

Phillip's Corner by Phillip Fetting

Letters Home during World War II

I recently purchased a dealers remainder lot consisting of World War II era letters, mostly from soldiers and sailors to family and friends at home. One really interesting group, which will require some research, may result in a one frame exhibit and a series of articles for the newsletter. For today here is a simple letter to a relative from a Marine in the "Southwest" Pacific. While Marine Corps mail was handled by the Navy, they did not use the Fleet Post Office numbers which helped pinpoint the location of the writer. Private First Class Robert Reese served in Fox Company, 2nd Battalion of the 3rd Marine Regiment.

This unit was in combat on Guadalcanal and Guam. This letter was written in between these two operations so in all likelihood his unit was on another island for training and rest. His letter is simple, but gives an idea of what life was like:



“Southwest Pacific”

Dear Aunt Mary,

I received your letter and was glad to hear from you. I hear a lot from Mom. I don't have much to do cause my eyes are bothering me now. I am trying to have them fixed now.

It is raining now and I am getting some water to wash in tomorrow. I don't have much to say, so I will close.

Love,
Bill

ATTENTION ALL YOUTH AND *THE YOUNG AT HEART!*

By Randall Priest

On May the 20th is our next YOUTH NITE. The pictures from our last Youth Nite show that the hunt for that special stamp is a job that takes all of your attention. Also one picture shows one of my 'helpers' Robert Dowrick, another shows Larry Stiles, who tells some fun and interesting



stories. I want to thank all of the club members who help make our club 'Youth Nites' a big success.

I also want to thank all of the youth who come to our special meetings to highlight the importance of helping the next generation of stamp collectors to become the best, that they can be.

The program for this Youth Nite on May 20th, will be "Presidents on Stamps".

This will be our 5th Youth Nite, Larry will have another story about one of our Presidents.

There will be prizes, puzzles, and our 'famous' hunt for stamps. See you there and bring a YOUTH!!!



[Photos from Youth Night Fall of 2009]