



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

The

# Volunteer State

## Philatelic Gazette



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CHAPTER 0431

### Gross Gems Set to Grace NPM by John Cropper, Media Editor Taken from Henry Clay Stamp Notes

Bill Gross got into stamp collecting after his mother spent years buying and stocking up sheets of stamps. She was setting them aside, hoping that, one day they'd fetch enough money so she could send her son to college.

His mother's stamps turned out to be worth less than the pennies she paid for them. But her boy did go on to college, only to become a billionaire bond trader.

Gross now owns some of the rarest U.S. stamps. He has just donated \$8 million to the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington D.C. for the creation of a 12,000 square foot exhibit space, to be named the William H. Gross Stamp Gallery.

He's also lending the museum three items from his prized collection of philatelic objects. These items are a 10-cent George Washington stamped cover, dated July 2, 1847, a cover from the Pony Express mail service, and a block of four "Inverted Jenny" stamps.

Gross laments that, as with Beethoven's symphonies, there's an only finite number of the rarest U.S. stamps. He has a complete set.

"That's the problem with stamps, once you fill in all the spaces, there's not really any place to go," Gross said.

"There's nothing more to do in terms of the collecting aspect. That's just the way it goes," he said. "I faced the same problem with classical music 20 years ago when I recognized at some point, I would hear all that Mozart and Beethoven had created and that would be it. It's not like Jay-Z or whoever creating something new. Nothing new is being created."

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#### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Well Spring is over and the long hot summer is here. Not to worry because summer is the best time to work on your stamp collection! There are several stamp shows coming up in the area. Bill Vance's browse is coming up in August at the Music Valley Event Center (the same place the as the club show in March). The Evansville, Lexington, and Memphis club shows will be coming up in the next few months. Also, many large national stamp auctions are being held live or via the internet. Many stamps seldom seen are available at these auctions. Give a try maybe you'll get lucky and get those stamps you've been looking for for years. And don't forget the club - we have lots of fun stuff coming up this Summer!

Matt Benward, President NPS

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\* STAMP CLUB NEWS \*  
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Nashville Stamp Show 2010  
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Our annual stamp show was held this year at The Music Valley Event Center. I must thank all the club members that helped out to make this years show such a success. You all did did a great job! Secondly, I must thank the staff of the Music Valley Expo Center for working so hard to get the venue ready so quickly and efficiently. Lastly, to all the collectors who attended our show - THANKS. Attendance was up over the past few years with over 200 people signing in!!!

New committee formed  
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The Boy Scout Merit Badge committee was approved by the membership with Bill Edwards at the Chairman. So far the Committee's members are Bill Edwards, Nick Munn, and Tom Tribke. Bill has suggested that club members qualify to become Merit Badge Councilors for the Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Bill has visited the local Boy Scout Headquarters and has gotten the info on the requirements and applications to become a Merit Badge Councilor. Please contact Bill if you wish to participate.

Frank Yost recovering  
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Frank Yost is home recovering from bypass surgery. He was in Saint Thomas for several days. Get well soon!!!

Our New Members  
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Patsy Johnson  
Richard Greer, Jr.  
Jo and Kenneth Jones  
Lawrence Pacl

**Dues are due**

(if you haven't paid this year)

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

Issue #65 Summer 2010

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Tom Tribke  
Associate Editor

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Marie Farmer

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Al Bollmeier 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 6:30.m., and Program at 6:45 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!

THE Volunteer State PHILATELIC GAZETTE is an official Publication of the Nashville Philatelic Society

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.

This publication is free and copies may be requested by writing to our PO box or emailing using the info email address on our web page.

Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org>

The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for October 2009 – February 2010

The NPS had its 10/26/09 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 10/12/09 meeting were read and approved. Linda West won the door prize. Dave Bodkin'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 2009 that was approved by the NPS membership. Nick Munn and Bill Edwards volunteered to act as contacts with the Boy Scouts to arrange possible BSA participation in our 2010 Stamp Show. Matt announced that eleven dealers had committed for the 2010 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 11/9/09 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 10/26/09 meeting was read and approved. Virginia Smith won the door prize. Col. Gregory's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Marie Farmer was welcomed back after a long absence due to illness. Cake (from Virginia Smith) and ice cream (from Bill Vance) was served in Marie's honor. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt announced that thirteen dealers had committed for the 2010 Stamp Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk by Al Bollmeier on "German Airmail Stamps".

The NPS had its 11/23/09 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/9/09 meeting were read and approved. Linda West won the door prize. Dave Bodkin's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Richard Stimak's application for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Tom Tribke reported on a planned "Scouting" stamp to be released in late 2010 and showed examples of possible cached covers for the 2010 Stamp Show. NPS members were encouraged to bring family and friends to the 12/14/09 Christmas Party. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

NPS held its annual Christmas party on 12/14/09 at the Madison Branch Library. A brief business session was held for the second reading of Richard Stimak's application and first and second readings of Ray McIntire's application for NPS membership. Their applications were approved and they were welcomed to NPS membership. The business session was then adjourned and approximately twenty-five members and guests joined together for fellowship and plenty of good food!!!

The NPS held its 1/11/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fourteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 11/23/09 meeting were read and approved. An informal report was also given on our Christmas meeting held on December 14, 2009. Ben Price won the door prize. Dave Bodkin won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Ora Eds and Frank Yost reported that they would jointly man a Stamp and Coin store here in Nashville. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Bob Picirilli gave the Treasurer's Report for the 4th Quarter and 2009 Annual Report. Matt reported that sixteen stamp dealers were committed for the NPS 2010 Stamp Show. It was also reported that the fee for the library room rental had increased from \$5 per meeting to \$15. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation by Tom Tribke on the "Beer Stamps".

The NPS had its 1/25/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 1/11/10 meeting were read and approved. Joey Knight won the door prize. Randal Coble won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported that twenty stamp dealers had committed for the show. Matt asked for help for show setup and takedown. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The 2/8/10 meeting of the NPS was cancelled due to snow and icy road conditions.

The NPS held its 2/22/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and two guests were present. Reading of the Minutes of the 1/25/10 meeting was postponed till the next meeting. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Nick Munn won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt and Al Bollmeier donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Show posters and flyers were provided for distribution. Nick Munn advised that seven frames of exhibits had been committed for the show. Nick also advised that there would be one judge only for the small number of exhibits planned. Matt asked for help with the setup and takedown of the 2010 Stamp Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

# Nashville Philatelic Society

## Minutes Review for March 2010 – May 2010

The NPS held its 3/9/10 meeting (Held on Tuesday due to elections) at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 2/8/10 and 2/22/10 meetings were read and approved. Patsy Johnson won the door prize. David Scutt's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Patsy Johnson's application for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Frank Yost announced that he had a new website at IRNCTYSTAMP.COM. Bill Edwards told how the club could help Boy Scouts earn their Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Matt mentioned that there were now 20 dealers committed for our Stamp Show. Nick Munn reported that there were 15 frames of exhibits planned for the show. The business session was then adjourned for a presentation and discussion on "Gum Used on Postage Stamps".

The NPS had its 3/22/10 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Nineteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/9/10 meeting were read and approved with corrections. Richard Greer won the door prize. Karl Schwabe's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Richard Greer's application for NPS membership received first reading. Patsy Johnson's application for NPS membership received second reading and she was approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming stamps and stamp shows were discussed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Show and Stamp committees. Matt thanked everyone who helped with setup and takedown of the Show. Tom Tribke mentioned that he had a supply of Stamp Show covers for sale. A preliminary report indicated that the 2010 Stamp Show had a small loss of money. Emmett Sullivan said that the show frames and trailer would need repair and suggested that this be done this coming summer. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 4/12/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 3/22/10 meeting were read and approved. Richard Greer won the door prize. Sean Crane's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Richard Greer's application for NPS membership received second reading and he was approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. Matt reported that between 200 and 250 people were believed to have attended our 2010 Stamp Show. Nick Munn said that the Public Interest Award for our show was won by Ronnie Nixon's exhibit on "Caves and Caverns". The business session was then adjourned for a talk on the "Washington-Franklin issues" by Ray McIntire.

The NPS held its 4/26/10 meeting at the Madison Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-one members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 4/12/10 meeting were read and approved. Julian Hosnedl won the door prize. Carol Goodin's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but she wasn't present to win. Jo and Kenneth Jones' applications for NPS membership received first readings. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received for the Stamps Committee from Al Bollmeier. Thank you! Bob Picirilli distributed the Treasurer's report for the first quarter 2010 and the 2010 Show that was reviewed and approved. The report showed a loss of \$414.09 for the 2010 Show. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 5/10/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 4/12/10 and 4/26/10 meetings were read and approved. Dave Bodkin won the door prize. Ricky Wright's name was drawn for the Participation Award, but he wasn't present to win. Jo and Kenneth Jones' applications for NPS membership received second readings and they were approved and welcomed to NPS membership. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamp committees. A stamp donation was received for the Stamps Committee from Matt. Thank you! Bill Edwards suggested that the Club have members qualified to be Merit Badge Councilors for the Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge. Bill and Nick Munn were asked to look into the requirements to be a Boy Scout Councilor. Forthcoming meeting topics were discussed. For the first meeting in June members were asked to bring unknown stamps to be identified. July's first meeting will be an "Ice Cream Social". Matt also mentioned that he planned a barbeque for the Nashville regions stamp collectors in July. The business session then adjourned for a presentation by Tom Tribke on "U. S. Airmails".

The NPS held its 5/24/10 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty-two members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 5/10/10 meeting were read and approved. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Richard Greer won the Participation Award. Larry Pacl's applications for NPS membership received first reading. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, and Stamp committees. Randal Coble donated stamps to the Stamp Committee. Thank you! Bill Edwards reported on his visit to Boy Scout Headquarters and the requirements to be a Merit Badge Councilor for the Boy Scouts. He also provided application copies to apply for councilor. The business session then adjourned for the monthly auction.

# BEER STAMPS - A Review (continued from last issue)

## Prohibition in the United States

by Tom Tribke

In the history of the United States, "Prohibition", also known as "The Noble Experiment", is the period from 1919 to 1933, during which the sale, manufacture, and transportation of alcohol for consumption were banned nationally as mandated in the Eighteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution.

Under substantial pressure from the temperance movement, the United States Senate proposed the Eighteenth Amendment on December 18, 1917. Having been approved by 36 states, the 18th Amendment was ratified on January 16, 1919 and effected on January 16, 1920. Some state legislatures had already enacted statewide prohibition prior to the ratification of the 18th Amendment.

The "Volstead Act", the popular name for the National Prohibition Act, passed through Congress over President Woodrow Wilson's veto on October 28, 1919 and established the legal definition of intoxicating liquor. Though the Volstead Act prohibited the sale of alcohol, it did little to enforce the law. The illegal production and distribution of liquor, or bootlegging, became rampant, and the national government did not have the means or desire to enforce every border, lake, river, and speakeasy in America. By 1925, in New York City alone, there were anywhere from 30,000 to 100,000 speakeasy clubs.

Prohibition became increasingly unpopular during the Great Depression, especially in large cities. On March 23, 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt signed into law an amendment to the Volstead Act known as the Cullen-Harrison Act, allowing the manufacture and sale of certain kinds of alcoholic beverages.

On December 5, 1933, the ratification of the Twenty-first Amendment repealed the Eighteenth Amendment.

## BEER STAMPS – Return

With the repeal of Prohibition, beer stamps were again needed and new issues were again provided to support changing government revenue and industry needs.

The U.S. Government stopped use of beer stamps in 1955. But not to worry, aside from the issues of the U.S. Government, there are beer stamps issued by the states and our military. Even foreign governments issue them - so there are plenty items for the collector.

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### **Gross Gems Set to Grace NPM by John Cropper, Media Editor (cont'd)**

Now, through his monetary gift and loan of his prized items to the Smithsonian, Gross hopes to share his love of stamps with others.

Gross' collection is so valuable that, at auction, the bond fund manager bought a block of Inverted Jennies - similar to the block of Jennys he is lending to the museum - for \$2.97 million.

The 19th century envelope that Gross is lending came from a Pony Express rider's bag recovered in the desert two years after some hostile American Indians intercepted the mail carrier and scalped him. "I had thought these three particular pieces would really attract people to the museum, even people who don't really care about stamps," Gross said.

Gross completed his collection of U.S. postage stamps dating to the 1800s with his acquisition of a Benjamin Franklin Z-Grill 1-cent stamp. The 1868 stamp is one of two known to exist. The New York Public Library owns the other, which is on loan to the National Postal Museum.

**Gross Gems Set to Grace NPM by John Cropper, Media Editor (cont'd)**

Gross swapped the block of four Inverted Jenny stamps he bought at auction with noted philatelist Donald Sundman for the Z-Grill stamp. When a FedEx package arrived at Gross' home containing the prized Z-Grill, his wife, philanthropist Sue Gross, intercepted the box and its precious contents and decided to have a little fun.

A skilled painter, Sue Gross made up a quick replica of the Z-Grill, only she replaced the words "One Cent" at the bottom of the stamp with "One Peso." She then placed the fake back into the FedEx box and waited for her husband to arrive home.

I took one look at it and said "This isn't my stamp," Gross said, recalling his eagerness to open the package. Sue Gross' counterfeit Z-Grill now sits alongside Gross' genuine one in his stamp collection.

"Purer stamp collectors would be up and arms about it I suppose," he said. He also recalled how his mother would go to the post office to buy the latest sheet of 3-cent commemorative issues, hoarding them as a means to finance his college education. "It's kind of like the 'Jack and the Bean Stalk' story," Gross said. "One day, she said 'Bill, take these stamps and convert them into the golden egg."

So a young Gross took the stamps to a stamp dealer, who informed him that they were worth less than what his mother had paid for them. "I took them back home, dejected," Gross said. "My mother was near broken because this had been her lifelong dream."

Gross ended up going to college with the help of scholarships. But he wanted to find out where his mother went wrong with her investment.

"It was a way to validate her original intentions and prove she had been right. She just bought the wrong stamps," Gross said.

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FROM:

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\* Please visit our web page at <http://www.nashvillephilatelic.org/>

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