

FIRST DAY FEVER
by Helen Bodiford

It was a great day for Tennessee and a great day for First Day collectors. The state of Tennessee celebrated 200 years of statehood on June 1, 1996. The First Day ceremonies, however, were held on Friday May 31. The state is divided into three general regions - East, Middle, and West Tennessee. A ceremony was held in each region beginning in Knoxville that morning, in Memphis at noon, and in the State Capitol, Nashville at 5:00 p.m. I attended the one in Nashville.

I arrived early in the afternoon to give myself time to see the new Bicentennial Mall which was built to commemorate Tennessee Statehood. It was a beautiful place to have the ceremonies. The weather also cooperated as it was not too hot and a nice cool breeze was blowing.

A large tent had been set up on a large grassy knoll north of the stage area where the ceremonies would be held for the Postal Service. This is where they sold the stamps, covers, and other memorabilia and made the first day cancellations. They arrived around 3 o'clock and began unpacking all their merchandise. Soon the counters were setup. A crowd began to gather and a line was formed to buy stamps. We were told they would not go on sale until 4:30. Everyone was getting anxious. Some collectors brought cacheted covers that they wished to have serviced. The lady in front of me had purchased a bicentennial cookbook and she had a stamp affixed on the fly leaf and had it cancelled. Some people had souvenir postcards, bumper stickers, and other items cancelled. The
(continued on page 3)

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well, it's winter time again and there's nothing to do. Fortunately for us we are stamp collectors! We can spend many hours mounting, cataloging, and just simply admiring our collections. Too bad the rest of the world can't see it that way! Winter is the beginning of the stamp collecting season. We have already had two shows in the area. Nashville Stamp Show '97 is less than two months away. April 19 and 20th we stamp collectors will gather at the Days Inn Airport and buy, sell, and just have a great time! As many of you know it's hard work to put together one of these shows every year. So everyone one who can please volunteer to help. See you at the show!

Matt Benward, President NPS

+-----+	
INSIDE THIS ISSUE	
First Day Fever	1
The President's Corner	1
Nashville Stamp News	2
Club Info	2
First Day Fever cont'd	3
A Philatelist's Psalm	4

* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

NEW FRAMES

During our annual stamp show last year we used our new frames. They worked out very well. The old ones were donated to the Boy Scouts. We are now looking into buying a new trailer to house them. Dave Bodkin has volunteered to get information from several trailer dealers. We'll let you know what he finds out. Good job Dave !!!

Jack Long passes away

Jack Long was a active member of our stamp club for many years. He passed away February 6, 1997. He always had a smile on his face and a kind word to say. He will be greatly missed.

Nashville Stamp Show '97

This year the annual stamp show will be held at the Day Inn on April 19 and 20th. The hotel is located at Briley Parkway and Internation Plaza next to old airport terminal exit. We already have 18 dealers committed to the show. We will need volunteers to help put up and take down. Please let us know if you can help.

New Members

David Workman Gary Wolfsburg
David Watts
Ron Brewer

Dues are due

If you haven't paid your dues, PLEASE get them in soon. You may mail them to the address on this newsletter. They are \$7.50.

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #38 Winter 1996

Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Ed Saunders, Jr.
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:

Terry Chaney

Matt Benward	President
Tony Ramirez	First Vice-President
David Bodkin	Second Vice-President
Colleen Lynam	Jr. Vice-President
Terry Chaney	Secretary
Bob Picirilli	Treasurer
Helen Bodiford	Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Buy and swap at 5:30 p.m., Business meeting a 6:45 p.m., and Program at 7:00 p.m.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Road, Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

Kids under 17 get a FREE stamp packet at their first attendance. Ages 6 and up are WELCOME!

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society which is published quarterly.

Opinions expressed in THE GAZETTE are those of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nashville Philatelic Society or its members.

The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

covers the Postal Service sold did not have cachets. I purchased several covers and sheets of stamps and hurriedly went to the place for the ceremony to get a good seat. Chairs were being set up for the guests and speakers, microphones were being tested, and the large stamp picture was being covered with a drape. It was then set in the middle of the stage for the unveiling by Marvin Runyon, Postmaster General who would dedicate the stamp. Guests and dignitaries were arriving, and there was an excitement in the air. Soon the Postal Service representatives began distributing programs to each person there and to the people as they arrived.

The first day program was beautiful. It is a tri-fold with the cover being a cutout in the shape of the capitol building, which is shown on the stamp. The center page has a short narrative of Tennessee and the new statehood stamp with a First Day cancellation. The back page has a large oval cutout. There is an insert listing in the program with a picture of the Nashville skyline on the reverse which shows the oval on the back. It is uniquely designed and beautifully done.

The program started with a musical prelude and a welcome by Andrew Walker, the Tennessee District Manager of the Postal Service. There was a presentation of Colors and the playing of the National Anthem. Remarks were made by Governor Don Sundquist and Martha Ingram, Chairman of Tennessee 2000. Then came the big moment, the dedication and unveiling of the new stamp. I had never heard Marvin Runyon speak before and was impressed with his wonderful speaking voice. He made an excellent speech.

It was announced after the program's completion that the guests would stay for anyone desiring autographs and lines began to form again. I think this was even more exciting. Most collectors had their programs autographed. I chose to have two of my covers autographed instead. Instead of cachets I have Marvin Runyon's, Governor Sundquist's, and Governor Ned McWherter's. With one governor being a Republican and the other a Democrat, this is probably the only that they will both have their signatures on the same document. Martha Ingram also signed my covers as did Pulitzer Prize winning photographer Robin Hood, whose photograph of the State Capitol was chosen for the stamp's design. It was worth the wait in line!

I spoke to several collectors there. They had come from all over the state and other places too. There was one group from Canada who had flown to Nashville and the split into groups, one going to Knoxville for the ceremony and another going to Memphis and meeting together in Nashville to get all three cancellations. One stamp club was collecting statehood cancellations and had been to all previous state ceremonies and were looking forward to the next one in Ohio in 2003. One couple I met from Jackson, Tennessee were dressed for the occasion in bicentennial T-shirts. They had a scrapbook of various county celebrations they had attended throughout the year. They had affixed a stamp to their title page and had it First Day cancelled. They had many interesting articles and pictures in their book. It was a great idea.

After the autograph session I headed for the Days Inn Airport where we were setting up for our annual stamp show. The club was holding it in conjunction with the Bicentennial. We had show covers with the June 1 cancellation and cacheted with the official Bicentennial Logo (used by permission). They were a big hit at the show. I wish I had thought and got the address of the couple from Jackson so I could have sent them one for their scrapbook. All in all I think it was a good day.

A Philatelist's Psalm
by Herman Herst, Jr.

Stamp collecting is my hobby, I shall not be bored.
It maketh me to do research on far places.
It causeth me to correspond with odd people.
It keepeth me alert.
It leadeth me into areas of understanding for curiosity's sake.
Yea, though I live through a winter of inclement weather.
I will feel no boredom, for my stamps are with me.
They provideth me a means of escaping from the tensions of my responsibilities.
They filleth my house with books.
My cash runneth lower.
Sureth interest and knowledge shall follow me all the days of my life and
I will be listed in the ranks of Philatelists forever.

Source: Column published in th British magazine "Stamps". Reprinted by
"Phil-A-Telly", offical newsletter of the Philatelic Society
of Pittsburg.

FROM:

NASHVILLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY
MATT BENWARD, EDITOR
P. O. BOX 60531
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37206

TO: