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The *Postscript*
Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club
1904 Nanticoke Cir
Tallahassee, FL 32303

President's Message *from Mike Francis*

Due to a family situation I missed the July meeting but those who did attend reported a well-attended and lively meeting. This is unusual in the middle of the summer months but is most encouraging.

We will all miss two of our members who passed away this summer: Rene Manes and Fred Fogle. Rene provided us with many presentations over the years and insight into his articles he wrote for publication in the national philatelic press. Fred was a collector who specialized in the thematic area of religion as it applied to philately. We will all miss both of these consummate collectors.

When you get a chance thank Ed Walters for all his help with the club especially with getting the meeting notice posted in the Tallahassee Democrat.

As of July 10, 2008, we have 45 members and the club is on solid financial ground. We can expect to pick up a few more members this year but finding

new, younger members is becoming near impossible not only for us but for all types of clubs around the country. Between the sports, the internet, and all the portable electronics available, parents are not able to entice their children into any educational hobbies. I hear this lament from parents all the time when I approach them about their child becoming a stamp collector. It is not just stamp collecting but children these days shun all forms of hobbies. We know it has nothing to do with cost because stamp and coin collecting is far cheaper a hobby than what parents pay for the children's electronic devices. Your thoughts on how to attract the younger generation into an educational and fun collecting environment will be appreciated and solicited at the next several meetings.

Enjoy the rest of the summer! Mike

THE *Postscript*

Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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Opening of the "Cherokee Strip" *by Larry Benson*

On a hot, dusty September day in 1893 one of the greatest races in human history took place on the plains of north central Oklahoma. Covering 226 miles east to west and 58 miles north to south the narrow strip of land covered what today are nine counties of former Indian Territory. The "Cherokee Strip" was about to be opened for settlement by those early white pioneers who hoped to stake their claims to a 160 acre tract of land. Some 42,000 parcels were available for homesteading.

More than 100,000 men and women mounted horses, buggies and even rode bicycles on the big day to make the last competitive race for the great Government land "give-away." Actually, the U. S. Government had already given the land to the Cherokees in 1828 but the Indians never lived there. They only traversed the prairie to reach their western hunting grounds. One could argue that the land did not really belong to the Government and question its right to open the Strip for white settlement, but

that's another story.

My hometown of Enid, which had yet to be settled, sits slap-dab in the middle of the Cherokee Strip. According to family history, my great uncle George Keck rode "hell bent for leather" when, at straight up noon, cannons placed at intervals around the borders of the Strip boomed out announcing the beginning of the run. Uncle George claimed his 160 acres along Turkey Creek south of Enid near what is today the small village of Drummond. Before she died, my maternal Grandmother told me when she was just a "youngin" she rode from Kansas into Oklahoma several months later on a buckboard with her feet dangling off the back. She wore a big bonnet, full-length, flowing dress and high button shoes.

There's a Cherokee Strip Museum in Enid with several articles my family donated over the years. And, each year during the week of September 16th there's a Cherokee Strip Celebration in Enid featuring band concerts, festivals,

Meeting Dates & Presentations, 2008-2009

August 12 — Mike Francis

September 9 — TBA

October 14 — Single Page Exhibit

November 11 — Annual Bourse, Elections

December 9 — Annual Christmas Party

January 13, 2009 — Mike Francis

February 10, 2009 — TBA

March 10, 2009 — TBA

April 14, 2009 — Mike Francis

Inside this issue:

<i>Cherokee Strip</i>	2
<i>(cont.)</i>	
<i>Member Activity and Adventures</i>	2
<i>Identity Uncovered</i>	3
<i>Identify This Stamp</i>	3
<i>Unique Postal Cancellation</i>	3
<i>President's Message</i>	4

NOTICE:

• In June and July two of the club's members passed away. Dr. Rene Manes and Fred Fogle, Ph.D. Remember them in your thoughts and prayers.

• Club members decided that the annual club philatelic exhibit would be re-activated. This coming October we will have a single page exhibit for members who would like to participate.

• Note that the Annual Bourse has been moved to November due to the Single Page Exhibit night now occurring in October.

Opening of the "Cherokee Strip" (cont.)

arts and crafts, parades, Indians camping in teepees on the court house lawn, political speeches and mock "gun fights."

Covers commemorating the event of 1893 with stamps and special cancels also have been issued at different times in various towns within the Strip. Guthrie was Oklahoma's first capital city. The stamps on the two covers show what it must have been like to "make the run". Yeehaw – giddy up!

Below is a photo of the first United States stamp issue recognizing the Cherokee Strip event, Scott 1360 issued on October 15, 1968. In the next column are the 100th anniversary celebration event cover and postcard.



The cover below has the 29 cent Scott 2754 cancelled with the ceremonial franking and the post card is a 15c Scott UX130.



Member Activity and Adventures compiled by Mike Francis

Dr. Hemanth Vasanthaiah was recently published in *Topical Time*, July-August, 2008, Vol.59, No. 4 issue in which he details his recent thematic exhibit using philatelic items. His article is titled "Malaria Still Thrives" and starts on page 35 of the publication. As soon as I complete the club's Tallahassee web site (a never-ending project) members will be able to view Hemanth's exhibit.

Dr. Vasanthaiah also would like to alert members to some of the latest innovations in stamp issuing such as the Bhutan CD stamp and the Portuguese cork stamp (see photo at the bottom right of page 3.) Bhutan, a small country hidden in the Himalayan Mountains is well-noted for philatelic adventures since they issued the first 3D stamp, steel, silk and sculptured stamps and even a vinyl stamp that actually played on a record player. Now, to tell the world about Bhutan, they have released a stamp (part of a series of such stamps) that is a CD, playable on any CD player, valid for postage and provides a history of the country including video.

Jerry Davis recommends that members read Dr. Rene Manes' last published article titled *Charles Darwin and the Beagle* in the "New Digs News" section of the April 2008 *Old World of Archaeological Study Unit Journal*. The unit is a group whose members are dedicated to the study of old world archaeology on stamps.

Identity Uncovered? by Dr. Mike Francis



It is a safe bet that this stamp is from the Far East but is it Chinese or Japanese? A quick look in my first "go to" reference, Linn's Stamp Identifier, immediately shows a stamp in the overprint section with

the same name and the same style of overprint. The stamp is a type issued by the United States Administration of the Ryukyu Islands situated between Japan and Taiwan. A look in Scott's US Specialized catalog, Ryukyu Islands section, took some time because this stamp is not pictured in the album therefore characteristics of the stamp were used to find a match.

There were several stamps with the same text overprint but the denomination was in yen. Finally, a series of stamps in the airmail section had the same overprint text and the denomination in cents. This stamp is Ryukyu Islands Scott C23, used, 35c on 20y yellow orange. It has a SC2007 catalog value of \$5.00

NOTE: Some of us are finding out that Google is becoming more and more worthless as a fast access reference tool because of more businesses showing up in the front of the results list. For example, the search using *difference Japanese Ryukyu stamp* only had the word *difference* on the primary page in one out of the first 45 hits. I am trying other internet search utilities that place a priority on the search words provided versus giving priority to primarily businesses.

Identify This Stamp



See if you can identify this stamp. Its identity will be uncovered in the next issue.

TSSC OFFICERS
President & Publisher
 Mike Francis
 850-385-1060
 email: drmikef@comcast.net

Vice President
 Mickey Dwyer
 850-574-5097

Secretary
 Becky Reese
 850-656-9598

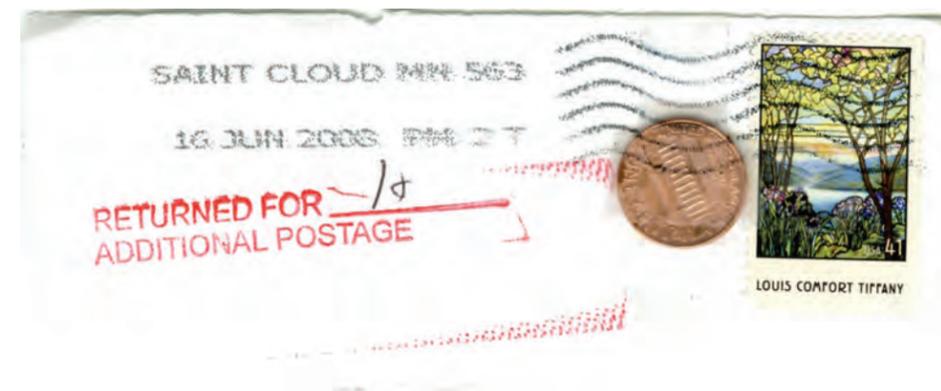
Treasurer
 Larry Sharp
 850-893-3405

The Postscript is the quarterly journal of the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club. Articles may be reproduced provided credit is given to this publication.

Al Kelly finds a unique cancellation

Club member Al Kelly mailed the *Postscript* editor this unique postal item. As can be seen from the photo below, an individual did not have a 1¢ stamp to cover the new 42¢ postal rate. So, this individual taped a penny onto the envelope next to the 41¢ stamp and mailed the item. From the inkjet postmark it is obvious that the letter entered the automated mail sorting system, was cancelled, then routed to its addressed destination. The letter was supposedly intercepted by the letter carrier at the destination point and returned, through the postal facilities, to the sender due to insufficient postage.

As per USPS regulations, the letter was returned to the sender for the purpose of adding the correct 1¢ postage. The days of placing a postage due stamp on the envelope and having the postal carrier collect the additional 1c postage due at the delivery site are long gone.



Portuguese self-adhesive 100% 1 euro cork stamp