

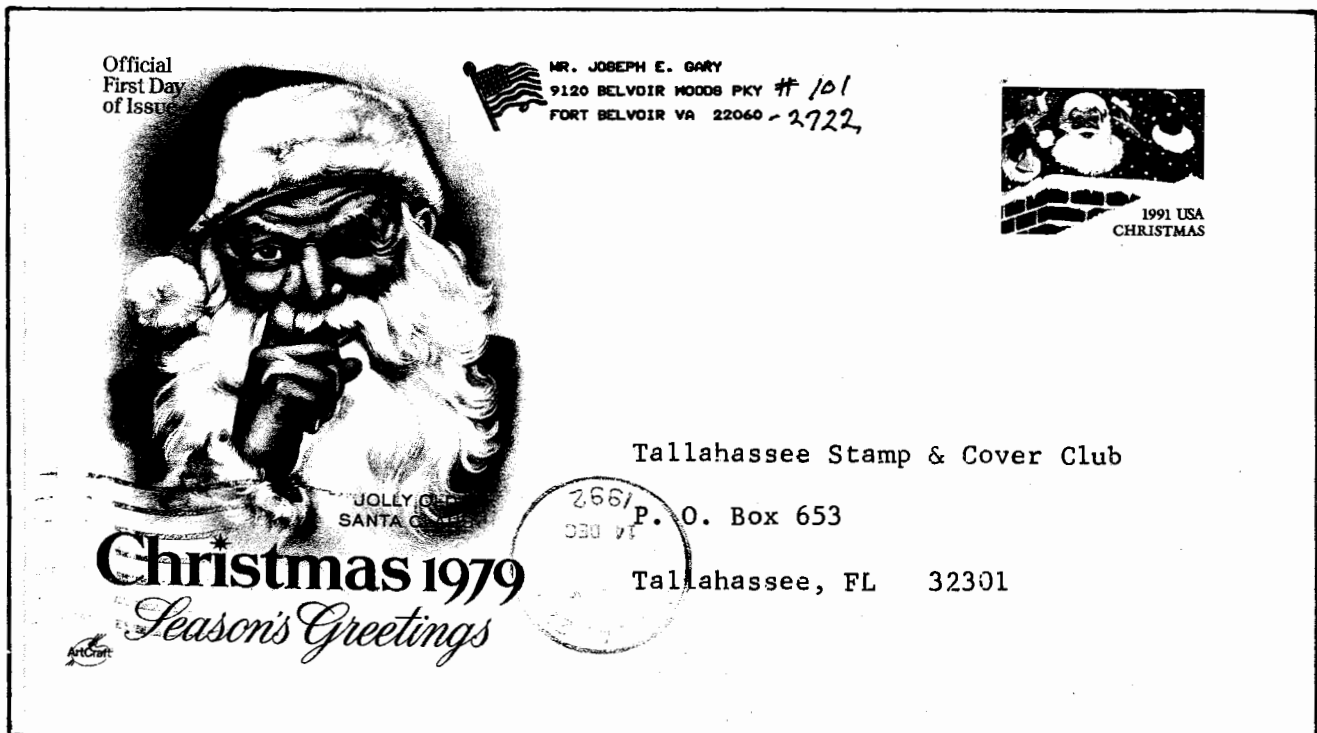
# The Postscript



Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

Vol. 9 No. 4

October - December 1999



Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

P. O. Box 653

Tallahassee, FL 32301

**“May there be peace in your world and love in your heart...”**

The above anonymous quotation is most fitting as we approach the coming Holidays. While the excitement of Santa Claus and all of the glitter, lights, music, gifts and hustle-bustle that go along with the Season are well and good, we need also to pause and reflect upon the truer meaning of why we celebrate.

We also should take stock in our own lives to see if we are exhibiting the true spirit of Christmas in our every day relationships with family and friends and pledge to maintain this spirit throughout the year.

## **Christmas Party December 14**

Once again you will have a chance to share the spirit of Christmas with your stamp buddies at our annual party on December 14 which is the regular meeting date.

On a volunteer basis, members may bring a small gift, not necessarily philatelic and valued at around \$5 to the party to exchange with others who also bring gifts. Those who bring a gift will place it in “Santa’s Bag” and will be eligible to pick out a gift (be sure not to get your own!)

The Club will provide food, normally a cheese and meat tray and a “veggie” selection as well as soft drinks. Members who are “filled with the spirit” may bring desserts or side dishes, although again, doing so is strictly voluntary.

“This is one of the most enjoyable times we have all year long. I hope a lot of our members will make every effort to join in the fun,” President Ed Walters said.

**Merry Christmas!**

## Slate of Nominees For New Officers

At the November meeting, former club president Mike Francis serving in his capacity as nominations chairman, proposed the following members as candidates for officers whose terms are to begin on January 1, 2000:

President - **David Wike**  
Vice-President - **Ken Miller**  
Secretary - **Becky Reese**  
Treasurer - **Pat McDonald**  
Editor - **Larry Benson**

The floor will be reopened during the December meeting for any further nominations with elections to follow.

## Three Win Prizes at CLOTHESPEX '99

Three TS&CC members won philatelic prizes for displaying winning album pages at the November club meeting. Winners were: first - "Birds" by **Louis Gagnon**, second - "Fake or Find" by **Rene Manes**, third - "Edison" by **Bob Hargrave**.

There were some 21 album pages displayed on a clothesline strung around the meeting room. Members then voted on their three favorite displays.

## Members Are Urged to Volunteer for Program

Programs for most of next year are urgently needed. Members are encouraged and urged to volunteer to give a presentation on some facet of stamp collecting. If willing, contact one of the new officers.

### IN THE POSTROAD AHEAD

**Dec. 14** - Christmas Party and Election of Officers

**Jan. 11** - Questions & Answers

**Feb. 15** - Show, Tell, Sell, Buy

**Mar. 14** - Volunteer Needed for Program

Meetings at 7:30 p.m. at Senior Center  
Corner 7th Ave & North Monroe

### From The President's Desk

By  
Ed  
Walters



These two years have been a challenge for me in getting programs and understanding your desires for the stamp club. I greatly appreciate the support of many of the members in presenting programs, sometimes on very short notice.

The job of president is one of a coordinator with the members being the decision makers and the doers. Thanks to all of you, I feel we have had a successful two years.

### DeSoto Trail School

In October I had a request from the DeSoto Trail Elementary School to present a program on stamp and cover collecting. I thought about the "county fair" approach we have been using for our Youth Nights and planned four stations for the students.

The late Bruce McDonald and Pat were quick to volunteer, as usual, but Bruce passed away just two days before the program was scheduled. We surely miss Bruce and his enthusiasm for our club.

However, we could not disappoint the youngsters, so with the help of Rene Manes, Dave Wike and Phil Spitzer who I called upon at the last minute, we had a great time with 40 energetic students from the third and fifth grades. We had stamps donated by Phil for gift packets and for a grab box the youth really enjoyed.

We only had one class period of 50 minutes, which caused  
See **President** on page 4

## Zachary Taylor Refused to Pay for Letters Sent Collect

In 1848, General Zachary Taylor, who was later elected president, told the Baton Rouge, LA postmaster that he would no longer pay for letters sent collect. In early June of that year, the Whig Party nominated him as their presidential candidate. The party chairman notified Taylor of his nomination by mail. When he hadn't replied by late June, the party chairman wrote to Taylor again. The first letter, it seems, was sitting in the Baton Rouge post office, postage due. Taylor waited until his was going that way, paid the postage, read the letter and accepted the nomination.

## In Remembrance

\*

## Bruce McDonald

April 21, 1925 - October 24, 1999

*Charter and founding member of the  
Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club.*

# *A Male Senior Citizen's Guide to Prostate Cancer...* By Don Plaskett

Your general practitioner (GP) has been watching your PSA (prostate specific antigen) slowly rise over the past few years. Finally, my GP made an appointment with a urologist for me when my PSA hit 8.3 in my 75th year. The urologist gave me three choices all of which were viable but dependent upon my overall health. The choices were:

1. Do nothing. The cancer grows at a very slow rate. Perhaps you have lived all the years you want and another five or 10 will do;
2. Remove the prostate. It has been good to you but it will be remembered in a long recovery period.
3. Go for a low radiation seed implant. That seemed to be the best choice for me considering my age and health. The decision to go with number three was made and a date set for the implanting.

You and your insurance provider and Medicare will be pleased to know you have hired a GP, a urologist, an oncologist and an anesthesiologist. They all want to keep an eye on you but the urologist is "King."

An attorney also with a high PSA would be helpful at your first visit to the hospital. You will be asked to sign numerous forms protecting them from EVERYTHING, including mistakes and falling aircraft wheels. You had to decide whether to have a spinal or full anesthetic and because I wanted my moneys worth, I picked the latter.

Your big day begins early in the morning but the nurses give you a little extra time to figure out how to stop those drafts common to hospital gowns. Someone is bound to find an extra test that will delay your trip to the table.

I enjoyed the scenic trip given by another senior with driving experience as he wheeled me into the domain of the anesthetist. Beware of the person who will give you something to relax you. When he does, his will be the last voice you will hear until you wake up later.

Your urologist has found a target area "below" called the perineum. In that little area he is able to find space for as many as 50 needles loaded with a low radiation "seed" (I-125 radioactive iodine.) With his skill he is able to implant some 150 of these seeds. You are now radioactive and will be well warned to avoid grandchildren and pregnant women. You also will have first call on the softest cushions in the house as it will be a delicate exercise to sit down for at least the next five days.



*On May 28 the USPS issued the 33-cent Prostate Cancer Awareness stamp. Scott #3315*

Enjoy "GA-GA" land for a few hours during which you will be laced with tubes including a catheter. It would be nice if you could bank a little urine because you won't get out of the hospital until you have met your quota. When the catheter is removed, you will have an unlimited supply for forest fires or other conflagrations.

You may not have to stay in the hospital over night, but I did. Sleep comes in 15 minute increments as a small army of people performs tests and always right on schedule. If you embarrass easily, pretend you are sleeping but if it doesn't matter, enjoy yourself because it might not happen again.

You will leave the hospital in a wheelchair whether you want to run out or not. Finally, all the trauma and mystery are "behind" you. With some rest you will be as good as new in four to five days.

Your only worry will be the cost of the recovery medication...your last great shock!

So, why have I written this light-hearted report on a serious problem that plagues males? Without any hint of danger, I am thankful my GP was alerted to my condition and did something about it. When I talk about the procedure, so many men will change the subject because it's still a "no-no." I am confident that a brief discomfort may have extended my life span.

I want to join Arny's Army and along with Arnold Palmer, Jim Colbert, Bob Dole and others who found out that a simple blood test and examination at least once a year for men over 50 is important. Be aware, and don't ignore regular checkups.

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## *Philatelic Terms*

**"Tete-Beche"** Adjacent stamps from the same sheet where one design is upside down (point in opposite directions) in relation to the other.

\* \* \*

## Remembering Bruce McDonald...

By Larry Benson

us to be a little rushed to complete the entire program within the time limitation. Everyone at the school seemed to be really pleased and asked us if we would come back again next year.

So, thanks again for all your help. I hope to see each of you during our club Christmas Party on December 14, at our regular second Tuesday meeting time and place.

Have a joyful Christmas and Happy Stamp Collecting!

### Wanted

#### **Railroad Post Office (RPO)**

Cancellations on Covers.  
Also books, price guides,  
references, catalogs  
of RPO serviced mail.

Show me what you've got!

Larry Benson - 877-7001  
e-mail LLbenson@aol.com

What can be said about Bruce McDonald?

He wasn't a philatelist, he was a stamp collector. He wasn't an acquaintance, he was a friend. He wasn't a father, he was a Dad.

Of all the friends I have, Bruce was among the least pretentious. He never "put on airs" but was down-to-earth, always displaying a winning smile, chatted easily with anyone who would start a conversation and he never met a stranger.

Bruce was most proud of his wife, Pat, and their four children. Next, though, was his achieving citizenship by virtue of his service in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He received the Purple Heart, a fact I didn't know until I read about it in the local newspaper.

Most of our members knew Bruce was a native of Belize. He would talk about that country at the "drop of a hat" and he presented several interesting programs about the stamps of Belize at club meetings throughout the years.

He served in several capacities with the Tallahassee Stamp and Cover Club, including Librarian and Treasurer. He and Pat attended the very first organizational meeting of the club which was held in March 1988 in the community room at Tallahassee Community Hospital.

His attendance at meetings was regular and he and Pat only missed when they were out of town or ill. His quiet confidence, devotion to the stamp collecting hobby, readiness to help with projects, twinkling eyes, warmth, charm and ready smile will surely be missed.

### **THE POSTSCRIPT**

1832 Jean Avenue  
Tallahassee, FL 32308-5227

#### **TS&CC Club Officers**

President - Ed Walters 385-8379  
Vice President - Ken Miller 386-4157  
Secretary - Gwynn P. Kidd 627-7776  
Treasurer - Lyn McCauley 386-3624  
Editor - Larry Benson 877-7001

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P.O. Box 653, Tallahassee, FL 32302  
*Articles may be reprinted with credit.*



Edwin Walters  
313 Sweetbriar Dr.  
Tallahassee, FL 32312

**First Class Mail**