LYDIA MENDOZA ISSUE INAUGURATES “MUSIC ICON” SERIES . . . Page 15

Lyle Boardman, holding one of his first day covers; Terry McCaffrey, retired manager of Stamp Development, USPS; and Austin Postmaster Fina Morales. - Photo by Sam Bolen, USPS

PERFINS AND PERPETRATORS... PAGE 6
Here’s a couple of real gems. In my opinion, these are two of the most attractive of all of the Texas County and Postmaster cancels. I sold them together to a good friend and customer many years ago, and recently got them back when I purchased his collection. I am glad to have them back for a while. The Oak Valley marking is from a scarce DPO; it operated in Hill County from 1873-1880. The lovely Eagle Springs rectangle is also a DPO, existing in Coryell County from 1869-1901. If you’d like to have these beauties adding glamour to your collection, let me know.

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**ON THE COVER**  
Collectors celebrate the Lydia Mendoza First Day of issue ceremony in San Antonio.
President’s Message

Death of Robert I. Benner

We sadly report the death of our President, Robert I. Benner of Richardson, Texas. He served as TPA President from April, 2010 until his death on June 15, 2013. He had previously served on the TPA Board of Directors. Bob had been ill for a while but news of his passing still came as a surprise. More details will follow in the July/August issue.

Opportunities

It is almost time for our bi-annual elections, and we have lots of opportunities available. All of the executive offices will be elected as well as three members of the Board of Directors and two members of the TPA Foundation Board of Trustees. If you are interested in running for any of the offices, send a note to our Secretary-Treasurer Lyle Boardman at 3916 Wyldwood Road or by email at lcb1941@att.net. He will send you a brief form to fill out and return indicating your willingness to serve.

Holding office in a volunteer organization is truly an opportunity to give back to the hobby and to see things from a different level. See the list of officers on page 3 and see what the duties of each office are at www.texasphilatelic.org. Click on “Resources” and then “TPA By-Laws” and “TPA Constitution.”

Membership

In this issue, the Membership Report shows that eight members resigned and fifty-one members were dropped from our roster for non-payment of dues. A few members indicated that the reason they are not renewing is because of the economy and others said failing health was the issue. Other stamp organizations are showing the same effect as membership declines and it becomes more difficult to attract new members. Board member Andrew Titley suggested that we contact the people who attended TEXPEX but were not members of TPA and invite them to join. We know they are out there and would benefit from membership and this may prove to be the way to grow. Letters will go out soon.

Please send any comments to Vince King, entech.design@verizon.net with a copy to tkoch@utdallas.edu.
Texas First Days Doing Quite Well in the South
By Tom Koch

I’ve never been able to figure out why North Texas is the least-favored location in the Lone Star State when it comes to U.S. postage stamp first day events. This has been the standard since I wrote the stamp column in the Dallas Times Herald in the late 1970s - 45 years ago. For example, our man Lyle Boardman of Austin is fortunate to be retired for that opens considerable time for him to work frequent opportunities of late - central Texas events such as the O Henry issue, Lady Bird Johnson issue, the Legends of Latin Music, State Flag coil, and the Lydia Mendoza release covered in this issue. I can recall some Dallas “blockbusters” such as the Prevent Drug Abuse issue of 1971.

The 12-cent torch of the Statue of Liberty “Freedom of Consience - An American right” came out in 1981 in Dallas. Got invited to that one but my appendix burst and I spent two weeks in the hospital. The Buffalo Soldiers wasn’t too bad. Fort Worth did have the women journalists first day.

Unveilings haven’t been too bad in Big D. In 1999 an unveiling for the 2000 Audie Murphy stamp featured two of Audie’s sisters and a brother. In 1998, an unveiling at the Wineburgh Library at UT Dallas of the Gerald Ford stamp featured his granddaughter Tyne Berlanga (Susan Ford’s child) and the President’s great granddaughter. I am not sure a John F. Kennedy memorial issue would be a plus or not this year on the 50th anniversary of the assassination. No announcement has been made at this writing.
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We regret hearing about the passing of Jim Alexander of Waco on Feb. 22. He specialized in postal history and was a longtime member of the Texas Philatelic Association and the Texas Postal History Society. James Berryhill of Waco remembered Jim:

“Jim was a very private individual. I met him in 1978 when the coin and stamp clubs met together. He was very active in stamps and was a member of our club when it was the Waco Stamp Club and was a member a short time when it became the Heart of Texas Stamp Club. For the past several years some of our members had been in touch with him but he was not active. His specialty was postal history and had a wonderful collection of Waco Village covers.”

James Rice Alexander was born in 1936 at Waco. He is survived by brother Bob Alexander of Waco and sister Jo Ann Key of McGregor, Texas. In addition he had a considerable number of nieces, great-nieces and great-nephews.

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The Texas Philatelist May-June 2013
PERFINS
AND PERPETRATORS

Remnants of Texas’ Great Statehouse Stamp Scandal

By Tom Koch and Norman Cohen

The short-lived Texas State perfins were a result of the infamous Sharpstown Scandal and several other improprieties conducted by Texas politicians in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Those of us who were in Texas in the early 1970s can still conjure up memories of the Sharpstown State Bank scandal of 1971-72. Many of the top politicians - Speaker of the House Gus Mutscher Jr., Lieutenant Governor Ben Barnes, and Governor Preston Smith - had their careers derailed in various levels by the stock fraud case that included bribery for passing friendly bank legislation.

Suffice it to say the shenanigans were part of a pervasive culture of dishonesty in Austin during those days - good old Texas politics! You can read about it in Charles Deaton’s excellent 1973 book, The Year They Threw the Rascals Out. Yes, that is the same Charles Deaton who has been a longtime stamp dealer in Texas.

Feeling heat from an appalled public, lawmakers who were not voted out were motivated to create strong reforms. Over-shadowed somewhat by Sharpstown is a postage stamp scandal during those years that led to a brief effort at providing legislators with state-marked perfins to prevent theft.

Setting the Stage

To set the stage for the legislative perfins idea, here are various reports during that time:

In 1972 the Cuero Record claimed State Rep. J.T. “Terry” Newman (and former
mayor of Cuero) used $600 in postage stamps to pay for advertising in 1970. The newspaper said Newman used $360 worth of 6-cent stamps to pay for a 1971 ad bill. (The Cuero newspaper won a Pulitzer Prize in 1955 for helping expose a Veterans Land Board scandal). Evidently, this accusation did not lead to an indictment.

The Houston Post reported that a “shocked and disgusted” Rep. Frank Lombardino of San Antonio wanted the U.S. Post Office to consider issuing an exclusive stamp for use by the State of Texas. Legislators would use only the official State of Texas stamp. In the fiscal year ending August 1971, Lombardino pointed out that $402,300 was used by the legislature for postage stamps. “What in the world are 180 legislators doing using $402,300 worth of stamps?” he said.

Good question. State Rep. Walter Knapp of Amarillo was convicted of using $1,200 worth of stamps to buy a used pickup truck. Three days after he allegedly used the stamps for the purchase, the company that sold the truck got $1,230 added to its postage meter. He was sentenced to a four-year prison term for theft by false pretext. The conviction was upheld in 1973. Knapp was released after a year and shot his ex-wife to death, then killed himself.

Here’s a dandy. Rep. J. Hudson Moyer also of Amarillo drew $7,680 in stamps over a 16-month period in 1969 while drawing only $36 the previous year. He drew another $4,680 the next year, and $3,000 more to the end of his lame-duck term in January 1971. That included a $1,500 withdrawal a few days before he left the legislature. He could not have possibly used that many stamps in the lame-duck period of his term. Plus, he never requested one envelope to use with the stamps. Indicted for theft, Moyer testified he believed he was entitled to the stamps but conceded he took $6,060 in postage to pay off a personal bank loan. In 1972 he brought back 103,000 6-cent stamps in 206 rolls worth $6,180 to the House Post Office. Too late. Moyer was told that since he had been out of office for two years, the stamps could be accepted as a gift and not used to alter his contingency expense account. After winning five delays in his trial, Moyer was convicted of stealing $1,500 worth of stamps.

“It is incredible that any person, even as stupid as Mr. Moyer, could think he could be reimbursed and not even give any amount for what he spent,” said Dist. Atty. Robert O. Smith.

Moyer received 10 years probation. He was banned from practicing law during the probation but avoided jail. Moyer’s daughter, Katrina, was abducted and murdered in 1975. He died in 2009 at age 77.

Rep. Tom Holmes of Granbury pleaded guilty to three misdemeanor counts of misusing postage stamps from his House expense account. That plea avoided the possibility of a felony trial on stamp thievery. He reportedly paid $1,995 in stamps toward the purchase of a 1971 half ton Chevrolet pickup truck. He denied using the stamps to buy the pickup. He paid $3,000 in fines that included the postage stamps he allegedly used to buy the truck.

About this time Mutscher, Texas House Speaker Pro-Tem Tommy Shannon and Mutscher assistant Rush McGinty were convicted of conspiring to accept a bribe in the Sharpstown scandal. They received probated sentences. Mutscher’s conviction was later overturned.

The practice of issuing stamps in large rolls to members in whatever quantities they requested with no questions asked ended.

Perfins and Meters

In early 1973 Rep. James Cole of Greenville suggested the House Adminis-
The Texas Philatelist     May-June 2013

tation Committee restrict postage issued to legislators to either perforated stamps or postage meters. Cole said a design, such as a star, could be perforated into the stamps for official use.

In 1975 The Committee on House Administration issued its report on decisions made during the 63rd Legislature.

In the section on the post office a new policy “to correct former abuses” allowed legislators $120 per month for communications (metered mail, telephone and telegraph). They were also allowed $120 worth of stamps per month.

They were not allowed to turn in stamps to be credited against their metered stamp charges. Postdating metered mail was not allowed. Further, no newsletters were to be printed with indicia.

And finally, the use of postage stamps was limited to that necessary in the member’s district office and in the Capitol Building when only one or two letters were to be mailed, and that all other mail processed in the Capitol Building be put through the postage meter.

The perfin design was a “C” inside a star representing the comptroller’s office.

The perfin is 11.5 millimeters in height. The design is listed as C10 in the Catalog of United States Perfins by Joseph Balough and Dorothy Balough published by The Perfin Club in 1979. Balough received the TPA’s Distinguished Philatelic Texan recognition in 1990.

In the spring of 1976 the TPA’s Norman Cohen saw an item in the Dallas Morning News that got his attention:

“If any state representative tries to sell some sheets of postage stamps (or buy a pickup with stamps, as once happened), hold the stamps up to a light.

“If you see perforations outlining a five-pointed star with a “C” in the center, look out. The stamps should be ones paid for by the taxpayers and issued to the lawmaker for official business only. Perforation of the stamps was started by the House Administration Committee last January to prevent hanky-panky that occurred in the past, or at least to help trace it.

“The perforations may have discouraged some use of state stamps. House postmaster Fred Scott was not sure of the reason, but said House members drew about $13,700 worth of stamps last January and only $9,000 worth in February. Each member has a $156 monthly allotment for stamps.

“Scott said use of stamps is also decreasing since the House started issuing members postage meters in May. About 25 members are using meters now and Scott is encouraging their use by all because they will save money. The meters stamp mail as official business.”

Philatelic Opportunity

Cohen saw a philatelic opportunity. He called the comptroller’s office and asked for a couple of perforated stamps. He was told the only way he could get one is on a letter from a legislator.

That put a small kink in his plan so he
visited friend and stamp collector State Senator **Chris Semos** of Dallas. Semos opened his drawer and showed Norman a sheet of perfins. He presented a plate number block of the stamps on his official state envelope to Cohen that bears a 1980 Dallas postmark. (Figure 1). Cohen also received a cover with a state perfin from the district office of State Comptroller **Bob Bullock** in 1976 (Figure 2)

As indicated in the *Dallas Morning News* story, postage meters were favored and the perfins were phased out. They are clear reminders of the corrupt Texas legislators of more than four decades ago.

**Notes and Sources**

The Texas House of Representatives Library furnished old newspaper clippings and the Committee on House Administration of the 63rd Legislature report.


Texas Comptroller perfins on page 6 furnished by Norman Cohen.

Chris Victor Semos (1936-2004) of the Oak Cliff section of Dallas served eight terms as a Democratic member of the Texas Legislature from 1966 to 1982. He followed that by serving eight years on the Dallas County Commissioner’s Court. The Semos family owned and operated the popular Torch restaurant on West Davis St. in Dallas for nearly 40 years.

![Figure 1](image1)

![Figure 2](image2)
The United States Air Force (USAF) wanted to include a Mach 2 Bomber into its Cold War arsenal. The plane would carry a nuclear missile quickly to the Soviet Union and was used to give the Soviets second thoughts about attacking the United States. Bids went out to Boeing, Convair (in Ft. Worth), Curtiss, North American, Martin and Douglas aircraft contractors in 1949.

Convair in San Diego, Calif. had shown its expertise with Delta-winged aircraft with its YF-92 fighter. The YF-92 used information garnered from a captured WWII German scientist, Alexander Lippisch. He realized that a flight approaching the speed of sound, the standard straight winged planes wouldn’t work properly. Swept back wings were one answer employed by the US and the Soviets as they reduced the high drag caused by straight winged aircraft. Lippisch called his design a “Delta” wing as it resembled the Greek letter, Delta.

He had built a Delta-winged glider to test the low speed characteristics of this shape. He, his design work and his glider were captured by the Americans at the end of the war in Europe. NACA, the predecessor of NASA ran the glider through wind-tunnels and confirmed the potential of the new wing at high speeds. The sharp angled wings reduced drag and the larger surface increased lift.

Convair in San Diego used the gleaned information in creating its YF-92. Their research and experience with the YF-92 led USAF to award the B-58 contract to Convair which in turn had the Ft. Worth plant build it. In February 1953 the Air Force issued a contract for the world’s first supersonic bomber, capable of flying at twice the speed of sound. (Figure A - postcard)

The aircraft would carry one nuclear bomb in a pod slung below the fuselage. Its defensive weapon was a Vulcan 20mm rotary cannon in the tail, with 1,200 rounds of am-
munition. The bombing/navigating system was estimated to be 10 times more accurate than any previous such system. In the late 1950s, there were four tests of air-launching the anti-satellite weapon “High Virgo” from B-58s to determine ballistic missile and anti-satellite capabilities.

The first flight of the B-58 took place on 11 November 1956 (Figure B) from Carswell AFB, adjacent to the Convair plant, which by the way, is now the home of Lockheed. The B-58 crews were elite: hand-picked from other strategic bomber squadrons. On board the first flight aircraft, piloted by Beryl A. Erickson, were two other test pilots and 15 envelopes. A rubber stamped cachet with spaces to be filled in by hand by the pilot, along with an affixed “VIA JET BOMBER” etiquette made these covers unique. The flown covers however were not cancelled until 30 November for reasons unknown. (Figure C).

The gold foil stamp from Dominica illustrated here shows the date of the first flight on it. (Figure C2).

Each of the three crew (pilot, bombardier/navigator, and DSO (Defensive Systems Operator) was enshrouded in separate tandem crew cockpits. Later ejection capsules for each made it possible to survive having to eject at up to Mach 2 (1,320 mph) at an altitude of up to 70,000 feet.

To determine whether or not an airman could survive such an ejection tests were conducted on chimpanzees. However, the backbone of a chimpanzee is not equivalent to that of a human – but a bear’s spine was. Thus, a mildly sedated black bear was strapped into an ejection capsule and ejected at Mach 2 while at 70,000 feet. Trackers found the bear in its capsule and reported that it was safe, but “mad as hell!”

The B-58 entered USAF service on 15 March 1960.

On 26 May 1961 a B-58 set a world speed record of 3 hours, 20 minutes in a flight from New York to Paris. (Figure D – stamp from Monaco)

A B-58 crew won the Bleriot
trophy by becoming the first aircraft to exceed 1,245 mph for 30 minutes.

One pilot who flew the B-58 was Henry J. “Dutch” Deutschendorf. He was the father of singer John Denver. On 12 January 1961 “Dutch” broke six world air speed records, five of them held by the Soviet Union. Over a 621 mile closed course his B-58 averaged just over 1,200 miles per hour. The records dealt with a combination of payload (weight) and speed. Prior records broken ran from 536 mph to 700 mph and the “Hus- tler” obliterated them. His navigator/bombardier was Capt. William Polhemus and his DSO, Capt. R.R. Wagenor.

After the multi-day competition, Maj. Deutschendorf returned to Ft. Worth and flew a cover (Figure E) with an enclosure to a woman who sent him a self-labeled cover, asking him to fly the cover in the same record breaking aircraft. (Figure F is a stamp from the Marshall Islands showing a B-58 in flight)

Of the 116 B-58s produced 2 were XB-58 prototypes, 86 were B-58A 3-seaters, 17 were RB-58A variants with ventral reconnaissance pods. 11 were YB-58A pre-production aircraft of which 8 were later reconfigured as TB-58A trainers. (10 covers were flown on the first flight of the TB-58A by pilot E.E. Guthrie). (Figure G) One other YB-58A was reconfigured to test the J93 engine intended for the North American XB-70 Valkyrie Mach 3 bomber. Not shown in any documentation found on the B-58 but located in a book about the
Regulus missiles, stated that one of the YB-58s was reconfigured secretly and used in 1965 to test fire at incoming supersonic nuclear missiles.

This collector had purchased a lot of 400 secondary recovery ship covers in a sight-unseen auction. Stuck in the front of the box was a cover that read “Third Unofficial Flight / Reg II Missile Mail / Point Mugu, S.N.I.” (San Nicolas Island). On the obverse the cover reads “Bird returned to Point Mugu via barge to Port Hueneme and truck to Bldg. 355 (GMU-55).” (Figure H) The cover is not listed in the EZ rocket flown cover catalogue, but the buyer located a similar cover offered in a 1998 auction that was flown on the 2nd Unofficial Flight. The catalog mentioned that only five covers were carried on that flight.

Further reading uncovered a short paragraph stating that a B-58 flew a test mission over the Pacific range to test the AN/ASG-18 radar system and the associated GAR-9/AIM-47 missile for the F108 Rapier and later the General Dynamics YF12A programs. This plane attacked an incoming Regulus missile several times, firing air to air missiles at it, but missing it. This author mentioned this to a member of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club who had flown missions in the B-58 as a DSO. He remarked, “That can’t be! The B-58 wasn’t equipped to fire missiles!”

His son was at Edwards AFB and went out to see the decrepit YB-58A, named “Snoopy,” sitting out on the desert. He sent his dad a photo of the plane. The nose was highly unusual. This collector was given the photo and showed it to a friend who retired from North American Aviation. That retiree noted that the front of the plane was actually the F-108 he had worked on and he provided a black and white photo of the only prototype they produced. From the back of the cockpit forward, the hybrid B-58/F-108 was an F-108. (Figure I) This is what gave this B-58 a new downward looking radar and missile capability.

Even Joe Stout, the spokesman for General Dynamics and then Lockheed, was unaware of this use of a B-58, showing surprise when he saw the photo.

The B-58 never saw action and was retired from service on 31 Jan. 1970 after one and one half decades of protecting the U.S.
LYDIA MENDOZA FIRST DAY CEREMONY

Texan First in USPS Music Icon Series

By Lyle Boardman

On a day with light rain, I headed south from Austin to San Antonio to attend the first day ceremony for the Lydia Mendoza stamp, the first in a new series of Music Icons. The rain did not deter the enthusiastic crowd. The ceremony was held in the Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center (GCAC), which has a long history.

Founded in the 1980s to give a voice to the cultural expression of the Latino population, it has become a vibrant part of the “Westside” of San Antonio. According to the GCAC website, since it’s founding over 30 years ago, the GCAC:

• Has become one of the largest, and one of the first, culturally based arts centers in the U.S.
• Is a leading voice of multidisciplinary Latino art and culture in San Antonio
• Owns 108,000 square feet of facilities and property in the heart of one of the city’s historic neighborhood.
• Serves more than 100,000 people each year from all over the city, region, state, and the globe through artistic, educational, and community programming.

The facility was full to the brim with people, including some stamp collectors. I sat at a table with some local folks who said they had heard about the event on the radio. One of the ladies also said she had seen Lydia Mendoza perform. I was in good company.

The ceremony was led by Jesse Bor-

See MENDOZA on Page 16

Posed with the stamp enlargement, USPS District Manager Bruno Tristan; Austin Postmaster Fina Morales; USPS Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy Marie Therese Dominquez; and San Antonio Postmaster Robert Carr. (Sam Bolen, USPS)
rego, an actor born in San Antonio who has appeared in movies and on stage. After the presenting of the colors and the National Anthem, the crowd was welcomed by Patty Ortiz, Executive Director of the GCAC, and then regaled in spirited accordion music from Eva Ybarra, “Queen of the Accordion.” The stamp and its details were

The U.S. Postal Service Lydia Mendoza stamp honors the life of one of the first and greatest stars of Tejano music. Lydia Mendoza (1916-2007) is seen strumming her 12-string guitar on the stamp. She is the first to be honored among several artists who will inaugurate the Music Icons series.

This square stamp captures the look of a vintage 45 rpm record sleeve, down to a slight weathering away of the colors. The stamp art features a black-and-white publicity photo of Mendoza taken in the 1950s. The flag of Texas, Mendoza’s home state, is splashed across the photo.

Nicknamed La Alondra de la Frontera, the Lark of the Border, Mendoza performed the Spanish music of the Texas-Mexico borderlands and beyond. She is best known for her solo performances, her soulful voice accompanied only by the playing of her 12-string guitar. Mendoza recorded more than 1,000 songs in a seven-decade career.

Through her music, she gave a voice not only to the poor and working-class people of the border, but also to Latinos throughout the Western Hemisphere.

Born into a musical family, Mendoza first performed with her mother, father, and sister in stores and restaurants. After winning a radio singing contest, she recorded several solo cuts for Bluebird Records in 1934, including “Mal Hombre” or “Evil Man,” which went on to become her biggest hit.

Neal Ashby and Patrick Donohue designed the stamp, working with art director Antonio Alcalá. The Lydia Mendoza stamps are being issued as Forever stamps in self-adhesive sheets of 16. Forever stamps are always equal in value to the current First-Class Mail one-ounce rate.

Cielo Topper of Houston poses next to the guitar and dress owned by Lydia Mendoza in San Antonio’s Guadalupe Cultural Arts Center.

The Texas Philatelist May-June 2013
described by Marie Therese Dominguez, Vice President, Government Relations and Public Policy for the Postal Service.

The next presentation was by Rita Vidaurri, an 88-year-old actress and musician who first asked the audience if she should talk in English or Spanish. The answer was a resounding “Espanol.” Not being a Spanish speaker, I could not understand her, but she really connected with the crowd who chuckled and laughed all through her talk. Following her remarks, her beautiful singing enthralled the crowd.

Then, the stamp was unveiled to huge applause. The drape was released by all the speakers and musicians. The musicians for the Senior Conjunto Dance started playing – it was quite a scene.

I prepared some covers for the stamp, and got them cancelled in the lobby, then got my program signed by the event participants. I ran into Linn’s Stamp News Senior Editor Jay Bigalke and we shared one of the imperforate press sheets. I also met Terry McCaffrey, the retired manager of Stamp Development for the USPS who lives in New Braunfels.

All in all, a great trip to San Antonio for the first issue of what will most likely become a favorite series of stamps.
THE TEXAS CONNECTION

BY
HENRY ELROD

There is little that has not been said about Audie Murphy. In some ways he was a tragic figure, and certainly he was among America’s greatest heroes. By his 21st birthday Murphy had accomplished a startling array of feats that made him America’s most decorated soldier, and perhaps America’s greatest hero.

In June, 1942, when he enlisted in the U.S. Army (Simpson, 2012) Murphy was 17 years old, apparently having faked a birth record that allowed him to enlist. Private Murphy stood 5-feet, 5-inches, and weighed 110 pounds. He was turned down by the Marines and the Army’s Paratroopers (Ryan, 2006). He completed basic training at Camp Wolters near Mineral Wells, Texas. When discharged at San Antonio 39 months later, he had earned every honor for valor that the United States awards: Medal of Honor, Distinguished Service Cross, Silver Star (twice), Legion of Merit, Bronze Star (twice), in addition to 13 other decorations. He received the French Fourragere in Colors of the Croix de Guerre, French Legion of Honor.
(Chevalier), French Croix de Guerre with Silver Star and with Palm, and the Belgian Croix de Guerre with Palm. He won three Purple Hearts while participating in two amphibious landings and nine campaigns.

The Audie Murphy Memorial Website details the story of the Murphy stamp issued in his honor (Audie L. Murphy Memorial Website, 2013). In 1996, Murphy’s hometown newspaper, the Greenville Herald Banner, published an article about Murphy by Carol Ferguson. Her article apparently inspired Diane Bates Thomason and the American Legion Post #17 to petition the Postmaster General for approval of a Murphy stamp. The initiative was denied, but at about the same time, the USPS approved a series of stamps featuring Looney Tunes characters. This angered Murphy supporters, who enlisted the aid of the Dallas Morning News and the Audie Murphy Memorial Website. Messages were sent to the President and members of Congress. The national media picked up the story. After threats of Congressional investigations into the relationship of Warner Bros. and the USPS, the postmaster approved the Distinguished Military Service Members block of four.

The Murphy stamp, Scott 3396, was issued May 3, 2000 in Perf. 11, and 33-cent denomination (USPS, 2004). Besides Murphy the block included Sergeant Alvin C. York, General of the Army Omar N. Bradley, and Major General John L. Hines.

Murphy was born in Texas, near Kingston, and lived for a time at Greenville. His statue, in full WWII battle gear, stands in front of the Audie Murphy Veterans Memorial Hospital. He had some difficulty adjusting to civilian life, and suffered from battle fatigue (Simpson, 2012). On the strength of his best selling autobiography, To Hell and Back, he made his way into Hollywood. Besides his hit war movie, he starred or appeared in 40 films, including The Red Badge of Courage directed by John Huston (Huntington, 2007). He became a 32nd Degree Mason. He struggled with sleeping pills, and the demons and bad dreams of war. Murphy died at 46 in a private aircraft crash in the mountains of Virginia on May 28, 1971.

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Interested in U.S. Navy covers from Lone Star State namesakes, such as U.S.S. Texas, U.S.S. Alamo, or U.S.S. Houston? Killer bar locations such as Galveston, Beaumont or Port Isabel?

Then consider the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, celebrating 80 years of service to collectors around the globe! Benefits of membership include the monthly, award-winning USCS Log journal, member discounts on publications such as Catalog of United States Naval Postmarks and Naval Cachet Maker Catalog, members-only auctions and more! For additional information please visit us at http://www.uscs.org/ or write to:

Steve Shay
747 Shard Court, Suite TP
Fremont, CA 94539
TSDA 2013 STAMP FAIRS

DALLAS • 411 W. Arapaho Road (Richardson)  
Fri. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Apr. 19-20, Jun. 28-29, Sept. 6-7, Dec. 6-7

HOUSTON • 500 N. Sam Houston Parkway, East  
Fri. 11 a.m.-6 p.m. - Sat. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Jan. 25-26, Apr. 5-6, Jun. 7-8, Nov. 15-16

SAN ANTONIO • Norris Conference Center  
4522 Fredericksburg Road  
Sat. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. - Sun. 10 a.m.-3 p.m.  
Feb. 9-10, May 4-5, Jul. 3-4, Sept. 28-29
Calendar of Events

Unless otherwise noted, admission and parking are free at all shows and bourses listed. Specific details are not provided for repeating events beyond the first insertion. For inclusion on this calendar and the one on our website www.texasphilatelic.org, prepare the data in the format below. Email the information to tkoch@tx.rr.com or write to: The Texas Philatelist, 1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto TX 75115. For more Texas Stamp Dealers Association (TSDA) information see the website www.TSDAstamps.com.

MAY 4-5        TSDA SAN ANTONIO STAMP FAIR
Bourse at Wonderland Mall, Norris Conference Center, 4522 Fredericksburg Rd., San Antonio, Texas 78201. Hours: Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

JUN 7-8        TSDA HOUSTON STAMP FAIR
Bourse at Park Inn North Hotel and Conference Center, 500 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77060 (near Beltway 8 and I-45 Intersection). Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JUN 28-29   TSDA DALLAS STAMP FAIR
Bourse at the Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd. (Next to Richardson City Hall), Richardson TX. Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

JUL 27-28    ARK-LA-TEX COIN, CARD AND STAMP SHOW 2013
Bourse at the Bossier City Civic Center, 620 Benton Rd. (Exit 20B from I-20), Bossier City LA. Contact Hal Odom, Jr., haoldom@comcast.net.

SEP. 6-7     TSDA DALLAS STAMP FAIR
Bourse at the Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd. (Next to Richardson City Hall), Richardson TX. Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SEP. 20-22  GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW 2013
Annual exhibition and bourse of the Houston Philatelic Society at the Humble Convention Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. (exit U.S. Hwy. 59 at Will Clayton Pkwy. and go east), Humble TX.

NOV. 9-10  26th ANNUAL MID-CITIES STAMP EXPO
The 26th annual exhibition and bourse of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club at the Grapevine Convention Center, 1209 S. Main St., Grapevine TX.
Calendar of Events

NOV 15-16  TSDA HOUSTON STAMP FAIR
Bourse at Park Inn North Hotel and Conference Center, 500 North Sam Houston Parkway East, Houston, TX 77060 (near Beltway 8 and I-45 Intersection). Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

DEC 6-7  TSDA DALLAS STAMP FAIR
Bourse at the Richardson Civic Center, 411 W. Arapaho Rd. (Next to Richardson City Hall), Richardson TX. Hours: Friday 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

2014

FEB. 28/ MAR 2  TEXPEX WORLD SERIES OF PHILATELY
The 118th annual exhibition and convention of the Texas Philatelic Association at the Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Hwy. 26 E, Grapevine, Texas. Show features World Series of Philately exhibition, bourse, annual meetings of specialty societies, youth table, USPS substation, cachet cover and show cancellation. TPA meeting times will be announced soon. Contact: Lyle Boardman, lcb1941@att.net.

SEP. 19-21  GREATER HOUSTON STAMP SHOW
Annual exhibition and bourse of the Houston Philatelic Society at the Humble Convention Center, 8233 Will Clayton Pkwy. (exit U.S. Hwy. 59 at Will Clayton Pkwy. and go east), Humble, Texas. Features exhibits, 33-dealer bourse, beginners’ booth, Sam Houston Philatelics auction, USPS substation, cacheted cover and show cancellation. Hours: Friday-Saturday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Sunday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OCT. 24-25  OKPAX 2014
Annual exhibition and bourse of the Oklahoma City Stamp Club at at the Express Events Center, 8512 Northwest Expy (between Council Road and County Line Road) in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Show features APS World Series of Philately exhibits, dealer bourse, cacheted cover and show cancellation. Hours: Friday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. NOTE: This show has a Friday and Saturday schedule. Contact: Joe Crosby, 5009 Barnsteeple Ct., Oklahoma City, OK 73142-5405; joecrosby@cox.net.

The Texas Philatelist  May-June 2013
Chapters in Action

Report chapter activities by email or mail. - We cannot accept activity reports of your chapter or unit on the web page at this time. Minutes, recent newsletters or summaries may still be sent by email to tkoch@tx.rr.com or by regular mail to: Tom Koch, interim editor, The Texas Philatelist, 1013 Springbrook Drive, DeSoto TX 75115. Much appreciation is in order for the clubs who have forwarded news the past few months.

AFDCS Fred Sawyer North Texas Chapter No. 56: The chapter completed its 27th year in April. The chapter met June 8 at an Asian restaurant for its annual “picnic” instead of the regular barbeque. David Lirette displayed Chinese New Years FDCs from 1992 to date. Jesse Covey reported the results of the most popular stamps of 2012 - the se-tenant pair of Cherry Blossoms. - Paul Benson

Austin-Texas Stamp Club: Jason Fay has discovered stamp traders from all of the world and keeps records of his mail transactions. He also trades postcards worldwide. The club acquired a new projection screen for its presentations. Secretary Lyle Boardman noted that he had been keeping track of club purchases from the APS circuits for 20 years and that members have purchased $28,369.68 of stamps during that time. The club footed the bill for $1,467.67 in insurance and postage charges.

The Collectors Club of Dallas: Dick Phelps made a presentation on the Swiss Soldier Propaganda Stamps for the March meeting that featured Ray Cartier as a guest. For the April program Tom Koch gave a presentation titled “The Angel and the Socialist: A Story of the 1939 U.S. Christmas Seal.” The National Tuberculosis Association issue stood out from previous issues because designer Rockwell Kent was one of the most famous American illustrators of the time. Besides several printing flaws and silver ink and foil trial essays, Koch traced the history of the stamp through correspondence between Kent and the National Tuberculosis Association (1937-1946) now located in the Archives of American Art in the Smithsonian. Bill Halstead provided the May program titled, “A Look at the Era of Sailing Ships and Custom Houses” from his U.S. revenue collection.

Heart of Texas Stamp Club Inc.: In April the group discussed for an hour what a new collector needs to start collecting. James Fabbre brought the medal he won for his Boy Scout exhibit at TEXPEX. In May Brad Shultz presented a program on watermarks, detection and the use of the signoscope and watermark detection fluid. James Berryhill showed items he acquired on a trip through Warm Springs, Ga. from Franklin Roosevelt’s presidency. He reminded everyone of Roosevelt’s statement: “I owe my life to my hobbies, especially stamp collecting.” In the raffle J.T. Johnson won a set of six of the Flag Coil series while Hollis Biddle won an Earthscape sheet. The club welcomed new member Jonathan McMahan and Aubrey Mace. The HOT Stamp News discussed songs inspired by postal workers including the “Letter Carrier’s Grand March.” There have also been the “Rural Mail Route Waltz,” “Write to the Sad Old Folks at Home,” “Air Mail Special” and who can forget Elvis’ “Return to Sender” and “Please Mr. Postman” by the Marvelettes.
Chapters in Action

**Houston Philatelic Society:** The society had a lot going on and a lot to celebrate in the first three months of 2013. There were five fine presentations at its meetings: 1) **Clayton Finney** discussed the history of Fort Smith, Arkansas (where he was raised) through postcards; 2) **Charlie Deaton** talked about Texas Confederate Postmaster Provisionals, the subject of his recent book; 3) **Doc Pepper** enlightened the society on the collecting of US newspaper stamps; 4) **John Germann** talked about the basics of collecting navy ship covers; and 5) **David Willig** shared the fun of pursuing personal interests in postal history. Mixed in was the first of five auctions scheduled for the year. Two members had reason to brag (but didn’t) about bringing home gold medals from Texpex 2013 – **Larry Ballantyne**, for his showing of “US Private Inter-City Posts, 1839-1895” and **Jay Stotts** for his presentation of “Early US Commercial Air Mail.” In like manner two members received major state awards for their personal contributions to Texas philately. **Ron Strawser** was named Distinguished Philatelic Texan by the Texas Philatelic Association. The TPA also honored **Bill McDaniel** for his 75 years of membership and involvement in the society. There were some changes among the club’s officers, occasioned in part by president **Bill Fort’s** move to Virginia. **Ardy Callendar** is the new president, along with **John Germann** (vice-president), **Jay Stotts** (secretary), **Larry Ballantyne** (treasurer), and **Jonathan Topper** (webmaster). The second quarter started off with **Richard Bajenski** enlightening us on Russian zemstvo (rural post) issues. **Jay Stotts** entertained with a discussion of famous 19thand 20th century philatelists from Cleveland. **Bryant Korn** opened our eyes to the realm of Liberian revenue stamps. **David Nussman** talked about revenues as well, but in a field far removed – the distilled spirits stamps from Puerto Rico. And **Jonathan Topper** took us behind the scenes in the Texas Stamp Dealers’ Association – the who, the what, and the how. With all five presentations, we all had a lot to learn, and we all learned a lot. HPS has also been the beneficiary of several large donations, with some portions to be auctioned off for the society’s benefit and some to be used to beef up our “Beginner’s Booth” inventory.

**Mid-Cities Stamp Club:** In the May meeting **Alliene Franklin** distributed new membership directories. For “show and tell” **Bob Patterson** showed a “dead post office” cover from Indianola, Texas and **Joe Jeter** produced a sheet of state tax stamps with an “error.” **Denny Ludlow** gave the main program focused on buying and selling on the Internet. He pointed out the strengths and weaknesses of eBay, Delcampe, and Wensy.com. He covered the methods of establishing an Internet store involving shipping costs, managing feedback and the nature of information expected on all sites. He said the operation was relatively easy although providing scans seemed to be the most common difficulty.

**San Antonio Philatelic Association:** **Judy Grant** gave the March program titled “Butterflies on Stamps.” The SAPA *Philatex* newsletter noted that the American Topical Association list of butterfly related stamps is 121 pages long. The February program included a presentation on the “SS Manhattan” by **Dr. Eric Sheppard**. **Nelda Greer’s** “Variations of the Classics” in January received rave reviews from club members. The club reported an income of $4,006.69 in auction sales. Door prizes were won by **Jeanne Ganz**, **Jim Case**, **Gene Atkinson** and **Al Hull**.
Texas Cancels

This is a listing of special pictorial cancels recently authorized for use in Texas, or of interest to collectors in Texas. This information is excerpted from recent editions of The Postal Bulletin. If available, the sponsor of the pictorial postmark appears in italics under the date. Sponsors are encouraged to submit copies of their artwork directly to this publication as soon as practical.

According to the U.S. Postal Service, requests for these cancels must be postmarked no later than 30 days following the indicated postmark date. Requests must include a stamped envelope or postcard bearing at least the minimum First-Class postage. Items bearing postage issued after the postmark date will be returned unserviced. Place the envelope or postcard in a larger envelope and address it to: PICTORIAL POSTMARKS, followed by the NAME OF THE STATION, ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP+4 code - exactly as listed in the notice (using all capitals and no punctuation, except the hyphen in the ZIP+4 code). A larger SASE must be enclosed if the item submitted for a special cancel is unaddressed.

Note from the TP Advertising Sales MGR.

The Texas Philatelist is in the process of revamping its advertising. The publication cannot succeed without the dealers and our advertisers. Clayton Finney is now heading up advertising for both The Texas Philatelist and the Texas Postal History Society Journal and is in the process of reconnecting with long time advertisers and working with new ones. We seek fresh graphics from our existing advertisers to improve the clarity with our new publishing efforts. TIF files or high-resolution PDF files are best but we can work with other formats. Clayton is seeking any input (good and bad!) from the dealer/advertiser community on this very important subject. If you have any news to report about your business, please let him know. You may hear from him before long as he proactively works through our historical advertising base. He is seeking your input at cfinney@sbcglobal.net or +1 (214) 906 9068.
TRADE 150 USED FOREIGN for same. Will match quality for quality. 2 for 1 back on any bicolor stamps sent. Mention any preferences. J. Fay, 2813 Glenwood Trl., Cedar Park, TX 78613-5129 (60-5)

TRADING/BUYING STAMP COLLECTIONS. I will purchase or trade stamps or coins. Bill Lau, 2005 Bridgeview Ln., Plano TX 75093-2502, email tennislau@aol.com. (60-2)

LARGE COLLECTIONS OF TRADING STAMPS. S&H, Top Value, Plaid, Texas Gold, etc. I will purchase or trade. Prefer contact by e-mail. William Lau, 2005 Bridgeview Ln., Plano TX 75093-2502, email tennislau@aol.com. (60-2)

ITALY Anything! WW2, Lubiana, Montenegro, Alpenvorland, Adriatische Kunstlerland, Social Republic, Allied Occupations, Trieste A&B. Also new price list for Republic (from 1946 to date). Lo Giudice, 162 via Roma, 94010 Gagliano C. to (EN), Italy, phone 011 39 348 154 1725, email stampario@aim.com. (60-4)

PLATE NUMBER COILS, Mint Never Hinged, Strips of 3. Also looking for First Day Covers, postally used covers, and postcards with PNC's on cover. email: vb_mct@yahoo.com.
Membership Report

REINSTATEMENT
4499 Petitto, Joe - Tyler TX

NEW LIFE MEMBER
4666 Strawser, Ronald - Houston TX

RESIGNED
4256 Ammons, Paul F - College Station TX
4474 Busfield, Roger - Georgetown TX
4503 Heath, Michael - La Feria TX
4657 Payn, John - Allen TX
4681 Stitt, Christina - Louisville KY
5026 Waters, Roger - Round Rock TX
5112 Ricciardi, Rosemarie - Hutto TX
5113 Hatthorn, Vernie

DECEASED
4681 Davis, Larry - Irving TX
2798 Busfield, Roger - Georgetown TX
4800 Doerflein, Charles - Dallas TX
4038 Hirschfelt, Gene - San Angelo TX
4777 Ellis, Floyd E. - College Station TX

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES
1932 Taylor, John G. - Dallas TX
3915 Medlock, Howard Skip - Lubbock TX
4140 Little, Albert - Arlington TX
4346 Nixon, Henry D. - San Antonio TX
4360 Ludwig, Ray - Henderson TX
4387 Gates, Jean B. - Austin TX
4494 Scoulios, Veronica M. - Friendswood TX
4495 Holden, Jerry M. - Deer Park TX
4604 Trzaska, Richard J - San Antonio TX
4631 Paulski, Bernard S. - Wichita Falls TX
4642 Lo Giudice, Rosario U. - Italy
4665 Williams, Robert P. - San Antonio TX
4708 McIntyre, Craig - Rockport TX
4710 Bianchi, David C. - Midland TX
4730 King, H. Ray - Seguin TX
4782 Mongelli, Robert A. - Rockwall TX
4795 Petrone, Joe - Dallas TX
4825 Soper, Mynor G. - Texarkana AR
4829 Basurto, Jorge H. - Farmers Branch TX
4869 Vora, Ravi - Houston TX
4876 Ramirez, Enrique - Tyler TX
4879 Qureshi, Mohammed S. - Sugar Land TX
4884 Austin, Roland G. - Stillwater OK
4888 Barr, Richard A. - Ooltewah TN
4988 Dalfoil, Herman K. - Saginaw TX
4903 Biddle, Hollis A. - Woodway TX

MEMBERSHIP SUMMARY
December 2012-February 2013

Membership, Feb. 8, 2013..................540
Reinstatement.................................1
Resigned......................................-8
Deceased.....................................-5
Dropped for Non-Payment of Dues .......-51
Adjustment....................................1

Membership, Apr. 30, 2013...............478
Life Chapters.................................10
Life Members.................................82
Regular Chapters/Units....................10
Regular Members...........................376

Total Members..............................478

4909 Wiesner, John M. - San Antonio TX
4916 Blanchette, James G. - Dallas TX
4922 Durante, Frank J. - Dallas TX
4977 Perez, Dorothy - Grand Prairie TX
4978 Gambin, Harold W. - Rowlett TX
4992 Sayegh, Gladys M. - San Angelo TX
5008 Fort, William - Houston TX
5020 Bassett, William (Bill) - Austin TX
5025 Webber, Charles E. - Fort Worth TX
5032 Kendall, Paul S. - Arlington TX
5037 Wells, Richard C. - Austin TX
5039 Tiedtke, Les - Dallas TX
5047 Spence, Donald B. - Canton TX
5054 Duke, Michael B. - Dripping Springs TX
5076 Savage, Howard A. - Arlington TX
5082 Moyer, Ray M. - Euless TX
5091 Zintgraff, Ryan D. - Austin TX
5092 Parker, Tara J. - Tahlequah OK
5093 Tyszkic, Thaddeus A. - Fort Worth TX
5097 Mastrangelo, Peter - San Antonio TX
5106 Bravenec, Ben - Sugar Land TX
5107 Malhotra, Ash - Katy TX
5110 Clay, Malcolm B. - Arlington TX
5111 Garton, George - Windcrest TX
5118 Walker, Scott A. - San Antonio TX

FOUNDATION PATRON
4409 Moss Doug

28 The Texas Philatelist May-June 2013
UNITED STATES

Moderately-priced U.S. stamps fall right in the budget range of many collectors, so here are examples from my stock in a condition of fine or better. Of course, I have many higher and lower priced items as well, so send me your want list and I'll be glad to help you out!

Scott   Description               Price
102   VF, cat. value $90.00                $30.00
104   VF-VF, cat. value $17.50             $8.00
106   VF-VF, cat. value $32.50             $16.00
108   VF, cat. value $6.00                 $2.00
109   F, cat. value $4.25                  $1.50
208   XF, huge margins                      $10.00
209   F, VF, cat. value $18.00              $14.00
213   VF, broken hal, cat. value $3.50      $2.50
214   NH, VF, cat. value $3.50              $3.00
303   VF, no gum, cat. value $20.00         $2.00
304   VF-VF, cat. value $9.00               $7.00
305   VF, cat. value $9.50                 $8.00
306   LV, VF, cat. value $60.00             $35.00
307   LV, F-VF, cat. value $65.00           $32.00
308   VF, cat. value $75.00                 $42.00
329   NH, LT-XF, vert. of 3 with imprint and parent, cat. value $65.00; $46.00
335   VF Philadelphia cancel, cat. value $7.00; $8.00
336   VF, cat. value $35.00                 $24.00
337   NH, F-VF, cat. value $45.00           $25.00
338   VF, thin shifted toward              $8.50
339   NH, VF, cat. value $42.50             $25.00
340   VF, cat. value $15.00                 $12.00
341   NH, VF, cat. value $37.50             $25.00
342   VF- VF                             $8.00
343   VF- XF                             $8.00
352   LH, VF, cat. value $55.00             $35.00
353   XF, VF, cat. value $55.00             $35.00
354   VF, cat. value $5.50                  $2.00
355   VF, XF                              $8.00
356   LH, VF, cat. value $50.00             $35.00
357   VF, cat. value $11.00                 $6.00
358   VF, cat. value $14.00                 $8.00
359   F, VF, cat. value $90.00              $42.00
362   NH F-VF, cat. value $25.00            $42.00
363   LH, F-MNH, cat. value $20.00          $14.00
364   LH, well centered for sale            $42.00

Abbreviations: VC = pretty much off center with margins on two sides. F = Imparts have smaller than normal margins and perforates are off center with design possibly touching in places. F-VF = close to each side with either margins of equal height or not. VF = normal size margins for the issue and well-centered with design a bit closer to one side. XF = exceptionally well centered for an item of this size. Condition designations are relative to overall appearance of any stamp that might appear therein. NH = never hinged. LH = lightly hinged. MH = mint hinged. HR = huge remnant. OG = original gum. NG = no gum. CTC = cancelled to order. CD = cancelled date stamp. ** = unused. 9 = used.

Most items are one of a kind. Please provide alternates!

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