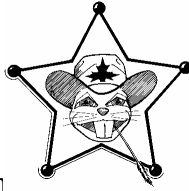


BEAVER**CHATTER**

The Newsletter of the Prairie Beaver Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd.
 Chairman: **George Dresser** Treasurer: **John Furlong** Editor: **Vic Willson**
 Volume 32, No. 3 Whole Number 125 October 2007

October 20 MEETING IN COLLEGE STATION

The next meeting of the Prairie Beavers will be held at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station, 603 Church Avenue, Room 207. Parking is available in the large parking lot across Nagle Street (east) from the Center. Church Avenue is the next street north and parallel to University Avenue; turn north (away from the campus) off University Avenue at the Shell Station, corner of Nagle and University. (see the map). Let Vic Willson know if you are coming at 979-696-0193, email him at lloydwill@aol.com, or drop him a postcard at P O Box 10026, College Station TX 77842.

Stay for the Evening Barbecue at Willson's October 20

All attendees of the PB meeting in College Station are invited to Vic and Carol's Willson's home for a barbecue dinner following the meeting. A sample of some nice California and Washington red and white wines will be available for tasting, a few good beers, as well as some of CS's excellent brisket, sausage, and fixin's. Plan to take your time and enjoy what should be great fall weather. Since Jeff Switt is unable to attend, it is not likely to rain (Jeff has managed to bring rain with him most of the trips he makes down to CS from the polar regions of Texas near the Red River).

It would be appreciated if you can let Vic and Carol know in advance if you will be able to attend.

Reisenfeld remembrance: In lieu of flowers, please make donations to M.D. Anderson Cancer Center or the charity of your choice.

Vic Willson gets Grand at BNAPEX07.

Vic's 19th Century Nonletter Mail of Canada was awarded a gold and grand award at the annual BNAPS convention and BNAPEX07 show in Calgary over Labor Day. The exhibit and award will be available for viewing at the upcoming PB meeting in College Station. The reserve went to Kevin O'Reilly's Labrador postal history, which received the same treatment two years ago when Vic won the grand for his post card exhibit. Kevin will be pleased to know upcoming exhibits by Vic are unlikely to be as competitive for a while.

SANFORD (Sandy) RIESENFELD, 60, passed away on Sept. 30, 2007 in Houston, after a courageous and hard fought battle with cancer. Sandy was dedicated to his family and dearly loved his friends as well. He is survived by his parents, Marian and Robert Riesenfeld and his wife, Priscilla, son Peter and wife Angie and his beloved grandson, five-month old Samuel, light of his life, son Jonathan, sister Susan and husband Joel Newman, brother-in-law Joseph Leff and wife Phyllis, sister-in-law Anne Horowitz and husband Mitchell, as well as many nieces and nephews, two great nieces and many other relatives and friends. He felt a responsibility to the world and was a volunteer at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and was active in the First Colony Lions Club for more than two decades. He also had a successful career, working for Coastal Corporation for 21 years. Sandy was generous with his love and laughter. He enjoyed a good joke and a bad pun even more. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday, October 3, 2007 at 11:00 AM in the Emanu El Memorial Park Cemetery.

PRAIRIE BEAVER MEETING, October 20, 2007

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

8:45 - 9:00	Coffee, donuts, informal
9:00 - 9:15	Introductions
9:15 - 9:30	Book reviews- new BNAPS books
9:30 - 9:45	Internet review (new sites, action)
9:45 - 10:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
10:15 - 10:45	Presentation: tba
10:45 - 11:15	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
11:15 - 12:00	Clothesline Exhibit (BNA stuff, anything else of philatelic interest)
12:00 - 1:15	Lunch
1:30 - 2:00	Business meeting
	1. Plan 2008 meetings
	2. BNAPS policy re budget
2:00 - 2:15	view auction lots
2:15 - 2:45	Buy-in auction (\$6)
3:00 - 3:30	Presentation: tba
3:30 - 4:00	Swap, Sell, Buy, Trade
4:00 - 4:30	Wrap-up, settle up
4:45 -	Hosted dinner at Willsons, 1200 Todd Trail, College Station (map will be provided)

Calgary BNAPEX 07 some notions

The 2007 convention was surprisingly ill-attended given the large number of BNAPS members in the west. While the count appeared to be in the respectable 120-140 range, it was far below the number of potential attendees from Victoria, Vancouver, Edmonton, and Calgary, as well as Regina-Winnipeg. All are within reasonable driving distance to Calgary. Given the large number of members in this region, it was disappointing to see that turnout. I think the registration fee, which was fairly high, contributed to lower turnout, as well as the ease of going to the show without registering, as it was a joint show with the Calgary Philatelic Society. From my perspective, costs should be low to minimal beyond the social events if BNAPS joins a national-level show. This one looked like the CALTAPEX show lived off BNAPS, not the other way around. While labor is often cited as the reason to get local clubs involved, there is never a shortage of labor for hire to put up frames, and even sit at conference desks to pass out materials. The costs are very reasonable generally. With an ageing collecting population, asking people to handle frames is no longer a trivial task. The jobs that can't economically be farmed out are the organizational ones related to exhibits, dealers, and meetings, although for a price all that can be done. My sense is that we need to rethink how BNAPS conventions are conducted. I have suggested in the past that we do away with frames altogether, put up good quality scans or photocopies, and leave the exhibits in a secure bin room for judges to study as they need to. One alternative recently suggested was to set up a small number of good computer screens with scrolling to permit good viewing- and the pictures are likely to be better than the illumination at many venues. From the average number of people viewing exhibits at any one time, frames are hardly cost-effective.

Finally, if the number of attendees at BNAPS conventions is going to be small, the same group each year beyond the locals, perhaps we should return to the earlier practice of holding the conventions at resorts, where we are the only game in town. Big cities are a hassle, expensive to be in, and less and less fun.



left: Mary Elizabeth Dresser, Judy Philips, George Dresser, and Clint Phillips at the BNAPEX 07 banquet

Below: Carol Willson and local Calgarians at banquet



below: Vic Willson and Grand Award at BNAPEX 07



The cover pictured above right was an addition to my nonletter mail exhibit that perhaps contributed to its upgrade to grand award at BNAPEX07. It is a wrapper enclosing a newspaper that was paid the ½ d domestic carriage fee with required stamp. The transmission to England was paid to a ship's captain, and the 1d collected from the recipient. This is the only recorded franked example of this rate in the pence period. The circular and prices current rate was 1d per per oz. from 1843, which was converted to 2c per oz. on July 1, 1859. There is also a stampless 1d prices current item in the pence period. Other printed matter, termed bookpost, was not rated until April 20, 1859, when it was listed at 4d per 4 oz., converted to 7c, until Jan. 1, 1870, when it went to 2c per oz. Below is shown the only recorded bookpost item in the pence period. There is at least one recorded 7c item in the decimal period, which is registered, most unusual. I have lost track of its whereabouts since Horace Harrison showed it in Vernon. It was not auctioned in any of his auctions with Lee or Bennett.



This item has a “PAID 3” mark, which is inconsistent with the stated rate and also with any understood rate to England in this period. Since this is after the currency conversion, it could represent the 3d equivalent of 5c paid for the letter rate, but there is no indication of any postage due in England, and a “PAID LIVERPOOL...” marking indicating it was accepted as such there. As with many early postal items, this may never be resolved.

WHAT’S NEW DEPARTMENT As soon as one complains there is nothing worth getting in current auctions, something new comes along that completely changes the perception. The upcoming NOV 1-3 Spink-Shreve auction, now online at <http://www.shreves.com/> is selling what was and still may be Fred Fawn’s international gold level collection of the Map stamp. Rarely can one really call something definitive, but his exhibit truly was. It was captured in the BNAPS Exhibit Series #32. Of course no collector has everything, and even I can add items of note not in this collection, but for capturing all the important material, this is it. The prices seem high for some things, low for others, so it will be interesting to see what the many unique items bring. I would dearly love to attend the auction but will be at OKPEX manning Jeff Switt’s table while he judges the WSP exhibits, including my nonletter mail.



DEC 2, 1898- earliest recorded use of the Map stamp, used the date of production according to Postmaster Mulock. An off-cover stamp is also in the sale. There are a number of DEC 7 covers including two overseas items, the earliest recorded. For the DEC 25 first day of 2c Empire rate, there are covers to Aden, Gibraltar, Natal, British Central Africa, and Sarawak, to name a few of the more exotic. Most of these are shown in the BNAPS book also.

On another note, the upcoming late October Maresch sale has some very nice Decimal covers of note, including a 35c

China cover, the unique shortpaid cover to France paid (sort of) 12c only to England with various accounting marks for the postage due, the unique triple rate 3 x 12 ½ c to England when you could pay for 3 rates (earlier it was either 2 rates or 4), and the unique double Cunard rate to England paid with 17c, 12 ½ c, and 5c, and 12 ½ c Cunard rate to Nova Scotia. Someone put together a very nice representation of the Decimals. My sense is that they are not being widely collected right now, and some bargains may be had. That was the case at the Firby sale, when a number of nice items went quite inexpensively (I bought a few as they were so darn cheap).

Beaver Chatter is the unofficial newsletter of a bunch of BNAPS members who, through no fault of their own, happen to live in the state of Texas. Opinions expressed are those of the authors who like to put their thoughts, philatelically or otherwise, into writing. Unless noted, articles are the effort of the Editor. Distribution is free to BNAPS members in the area who find it worth their while to participate in the group's activities, to certain BNAPS officials, and to whoever strikes the Editor's fancy. Newsletters are available to editors of other publications who wish to exchange samples of their labors. Articles, opinions, and general BS are solicited for publication by anyone who cares to write, and contributors will be rewarded with a complimentary copy of *Beaver Chatter*. Submissions can be sent to Vic Willson, P.O. Box 10026, College Station TX 77842 or emailed to lovddwill@aol.com or v-willson@tamu.edu