

Informal Federation meeting at VENPEX

President Bill Estes has called an informal Federation meeting at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 18, during VENPEX, the annual show of the Ventura County Philatelic Society. The show will be at Seaside Park, the Ventura County Fairgrounds, at 100 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura. The show opens at 10 a.m. All members of Federation clubs are welcome at Federation meetings.

SESCAL corner

The work for SESCAL has now started. It will begin as always with several letters and phone calls to the decorator, the hotel and those who will coordinate with me from the visiting societies. This should be a grand year.

We will have the Air Mail Society, United Postal Stationery Society and the China Society. Those who know me will not be surprised to find out I am a member of all three.

Those who were looking around at the last SESCAL saw some changes. We dressed up things by making new signs. There will be more this year. In addition we are planing to mail 6,000-plus cards. Yes, you read it correctly — 6,000 plus.

We have concluded this extra advertising will help in attendance. With a few cards mailed last year we doubled from the year before.

If there are any more suggestions please get hold of me by e-mail, wamcraig@aol.com; phone, (714) 525-8579; or mail, P.O. Box 3391 Fullerton, CA 92834. We need and encourage participation.

The show will be at the Wyndham Hotel, which is easy to get to because there is a freeway almost up to the hotel. The new 105 has an offramp at Sepulveda. Go north under the runway and you are there. Youall come, hear.

— **Wallace A. Craig,**
SESCAL chairman

Editor's corner

Ordinarily, an editor's column goes almost anywhere except page 1, but I'm making an exception this time because the column will also serve as the announcement of a new editor.

For those of you who don't know me, I am a past president of the Ventura County Philatelic Society, editor of its newsletter and a copy editor at the Ventura County Star, the county's daily newspaper, for which I also write an every-other-Sunday stamp column.

I am replacing, if that's possible, longtime editor Louise Christian. Editorships are among the most difficult positions for groups to fill, and I hope you don't find yourself wondering whether the board succeeded when it found me.

No two editors are exactly alike, so you'll see some changes as we go. Let me know what you like and don't like, and, as much as possible, I'll adjust to what you like.

If editors are hard for groups to find, writers are hard for editors to find. I know Louise tried to expand the Review to include philatelic items beyond the announcement of coming meetings and minutes of past meetings, and I'd like to continue that. But I need your help to do it.

If you have a favorite stamp, cover or other philatelic item, write it up and send the writeup with a good photocopy. Book reviews, commentaries and similar information are also welcome.

— **John Weigle,** editor

About us

The Philatelic Review is published quarterly by The Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California.

The SESCAL Web site, which also includes information about the Federation and a list of member clubs, is at www.sescal.org

News about Federation or club events and other articles should be sent to the editor, John Weigle, at:

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SESCAL 2000 will be Oct. 6-8 at Wyndham Los Angeles Airport Hotel,

How about completing something?

By Wallace Craig

Collectors can get frustrated when they get to the early stamps and see costs in the hundreds and thousands of dollars. We see the United States issuing a ton of stamps, which cost an arm and a leg. We see in the stamp newspapers about this person or that person saying, "I am going to stop collecting."

Those are words of frustration we all understand. However, is that the way to do it? I would like to talk to those who are in that position. Start looking in the catalogue and see what is there. The thing about stamp collecting that's on our side is that there are very few rules, and those which exist are very easy: Do not use Scotch tape, do not lick your mint stamps to stick them down, do not cut the perforations off the stamps and do not bend your stamps. Now those are easy aren't they?

One does not have to complete a country. If you wish to do that, however, I would suggest Namibia. This is the former South West Africa. The country of Namibia can be completed with very little trouble. It issues very few stamps each year and those it does issue have to do with the country. It would be fun to be able to say you have a complete country.

If you don't want to go out of the United States, take a portion of U.S. stamps. This could be a regular issue, such as the 1938 Prexies. Go just for a modern issue on cover and try to obtain a lot of foreign uses.

Do not stop collecting because too many stamps are issued. Take another look I am sure you will find

a fun place. Have at it.

What can I do to help?

I'm only one person, how can I help the stamp collecting hobby?

Does that sound like anyone you know — maybe even you? Here are some ideas.

Offer to present a program to your stamp club. You don't have to be an accomplished speaker with great rarities. Just describe your collecting interest and show some examples.

If your club sponsors a stamp show, help with it: Prepare an exhibit, work at the club or registration table, join the committee. Getting into any club's so-called clique is the easiest thing in the world. All you have to do is ask.

Write something for your club's newsletter.

If your club has a booth at the county fair or some other event, help with the display and volunteer to sit at the table for a couple of hours.

Give some of your duplicates to a stamp club for youth or a veterans' hospital group.

Patronize your local stamp store(s).

Invite another collector to one of your club's meetings.

Run for office in your club. And after you get enough experience there are always Federation offices.

Condolences

The Federation extends its sympathy to President Bill Estes, whose mother was killed in an auto accident in mid-February. He was forced to make a red-eye flight to the East Coast to help with arrangements, but made arrangements for this special newsletter and the ap-

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