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Filatellic Fiesta 2023

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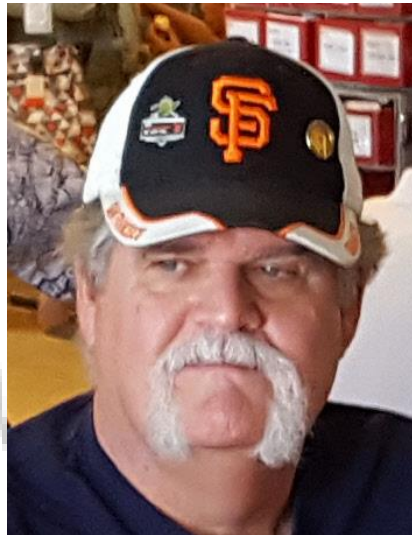
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the San Jose Stamp
Club on Facebook

Closed Album:



It is with the utmost sadness that I must let you all know that dear friend Andy Hilton passed away on May 31st. You may know he's been fighting a battle with stage 4 small cell lung cancer. When it became apparent that Andy didn't have much time left, he was placed on Hospice Care. He asked that he be transferred out of the hospital and taken home so he spend his final time there. Andy's cancer battle

ended just as he was brought into his home.

Andy came to the club through his lifelong friendship with David Occhipinti as they have been friends since 7th grade. Both enjoyed going through Boy Scouts together including leadership positions. After toying with stamps as a kid, Andy got serious about collecting through David's leadership and became a stamp club member. They enjoyed going to regional stamp shows together. He has not only become a good friend to many of us, he also served the club with his service as Filatellic Fiesta bourse chairman for several years.

Andy worked stocked parts for commercial and industrial use and Kaiser Cement. He always seemed to know exactly the right things to get to help someone complete a job.

He is survived by his wife Debbie, son Ralph and daughter Sarah and grandchildren. Andy was only 70 years old. He was born in Alton MO to a farming family.

In conclusion, I'd like to say how much I valued Andy's friendship, his quiet leadership, and mostly just being a good honest decent person.

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Club Blog & Website

Blog Updates No Activity

Website Updates

May 2024 Newsletter uploaded

Remember the dates!

President's Message

Our club's been busy with community programs the past couple of months. It has been very satisfying to see people who have never touched collectable stamps get excited learning about them or doing a stamp project.

When we introduce the joys of collecting to people, many really get excited about the joys of collecting (as I wrote about last month). We can introduce these ideas to young people at Scout-O-Rama (see article in this newsletter), the stamp collecting merit badge, or at programs at the library. These can be a terrific way to get young people introduced to stamps.

The SJ Library has been begging for us to host a stamp program at the branch where we have our meeting in exchange for getting the room rent free. It is a nice community service program as well as the possibility of recruiting new members (the parents).

Of course, I'm planning to continue offering the stamp collecting merit badge class I've taught for nearly 20 years. Hundreds of young people have had

a chance to try stamp collecting and may become future collectors. Everyone who helps sort stamps by country and topic contributes to this program. It is enormously popular with the Scouts that they collect almost any country of the world or a wide range of topics. Other programs just give their students a random packet of stamps and that is their "collection". With all of your effort, the opportunity to pick a country or topic that is important to them makes a big difference. It is also valuable to have a club member Terri Stevens who is also a registered Scout leader to help out at the class. So, be proud of the opportunity we're extending to the next generation of collectors when you're carefully peeling hinges out of the old album.

We can grow our club in our personnel collecting and offer community outreach. We are graced to receive many donations based on these activities. Many of the donations contain stamps that may have low catalog value, but are challenging to find, so most of us can benefit from finding items to complement your collecting. So we can find personal benefit from our community activities.

I have a "crazy" idea for Fiesta: a table or two for showing people how to get started or keep their collection going forward. This will require some advance planning to create the necessary materials and folks to staff the table. If we want to commit to this, we should also promote this in fliers posted around local coffee shops and libraries. Do you support this?

What do you think about being a member of a club that not only enables and improves your stamp collection, but also contributes to our community?

BRIAN

Stamping Out Boredom

Submitted by: Brian Jones



On Friday May 24th, I visited the Assisted Living section of the Terraces of Los Gatos. These are residents who have full mental capacity, but just aren't able to live independently. I created a presentation focused on the history and fun of stamps, and not expecting to create new collectors, just give them an hour's worth of entertainment.

We talked about history of stamps to be invented, how they got used, how they evolved, and the reasons and fun of creating a collection. We talked about how one can keep in touch with one's heritage in a country by collecting its stamps. One gentleman spoke up about collecting Israel after WWII to honor his Jewish heritage. When I talked about topical collecting, several guests were surprised that this was "legal". We had a fun discussion talking about topical collecting. Several residents had no idea that one could collect like this and that one can build the collection according to their own ideas.

We concluded the afternoon with guests doing one of the projects I've created involving sets of US stamps. For this event, I chose ones which used smaller and older stamp sets. The guests seemed to appreciate doing projects using stamps as old as themselves. Our club's resident artist, Margarete Miller, helped out at this program. The presentation I made used slides from a presentation made by Peter Adams and one from the APS. SJ Postcard President Shav La Vinge is planning to presentation there soon and Margarete volunteered to also host a program.



To get better attendance in any future program, I think it would be a good idea to provide the Assisted Living Program Manager with materials to promote the talk ahead of time. They don't know what to say or how to provide incentives to attend.



Scout-O-Rama 2024

Submitted by Brian Jones

In cooperation with Scout Troop 290, the SJSC hosted a “Fun with Stamp Collecting” booth at Scout-O-Rama again this year. We’ve done this about 15 years and it is an opportunity for young people to get a hands-on chance to build a small stamp collection. SJSC member Teri Stevens helped all afternoon along with the Scouts and parents.

Scout-O-Rama (SOR) is an annual event for many Scout Councils each spring. The Silicon Valley / Monterey Bay Council hosts theirs in San Jose’s History Park on the Saturday before Mother’s Day. Troops set-up booths with a WIDE variety of activities. These range from building rope bridges; outdoor cooking demonstrations; axe throwing; knot tying; archery; water rockets and dozens of other activities. It is open to the public (not just Scouts).



In our booth, anybody can work on one of the several “projects” based on popular US stamp issues. For example, there are project pages for the 1938 Presidential series (Prexies); 1940 Famous Americans; State Birds & Flowers; Liberty Series; Champions of Liberty; and others. I created these pages with the front being “Fun Facts” telling the story of these stamps in bullet format. Subsequent page(s) have pictures of the stamps and the guest look through a bin of these stamps and mount them to the page using an acid-free & temporary glue gun. When completed, the page(s) are put in clear page protector, and they get to take home. Coloring pages are offered to the youngest guests.

Troop 290 meets at Bret Harte Middle School in the Almaden Valley of San Jose. They have a very strong activity program with some kind of campout or community activity every month. The Scouts benefit greatly from strong leaders and who are terrific outdoorsman. Several Scouts per year typically advance to earning the rank of Eagle Scout.





5/25/2024

Just twenty short minutes from the American Philatelic Center in Bellefonte, PA, is the small community of [Boalsburg](#). The village is home to the Pennsylvania Military Museum, Tussey Mountain Ski and Recreation, and countless historic buildings – and also claims to be the birthplace of Memorial Day. Though other towns and hamlets vie with Boalsburg for the title, we couldn't turn down the opportunity to show off the history of the area the APS calls home.

Memorial Day in Boalsburg

The village now known as Boalsburg was first founded as Springfield, Pennsylvania in 1809. By 1819, thanks to the strong milling industry and its location on the routes from Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, Springfield had grown enough to support three taverns (one of which, Duffy's Tavern, still stands today); by 1820, they warranted a post office.

According to the Centre County Historical Society, prior to 1820, mail for the people of Springfield was dropped at "an old pine tree on top of a hill," a distinctive local landmark. The arrival of the post office (and some semblance of order) seems to have inspired the locals to sort themselves out municipally; a vote was taken to combine the west end of town (referred to as Boalsburg after the prominent Boal family who had a large hand in settling the region) and the village of Springfield proper, taking the name Boalsburg when the merger was set.

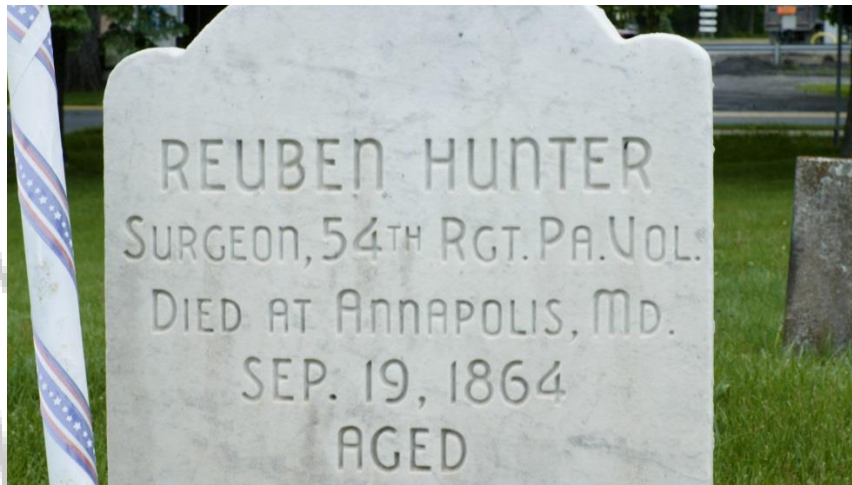
Boalsburg's claim to Memorial Day starts with another community fixture: a school. The Boalsburg Academy was a paid academy for older students that opened in 1853, and at the outbreak of the Civil War just nine years later, a man named [James Patterson](#) (presumably no relation) was the headmaster of the Academy. After a call for volunteers from President Abraham Lincoln, Patterson announced to the academy that he planned to enlist, which reportedly encouraged one hundred and twenty-seven men from Boalsburg to join the Union Army, forming a large part of Company G of the [148th Pennsylvania Volunteers](#).

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The headstone of Dr. Reuben Hunter in the Boalsburg cemetery.

One hundred and twenty-seven men is a large number for a community as small as Boalsburg to lose to military service – and as Company G fought at Gettysburg, many of them did not return. One such man was Private Amos Myers, who died on the third day of Gettysburg. Another prominent villager, Dr. Reuben Hunter, died of disease in the fall of 1864. In October of 1864, three women met to lay flowers on the men's graves – Dr. Hunter's daughter, Emma Hunter; her friend, Sophie Keller; and Private Myers' mother, Elizabeth Myers.

The story holds that while laying flowers on the graves, the women thought they should return at a future date to decorate the grave of every soldier. They decided to return for Independence Day of 1865 – and so they did, as did other villagers who assisted the women in decorating the graves. There has been some sort of celebration honoring fallen soldiers in Boalsburg every year since, whether in July or on the official Memorial Day, which has been a federal holiday since 1868.



In 1991, the USPS honored the 125th anniversary of another “first Memorial Day,” claimed by Waterloo, New York, with the Flags On Parade stamp. Image courtesy of the [Smithsonian National Postal Museum](#).

Today, the village celebrates Memorial Day in style, hosting parades, an arts and crafts festival, a car show, and the annual Fire Company carnival, all of which draw thousands of attendees from miles around. But in keeping with the solemnity of the occasion, Boalsburg also marks the holiday with a procession to the very graves where Emma Hunter, Sophie Keller, and Elizabeth Myers first laid flowers. Now, visitors to that graveyard will see a life-size bronze statue of the three women, which the town dedicated in their honor in 2000, 136 years after Boalsburg's first Memorial Day.

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The memorial to Emma Hunter, Sophie Keller, and Elizabeth Myers in Boalsburg shows the women regarding the grave of Dr. Reuben Hunter. Dr. Hunter and other Boalsburg residents who died in the Civil War are buried just steps away in the village's one cemetery.

If you find yourself in the State College area, whether you're taking in a football game or visiting the American Philatelic Center, make sure to take in some of the local history of the area – and why not plan on taking in the Memorial Day festivities in Boalsburg next year?

FOR SALE

Scott 2024 Catalogues Vol. 1 - 6

Vol. 1 & 2 available now.

Vol. 3 - 6 as the 2025 Catalogues are published

\$350.00

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