

CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

The First Golden Age

Whenever the Central Florida Stamp Club was started, by 1953-54 time period, it was a vibrant and large club with many interests. In comparison to the club present, the club in the early 1950s was moving in similar directions with a few differences.

Meetings at this time were held on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. The program schedule consisted of speakers, auctions and trading but in a different mix than at present. “One meeting each month devoted to trading and the other to an auction except four meetings per year when speakers are scheduled, followed by a social hour.”⁵ There were fewer formal programs and a greater emphasis on trading and auctions during this time.

The club was a member of the FFSC at this time and wrote relatively regular submissions for the FFSC monthly bulletin. The election of club officers at the January 7, 1954 was reported.⁶ This report shows that officers were elected in January of an even year. This suggests (but doesn't prove) that the same by-laws for officer elections may have remained largely unchanged during the life of the club. The names and positions have been added to Appendix A (note that there are huge holes from 1956 – 1973). Appendix A has been set up under the assumption that officers are elected every two years in a January meeting of an even numbered year.

The membership of the club at this time was even larger than the current membership and was the largest stamp club in Florida at the time. “H. V. Condict, Chairman of Florex 1953, speaking for the host club [Central Florida Stamp Club] which now has 136 members and is the largest in the state, said...”⁷

It is also apparent that the club was involved in hosting shows at this time. Florex, at this time the annual show of the FFSC, was hosted by different FFSC clubs each year (most often by clubs on the gulf coast). 1953 was the first year Florex was hosted by the Central Florida Stamp Club in Orlando. The club also was involved with other smaller shows around the Orlando area as indicated by a comment about exhibits in the Hobby Show in Winter Park⁸.

The club was also interested in getting youth involved in stamp collecting. Rather than making them part of the main club, they met in their own club. “For several years we have been trying to find a leader for a group of junior collectors and last year this was accomplished. The Philatelic Traders and Trappers Club with four members as a beginning, now numbers eighteen enthusiastic girls and boys from ten to fourteen years of age who are getting a sound foundation in the rudiments of stamp collection under the able leadership of Charles Libman. They gather every other Wednesday evening at Mr. Libman's home...”⁹ Later the name was changed to “The Orlando Junior Stamp Club” and they met in the junior members homes.¹⁰

They were also interested in starting a club reference library and had found a place to house materials. They envisioned it to be made up of books, pamphlets, and catalogs.¹¹