

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



May 2021

May 1st Free Comic Book Day
Volume 89, # 5



In remembrance of **Neal Danielson** for his many contributions
to the Wichita Stamp Club and its Newsletter

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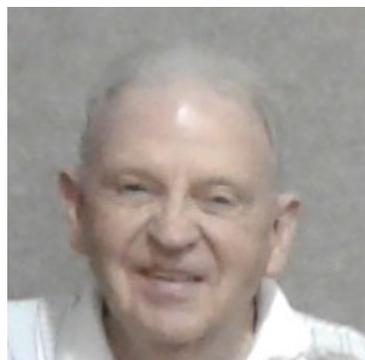
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The Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter has won numerous awards from the American Philatelic Society as a publication of a local society. This is your Newsletter. Support it by submitting an article; words of wisdom; facts about a stamp or cover; an adlet or whatever you think might be of interest to other club members. The opinions expressed in the in the Newsletter are those of the writer and not those of the officers or membership. WSC is a charter member of the American Philatelic Society and is also a member of the Oklahoma Philatelic Society and the American Topical Association. Meetings are held at the Alford Branch Library, 3447 Meridian in Wichita on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. Meetings begin at 6:00 pm and programs follow. Visitors are always welcome. The Wichita Stamp Club welcomes new members. Annual dues are \$10.00 for individuals and \$15.00 for families.

Fellow members, As I write this message, I continue to be optimistic that progress toward controlling the Covid-19 virus will allow us to resume more normal operations in the near future. My wife and I have both completed both doses of our vaccinations, and I have received word that a number of club members have also completed theirs. Please write or call and let me know your thoughts on how we as a club should proceed in reopening activities and club business. Also, it would be interesting to know how members have found ways to pursue the hobby during these trying times. Stay safe I hope to see you soon. **Bob Cairns President**

Philatelic Autobiography by Tom Hankins



Stamp collecting for me started in the late 1960's (after College), buying commemorative stamps (for face value), because I liked the colors, designs and history. The history behind each stamp was very interesting. A good example of this history would be all the American Civil War related stamps. Today, I keep very few of the commemorative stamps and use most of these stamps for mint postage. I have more recently collected used covers of Wichita and Kansas that depict local and state history.

Almost every major and minor historical event in the United States and in foreign countries has been on a postage stamp. Scott Catalogues give immense details of all countries. The more I use these Catalogues, the more I realize how much historical & general information they contain.

I toured the General Mail Facility (GMF) near the now Wichita Eisenhower National Airport when it was the Wichita Mid-Continent Airport. Our guide was a postal employee and family friend. Also, many years earlier my father toured the cave storage units (used for post office storage) in the Missouri River bluffs of Atchison, KS, during one of his Atchison High School Reunions. These tours are not possible after 9/11 and tighter security.

The Wichita Stamp Club members have been very helpful to me and answered my many questions. I have learned much from Club members and I appreciate them. Doing research and giving programs at Club meetings as well as getting Auction Lots ready are fun for me. I find working with stamps relaxing while I am learning new (to me) historical facts.

GALENA, KANSAS by Lou Forster

This is a short tale of a small town located on historic Route 66 in Cherokee County in southeastern Kansas. During a lifespan of 143 years, the town has achieved national fame on two occasions. Here is the story of those two events ...

In the early 1870's, rocks containing lead were discovered around Joplin, Missouri and nearby Miami, Oklahoma. In 1877, a very rich deposit was found near Bonanza, Kansas. The lead was in the form of a mineral – lead sulfide (PbS). The name of this mineral is galena.

The town quickly incorporated and renamed itself Galena (after the mineral). Emigrant miners descended on Galena and the population grew from a few dozen to over 5,000 within six months (and by 1900, there were over 10,000 residents). Galena was now a famous mining boom town. The region of Galena, Joplin and Miami acquired 'the tristate area' nickname. Another mineral – sphalerite – zinc sulfide – an important source of zinc was soon found in the area. Until the mid-1900's, this area supplied most of the U.S. lead and zinc.

Galena is a mineral – lead sulfide (PbS) – consisting of lead and sulfur. Fresh (or recently broken) specimens have a shiny, bright silver coloration; however, they quickly tarnish dark gray/black. As shown in the two pictured stamps, galena is usually found as cube-shaped crystals. Galena is found with or embedded within several types of rocks, the most common being limestone. The rocks in the Galena region are oldest in the Kansas, ... dating from about 330 million years ago.



The second time national attention occurred was in 1983. The Cherokee County Federal Superfund was established, and the area listed by the EPA as “one of the most serious abandoned hazardous waste sites” in United States. This damage was mostly a result of the many years of galena mining. The lead deposits were usually underground. Shafts were dug until the lead was found and then extended laterally following the lead bedding. This created large “rooms” underground, some 1000's of feet in length. Above the rooms was a “roof” of limestone rock, being eroded away by rainwater. Many of the limestone roofs have collapsed into the mines causing large holes and slumps which have filled with contaminated water.

Two main contaminants were produced. Lead, as you know, is toxic. Lead from the mining areas have washed into streams and rivers and have entered the abandoned mines contaminating ground and drinking water. Possibly a more serious problem is the sulfur (remember galena is lead and sulfur). When sulfur (S) is exposed to oxygen (O₂) in the air and to rainwater (H₂O), sulfuric acid (H₂SO₄) is formed. This acid has now washed into the underground mines, local soil and streams & rivers.

Clean-up has begun, but only limited repair is possible. The nearby towns of Treece, Kansas and Picher, Oklahoma have been “bought-out” by the EPA and are abandoned.

Gove County

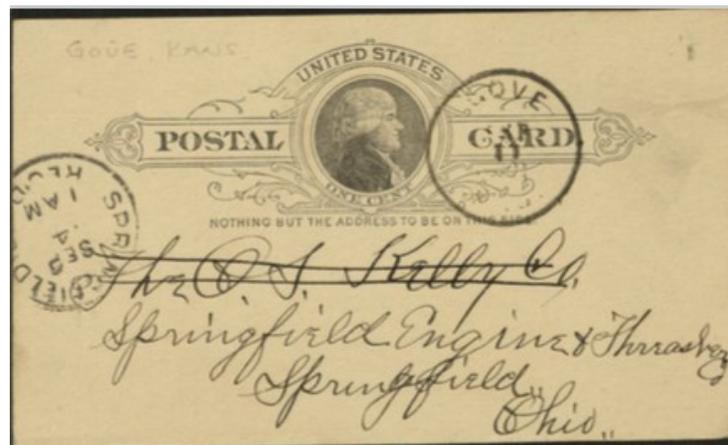
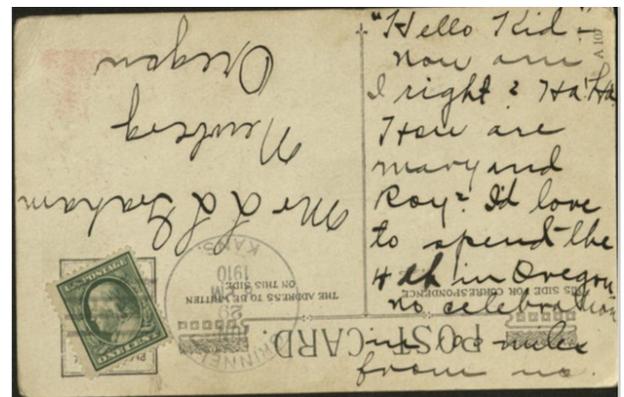
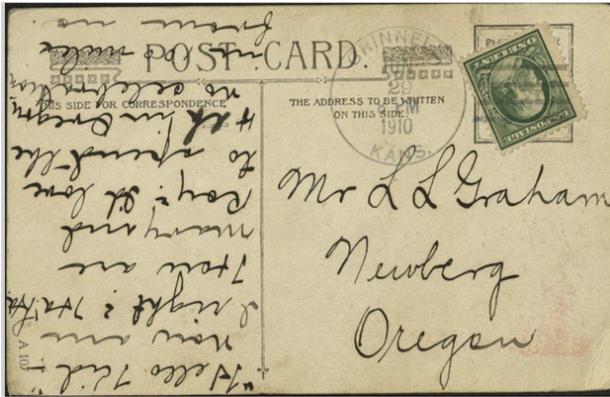
by Jeff Lough

In 1879, when the accompanying cover was postmarked, **Buffalo Park**, Kansas was a town with twelve stores and numerous other enterprises such as hotels, livery stables, saloons, restaurants, blacksmith shops and a bakery. To the right is a picture of a gentleman, James Ryan, and his family posing in front of the town's post office. He was postmaster from 1907 to 1912. The town had changed its name to Park in 1895.



In the far southwestern part of the county stands Monument Rocks National Natural Landmark, a series of large chalk formations rich in fossils. The formations are up to 70 feet high and were formed some 80 million years ago. A photo of some of these remarkable features is found below. Nearby Fort Monument was established in 1865 by the U.S. War Department/ Army to protect the nearby Smoky freight station and its ongoing **mail services**. A few mounds where dugouts had been placed remain.





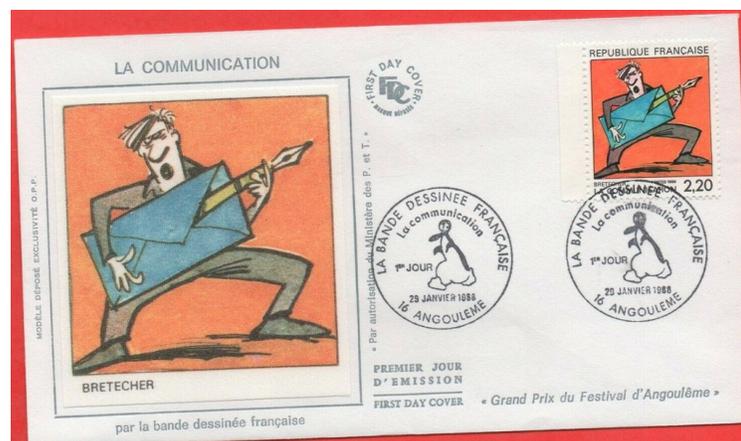
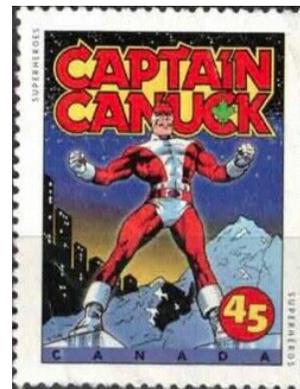
Grinnell was home to the first post office established in Gove County. It was initially established June 6, 1870 and after a couple periods of inactivity was permanently established in 1879. Mail was brought to Grinnell on the Kansas Pacific Railroad, beginning in 1870 when it was part of Wallace County. Grinnell served rural areas with two lengthy mail routes, one going south to Dighton and the other north to Atwood. The June 29, 1910 single line cds-4-bar killer duplex cancel cancels the penny Franklin of the Franklin-Washington series. The author of the card was a prankster of sorts writing the message and placing the stamp upside down on the post card.

The town of **Gove** was created simply to be the county seat and to enjoy the benefits of having the farmers from the northern part of the county coming to the county offices and staying long enough to buy goods and services while conducting that business. Most of Gove County's population has always been along the very northern border. The Thomas Jefferson indicia on the penny postal card is cancelled with a single lined circular date cancellation whose date is difficult to discern.



Free Comic Book Day by Jeff Lough

Free Comic Book Day has been going on for 20 years. If one were interested in contemporary pop culture then a visit to freecomicbookday.com might be worthwhile. The stamp to the lower right is a reminder of our northern neighbor was home to a comic book series featuring *Captain Canuck*. Canuck's first appearance was in 1975, published by Comely Comix of Winnipeg, Manitoba. The story followed Tom Evans, a Canadian secret agent who gained superhuman strength from contact with [extraterrestrials](#). Captain Canuck patrolled Canada in the then-future year of 1993, where "Canada had become the most powerful country in the world". He was the costumed agent of the "Canadian International Security Organization" (CISO). Claire Bretécher was a French cartoonist, known particularly for her portrayals of women and gender issues. Her creations included *Les Frustrés*, and the unimpressed teenager *Agrippine*. A cover and stamp commemorating her work is shown below. She won numerous awards for her comic book artwork.



Prague's Old Town Square, Mucha and Esperanto

by Jeff Lough

The accompanying cover is appealing for its beautiful stamp that was designed for Czechoslovakia just after that country was created from the Austro-Hungarian empire following World War I. Alphonse Mucha is one of the greatest of the world's stamp designers. This Czech artist help to start the Art Nouveau movement. He made many French advertising posters, a variety of Czech postage stamps, and a highly notable set of huge murals honoring the Slavic peoples. Many stamps from other nations as well as Czechslovakia have honored Mucha and his stamps. It should be noted, of course, that there is no Czechoslovakia now, there is a Czechia and a Slovakia. The stamp on the cover is known as one of the Hradcny Castle issues. The post card with the Hradcny Castle stamp is written in Esperanto. Esperanto is one of those languages that was invented by a single individual, not developing over time through the contributions of numerous unknown users. It is taught at a school in San Marino, that small country in northeastern Italy and has been used as the soundtrack of a horror film starring William Shatner, *Incubus*. Esperanto was designed to further world understanding by modifying and using the features of several European languages. I thank Bobby Liao of the Translation Service of the American Philatelic Society for translating, without cost, the text of the post card and providing additional information about the picture on the card's face. The card's message references Jon Hus, the religious dissenter burned at the stake for heresy and one of his followers was celebrated by another Alphonse Mucha stamp. One of Hus' claims was that laity should be able to drink the consecrated wine at mass, not just the celebratory priest, hence the chalice in the hand of the gentleman in the stamp's vignette. The text in Esperanto is:

“Estimataj sinjoro: Min ĝojas, ke vi acceptais mia proponon kai ke mi povas korespondodi kun sanudeano el la plej granda urbo de mondo, kun membro de venkinto brita nacio. Mi estas fiero, ke ankaŭ mia nacio staris en servo de la justo en via flanko. Mi estas medicinisto kaj esperas ke via rorespondaĵo estos tre imberesa. Mia karto montras al vi la malnovau parton de Prag kun la preĝejo, kie iam predikis,, M.F. Hus, la lernonto de via Wiklif. Kun multaj salutoj, via sincere Jindra Mourek”

In English:

“Dear Sir: I am glad that you have accepted my proposal and that I can correspond with a health worker from the largest city in the world, with a member of the victorious British nation. I am proud that my nation has also stood in the service of justice on your side. I am a physician and hope that your correspondence will be very interesting. My card shows you the old part of Prague with the church where once preached by M.F. Hus, a student of your Wycliffe. With many greetings, yours sincerely Jindra Mourek “

The illustration on the face of the post card is of the Old Town Square located in the Old Town quarter of Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. It is located between Wenceslas Square and Charles Bridge. The square features buildings belonging to various architectural styles, including the Gothic Church of Our Lady before Týn, which has been the main church of this part of the city since the 14th century. Its characteristic towers are 80 meters high.

The Baroque St. Nicholas Church is another church located in the square. Prague Orloj is a medieval astronomical clock mounted on the Old Town Hall. The clock was first installed in 1410, making it the third-oldest astronomical clock in the world and the oldest one still in operation. The tower of the Old Town Hall is open to the public and offers panoramic views of the Old Town. An art museum of the Czech National Gallery is located in the Kinsky Palace. Parts of the buildings shown on the post card are also reproduced in the stamp.



The "Hussite"

