

The Story of the Christmas Tree
... Author unknown

The Christmas tree came into general use in comparatively recent times. The custom began in Germany and was first mentioned in an anonymous chronicle in 1605. There is a story, however, that Martin Luther started the custom much earlier, putting candles on an evergreen to represent the stars on Christmas Eve.

Another story tells of Saint Boniface when he was a missionary in Germany in the eighth century. He was trying to stamp out the pagan rite of sacrificing people to the oak tree. He led his followers into a forest at Yule time. Showing them a fur tree, he said it pointed straight upward to the Christ child. "Take this tree into your homes," he said, "as a sign of your new worship. It lives when the earth is darkest and has no sign of blood. Celebrate God's power no more in the forest with shameful rites, but in the sanctity of your homes with laughter and love."

By the beginning of the ninetieth century, all Germany had adopted the Christmas tree. The custom soon spread to most countries of northern Europe, but is still unusual in Italy, Spain, and Latin America. The date of the first Christmas tree in the United States has been given as 1804 at Fort Dearborn in Illinois, but research has failed to substantiate it; the date now accepted is 1832 in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Merry Christmas !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. +-----+
Christmas is just around corner with the new year soon to | INSIDE THIS ISSUE |
follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to| Story of the Christmas Tree 1 |
the promise of the new year to come. This new year brings | The President's Corner 1 |
challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show will soon | Nashville Stamp News 2 |
be just around the corner as will the others in the | Club Info 2 |
surrounding cities and states. There will be new stamps | Minutes of the Society 3&4 |
issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found with | 3 cent "Stuart" Washington 5 |
our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and | When do you Celebrate ... 6 |
look forward to better new year. +-----+

Matt Benward, President NPS

* NASHVILLE STAMP NEWS *

Election

The election for officers was held November 13. The election committee chairman was Randy Coble. The other members were Jerry Vasser and Karl Schwabe. All the races were uncontested and after the votes were counted the slate of candidates were elected. A list of the new officers can be found in column to the right. To all the new officers congratulations !

Nashville Stamp Show 2007

Our annual stamp show is being held this year at The Music Valley Event Center located at 2416 Music Valley Drive suite #144 near Opryland Hotel. To volunteer to help with the show please let David Bodkin or myself know. This year we have organized several committees to keep things going smoothly. They are the Show committee headed by Dave Bodkin; the Publicity committee headed by Tom Tribke; the Exhibit committee headed by Bob Picirilli; and the Stamps committee is headed by Marie Farmer. All these committees have several members, but they could always use more help. If you would like to be one of these committees, please contact the Chairperson.

New Members

435 Bill Siesser renewed 5/06
714 Kimbrough, Ed 2/06
715 Coble, Randal 4/06
716 Meyer, Steve 5/06
717 Munn, Everett (Nick) 6/06
718 Jackson, Patricia 8/06

The Volunteer State
Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward
Editor-in-Chief

Ed Saunders, Jr.
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:
Marie Farmer
Tom Tribke

Matt Benward President
Jason Spavins First Vice-President
David Bodkin Second Vice-President
Wesley Lepter Jr. Vice-President
Tom Tribke Secretary
Bob Picirilli Treasurer
Marie Farmer 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 Madison
Branch Library, 610 South Gallatin
Road Nashville, Tennessee 37216.

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

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Minutes Review for January 2006 - November 2006

The NPS held its 3/13/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Six members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 2/27/06 meeting were read and approved. Tom Tribke won the door prize. Ellen Willis was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt gave an initial report on the 2006 Nashville Stamp Show and thanked everyone who helped with setup and takedown of the Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow titled "EFO's on U.S. Stamps".

The NPS had its 3/27/06 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 3/13/06 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Michael McKibben was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming stamp shows were discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A special "thank you!" was made to Richard L. Smith for the excellent job he did with signage and entry exhibits for the 2006 Stamp Show. Matt reported that the NPS Rules for Auctions had been posted on the club's website. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/10/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 3/27/06 meeting were read and approved. Ronal Coble's application for NPS membership received first reading. Bob Picirilli won the door prize. Ora Eads was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2006 and the 2006 Stamp Show results. Tom Tribke mentioned that he had a supply of Stamp Show covers for sale. The business session then adjourned for a talk on "Postal Cards" by Matt, Tom, Dave Bodkin, and Jason Spavins.

The NPS held its 4/24/06 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/10/06 meeting were read and approved. Ronal Coble's application for NPS membership received second reading and approval and he was welcomed to membership. Jason Spavins won the door prize. Ellen Willis was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt asked for 2007 Show theme suggestions. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/8/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 4/27/06 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer's application for NPS membership received first reading. Bill Siesser's Application to return to NPS membership was approved and he was welcomed back to the club. Emmett Sullivan won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Karl Schwaube donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Mr. Smith provided 2007 Show theme recommendations of "the 400th Anniversary of the Founding of Jamestown" and "the 50th Anniversary of the Launch of Sputnik". The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "Stamp Printing Methods".

The NPS held its 5/22/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 5/8/05 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer's Application for NPS Membership received second reading and approval and he was welcomed to club membership. Jason Spavins won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award again! Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Mr. Smith provided additional 2007 Show theme recommendations of "the 100th Anniversary of Oklahoma Statehood" and "the 80th Anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's Trans-Atlantic Solo Flight". The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 6/12/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 5/22/06 meeting were read and approved. Nick Munn's Application for NPS Membership received second reading. Richard Smith won the door prize. Jim Callahan was drawn for the Participation Award, but wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reviewed the Huntsville Show. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt mentioned that the 2007, 2008 and 2009 Stamp Shows would be held at the same location as the 2006 Show. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide presentation on "Alaska and the Mails".

The NPS held its 6/26/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-five members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/12/06 meeting were read and approved. Nick Munn's Application for NPS Membership received second reading and approval and he was welcomed to the club. Ben Price won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Ben Price donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Matt asked for additional recommendations for the 2007 Stamp Show theme. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/10/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Sixteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 6/26/06 meeting were read and approved. Milburn Davis won the door prize. Forrest Wise won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Mrs. Smith presented a recommendation for the 2007 Stamp Show theme. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Matt and Tom Tribke on their personal collections.

The NPS had its 7/24/06 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 7/10/06 meeting were read and approved. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Ben Price and Gary Wolfsburg donated stamps to the Stamps Committee. Thank you! The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/14/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 7/24/06 meeting were read and approved. Patricia Jackson's application for NPS membership received first reading. Karl Schwabe won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award again! Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the second quarter 2006 that was approved by the NPS membership. The business session then adjourned for an APS slideshow on "Civil War Stamps".

The NPS had its 8/28/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/14/06 meeting were read and approved. Patricia Jackson's application for NPS membership received second reading and approval and she was welcomed into the NPS membership. Bill Winstead won the door prize. Bob Becker's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Frank Riley. Thank you! Matt asked that the NPS Officers meet at 5:30 pm before the next club meeting. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

As requested at the previous meeting, a NPS Officers Meeting was held at 5:30 pm prior to the regular 9/11/06 NPS meeting to discuss preparations for the 2007 Nashville Stamp Show. Assignment and responsibilities for Show preparation were made. These include developing an official USPS cancel for Show covers, preparing/using an individual sign-in card instead of the sign-in log, providing a Theme Selection Ballot for member voting, improvements to Show publicity and assignment for cover and cancel development.

The NPS had its 9/11/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eleven members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 8/28/06 meeting were read and approved. Ellie Eads won the door prize. Matt Benward won the Participation Award. Jason Spavins' name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that NPS Officer selection was coming due and that he would appoint a committee to develop a slate of Officers. Ora Eads suggested "the 200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Nashville" as a 2007 Show theme. The business session then adjourned for a preparation of stamp packets and exhibits for the October Stamp Collector Month displays in the Nashville public libraries.

The NPS had its 9/25/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/11/06 meeting were read and approved. Ellie Eads won the door prize again. Robert Hall won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Stamps were received from Frank Riley, Patricia Jackson and Mrs. Swift for the Stamps Committee. Thank you! Matt announced the 2007 Officer Selection Committee selection and that Theme Selection voting would be held for the next two club meetings. Dave Bodkin advised that seven dealers had committed for the 2007 Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 10/9/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/25/06 meeting were read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Robert Hall's name was drawn for the participation award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli provided the Treasurer's report for the third quarter 2006 that was approved by the NPS membership. Matt announced that nine dealers had committed for the 2007 Stamp Show. The Smiths suggested "the 200th Anniversary of the Birth of Henry Wadsworth Longfellow" as a 2007 Show theme. Thank you! Theme Selection ballots were distributed for theme selection. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "the National Philatelic Museum".

The NPS had its 10/23/06 meeting at the Piccadilly Cafeteria with Matt Benward presiding. Eighteen members were present. Minutes of the 10/9/06 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Milburn Davis' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt noted that our show was now listed in Linn's Stamp Journal. After voting on the 2007 Show theme during this and the previous club meetings, the "200th Anniversary of the Incorporation of Nashville" was selected as our Show theme. Matt announced that NPS Officer elections would be held during next meeting. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/13/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/23/06 meeting were read and approved. Jerry Vasser won the door prize. Jason Spavins' name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Matt Benward. Thank you! Matt reported that twelve stamp dealers had committed to the 2007 Stamp Show. NPS Officer Election ballots were distributed and after counting votes, the Officer slate continued as before. It was also noted that due to Jason Spavins' pending departure in 2007 that he would have to be replaced next year. The business session then adjourned for an APS slide show on "Hawaiian Stamp Collecting".

The NPS had its 11/27/06 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/13/06 meeting were read and approved. Jim Young won the door prize. Robert Becker's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he was not present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received from Matt. Thank you! Matt reported that 16 stamp dealers had committed to the 2007 Stamp Show. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/11/06 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

Continued in the next issue
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When Do You Celebrate Christmas?

... author unknown

December 25 of course, you will answer, a bit irritated. However, it is not so definite. Some years ago, four churches in Vicksburg (Michigan) rebelled against the increasing commercialism of this Christian feast. By the way of protest they celebrated Christmas in the month of July. However, they could not part from the traditional white Christmas and had piles of artificial snowballs made.

There are really some unlucky people that cannot celebrate Christmas at all, not in December or any other month for that matter. The international date line is drawn somewhere in the middle between Asia and America at or near the 180 degrees meridian. On this border the calendar skips one day. Passengers of a cruise ship, that crosses the date line on Christmas Day decorated the ballroom in vain and Christmas Day became second Christmas Day.

Even more peculiar is the situation for two islands off the coast of Alaska. The inhabitants would be able to holler their mutual Christmas greetings, were it not for the fact that because of years of changes, the islands each celebrate Christmas on a different day.

In England in 1752 a change was made in the centuries old calendar to make it the same as on the continent. Regardless of protest this change was put through, so that England had to drop 12 calendar days and the December 25th all at once became the January 6th in the new calendar, which caused much disapproval by the population. So the authorities were forced to decree that because of this calendar change everyone could celebrate Christmas twice in 1752.

And it can be worse. A small parish in Louisiana celebrates Christmas when we collect Easter eggs. The reason for this is simply a shortage of time. The local population earns their living from trapping muskrats. This trapping season is very short, but they will have to live off that income all year. So there is no time for festivities. But in March or April they catch up and then celebrate Christmas with all their might.

Are you still sure now that we are doing it right when we cut the turkey on December 25th, including decorating the tree, lighting fireworks and exchanging presents?

FROM:

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

TO: