

The Postal History Foundation's



Stamp Tracks

Winter/Spring 2010

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

IN MEMORIAM: Alphie Kuhm



The Postal History Foundation lost one of its most dedicated and beloved volunteers when Alphie Kuhm died on March 18th after a short illness. Alphie had been a volunteer for over 30 years, along with her husband Al. They started their volunteer efforts after retiring to Tucson in 1979. Alphie and Al were originally from New York state and were married in 1952. They have two children, a daughter Teresa and a son Frederick along with four grandchildren. Al worked for the state of New York and Alphie taught grades four through six in the pub-

lic schools and their two children went to the same school where Alphie taught. As part of her teaching techniques Alphie loved to create colorful and informative bulletin boards covering the various subjects she taught, which would later lead to the wonderfully artistic and imaginative philatelic exhibits that she created and which have been on display at the PHF over the many years she was a volunteer.

Alphie and Al were first introduced to Tucson when their son, Frederick, was a student at the University of Arizona. It was this introduction to Tucson that eventually led to their retiring to Tucson and volunteering at the PHF. Al is the philatelist of the family but Alphie soon join him in volunteering after first considering becoming a substitute teacher in the Tucson public schools. Alphie started out helping Omega Williamson in preparation of philatelic exhibits. Initially they created exhibits which were displayed at the Arizona Historical Society close by

the present PHF location. Alphie eventually took over the activities of putting together the philatelic exhibits and created more than thirty-five outstanding multi-frame exhibits over the years. Her experience as a teacher provided much inspiration for the appealing, educational exhibits she put together and are a magnificent legacy to her talents and her dedication to PHF. Alphie was working on an exhibit involving lighthouses on stamps and covers, which Alex and Beppie Lutgendorf have volunteered to complete for display at the PHF sometime in the months ahead.

Alphie made substantial contributions to PHF through her volunteer efforts for which the PHF community will be forever grateful. Her many, many friends and acquaintances at the PHF will remember her for her sparkling personality and for the wonderful person that she was. She will be greatly missed.

Chairman's Message

Fifty Years of Service to Philately and the World!

In October of this year the Postal History Foundation will celebrate its fiftieth year of service to the community, the nation, and the philatelic world. It all began many years ago when Bill Alexander talked Ray Brandes of the Arizona Pioneers Historical Society into establishing a Philatelic Chapter. It was first housed in the basement of what is now the Arizona Historical Society. That same year the Arizona Philatelic Rangers was established to help finance and staff the organization. Permission was granted by the local sheriff that members could be either appointed as sheriffs or deputy sheriffs. Of the original sixteen members of that group only John Birkinbine,

the present chairman, is still active. In the meantime the membership has grown to several hundred.

In 1964 the PHF started working with asthmatic children in the Sahuaro School, but in 1969 the National Foundation for Asthmatic Children closed the school because of financial problems. Several local teachers wanted to continue these efforts and leading the way was Omega Williamson, the director of education for the PHF (then called The Postal History Museum). She was joined by Hildegarde Nelson and Phyllis Ashwood from our staff of volunteers and they developed an education program based on postage stamps that was later expanded into the public schools and became the education program

we have today.

In 1978 Stephen Bechtel, Sr. donated a collection of United States stamp proofs and essays which were auctioned off to raise money for the PHF. This enabled the PHF to buy a former church which became its new headquarters. This main building is now in use today in conjunction with the Slusser Library built in 1996.

With over fifty volunteers and three paid staff members the Postal History Foundation continues as a pioneer in the use of stamps in primary and secondary education. The PHF is a resource to the local community, many states and organizations and several foreign countries. Today the PHF reaches over 8,500 students in stamp education programs.

Robert B. Bechtel,
Chairman

Slusser Library Awarded Grant

The Slusser Library at the Postal History Foundation has been awarded an American Heritage Preservation grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services, in the amount of \$3,000.00. This grant was achieved through the intensive efforts of Charlotte Cushman, Librarian of the Slusser Library. Although the dollar amount is relatively small, it is nevertheless a significant achievement because the grant award

process is very competitive and this was one of just two grants awarded in the state of Arizona. In addition, this is a different source of funding than either of the other two grants that have been received by the Library this year. The project, titled "Environmental Improvement and Preservation of Postal History Collection", will be used for preservation and conservation, including a hygrothermograph to monitor

humidity and temperature, as well as sleeving UV lights in the stacks, and purchasing preservation supplies. In addition, several rare items will be selected for individual conservation treatment. Building on a conservation assessment done last summer, this project is designed to improve environmental control in the library and will bring a conservation focus to existing practices.

Library Corner

Now Open Saturdays!

Those of you who work during the week, families, and teachers have often requested that the library be open during the weekend. We are pleased to announce that we are now open

- Tuesday through Friday
8am - 12:00 noon
- Saturday 10am - 2pm
or by appointment.

The rest of the Foundation will continue to be open
Monday - Friday 8am - 3pm.

New Acquisitions

We are grateful to receive new books through donations and through purchase with funds raised from the proceeds of our sales. New titles this quarter include:

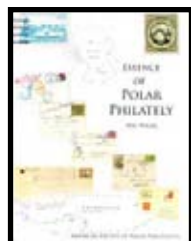
- *Understanding Transatlantic Mail*, Vol. 2, Winter, Richard F. (2009)



- *Miniature Messages: The Semiotics and Politics of Latin American Postage Stamps*, Child, Jack (2008)
- *Postal History of Costa Rica to 1883*, Frajola, Richard C. & Frederick R. Mayer (2008)
- *U.S. Postal Notes Issued in Texas, 1883-1894*, Surasky, Charles (2nd edition, 2009)
- *Special Mail Routes of the American Civil War:*

A guide to across-the-lines postal history, Walke, Steven C. (2008)

- *The Essence of Polar Philately*, Vogel, Hal (2008)



- *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, 1855-1873: The Chalon Head Issues*, Odenweller, Robert P. (2009)

Children & Youth:

- *Mule Train Mail*, Brown, Craig McFarland (2009)



- *Stamp It!: The Ultimate Stamp Collecting Activity Book*, Jonath, Leslie (2002)
- *Delivering Your Mail: A Book about Mail Carriers*, Owen, Ann (2004)

Online News

Arizona Memory Project

View two new digital collections online on the Arizona Memory Project at <http://azmemory.lib.az.us/cdm4/index.php?CISOROOT=/phfaps&mode=repository>

- Rosa Ronquillo Rhodes: The Life of the Redington Ranch Postmistress
- Postal Campaigns of Tucson and Surrounding Areas

Library Wish List

- 36" flat screen TV and cart for school groups and other visitors to the library
- Foreign stamp catalogs from 2000 to the present
- The Floyd E. Risvold Collection auction catalogs from Spink Shreves Galleries January 27 - 29, 2010
- Arizona Highways magazines (current issues)

Welcome New Members!

Kenneth M. Pearson - Mesa, AZ
Stephen Vanourny - Marana, AZ
Frank Muscat - Las Vegas, NV
Robert J. Kilian - San Diego, CA
Robert P. Roy - Canada
Theodore W. Maynard - Oro Valley, AZ

Peggy Soo Hoo - Tucson, AZ
Ronald F. Eustice - Savage, MN
Daniel McAdam - Rio Rancho, NM
George Vandenberg - Ontario, Canada
Gary Graf - Phoenix, AZ
Nicholas Braun -

San Juan Capistrano, CA
Ron Couchot - Oceanside, CA
Cathy Rogge - Green Valley, AZ
Robert Consigli - Tucson, AZ (new PHF volunteer)
Edward Roeding - Tucson, Arizona
Bob McLean - Carmichael, CA

The PHF Family Portfolio

Officers:

Chairman	Bob Bechtel
Vice Chair	Paul Nelson
Secretary	David Bernheim
Treasurer	Bill Kohl

Staff:

Executive Assist: Lena Rogers
Youth Ed: Lisa Dembowski
Librarian: Charlotte Cushman
Editor: Frank Mallalieu

ARIPEX 2010



A View Of The Dealer's Bourse

The ARIPEX 2010 show of February 12-14, 2010, held in Mesa, AZ was a success. The turnout was smaller than normal for a World Series show but those that attended were enthusiastic and amply supported the dealers. The situation with the economy may have been a factor in the attendance, but the weather was very pleasant and shouldn't have had a negative impact.

During the show three new members were elected to the Arizona Philatelic Hall of Fame. They were; Renate Fearonce--longtime philatelic sales representative (retired) with U.S. Postal Service in Tucson, who served a host of worldwide customers during her tenure there, Steven Staton--longest running President of the Arizona Federation of Stamp Clubs, and

ARIPEX Show Chairman for 2007, 2009, and the upcoming 2011 show in Tucson as well as a board member of the the Postal History Foundation in Tucson, and Gregg Hopkins, Sr., longtime exhibitor and collector who has won numerous gold and special awards that has contributed to the success of ARIPEX and philately in Arizona. Gregg is a major booster of ARIPEX as he attends many stamp shows across the country promoting ARIPEX and philately in general.

The Postal History Foundation joined 50 dealers at ARIPEX providing a large stock of philatelic material to a number of collectors with multiple interests. Sales material included stamps, covers, albums, paraphernalia, postcards, and more. Pro-

ceeds from the sales provide income to support the many activities of the PHF. Many thanks go to the many volunteers who helped set up and run the PHF booth during ARIPEX, including Bob Davis, Paul Nelson, and John Wynn, and others who were so generous with their time and energy. Without their dedicated contributions the success of the PHF booth would not have been possible.

The youth area had only a modest amount of visitors and the location assigned to the youth area was not as visitor-friendly as in years past. This was attributed to the larger-than-normal amount of exhibit frames as well as having the maximum number of dealers in attendance. Although ARIPEX always strives to support youth philately to the maximum extent possible, it is realized that the show is funded by the exhibitors and dealers, which makes it possible to sponsor ARIPEX year after year. It is hoped that in years to come greater emphasis can be given to supporting youth philately and ensuring that the maximum number of young collectors can attend and take part in meaningful and enjoyable philatelic activities. Special thanks go to Marcia Condit and Susan Sisson for running the youth booth and doing so much to promote stamp collecting among young philatelists.

The awards banquet was held in the meeting rooms

adjacent to the stamp show and was attended by a large crowd of about 70 persons. The banquet featured entertainment by a blues duo recommended by Bill Chesser of the Phoenix Philatelic Association. Master of Ceremonies was Dr. Frederick Lawrence who used his wit and sense of humor to move the proceedings through the event smoothly. The banquet was followed by a walk-through of the show exhibits.

The show produced a large number of Gold Medals, with a total of 19 being awarded. Among the awards was the Grand Award to the exhibit of Lester Lanphear entitled "U.S. Departmentals, 1873-1884; the Reserve Grand Award to the exhibit of Stephen Schumann entitled "New Zealand Postal Stationery, 1976-1940; the best Single Frame Award to the exhibit of Don Price entitled "U.S. State Department Values"; and the Women Exhibitors Sterling Achievement to the exhibit of Chris Kulpinski entitled "Polish Displaced Persons in Post War Germany". The People's Choice Award (among many others) was awarded to the exhibit of Gregg Hopkins, Sr. entitled "Luck Of The Draw "Legends of the West, Bill Pickett, The Errors, Revision & Lottery".

ARIPEX also hosted several notable guest philatelic societies which held both outreach activities as well as their annual meetings.

Among those present were The United States Philatelic Classics Society, the United States Postal Stationery Society, The American Philatelic Society, the American Revenue Association, Carriers and Locals Society, the United States Stamp Society, and the Arizona/New Mexico Postal History Society.

Among the many fine exhibits and other interesting activities there was a special showing of the world famous Inverted Jenny airmail stamp. Of note in this exhibit was a series of "smudges" on the Jenny issue that indicated the exact position of the stamps in relation to the original sheet of mint stamps. It was a fine example of the type of exhibits present at the show. The attention to detail and quality of exhibits were some of the finest seen at any stamp show in the country.

Overall, ARIPEX 2010 was a great success!



*Renate Fearonce Receiving Her
Arizona Hall Of Fame Award*

WESTPEX 2010 Coming In April

The WESTPEX 2010 Stamp Show will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at its upcoming show in San Francisco, CA, April 23-25, 2010. The show will feature 300+ exhibit frames as well as a 75 dealer bourse and an extensive auction. The PHF will be there with a table run by our own Lena Rogers and others. You won't want to miss this great show and support the PHF as well. SEE YOU THERE!

PHF 50th Anniversary October Celebration!

On Saturday, October 23, 2010, The Postal History Foundation will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. There are many special events being planned, including special exhibits, children's activities, some historical remembrances, food and drink, and hopefully some special entertainment. Plans are also underway for having a special 50th Anniversary cachet available to those attending. Stay tuned for more details as plans become finalized. Hope to see you at the PHF in October for this special event.

Notes From Lisa

News from Youth Education
Thru Stamps

Rain has fallen in Tucson frequently this winter, with the promise that flowers will follow this spring. Like the rain, many boxes of donations of stamps and supplies have appeared here at the PHF. The donations are very important to us as we replenish our stamp files and stocks for the children. The birds and bees are already very active outside as is the Education Department. We are busy as bees encouraging young people so that they grow up to be Philatelists! We are well on our way again to supporting over 8,000 students this school year. So far this school year we have given out over 300,000 stamps to kids across the country and the world. Much of our work benefits the community right here in Arizona but in the last three years since I have been keeping records, we have also supported teachers and students in 23 states across the country as well as in several foreign countries.

Kids love to learn with stamps but we must not forget the adults in our community that love our program also. Throughout the year we participate in many community events where adults, as well as kids get a kick out of sifting through our Stamp Treasure Chests. We also give presentations to local community groups, and work in retirement homes, libraries, local tribal groups and museums. Whether at the Tucson Botanical Gardens or at Saint Luke's Home, adults get excited about stamps and all the learning that can evolve from them and they spread the word to their sons, daughters, and grandchildren. So it is happening in two ways: top -> down and bottom->up. We are reaching all age groups and kindling or rekindling the spark of stamp collecting and learning through stamps!

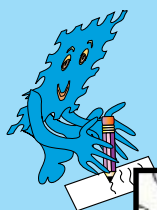
The PHF is swamped by tourists every day and we are an exciting field trip destination for school children and also for people with disabilities. Several days during the week our parking lot is overflowing with cars and some have to park a block away at a local church!

This summer I am looking forward to holding two different stamp camps: Beginners and Advanced. Those that attended stamp camp last summer will be in the Advanced, working on creating their own exhibits. Advanced Stamp Camp will be held June 7-11th and Beginning Camp on June 14-18th. If you know of any children that might be interested in the beginning camp, please call me at 520-623-6652 ext. 102.

Remember, all this activity cannot be sustained without your generous donation of time, philatelic materials, and money. We are thankful for all of you who volunteer your time and donate your philatelic materials and we very much appreciate any monetary assistance which helps keep our education program going and benefits children here in Arizona and across the country and world!!

As always, I receive many thank you notes and requests from students. Enjoy the following wonderful letters, poems, and pictures that they have sent me. I hope the coming spring will bring many flowers and chances for you to pollinate new philatelists!

Letters, Poems & Pictures



Dear Mrs. Dembowski,
Thank you for showing us the Power Point on insects.
I wrote a poem for you:

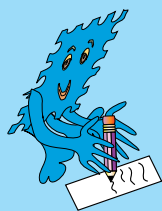


The Praying Mantis

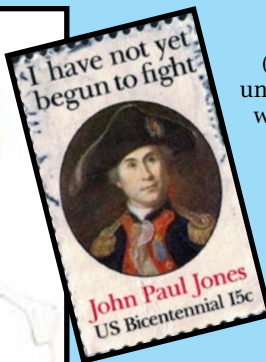
A insect is a bug that
has six legs.
Most insects have wings.
On a praying mantis's
arms it has spikes.
It uses the spikes to kill prey.
It also has pinchers to kill prey.
Did you know there is a
tan praying mantis?

I hope we see you on our field
trip. Come again soon.

Sincerely,
Bryce



Mrs. Dembowski,
Thank you for coming into our class. Your presenta-
tion was interesting. I learned a new name of a fa-
mous person. It's John Jay. Sincerely, Henry



(The caption,
under the stamp,
was written by
the student,
Henry)

*John Paul Jones, a Navy
captain is known for
refusing to surrender. He
even yelled "I have not
begun to fight!"*

Arizona's 65th Anniversary



Commemorative cover from Prescott, AZ, postmarked July 4, 1929, celebrating the 65th anniversary of the establishment of the Arizona territorial government

In a little less than two years Arizona will be celebrating its 100th anniversary of statehood. Celebrations of all kinds will take place (finances permitting) all over the state. Nevertheless, in 1929, a slightly different kind of anniversary took place, at least up in Prescott, Arizona. On July 4, 1929, Prescott celebrated the 65th anniversary of the inauguration of the

Arizona territorial government on July 4, 1864. Whether other parts of the state celebrated this event is not known. Nonetheless, celebrating the anniversary of the establishment of the Arizona territorial government was certainly a worthy undertaking. Before there was a state of Arizona there was an Arizona territory. It is certainly understandable that the city

of Prescott would want to celebrate this event inasmuch as Prescott was the headquarters of the newly established territory of Arizona in 1864. A little known but interesting fact connected with the establishment of the territory is that the individual appointed to be the first territorial governor was one John N. Goodwin (of the state of Maine, no less). One has to wonder just how well he adjusted from moving from the climate of Northern New England to the desert climate of the Southwest. The attached photo is of a cover issued to celebrate Arizona's 65th anniversary. The cachet features a drawing of the new governor, John N. Goodwin along with a notation of the anniversary. The 5 cent Beacon airmail stamp is postmarked "PRESCOTT, ARIZ. JUL 4, 1929.", in an unusual robin's egg blue color, seldom seen on postmarks of the time or even in the present day.



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Label incorrect? Duplicate?
Please send us the corrections.

