

San Jose Stamp Club

APS Chapter 0264-025791

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928

May 2021

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the San Jose Stamp
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PIPEX 2021

First-Ever Virtual World Series of Philately Show

Registration is Open Now!

In May, PIPEX will be online and make history as the first virtual World Series of Philately stamp show. The show offers 50 competitive exhibits and a full schedule of presentations ranging from hobby interests to philatelic talks. The show site also features links to more than 40 dealers for visitors to build their collections.

"I am excited to be part of the first Virtual WSP Show! This is a major responsibility; we have to do it well. But we're on it!" said PIPEX Chair Mark Loomis, "We believe we will be presenting a show worthy of our PIPEX history and one that everyone will enjoy participating in – even if 'virtually.'"

World Series of Philately Exhibition

The Committee on Accreditation of National Exhibitions and Judging approved granting World Series of Philately status to virtual exhibitions for 2021. As a result, the Grand Award winner will be eligible to compete in the Champion of Champions at the Great American Stamp Show at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center in Rosemont, Illinois.

The PIPEX Jury will include:

- Liz Hisey, Chief Judge
- Michael Dixon
- Bill Fort
- Mark Banchik

The PIPEX competition includes 11 international exhibits, including six exhibits from Canada. Visitors can already view the online competition on the PIPEX website.

Speaker Series

PIPEX offers a series of talks over the three days of the show. On Friday, May 7, 2021, at 12:30 Pacific, APS Executive Director Scott English will hold a Town Hall meeting presenting the future of the APS and the APRL and taking questions. Members and non-members are welcome to attend.

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, at 9:30 am Pacific, American Topical Association President Dawn Hamman and Executive Jennifer Miller will host a Roundtable meeting.

The entire speaker schedule can be found on the PIPEX website.

For those interested in attending virtual PIPEX, please register now.

Visit the PIPEX website to get more information and participate in the show.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

April 2021 newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

My #1 goal for the club is to grow while still exceeding the needs of the existing members. Pretty ambitious! How do we accomplish this? Great question. Here is my idea on how we do this is outlined below.

- 1) Each of make the effort to invite someone we know who already a stamp collector to join a meeting.
- 2) Each of us invite someone who is not already a stamp collector to give it a try. A great incentive is that the club owns a wonderful inventory that can help anyone get off to a productive start.
- 3) We host programs at libraries, community centers, & senior living villages to host us giving a program on the fun and rewards of collecting.

A key to "flipping the story" is for people to see all the fun and rewards of collecting. Far too many believe that stamp collecting is all about putting obscure stamps in dusty old stamps albums. While there absolutely nothing wrong with "dusty" old albums (I use one, but with no dust), it continues the perception of being obscure and boring. When I've talked to families about collecting a country to celebrate and learn ones family heritage they are pleasantly surprised. Many people who are looking for a way to stay connected to

their heritage or teach it to their kids have never realized stamp collecting is a fantastic way to do it.

Likewise topical collecting is a new idea to most non-collectors. The presumption is that the only way to collect is by country or the world. The concept of just collecting stamps depicting something one likes is a complete surprise. Even more shocking is the idea of making the collection personal --- you don't have to make your collection look like anybody else's is a shock. I hear "I thought there was a lot of rules to stamp collecting." Being creative with a stamp collection is a widely new concept to far too many.

Another aspect to stamp collecting I'd like to share in my presentations on why on to start collecting is how each of us got started and what we enjoy about that we keep collecting.

EVERYBODY!!!

Please send me your story. I want to hear from everyone with your story: what do you collect, how you got started and what keeps you collecting. I will use these (without any personal information) to give examples of real stamp collectors. What motivates and interests us is likely to interest and motivate others.

My story: My Grandmother Esther got me started collecting when I was about 10 years old. She got started when her husband became the postmaster of the small town where they lived. She gave me her collection of First Day Covers and plate blocks and my parents where generous in keeping me going. I enjoyed the story behind each stamp and learning history (without being tested on it).

I continue collecting as I still enjoy learning what is behind each stamp and the satisfaction of collecting. I have started several minor collections for fun. I've always loved the old Looney Tune cartoons, so I've accumulated items about them. Researching the family genealogy is also a big part of my life, and I've been using old postcards to fill in gaps of the family story.

I want to hear your stories, so we use it to help incentivize others. I'm begging you to send yours.

Regards,

Brian

Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Review

April 2021

The Boy Scout stamp collecting merit badge (SCMB) is a wonderful resource to teach the fun of our favorite hobby. The requirements to earn the badge are the basics anybody would teach someone getting started.

Urgent Need: The stamp collecting merit badge earn rate has fallen to be one of the least earned badges. Scouting currently offers 137 merit badges and stamp collecting is consistently in the bottom 5. It is a very possibility that with such a low earn rate, that stamp collecting could be dropped as it's own badge and be included as an option in the Collecting merit badge. This would be a great loss as the requirements would likely be homogenized with the collecting of comic books and sports cards. Stamp Collecting typically has between 900 and 1,000 earns per year while Coin Collecting has between 4,000 and 5,000 per year and Collecting gets over 6,000 earns per year.



History: The SCMB has a long history in Scouting. While not one of the original badges offered in 1910, it was added in 1930 and became a very popular badge up to the 1970's. The badge requirements have changed substantially over the years, but are in a good place now for teaching the fundamentals without wandering out into too much esoterica. Interestingly, the image on the badge hasn't changed in 90 years. Someone who earned it 1931 would recognize the badge awarded in 2021.

Changing Perception: A major factor in young people not being interested in stamps is the perception is that stamp collectors are old men putting obscure ugly little pieces of paper into dusty old stamp albums. While there is nothing wrong with being older and using stamp albums (the author is old and uses an "dusty" old album), it limits the interest level. When shown the scope and opportunities of collecting, many more people (of all ages) are intrigued to learn more. When introduced to topical collecting, the interest level skyrockets. Since so many popular topic stamps are newer and in ample supply, a wonderful topical collection can be started for very little investment. The idea that collecting a country important in one's family heritage is an epiphany

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to many. The author has seen adults moved to tears over the idea that they could teach their kids the family history through stamps.

Badge Requirements: The following summarizes the badge requirements.

To read the full requirements, go to the website:

https://filestore.scouting.org/filestore/Merit_Badge_ReqandRes/Stamp_Collecting.pdf

A merit badge booklet can be ordered at:

<https://www.scoutshop.org/mbp-4c-stamp-collecting-623013.html>

The goal is to teach the basic of collecting.

Changes in Scouting: There have been considerable changes in the Boy Scouts of America in recent years. The most exciting change is the opportunity for young women to join the BSA, now known as “Scouting USA”. Yes, Girl Scouts of America continues to operate, and many young women chose this option. However, they now have the chance to do more challenging outdoor adventures, earn merit badges and earn the highly coveted rank of Eagle Scout. One thing that has hasn’t changed is the commitment to everyone’s safety. Yes, mistakes were made in the past, but for the past 30 years re-invigorated policies have dramatically reduced the incidents of abuse.



The Risk: The BSA regularly reviews the merit badges and eliminates those that are no longer relevant. They also add new badges to keep up with our changing world. The stamp collecting merit badge has been near the bottom of the earned badges for many years. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect that it would be evaluated for being aged out. While there is no immediate known threat, it is a very real possibility and we should take action while there is time to act.

Generating Interest in Stamps: It is key that pro-active programs be offered to make the badge available. Simply waiting for a young person to decide to do the badge on their own doesn’t work. The philatelic community needs to work together to offer programs that shows how much fun and rewarding stamp collecting can be. It is required to work with the local Scout council to make them aware of these programs.

Going Forward: The philatelic community needs to bond together and make a team effort to build up the earn rate for this badge. We can achieve a much higher earn rate if we work together. If think this is someone else’s problem, it will greatly diminish success. The APS, American Topical

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Society, Scouting on Stamps Society Int., local stamp clubs and shows all need to work together to create grow the earn rate.

- Recipe on teaching the badge
 - How to check list for teaching the badge
 - Plan for hosting seminars
 - Plan for working with a Scout one-on-one (few)
 - Follow the Scouting guidelines for merit badges
 - Create a presentation instructor can present at seminars or talk through with Scouts individually
 - Timeline on putting together seminar
- Inexpensive Stamps
 - Our hobby has a tremendous quantity of low value stamps that are wonderfully collectable.
 - Take advantage of this and put them to good use
 - Sorted by country and topic, Scouts can get lots of terrific stamps to build the collection needed to earn the badge.
 - The merit badge requires one of these 3 collections:
 - 250 stamps from 15 or more countries
 - 100 stamps from one country
 - 75 stamps on a topic
 - There are other options, but never a Scout choose them
- Promotion
 - It is important to promote the badge as being “fun”.
 - Far too many see stamp collecting as “old fashioned”
 - They have NO idea that topical collecting is an option.
 - Work with the local council office to the get the program included in regional emails and posted on the council website.
 - A fee can be charged to cover costs
 - Collecting a small fee weeds out registration from Scouts who want to sign up but not serious about attending.
- Opportunity
 - There needs to be regular opportunities for Scouts to earn this badge all over the country.
 - It is necessary to ask local clubs and shows to host merit badge seminars.



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Conclusions: If the philatelic community works together, we can get stamp collecting merit badge up to an earn rate on-par with coin collecting. A goal of doubling the rate to 2,000 earns a year should be enough to keep the badge from being aged out. The BSA is NOT threatening to discontinue the badge but considering it will take time to implement what is outlined here we should get moving before any warnings are issued. Many older stamp collectors complain about how far too few young people collect stamps anymore. Here is our chance to do something about that. No other youth program offers a program about stamp collecting, so let's take advantage of this wonderful opportunity to teach young people about the joys of stamp collecting.

Author:

Brian Jones

President San Jose Stamp Club

General Chairman, Filatelic Fiesta Stamp Show

Assistant Scoutmaster, Troop 290

The author has helped nearly 800 Scouts earn the stamp collecting merit badge over the 10 years he has taught the merit badge.



Shopping American Style

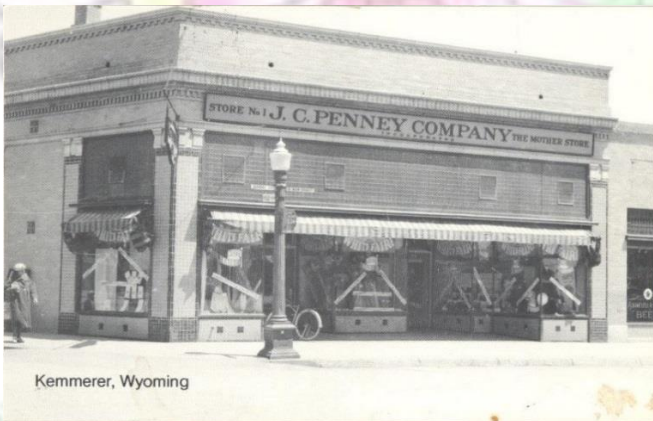
Across America, postcard collectors sort through boxes of dime and quarter cards looking for storefronts with names such as Penney, Woolworth, Newberry, and Kress. A lady I knew referred to these department stores as “initial stops.” The four most famous were J.C., F.W., J.J., and S.H.



F. W. Woolworth



S. H. Kress



J. C. Penney



J. J. Newberry

J. J. Newberry

The dime store. That was the term my family used to describe their intended destination every time they left home to go shop at the local Woolworth's store. It didn't matter what was on the “wanted list,” except groceries or car parts. Woolworth's usually had it.

It would take someone with a great knowledge of sales theory and experience to explain to me why stores like these always had two front doors. I guess there was a reason, perhaps a reader of postcardhistory.net can enlighten us.

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The store fronts always had display windows. An arrangement of the newest merchandise available changed with the season. To the left of one door a manager would show the latest in ladies apparel: blouses, skirts, house dresses; kitchen wear including aprons, hand towels, potholders. Hats, a forever favorite adorned every manikin.

On the right side of the second door the manager of the men's department displayed the newest shirts and ties, socks and underwear. "Dickies" work clothes and "Red Wing" work boots had permanent displays in the corner.

Sometime around 1948, it may have been earlier in some towns and later in others, but about that time each Woolworth's store in America made it clear that women wore underwear too. Bras went on exhibit and the men and boys all took notice.

The windows between the two doors – usually double-wide windows – was a display area for weekly sales items. It always seemed that one of everything was on display. If the store opened at 9 AM on Monday, the line for the sale items would start forming about 8:30. Earlier if the bargains were part of a "Half-Off Sale."

As I remember, when a customer entered our local Woolworth's store the first things inside the doors were the cash registers, usually three or four. Whenever the store was open, two clerks were behind the cash registers, waiting for customers to "check-out." "No waiting" was a store policy and they usually met their goal.

The store in my hometown had four aisles. Double-side display racks stretched the whole length of the store. One side of the rack could have held stationery and the other showed sewing supplies. You were also likely to find pots and pans alongside rakes and shovels.

And the candy counter. Who would ever forget the chocolate-covered cherries on sale for Washington's Birthday or the peppermint rolls at Christmas? Flavored jellies were my favorite, but I never refused a piece of fudge when tiny chips were offered as samples. For some reason, I remember that the fudge was fifteen cents a pound.

When asked about shopping at the dime stores, a friend replied that she will always remember the creaky wooden floors and the smell of dust. But, she would forgive how the dust smelled if she could enjoy the newly installed air conditioning – Woolworth's was the first commercial property in town with a sign in the window during the summer months that read, "Cool Inside."

The lunch counter was usually on the longest wall of the story. The most famous sandwich in the world topped the list of daily specials: the BLT on toast. There were short stools to sit on while you ate. The stools were upholstered with red or green Naugahyde and they rotated. Each empty stool was an open invitation for a little kid to take a turn at sitting on a spinning stool and screaming, "Mama, look mama. Look at me!"

So, who owned the initials?

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FW



SH



JC



JJ

It is unknown if any of these men were known or called by their initials, but their initials were well known by every customer who shopped in their stores.

The first entrepreneur in this shopping genre was Frank Winfield Woolworth. Born in Rodman, New York on April 13, 1852. When Frank was a boy, he and his brother Charles would play storekeeping. Woolworth chose Utica, New York as the site where he would make his first dime. The store opened on February 22, 1879, but failed, however the failure did not deter Woolworth and by April he had his second store in operation at Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Samuel Henry Kress started his working life at 17. He was employed at a stone quarry in Pennsylvania, but he was an energetic boy and had much higher aspirations. By age 17 Samuel had earned his teacher's certificate and quickly found a job in a classroom of 80 students. In 1887 his first stationery store opened in Nanticoke, Pennsylvania, and from that humble start his company grew into a national corporation with stores at over 200 locations.

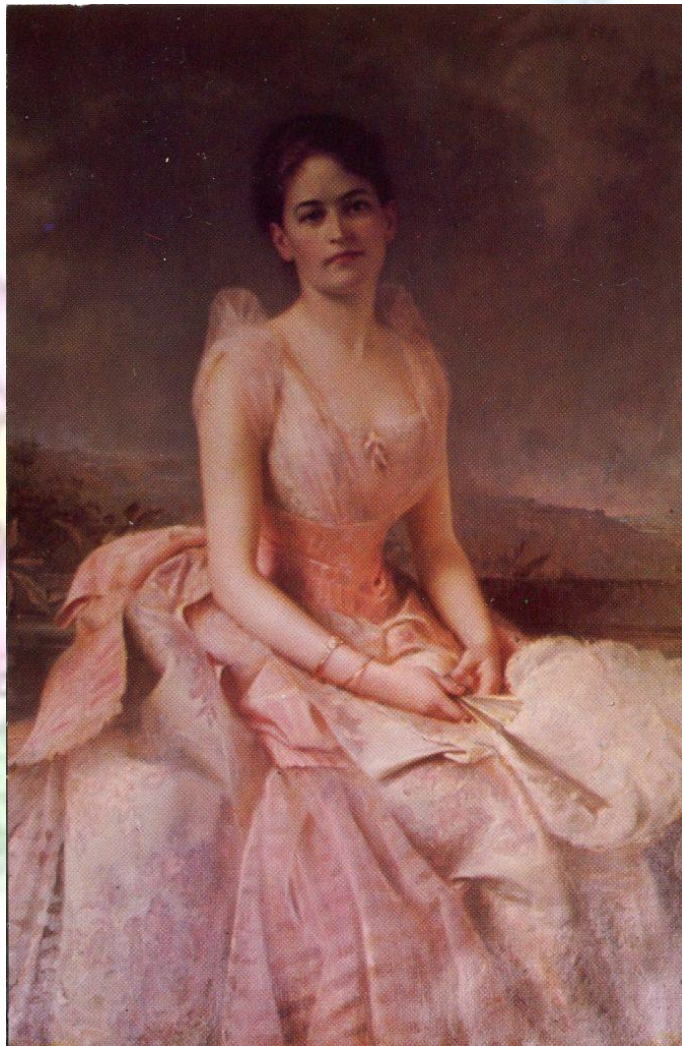
James Cash Penney was born in Missouri in 1875. James planned to attend college and become a lawyer, but his father died unexpectedly, and James was forced to take a clerking position in a local store to support the family. Around 1898, after moving to Colorado, James accepted a job where he had immediate success and was soon offered a one-third partnership. He accepted the offer and opened his own store in Kemmerer, Wyoming. Soon after, James bought his partner's shares when they decided to dissolve their business. At the peak of Penney's popularity there were 2,050 stores.

Late to the game came John James Newberry. John was born in 1877 in Sunbury, Pennsylvania. After spending some time in other retail stores, including Kress, John opened his first store in Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania in 1911. John and his brothers Edgar and C. T. managed the company. When J. J. died in 1954 there were 475 stores.

Woolworth, Kress, and Penney are buried in the same cemetery – Woodlawn, Bronx, New York.

*** Article submitted by Jim Sauer. ***

Daisy Gordon America's first Girl Scout



Juliette Gordon Low was born in Savannah, Georgia on October 31, 1860. Everyone called her “Daisy.” The Civil War raged at the front door of her home during her early years but she came from a family with strong and determined people willing to “stand on the line.”

This pre-1960s era chrome postcard, printed by the Walter Miller Company of Williamsburg, Virginia, shows her portrait by Edward Hughes. It was painted in London in about 1887. Mrs. Low is seen wearing the pink gown that she wore when she was presented to Queen Victoria.

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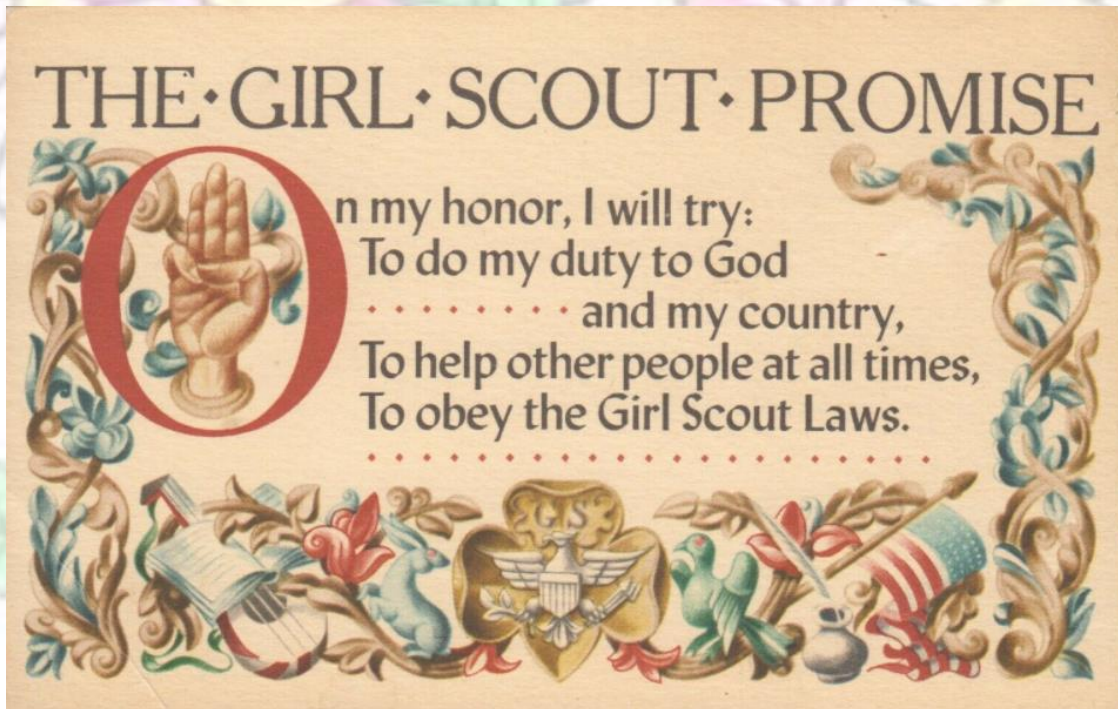
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In December 1886, Juliette married William MacKey Low. “Willy” was the son of a wealthy cotton-merchant who maintained homes in Savannah and London. It was a tragic marriage and it ended just before Willy’s death in 1905.

Organizational lore teaches us that Mrs. Low met Lord Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scouts, in London early in 1912. Parts of their discussions in the weeks that followed inspired her to do for girls in America what Lord Baden-Powell had done for the boys of the United Kingdom. [Aside: there is a common error in most writings concerning Lord Baden-Powell that even appears in the Girl Scout website. He is frequently referred to as, Sir Robert. Robert Stephenson Smyth Baden-Powell was a 1st Baron. Being a Baron made him a Lord of the Realm – not a Knight.]

Soon after, Mrs. Low announced in a telephone conversation with her cousin that she had something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!

The first meeting took place in Savannah and it shattered several conventions of the time. Eighteen girls from different cultures and ethnic backgrounds gathered to form the first troop. Class, culture, ethnicity, even disabilities were ignored, every girl now had a place to grow up into adults with mature attitudes and well developed leadership skills.



As a young girl, Juliette was quite daring, yet sensitive and curious. She knew how to be kind and humorous, and why it was important to care for others. She was interested in everything: athletics, the arts, animals, and nature. All those things and much more would someday become the bases of the Girl Scouts.

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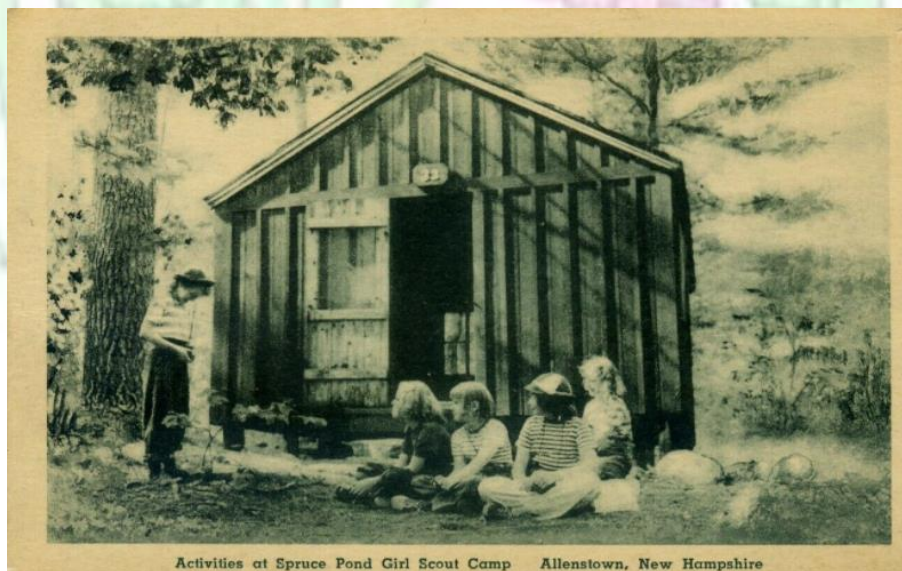
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Mrs. Low was a plain woman, but she was cursed with hearing loss that hampered her all her life. Her disability, however, never hampered her skill as a fundraiser and public relations genius. She made thousands of friends and had even more supporters who generously provided funds for Girl Scouts because of their faith in the passion and determination Juliette Gordon Low had for her cause.



Juliette Gordon Low died January 17, 1927, at her home in Savannah, Georgia. A legacy honors her in places around the world. There are schools, camps, and scholarships in her honor in every major country. She has appeared on U.S. postage stamps, she was the subject of an opera, and she was awarded, posthumously, the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Barack Obama in 2012.

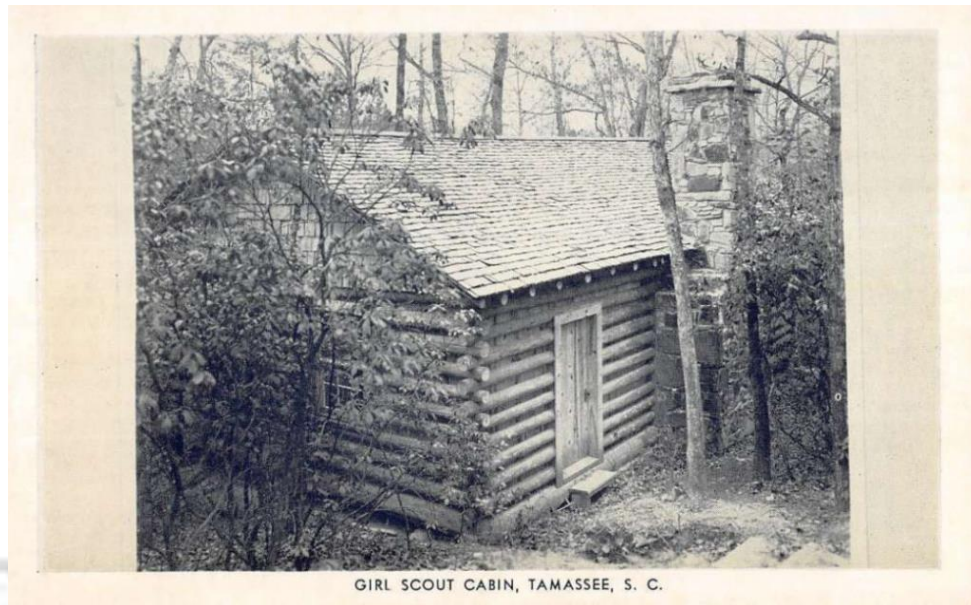


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GIRL SCOUT CABIN, TAMASSEE, S. C.

Today, Juliette Gordon Low is remembered and honored by generations of people whose lives have been touched by the Girl Scout movement.



* * *

I have been told for a long time – Wait, ... how long have we been married? – that the Girl Scouts is more than cookies. My dear wife of 55 years was a girl scout in the 1950s and '60s and she says that girl scouts mean as much to her as the Boy Scouts mean to me.

In recent years, our country, the world, and perhaps the universe has changed. The extent to which society differs is visible through the lens of history, but there are some who would change that too. What may change in the future is invisible, even with a crystal ball. Like so much else, organizations based on gender seem to be falling by the wayside. I pass no judgement on those who choose to change the future, but oh my, I am having a difficult time with those who want to change the past. Postcards of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are highly collectible. If you collect scouting postcards many of these may be familiar to you, but not from an historic point of view. These are the cards you grew-up with.

*** Article submitted by Jim Sauer. ***

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