

CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

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 simplicity. 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.

