Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Rangers with Rifles, and How About That Star?

By Wayne L. Youngblood



There is little doubt that the star used by the Arizona Philatelic Rangers is one of the most dramatic and recognizable of all symbols within philately, but its meaning and origin is now understood by only a very few individuals.

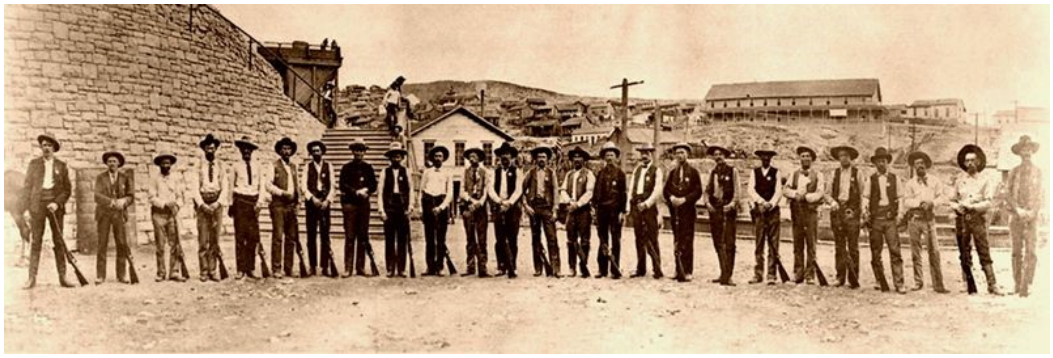
Often, when I'm at a stamp show or other philatelic function where I'm wearing my badge, the first question is "Nice star; what's it for?," invariably followed up with "What's a Ranger?" and "Why Arizona Philatelic Rangers?"

These are all very good questions and, since it's been 60 years since the founding of the Arizona Philatelic Rangers, it might be good to take a moment or two to very briefly recount this.

In 1960, Bill Alexander and a group of other primarily Tucson collectors gathered with the intent to form an organization that would study and promote the research and postal history of Arizona and the western United States in general. Among the stated goals were organizing a viable youth educational program, obtaining and preserving western U.S. postal history, gathering artifacts essential to the transportation and distribution of the mails, promoting the study and research of postal history, and organizing a sponsoring society of philatelists and others who had an interest in preserving this history. That's where the Rangers come in. This small group was started to help ensure a future for the organization.

Indeed, although the Western Postal History Museum and Rangers were kind of one and the same at first, the Rangers have historically served as an independent fundraising arm for what is now the Postal History Foundation and, more specifically, the youth program. Within the first year there were 26 Rangers and, from 1961-69, they raised more than $120,000 through cash and philatelic contributions from collectors all over the world.

The name "Arizona Philatelic Rangers" was in honor of the group of western lawmen, shown at right, who were dedicated (often to the point of receiving little or no wages) to restoring law and order



In 1903 the Arizona Rangers were called in for the Morenci mine riot.

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Postal History Foundation

920 North First Avenue
Tucson, AZ 85719
520-623-6652
www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Officers:
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Vice Chair: Mike Wood
Treasurer: Ted Maynard
Secretary: Steven Hamann

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Education Director: Lisa Dembowski
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Education Assistant: Linda Wynn
Stamp Tracks: Lisa Dembowski

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Monday-Friday 8am - 3pm
Post Office: M-F 8am - 2:30pm
Stusser Library: M-F 9am - 3pm

See past issues of ***Stamp Tracks*** at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Follow the PHF on Facebook and Twitter!

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Message From the Chair

This past month we participated in the annual ARIPEX stamp show in Mesa, Arizona. Two of our members were honored by the Phoenix Philatelic Association Hall of Fame as Distinguished Philatelists. These Tucsonans are Paul Nelson and John Wynns. Paul Nelson has been a volunteer at the Postal History Foundation for over 13 years and also served on the Board of Directors in the past. He has written publications about Scandinavian Revenues. John Wynns, a board member in the past, also volunteered at the PHF for several years and is known for his award winning exhibits. John also helped organize and run past Tucson ARIPEX shows.

Our ARIPEX stamp show receipts were below normal this year due to low attendance at the show. There could be many reasons for the low attendance: the annual gem show in Tucson, the three day holiday weekend, the coronavirus scare, or the APS stamp show conflict. Hopefully next year will be better.

As mentioned in previous issues, we receive donations daily, which means we need more volunteers to sift through the new, incoming stamps and covers. Think about the fun you could have if you join us!

Bob Davis

PHF Membership

More than 220 have renewed to date.

Thank you for renewing!

Renew or Join

Support the

PHF, the **Stamp Discovery Program,** and the **Slusser Library**.

Your support is critical to our mission to support the

future of philately.

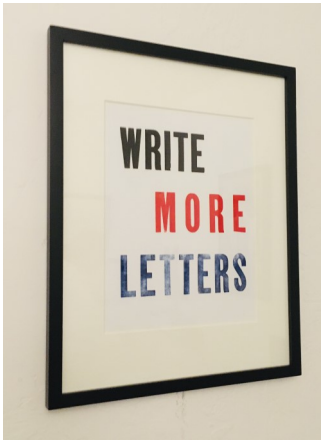
For additional gifting opportunities visit "Ways to Help" on our website at www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

Local Society Inspires More Letter Writing

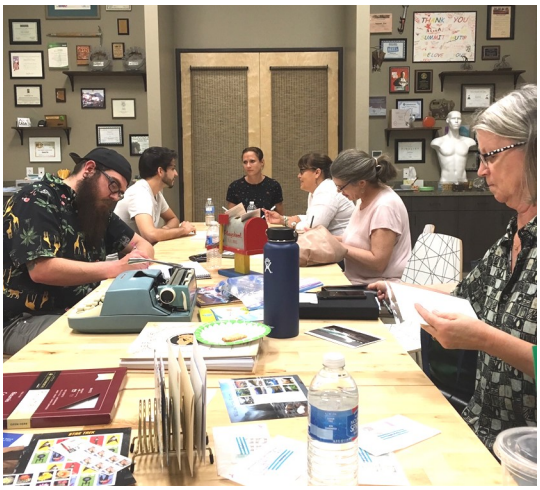
The following is written by a member of the Arizona Correspondence Society, an organization that is revitalizing letter-writing. Their work complements the Foundation's Stamp Discovery program, which also inspires young people by working with letters, the mail, and stamps.

Guest contribution by Renee Palting

In today's modern world, we live in a society that prefers instant communication. Text and email have become the standard way to communicate. Yet, there is still a small group of epistlers in Tucson dedicated to preserving and practicing the personal art form of handwritten letters. This group, the Arizona Correspondence Society, is a proud non-profit organization dedicated to keeping letter writing alive.



The Society was started in 2018 and is a volunteer organization. You may have even attended or seen one of our letter socials at a public library, community room, or at a local coffee shop. Our letter socials are informal and provide the tools necessary to send tangible correspondence for free, including a stamp for your first letter. We offer two opportunities a month for members of the community to join us at a letter social and the dates and time are regularly posted on our website: www.ArizonaCorrespondenceSociety.org.



All are welcome and membership is free! People will stop by and scribe a letter for the very first time ever or for the first time in a long while. Both adults and children have the opportunity to learn how to properly write a letter. We can show you step-by-step, including how to address the envelope or even how to put a wax seal on one. If you don't have anyone to write, don't worry we can help! There are many organizations seeking epistlers for special reasons, such as gratitude letters for first responders, or deployed military personnel without family. It can be hard getting this first sentence down, but we have prompts specifically designed for letter-writers, books to inspire letter writing and how to improve your handwriting, and plenty of support to

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Sales Department Specials

Call 520-623-6652 or email sales@phftucson.org

- **Individual World Wide Stamps** -50% Scott or less
- **US Mint Plate Blocks**
- **US Booklets** -Scott #BK75 to present
- **Foreign Platinum Mines** - $135—14.8 oz. off paper Scott Values from 50¢ to $9.99
- **Gold Mines** -$75 - Lower Values-14.8 oz. off paper
- **Mint Postage** - 40% discount, save on mailing costs
- **Postcards** - 25¢ each or 5 for $1 unless marked

Also Available:

US and Foreign (Singles & Sets)
First Day Covers
RPO Covers
US Year Sets
Topical Packets
First Flights

Collections
Foreign Covers
Catalogues
Stock Books
Stock Sheets
Used Albums
Mounts

....how about that star? *cont'd*

to the restless Arizona Territory. The Arizona Rangers were first established in 1860 (exactly a century before their philatelic counterparts), primarily to protect against Apache raids but were later re-established in 1882 to restore some semblance of law and order to the bustling, rather lawless territory.

By special arrangement with Pima County Sheriff Walden V. Burr, consent was given to appoint an Arizona Philatelic Ranger as either sheriff or deputy sheriff. Members of this group could also wear the star (a real badge, not a cheap plastic or aluminum knockoff).

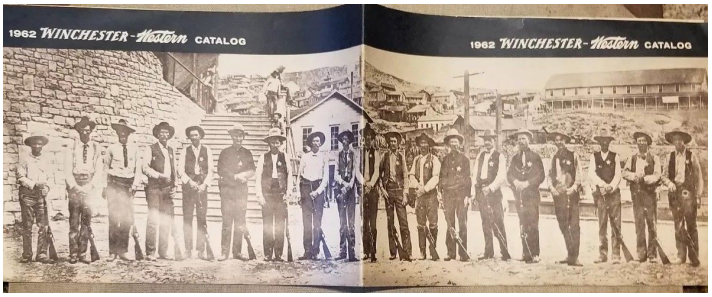
Dr. Ray Brandes was made Honorary Ranger Sheriff No. 1 for his untiring efforts as co-founder of the museum and as supportive advisor. As part of the lore of the Rangers, Brandes frequently recounted the following story about the founding of the Arizona Philatelic Rangers (which is also reproduced on the foundation's website):

"A major rifle manufacturer was running an advertisement in the national magazines in 1960 showing a partial version of a picture of Arizona Rangers. The caption read, 'Why doesn't one of these Texas Rangers have our rifle?' Ray, as assistant director of the Arizona Historical Society, recognized the picture as that of the Arizona Rangers and telephoned the company to point out their mistake. The company, red faced, turned their blunder into a major publicity event. They ran a new advertisement apologizing for misidentifying the Arizona Rangers as the Texas Rangers. They also had an 'Arizona Apology Day' complete with festivities, hanging the corporate president in effigy on the grounds of the state capitol building, and a spectacular party in Scottsdale. Both Ray and Bill Alexander attended the party.



Bill Alexander wearing his star.

"While all this was going on, Bill was sitting there drawing a picture of a little star – the badge of the Arizona Rangers. He said, 'You know, I think what I'd like to do is create an organization called the Arizona Philatelic Rangers.' That's how the Rangers began."



Winchester Catalogue 1962

While this is a somewhat romanticized tale, it is not necessarily fabricated, but is certainly embellished. The real story certainly bears telling. I was able to locate an example of the original catalog. Shown below is the front cover of the 1962 (not 1960) *Winchester Western Catalog*. The Arizona Philatelic Rangers had already been established for two years before this was created. Brandes may well have been the one who recognized the gaffe, but it was not a part of the formation of the Rangers.

The Winchester catalog which opens out to show a long photograph inside was captioned "19 Texas Rangers; only 18 Winchesters. Why?" Before listing available products, the advertising copy inside went on to tell the tale of the "Texas Rangers" and their Winchesters: *"Back around the tail-end of the 1800s, a lawman generally had three fixtures: badge, moustache and Winchester…"* The problem, of course (as Ray pointed out in his tale), is that these were not Texas Rangers. Indeed, they were Arizona Rangers (from 1903), and there were 25 in the original picture on page one of this article (six were cropped out for the marketing piece).

Supposedly, hundreds of letters from irate Arizona citizens were received.

Winchester was red-faced and used the opportunity to gain more media coverage and win additional good-will points. The firm, on Sept. 17, 1963, sent Ralph Scott Healy, director of advertising for Winchester's Western Division to Phoenix to face an unknown fate as part of the company's "Arizona Apology Day" penance for the marketing gaffe. Supposedly, he was sent for a traditional "neck-stretching" party.

According to several newspaper reports, Healy was brought – blindfolded – from the governor's office to a tree adorned with a noose. An old western hearse was there for effect as well. Supposedly, neither Winchester nor Healy had any idea what was supposed to happen, and Healy reportedly blanched when the blindfold was removed and he spotted the noose.

According to one report, Dr. Arthur Lee, executive secretary to the governor, opined that Healy "had rustled some of Arizona's historic past and, unkindest cut of all, had given it to Texas. Hanging [it seemed] was the only answer." At the last moment (in a dramatic flair), Governor Paul Fannin showed mercy and reprieved Healy, although the scofflaw was given to the State Highway Patrol, who put him to work cleaning Winchester rifles in its armory.

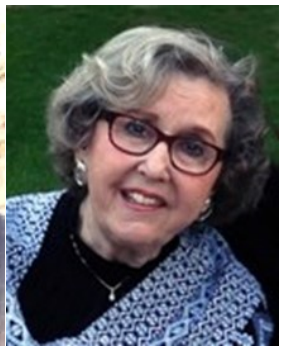
Early Arizona Philatelic Rangers no doubt took part in this pageant, which is now a part of our lore.

In Memory of Jim and Marian Bowman

James "Jim" Alford Bowman, Ranger and former Vice-Chair of the Postal History Foundation, passed away in January 2020. Marian E. Bowman, also a Ranger, was married to Jim for 67 years and passed away in 2018.

Jim and Marian Bowman were both very important in the world of philately as exhibitors, members of many philatelic associations, and leaders of the hobby of philately. They enjoyed traveling the world to exhibitions, helping at SESCAL each year, competing in exhibitions, heading committees, advising philatelic societies, and more.





Jim Bowman served on the Board of Directors of the Postal History Foundation from 2002 to 2006. From 2003–2006, he was Vice Chair, and thereafter an Honorary Member.

Jim Bowman was one of the few Sheriffs in the Arizona Philatelic Rangers and arranged for many donations to the Postal History Foundation.

Both Jim and Marian had world-renowned exhibits and were celebrated in an APS Champion of Champion Exhibit in different years, which means their exhibits had won a "Grand Award" at a World Series of Philately Show. Jim's exhibit was titled *1936 Olympische Spiele* and Marian's was *Here I Stand: Martin Luther and his Place in the Reformation.*

In 1990, they were jointly awarded the "Distinguished Service Award" by the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California.

Jim and Marian both worked endless hours over the years for their beloved hobby and paved the way for new philatelists with their invaluable guidance. Both were very kind and gentle giants of philately and are very much missed.

Special People Connected to the PHF



Mary Cole

Mary Cole, volunteer at the Postal History Foundation, passed away this past January at the age of 96. She volunteered under the direction of volunteer Andy Mosko, sorting foreign stamps. For six years she faithfully arrived on Friday mornings with a huge smile and a happy outlook on life. She loved baseball and telling stories about her family that included five grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. She was a fun, active person that volunteered for many local organizations over the years.

Mary had the "most incredible memory about her family history in Eastern Oregon," said Andy Mosko. "We looked forward to listening to her stories every week." We miss her very much but are thankful for the time we were able to spend with her here at the PHF.



Maurice Storck

A lifetime member of the Tucson Stamp and Coin Clubs, Maurice Storck passed away at the age of 97½ this past November. Maurice was a decorated veteran. He experienced many major battles in WWII and the attack on Pearl Harbor. After becoming severely injured during the invasion of the Philippines, he was sent to New Zealand in 1944 for recovery. There he met and married his wife, Nancy Gower. They settled in Maine, and he opened a stamp and coin store in Portland. He was well know for his coin expertise in New England and had attended the auction of King Farouk's coins in Cairo, Egypt, in 1954. The Storcks raised two children and eventually retired in Tucson in 1973. In 1991, Maurice became a Arizona Philatelic Ranger, and in 1995 he was elected president of the Veterans' Stamp and Coin Club at the Veterans Administration Hospital in Tucson.



Andy Mosko

A little known fact is that the Veterans' Stamp and Coin Club was started by Andy Mosko, in 1974 while head of psychiatry at the VA Hospital. He felt stamp collecting would be an enriching activity for his patients. Word got out, and veterans across the country wrote letters requesting stamps for their collections. By 1988, club members were receiving about 30 letters a day and sending stamps to 28 other VA hospitals in the United States. Every year, hundreds of individuals and worldwide organizations donated stamps to the club. In 1988 the USPS wheelchair stamp, shown at right, was unveiled at the VA Hospital in Tucson due to the club's service and the millions of stamps on hand. The VA always graciously paid for all outgoing mail charges when stamps were sent to veterans.



After Andy Mosko retired from the VA in 1989, the club continued. When Maurice was elected president, he continued the great work of the club volunteering more than 54,000 hours. He had a two room stamp "cave" at the VA and would occasionally send excess stamps over to the PHF for use with our education program, Stamp Discovery. Annually our Stamp Discovery program supports over 13,000 students and teachers with stamps and lessons. This past November, the VA discontinued the club, as Maurice had retired and later passed away. Donations are now forwarded to the PHF, and people are encouraged to continue sending stamps to the PHF. All donations are tax deductible, including incurred shipping costs .

Maurice provided important support to veteran collectors, especially since many were homebound, and he also helped to grow new young collectors with his donations to the PHF. We thank him for his years dedicated to the growth of philately.

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Local Society *cont'd*

begin the letter-writing adventure. The letter socials are also available to the established epistler wanting to meet other epistlers, or a different setting to write letters, or to discover and use different writing supplies.

At the Arizona Correspondence Society, we believe handwritten letters are an important way to facilitate the enrichment and deepening of human connection. We offer private letter socials for organizations that would like to share and cultivate the mindful practice of letter writing. We also offer special events throughout the year. This year we have scheduled classes in calligraphy, envelope art, letter-locking, and envelope making. We are planning additional events; visit our website to find more details.



Lineweaver Elementary teacher, Lily Cummins, talks to her students about writing letters and addressing envelopes.

This year, we are excited to announce we are supporting the letter-writing efforts of a first-grade class at Lineweaver Elementary school. These young students are learning the anatomy of letters and postcards and how the postal system works. We received a generous donation of stamps from the Postal History Foundation Stamp Discovery program so that the students could see the variety of stamps that have been on letters. The students recycled them by using them on in-school letters to classmates and school staff. To help them appreciate the postmark (and letter travels), they sent their first postal letter through the 2020 HashKnife Pony Express.

Every month has a new focus, and March's focus is on postcards. They will be designing and writing a post-card and then mailing it to a friend. We hope to share our love of letters by expanding our community out-reach with more letter socials and collaborations with organizations and schools. We also hope to discover and cultivate more epistlers in the community and invite you to join us at one of our letter socials or special events.

Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phftucson.org

New on the Shelf

The Clovis Collection of Confederate States Illustrated Covers, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries. (2019)

A Dictionary of Color, by A. Maerz ; M. Rea Paul. (1950)

Germany Philatelic Society Post World War II Study and Research Group, a journal by the same group.

The Paper Trail: World War II in Holland and Its Colonies as Seen Through Mail and Documents, by Kees Adema ; Jeffrey Groeneveld. (2018)

The Postal History of British Palestine, 1918-1948, by Edward B. Proud. (1985)

The Scout Fieldpost in the Warsaw Uprising of 1944, by Thaddeus Gryzewski .(1960s)

Washington-Franklin Identifier, by Ken Knecht. (1993)

PHF Calendar

Slusser Library
New Exhibit
Creation of the Arizona Territory
Mid-March 2020

Postponed
Volunteer Appreciation Social
Slusser Library 11:30am-1:30pm
April 3, 2020

Board Meeting 9am
Annual Meeting 12 noon
Slusser Library
April 25, 2020

In Memoriam

Richard Amesbury, *Volunteer and Ranger*
James Bowman, *Past Board Member and Ranger*
Marian Bowman, *Ranger*
Mary Cole, *Volunteer*
Maurice Storck, *Ranger*

STAMPS by the POUND



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Tucson Stamp Club

First and third Saturdays at the Postal History Foundation

11 am Bourse ● 12 pm Meeting

March 21, 2020
Classical Music & Dutch Auction

April 4, 2020
World War I

April 18, 2020
Spring Auction

May 2, 2020
Hudson Bay Co.

May 16, 2020
Academy Awards

June 6, 2020
Marine Corps

June 20, 2020
Medal of Honor

Civil War Roundtable

Meets every second Friday in the Slusser Library, except summer

Contact **Bob Burdick** at:
bob.burdick45@gmail.com

March 13, 2020
Meeting is at the Doubletree Inn at noon in the Boojum Room

April 10, 2020
Zouave Regiments

May 8, 2020
Lincoln

June 12, 2020
Dinner at Caruso's



New Members

Malcolm Bell
British Columbia, Canada

Jeremy Church
Tucson, AZ

R.S. Frank
Phoenix, AZ

Rod Freeman
Tucson, AZ

Michael Giscombe
Tucson, AZ

Robert Kupersmit
Tucson, AZ

Amy Levinn
Honeoye Falls, NY

Janice & Jim Tress
Tucson, AZ

Connect to your past with Postcards

Over 60,000 postcards are available for sale at the

Postal History Foundation

Tucson Postcard Club

Meets every second Sunday in the Slusser Library

1- 3pm ● September- May

Contact **Joyce Kagarise** at dkagar@dakotacom.net or 520-682-8424

Planning to view the current exhibit or research in the library?

Please check our website calendar for library closures due to scheduled field trips and other events at:

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org