The Pennsylvania Philatelist
Hal Klein: Zip Codes-1963 and 1964

The year was 1963. Gas was 29 cents per gallon. A loaf of bread was 22 cents. The nation was shocked by the assassination of President Kennedy. A stamp was a nickel, and the Post Office launched its promotional campaign to “USE ZIP CODES.”

Looking back on those days, I think every postal clerk in the Lebanon Post Office wanted to go “on break” when they saw me coming in the door. I was the kid who pestered postal clerks to pull plate blocks from their full sheets of stamps. I collected stamps, plate blocks, zip blocks, and full sheets. I admit it; I collected ANYTHING postal or postal related from anywhere.

For months the Post Office lobby was plastered with promotional material announcing the use of ZIP CODES. Fortunately for the Post Office, this poster was under glass.

I went to my favorite clerk and asked if the Poster was available. His answer was disappointing, “No, they are never given out. They are destroyed after use as required by Regulations.”

It was January, 1964, a few days into the New Year. I walked into the Post Office lobby, and the poster was gone. I was heartbroken. I went to my favorite clerk to get a few new issues. I think he knew I wasn’t happy. He sandwiched my purchase between a few pieces of “new issue” cardboard (as was the practice of the day), and I noticed he placed what looked like an additional piece of paper underneath the last sheet of stamps and the bottom piece of cardboard. After I paid for my purchase he said, “I have something for your collection—you’re not to say anything to anyone—don’t look until you get outside.” I nodded and said, “OK.”

My heart raced with excitement. Was it possible? I got outside and peaked inside. It was! I got it! I got my Dick Tracy Poster.”

Other February Club Notes

Remembrance: PSLC extends its thoughts & prayers to Bill Snyder and his family on the very sudden passing of Bill’s wife Elouie on Thursday, 14 January 2016.

Lancopex: Please consider a few hours to help at Lancopex. A sign-up sheet will be passed at the February meeting along with a Patron List. This will cost $5 per person or couple. Names will be listed in the show program.

Lancopex Stamp & Cover Displays: Sign up this month for your display. Please list the title(s) and the number of frames and/or pages. All members are encouraged.

Coffee: Len Kasper has agreed to head the Coffee Committee with back-up from Lou DiFelice, Paul Petersen, and Dennis Boucheard. A Keurig with regular, decaf, and condiments will soon be available at club meetings, and members may bring their own select brew of Keurig cups or other flavors as desired.

Minutes continued…

Program: The program was the Winter Auction using the new bid sheets. It seemed that fewer items went unsold due to better lot descriptions. The Auctioneers were pleased.

Treasury Report

Immediate Past-Treasurer, Lou DiFelice is covering for Bill Snyder who is temporarily away on family leave.

Opening: $5,966.30 (1 Dec)
Income: $1,125.00
Expenses: $2,373.86
Closing: $4,717.44 (31 Dec)
3-CDs valued at $6,949.25

Club Calendar

Programs/Hosts/Shows

2016 Programs
9 March: 1.) History and Culture of Germany on Stamps, David Hunt. 2.) Lancopex Prep. Dick Shaefner, Host
13 April: The 5-Cent Enclosed Rate. Bill Schultz. John & Deb Ehleiter, Hosts
11 May: Coins on Stamps & Stamps on Coins. John Brownell. Host-TBA
8 June: Spring Auction. Dennis Shumaker, Host
13 July: Civil War Covers. Dennis Shumaker. Jim Ziogas, Host
10 August: Summer Picnic. Millersville Memorial Park
14 September: Fall Auction. Fred Mackey and Fred Sargent, Hosts
12 October: Pawling Postal History: Past and Present. Charles Di Como. Lucy Eyster, Hostess
9 November: ’16 Open House. Vern Marten, Host
14 December: Dinner

2017 Programs
11 January: Winter Auction. Doug Milliken, Host
8 February: U.S. International Stamp Shows, Part I. Paul Petersen
8 March: 1.) Lancopex Preparation
12 April: U.S. Postal Rates: 1792-1869. Bill Schultz
10 May: Collectibles and Your Estate. Patti S. Spencer, Esq.
14 June: Spring Auction

2016 Shows
Some Sundays Stamp Bourse: 21 February 2016, 26 June, 21 August, and 18 December. Farm & Home Center, Kevin Kellman (K’), Manager, 301-371-4558.
Lancopex: 29-30 April 2016, Farm & Home Center, 1383 Arcadia Road.