

The Messenger



May 2023

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Next Meeting
In Person or by Zoom
**SATURDAY,
May 6th**
Room available 1:00pm
Meeting starts 2:00PM
See Details Inside

Our Secretary Reports What You Missed at the February meeting:

Attendance: 32 in attendance.

Treasurer: Reminder that membership dues are due. \$250 in donations received so far this year.

Secretary: Nothing to report.

Librarian: Thank you to those who have done book reviews for the newsletter. Please consider doing one for future newsletters.

Historian: No report

First Vice-President's Report: Nothing to report.

Second Vice-President's Report: A video project is pending.

Newsletter: No report.

Exhibits: No report.

Web Site: John Harmon will be including donations to MPS on the site.

New Business: None.

Old Business: None

Announcements: The St. Louis show appeared to be a big success. A Thank You note was received and read from the family of Mickey Marks.
Show and Tell: Earle Ovington flight material; Snuff tax stamps from 1879 onward and a copy of the Springer Catalog; Segal Auction items, catalog, and dragon stamp; World's Worst Confederate collection (Victor's words) and World War II items.

Program: *Zeppelin Fever* by Fred Reynolds. Very interesting. Thank you, Fred!

Respectively submitted by,

Michael Keil

**Meet in person or log into Zoom on
Saturday, May 6th for
"Japan C1/C2 Genuine vs Forged Stamps"
By Zach Lawrence**

Meeting Location and Time:

We are at the Central Library for this month. Sorry but the room is not available to us until 1pm this Saturday.

MPS Meeting Schedule for Saturday, May 6th
Meeting is to be held at Johnson County Central Resource Library
9875 W. 87th St.
Overland Park, KS 66212

1pm— 2pm Auction Lots displayed and available to view, dealers time.
2pm— 5pm Business meeting, show-n-tell and program with Auction to follow.
We must be out by 5pm, so be ready to bid, pay with cash and pickup your auction lots.

Philatelic Happenings:

ROCKY MOUNTAIN STAMP SHOW
MAY 26-28
Friday 10-6 Saturday 9-6, Sunday 10-3
Arapahoe County Fairgrounds
Exhibition Halls A & B
25960 E. Quincy Ave
Aurora, Colorado
Only show in the region this month.

Several members have discussed going to this show. If you are thinking about going, please see Jim McKinzie before or after our next meeting.

ABOUT ZOOM:

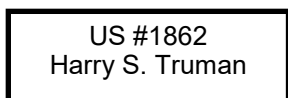
Please try to connect at 2:00pm on meeting days or shortly after. Once a show-n-tell or program is in progress, there is not a current way to notice that you are trying to log in.

This month's log-in to ZOOM.

Time: May 6, 2023 02:00 PM Central Time

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81271552609>

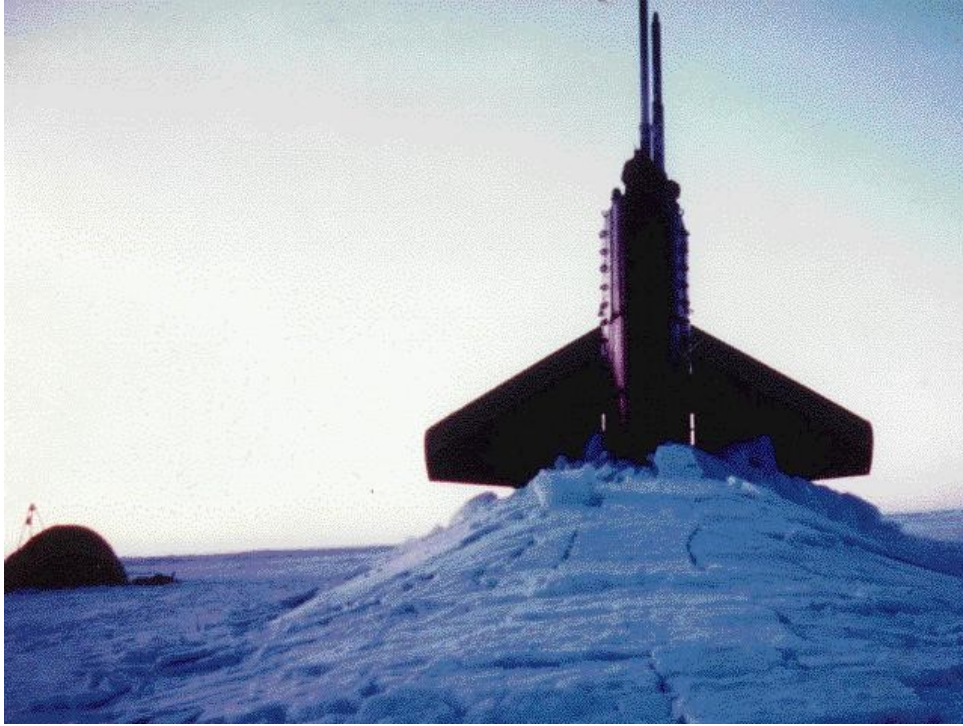
May Day, Truman's Birthday, Mother's Day and then Memorial Day or as Grandma use to say "Decoration Day", makes it a busy month. And if you have children or grandchildren that have graduations you will be busy and broke. Why mention Truman? It's a big deal if you live in Independence. Lots of festivities go on that weekend. The Independence Square Association is promoting the events that will be on May 6th this year through Facebook. In the past, the Truman Presidential Library has had special events on his birthday or that weekend although nothing is posted on their website for this year so far. We are lucky to have one of the 15 Presidential libraries in our immediate area. And another (Eisenhower) in Abilene, Kansas. Check it out.



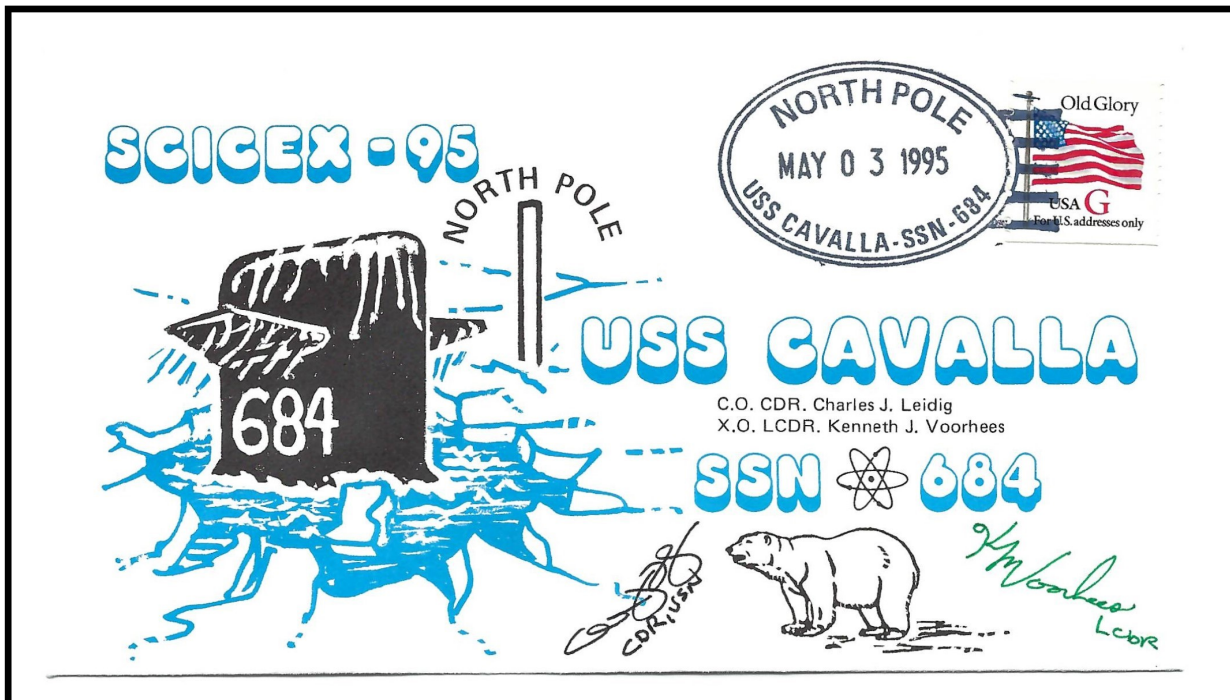
*Happy Birthday
Mr. President
Monday, May 8th*

Submarines Under the Ice: Final Installment by Michael Keil

USS Cavalla (SSN-684) was a modified *Sturgeon*-class submarine. On May 3, 1995 *Cavalla* surfaced at the North Pole on the first of 5 annual Arctic cruises. In addition to her regular crew, she carried several scientists who engaged in significant research. *Cavalla* spent 63 days submerged under the ice pack, an endurance record for the time.



Cavalla through the ice, 3 May, 1995

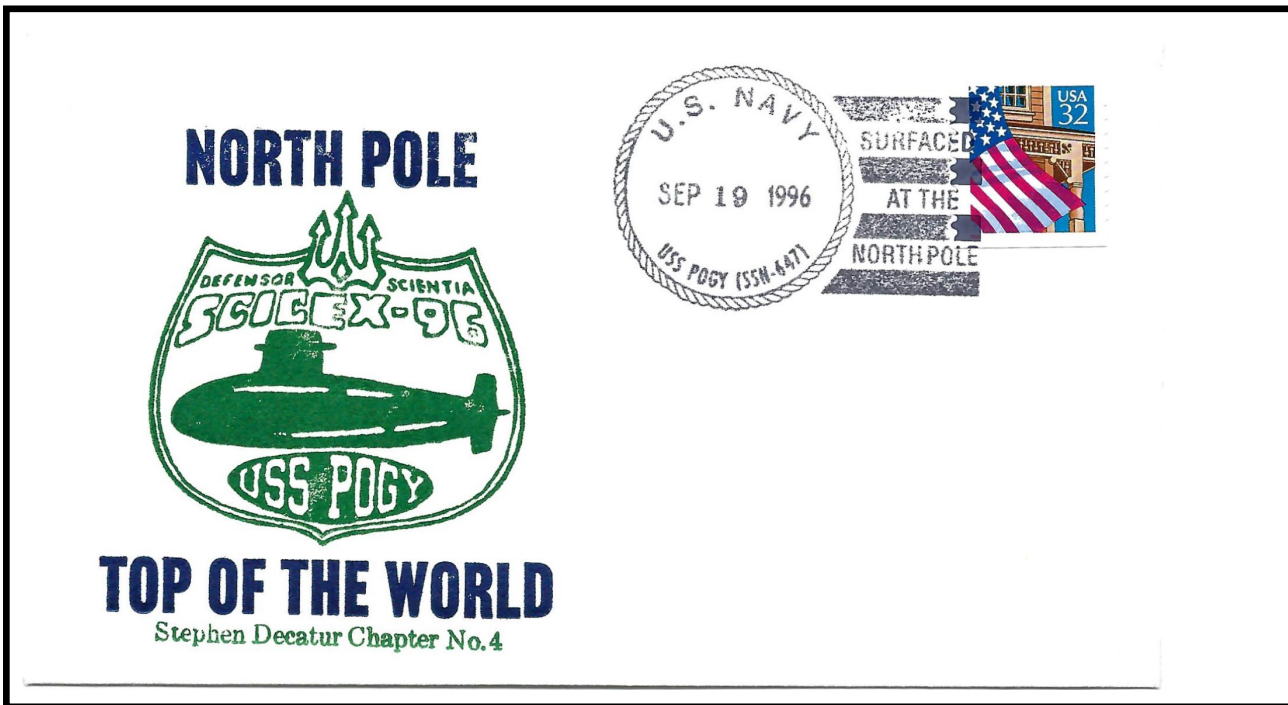


Cavalla had no post office. The Type F (fancy) cancellation was used for the North Pole surfacing only. Cover signed by the commanding officer, Commander Charles J. Leidig and the Executive Officer Lt. Cdr. Kenneth J. Voorhees.



Type F cancel, 17 September, 1998.

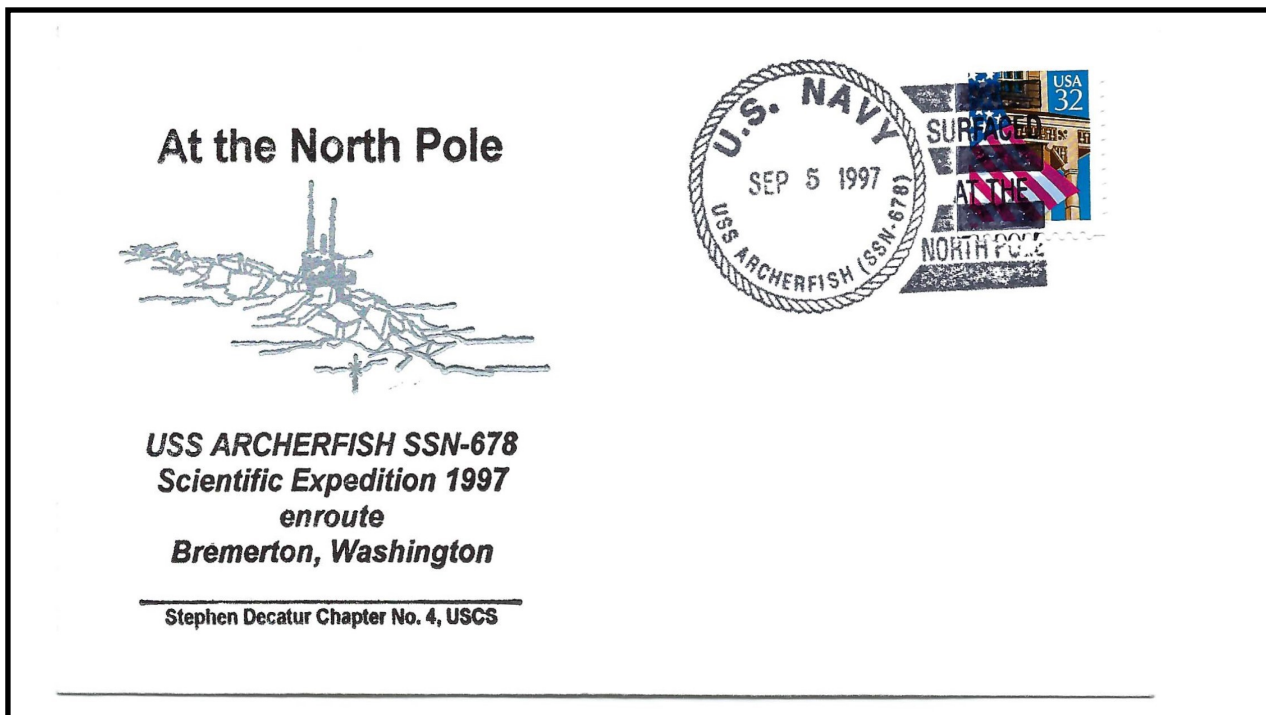
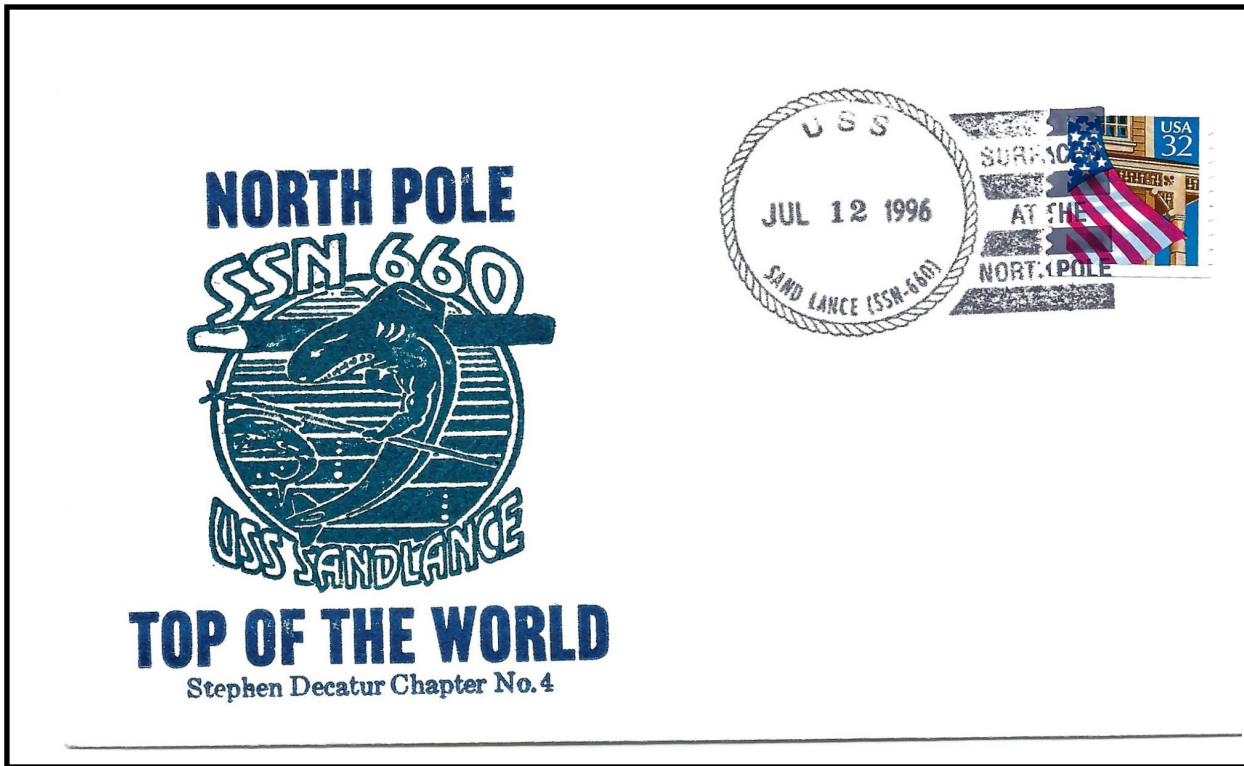
USS *Billfish* (SSN-676) was one of a the few submarines fitted to carry *Mystic*-class deep submergence rescue vehicle during the 1980s. *Billfish* sailed from Groton, Connecticut to Bremerton, Washington via the Arctic Ocean for decommissioning during the late summer of 1998.



Pogy did not actually surface at the North Pole on 19 September. She did surface the following day 110 miles from the North Pole.

On 25 August 1996, USS *Pogy* deployed in support of SCICEX-96. In October 1996, she transited the Bering Strait and began collecting thousands of water samples from over a hundred locations under the polar ice cap in the Arctic Ocean. She recorded ocean currents and water salinity and temperature, and surfaced 19 times through the ice cap to measure surface conditions before returning to San Diego, California, on 26 November 1996.

USS Sandlance (SSN-660) made 38 surfacings through the polar ice including at the North Pole on 12 July, 1996. Cancellation device was borrowed. Sandlance did not have an onboard post office.



Archerfish used a borrowed canceller to cancel this cover. She did not surface at the pole, contrary to what this says.

USS Archerfish (SSN-678) was on her third Arctic cruise in 1997 when this cover was serviced. She traveled 15,000 miles before arriving at Bremerton, Washington where she was scheduled for de-commissioning.

Philatelic Ramblings:

Have you tried to get or received the new Freedom Flag stamps from the PO. Good luck! I placed an order over the phone to the USPS for the new issues that had come out so far in February and March. While placing the order I added on the stamps for March and April that were available for pre-order. The Art of the Skateboard, Tulip Blossoms and the Freedom Flag. At the end of March, I began to wonder where those stamps were that I ordered. I was getting ready to call them, because my card had been charged for all but the preordered stamps, when what showed up? The Art of the Skateboard and nothing else. That was released on March 24th and here it was April 6th. So I got on the phone. Where are my stamps? The reaction was, "Oh, this is odd! I don't know why the system held up the big part of your order. We have had some issues with the pre-orders." Ok, so what are we going to do about? She asked for a good phone number that she could call me back on. Gave her my cell number which I don't give to very many people and rarely to a business. The next week I thought, I have not heard back on this. And that very day, here came another package. Good! Finally! NO! it was just the Tulip stamps. Another pre-order. Where was the \$300+ order of other stamps. Another call. Talked with someone different. We will see what we can do. So sorry this happened. A week goes by and I got the bulk of my order along with the Art of the Skateboard and the Tulip Blossoms again but no Freedom Flag. Really? Almost another week went by and I finally got the Freedom Flags. I had to make another phone call for that to happen. And they tried to deliver them on Friday night at 5:48pm. Our office closes at 5:00pm. I got them at 3:30pm on Monday.

So should I have just gone to the Post Office and tried to buy these? Nope! They rarely have any of the new issues except Christmas and the Flags. A friend tried to go the other day to buy the new Freedom Flag and this is what was posted on the door to the Englewood station here in Independence (see pics). I went to the Truman station, nope don't have any. Went to the PO on the Square and it was, "Have you tried ordering them from the caves." Huh, yeah but they haven't shown up yet. My friend still hasn't found them anywhere yet.



So if you got some, somewhere you were lucky. I guess next time I will order off ebay from the Chinese, probably faster.

As I contemplate retiring, I feel that I need to rethink what I am collecting and my buying habits but then something comes along and I am sucked right back in. What I must do is start selling all the parts I don't care about anymore. But I find that hard to do. There is senti-

mental attachment to much of my early collections. I have that problem with more than just stamps. Electric trains, Coca-cola and a whole lot of other stuff in the attic or basement. Someday it will be someone else's problem. Not mine. I won't care!

It is hard to believe but with the June issue of this newsletter, I will have been your editor 5 years and starting on year six! I could not have done this without your contributions, help and support. Thanks! Keep the articles coming!!!

JMc

The Midwest Philatelic Society Website, Marketplace & Blog is
www.midwestphilatelicsociety.com
Find previous newsletters, links to other stamp info and more on our website.

Penguin Poop from Down Under by Andrea and Dale Smith

Last month, Dale and I were excited to take an expedition cruise to Antarctica. Why? To see penguins of course!



Our ship was the Atlas expedition ship called the “World Navigator”, which was a small ship that was able to get closer to land than the big ships. There were about 150 + guests, and 51 of those were from Kansas City.

To get to Antarctica, we had to board our ship in Ushuaia, Argentina and cross the Drake Passage. A two-day trip, both ways, could be calm, or not. We encountered 100 mph winds and 20 -33 ft swells. The worst part of the trip. It made walking extremely difficult on board.

Once past the Drake Passage, every day we landed at a different place, and took Zodiacs out to see the wildlife. We saw thousands of Gentoo Penguins, and one lonely Chinstrap penguin. We saw lots of Seals, Humpback Whales, Petrels and Skua (birds). We saw Snow and ice, blue water, glaciers and icebergs. It was quiet, beautiful, and since it was summer in Antarctica, the temperature was between 28 and 32 degrees.

We had excellent guides that were scientists with unique specialties, and we enjoyed their daily lectures on various topics. One of our guides had been on the ship that found Shackleton's shipwreck “The Endurance”, and he described the excitement of their find. But of course, our favorite were the talks about penguins.



One day we learned about Penguin Poop.

Penguins eat fish and Krill (looks like a mini shrimp) which is red.

Their poop called “guano” looks either white if they have been eating lots of fish, or pinkish if they have eaten lots of krill. The huge colony of this group of penguins in the picture on the right, had obviously been eating Krill.



We were warned about the smell of the poop and had come prepared with Vicks nasal inhalers. And yes, we were glad we had brought them. What does their poop smell like? An NPR scientist described it as old cigarette tobacco, soaked in ammonia and mixed with rotten shrimp! Pretty close.

We were warned to stay 15 feet away from the Penguins, and while it was for their safety, I think it was also for ours. We discovered Penguins poop like a water gun—projectile straight out their backside at lengths of over 4 feet. Called “poop bombs” they poop every 20 minutes, and as much as 6-8 times an hour. In fact, they are the most frequent “poopers” in the animal kingdom, due to their super-fast metabolism. If it was an Olympic Sport, they’d win Gold Medals every time!



The guano releases nitrogen into the ground, and the bacteria in the soil converts it into Nitrous Oxide—otherwise known as Laughing Gas! I can’t say it was laughing gas, but watching these playful penguins certainly put a smile on my face!

The penguins seemed to be having a great time playing in the snow and walking up and down the icy mountains.



I was fascinated by their footprints in the snow.

I was most surprised by the peaceful co-existence of penguins, seals and birds. You would think mortal enemies would distance themselves.



A molting penguin with just a few feathers left to fall off.



Very curious penguins would walk right up to you, without fear. With all the heavy winter weather gear on, we walked like penguins!



Andrea



Andrea & Dale



A Zodiac Adventure

Collecting penguin stamps is a very popular stamp topic. The ATA has a list of 1076 stamps on the penguin topical list. You can get a copy of the list as American Topical Association member.



13¢ Flag & Shield Perf Variations by Jim McKinzie

When you have collected as long as I have, your collections start becoming complete as far as what you can afford. But if it is complete or nearly complete, do you lose interest in that particular collection? I have found to keep interest in a collection, I look for EFO's or variations that are affordable to add to the collection. My U.S. singles collection is riddled now with variations and the unusual. I am constantly on the look out for something to add. I haven't done that so much with my U.S. plate block collection. But recently I found in an auction something that has eluded me for years. The 13¢ Flag and Shield issue from 1975 has two different perforations. One is quite common and the other not so much. One is line perforated at 11 and the other is not. It is a bullseye perforation, perforated at 11.25. The line perforated stamp of this issue is the uncommon variety. At least based on the catalogue value and my searching for it, does confirm that it is not so common. Below are definitions from Stamp Smarter's website contrasting the two types along with scans of my plate blocks.

Line Perforator (Figure #1)

Perhaps the simplest method of perforation, a line machine with a single row of pins punches the perforations one row at a time from top to bottom. The sheet of stamps is then turned sideways and perforations are again added row by row. Since the horizontal perforations and the vertical perforations were made in separate steps, line perforation stamps rarely have intersecting lines of perforations meeting cleanly. Line perforation may be contrasted with comb perforators, which perforate three sides of a stamp at a time and Harrow perforators, which perforate the entire sheet at one time.



Harrow (or Bullseye) Perforations (Figure #2)

A type of perforation in which the entire sheet of stamps is perforated in a single stroke.

How many of the line perforated stamp blocks have been overlooked in collections by dealers, auction houses and collectors over the last 45+ years? I believe that many collections have something like this lurking about in people's collections. It could be the collector had no idea that they had something of value or they did not clearly identify the variation in their book so that an heir or dealer looking at it would immediately see it. It is surprising what one can find sometimes in collections. Make a list of unusual or expensive items in your collection and have a separate list for each volume. Post that list in the front of that album. This will help you and/or your heirs.



It was exciting to receive this "hole" in my collection. I had pretty much given up ever finding it. Or finding it at a price I was willing to pay. And to make it even more exciting, it is a matched set of four plate blocks, each corner. If you only collect singles then this will not be something to add to your collection as it is difficult to tell the difference between the perforations on a single stamp. But a block of four or better would be a nice addition. That is if you can find it. Happy hunting!

New Issues for 2023:

Tomie dePaola
 Forever rate
 One design, Pane of 20
 Issue Date May 5th
 Print Quantity- 22,000,000



Chief Standing Bear
 Forever rate
 One Design, Pane of 20
 Issue Date May 12th
 Print Quantity –18,000,000



Endangered Species
 Forever rate
 Twenty designs, Pane of 20
 Issue Date May 19th
 Print Quantity- 30,000,000

Hope you enjoyed this month's newsletter. Thanks to Andrea & Dale S., & Mike K., for their contributions. You can contribute too by emailing me for next month's issue. **Deadline for the June issue will be May 15th.** Happy stamping! **Jim Mc**