

JULY 2009

The Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle



THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE CHATTANOOGA STAMP CLUB

!!!!ATTENTION!!!!

THE JULY MEETING WILL BE HELD AT OUR NEW LOCATION AT THE EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST AT 7.30 PM ON THE 9TH.

PLEASE NOTE – THIS IS A NEW LOCATION FOR OUR MEETINGS. FOR DIRECTIONS AND ADDRESS SEE PAGE 2.

READ ALL ABOUT 'CHRISTMAS IN JULY.' THIS MONTH'S ARTICLE IS ABOUT COLLECTING CHRISTMAS SEALS.



NEW MEETING LOCATION

At the May 2009 meeting it was voted by the membership to move out of the Chattanooga Post Office to a more easily accessible meeting location. The EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST was chosen, and our first meeting in this location will begin at 7.30 PM on July 9, 2009.

The church is located at 915 McBrien Rd. in East Ridge, TN. To find the new meeting location follow the simple directions as given from the old meeting place, the Chattanooga post office.

From the post office, Turn left onto Shallowford Rd., travel about 3/10 of a mile to highway 153 and cross the bridge, turn left and get on highway 153. Go about 3 miles to I-75 and head for Chattanooga. When you get to the I-75/ I-24 split go with I-24 for about a mile, to the Moore Rd. exit. At the light, turn left and cross over I-24 till you come to the funeral home on the left. Turn left onto McBrien Rd.

The Church of Christ will be just ahead at 915 McBrien Rd.

Parking is available between the church and the fellowship hall. Hope you have no trouble find the place. Call 310-4920 if you need help and I will try and talk you in.

"A nation of well informed men who have been taught to know and prize the rights which God has given them cannot be enslaved. It is in the region of ignorance that tyranny begins." - Benjamin Franklin

CLUB BUSINESS AND EVENTS**RECAP OF THE JUNE 2009 MEETING –**

We had our annual picnic at River Front Park on the 14th. This year was especially nice, in that the humidity and rain stayed away. It had rained earlier in the day and cleared off by 5 PM, making it a wonderful afternoon for a meeting in the park. We had a nice turn out with about 15 people attending. I would like to thank all who brought a side dish. All was great eating.

THE JULY MEETING –

The program will be at our new meeting location at 915 McBrien Rd. in Chattanooga, in the fellowship hall of the Church of Christ. The program will be a “SHOW AND TELL” by the members. Please bring your favorite hobby topics, it could be stamp related, or anything you would care to show and talk about with the members. We will give you 15 minutes all to yourselves.

CHRONICLE NEWS UPDATE –

For the past 2 years I have made an effort to write, print and mail the CHATTANOOGA STAMP CHRONICLE. I have entered the Chronicle each of these years into a national competition presented by APS. Each year I have received the silver award, and quite frankly, I believe I should have the gold award. BUT, the judges didn't seem to think so. The major thing that they believed was wrong, as they claim, no mention of members. It is all me and the president.

I have asked many of the membership for help, like writing a short article on how they started stamp collecting, or about history of the stamp club. ALL said they would help. HOWEVER, in the past two years I have only received one(1) article from the hundreds I have asked. Would be or is it to hard to write about yourselves? If you have been asked [and if you have not been asked] why not take a moment and write your article and send it to texas4421@core.com. Become active in the club, PLEASE.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER by Trish Bowers

We had a perfect day for our picnic. It stormed about two hours before which helped to “cool” the temperatures. The sun came out and it was grand. Once again, we had wonderful dishes to share. Thanks to all.

July brings us to a new meeting place for our club. I'm very excited about the new location which is: East Ridge Church of Christ at 951 McBrien Road, Chattanooga, TN 37412. We will be meeting in the fellowship room. There will be someone out front to direct you to the correct spot. Plan to come and enjoy our new home.

I finally spent some time at the United States Postal Service web site looking for the section which states we as collectors can ask postal clerks to hand cancel an envelope addressed or unaddressed. After much searching, I found it in the Postal Operations Manual chapter 2—Philately, section 231.4 “Hand-Back and Mail-Back Service.” After a recent trip to acquire a Seabiscuit envelope with the date of issue postmark, I was told it had to be mailed. I slapped an address label on it and he very poorly canceled it and tossed it in the box. The next time, I'll produce my “proof” that I can request a “hand-back.” If anyone would like a copy of Section 231.4, let me know. I plan to carry this on every trip to the post office. By the way, Section 231.31 states that “employees should strive to furnish clear and legible postmarks to stamp collectors.....” Of course, this also means that we are to be fair in our requests by not asking for tons of cancellations when the lines are long.

Until next month.... Trish

"Whatever is covered up will be uncovered and every secret will be made known." Luke 12:2

Just think how great your article would look on this page!!



CHRISTMAS SEAL 1920

- CHRISTMAS IN JULY - COLLECTING CHRISTMAS SEALS

Collecting Christmas Seals can be a lot of fun as well as helping the American Lung Association. Seals are listed in Scotts U.S. Speciality catalog as an 'Back Of the Book' item. But before we talk about collecting Christmas Seals, let's look at the history of Seals.

HISTORY OF CHRISTMAS SEALS

The first tuberculosis Christmas Seal was in Denmark 1904, conceived by Danish postal worker Einar Holboll. Sweden and Iceland, issued Christmas Seals the same year. The Christmas Seal is a combination of two ideas:

1. a fundraising seal to fight the dreaded disease of tuberculosis, and;
2. and a seal issued at Christmas time during the season of giving.

America was not far behind. In 1907 Emily Bissell was responsible for designing, and with the help of Philadelphia newspaperman Leigh Hodges, promoting the first U.S. National Christmas Seal. Bissell's inspiration came from a need to raise \$300 to save a small tuberculosis hospital in the State of Delaware.

TUBERCULOSIS

Christmas Seals were originally issued to fight TB. TB tests showed that many people who lived during the depression were positive for contact, but never developed the disease. As TB became less of a public health problem, Christmas Seal societies have

branched out into other lung diseases, like emphysema, and asthma, which can be caused by smoking and pollution.

The Double Barred Cross

Most tuberculosis seals include the red double-barred "Lorraine" Cross, adopted by many countries as the international symbol of the crusade against TB. This cross was added to our National Christmas



Seals in 1919, and has been used ever since. The double barred cross was originally the coat of arms of Godfrey of Bouillon, Duke of Lower Lorraine, a leader of the first crusade and elected ruler of Jerusalem after its capture. Having refused the title of King on religious grounds, he

was designated Defender of the Holy Sepulcher. Godfrey was distinguished for his piety and simplicity. As the first Latin ruler of Jerusalem, he became the central figure of various legends, and his deeds were glorified in the chansons de geste. His brother, Baldwin I, succeeded him as ruler of Jerusalem and took the title of King.

COLLECTING U.S. CHRISTMAS SEALS

Many collectors begin with one Christmas Seal a year. Since the biggest part of your investment is in the first ten years it doesn't cost a lot more to collect the later years in se-tenant multiples, as required. For example, it takes a pair of seals to

complete the 1936 design, a block of 4 in 1954, and full sheets in 1970, 1975-80, 1995, 1996, and 1998.

THERE ARE MANY COLLECTING AREAS

SILVER AND GOLD FOIL SEALS: This series of Seals began in 1985. Foil had been used in the 1930's on some essays, as well as foreign Christmas Seals, but these 1985 foil issues were intended for larger donors.

SPRING ISSUES: These Seals began in 1987 and have been issued ever since.

U.S. LOOKALIKE: These Christmas Seals were printed in the USA for distribution in foreign countries and commonwealths, such as Bermuda, Canada, Nicaragua, Puerto Rico, and the Ryukyu Islands, as well as US designs.

SPANISH TEXT: Beginning in 1982 Spanish Text Christmas Seals have been used in all Spanish speaking parts of the USA.

LOCAL CHRISTMAS SEALS: These have been issued by various state, county, and local societies for particular local needs, and are not affiliated with our national Christmas Seal issuing society. Worldwide Christmas Seals have been issued from all parts of the globe. They are collected by the country, topically, and as #1 Christmas Seals of the world.

Many Christmas Seals, US and worldwide, have been issued in booklet panes which usually have interesting information, images, and sometimes advertisements printed on the covers. Italy's 2nd national Christmas Seal issue was issued in 1932 in booklet form, and one of the advertisements is for cigarettes. I think, even in 1932, many people must have thought that smoking was not compatible with fighting lung disease. Specialized collecting by country or a single year of Seals

allows the collector to go into much greater depth. John Hotchner was one of the first to exhibit his single year collection of 1934 U.S. Christmas Seals in competitive stamp shows. Many others followed. This effort of seal collectors is one of the reasons why collections of seals, once not eligible for awards, now receive awards regularly.

Topical collecting is a way many have branched out into seals. Most topical seal collectors start out collecting stamps, and as they become more advanced discovered seals. I recently wrote a list of Santa Claus on seals, which I believe is near complete, and is located at [Santa Topical Christmas Seals](http://www.christmasseals.net). I would love to see a topical index of US and worldwide Christmas Seals written.

Collecting Christmas Seals can be as varied as collecting postage stamps. For a complete detail and greater information go to <http://www.christmasseals.net/>



Early Christmas Seal issued in the 1920's

CHRISTMAS SEALS ON THE INTERNET -

This article is based primarily on the information presented at <http://www.christmasseals.net/>

Please do yourself a favor and visit this site, even if you are not now interested in collecting Christmas Seals. The owner of the site has given me permission to quote from this site. So I will promote the Christmas seal web site. It is a fun and informative site.

The owner will send to you a free copy on CD, an album that contains the pages to mount all Christmas seals since the first issue. It is a great album and it is free!

Free US Christmas Seal Albums, Free 170 page Comprehensive Christmas Seal Album on CD, requires MS Word 2003 and a printer.

Free 41 page US Christmas Seal Album on CD, requires MS Word and a printer.

Just call (740) 587-0276 or e-mail idenune@roadrunner.com



CHRISTMAS SEAL 1918

STAMP OF THE MONTH

**EMILY BISSELL**

Emily Bissell is pictured on Scott #1823 issued in 1980. She was born at Wilmington, Delaware on 31 May 1861 and died in 1948. She is best known as an American social worker and activist, and was the person who introduced Christmas Seals to the United States.

She avoided politics as much as possible, but worked closely with the anti-suffragist movements. In 1900, she testified before the United States

Senate Committee on Woman's Suffrage, arguing that women had no place in politics.

In 1907, she was drawn to the cause of tuberculosis (TB). She had already heard of an idea in Denmark in which people attached a special stamp to their mail, the proceeds of which would go to fight the disease, and decided to introduce the same idea in Delaware. Her goal was to raise \$300 for a local sanitarium, using a bright red stamp she designed, and asked local post offices to sell them for just 1 cent. In spite of this failure, Bissell gained enough publicity from a Philadelphia newspaper to make \$3,000, ten times the amount she hoped for. Bissell spent the remainder of her life promoting Christmas stamps and helping to eliminate tuberculosis. She died in 1948. A public hospital outside Wilmington bears her name. In 1980, on the 119th anniversary of her birth, the U.S. Postal Service issued a 15-cent stamp in her honor.

References

1. "Christmas Seals" Time Magazine, December 7, 1931
2. WIKIPEDIA/Emily_Bissell



The Chattanooga Stamp Club is affiliated with the American Philatelic Society and has been dedicated to the study, preservation, and promotion of the philatelic hobby since 1932.

-- CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2009 --

President: Trish Bowers Vice-President: Open
 Secretary: Rebecca Gilbert Treasurer: Carl Anderson
 Librarian: Ken Burnham

MEETINGS:

The club meetings are held the second Thursday of each month. Meetings are held at 915 McBrian Rd. in the fellowship hall at the EASTRIDGE CHURCH OF CHRIST in Eastridge, TN. Meetings begin at 7.30 PM. Come early and meet everyone as well as have great time talking about stamps.

MEMBERSHIP: Chattanooga Stamp Club memberships are on a calendar year basis. Yearly dues are \$20.00. Send all monetary donations and membership dues to the club's Treasurer, Mr. Carl Anderson, 919 Dunsinane Rd., Signal Mountain, TN 37377.

----- PLEASE NOTE -----

DEADLINES: The deadline for anything to be published in the Chattanooga Stamp Chronicle is the 20th of each month. E-mail is preferred, however snail mail is OK. E-mail to: texas4421@core.com