

CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB HISTORY -- Part 6 By David M. Allan

The Dark Age

The period from about 1957 through the mid- 1970s is “dark” because we know so little about this time in the life of our club – hopefully to be renamed when we know more. Only three things are known for certain in this time period.

It should be noted that club life was usually simpler during this period as compared to the present. There were few formal auctions and sales of material. Mixture picks and trading were far more common.

The club budget and balance sheets also probably reflected the same. While we don’t have club treasury reports from this time period, we do have the FFSC annual reports. The total expenses of the FFSC for a year were less than \$500.00. 18 member clubs paid a total of \$75.20 dues to the FFSC (less than \$5 per club) in 1955. Subscriptions to the bulletin were \$0.40 per member per year.²⁰ The Tampa Collectors Club dropped their subscriptions to the bulletin in early 1957 to save \$40.00 per year (100 members)²¹ and withdrew from the FFSC in February, 1958.²² (These events also coincide with the cessation of the FFSC bulletin, maybe they were causal.) Judging from these events, times may have been tough financially in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The first actual fact we know is that the Central Florida Stamp Club dropped its APS membership in August, 1961 (did not pay annual dues for the next year then due). The late Wade Beery Jr. knew this happened and said that the club had financial problems then. The leadership tried to maintain membership in the more stable society (selecting the SPA over the APS – what ultimately proved to be the wrong choice in hindsight). Dues to the APS in 1951 and 1968 were \$1.75 and \$1.25 respectively. Even with the value of a dollar in 1961 and the shoestring budgets, this seems to be a very small amount.

The second fact we know is that the Central Florida Stamp Club rejoined the APS in August, 1968. The APS also furnished a copy of the 2nd club application for membership here shown as Figure 4. Figure 4 reveals the third set of facts. Ray Von Klippstein was again the President and Edmund McD. Bendheim was the Secretary at that time and the club met in the Winter Park Public Library.

Figure 4

²⁰FFSC monthly bulletin, Vol. 5, December 1955, p 4.
²¹FFSC monthly bulletin, Vol. 6, February 1957, p 11.
²²FFSC monthly bulletin, Vol. 7, February 1958, p 1.

Phil the Postage Stamp by Randall Priest

Chapter 10 --- ANOTHER STAMP SHOW

I was on display, a long time ago. However this time I am in a bag with many of my friends sitting on a table.

As my mind is going over all of my memories I notice that there are people coming to the table. Someone has picked up the bag that I am in. We are being looked over and then I am back on the table, except this time I am face down and can see nothing. Just then we are up in the air again this time the bag is turned around and around by the person holding it. I am put down and this time I am face up and can see what is around me. We have been picked up and put down a number of times.

Here comes a man and his young son. The son picks up a bag and then picks us up, this time he shows it to his father and after some discussion, the bag we are in and also some other things are placed into a bag and we are off to another adventure.

The young man is eager to open the bag and see all that he has gotten. One day after some time had passed, the bag we are in is taken out and placed on the table. The bag is opened and we are poured out onto the table. It feels good to get some fresh air and not feel so cramped. We are moved around and then separated in to piles, then we are placed into see through envelopes, and placed into a box. I ask around to see just who is with me in this envelope. I share my story about the fire and find that some of the others were also at the same location. Someone also mentions that they too were in a display at one time.

A few days later the box that we are in is removed and we are on the table again.

We are now getting the once over, again. We are measured, looked at with the big glass, checked front and back, and then placed with the others who look the same. Now it is back into a see through envelope, after some more inspection.

After a time, we are removed from the envelope, and placed into a book. This book is not like any I have seen before. This book holds us in a row without anything on our back. There seems to be many pages in the book. The book is closed and put on a shelf.

We are resting and waiting for our next adventure.

When many days had passed, the book is removed from the shelf. The book is opened to our page and we can see where we are and what is going on.

As I watch the steel jaws come to our page and remove us one at a time.

Where are we going? Only time will tell.