

As I was saying...

Postage stamps: world's greatest travelers

By JACK HILSHER

Famous landscape photographer Ansel Adams once said, "I'm amazed at how many people have emotional difficulties. If you keep busy you have no time for them." His admonition holds double true for seniors. Keeping busy is a must, but is really quite simple. Get a hobby. Get several. Pick ones you can practice in bad weather when you can't putter in the yard. Pick one you may have enjoyed when young...like stamp collecting. That one is in some danger of becoming extinct and you could help save it, or perhaps start a grandchild on that path. Why is philately endangered? Listen to this.

One day in the only stamp store left around here I heard a youngster ask the proprietor if he had a football card featuring Raghib "the Rocket" Ismail, the ex-Meyers star. The shop owner said yes, he had one, and the price was five dollars! (Now this was before the Rocket had played a single pro game with the Toronto Argonauts!) Imagine, here was a bit of printed cardboard, costing a tiny fraction of a cent to print in quantity, selling at the end of a distribution chain for enough money to buy hundreds of used stamps.

When I was the age of that card collector, if you scratched any five boys you'd be scratching three stamp collectors. Today, scratch away; you won't find any. Stamp fanciers are scarce, beaten out by



(Photo courtesy Scott Publishing Co.)

the glamour in sport cards, by their fancy "sets," by special gold and silver editions, but great merchandizing with terrific store displays. Sport cards are "now," stamps are "old," and it's a downright shame for something is missing.

Stamp collectors always seemed to know more than the average person; young stamp collectors always did better in school and they knew their geography cold. They were entertained during endless hours at relatively little expense (not with five buck cards though) and what's more, stamps are always just plain fun!

In another column, I'll tell you how to dip into this fascinating

hobby, far enough to tell if you like it...you'll get tips on tools, albums, sources, the whole schmeer, but for now, enjoy this anonymous classic: "MONOLOGUE OF A POSTAGE STAMP"

"I am the world's greatest traveler. I've journeyed from pole to pole, by canoe and dog sled, by land, sea and air.

"I am the world's greatest art gallery. I portray kings and queens, presidents, princesses, princes, patriots and poets, aviators and adventurers, martyrs and musicians, novelists and sultans, and yes, athletes too.

"I am a miniature encyclopedia. I map countries and continents. I picture mountains, oceans, rivers and lakes, harbors and dams, bridges, ships and cathedrals. I portray handicrafts, customs and every type of bird, animal, fish, fruit, flower and mineral.

"I illustrate the fairy tales of children and the legends of civilization. I reflect the symbols of natural resources, industry, all human endeavor. I commemorate expeditions, inventions and discoveries...the creations that make life worth living.

"Millions of men, women and children world-wide are fascinated by me. Through my infinite variety they find boundless pleasure, relaxation and enchantment.

"Yet...I am only a postage stamp!"

Library news

Book and coupon sales will benefit library

By NANCY KOZEMCHAK

The Back Mountain Memorial Library is still selling the cookbook, "Chefs and Artists", the first library cookbook. These books are broken down in categories including: Chef's Best, Something Special, Tid-Bits, The Salad Bar, Noon Time, Mixed Bag of Vegetables, From the Seas, The Birds, The Mighty Main Dish, Give us this Day Our Daily Bread, Sweets and Treats, The Cookie Tray, Cake Crumbs, Good and Plenty Pies, and Potpourri. The foreword in the front of the book states, "A recipe that is not shared with others will soon be forgotten—But when it's shared, it will be enjoyed forever by future generations." The cookbook is available at the Information desk in the library and sells for \$12.95 which includes tax.

"The 'Entertainment '94' book is also available at the library, being sold by the Friends for \$25, proceeds to benefit the library. It is packed with hundreds of discount offers from many of the best-known restaurants and merchants in the area.

The "Back Mountain Color and Read Book" is being sold at the library for purchase with a donation of \$5. These make great gifts for children to color and enjoy.

New books at the library: "Sherman": a soldier's passion for order, by John F. Marszalek is a definitive biography and the nature and motives of this legendary and controversial military

genius are at last explored. Among the towering figures of the Civil War, none is more enigmatic than General William Tecumseh Sherman. Widely denounced as fiendishly destructive and even insane for his infamous March to the Sea across Georgia, Sherman was a brilliant commander and strategist who helped bring the bloody war to a swifter and surer end.

"The Caveman's Valentine" by George Dawes Green is a novel of rich, idiosyncratic achievement that is by turns suspenseful, deeply moving and hilarious. Romulus Ledbetter wasn't always homeless. He once was a devoted husband, father, and musician with a bright future. He now forages for food in the trash cans

of the city's better neighborhoods and wages a strenuous one-man war against an evil and imaginary power broker who is blamed for society's ills, as well as the sinister Y- and Z-rays that are corrupting humankind.

"The Robber Bride" by Margaret Atwood is a large print edition of a most intricate and subversive novel from the extraordinary imagination of the author. Rox, Charis and Tony—war babies all—share a wound, and her name is Zenia. Zenia is beautiful and smart and hungry, by turns manipulative and vulnerable, needy and ruthless, the turbulent center of her own never-ending saga. She damaged each of them badly, ensnaring their sympathy, betraying their trust.

Young women's club forming

The General Federation of Women's Clubs-Luzerne County is presently forming a Juniorette Club for young women age 14 to 18 in the Lake-Lehman area.

The next meeting will be Thursday, Jan. 13, at 7:30 p.m. in the Lake-Lehman High School cafeteria. Additional literature and information will be given out at this meeting, to anyone who was unable to attend the first meeting.

Friends and family members are also welcome to attend. Anyone interested in joining or wanting information prior to the meeting, call Mrs. Nancy Wilson, GFWC Luzerne County Membership Chairman at 639-2757 evenings.

Letters

China-Burma WW II vets invited to reunion

Editor: Veterans who served in China, Burma and India in World War II are invited to a reunion, September 3-8, 1994, in Baltimore, Maryland. This 47th annual reunion is being organized by the China-Burma-India Veterans Association which has over 7,000 mem-

bers. If you are a CBI veteran, please send your name, address, and phone number to Ross K. Miller, 918 N. 33rd St., Allentown, Pa. 18104, so we can send information about the reunion. Please also tell us the name of your CBI unit and locations where you

served overseas. If you cannot attend the Baltimore reunion, we would still like to hear from you so we can notify you of future CBI programs, including those of local CBIVA units in your area. Ross K. Miller Allentown

Have a bright idea?

Share it with your neighbors by writing to The Dallas Post. We welcome letters to the editor and longer pieces that may run as guest columns. Send yours to: The Dallas Post, P.O. Box 366, Dallas PA 18612, or drop it off at our office at 45 Main Road, Dallas (across from Offset Paperback). Be sure to include your name, address and daytime phone number.

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For more information, call (717) 675-9238.

From This Day Forward



A Special Feature in The Dallas Post and The Abington Journal

PUBLICATION DATE: JANUARY 26  
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(One day earlier if proof is needed)

Each January, readers of the Journal and Post look forward to this special feature section filled with advertising, articles and photographs to help them plan the perfect wedding. And each year, advertisers find they reach Northeastern Pennsylvania's most affluent markets at reasonable rates in these community newspapers.

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