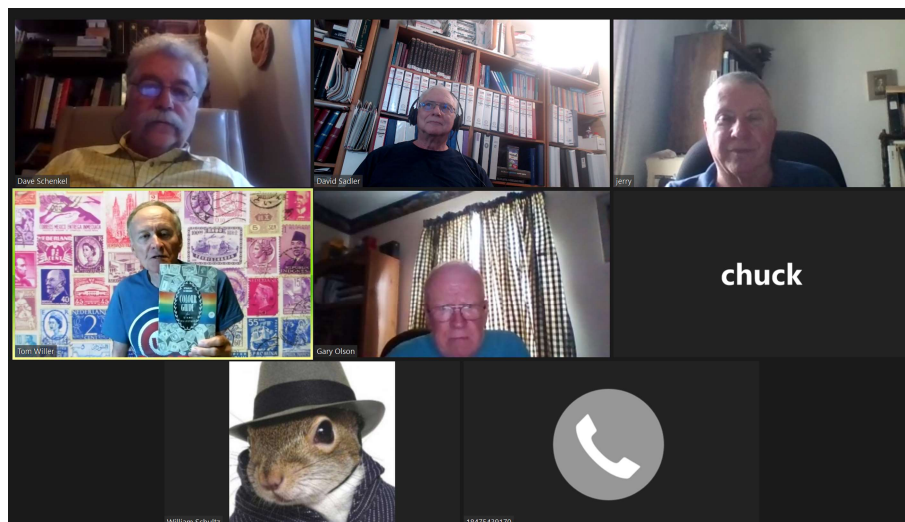
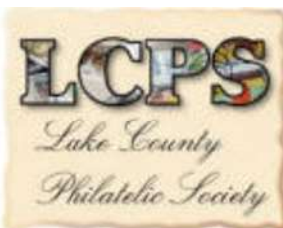


July 2020
Volume 20 Number 07

Newsletter of the Lake County (IL)
Philatelic Society - Established 1933

Website: LCPSHOME.ORG

Perforations



Last month, Jerry Nylander presented **"Schermack Perforations — The Hole Story"** - covering the early history of the efforts to create a viable machine for affixing postage for mass mailings.



This included the perf pattern that early machines used to advance the role and the perfin designs used to id the mailing.

• Control Perfins	1	2	3
• Holes are numbered	.	.	.
• 1 thru 9. You count the missing holes to determine the pattern or design number.	4	5	6
	7	8	9
	.	.	.

Meeting Info: Given the negative status of both our libraries opening their meeting rooms, Dave Schenkel has scheduled 28 July for a ZOOM meeting.

Use the Computer Join URL (Web Address):

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84592152764> just prior to 7pm on the meeting date. This will connect device to view the presentation, and if you have speakers and microphone listen to and comment.

 For Those who do not have a microphone or only wish to join just' on audio, you can **Dial In** (*fees may apply depending on your phone contract*)

+1 312 626 6799 (Chicago) and when asked to enter your meeting ID, enter: 845 9215 2764 #.

This should allow you both listen and talk if your device does not provide audio capability

This month we will hear about **"The State of the US Postal Service"** by Dave Schenkel.

Treasures' Report: Total ~ \$3,383.82

No Shows are scheduled for the foreseeable future.



CHICAGOPEX has been Cancelled

The United States Postal Organization — During early colonial times in the 1600s, few American colonists needed to send mail to each other; it was more likely that their correspondence was with letter writers in Britain. Mail deliveries from across the Atlantic were sporadic and could take many months to arrive. There were no post offices in the colonies, so mail was typically left at inns and taverns.

In 1753, Benjamin Franklin, who had been postmaster of Philadelphia, became one of two joint postmasters general for the colonies. He made numerous improvements to the mail system, including setting up new, more efficient colonial routes and cutting delivery time in half between Philadelphia and New York by having the weekly mail wagon travel both day and night via relay teams. Franklin also debuted the first rate chart, which standardized delivery costs based on distance and weight.

In 1774, the British fired Franklin from his postmaster job because of his revolutionary activities. However, the following year, he was appointed postmaster general of the United Colonies by the Continental Congress. Franklin held the job until late in 1776, when he was sent to France as a diplomat. He left a vastly improved mail system, with routes from Florida to Maine and regular service between the colonies and Britain. President George Washington appointed Samuel Osgood, a former Massachusetts congressman, as the first postmaster general of the American nation under the new U.S. constitution in 1789. At the time, there were approximately 75 post offices in the country.

Next meeting:

7-PM on Tuesday 28 July 2020

Virtual Via ZOOM

Any Changes will be posted on: lcpshome.org



Officers:
Dave Schenkel – President
Bill Schultz – Vice President
Dave Sadler – Secretary
Ed Pieklo – Treasurer

The Postal System became official in 1788 with Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the United States Constitution, known as the Postal Clause or the Postal Power, empowers Congress "To establish Post Offices and Post Roads".

There were some early disagreements as to the boundaries of the Postal Power. John Jay, in a letter to George Washington, opined that the postal service should not be burdened with the responsibility for handling newspaper delivery, and also suggested that the Post Office be placed under the supervision of the executive branch (a suggestion which later led to the creation of the Post Office Department).

Thomas Jefferson feared that the postal service would become a **source of patronage** and a waste of money. Jefferson also expressed doubt at granting Congress the power to designate post roads, as he considered road building to be a state responsibility.

This was resolved in the **Postal Service Act**, signed by U.S. President George Washington on 1792 February 20, established the Department.

Note: Postmaster General John McLean, in office from 1823 to 1829, was the first to call it the Post Office Department rather than just the "Post Office." The organization received a boost in prestige when President Andrew Jackson invited his Postmaster General, William T. Barry, to sit as a member of the Cabinet in 1829.

The United States Post Office Department (USPOD) in the form of an **official Cabinet department**, was established in 1872 as a result of the Post Office Act of 1872. It was headed by the Postmaster General - cabinet level position (usually assigned the president's campaign manager).



Scott 1498a – 1973 April 30

On 01 July 1971, the United States Postal Service was established as an independent agency by the Postal Reorganization Act of 1970. This act, passed by the United States Congress that abolished the then United States Post Office Department, which was a part of the Cabinet, and created the United States Postal Service, a corporation-like independent agency with an official monopoly on the delivery of mail in the United States. President Richard Nixon signed the Act in law on 1970 August 12.

The legislation was a direct outcome of the U.S. postal strike of 1970. Prior to the act, postal workers were not permitted by law to engage in collective bargaining. In the act, the four major postal unions (National Association of Letter Carriers, American Postal Workers Union, National Postal Mail Handlers Union, and the National Rural Letter Carriers Association) won full collective bargaining rights: the right to negotiate on wages, benefits and working conditions, although they still were not allowed the right to strike.

The first paragraph of the Act reads: ***The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people. The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities. The costs of establishing and maintaining the Postal Service shall not be apportioned to impair the overall value of such service to the people.***

The Postal Reorganization Act exempts the USPS from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) disclosure of "information of a commercial nature, including trade secrets, whether or not obtained from a person outside the Postal Service, which under good business practice would not be publicly disclosed".



Today, the United States has over 40K post offices and the postal service delivers 200 billion pieces of mail each year to over 144 million homes and businesses in the United States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the American Virgin Islands and American Samoa. The postal service is the nation's largest civilian employer, with over 600K career workers, who handle more than 44 percent of the world's cards and letters. The postal service is a not-for-profit, self-supporting agency that covers its expenses through postage (stamp use in the United States began officially in 1847) and related products. The postal service gets the mail delivered, rain or shine, using everything from planes to mules — however, it's not cheap: The U.S. Postal Service says that when fuel costs go up by just one penny, its own costs rise by \$8.3 million ...