



The

# Volunteer State

## Philatelic Gazette



"The Postage Stamp is Our World"

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CHAPTER 0431

### Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer By Glenn Vasbinder

In 1939, an employee in the advertising department of Montgomery Ward & Company was assigned the task of developing a Christmas "animal story" which could be distributed by the branches of his firm as a "give away" during the Christmas season. Robert May, an experienced advertising man, undertook to write a Christmas story for children as part of his daily work. He decided to organize his story around the "ugly duckling" motif.

After ample consideration of possible animals, he decided to use the reindeer, because the creature was readily connected with the traditional Moore story "A Visit From St. Nicholas." He decided to give the reindeer some trait which would cause him to be shunned, yet would be of great value to Santa Claus.

The fact that Santa travelled at night suggested that Rudolph might be given large, shiny eyes which could see in the dark. However, he decided against it because it was not sufficient cause for ridicule.

Finally, he decided upon a large nose, which had long been considered a legitimate subject of ridicule in Western culture. Many youngsters, like Rudolph have some distinguished weakness which might subject them to teasing from their playmates.

So popular was May's story that over 2,400,000 copies of the first "give away" edition were distributed that year. The story was not to appear again until 1946 and in 1947 it was brought out on a commercial basis. In 1949, a song entitled "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" was composed by Johnny Marks, May's brother-in-law. The recording, sung by Gene Autry, was the reason it gained in popularity.

### THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

## Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Here we are again with another year coming to a close. The holidays are just around the corner with the new year soon to follow! We look back on the old year passing and forward to the promise of the new year to come. The new year brings challenges to be overcome. Our annual stamp show is just around the corner (which is always a challenge :>) There will be new stamps issued by the Post Office and old ones to be found from our favorite dealers. So have a great holiday season and be looking forward to a better new year!

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\* STAMP CLUB NEWS \*  
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Nashville Stamp Show 2018  
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Our annual stamp show will be held next year at 50 Forward Madison Station and is located at 301 Madison Street in Madison Tennessee. It is located behind Madison Square shopping Center. Hopefully this will be our home for years to come. Lastly as always we can't have our annual stamp shown without volunteers. So if you help out please let us know so we can make our 2018 stamps show a great success! Have fun and make the dealers happy.

Long time member Emmett Sullivan passes away  
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Emmett Sullivan passed away on November 29. He was a long time member of 20 years, attended meetings regularly until recently and always helped out with the stamp show. He was a good friend, a valued member of our club, and shall be sorely missed.

Theme for our 2018 stamp show  
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The votes are in and the membership selected the theme for our 2018 show to be 'Airmail' for 100th anniversary of First Airmail Delivery. So get those airmail stamps for your exhibits at the show!

Nick Munn needs "Cool Postage" items  
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Nick needs some "Cool Postage" items for exhibits at our show. "Cool Postage" items are envelopes with lots of old stamps. Bring them to the club.

Articles for the newsletter  
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I need articles for this newsletter on any aspect of stamp collecting. They can be hand written, typed, or by computer in any format. I would be willing to help write them too. I have been getting some articles during the last few months, but I still need some more. If you see interesting articles in the philatelic press, please let me know. You may contact me at the club meetings or at mbenward@aol.com. Thanks.

New Members  
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None

The Volunteer State  
Philatelic Gazette

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Matt Benward  
Editor-in-Chief

Tom Tribke  
Associate Editor

Editorial Consultants:  
Marie Farmer

Matt Benward President  
Al Bollmeier First Vice-President  
David Bodkin Second Vice-President  
Wesley Lepter Jr. Vice-President  
Tom Tribke Secretary  
Ray McIntire Treasurer  
Marie Farmer Delegate-at-Large

Meetings: Second and Fourth Mondays of each month. Philatelic fellowship at 5:30p.m., business meeting 6:30, program at 6:45, and done by 7:30.

Meetings are held at the Inglewood Branch Library, 4312 Gallatin Pike, 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

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The Nashville Philatelic Society is a non-profit organization.

# **Nashville Philatelic Society**

## **Minutes Review for August 2017 – October 2017**

The NPS held its 9/11/17 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/28/17 meeting were read and approved. Ben Price won the door prize. Rudy Caduff won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps Committees. A stamp donation was received from Janet Erbach. Thank you! A report was given on our social media websites with 956 “followers” on Twitter and 170 “likes” on Facebook. Nick Munn proposed that the theme for the 2019 Stamp Show be “Space’ since it would be 50 years since the “First Moon Walk” The NPS membership voted and agreed to this proposal. Members were reminded that our 2018 Show theme is the “100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Airmail”. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent presentation by Al Bollmeier and Matt on “Stamp Printing Methods”.

The NPS had its 9/25/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. NPS moved its meeting site to the Inglewood Library due to the pending closing of the Madison Library for repairs and upgrade. Twelve members and two guests were present. Minutes of the 9/11/17 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 and Stamp committees. Our social media websites had 956 “followers” on Twitter and 171 “likes” on Facebook. The business session was then adjourned for an interesting presentation by Al Bollmeier and Matt on “Stamp Adhesives”.

The NPS held its 10/9/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Eight members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 9/25/17 meeting were read and approved. Rudy Caduff 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 Stamps committees. Larry Pacl and Matt donated stamps for the Stamp Committee. Thank you! An update was given on our social media websites with 952 “followers” on Twitter and 169 “likes” on Facebook. It was reported that notices had been sent out for our 2018 Stamp Show scheduled for March 10 & 11, 2018. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk on “Stamp Gums” by Matt Benward.

The NPS held its 10/23/17 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Six members were present. Minutes of the 10/9/17 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. It was reported that stamps had been donated to several local schools for their programs. Social media reported that our sites had 169 “likes” on Facebook and 956 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt mentioned that so far five dealers had committed for our 2018 Stamp Show. NPS members were also reminded about the need for volunteers for Show setup and take-down. The business session then adjourned for an excellent talk on “Stamp Gums” by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS held its 11/13/2017 meeting at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 10/23/2017 meeting were read and approved. Bill Bowman won the door prize. Steve Meyer won the Participation Award. Forth coming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Social media reports that our sites had 168 “likes” on Facebook and 968 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt reported that five dealers had committed to come to our 2018 Stamp Show. Nick Munn presented Jim Cate with the 2017 Stamp Show Grand Award for his exhibit. Nick also distributed the Prospectus for Stamp Show Exhibitors. The business session then adjourned for an interesting presentation on “Stamp Watermarks” by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS meeting for 11/27/2017 was held at the Inglewood Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 11/13/2017 meeting was read and approved. Steve Meyer won the door prize. Marie Farmer won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Social media reports that our sites had 168 “likes” on Facebook and 976 “followers” on Tweeter. Matt mentioned that six dealers had committed to our 2018 Stamp Show and that help would be needed for setup and takedown of the Show. The business session then adjourned for a talk on “Coil Stamps”.

# **Nashville Philatelic Society**

## **Minutes Review for June 2017 – August 2017**

The NPS had its 6/12/2017 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Fifteen members and three guests were present. The informal minutes of the 5/22/17 meeting were read and approved. Larry Pacl won the door prize. Ken Owen won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Matt reported on the Louisville and Huntsville Stamp Shows. Reports were presented from the Phone, Stamp and Social Media committees. Stamp donations were received from Larry Pacl, Al Bollmeier and Matt. Thank you! Matt advised that our Twitter site had 960 “followers” and Facebook had 160 “likes”. It was reported that APS had exhibit frames for sale at approximately \$150 apiece and that we needed ten additional frames for our shows. It was decided to wait for a better price. Matt reported that the search for a site for our auction meetings continues. Rudy Caduff mentioned that a new Bavarian Bier Haus restaurant had opened and that he would see if NPS could hold our auction meetings there. The business session then adjourned for an interesting talk on “Philatelic Literature” by Al, Matt and others.

The NPS held its 6/26/2017 meeting at the Madison Hibachi Grill with Matt Benward presiding. Ten members and one guest were present. Minutes of the 6/12/17 meeting were read and approved. Due to the busy nature of the meeting site formal meeting records were not maintained. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS had its 7/10/2017 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Thirteen members and three guests were present. The informal minutes of the 6/26/17 meeting were read and approved. Stephen Williams applied to rejoin NPS after over a 60 year absence. He was welcomed back with his old member no. 320. Marie Farmer won the door prize. Ray McIntire won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. Al Bollmeier reported that Julian Hosnedl had injured his leg and provided pre-addressed cards to send to him. Thank you! An update was given on our social media websites with 960+ “followers” on Twitter and 162 “likes” on Facebook. Matt reported that the search for a site for our auction meetings continues. The business session was then adjourned for our annual “Ice Cream Social”.

The NPS had its 7/24/2017 meeting at the Bavarian Bier Haus at Opry Mills with Matt Benward presiding. Twenty members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 7/10/17 meeting were read and approved. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Reports were presented from the Phone and Social Media committees. An update was given on our social media websites with 958 “followers” on Twitter and 162 “likes” on Facebook. Due to the busy nature of the meeting site formal meeting records were not maintained. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

The NPS held its 8/14/17 meeting at the Madison Branch Library with Matt Benward presiding. Twelve members and four guests were present. Minutes of the 7/24/17 meeting were read and approved. John Goodall’s application for NPS membership received first reading. Ora Eads 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. A note from Julian Hosnedl was read indicating that he appreciated the stamps and notes sent to him and that his injured knee was healing, but that he probably would not return from New York until April or May of 2018. A report was given on our social media websites with 958 “followers” on Twitter and 165 “likes” on Facebook. The 2018 Show theme of “the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Airmail” was reviewed. Matt announced that the Show would be held on March 10 – 11 and that the completed contract had been delivered to Fifty Forward. The business session was then adjourned for an excellent talk on “the Anatomy of a Stamp: Substrate (Paper)” by Al Bollmeier and Matt.

The NPS held its 8/28/17 meeting at the Bavarian Bier Haus with Matt Benward presiding. Nine members and three guests were present. Minutes of the 8/14/17 meeting were read and approved. John Goodall’s application for NPS membership received second reading and was approved and he was welcomed to NPS membership. Mark Thompson won the Door Prize. John Horgan won the Participation Award. Forthcoming new issues and stamp shows were reviewed. Mark Thompson reviewed the APS and Cover Society shows that he had attended. Mark won a vermeil and APS Congress Awards for his exhibit in these shows. Reports were presented from the Phone and Stamps committees. A stamp donation was received from Larry Pacl. Thank you! Matt gave a report on our social media websites with 958 “followers” on Twitter and 164 “likes” on Facebook. Al Bollmeier mentioned that a copy of a recalled Audrey Hepburn Stamp mentioned in an earlier meeting had sold at auction for \$276,000. The business session was then adjourned for the monthly auction.

# Coiled Postage Stamps

Today, when it seems that coin-operated vending machines have but recently become standard equipment for offices, factories, and places of public amusement, it may come as a bit of a surprise to learn that a variety of such machines were being marketed in the early 1880's. The turn of the 20th century saw a tremendous increase in the uses to which this type equipment was being put. Dispensing machine manufacturers were quick to consider the sale of stamps as a new use for their products.

They were soon followed by several office equipment firms which introduced lines of stamp-affixing machines. At the time, printing of postage stamps was confined to individual sheet form. In order to obtain stocks for stamp dispensers, it was necessary for either the machine manufacturer or the private user to attach a given number of sheets of stamps one to another, cut the rows of stamps into strips, and then wind the strips into coils. This was a tedious task. Then too, the sheets had been perforated for separating the stamps by hand and work so perforated often proved too fragile for dispensers. The solution lay in making un-perforated sheets available to be produced into coils privately. Imperforate sheets for this purpose were distributed on an experimental basis in 1906, and by 1908 were available at post offices as a regularly stocked item.

Meanwhile the Bureau had been experimenting in processing stamps into coil form. The first of this experimental work was issued on February 18, 1908. These coils were produced from regular sheets of 404 stamps perforated horizontally and cut into strips of 24. The strips were then pasted together to form coils of 500 or 1,000 stamps each. Soon thereafter the Bureau developed a machine for preparing the coils which materially reduced processing costs. The report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for the fiscal year 1909 gives the following description of this piece of equipment and detailed comments concerning its advantages: It is of simple and effective construction and performs the work of about ten operatives. Under the old method of coiling the cost is from 6c to 12c per coil. During the past year the demand for coiled stamps grew to such an extent as to make this expense something of a burden and it became necessary to charge it to the users. With the new machine, however, the coiling is done at a cost of a fraction of a cent and the extra charge can probably be discontinued. If a sufficient number of the machines can be installed during the coming year it should be possible to supply coiled stamps for general purposes.

An improved model was developed in 1910 which cut the pasted stream of horizontally perforated sheets of 200 stamps into strips, trimmed the margins, and wound the strips into coils in one operation. Through use of this machine the Bureau was able to produce the stamp coils at a much lower cost. The reduced production rates, in turn, were reflected in the service charges made by the Post Office Department for coiled stamps. The charge for coils of 500 perforated stamps was reduced from 8 to 3 cents; for the same quantity, un-perforated, from 6 to 3 cents; items of 1,000 stamps, perforated, from 12 to 6 cents; and 1,000 stamps, in un-perforated form, from 9 to 6 cents.

Even with this improved equipment the necessity of pasting the individual sheets together was still a drawback in the preparation of coils. It seemed that the most feasible means for elimination of the problem was the development of a press for printing the stamps in a continuous roll form. Steps were taken to devise such a machine and success in this regard was achieved by 1912. The impact of this press toward facilitating the production of coiled stamps is described in the report of the Third Assistant Postmaster General for that fiscal year: The machine also gums the stamps as they are printed and an exceedingly rapid perforating device has been designed for use in connection with it. . . Another advantage is that the omission of the preliminary "wetting down" of the paper practically does away with the variation due to shrinkage, making it possible to perforate the stamps much more accurately so that the "centering" is substantially perfect, which is not true of stamps produced by the old method. The greater accuracy of perforation not only improves the appearance of the stamps but will facilitate the operation of automatic, vending and affixing devices which feed the stamps by means of pins or fingers engaging the perforations. With the development of this press, parallel improvements were made in the processing of coils of stamps through the years.

# Coiled Postage Stamps Continued

In 1929, the Director of the Bureau gave the following description of coil manufacture: Coils of stamps are made from rolls printed on intaglio web presses and the printing and gumming of the rolls being accomplished at the same time. They are placed in special perforating machines, which perforate the rolls crosswise only, and wind them again into a roll. These perforated rolls are delivered to operatives at specially devised measuring tables, who unwind the rolls, measure them into lengths of 500, 1000, or 5000 stamps, according to the number of stamps to be in the finished coil, cut each length and insert labels denoting the class and denomination of the coil by pasting one edge to the margin of the cut off length and the opposite edge to the margin of the portion yet to be measured, thus joining the measured lengths with these labels. These lengths are rewound into rolls and the stamps are ready for the next operation-that of coiling. The spindle on which the stamps were wound during the preceding operation fits into the coiling machine. Eleven knives on the coiling machine slit apart the ten rows of stamps and trim the margin of the outside rows as the roll is then wound, and simultaneously each row is wound into coil form until the labels previously pasted on are reached. The operator at this point stops the machine, separates each coil from the roll by cutting the label, pastes the label as a binder for each coil, and places her initials or name on the binder. The coils are then carried to tables, counted and boxed ready for delivery to the vault from which they are shipped when ordered.

There was little, if any, change made in this manner of manufacturing coils until 1958. However, since it was realized that the manufacturing methods left much to be desired, improvement in this regard was placed high on the agenda of the overall technological improvement program planned and developed by the Bureau after World War II. In 1955, a contract was made with a private engineering and manufacturing concern for a prototype model of a coil-processing machine. This model was desired for use in conducting experiments geared to the improvement and automation of the coil manufacturing operations.

The contract was let on the basis of functional specifications calling for the mechanization of the measuring, examining, slitting, coiling, and wrapping functions. In addition, it was specified that the machine should incorporate facilities for perforating the printed work. The equipment developed by the machine manufacturer consisted of three separate components: an examiner, a perforator-coiler, and a wrapper. These were received in the Bureau early in 1957. After a great deal of joint concentrated effort and study on the part of the Bureau and the machine manufacturer, the components were perfected to the point that they were placed in regular production on January 27, 1958. Within the year, purchase contracts were made for the additional equipment needed to completely automate coil production operations. It was indeed fortunate that steps had been taken to develop this type equipment. Without it, the Bureau would have been sorely taxed to meet the unprecedented orders for postage stamps in coil form that were received beginning in mid-1958. A factor in this regard was the Post Office Department's decision to inaugurate an intensive drive to popularize coiled stamps; with particular emphasis placed on a new 100-stamp size. With the aid of the new equipment the Bureau was able to handle this increase concurrently with the demands for stamps necessitated by the increased postal rates which became effective at that same time.

The coiling equipment processes the printed web down to finished products of precisely 100, 500, or 3,000 stamps, as desired. First, the roll of work is placed in the examining component and an operative examines it for imperfections as it unwinds. This machine has built-in provisions for the removal of imperfect work and the automatic joining of the severed ends. There is also a means by which the operative can flag individual stamps or strips of imperfect work for a later automatic removal. The examined roll is next placed in the second component which perforates the stamps, slits the work by rows, and forms the individual coils. Those coils containing defective work flagged during the examining operations are automatically diverted at this point into a separate bin. The perfect coils are conveyed by a series of belts and chutes to the third component which wraps each coil in transparent plastic film and applies a label indicating the contents and sales price of the item.

Today, the Bureau has 6 of the examining units in regular use, together with 4 perforator-coilers, and 14 coil wrapping machines. About 39 million coil stamps are printed and processed each day.

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