college, and seminary to study for the ministry. For fourteen years, the stamps slept in a box in my childhood bedroom closet.

My parents came out to California for my ordination into the ministry in 1994. Now I had a house, a wife, and almost a son. To deliver all my childhood toys, saved schoolwork, and family heirloom furniture (really just the creaky chairs, dining room table, buffet, and rocking chair from my grandparents' Wisconsin farmhouse) required a U-Haul trailer. And out of that U-Haul came my stamp collection.

Through that stamp collection came more contacts with people. Jim and Martha were in their 80s. Jim collected every new US issue. Martha collected worldwide singles. When Martha passed away, I received her well organized collection of more than 80,000 stamps.

While I was in California, Neal came to my church. He needed friends; he needed God; he needed forgiveness. He found all three. Neal was a 42 year old ex-convict who was living nearby, in a halfway house, due to mental illness and need for medication. He had killed a man in prison, and after 23 years of incarceration only had one relative who kept in touch. This relative kept a stamp collection for him, which Neal described as "extremely valuable." When I showed him my collection, he thought I must be a millionaire. Sadly, Neal never got reunited with his collection. He suffered a mental break and spent his last earthly years in Napa State Hospital. After his death, I was informed that he had left the collection to me in his will. Wouldn't it have been nice if it really were as valuable as Neal thought?

Through the years, I have "met" thousands of people by learning about the lives and accomplishments of the people featured on the stamps I collect. That by itself has been rewarding. But even better are the real-life friends and acquaintances I have through our common interest in philately. It seems strange to non-collectors that such value and interest can be invested in a piece of paper smaller than a square inch. But it isn't really about the paper, the albums, or the pretty pictures, is it? It's about the people we meet—people like Benjamin Franklin and Mrs. Hoffman.

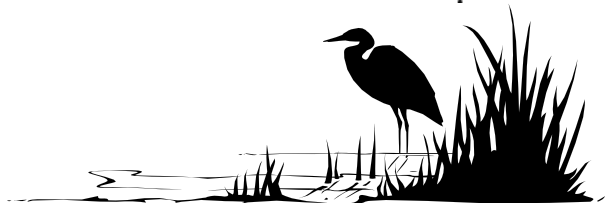




**The Central Florida Stamp Club** is a 75+ year old organization governed by a Board of Directors elected by the general membership every two years and dedicated to the enjoyment of the hobby of stamp collecting.

- Membership is a reasonable \$25 per year, \$6 for youth.
- Meetings are twice a month on the first and third Thursdays.
- The Membership of the CFSC includes many diverse interests that cover the range from A-Z.
- The meeting is centrally located to downtown Orlando and can be easily accessed from SR 50 (Colonial Drive) and I/4.
- The Marks Street Senior Center has been our host for more than 25 years and provides a pleasant meeting room with easy access and plenty of free parking.
- The informal part of the meeting is prior to 6:00pm. The business side of things will be brief. Cried auction and/or presentation to start at 6:10 until 7:10 Followed by auction wrap up and informal discussions. We must be out of the building by 8:00 without exception.
- The Membership of the CFSC participates as the host and sponsor of the one day shows in January/February, April & June. In addition, we are the resident hosting club for FLOREX.
- The CFSC maintains a website: [CentralFloridaStampClub.org](http://CentralFloridaStampClub.org)
- Benefits of membership include; bi-monthly newsletter, a monthly bourse buy/sell newsletter, access to loaner equipment & catalogs, participation in door prize drawings, the right to bid in cried/silent auctions — and much more.
- As of 04.2022

## Central Florida Stamp Club



**NOTE:** Opinions expressed in this newsletter are solely those of the authors placing articles, and are not reflective of the CFSC or any members.

**The Editor of this newsletter, Mike Schumacher can be reached at E-mail address [Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org](mailto:Editor@CentralFloridaStampClub.org)**

### **CFSC Officers (2020/2022)**

President	Mike Schumacher
VP-Operations	Carlos Guffain
VP-Programs	Mike Smith
Treasurer	Rick Cohen
Secretary	Mel Borofsky
Director-at-Large	Newt Kulp
Director-at-Large	Carlos Guffain
Director-at-Large	James Cooney
Director-at-Large	A. Stephen Patrick