

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 131

December 2014



Another Calgary topical stamp appeared on October 3 as part of the annual NHL series, this time showing Canadian team colours on Zambonis. At left are the self-adhesive coils, one for each team. There was also a dry-gum souvenir sheet, showing all the stamps together.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for hardcopy, jpeg, or pdf format only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word 1997 format only. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, handed to Dale Speirs at meetings, or emailed to opuntia57@yahoo.ca Please do not email club business to this address.

The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALGARY PHILATELIST exists but because of its length is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address.

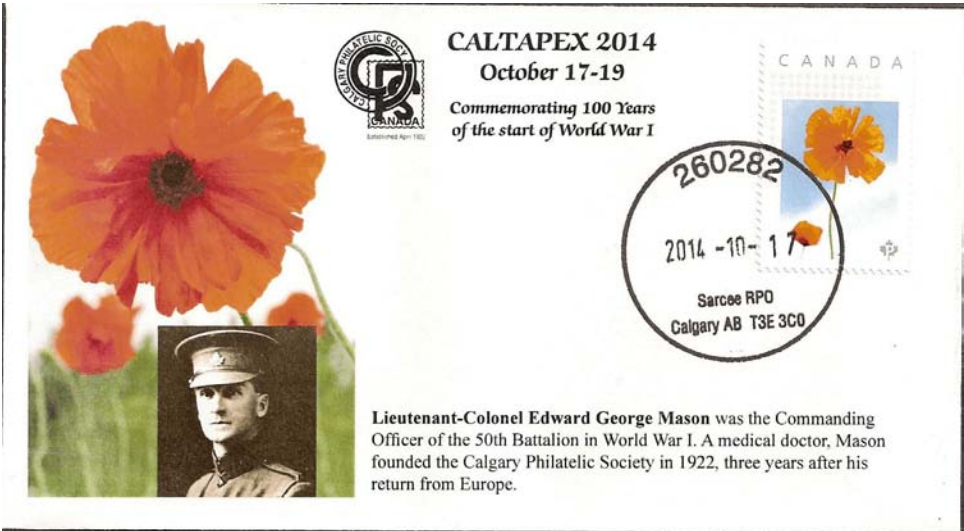
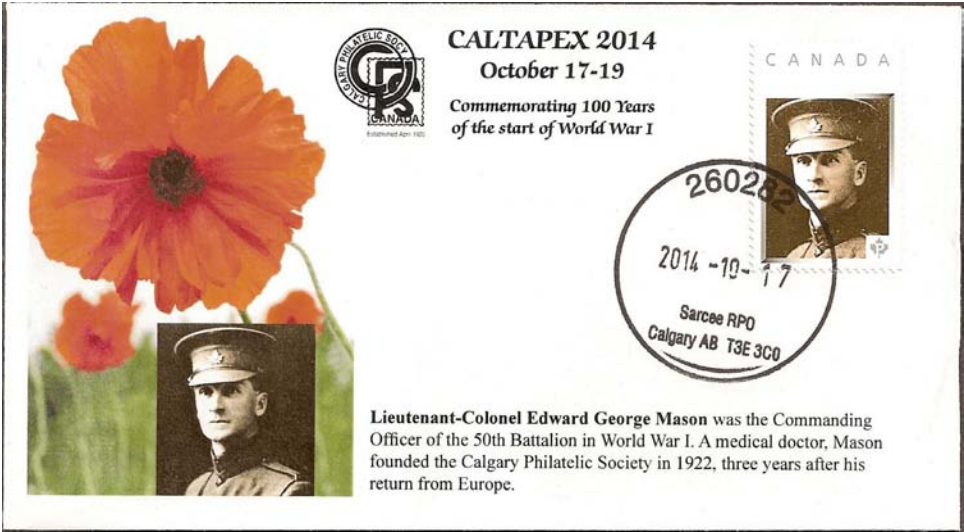
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- 2nd year	Doug Kollar	547-3838

COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

CALTAPEX 2014 SHOW COVERS

Peter Fleck designed a beautiful full-colour show cover as shown below. He then arranged for two Picture Postage stamps, one with Dr. E.G. Mason's portrait and the other with red poppies. Dale Speirs had the covers cancelled on the first day of the show at the Sarcee retail postal outlet in the 7-Eleven at 37 Street SW and 46 Avenue, a few blocks away from where the Sarcee Field Camp once was during World War One. Dr. Mason commanded the 50th Battalion at the camp, so the postmark was very appropriate.



CALGARY POSTAL HISTORY IN THE MAKING: THE DOWNTOWN WEST END FIRE, OCTOBER 2014

by Dale Speirs

On Saturday, October 11, an underground electrical substation exploded in the west end of Calgary's downtown core, blacking out the area for a week. The fire was underground, so the heat did not dissipate and was confined inside the tunnels, as a result of which the substation was completely destroyed. The fire traveled through the tunnels as the insulation on the power cables caught fire, and numerous manholes in the streets spouted blue flames from the burning plastic. After firefighters finally got the blaze out, Enmax crews worked around the clock to build a new substation from scratch and then replace 3.5 km of burnt cables. 5,000 residents and 1,200 businesses were without power for a week. The power was restored on Thursday, October 16, and normalcy returned Friday.

The Central post office at 6 Street SW and 5 Avenue, and the retail postal outlet at Dominion Drugs on the north side of 7 Avenue SW at 8 Street, were shut down during this time. Mail to boxholders at these two locations was diverted to the South Calgary post office on the east side of Macleod Trail at 60 Avenue SE, across from the Chinook Mall. Door-to-door deliveries in the blackout area were suspended, and anyone wanting their mail had to go out to the Airport sorting plant way up in the northeast. Canada Post had recent experience in handling such disasters, since the same procedures were used when the downtown core was underwater during the great flood of June 2013 (see issue #122, August 2013 for the report on the flood). As one of the Central posties said to me: "I wonder what the third thing will be?". The photo below shows Enmax electricians replacing underground burnt cables in front of the darkened and closed Central post office.



My box number is at the Central post office, as a result of which I had to make the long trek down south to get my mail. What was further interesting was that the South Calgary post office is scheduled to move at the end of November, and will relocate a few blocks south to re-open in the Fisher Road lettercarrier depot.

The CPS Show Committee was almost overtaken by the events. CALTAPEX 2014 was held October 17 to 19 at the Kerby Centre, on the south side of 7 Avenue SW directly on the edge of the blackout zone. The apartment towers on the north side stood black and empty on Wednesday night before the show when we had our regular auction meeting at the Kerby Centre. We were very fortunate that the show venue was not affected.

What made me nervous in my capacity as the show catalogue editor was that our printer was in the blackout zone. I dropped off the final copy for the catalogue on Friday, the day before the explosion, for pickup Tuesday morning after Thanksgiving Monday. When I went by the shop Tuesday morning, they were jury-rigging generators. Fortunately the power came back just in time for them to print the show catalogues, but it was an unsettling experience for everyone concerned. I picked up the catalogues on Friday an hour before the show opened. Both the Central post office and the Dominion Drugs RePO were back in business on Friday as well.

CALTAPEX 2014 SHOW REPORT

Despite the scare of a major blackout, this year's show opened on time and ready to go on October 17. On Friday, after the show closed for the evening, a group of exhibitors stayed behind to hear Chief Judge David Piercey discuss exhibit planning and layout over a Chinese meal. The Awards Banquet was held Saturday evening at the Danish-Canadian Club. Sunday's big event was the auction, but there was also a judges' critique. The dealer bourse had steady business all weekend, and there was a good customer turnout. Well done to all those who volunteered to do the heavy lifting or sit at the reception table!

MONTHLY MEETING PRESENTATIONS

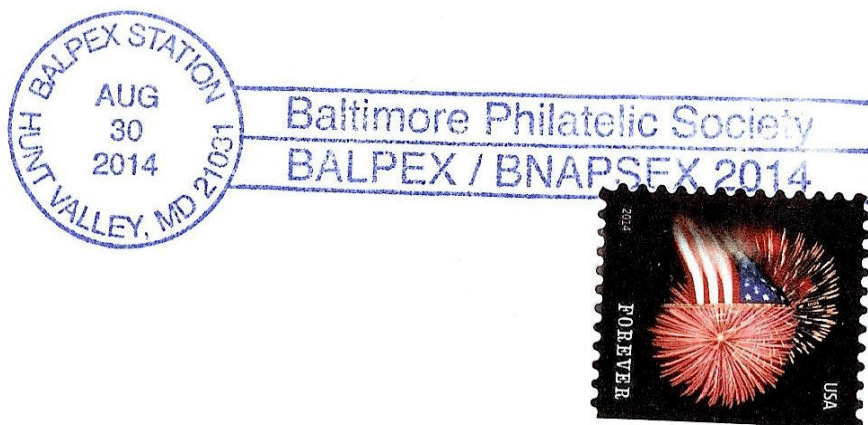
by Larry Tweedale

We require members to volunteer for presentations at the general meetings. Currently there are openings from January to April. May is taken. This is your opportunity to share your love of stamp collecting with other members. To book your talk or to get some pointers on public speaking, please see me at the meetings.

STUDY GROUP NEWS

Eldon Godfrey and David Bartlet attended the annual convention of the Canadian Philatelic Society of Great Britain in Edinburgh, Scotland, from October 2 to 6. At the convention, Eldon gave a talk on mail censored by the Canadian Foreign Exchange Control, which monitored currency flowing in and out of Canada between 1939 and 1951. Dave had a non-competitive exhibit on Canadian computer-vended postage.

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) meets second Wednesdays in the second-floor boardroom of the Chateau Renoir at 90th Avenue SW and 16 Street. The evening concludes with the usual show-and-tell session, where members bring in interesting stamps or covers. The September 10th meeting, with ten attendees, heard reports on PhilaKorea 2014 and BNAPEX 2014. The latter issued a show cover, as many shows do, but the special postmark had an amusing error in it, referring to BNAPSEX instead of BNAPEX.



The October 8th meeting heard discussion about various events in the philatelic world. There was a final run-through for the Group's one-frame exhibit "An Introduction To British North America Philately" for CALTAPEX. Those contributing pages were Dale Speirs, Eldon Godfrey, David Bartlet, Jon Johnson, and Hugh Delaney.

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors (CAPE) meets fourth Wednesdays in the second-floor boardroom of the Condon Building at 14 Street SW and 17 Avenue. At the October 22nd meeting, ten attendees, with Jim Taylor in the chair, discussed their current exhibiting projects. Fitz Roett spoke on Barbados and his upcoming trip to England. Eldon Godfrey, who won the Grand Award at CALTAPEX 2014, brought along his title and synopsis pages for review.

POSTAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA: BEISEKER AND IRRICANA. PART 2

by Dale Speirs

Irricana.



Irricana is part of the Western Irrigation District and was colonized by the CPR. The name is a contraction of the phrase “irrigation canal” [4]. Hugh Miller opened a store at the newly-platted townsite in 1909. The post office opened in a corner of the store on November 1st with Miller as postmaster. At left is the proof strike of its first postmark. The store/post office was originally in a tent until a proper building could be erected. Miller gave up the post office after the building burned down in late 1926.

The post office then went to Alexander Bruce Hay on 1927-01-03, who operated a garage. He built an addition on the back for the post office, with living quarters at the rear. Hay was a Scotsman who emigrated to Canada in 1912. After moving around the prairies a bit, plus overseas service in World War One, he finally settled in Irricana. During World War Two, as postmaster he was responsible for registering aliens, mostly German immigrants, for both Irricana and Beiseker. Charlie Lohrke, the Beiseker postmaster at the time, was not allowed to do the job because of his German name even though he was American born, although strangely the government still trusted him to handle the mails [5].

Hay gave up the post office in 1956 because it was too much work for him. His garage by then included the John Deere agency, a General Motors dealership, and he was Registrar of Vital Statistics. Frederick J. Bell then took over on 1956-11-30 as postmaster. He was born and raised in Alberta. In 1954, he came to Irricana to work in his father’s insurance business.



Two more Bells succeeded him, then L. Cathcart until the post office was closed on 1991-11-20 as part of Canada Post’s purge of rural offices [3]. It was lastly located in a house, shown in the photo taken in 1989, with the author’s mother, the late Betty Speirs, standing in front of it.

Irricana then became a retail postal outlet. As of 2014, it is in a cafe/video store. The interior layout is interesting. The café lounge, with large plush chairs, has the postal counter along the east side and the box numbers form the south wall. Customers can pick up their mail and then take three steps to a comfortable chair to read it. Would that other postal outlets were as comfortable! The postmark of this outlet is shown at right.

The current outlet is shown below in a 2014 photo.



Kersey.



This was a farmhouse post office west of Beiseker in the area of the CPR colonization scheme. The area was settled by British immigrants and was known as the English Colony, although the majority of settlers in it were not English. The post office name is after a village in Suffolk, England [4]. Thomas Howden was the postmaster when it opened on 1912-10-01 until his death in 1931. The Howdens were from Scotland and had come to the area in 1911. At left is the proof strike of Kersey's first postmark.

The post office was supplied from Irricana every Friday, and the local residents would gather for the mail at the Howden house. Below is a photo of Thomas and his daughter Jesse on a mail run. The mail bag can be seen in the back of the wagon.



His widow Catherine Annie took over from her husband after his death and served until 1937-12-31 as postmaster. The post office was then closed as being of limited usefulness and the mail service converted to a rural route. Good roads eliminated any need for the post office, for by then Beiseker was only a few minutes' drive away.

References.

- 1] Schissel, Wendy and Ben, and Lyn Harty (1977) BEISEKER'S GOLDEN HERITAGE, published by Beiseker Historical Society. Pages 7, 13, 17 to 19, 25, 277 to 278, and 304
- 2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2014-08-19) Post offices and postmasters. www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices
- 3] Hughes, Neil (1998) ALBERTA POST OFFICES 1876-1998. Privately published by the author, Edmonton, Alberta.
- 4] Karamitsanis, Aphrodite (1992) PLACE NAMES OF ALBERTA: VOL. 2. SOUTHERN ALBERTA. Published by University of Calgary Press, Alberta. Pages 62 and 66.
- 5] various authors (1974) KIK COUNTRY. Published by Kathryn-Irricana-Keoma Historical Committee, Keoma, Alberta. Pages 6 to 16, 86, 245 to 247, 274 to 275, and 379

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 32

by Dale Speirs

New Postmarks.

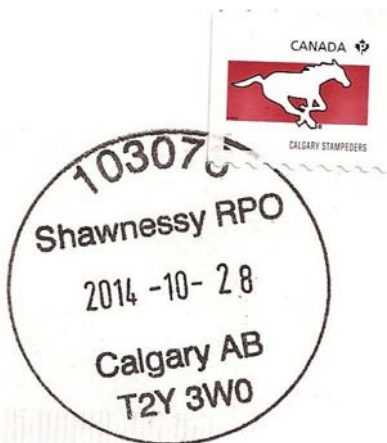
Country Hills:

Shoppers Drug Mart, Country Hills Boulevard NE. This is a new canceller.



Downtown:

8 Street SW and 7 Avenue, Dominion Drugs. Thanks to Phil Wolf for reporting a new postmark at this outlet. The self-inking canceller was received with the wrong postal code on it. The clerk then cut out the incorrect code with a knife to save the trouble of waiting for a corrected canceller and put it into regular use.



Shawnessy: 162 Avenue SW and Shawville Blvd, Shoppers Drug Mart.

CALTAPEX 2014 GROUP EXHIBITS

Both the Calgary Regional Group of the BNAPS and CAPE had one-frame group exhibits in the show. The BNAPS exhibit is shown below, which was an introduction to BNA philately and displayed samples of the different types of collectibles. Walter Herdzik arranged for a frame of one-page exhibits “What I Collect” from several exhibitors.



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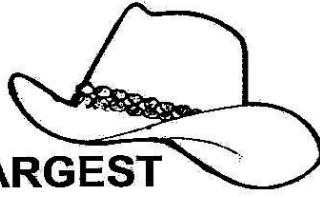
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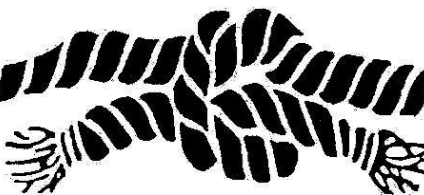
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

WANTED TO BUY: complete set Dutch stamps 1852-1940. Contact Rob at 288-7501 or lrwestra@shaw.ca

WANTED TO BUY: Book of Alberta proof strikes by Robert Lee. Call Milton Lowe at 243-0412 or email at aromatics@excite.com

FOR SALE: Fine used modern Canada and Australia. Please contact Michael Teekens at 805-4442 or michateekens@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of Alberta postmarks uniquely filed in 28 binders. Supplemented with historical data items of postal relevance. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@shaw.ca

WANTED: Used GB Machin Queen stamps with any selvage attached. Cash or trade (many countries). Call Georg at 547-0409.

WANTED: I volunteer at the Mennonite Community Centre store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disasters, and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. To donate, please contact me, Greg Lang, at 282-1644.

FOR SALE: various QE2 Canada plate block sets between Scott #727 and #1070, various QV to KGV Canada VFNH singles and pairs between Scott #51 and #300. Contact Les at 278-3511.

FOR SALE: Large accumulation used off-paper, mostly pre-1990s commemoratives. Canada, USA, GB, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and kiloware. Phone Roland 243-1637 or decaenr@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Major collections of many countries at liquidation prices. Call John at 474-1212.

WANTED: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjpferfins@hotmail.com

CLUB NEWS

The October bulletin was mailed on the morning of September 9th with the Hank Snow stamp, so the Country Hills Shoppers RePO was used as an appropriate postmark. The stamp also turned out to be appropriate as that evening Calgary had its first snowfall of the season.

CPS members competing in stamp shows elsewhere have won medals. At BNAPEX 2014 in Baltimore, Maryland, Earle Covert won Gold for post-war Canadian airletters, and Silver for the RCMP on postcards in the Single-Frame category. The St. Pierre et Miquelon International, sanctioned by FIAF, gave Sandy Freeman a Gold medal for her Bolivia airmails exhibit, and Jim Taylor a Vermeil for his exhibit on pre-stamp SP&M.

At the October meeting the President’s Pot (a samovar, not the weed) was awarded to Dave Freeman for his work behind the scenes in preparing for CALTAPEX 2014. The November Pot went to Walter Herdzik for his work as Show Chairman.

At the November 5 general meeting, Duncan Murray spoke on the Newfoundland “Trail Of The Cariboo” stamps, with a look at the bloody history of the Royal Newfoundland Regiment that inspired them.

IN MEMORIAM: HANS JENSEN

Hans passed away 2014-09-26 after a lengthy illness. He joined the CPS in 1981. He was Treasurer of the CPS from 2002 until 2007 when poor health forced him to step down. Our condolences to his family.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Private Treaty books	vacant	
Programmes	vacant	
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2014

November	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	19	Auction
	26	CAPE meeting
December	3	Christmas social

2015

January	7	General meeting
	7	Deadline for February bulletin
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	21	Auction
	28	CAPE meeting
February	4	General meeting
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	18	Auction
	25	CAPE meeting
March	4	General meeting
	4	Deadline for April bulletin
	11	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	18	Auction
	25	CAPE meeting

CHRISTMAS SOCIAL Annual awards, “The Nasty Little Stamp Quiz”, fun and challenging. Potluck; please bring a plate of finger food.

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP of the BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays. For details about meeting places and times, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

JUNIOR CLUB meets monthly on Saturdays. Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

CAPE (CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS) meets fourth Wednesdays at the Condon Building boardroom. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.