

Calgary STAMPede

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C.P.S.

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The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The C.P.S. may be contacted at Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

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HISTORY OF THE CALGARY PHILATELIC SOCIETY: PART 6. THE LATE FIFTIES, EARLY SIXTIES
by Dale Speirs

The fortunes of the CPS were on the increase during 1955. For decades, social evenings at member's homes had alternated with general meetings every two weeks, but increased attendance resulted in lack of room, and the social evenings had to be discontinued.

The Annual Dinner and auction had begun in 1927 as a testimonial dinner for the people responsible for putting on the first public stamp show in Calgary that year. It had been enjoyed so much that it became a Christmastime event every year until 1953. In the last few years, there had been some dis-satisfaction about the date of the dinner. The event was changed to February as a result. There was no Dinner in 1954 consequently, but the event went forward on February 22, 1955, at the Palliser Hotel.

For many years now, club members had been encouraging junior philately by way of Y.M.C.A. stamp clubs. The emphasis shifted in April 1955 to the Boy Scouts, for whom a stamp club was arranged. The CPS was also helping to encourage stamp collecting amongst the boys at the Bowden Institute, the juvenile-detention facility about 70 km north of Calgary on Highway 2.

Alan Sorby was made Life Member #6 on May 10, 1955. At the same meeting, Sid Richardson once again returned to the President's chair. G.M. Hill was elected Vice-President, G. McKay was Secretary, H. Turtle was Treasurer, and G.H. Moxham made responsible for Publicity.

A delegation was made up to meet L.M. Lamouroux, President of the Canadian Philatelic Society, who visited the city on September 27. The Calgary club continued to waver about affiliation with the national society, and on October 11, it was decided not to bother. This had nothing to do with the visit by Lamouroux, but was simply a matter of not having five members who belonged to the Canadian P.S., a requirement for chapter status.

For a third time, the Calgary and Edmonton clubs met halfway at Red Deer. The event took place on October 15, 1955. At the auction, Edmonton lots brought in \$177.70, while a greater quantity of Calgary lots only realized \$104.20.

Richardson resigned as President on January 10, 1956. Gordon Hill assumed the post for the duration of the term. On May 8, he was confirmed in that post for the forthcoming season. Joe Chogi was voted Vice-President, Bob Traquair made Secretary, and John Learmonth was Treasurer. On the Executive Committee were Sid Richardson, Harry Moxham, Leonard Leacock, and G.A. Morrison. Total membership was 38, up four from last year.

The Annual Dinner, billed as the 33rd such event, was actually the 28th. It was held April 24, 1956, with the usual auction. It had originally been planned for February, then postponed for the possibility of a speaker coming in from Vancouver. In the event, the speaker was not forthcoming, and the Dinner was delayed from its intended time.

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Again the Edmonton and Calgary clubs had their autumn get-together in Red Deer, meeting on October 20, 1956. This was the fourth such occasion. The Edmonton club arranged for the auction and speaker, while Calgary looked after the accommodation.

For some time prior, the CPS had been considering the idea of a monthly auction at the non-business meeting. A committee was struck to set up the rules, and the first auction was held November 20, 1956.

At the December 6 meeting, an election was held to fill the vacant position of George Morrison, who had died a short time before. Ed Lynn filled the hole on the Executive Committee. Morrison had served the club for many years in different positions, being member #19 and a Charter Member. Not long after, H. Turtle, another faithful servitor, also passed away.

The 1957 Annual Dinner was held on February 19, again at the Palliser Hotel, but was poorly attended. Subsequent discussion at general meetings resulted in the decision to have the Dinner in April of future years.

The May 7, 1957, Annual Meeting put Mr. Rosete in as President. Norm Tunna was elected Vice-President, and Traquair and Learmonth continued in their positions. For the Executive Committee were Akitt, Richardson, Hill, Lynn, Thompson, and Horne. Membership stood at 45.

The fifth Edmonton-Calgary meeting in Red Deer was held on November 2, 1957. As before, there was an auction, dinner, stamp displays, and a speaker. The event was marred by the loss of two circuit books, one from Edmonton and the other from the Canadian P.S..

Once more the Calgary club affiliated with the Canadian P.S., and this time it seems to have stuck. The club applied for chapter status in March of 1958.

The thirtieth Annual Dinner of the CPS was held on April 12, 1958. Circuit books and displays were part of the activities. Not surprisingly, in view of the missing material from the Red Deer show, the general meeting of April 1 had some discussion about how circuits and displays would be handled at the Dinner.

The 1958 Red Deer meeting was held in the spring this time, on May 24. In that month, the Calgary club had 41 members. For the election meeting of May 6, Norm C. Tunna was elected President. Sam Nickle became Vice-President, Bob Traquair was Secretary, and W.G.H. Akitt was Treasurer. The Executive Committee comprised Chiswell, Benningen, Horne, McComb, Wyllie, and Hartney.

November 10 to 15 was National Stamp Week in 1958. The CPS staged a display of stamps at the Gas Company Auditorium on November 13 to mark the occasion. Frames for the show were quoted at a cost of about \$4 each, depending on how many were ordered.

Once again the idea of affiliation reared its head, this time with the Calgary Allied Arts Council. It fell through because to do so would have required a change in meeting dates.

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After about fifteen years without them, the CPS agreed to revive its own circuit books. During the past years, members had circulated their own books or those of dealers or other societies, but the Society itself did not officially have circuit books. Jack Benningen offered in December 1958 to take the initial steps to get them going again. The circuits started moving in March 1959.

The 1959 Annual Dinner and auction were held on March 21 at the Palliser Hotel. The Calgary/Edmonton conclave in Red Deer was held on the last Saturday in April, again with an auction.

The May 5, 1959, Annual Meeting put Sam Nickle in the President's chair. Other positions were filled by Bill Plaisance (Vice-President), Bob Traquair (Secretary), and Herb Akitt (Treasurer). For the Executive Committee were Tunna, Hill, Benningen, Chogi, and Horne. There were 56 paid members.

Another stamp exhibition was held at the Gas Company Auditorium at 140 - 6 Avenue SW. It was opened by M.L.A. Ernest Watkins on November 12, and was well covered by the press.

The CPS had initiated an exchange of auction lots with the Edmonton Stamp Club. Edmontonians sent down forty lots, of which twenty-nine sold for \$99.80. Thirty-five lots were sent north from Calgary, and again twenty-nine sold, but only for \$69.70.

Some familiar problems were cropping up, and are still with us today. The circuit books needed better-quality material. Members were asked not to do stamp business or chitchat during the meetings while a speaker was talking. Monthly auctions were considered too long, so limits were introduced on how many lots a consignor could put in. Auction lot reserves were also raised to try and reduce the amount of cheap material. Members were nagged to pay their annual dues. Some things never change!

Awards for exhibits at a CPS show are mentioned for the first time in the April 5, 1960, minutes. The Annual Dinner had been held on March 5, along with the usual activities. Three silvers and two Honourable Mentions were awarded. Fred Dunn, a Calgary dealer, staged the Calgary Postage Stamp Show on April 30 at the Macabees Hall. [This was apparently a dealer bourse] The eighth Edmonton/Calgary meeting in Red Deer was staged May 14.

The May 3, 1960, Annual Meeting elected Bob Traquair as President. Rudy Martin (Vice-President), Herb Akitt (Secretary), and Al Barker (Treasurer) made the rest of the slate. On the Executive Committee were Jack Cotton, Jim McComb, Joe Chogi, Jim Hill, Sam Nickle, H. Bennett. Two other Committees were constituted, one for Membership, and one for Auction & Sales. The membership was at a record 89, and the increase of 33 in one year was in itself a record. Auctions were very profitable, partly due to higher reserves and commission, but also because the lots were selling at better prices.

1960 was a good year for shows. Besides all the springtime activity, the British North American Philatelic Society held their convention at the Banff School of Fine Arts from September 15 to 17. The CPS Fall Stamp Show took place on November 10 at the Gas Company Auditorium.

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Because the CPS Archives had been temporarily misplaced (they were later to turn up in Sid Richardson's basement), the exact date of the Society's formation was uncertain. Based on the opinions of the older members, the club was under the impression that the CPS began in October 1921, and accordingly arranged for a Fortieth Anniversary Banquet at the Palliser Hotel on April 29, 1961. Planning for the event began in November 1960, and every effort was made to make it a big event. An auction was prepared, and a four-page mimeographed catalogue of lots was circulated. A short history of the CPS was also prepared. It was four pages long, and because the author did not have access to the missing Archives, had a number of inaccuracies in the early history.

The usual Red Deer joint meeting of the Calgary and Edmonton clubs was held on May 13, 1961.

By the time of the Annual Meeting on May 2, 1961, there were 78 paid members. Constitutional changes were proposed and adopted effective September 1. In the elections, Rudy Martin was the new President, Herb Akitt was Vice-President, J. Benning made Treasurer, and H.N. Bennett was Secretary. The Executive Committee comprised Bob Traquair (*ex officio* as Past President), R.A. Galli, W.F. Hanley, H.M. Hartney, and Mrs. R.H. Lane (the first woman to be on a club position). Jack Cotton was the Auction chairman, and Jerry Brackman in charge of circuit books.

Since the CPS had been formed in April 1922, it had never published its own bulletin. Communications with the membership were maintained by circulars and postcards. In September 1961, the first issue of the Newsletter appeared, printed by mimeograph on 8½ by 14 paper, one side only. Postcards were still mailed, alternating with the Newsletter every other month. The editor was Bob Traquair, and the Newsletter continued until May 1963, when it died.

Some familiar problems with the circuit books were mentioned in the September 1961 Newsletter. Overpricing and inferior material was the usual problem, and one quote said "Many, many of the books being entered have stamps hinged to fall out at the first opening of the circuit book while others appear to have had the hinge glued to the stamp."

Dues for the forthcoming 1961-62 season were set at \$3, the first time that they had passed the 1920s level.

Once again junior collecting was mentioned in the minutes. This time, the junior club was to be run under the auspices of the City of Calgary Parks & Recreation Department.

The CPS had been receiving circuit books from the Canadian P.S.. Unfortunately two of the books disappeared while at monthly meetings, costing the club \$81. Events such as these were extremely rare, however. There was also trouble with the monthly auctions; one member purchased a lot of mint stamps described as such but containing a used stamp and a number of mint stamps stuck down on the sheet.

The Annual Dinner of January 27, 1962, had a poor turnout, perhaps because of the cold weather. Not enough exhibits were entered to warrant giving out prizes. As a bright spot though, the Archives were rediscovered in May 1962, when it was then learned that the CPS was forty years old in 1962, not 1961.

(to be continued)

THE CANADIAN POST OFFICE 1867-1912 by Perry Holinshead

When the provinces of Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick united to form the Dominion of Canada, the control of the Post Office was vested in a postmaster-general who was a member of the federal government. The deputy postmaster-general of the former Canadian provinces held this post in the new system, and his counterparts in the other provinces became post office inspectors in their own areas.

At this time there were 2333 post offices in Upper and Lower Canada, 630 in Nova Scotia, and 438 in New Brunswick. Revenues were \$914784 for the Canadas, \$51714 for Nova Scotia, and \$50769 for New Brunswick. Their deficits were \$9536, \$27559, and \$16037 respectively.

A general reduction in postal rates brought the cost down from five cents per half ounce to three cents, and a considerable reduction on newspapers. This brought about an immediate increase in use which resulted in an increase in revenue of \$55000 by 1871.

The acquisition of the Territories in 1869 and of British Columbia in 1871 placed a great burden on the Post Office. Basic services had been in operation in both areas for some years.

From 1821 to 1853, trips were made twice yearly by canoe between Montreal and Fort Garry. In addition, there was a winter express run by couriers hauling toboggans. Couriers travelled along the Saskatchewan and other rivers by canoe in summer and dogsled in winter. In 1853, the United States government established a monthly post to Pembina, sixty-five miles south of Fort Garry. Until 1869 letters were paid in United States stamps with an additional penny sterling to carry them between Fort Garry and Pembina. When the Canadian post office inspector took over the system there were seven post offices administered by a postmaster in Fort Garry under the governor and council of Assiniboia. It was arranged with the United States post office for regular mail service between Fort Garry and Windsor, Ontario.

In 1859, the British consul at San Francisco arranged with the postmaster-general of the United States for the transmission of letters for British Columbia overland from St. Louis. The consul then arranged the best transport onward, and final delivery was attended to by the lieutenant-governor. In 1864 a full postal system was developed, and by 1871, when British Columbia entered Confederation, there were thirty post offices. The main route ran 478 miles from New Westminster to Barkerville. Service was weekly in summer and every two weeks in winter. A 350 mile branch route from Quesnel to Omineca was serviced monthly. On Vancouver Island, there were two weekly services of 24 miles and 35 miles. Daily mails were maintained between Victoria and Esquimalt, and between New Westminster and Burrard Inlet.

When Prince Edward Island joined Confederation in 1873, there were 180 post offices with a revenue of \$12000, half of which came from Charlottetown.

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All western mail left Canada at Windsor and travelled by the U.S. postal service. A letter from Toronto took ten days to Winnipeg and three weeks to Victoria. Mail to the Maritimes prior to 1876 went via the state of Maine. With the beginnings of the Intercolonial Railway, the mail then went to Riviere du Loup by rail and thence 500 miles by stage to Truro and 60 miles by rail to Halifax. With the construction of the Great Western and the Canada Southern rail lines, the U.S. mail was expedited through Canada. An agreement was made where mail of either country was carried without charge. By November 1884, mail could be carried from Halifax to Winnipeg by rail through Canadian territory. As the rail line pushed west, a post office called "End of Track, C.P.R." went with it until the link was completed to Vancouver in July 1886.

The post office was now obliged to maintain a daily service coast to coast. In the first full year of service west of Ontario, the revenue was \$239000 against a cost of \$459000. This was a vast unsettled area which began filling up with settlers. The entire country was experiencing growth and business expansion. The mails were the best means of communication available at the time. By 1903, a revenue reversal had occurred, and the post office began to show a profit. In 1911 the revenue was \$9,146,952 against an expense of \$7,954,223.

WINE AND CHEESE AWARDS

At the annual wine and cheese party on December 6, 1989, three awards were announced. The Founders Award, given to the member contributing to the CPS in the last year, went to Greg Lang. He has run the table auction at the meetings for quite some time.

Two new Life Members were named as well. Jim Sadler, a past President, was involved in numerous activities on and off the CPS Executive. Walter Jackson is best known for running the Sunday Bourse and his involvement with youth philately over the last two decades.

Congratulations to all three winners! Cumulative lists are given below for the historical record.

Founders Award

1973 - Jim Sadler
1974 - Ken Ford
1975 - Tom Lemon
1976 - Walter Jackson
1977 to 1979 - award dormant
1980/81 - Don Fraser
1981/82 - Keith Brown
1982/83 - Al Munro
1983/84 - Leanna Johnson
1984/85 - John Jarabek
1985/86 - Guy Boissonneault
1986/87 - Dale Speirs
1987/88 - no award
1988/89 - Greg Lang

Life Members

1 - E.G. Mason
2 - W.C. Black
3 - A.B. Harris
4 - W. Emslie
5 - Sid Richardson
6 - Alan Sorby
7 - Harlow Hartney
8 - John Learmonth
9 - Ted Chiswell
10 - Brien Horne
11 - John Jarabek
12 - Bob Monilaws
13 - Jack Cotton
14 - Ed Harris
15 - Phil Wolf
16 - Jim Taylor
17 - Walter Jackson
18 - Jim Sadler

THE CALGARY BNAPSERS

by Dale Speirs

The British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) is a specialized national society devoting its attention to the philately of Canada and the pre-Confederation provinces. Most of the membership lives in Canada and the United States. BNAPS has a number of Regional Groups, of which the Calgary group is one. Calgary BNAPSers meet on second Wednesdays in the homes of members, with usually a dozen or so people turning out. There is a brief business session, followed by conversation on a topic of BNA philately chosen by the host. Members bring along a philatelic item related to the meeting's subject and explain it to the rest of the group. There are no formal lectures or slide programs at such meetings, just like-minded stamp collectors talking with each other on topics of mutual interest. For further information, contact Jim Karr at 287-0897 or see him at the CPS meetings.

The Calgary Regional Group of BNAPS is apparently the oldest continuously meeting such group. The earliest mention of this group is in the May 1957 issue of BNA Topics. Robert S. Traquair was secretary of the group at that time. Meetings were on second Tuesdays in member's homes. The June 1961 issue of BNA Topics reports that Mrs. Kathleen Lane was secretary, and the group met second and fourth Tuesdays at the Anglo-American Building, 330 - 9 Avenue SW.

Murray Devlin was secretary from July 1963 to September 1968, then Renee Benningen until sometime in the 1970s. (BNA Topics did not list Regional Groups for a ten year period, hence the uncertainty.) From January 1982, Phil Wolf was secretary for seven years, succeeded by Jim Karr.

Calgary BNAPSers have been influential in the main organization. Sam Nickle held positions in BNAPS as follows: Board of Governors 1968, Vice-President 1969 and 1970, and President in 1971 and 1972. Ed Harris was BNAPS Treasurer from 1975 to 1982, Board of Governors 1983 to 1985, Vice-President 1986, and President in 1987 and 1988. Bill Pawluk has been on the Board of Governors from 1985 to the present date. As can be seen, Calgarians are quite prominent on the national philatelic stage.

Calgary BNAPSers have also been active in staging national stamp shows, specifically BNAPEX, the annual show of BNAPS. The first BNAPEX in this area was at Banff in 1960, from September 15 to 17. BNAPEX 60 was cosponsored by the Calgary and Edmonton regional groups, and a full report is given in the November 1960 BNA Topics.

The first 100% Calgary show staged in this city was BNAPEX 66, held September 15 to 17, 1966. For both BNAPEX 60 and BNAPEX 66, slogan cancels were used by the post office as publicity. The next Calgary show was BNAPEX 73, from September 19 to 22. BNAPEX 85 was also held in Calgary, from September 12 to 14. Currently the Calgary Regional Group is bidding for BNAPEX 95. It should be noted that the BNAPS tradition is to hold BNAPEX in the United States in even-numbered years and in Canada in odd-numbered years.

If you are interested in joining BNAPS, which publishes a bimonthly, 'BNA Topics', write to Chris McGregor, 6312 Carnarvon Street, Vancouver, BC, V6N 1K3.

PHILATELIC FICTION
by Leanteri Polvikoski

Stamps and stamp collectors have featured in short stories and novels by a number of authors. Indeed, one could build up quite a collection of such fiction. The best known piece of philatelic fiction is probably 'The Stamp Album World' by Stephen Leacock, collected in his anthology 'Short Circuits'. Stamp collectors are given to bragging about how philately teaches a person geography, so Leacock takes that idea and extrapolates it logically. He points out that according to this line of thinking, anyone learning geography in this manner would believe that "The principal countries of the world are Cochín-China, the Gilbert Islands, Somali Land, the Gaboon, the Cameroons, Nankipu, Johore, and Whango-Whango. ... of less importance ... [are] United States, Great Britain, Canada, France, etc."

Leacock published this satire on philately in 1928, but the basic theme is still up to date. As another quote shows, the purpose of a stamp can honour such notables as "King Edward the Seventh, dictator of Nyassaland". Leacock points out that the British Royal Family are kept on because they have the right kind of features for postage stamps, but the Emperor of Brazil had to be deposed in 1889 because his whiskers were unsuitable for the Post.

A science-fiction magazine 'Last Wave' carried a story by David J. Sheskin called 'Bagged by the Dead Brigade' in a 1984 issue. This rather bizarre story has a rock singer kidnapped by dead spirits such as Babe Ruth and Albert Einstein, who are upset that he is getting a commemorative stamp in his honour while so many clean-living heroes have never gotten a stamp. Babe Ruth asks the rock singer a number of trick philatelic questions, and is rather surprised that he knows the answers. The rock singer gets free of his kidnappers and never does answer Babe Ruth's final question, "What American songbird is about to be memorialized on a twenty-five cent green commemorative stamp?"

In the February 1989 issue of Isaac Asimov's Science Fiction magazine, Charles Sheffield has a cover story 'Destroyer of Worlds', in which a private detective hunts down a group of scientists who would rather not be found. Her main clue is an envelope with a cinderella stamp on it depicting a doll and the value 'One Googol'. [There actually is such a thing as a googol; it is a mathematical term equal to ten to the hundredth power.] Sheffield did a fair amount of research on philately, and mentions numerous terms used by stamp collectors, although he did fluff up and get one or two things wrong.

Philately is occasionally used by mystery writers. Almost always though, the connection is that of rare postage stamps which have been stolen. The characters in the story spend most of their time searching for the stamps, which could just as easily have been rare coins or jewellery.

Stories in which the stamps form an integral part of the plot are few and far between. Sometimes a detective makes an arrest because the postmark on an envelope showed a certain date, or because the stamp used on the envelope was issued after the date of the postmark, thereby making the postmark a fake. In one case, the bad guy had an envelope containing documents elaborately sealed, stamped, and postmarked to show that he had not opened it. (He did open it, but at the other end. The stamps and postmarks were used to draw attention away from the other end of the envelope.)

SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup CPS members. Mail your ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand them to Dale Speirs at the general meetings. Deadline for the March bulletin is March 7.

WANTED: Town-dated singles, blocks, and plate blocks of Canada, especially pre-WW2. Call Ed Harris at 274-0021.

FOR SALE: Ireland mint singles and sets, British Colonies Omnibus mint sets, Canadian mint Admirals. Call Bob Perry at 282-4520.

FOR SALE: OLYMPEX 88 show catalogue, illustrated with articles on Olympic philately, winter sports philately, and Calgary postal history. Price is \$6 each, postpaid anywhere in the world from the CPS, Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, AB, T2P 2L6.

FOR SALE OR TRADE: Canada, USA, British Colonies and others. Wanted are France, U.N., Newfoundland. Call Jean at 245-5928.

THANK YOU to all who called in response to my clearance sale ad in the last STAMPEDE. There is lots more available, priced at 10% to 20% of catalogue. Call John Jarvis at 282-7248 for appointment.

WANTED: Clean, unmarked copies of the following philatelic periodicals. No cutouts, scribbling, or stains in them. Call Dale Speirs at 243-1752 anytime and leave message on machine or see him at meetings.
Topical Time - 1974 Jan to Jun, 1978 Jan to Oct, 1980 Sep to Dec, 1981 Jan to Aug, 1984 Mar/Apr, Jul to Oct, 1985 all issues needed, 1986 Jan/Feb, 1987 Jul to Dec
SPA Journal - 1980 Mar to May, Aug, Nov, Dec, 1981 Jan to Mar, 1982 Mar
American Philatelist - 1955 Sep to Dec, 1956 Feb, 1963 Aug

CALGARY STUDY GROUPS

ENAPS Calgary Regional Group - see page 9.

Australasian Study Group meets third Wednesdays in member's homes. Information from Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

Ireland and British Europe Study Group meets every second month. Information from Steve Davis (237-5806) or David Warren (253-7342).

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1990

Feb	4		Sunday bourse
	7		General meeting
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
Mar	7		General meeting
	7		Deadline for April STAMPede
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
Apr	4		General meeting
	18		Auction
	21		BNAPS regional meeting
	22		STAMP DAY
	25		Auction
May	2		General meeting
	2		Deadline for June STAMPede
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
Jun	6		Election meeting
	20		Auction
	27		Auction
Sep	5		General meeting
	5		Deadline for October STAMPede
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
Oct	3		General meeting
	17		Auction
	24		Auction
	26 to 28		CALTAPEX 90
Nov	7		General meeting
	7		Deadline for December STAMPede
	21		Auction
	28		Auction
Dec	5		Wine-and-cheese party

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, second floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

SUNDAY BOURSES are at the American Women's Club, 1010 - 14 Avenue SW, from 10 am to 430 pm. For table bookings, contact Walter Jackson at 242-4128.

BNAPS REGIONAL MEETING and STAMP DAY are at the Marlborough Inn.

CALTAPEX 90 has moved to a new location, and will be held at the Glenmore Inn. For information, contact Phil Wolf at 251-4109.