

CENTRAL FLORIDA STAMP CLUB – HISTORY

Precursor Orlando Area Stamp Clubs

Awareness of the stamp clubs that existed in the Orlando/Central Florida area prior to the Central Florida Stamp Club may also give clues as to the earliest probable date the Central Florida Stamp Club may have been formed. The assumption being made is that, most probably, two separate clubs did not coexist in the Orlando area at the same time since there were probably not enough collectors to support two separate clubs. If evidence of two clubs coexisting at the same time comes to light, this assumption will have to be dropped. The graphic in Appendix B shows a timeline of when various organizations existed.

The existence of another club does not prove but only suggests that the Central Florida Stamp Club probably was not in existence. Here the evidence is being used to close in on a time frame to search for the beginnings of the Central Florida Stamp Club.

Exceptions could be either a specialized club in addition to a general club or a split of a club over differences of opinion. The second condition will be discussed in a later section.

As mentioned before, we know of one club, The Orlando Philatelic Society, which predated the Central Florida Stamp Club. While we know very little about this club, what we do know may help. As mentioned before, we know that a member of the Central Florida Stamp Club, Oliver Joe Bailey, had been a member of the disbanded Orlando Philatelic Society. In a listing copied from “The Philatelic Almanac” compiled in 1936, the Orlando Philatelic Society was the only stamp club located in the Orlando area of the 9 that were listed as active in 1936 for the entire state of Florida. The club met on the 1st and 3rd Fridays at the University Club. The officers listed for 1936 were David B. Russell as secretary and Horace L. Jacobs as president.³

Wade Beery Jr. said, “Horace Jacobs was the Bill Bomar of his time – the biggest moving force in the club in the 1930s and 1940s”. His reference to the leadership of William Bomar Sr. (1975-1995) indicates that Horace Jacobs probably held leadership positions in the Orlando Philatelic Society for many years. His recollection that the club existed in 1933 is possible, but not proven at this point.

The only other Central Florida area stamp club on the 1936 list was in Daytona Beach. St. Petersburg was the only city with two separate stamp clubs, a general club and a specialized Airmail Society. Nearby by today’s standards but a separate metropolitan area, Tampa also had a general club.

A. Stephen Patrick supplied the picture postcard in Figure 3 that marks the dedication of the new downtown post offices.⁴ The card shows that the cachet was sponsored by the Orange County Philatelic Society. Possibly this is another name or a renaming of the Orlando Philatelic Society. Perhaps this was another club existing after (or at the same

time with) the Orlando Philatelic Society. So little is known, that no conclusion can be safely stated. Using the premise we started with, the scant information we have suggests the time span to search for the inception of the Central Florida Stamp Club should be between mid-1941 and May, 1950.



Figure 3