



Columbia Philatelic Society

www.columbiascpilately.com

APS chapter #043067

December 2025 Newsletter

Editor, Jerry Emanuel

jemassoc2@gmail.com

Commentary and Updates: I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season and are looking forward to a great new year.



Our first CPS meeting of the new year is January 18 and our winter stamp show is scheduled for February 13th and 14th, a Friday and Saturday. Mark Postmus has joined the ranks of the retired and can devote

more time to his hobby. He's continuing to be in charge of the twice-a-year stamp shows.

Our regular meeting in February falls on the Sunday after our stamp show. We'll decide at the January meeting on January 18th if we want to change it.

We had a great holiday banquet and I'm sorry if you missed it. There are some pictures at the back of this newsletter. Mark your calendars today for December 10, 2026, the date of this year's banquet.

This year we're celebrating the 250th anniversary of the United States and there are many events taking place around the country.

Close to home, you can explore the Revolutionary War Visitor's Center in Camden (simplyrevolutionary.com). Camden played a major role in defeating the British.

The first "shot heard 'round the world" was fired in 1775. By 1778, the British troops moved south. At Camden in August 1780, they captured a southern Continental army. Over the next year, South Carolinians took to the fields, the woods and swamps to keep the British tied down which let American forces regroup. Familiar names surfaced from the war: *Frances Marion*, the "Swamp Fox" famous for 'hit and run' tactics; *Thomas Sumter*, "The Gamecock," a relentless leader of militia units; *Andrew Pickens*, the "Wizard Owl," another militia commander; *Nathanael Greene*, the victor at King's Mountain and Cowpens; and many other patriots. South Carolina experienced more Revolutionary War battles and skirmishes than any other colony, making these leaders and their forces vital to the patriot cause.



Fred McGary



The next meeting will be **Sunday, January 18**, 2 p.m. at the TRI-CITY LEISURE CENTER, 485 Brooks Avenue, West Columbia.

A very Happy Birthday to: Janet Vollman (6), Hannah Tveden (24). Congratulations and many, many more.



ANNOUNCEMENTS: Treasurer Bob Anderson

gave a report at the annual banquet, December 11. “We have had the best financial year that we’ve had in a long time,” he reported, “I can’t remember the last time we are projected to end the year with more money than we started with.”

He said the main reason has been the increase in donations of stamp collections, primarily from folks who inherited one.

“We budgeted \$100 for donations and received over \$700 from donated collections which we turned into cash by selling them to our members” he said.

Because of the added revenue, the club was able to offer a discount on the cost of the meal at the annual banquet.



Bob Anderson

Anna Brannin, top photo, and Linda Hazlett, who are both involved in strategic planning, proposed a one-time committee that puts together a five-year strategic plan for the club to ensure its continuation financially and through membership.

“Since we’re approaching our 100th anniversary, we thought this might be the ideal time to do this,” Brannin stated.

The plan would list goals and the action which would take place to make the goals a reality. One goal, she said, may be to increase awareness of the club. Even though the committee would write up the plan, the members would still be involved. A survey would be distributed for the input of the members.

“The timeline might start in January,” Brannin stated, “where we’d recruit committee members. February through August the committee



would meet and brainstorm and use the survey to see what members suggest and what other clubs are doing. Around September, we'd present the final plan to the members and then we'd vote on it in October," she concluded.

A motion was presented and seconded to do the project and it was passed by the membership.

Anna Brannin, Linda Hazlett

SHOW AND TELL: Why is the month called November?

It comes from the Latin word "novem," meaning nine as it was the ninth month in the early Roman calendar before January and February were added to the beginning of the year, shifting all the months' positions. Even though it's the eleventh month now, it kept its nine-month name just like September (seven), October (eight) and December (ten).



NOVEMBER

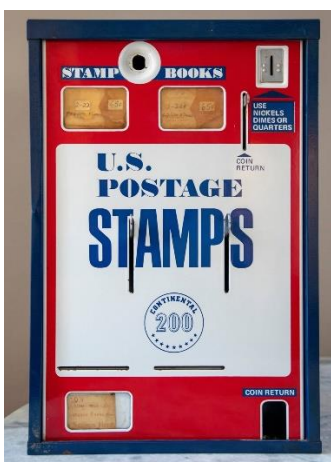
November is Manatee Awareness Month and National Diabetes Awareness Month. "November 5 was American Football Day. November 7 was National Cancer Awareness Day. One day later it was National Cappuccino Day followed by Sesame Street Day on November 10," Rick Miller said. November 11 was Remembrance Day. "Today, we call it Veteran's Day," Miller mentioned. On November 14, it was American Teddy Bear Day. "Yes, it was named for President Theodore (Teddy) Roosevelt. On a hunting trip in 1902 he refused to shoot a trapped bear. The incident inspired a political cartoon that led to toymakers creating "teddy bears" a play on Roosevelt's nickname," Miller added. On November 23 it was National L'spresso Day. The following day was Thanksgiving Day.



December was AIDS Awareness Month. December 4 was Wildlife Conservation Day; Walt Disney’s birthday is celebrated the first Monday in the month. It’s Ice Cream Day on December 13, Energy Conservation Day one day later. On the 15th it’s Bill of Rights Day. “The first ten amendments to the Constitution are called the Bill of Rights,” Miller said. “They include the first amendment, freedom of speech, religion and the press; the second amendment is the right to bear arms; the third is against quartering soldiers; Freedom from unreasonable search and seizure is the fourth; the fifth is the right against self-incrimination; the sixth is a guarantee of a speedy and public trial; the seventh guarantees a trial by jury; amendment eight defines cruel and unusual punishment; the ninth takes care of rights not listed and tenth says powers not given to the federal government belong to the states or the people,” Miller enumerated.

The Boston Tea Party is celebrated on December 16; the anniversary of the Wright Brothers’ first flight in 1903 is remembered on December 17. This year Chanukah was celebrated from December 14 – 22; and Christmas is always on the 25th.

Rick Miller



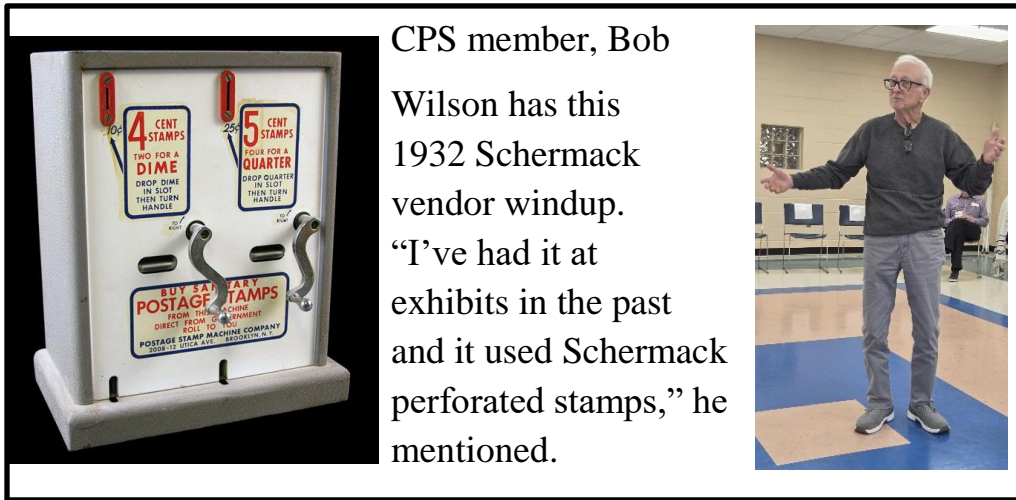
“This is an old stamp dispenser I recently bought,” said Anna Brannin. “It’s the kind you would put a few nickels and dimes in, press the lever and get stamps. I bought it because I do block printing, and I’m going to try to rig it up and do some stamp themed mini art prints,” she explained

Her father has been tinkering with it to take 25 cents or 50 cents instead of the current 65 cents.



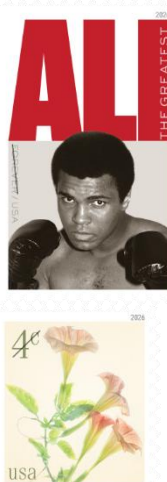
“What I’ll do at art markets is charge a few dollars for the print and, after payment, I’ll give them a quarter and they’ll have the fun feeling of using the machine,” she mentioned.

Anna Brannin



CPS member, Bob Wilson has this 1932 Schermack vendor windup. “I’ve had it at exhibits in the past and it used Schermack perforated stamps,” he mentioned.

NEW STAMP ISSUES:



January Stamp Issues:

(9) 4c Angel’s Trumpet
Kenosha, Wisconsin
This stamp is part of

a series of low value stamps to add postage to oversized mail
(13) Love stamps, FDI city is
Kansas City, Missouri

(15) Muhammed Ali Stamp.

Louisville, Kentucky

(24) Colorado Statehood’s 150th anniversary, Denver (29) Phyllis Wheatley, America’s first published African-American poet. Her most famous poem is “*On being brought from Africa to America*,” published in 1768.



COLUMBIA’S NEXT STAMP SHOW:

Friday, February 13 through Saturday, February 14

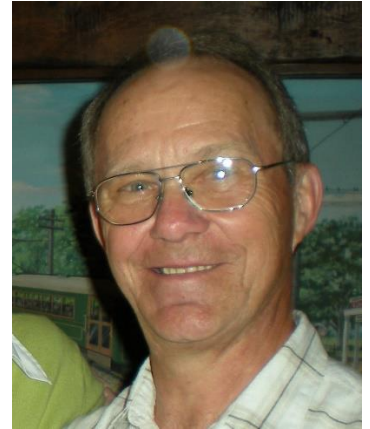
PLAN ON EXHIBITING YOUR COLLECTION

We’ll show you how!



PROGRAM:

CPS member David Anderson introduced Marshall Blum from the Knoxville, Tennessee Philatelic Society who is one of the world's experts on Swiss Soldier Stamps. "You've probably never heard of these stamps," Anderson said, "but the Swiss have a remarkable catalog of these stamps."



Blum, pictured, has been collecting soldier stamps since 2008. He said there are limitless varieties and one can never have a complete collection. He addressed the CPS via zoom.

"Swiss soldiers, like many soldiers on active duty, had free frank privileges, free postage. The Swiss were kind of antsy about all this free mail floating around, so they encouraged the company commanders to use their cachets, a seal or rubber stamp of the commander, to be passed free of charge by the post office," he mentioned.



Fred Bieri, an adjutant in the 38th Battalion, decided it would be a nice idea to make some labels to stick on the mail as well as the commander's cachet so he designed these two stamps designs, which proved to be very popular.

"In March 1915, a set of three stamps were created and put on sale in Zurich. Proceeds of the sale were used to pay for functions we could consider to be like the United Service Organization, the USO," Blum said.

Sometime later, a Doctor Steiner created another design in 1916 for Regiment 11 and he sold these as a fundraiser and raised 30,000 Swiss francs. "Not to be outdone, Beiri came up with the bear design, a symbol of Switzerland, with a flag and a soldier, an officer with a sword. The army command and the Swiss Post Office approved the design and created the first sheet of 45 different units. Each stamp had a different unit on it," Blum described.

They did make one mistake. This is called the Walking Stick Error. It's really a plate bar crack and that crack appears in this sheet only one time on Foot Battalion 26. They made 321 of these sheets, most of them were destroyed, but there are a few of the entire sheets still in existence.



"This is a WWI Soldier Stamp dated 1930. It was issued to infantry Regiment 49, Battalion number 146. That regiment was disbanded at the end of WWI. In 1930, they reactivated it, this time as Regiment 49.

Marshall Blum

ANNUAL BANQUET



