

The

Postscript



Tallahassee Stamp & Cover Club

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January - March 1999

CURLING...ANYONE? *By Don Plaskett*

Collect Topicals? How About Sports...

If you want to get youngsters interested in this fascinating hobby, try sports. Sooner or later they will discover that Canada issued three stamps about curling?

Curling? What's curling? Well, it's played on ice just like hockey which may explain why no one south of Minneapolis has ever heard of the game. We do have ice hockey in Tallahassee but curling, well maybe some day.

If you go back to the 1500s in northern Europe, several countries had their own versions of the game. Scotland is probably the country that put it all together, as they did with golf. "Kuting" stones have been dug up in Scotland dating back to 1511.

First Rules in 1739

The first approach to any kind of rules came in 1739. Curling is a popular sport in the "cool" countries of northern Europe and curling is number one in many places in Canada during the winter months. All of the stores in small communities close up during "Bon spiel" (tournament) time.

So, exactly what is curling? If you have ever watched lawn bowling (see Australia Scott # 595, # 1106 and New Zealand #551) the scoring is similar. Both are games of strategy controlled by the "Skip" or final player. From there on the similarity ends.



The Target - Canada Sc # 490

A bullseye or "house" in curling is the target for players to amass the greatest number of points. The strategy is whether to block the opposing team with guards or to eliminate the opposition with well directed shots.

Each team is composed of four players, a "Lead" who will begin the strategy, a second who will protect the Lead's shots with guards or eliminate the opposition. Likewise for the third player, but the "Boss Man" is the "Skip" who directs the strategy from the far end.

Each player gets two shots for each end and a broom to be used when he is not delivering the "stone."

See **Curling** page 3

Stamps With A Civil War Flavor

By Gregg Phifer

George Washington and Abraham Lincoln appear on our postage stamps more often than anyone else. Both were presidents at critical periods, Washington after securing our independence and Lincoln while preserving the Union when 11 southern states rebelled and created the Confederate States of America.



Washington



Lincoln

Three Lincoln commemorative stamps with special relevance to our topic. (1) In 1940 on the 75th Anniversary of the 13th Amendment a three cent stamp pictures Lincoln standing with a slave kneeling beside him. (2) A 1949 three cent stamp notes the 85th Anniversary of Lincoln's Gettysburg address and quotes his of, by, and for the people conclusion. (3) A 1958 four cent stamp notes the sesquicentennial of the Lincoln-Douglas debates. The three other sesquicentennial stamps

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Welcome New Member

TS & CC welcomes new member Chuck Stannard who joined at the January meeting. He collects U.S. plate blocks. His phone number is 386-8566; call and welcome him to the Club.

Civil War - From page 1

picture Lincoln on one, three and four cent stamps. Lincoln also appears on definitive issues in 1869, 1870, 1873, 1890, 1894, 1902, 1922, 1938, 1954, 1960, 1965 plus. A special act of Congress ordered the 1909 two cent commemorative on the 100th Anniversary of Lincoln's birth.

Union officers U.S. Grant and James Garfield appear on 19th and 20th century stamps. Both served as presidents in addition to military duty during the Civil War. General Sherman appears on definitive issues of 1890 and 1894. The one dollar stamp of 1902 features Admiral Farragut.

Army - Navy Series

The 1936 Army-Navy series holds particular interest for its balance. Sherman, Grant and Sheridan appear on the three cent Army stamp, with Admirals Farragut and Porter on the Navy three cent stamp. Confederate Generals Robert E. Lee and "Stonewall" Jackson appear on the four cent stamp. The Confederacy had no admirals to parallel the Union admirals and neither the Monitor nor the Merrimac make an appearance.

Andrew Johnson, the first president to be impeached, appears with the

In The **POSTROAD** Ahead

Apr. 13 - "Q&A Time" Bring your questions - get answers.

May 11 - Need a Member or Guest to give a program.

June 15 - Second Annual Youth Night - Join in the Fun!

entire series of presidents up to 1938. That is his only notice on U.S. stamps.

A 1948 commemorative recognizes Clara Barton, a nurse during the Civil War, as the founder of the American Red Cross. She served as its first president.

Washington and Lee

Robert E. Lee appears in the Army-Navy series on the 30-cent 1954 definitive and with George Washington on the 1949 stamp honoring the 200th Anniversary of Washington University. Lee served as president of that university following the Civil War and addition of his name made today's Washington and Lee University.

In 1949 a red stamp commemorates the Final Encampment of the GAR, Grand Army of the Republic (Union). An almost identical stamp in 1951, this one printed in gray, commemorates the Final Reunion of the United Confederate Veterans.

A Centennial series recalls Civil War events: 1961 firing on Fort Sumter; 1962 Battle of Shiloh; 1963 Gettysburg; 1964 the Wilderness; 1965 Appomattox. This 1865-1965 stamp pictures a soldier on a blue and gray background standing beside three stacked muskets and quotes Lincoln, (who said): "With Malice Toward None."

It's Time To Pay Your Dues!



Members are reminded that dues payment time starts in April and they will have two months to pay before being declared "delinquent." New members who joined after October 1, 1998, were paying dues for 1999 and do not have to pay again this year.

If dues are not paid by June 1, membership is revoked which places members in an inactive status and suspends all benefits and services including *The Postscript*.

Your 1999 Dues Statement is enclosed. Please complete it and mail your check (no cash!) to our post office box 653 or give the form and your money/check to Club Treasurer, Lyn McCauley at the next meeting.

1999 Club Officers Elected in December

New Club Officers for 1999 were elected at the December meeting. Beginning their terms of office in January were: **Ed Walters**, President; **Ken Miller**, Vice President; **Lynwood McCauley**, Treasurer; **Gwynn Kidd**, Secretary and **Larry Benson**, Editor.

1999 TS&CC Officers

President - Ed Walters - 385-8379
Vice President - Ken Miller - 386-4157
Secretary - Gwynn Kidd - 627-7776
Treasurer - Lyn McCauley - 386-3624
Editor - Larry Benson - 877-7001

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Curling - From page 1

The broom is the kitchen variety of the corn broom only the straw is longer. These brooms are being supplanted by "push brooms" just as golfers may use a putter with an extended shank. Curlers will swear on 40 Bibles that they can draw the "stone" or "rock" from 20 to 30 feet down the ice when called for by the Skip. And, I believe them.

What is the Rock?

The rock? Through the centuries, the rock has evolved into a 44 pound rounded granite stone about six inches thick. The original stones had holes drilled in them for the fingers, much like a bowling ball, but the Scotts got smarter around 1775 and attached a handle to the stone. This handle allowed



A "Stone" sprouting the handle

the curler to direct the stone exactly where the Skip wanted it according to his strategy plan. This seems to be the reason for giving the Skip a broom.

Each player throws two stones toward the "house" at the other end of the ice - a distance of 126 feet. Although it may sound like a feat of strength, if the ice is keen the curler doesn't have to lift the stone very high to make it slide toward his target.

Enter the "Sweepers"

The curler depends on the other two members of the team to sweep his stone into the target, or wherever



Good curling form is a joy to behold - as the above illustrations show.

directed by the Skip. The stone has to make it over the "hog line" or the stone is eliminated. "Hog line?" Naw, you don't even want to hear about that!

Got the idea? When all four members of the team have thrown their two rocks each, the score (which you will never believe or figure out) is recorded on a scoreboard at one end of the rink. "Cliff hangers" develop when Skips are faced with that crucial shot which makes or breaks the game.

On a cold winters night in Canada, curling is a most popular sport for service clubs, senior citizens, social groups, neighborhoods or anyone else who wants two hours of fun and exercise. You are guaranteed to keep warm.

It all comes together when a "Bon spiel" is organized and teams will travel for hundreds of miles to participate and bring home the prizes. The pinnacle of curling is to participate in the "Golden Broom" similar to what the Masters is in the golfing world.

I watched teams compete in the Golden Broom held at Duluth, Minnesota, a few years ago. What a sight to watch curling teams from Norway, Sweden, Finland, Italy, Germany and, of course, Canada, USA and Scotland.

A team from Hibbing, Minnesota won the world championship although this news wasn't covered by ESPN! Every shot was thrown

so smoothly, swept in perfect rhythm coming to a stop precisely where the Skip called made a day I shall never forget.

Later in the week I dropped into a shoe store in Minneapolis to inquire if they had any "curling shoes." The shoe is light weight, rises above the ankle and has a smooth sole which slides great distances on ice. The clerk asked: "Curling shoe, what's that?"

To the best of my knowledge, Canada has issued three stamps illustrating curling: Scott # 647 which looks like two curlers drawing a guard to protect the stones in the house.



Scott # 647 - Guarding the Stones

Scott # 1196 is indistinct because of the stamp design but the curler has delivered a perfect shot that should put a smile on the Skip's face!



Scott # 1196
Curler in action

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So why not try to stimulate some youngster to collect sports stamps?

The President's Corner - By Ed Walters -----

Ken Miller and I visited the PAN-PEX Stamp Show in Panama City on February 13 and while there we saw Ralph Hager and Phil Spitzer.

I was especially interested in how the exhibits were arranged in their new location. The Bay County Stamp Club didn't have as much room as in the previous place, but it appeared to be sufficient.

About Eight Dealers

There were about eight dealers and the U.S. Postal Service arranged on both sides of a long room. A welcome desk was near the door where we entered and across from it there was a "kids corner."

At the far end of the room on one side were sitting the exhibit frames. I believe our Club could certainly do at least that much without any problem. It looked to me like the only club involvement during the show was people staffing the welcome table and kids area.

I certainly do hope we can consider a borse (sale) at least sometime in the near future.

A few members are still making packets of 100 different stamps to give to youngsters. We still have some albums available from the Robertson Collection, so if you are interested, make the Club a bid.

Springtime Tallahassee

Springtime Tallahassee is coming on Saturday, March 27 which will give us another opportunity to talk to the public, give out some gifts to youngsters and work with the U.S. Postal Service. This will be the first time we will be using our new exhibit panel designed and built by Ken Miller. We need members to staff our table, so please sign up.

We also need members to give talks, demonstrations or invite guests to give programs, so please make suggestions. See you at the next meeting.

Members Invited by Hospice and USPS

Big Bend Hospice and the United States Postal Service invited members of the TS&CC to attend the dedication of the Hospice Care stamp issued on February 9. Special recognition ceremonies were held nation wide for the hospice stamp. The Tallahassee program was held between the old and new Capitol buildings.



The Hospice Care stamp.

Give Stamps

To Kids!

The Postscript

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