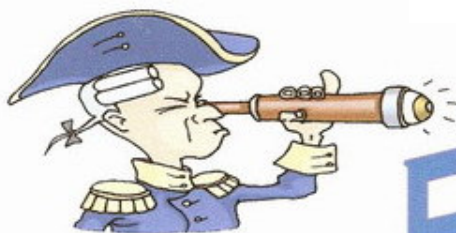


Jan.-Feb. 2009



# PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE  
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

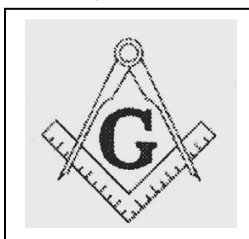
FIRST THURSDAY each month at the DOUBLETREE HOTEL - 6200 Quarry Lane - INDEPENDENCE, at 7:00 PM

## Marvin Sheer and Masonic Collecting

Marv will be our speaker for our Jan. 8 meeting and will discuss his Masonic collection. Like many of us, he started with U.S. stamps and covers when he was 13. He had quite a large collection until he discovered girls (or at least until girls discovered him!).

In 1956 he became a Mason and is a member of Forest City Lodge #388. In 1999 he decided to restart his collecting and emphasize his Masonic interests. Since then he has put together a rather sizable assemblage of over 1500 Masonic covers and many, many stamps.

Marv is a philatelic member of not only the APS, but the ATA, Masonic Stamp Club of New York, Philatelic Freemasons, George Washington Masonic Stamp Club, Masonic Philatelic Club, U.K., Society of Israel Philatelists and, of course, our own Garfield-Perry stamp Club.



The Masonic emblem of square-and-compass and many other symbols of this fraternity was a rather popular 19<sup>th</sup> century subject for cancellations, and they are

avidly collected by many folks in addition to the many covers with Masonic connections. Join us at 6:00 for dinner and at 7:00 to hear Marv.

## Hans Pohler Presents Portage Co, OH

Hans will be the presenter at our Feb. 5 meeting for the first of two parts on Portage Co. He has collected seriously since 1972 when he took one of his kids to Eupex. Finding many northeast Ohio covers for as little as 25¢, he be-

gan his quest for Ashtabula, Geauga and Portage Co. postal history, having visited many of the small towns and hamlets during his part time job as an insurance inspector. He also "accumulates" German area stamps and covers.

As a full time teacher in the Bedford City Schools and with various offices in Garfield-Perry, he has had little time to devote to his collections. Now with retirement he can devote more time to his hobbies that also includes vintage VW restoration and old Marx tin trains.

Portage Co. in northeast Ohio was part of the Connecticut Western Reserve and contains two rather large towns: Ravenna, the county seat, and Kent that contains within its borders Kent State University with its 22,000 students. It was formed in 1807 from Trumbull Co. and is named for the continental divide between the Great Lakes and Mississippi watersheds that is within its borders. The path that marks that Indian and settler route between the Cuyahoga and Tuscarawas Rivers is today four to eight miles of easy trail following that early route.

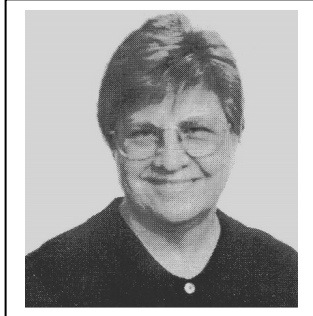
Originally larger by 10 western townships, those were split off to partially form Summit Co. in 1840, but Hans leaves those ten to other collectors.

Portage Co. has had as many as 65 post offices with only 15 or them still operating. Hans has collected specimens of most of those 65, ranging from manuscripts to the modern period with lesser emphasis on advertising and cachet covers.

Why Portage Co.? It seems 15 years ago Gloria, his bride-to-be, lived in that county. Personally, I can't think of a better reason.

### **Club Chit Chat** **Stotts Receives Service Award**

At long last a national organization has recognized one of our own, Denise Stotts, for her remarkable service. The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors has given her their Herdenberg Award for "her multiple contributions to the success of the society, for her quiet wisdom and advice in AAPE board deliberations."



Denise is one of those rare individuals who jump into help whenever there is a problem. She has always said "Yes." Let me count the ways:

- In addition to being a founding member of AAPE, she has been Exhibits Coordinator for the past decade.
- Ohio Postal History secretary for the past 24 years even though she was not a member when asked to take on this duty.
- When the U.S. Stamp Society needed an Awards Chairman, they asked for her help, again even though at the time she was not a member.
- She has been a Board Member for 10+ years of the Houston Philatelic Society and is now serving her 14<sup>th</sup> year as chairman of the Greater Houston Stamp Show.
- The Texas Philatelic Assn. asked her to run for their Board of Directors where she still serves. They have given her their highest honor, Distinguished Philatelic Texan.
- She has served on the both the APS Ethics and the Chapter Activities Committees.
- She is currently serving her first term as APS Director-at Large and will be on the ballot again next year. Garfield-Perry is proud to have nominated her yet again.
- She still finds time to collect and has won gold at the national level and was a founding member of Women Exhibitors.
- Before Denise and her husband Jay moved to Houston she was very active in GP. She

was one of the first women to become a member and was Program Director and Souvenir Chairman for many years and is still active in the March Party, designing the show cachet and being the sergeant major of the show tear down on Sunday evening. No one gets to their exhibit without her OK.

We couldn't do without her and have honored her with our own LaGanke award in 1992 for service to the club.

My fondest personal memory of her dedication to helping was when I attended the Washington '06 show. I met Jay on the floor and asked for Denise's whereabouts. In the midst of this huge international show with all the dealers, exhibits and seminars, she was working the registration tables!

Congratulations, Denise, for all of your fine work.

### **Nilsestuen wins Grand!**

Ken won the Grand Award at INDYPEX in July 2008, making him the first candidate for the August 2009 Champion of Champions in Pittsburgh. His Algerian exhibit covers the classical period of 1731-76.

It displays a variety of services, markings, pre-printed forms, related rates, and good coverage of usages. During that time period letter writers depended on ship captains, the Spanish post offices, French military mail service, and ultimately the civilian French postal service. Here are two from his exhibit.



Oran, Algeria, to Guatemala. 1851 Letter is pre-paid by 15 decimes and traveled through Southampton.



Pont-de-l'Isse to Oran, 1871. Bordeaux 20 centimes stamp. Circular town marking is one of five or fewer known, probably made of wax

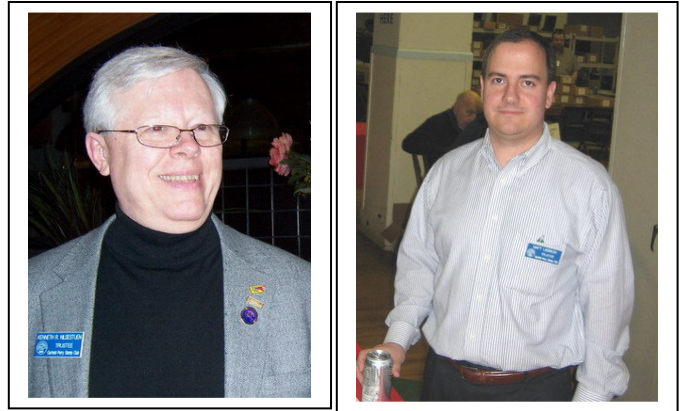
Ken has collected for fifty years, with Algeria being but one of his many interests. Algeria became his serious habit in the late 1980s, when he was able to take advantage of the strong dollar to build much of his collection. He has now added illustrated mail to his interests, having started a collection of U.S. Scott No. 981.

He is the treasurer of our club and the Collectors Club of Akron, president of the national France and Colonies Philatelic Society and is an accredited APS judge. He has co-authored a 1999 monograph on Algerian hand cancels and contributed an article to the 2004 American Philatelic Congress book. Glad to have him as a member.

### **Photos from March Party, 2008**



*Denise and Jay Stotts*



*Ken Nilsestuen*

*Matt Liebson*

### **Potpourri**

March Party, March 27-29, 2009.  
Get it on your calendar!

January meeting is the SECOND Thurs. as the first is New Years Day.

Thanks to all for the door prizes donated each month. Bring the stuff you have put away but in which you never really developed an interest. Give it to someone else. Who knows what our members collect? By the way, does anyone need a stack of P.O. delivery receipts? (*grin*)

Have you seen our new website? Check out [www.garfieldperry.org](http://www.garfieldperry.org). It has been up and running since October. The older one had become a bit dated, so we contracted with a web designer, Ed Rich, to come up with something that better fits us.

You can get all sorts of info such as the names and email addresses of all the officers, directions to the meeting, speaker and subject for upcoming events, past *Perryscopes*, info on the March Party, palmares for past Parties (2008 includes photos) and even a short lesson plan on how to collect.

By the way, [www.marchparty.org](http://www.marchparty.org) will work as well.

How to contact the editor: in addition to my snail mail address, by email [rrrhoads@aol.com](mailto:rrrhoads@aol.com). Got anything in which you think the membership might be interested? Send it along. In the meantime, hope you had a very merry Christmas and will have a happy New Year.