

March 2015

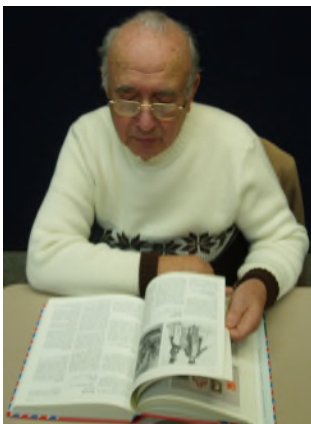
Volume 15 Number 3

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)

Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



IN MEMORIAM: WALTER F. VEILE —

Our long time stamp society treasurer, Walter Veile, passed away in February, 2015. Walter worked tirelessly on behalf of the society to keep us in the best financial condition possible. He always provided timely information on the society's finances. He always seemed like the rock of Gibraltar and someone we could always count on.

When we offered to use the club's dues to help pay for the holiday lunch each December, Walter would be standing at the restaurant door handing out \$5.00 bills — he noted at least we got the interest for the year. Later, when interest rates dropped — always being practical, he later just took attendance and marked paid for next year's dues for those who attended.



The Lake County Illinois Philatelic Society first elected Walter as treasurer in 1976. Being reelected annually, he completed his tenure in May, 2013 — where he was aptly described as our "Treasurer Emeritus" thereafter. — *continued on page 2*



Post Box



Saigon Post Office

Last Month, Tom Willer shared "Postal Stories from Indochina" collected from his vacation to Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Interesting, were the pictures of the local Post Offices in the major cities of Vietnam — left overs from the French Colonial Days that were designed by engineer Gustave Eiffel when assigned to the area to oversee the building of the colonies rail system between Hanoi and Saigon in the 1880s.

This month, will be a trade, give-away, buy or sell night — Help yours and others collections grow.

We also need to discuss the charity event for the Northern Illinois Food Bank.



Treasures' Report: Total — \$ 3,262.04

Local Stamp Shows

MSDA Spring Show
Carlson Country Inn
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights IL
April 18 and 19



Compex 2015
Forest View Ed Ctr
2121 S Goebert Rd
Arlington Hgts IL
May 22, 23 and 24

MSDA Show Milwaukee
St Aloysius' Gonzaga Hall
1435 S 92nd Street
West Allis, WI
June 27 and 28



MSDA Summer Show
Carlson Country Inn
600 Milwaukee Ave
Prospect Heights IL
July 11 and 12



MSDA Show West
Lindner Conf Center
610 E Butterfield RD
Lombard IL
September 12 and 13



Next meeting:

7-PM on Tuesday, 24 March 2015
at the Grayslake Library
100 Library Lane - Grayslake, IL 60030



Officers:

Dr Tom Willer — President
Bill Schultz — Vice President
Dave Sadler — Secretary
Ed Pieklo — Treasurer

STAMP Superheroes —Stamps Issued to Fight Crime

The Roaring Twenties was a prosperous decade filled with wine, fun-loving women, jazz, speakeasies and good times. Unfortunately it was also filled with not just mobsters like Chicago's own 'Big Al' Capone, but criminals such as 'Machine Gun' Kelly and 'Pretty Boy' Floyd who feasted on robberies of post offices and mail shipments. Finally the post office had had enough. In 1929 the federal government started producing special stamps. Starting with Kansas and Nebraska, special issues were overprinted with state abbreviations. They were only made available for purchase within the state of origin, though they were valid postage in all states. The idea was to make it hard for crooks to take stolen stamps across state lines to unload them. Theoretically large numbers of out-of-state stamps would make prospective buyers and postal inspectors suspicious, thus making stolen stamps harder for the robbers to market.

Sadly, in practice the 'crime fighting overprint stamps' did little to deter outlaws. The program was never expanded beyond the initial two states. It was abandoned after the initial issue was sold out. In fact the program actually inspired additional illegal activity, since as soon as the initial issue came into demand by collectors, counterfeiters began adding phony "Kans." and "Nebr." overprints to regular stamps and pawning them off as genuine. Mystic catalog lists overprints with original stamp values of three cents or more for sale from \$15 to \$70 in used condition (in their latest catalog), but over the holidays I was able to buy the 4c, 5c, and 10c Kansas stamps in good shape for under \$5 each on eBay. Hmm.....wonder if some of those crooks might still be around?



Interestingly the overprinting idea was tried again on currency during World War II. In early 1942 it was feared the Japanese might overrun Hawaii, so paper money was overprinted with 'Hawaii'. The special bills could have been declared void if the island had been taken, so the money would have been of no use to the enemy. Trying to purchase one of these bills today will run you a little more than the stamps.



On Walter – continued — He had an extensive German, German States, Swiss national collections in addition to an eclectic collection of train and transportations stamps, in keeping with his other hobby — model trains.

What most of us did not know was that, he was born on 07 November 1933 in Heidenheim Germany and immigrated to the United States in 1957, settling in the Chicago area where he worked in several bakeries before serving in the United States Army (in France) for two years. Upon discharge from the Army, he opened Walter's Bakery in North Chicago, which he operated for several years before opening and operating a new shop for 20 years, in Lake Forest — Market Square Pastries, until he retired in 1994.

He was married to Verena Lauener (1939-2013), of Switzerland, in 1971 and moved to Lake Bluff shortly thereafter. Walter is survived by son, Markus (Janel) of Springfield, IL and daughter, Sonja (Jeremy) Dwyer of Seattle, WA; grandchildren Ella, Leah, Abigail and Alexander; brothers Herbert (Maria) and Gerhart of Germany; as well as many nieces and nephews.



Our Stamp Society was represented by three members - Tom Willer, Bill Schultz and Dave Sadler on the Friday (06 March) service. Afterwards, Dave and Bill spent time chatting with Walter's daughter. She was a very nice woman and very composed.

We asked her if she had become interested in stamp collecting from her dad. With a little hesitation, she intimated "no." We will miss our friend, Walter Veile.

