

SECTION SIX

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

ADMIRAL RESULT



The portrait of King George V shown on this Canadian stamp, and all other stamps in what is termed the “Admiral Issue,” is a composite of two photographic portraits. The head is from a portrait by W & D Downey. The chest (uniform) is from a portrait by W. Barnett. Evidently, neither photograph was acceptable on its individual merits. Nevertheless, while the whole thing certainly came together very nicely, one has to question why go to all this trouble? In other words, why not just ask the King to be photographed again in his uniform. As it happened, the King was not happy with the mediocre likenesses of himself on

stamps of various British possessions. Just where these “likenesses” were coming from is not clear, however, it appears he was in no mood for more of the same. With this situation, the logical move was to create something with which the King would be happy. The composite design met with his approval thus the problem was solved. (CDN #120, ISSUED 1912)



ALAMO "NO-GO"



Before the fighting started at the Alamo, Colonel William Barrett Travis apprised his men of their hopeless situation. He drew a line on the ground with his sword, separating himself from his men. Then with great courage and pride he stated that those who wished to fight and die in glory should cross the line and join him. All crossed the line except Moses Rose. Rose, a Frenchman, was a well-seasoned fighter. He was about fifty years old and had fought with Napoleon. He knew more about war and death than the others and decided not to take the path to glory. He stole his way out of the fort and managed to elude capture by the Mexicans. He found refuge with a farmer until it was safe to leave the area. Rose lived another fourteen years and no doubt told his story many, many times. Other than a few women, children and slaves, Rose was the only survivor on the American side of the original Alamo force. The above photograph shows the Alamo building as it presently appears. (USA #1043, ISSUED 1956)



ALASKA DREAMING



In April 1867, the United States increased its territory by nearly twenty percent. The purchase of Alaska from Russia added some 586,400 square miles of rich land to U.S. holdings. Obtained for about two cents an acre, which amounted to \$7.2 million, this purchase was certainly the buy of the century. While the U.S. may look back with pride on its foresight in obtaining Alaska, it was through the tireless efforts of one individual that the purchase was brought about. After years of entreaty, William Seward, Secretary of State, managed to get the deal approved by the Senate -- it

passed by a single vote. Those in opposition to the purchase dubbed the whole idea "Seward's folly," and stated that it was an insane investment! Nevertheless, Seward persisted, claiming that in future years the land would be worth seven times what the U.S. would pay for it. It is somewhat amazing that Seward was able to pursue his beliefs in light of his tragic personal life. In 1865, he was thrown from his carriage and was badly injured. While convalescing at home, he was attacked by Lewis Powell, a fellow-conspirator of John Wilkes Booth (Booth, at the same time, assassinated President Abraham Lincoln). Seward's son and three others came to the Secretary's assistance. All of the rescuers were wounded but were able to ward off the attacker. Seward's wife, an invalid, was so shocked by the attack that she died within two months. Also, the couple's only daughter, who had witnessed the attack, was so traumatized that she died within a year. (USA #370, ISSUED 1909)

AMELIA MUSING



America continues to speculate on the fate of Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Frederick Noonan. These intrepid pioneers of aviation disappeared on a flight around the world in 1937. It is known, however, that their plane vanished in the

vicinity of Howland Island in the South Pacific. There are two interesting theories. First, that the flyers were actually on a spy mission for the U.S. Government; that they crash-landed on Mili Atoll, were captured by the Japanese and taken to Saipan for interrogation. There they were either executed or died of other causes. Second, that they were captured by the Japanese, as in the first account, but Amelia only was taken to the Imperial Palace in Tokyo. There she was kept in secrecy. When Japan realized that it had lost the war, some arrangement was made with the United States whereby Amelia's safety would be guaranteed if the Japanese Emperor would not to be tried as a war criminal. Curiously, whether or not Amelia was involved, this condition was met by the U.S. (USA #C68, ISSUED 1963)

ANDREW AND THE PIRATES



Andrew Jackson hired French pirates to assist him in the Battle of New Orleans (January 8-18, 1815). The pirates offered their services in exchange for a full pardon by the United States for their previous

crimes. They were all granted a pardon by President James Madison after the battle. The whole ordeal, however, was a complete waste of time and lives. Unbeknown to both the Americans and the British forces in Louisiana, the Treaty of Ghent, which ended the war, had been signed two weeks earlier (December 24, 1814). While Jackson, of course, survived the battle, the leader of the British forces, Sir Edward Pakenham, was not as fortunate. Pakenham was killed on the first day of the conflict. He is honored on the sesquicentennial medal (reverse, right side) shown on the illustrated stamp. (USA #1261, 1965)

BELEAGUERED BARD



For over 145 years, William Shakespeare has been under attack as to the actual authorship of his works. In 1852, Delia Bacon, a New England lady,

claimed she had proof Shakespeare did not author the famous works attributed to him. She labeled the great writer as vulgar, illiterate, a deer poacher and Lord Leicester's stableboy. Delia claimed that she had discovered a system of concealed ciphers in Shakespeare's alleged works that revealed the true authors. These authors, she stated, were Sir Francis Bacon (no relation) and his associates. Further, she claimed that the great dramas attributed to Shakespeare were actually instruments of political propaganda. The ciphers were skillfully used to convey advanced political messages. William Shakespeare's authorship had been used as a front to conceal the identity of the actual writers. Delia held that conclusive evidence

(documents) to this effect could be found in Shakespeare's tomb. Her cipher theory was certainly very convincing. Both Ralph Waldo Emerson and Thomas Carlyle gave it credibility. Delia wrote a book on the subject entitled, *The Philosophy of the Plays of Shakespeare Unfolded*. This book impressed many famous people including Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain), Ignatius Donnelly, Walt Whitman, Henry James and even Sigmund Freud. As to the evidence in Shakespeare's tomb, it appears Delia had second

thoughts when it came to disturbing the old bard. Shakespeare's curse on anyone who, "moves my bones," elegantly inscribed on the tomb, may have played a part in her decision. Another part was definitely a fear she had of not finding the alleged documents in the tomb. Delia died in 1859. Her name, however, carries on in continuing debates over Shakespeare's actual involvement in what are considered by many people the world's most famous writings. (USA #1250, ISSUED 1964)

BENJAMIN'S BID FOR CANADA



Benjamin Franklin (1706-1790) was the Postmaster General of British North America prior to the

American Revolution. He took an active part as an American statesman during the revolution. At one point, he went to Montreal to persuade Canadians to join the Americans in gaining independence from Great Britain. When British warships arrived, Franklin made a hasty retreat. Later, when Franklin took part in the peace negotiations with Great Britain, it is believed he intimated that Britain should give Canada to the newly formed United States. (CDN #691, ISSUED 1976)

BIGFOOT - MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE?



This stamp depicts the Sasquatch, or Bigfoot creature, believed by many people to inhabit wilderness regions in North America. The first official publication of a Sasquatch encounter was unwittingly authored by President Theodore Roosevelt! In his work *Wilderness Hunter* (1892), Roosevelt gives a very full, colorful, and gruesome recollection of a story he was told by a seasoned hunter by the name of Bauman. Roosevelt was hunting in the Bitterroot Mountains (Idaho-Montana border) at the time. As the story goes, Bauman's companion was viciously killed by a "beast-creature" who left unusual footprints at the scene -- footprints that indicated the creature walked on two legs, not four. Probably the most convincing piece of Native Indian lore that supports Sasquatch existence is the *Tsimshian* "monkey mask," which is shown in the following photograph.

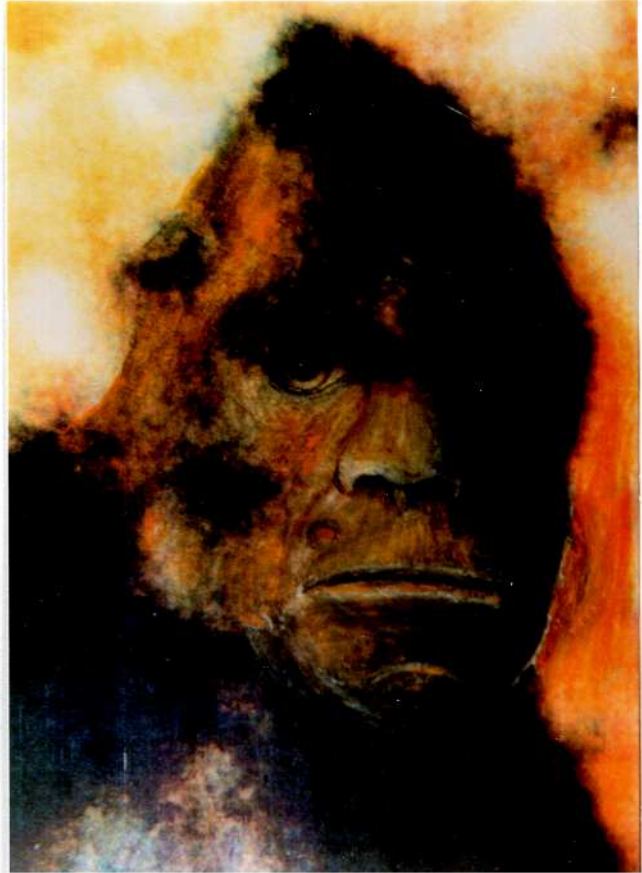


This mask, which appears to show the face of an ape or monkey, was found by the anthropologist G.T. Emmons about 1914. Conjecture has it that as there are no wild apes or monkeys in North America, the image may have been created by Indian sightings of a Sasquatch. On the other hand, the possibility that an early sailor may have brought a pet monkey to North America

cannot be ruled out. In this case, Indians would have been highly intrigued with the creature and may naturally have created a mask carving depicting the animal. Nevertheless, there continues to be reasonably well founded speculation on the existence of the Sasquatch. It is difficult to dismiss all of the sightings and the number and distribution of footprints greatly limits the probability of a hoax. Alleged tracks of the Sasquatch have been found throughout North America. The following photographs show casts of two different tracks.



The cast on the left is 16-inches by 7-inches. It was taken from footprints found in 1959 in the Bluff Creek area, Northern California. The cast on the right is 14.5-inches by 6-inches. It was made from footprints left along the gravel sandbar of Bluff Creek itself by the alleged creature in the controversial Patterson-Gimlin film. The film, taken October 20, 1967, shows an alleged female Sasquatch which is said to be over seven feet tall and to weigh over 700 pounds. While the scientific community in general does not give the film any credibility, it has not, as yet, been conclusively proven to be a hoax. An examination of the film by a certified forensic examiner (report released in 1998) did not uncover any hoax indicators. The following are artistic renderings of the creature's facial features based on the film. Film frames were enlarged and enhanced with considerable artistic liberty to arrive at these images. The first (full-faced) image was created by your author using pastels. The second (profile) was created by Yvon Leclerc using computer art processes on a scanned photograph.



Bigfoot's counterpart, the Yeti or Abominable Snowman of the Himalayas, has also found expression on postage stamps. In 1966, Bhutan issued stamps (no Scott Numbers assigned) showing five different views of the creature on fifteen different stamp denominations.

The five designs are shown below. Certainly, if Bigfoot does exist its ability to elude capture by its assumed evolved relatives who have walked on the face of the moon is almost as mind-staggering as the creature itself. (CDN #1289, ISSUED 1990)



NOTE: These stamps may not be an official government issue, so Scott did not assign catalogue numbers.

BLUENOSE BLUES



Canada's schooner, *Bluenose*, is probably the "most depicted" ship in the world. It has appeared on about 26 million postage stamps and several billion Canadian dimes. It has been shown on the obverse of this coin since 1937, save one year.

(4x)



BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

The famous ship won the International Fisherman's Trophy (North Atlantic Sailing Championship) in 1921, 1922, 1923, 1931 and 1938. The captain of the *Bluenose* in the 1938 competition, Angus Walters, is shown along with the ship on a Canadian postage stamp (CDN #1228), as follows, issued in 1988.



Further, the naval architect who designed the ship, William J. Roué, is honored on the following stamp (CDN #1738) issued in 1998.



With all of these attributes, it is hard to believe that the *Bluenose* was sold in 1942 to a West Indies trading company registered in Honduras. She was put to work as a freighter and wrecked off Haiti in 1946. As her remains went to the bottom of the sea, nothing is left to show for her glories except reflections and memories. The original stamp, certainly one of the most beautiful stamps in the world, was reprinted (CDN #913) for the Philatelic Youth Exhibition in 1982. The following is an enlargement of the reprinted stamp. Remarkably, a close examination of both the stamp and the Canadian dime will reveal, at the top of the ship's main mast, a tiny flag that is flying in the wrong direction. (CDN #158, ISSUED 1929)



BORN AGAIN BOTANY



The flower, *Franklinia alatamaha*, shown on this stamp is from a small flowing tree discovered by William Bartram in 1765. Bartram found the plant near the mouth of Georgia's Altamaha (note spelling) River. He named the plant in honor of his friend, Benjamin Franklin, with a second reference to the river. However, Bartram misspelled the word Altamaha, showing instead Alatamaha. Bartram's error simply perpetuated itself until it became too late to correct. Bartram propagated the little tree in his personal garden and eventually left Georgia. When he returned to this state after the American Revolution, he searched in vein to find the plant in the wilds. For some reason, the little tree had become extinct. The only survivors of the species were the seeds in Bartram's personal possession. As a result, all present day *Franklinia alatamahs* can be traced to the original seeds gathered by Bartram in 1765. (USA #1379, ISSUED 1969)

BOULDER BLUNDER



Boulder Dam was originally called Hoover Dam. The name was changed in 1933. However, the dam was not built in Boulder Canyon, (from whence the original name was derived) in the first place. It was built in Black Canyon. Boulder Canyon was the original site considered and this resulted in the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928. However, the engineers changed their minds and changed the location to Black Canyon. The illustrated postage stamp will echo this story into eternity. The dam itself, however, has been cleared of its muddy past. In 1947, the name of the dam was changed back to Hoover Dam. (USA #774, ISSUED 1935)

BREWING BENEFITS



This stamp honoring John Molson (1763-1836) shows symbols of his main achievements. It was, however, Molson's brewery business that financed these achievements. Five beer barrels on a horse-drawn cart in the background of the stamp pay a subtle tribute to the lucrative brew. Molson's beer continues to be a leading Canadian brand. The following is an enlargement of the stamp detail. (CDN 1117, ISSUED 1986)



BULLY FOR BILLY



In 1872, William "Buffalo Bill" Cody (1846-1917) was awarded the Medal of Honor for valor in leading a cavalry charge in the Indian wars. Cody was a scout with the army, he was not an enlisted man. In 1917, Congress reasoned that only enlisted men and officers were entitled to the medal so Cody's medal was revoked. In 1989, the army had a change of heart and restored the honor. Cody got his name "Buffalo Bill" as a result of his contract to supply buffalo (bison) carcasses to railroad laborers. He has the dubious distinction of providing over 4,000 animals in 18 months. (USA #2869b, ISSUED 1994)

BYLOT BLOT



Bylot Island, which is shown on this stamp, is one of the numerous islands in Canada's northern regions. The island was named after Robert Bylot who sailed as mate with Henry Hudson on Hudson's last voyage in 1610. During this voyage, Hudson demoted Bylot for reasons unknown. When mutiny broke out on the ship for alleged unjust distribution of rations, it appears Bylot became second in command of the mutineers. Henry Hudson, his son and seven other men

were set adrift by the mutineers in a small boat in what is now Hudson Bay. They were never heard of again. Upon the death of the mutineers' leader, Bylot took command and was master of Hudson's ship the *Discovery* on the voyage back to England. Somehow Bylot was pardoned for his part in the mutiny and set free. He made other voyages of discovery to Canada. On one of his voyages, William Baffin was his pilot. Baffin Island is named after this explorer. The remains of a structure found in 1631 in the Hudson Bay area is possibly the only evidence left by Henry Hudson, his son and the other stranded men. It is thought, however, that some Eskimos living in the region, who have distinct European features and coloring, may be descendants of the castaways. We will probably never know the real story behind the mutiny on Hudson's expedition. However, a lonely island will forever carry the name of the man who was probably a party to the great explorer's death. (CDN #463, ISSUED 1967)

CAT TALE



This stamp commemorated the first solo transatlantic flight undertaken by Charles Lindbergh in 1927. The U.S. Postal Service stopped short of specifically honoring Lindbergh on the stamp as he was still alive when the stamp was issued. A Postal Services rule states that living persons cannot be honored on stamps. The stamp designer got around the rule by showing **LINDBERGH AIR MAIL**. In this way, an *event* was "honored" rather than a person. Nevertheless, the fact that Lindbergh's name is shown makes this stamp the first U.S. stamp to *name* a person who was alive when the stamp was issued. Another stamp (USA #1710), as follows, was issued in 1977 marking the fiftieth anniversary of the flight. This time, Lindbergh is not mentioned. While the Scott people show this stamp as **LINDBERGH FLIGHT ISSUE**, the official Postal Service stamp description is simply, "Solo Transatlantic Flight."

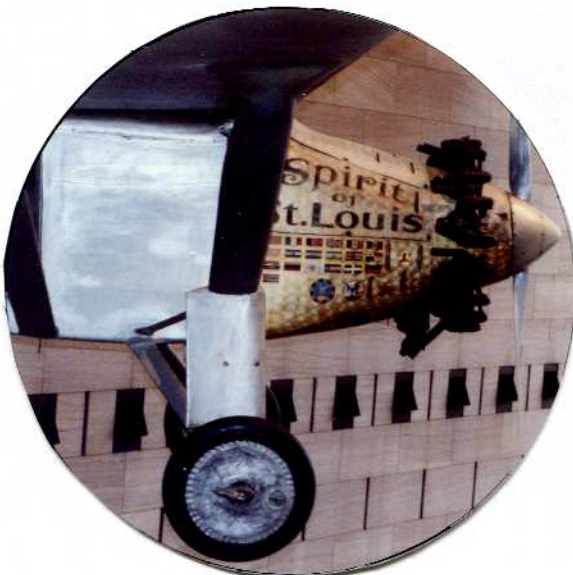
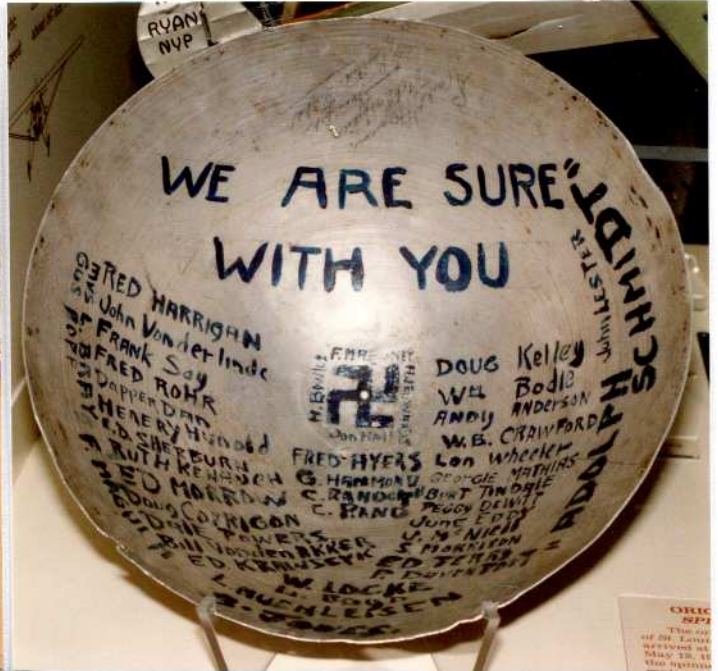


In preparing and inspecting Lindbergh's plane for the flight, a crack was discovered in the plane's spinner (nose cone). Consequently, the entire assembly was replaced before the flight. The men and women who worked on the plane signed the old nose cone which is now on display at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C., together with the entire plane (see following illustrations). In the center of the signed nose cone there is a *fylfot* or *Jaina Cross* symbol. This symbol probably originated in ancient China. It is seen on statues of Buddha and is worn by Buddhists with the hope of protection and good fortune. The symbol is *not* a Nazi swastika. The Nazi symbol flows in the *opposite* direction (counter clockwise as opposed to clockwise). Lindbergh wanted to take his cat, Patsy, along on his historic flight but changed his mind at the last minute, thinking the trip too dangerous. In 1930, Spain issued a postage stamp (SPAIN #C56) showing

Lindbergh, the Statue of Liberty, the *Spirit of St. Louis* (Lindbergh's plane), and Patsy watching the plane take off.



In addition to his contribution to aviation, Charles Lindbergh made important contributions to medical science. Lindbergh, along with Dr. Alexis Carrel of the Rockefeller Institute, developed a method for separating red corpuscles from blood serum. Also, the team invented an artificial heart and set of lungs. Lindbergh's personal life was marred by the tragic abduction and murder of his infant son. Another chapter in this issue came to a close in 1994. In that year, Anna Hauptmann died. Anna was the wife of Bruno Hauptmann who was executed for the murder. Anna, however, maintained to her death that Bruno was innocent. (USA #C10, ISSUED 1927)



Anna and Bruno Hauptmann are shown in old family photograph.

Long fight over for loyal wife

Knight-Ridder

PHILADELPHIA — Anna Schoeffler Hauptmann, widow and lifelong champion of the German carpenter executed in the murder of aviator Charles A. Lindbergh's infant son in 1932, has died. She was 95.

The death of Bruno Richard Hauptmann's wife came on the 69th anniversary of their marriage.

She never stopped trying to clear his name, maintaining he was with her when the Lindbergh baby disappeared. But public pressure to convict him was intense.

Throughout her life, Hauptmann recalled the shouts outside the courthouse: "Kill the German! Hang Hauptmann!" He was convicted in 1935 after a sensational 32-day trial.

Despite her efforts — and support from later investigators — courts refused to reopen the case. Her lawyer says he'll continue the fight.



ANNA, IN 1987

CHARTER CHATTER



This stamp shows the famous Connecticut Charter Oak. The story behind this tree is amusing and confusing. As the story goes, British officials demanded the Connecticut colonists to surrender their charter. Accordingly, the charter was placed on a table in front of the British officials. During a long speech by one of the colonists, the candles in the room were mysteriously blown out. When they were re-lit, the charter had disappeared. It is alleged Joseph Wadsworth, one of the colonists, took the document and hid

it in the old oak tree. In doing so, Wadsworth saved the charter from falling into British hands. Albert C. Bates, Librarian Emeritus, Connecticut Historical Society, however, does not give the story very much credibility. His final blow being that Joseph Wadsworth was not present at the meeting with the British officials. The only possible explanation then, is that someone else took the charter from the table and gave it to Wadsworth who was waiting outside the room. If so, then the other person should have received primary acknowledgment, not Wadsworth. As to the old tree itself, it was destroyed by a storm on August 21, 1856. It is estimated that its age was about 1,000 years. A section of the trunk was preserved by the Connecticut Historical Society and much of the rest cut up and sold for souvenirs. Some people believed the wood had certain miraculous powers. In the place where the tree had stood, the Charter Oak Monument now resides. USA #772, ISSUED 1935)

CIRCUS TALK



This U.S. stamp honors the American Circus. The stamp was issued on the centenary of the birth of John Ringling (1866-1936) of the Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus Company. The stamp was first placed on sale May 2, 1966, at Delavan, Wisconsin, the winter quarters for major circus companies during the "golden age" of circuses. The person behind the make-up shown on the stamp is Lou Jacobs, an actual clown with the Ringling/Barnum Company. In its early years, the Ringling brothers' company was not associated with Barnum & Bailey. The Ringling brothers acquired the Barnum & Bailey operation in 1907.

For a considerable time in the 19th century and the first part of the 20th century, a major drawing card at circuses was the exhibiting of *special people* in what were called sideshows. While laws have now been enacted to stop the practice, its passing was received with bitter-sweet reactions. Side shows had provided a means for employment with remarkable income levels for many *special people*. For them to find an equal opportunity in another occupation was virtually impossible. Nevertheless, as human dignity should not be measured in financial terms, the law was correct. Phineas Taylor Barnum (1810-1891) was one of the pioneers of the sideshow trade. In 1835, he heard of a colored woman by the name of Joice Heth who was reputed to be the nurse of George Washington when he was an infant. Barnum purchased the woman for the sum of \$1,000 and exhibited her, claiming that she was 161 years old - making her about 58 years old when Washington was born. Barnum's income from this venture netted about \$1,500 per week until Heth died the following year (1836). When a post-mortem on the woman revealed that her maximum age was 75-80 years old, Barnum just claimed that he a been defrauded and sought another sideshow attraction. His big break came in 1842 when he found Charles Sherwood Stratton (1838-1883), who is better known as General Tom Thumb. The following photograph shows Barnum with Stratton

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

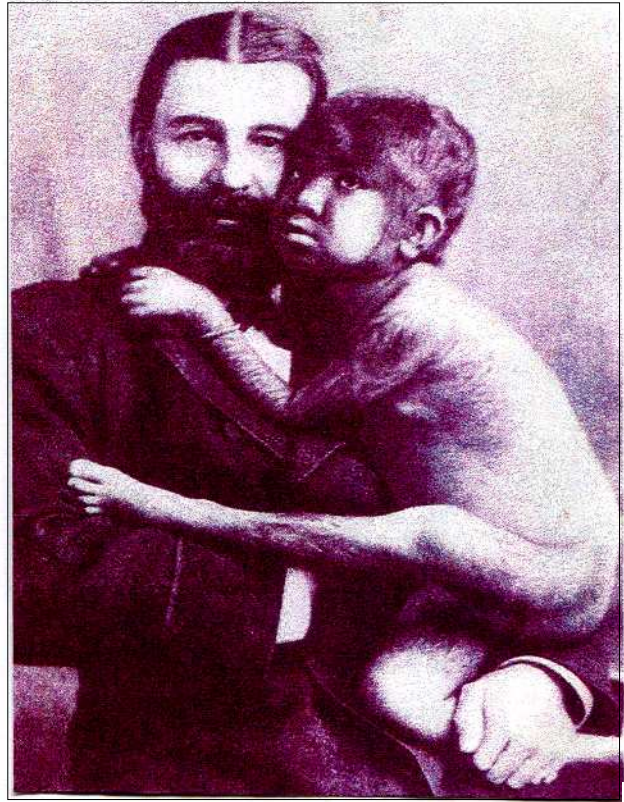
who was 25-inches tall and weighed 15 pounds. The little General made millions of dollars for Barnum.



Barnum's eventual long line of *special people* fascinated audiences. Noteworthy in his "collection" was Fedor Jeftichew (b. 1868), who is seen in the following photograph. Jeftichew was billed as *Jo-Jo The Dog-Faced Boy*.



At the same time, the Ringling Brothers had also acquired and were exhibiting a number of *special people*. Certainly, one of the brothers' most profitable finds was Krao (c.1877-1926), a little girl from Thailand, whom they billed as *Darwin's Missing Link*. Krao is seen in the following photograph with *possibly* one of the Ringling brothers.



While not associated with Barnum or the Ringlings, probably the greatest and most amazing sideshow *special person* was Julia Pastrana (1832-1860). First exhibited in 1854, Julia's animal-like physical features astounded audiences and the medical profession of her time. She married her second manager, Theodore Lent, and had a baby boy by him in Moscow (1860). The baby, which had the same features as his mother lived only 35 hours. Julia died five days later. She had hoped for a normal baby and it is said that she died of a broken heart. Her attending physicians, however, stated that she died of physical complications. The bodies of both Julia and her baby were later mummified and exhibited right up until 1973. The mummy of the baby was destroyed by vandals in 1976 and that of Julia was stolen in 1979. Remarkably, in 1990, Julia was found stored in the basement of the Institute of Forensic Medicine at the Rikshospitalet in Oslo, Norway. As it happened, immediately after the 1979 theft, police were notified that some children had found a mummified

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

arm in an Oslo dump. Upon investigation, the police found the rest of the mummy in a nearby abandoned caravan. They turned it over to the institute where it remains to this day. In 1997, a woman claiming to be the mummy's rightful owner, made application to have Julia returned to Mexico, her birth place, for proper burial. The following photograph shows Julia's mummy in the early 1860's.



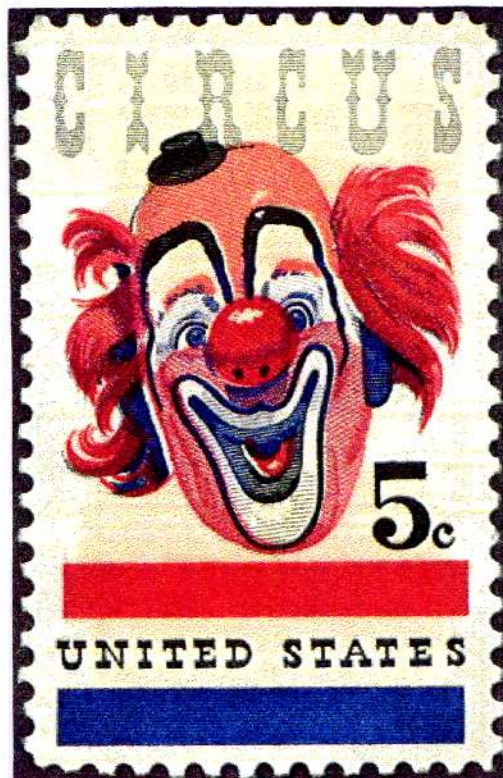
The following photograph shows the mummies of both Julia and her son as they appeared in 1970.



Four other U.S. stamps (USA #2750-2753), as follows, were issued in 1993 honoring the American Circus.



While none of the U.S. circus stamps show any hint of the *special people*, there were there nonetheless. (USA #1309, ISSUED 1966)



COMIC RELIEF



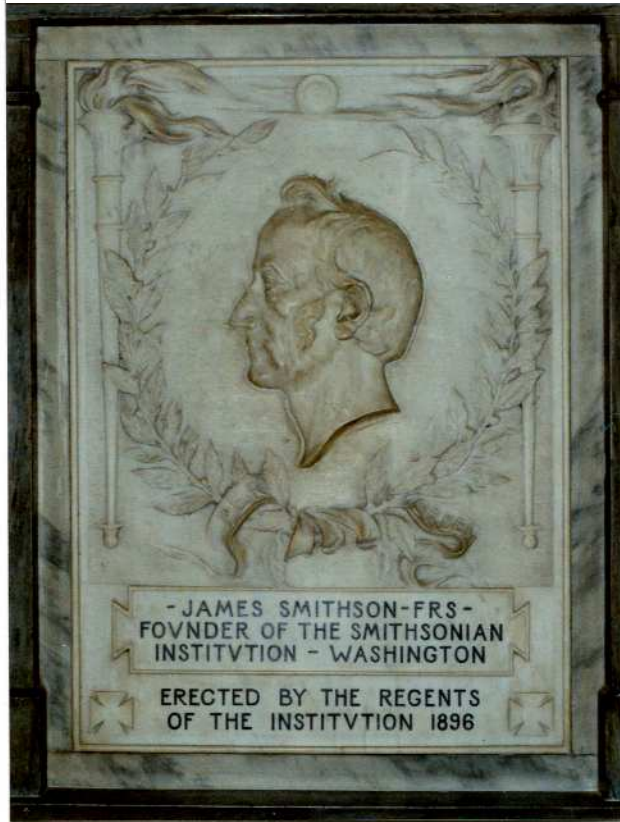
On December 6, 1940, the Canadian government passed the War Exchange Conservation Act. This act banned importation on non-essential items from non-sterling countries. The United States, of course, was a non-sterling country, so many U.S. imports were on the list of banned commodities. Among the banned items were Batman comic books. No longer could Canadian children thrill to the adventures of their favorite comic book hero. An enterprising Toronto publisher, Cy Bell, was quick to recognize the void. Bell's actions led to the creation of the all-Canadian comic book hero Johnny Canuck honored on this stamp. (CDN #1580, ISSUED 1995)

CONGRESSIONAL CONFUSION



In 1835 a gift to the United States from an eccentric old Englishman, who had been dead six years, threw congress into a turmoil. The gift, about \$508,000 in gold sovereigns, arrived on the clipper *Mediator* in September 1838. It was taken to the Philadelphia mint and re coined into U.S. money. The gift came from James Smithson, an English scientist, who had never even set foot in the United States. When Smithson died in 1829 he left his estate to his nephew, Henry James Hungerford, who was apparently under age at that time. A provision in the will stated that if Hungerford died "without issue," then the estate was (quote): *...to go to the United States of America to found at Washington, under the name of the Smithsonian Institution, an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men.* Hungerford died in 1835 leaving no heir so the will took its course. The money was put aside and for the next ten years congress debated as to whether or not the gift should be accepted. Many congressmen held that congress did not have the power under the constitution to accept such a gift. In 1846, largely through the efforts of John Quincy Adams, the gift was accepted and congress (by enactment) created a museum complex and research establishment called the Smithsonian Institution as stipulated. In 1904, the re-

mains of James Smithson were brought to the United States and placed in a crypt at the entrance to the main building. The following photographs show the building entrance relief sculpture honoring Smithson and the little crypt containing his remains. Smithson's name also lives on in the mineral *Smithsonite*. This mineral was named after him because of the important work he did in the field of mineralogy. (USA #1838, ISSUED 1980)



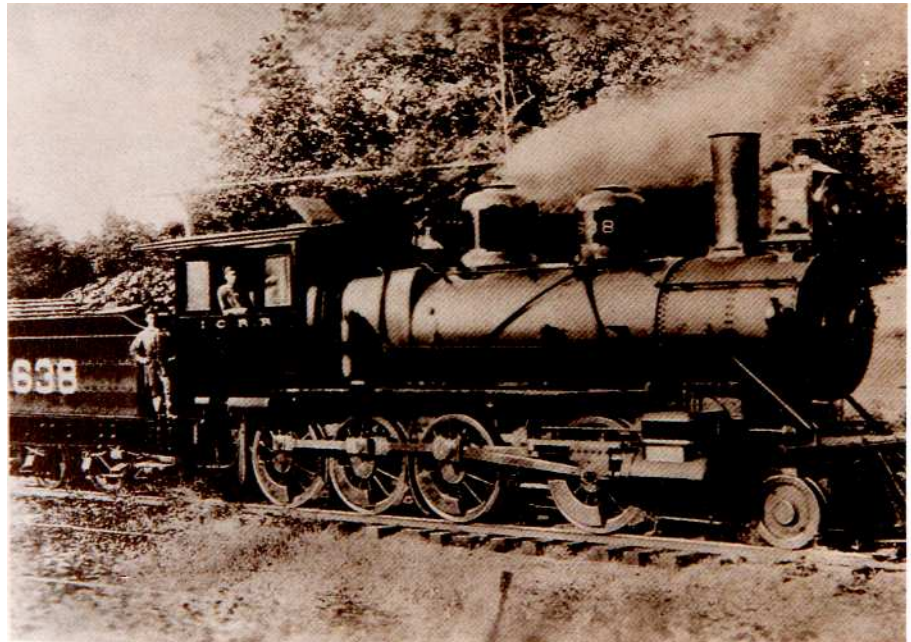
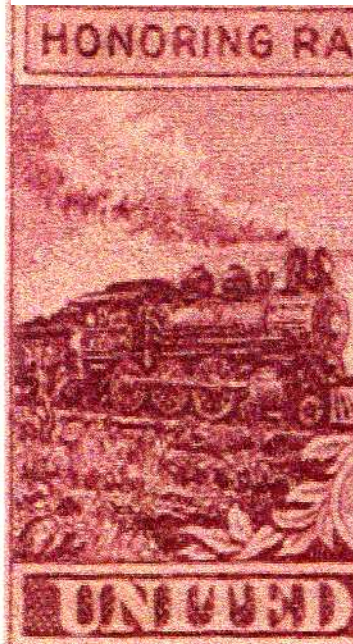
COVERING FOR CASEY



The railroad hero, Casey Jones, was officially a victim of his own negligence. His actual name was John Luther Jones. His nickname "Casey" is derived from the town of "Cayce" (pronounced the same as the name) in which Jones had lived as a boy. Casey lost his life on April 30, 1900, while in the process of stopping his train from ploughing into the caboose of a stationary train. He told his fireman to jump then he applied the air brakes, staying with his train to the point of impact. Jones managed to slow the train down enough to prevent a major crash. He was the only one who died in the accident. They found him in the wreckage still clutching the air brake and the train whistle. This account became the basis for the, *Ballad of Casey Jones*, by Wallis Saunders which made Jones a railroad hero. There is evidence, however, to support that Jones was a "daredevil" and had a craze

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

for high speeds. Also, on the fateful journey, he was on a "double run," substituting for a fellow engineer who was ill. Moreover, Jones failed to observe a flagman placed one thousand feet ahead of the caboose and he apparently did not hear a safety torpedo explode on the track "thirty telegraph poles" away from the obstacle. All of these facts are part of the official report on the accident. Perhaps Casey was, as they say on the railroad, "asleep at the switch." With regard to the design of the illustrated stamp, the old train depicted (left, facing) is definitely not Casey's train at the time of his death. A close examination will reveal that the train on the stamp shows number 382. Casey's train was number 638. The following illustrations show the stamp train detail and a photograph of Casey at the throttle of the actual train shortly after he was assigned to the ill-fated engine. While the U.S. Postal Service does not claim that the old train shown is Casey's train, we might wonder if such was intended. (USA #993, ISSUED 1950)



DELANO'S DEMANDING DAMSELS



Susan B. Anthony (1820-1906) was honored on this stamp as a result of considerable pressure from a womens' equal rights group. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt approved the stamp after a committee of some thirty ladies virtually demanded the stamp in a meeting with Clinton B. Eilenberger, Third Assistant Postmaster General. Roosevelt's exact words to Eilenberger were, *By all means authorize the stamp immediately before those ardent ladies reach the White House.* With this win under their belts, the ladies pushed harder for more philatelic females, and they certainly got their way. The pressure, however, eventually exasperated the president. In a reply to Molly Dewson, a stern womens' rights advocate, Roosevelt stated, *You girls have got to realize that this chiseling business on your part must stop somewhere. I have put more girls' faces on postage stamps in the last seven years than all my thirty-one predecessors put together.* (USA #784, ISSUED 1936)

DESIGNER DESIGNS



The young lady who modeled for this stamp design was Mimi Orkin. Ten years after the stamp was issued, Mimi and the stamp designer, Miggs Burroughs, were married. (USA #1438, ISSUED 1971)

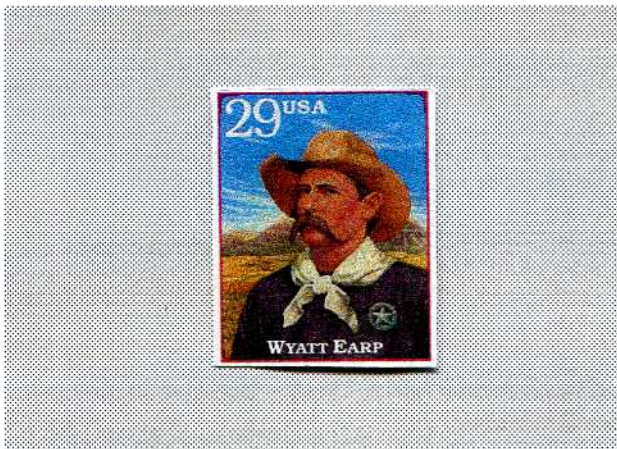
DOUBLE DEBUTING



The famous statue of Kamehameha I of Hawaii, which stands in front of Hawaii's Judiciary Build

ing, is not the original statue cast to honor the great king. The original statue, cast in Bremen, Germany about 1878, was lost off the Falkland Islands in a shipping mishap. Fortunately, the statue was insured so a duplicate was ordered from the same company. The duplicate arrived in Hawaii in 1883 and was placed with appropriate ceremony in front of the Judiciary Building. A short time later, the original statue showed up after being salvaged from the sunken ship. It was sold to the Hawaiian government and now stands in front of the Kohala Court House, the area of Kamehameha's birth. Strangely, the statue shown on this stamp is after a later reproduction of the original statue which stands in front of the Iolani Palace in Honolulu.. (USA #799, ISSUED 1937)

EARP ERROR



The back of this stamp shows one of Wyatt Earp's claims to fame -- Gunfight at O.K. Corral. In this fight the lawmen, Earp and his brothers, had a shoot-out with four bandits. The lawmen won the day and the fight was immortalized in Stuart Lake's book, *Wyatt Earp: Frontier Marshall*, (1931). Lake placed the fight at the O.K. Corral and everyone accepted his word. However, Lake was in error in placing the fight at this location. The fight actually took place on a lot next to Fly's Photographic Studio. The lot was situated some ninety feet east of the O.K. Corral's back entrance. The town of Tombstone, Arizona, where the fight occurred, has quietly enlarged the O.K. Corral to include the battle site. (USA #2869j, ISSUED 1994)

ETERNAL TRIANGLE



British Columbia's magnificent parliament buildings in the city of Victoria, overlook a picturesque harbor and have become a major tourist attraction in the region. This Canadian postage stamp issued in June 1935 shows the stately buildings framed in an ornate and orderly border, characteristic of that period in time. The scene behind the scene in the tranquil setting, however, tells a far different story from that which the stamp portrays. The architect of the famous buildings, plus numerous other Canadian buildings, was Francis Mawson Rattenbury (1867-1935). Two additional Rattenbury architectural accomplishments, the Empress Hotel and Banff Springs Hotel, are shown on the following stamps (CDN #1467 and #1468) issued in 1993.



The following photograph shows Rattenbury as he appeared in about 1923, when his troubles began.



A brilliant and talented architect, Rattenbury had an eye for beauty, as evidenced by both his work and his beautiful bride, Alma, shown here probably in her early twenties.



Alma was 29 years younger than Francis. The couple wed in 1925. Alma was 29 years old, Francis 58. It was her third marriage and his second. Alma had a son by her second marriage who later lived with the newly weds. Francis had two grown children by his first marriage. In the following photograph, Francis toasts his bride shortly after their wedding.



BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

Things apparently went well with the happy couple over the next few years. They had a son, John, in 1928 and the next year the family moved from Victoria, British Columbia to Bournemouth, England. In the following photograph, Alma and Francis are seen at the seaside with their young son. While the little family appears "well off," in reality, Francis was obsessed with financial woes.



Time, however, soon took its toll on "Ratz," which was Alma's pet name for Francis. The aging architect is seen in the following photograph in his late 60's.



On the morning of March 24, 1935, just three months prior to the issuing of the parliament buildings stamp, Francis Rattenbury, age 68, was brutally attacked at his villa in Bournemouth and died a few days later. The cause of his death was attributed to several vicious blows to the head with a wooden mallet. Subsequent investigations revealed a possible conspiracy involving Alma Rattenbury, the architect's beautiful wife, now age 39, and the family chauffeur, George Stoner, Alma's 18-year-old lover. Also revealed was the apparent use of cocaine and heroin by Alma and George. A smiling George Stoner is seen in the following photograph.



One of Britain's most famous murder trials resulted when Alma Rattenbury and George Stoner were arrested on suspicion of murder. The question, however, which is still unanswered is: Who struck the fatal blows, Alma or George? Curiously, while under the influence of morphine, which was administered by her doctor, Alma apparently admitted to the crime in statements to a police investigator at the scene. She stated that her husband, in one of his suicidal moods, dared her to hit him with a mallet. Francis, it appears, taunted his wife with the words, *You have not got guts enough to do it.* Alma, thereupon, hit him several times and hid the mallet. After the questioning, Alma is alleged to have asked the inspector, *He is not dead is he? Are you the coroner?* But then, after coming to her senses, she told the inspector, *My lover did it,* and she then tried to bribe the officer with 10 pounds to keep silent. This evidence, however, was not used in the trial because it was reasoned that Alma was not

capable of a proper statement at the time due to the morphine injection. As the trial progressed, Alma implied that Stoner was responsible for the crime. This implication, coupled with Alma's situation as a respectable woman with children, resulted in the blame for the crime being fully directed to Stoner, a single, uneducated drug user. With no funds for a proper defense, Stoner was quickly convicted for the murder. On May 31, 1935, he was sentenced to death by hanging and sent to prison to await execution. Four days later, apparently distraught over her lost love, Alma committed suicide. She stabbed herself several times with a dagger after wading into the Avon River. This act was witnessed by a local dairy worker who tried in vain to save the troubled woman. Then, in an ironic and amazing twist of fate, now that Alma was dead, public sympathy was directed to Stoner, with nearly 350,000 signatures pleading for his reprieve. Consequently, he

escaped the gallows on the basis of insanity occasioned by the influence of cocaine. The death penalty was thereupon commuted to penal servitude for life. A model prisoner, Stoner served only seven years of his sentence. After release in 1942, he joined the armed forces and took part in the Normandy landing. He was reported as still being alive in the year 1988. George Stoner alone knows what really happened on that fateful day in March 1935 -- and it does not appear he plans to enlighten the rest of the world. However, we can be certain a few million postage stamps and many stately stone buildings will echo his name for generations to come in connection with his grim secret. As for young John Rattenbury, he went on to study architecture in the United States under the noted architect, Frank Lloyd Wright. John has since become renowned in this field as was his father. (CDN #226, ISSUED 1935)

See Note

NOTE: Stoner died in 2000 at age 83.

FARM STORY



The two farms shown in the background of this stamp are near the town of Tunbridge, Vermont. The farm in the foreground belonged to James Kenworthy Howe and the smaller farm to the right belonged to his son, Charles Howe. The following photograph shows how the farms appeared when the stamp was issued in 1953.



BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

James Howe and his wife had four sons and five daughters. On August 17, 1952, the family -- mother, father, children and grand children, posed for the following photograph. One daughter (and probably her family) was not present. (USA #1025, ISSUED 1953)



FIERY BEGINNINGS



Philosopher, naturalist, author and poet, Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862), reflects in his work his love of nature and belief in the dignity of man. In his early years, however, Thoreau had an unfortunate brush with nature. He and a friend carelessly let their camp fire get out of control whereupon 300 acres of forest land burned to the ground. The mishap occurred while the two were camping on the banks of the Sudbury River, Massachusetts. Nevertheless, Thoreau certainly made up for the error in his studies on seed transportation and succession of forest trees. In Thoreau's later life, a brush with the law for refusing to pay a poll tax landed him in jail for a day. Thoreau argued that payment of the tax would constitute complicity in the crimes of government, slavery, persecution of the Indians and the war with Mexico. His own published words on the issue were, *I quietly declare war with the State*. He invited his readers to join him. During his final days, when he was dying of tuberculosis, a relative asked him if he had made his peace with the Lord. Thoreau answered in a whisper, *I did not know we had quarreled*. (USA #1327, ISSUED 1967)

FLAG FORCING



the members of the DAR went ahead and authorized an Eastern flag-making firm to produce thousands of flags with the proposed design. The flag met with public approval which sparked brisk sales. Any profits on the sales went to a relief fund. A little over two years later the Iowa assembly quietly gave official recognition to the new flag. (USA #942, ISSUED 1946)

The design for the Iowa state flag was submitted by the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR). The ribbon the eagle carries in its beak shows the state's motto, *Our Liberties We Prize and Our Rights We Will Maintain*. The bill to make the flag official went before the Iowa general assembly in January 1919. However, the bill was not passed. During the proceedings, a letter from a soldier serving in World War I was read to the assembly by the soldier's father. The letter presented the view that the flag of the United States was sufficient for all purposes and that a state flag was not necessary. The letter persuaded the general assembly to vote down the flag bill. Nothing daunting,



FORGERIES AND LEGALITIES



In 1897, Newfoundland ran out of one cent stamps. As this denomination was in great demand, the Post Office decided to overprint the plentiful three cent stamp. In all, 40,000 stamps were overprinted and

rapidly became collectors' items. Unfortunately, the overprinting was very easy to forge and many unscrupulous individuals cashed-in on unsuspecting stamp collectors. Two forgers were charged with fraud by the postal authorities in 1898. They were subsequently arrested and brought to trial. The counsel for the defense offered the argument that because his clients had purchased three cent stamps and changed their postal value to one cent, they were not defrauding the Post Office but actually providing an extra profit! Surprisingly, the court agreed with this reasoning and advised the complainant to drop the case. (NFD #75, ISSUED 1897)

FORGOTTEN PRINCE



This stamp depicts Prince John, the last son and youngest child of King George V. According to official Royal biographers, John was born on July 12, 1905, and at age four he developed epilepsy. As a result, he was obliged to lead a secluded life in a house on his father's Sandringham estate. A nurse, Mrs. Bill, and a male orderly looked after the boy full time. In 1919, at age 13, John died in his sleep. He was buried

in the graveyard of Sandringham Church, near the lych-gate which bears the Latin inscription, *Hodie mihi cras tibi*, (I today, you tomorrow). The stamp shows Prince John in 1911 when he was six years old. In the following photograph he is said to be nine years old, however, the photograph appears to be that used for the stamp design.



It is quite unusual that Newfoundland was given permission to depict Prince John on a stamp. While the

official Royal biographers mention only epilepsy as the boy's problem, it is believed he had more severe mental problems. As a result, John was an embarrassment to the royal family so they strictly limited publicity about the boy. Recent research has revealed that John also had some glandular problems. He grew far too quickly and by age 12 was a "monster boy." When family photographs were taken for the Royal Silver Wedding Anniversary on July 6, 1918, Prince John was not included in any photographs. The only times John was seen outside are recorded as, *fleeting impressions of a huge boy being taken out for an airing*. As to the boy's personality, we learn that he was nicknamed *The Imp*, and there is some evidence that he had a happy nature, quite unaffected by his physical and mental condition. We are told that death came suddenly to the unfortunate prince. He had a severe epileptic fit in the early hours of January 18, 1919. He fell into what appeared to be a deep sleep and could not be woken. Mrs. Bill telephoned Queen Mary and informed her of these conditions and the royal couple went immediately to Sandringham. By the time they arrived, Mrs. Bill had realized that the boy was dead. Of the scene, the Queen later wrote: *He just slept quietly into his heavenly home, no pain, no struggle, just peace for the poor little troubled spirit*. John was buried on January 21, 1919, with a very private ceremony. Newfoundland issued 20,000 Prince John postage stamps, which are one of very few public tributes to the forgotten prince. (NFD #111, ISSUED 1911)

GETTING THE STRIPES STRAIGHT



This stamp commemorated the 200th anniversary of the birth of Betsy Ross who, it is generally believed, made the first U.S. flag. As the story goes, George Washington, Robert Morris and George Ross, apparently representing a committee from Congress, went to Betsy's upholstery shop sometime in June 1776. They asked Betsy if she could make a flag from a rough draft they had prepared. Betsy agreed and the U.S. flag she made was adopted by Congress shortly thereafter. Much as we would like to believe this romantic story, it is probably not true. There is no record of a committee appointed to design a flag in 1776; nor is there a record of Congress adopting a flag prior to June 1777. Further, there is an invoice in existence (still unpaid) submitted by Francis Hopkinson in 1781 for work he performed in designing the U.S. flag. Hopkinson, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was an artist and had designed State and Treasury Department seals together with a naval flag. (USA #1004, ISSUED 1952)

GHASTLY EVIDENCE



When Samuel Hearne returned from his great trek of 1770-71, many people doubted that he had actually discovered the Coppermine River as he claimed. Hearne told of how the Indians who joined his trek brutally massacred about 20 sleeping Inuit Indians at a place near the Coppermine which Hearne named *Bloody Fall*. Fifty years later (29 years after Hearne's death), Sir John Franklin found Inuit skeletons at Bloody Fall and Hearne's accomplishment was at last fully acknowledged. (CDN #540, ISSUED 1971)

GRAND ARMY'S GRAND EXIT



The Grand Army of the Republic was a patriotic organization of Civil War veterans. The following account of the fraternity is provided in the *Encyclopedia Americana*: *After a slow start, the organization grew rapidly, reaching its peak membership of 409,489 in 1890. By the century's turn, death began to take its toll: by 1920 there were 93,175 members; by 1930, 21,080; by 1940, about 1,000; by 1947, 66; and by 1953 only 1 -- Albert Woolson of Duluth, Minnesota who died August 2, 1956, aged 109, was the last survivor of more than two million men in the Union forces. With Woolson's death, the organization passed into history; at the 83rd and last National Encampment, held in Indianapolis, Indiana in 1949, where the first encampment had been held in 1866, it was decided to dissolve the group when the last member died. A monument in Washington D.C., shown in the following photograph, recalls the grandeur of the once Grand Army. (USA #985, ISSUED 1949)*



GRAND INDEED



This stamp has the distinction of depicting the world's largest concrete structure, Grand Coulee Dam. At 5,233-feet long, if the dam was placed on end it would be over three and one-half times the height of the Empire State Building. If all of the concrete used for the dam (almost 12 million cubic yards) was used to make a pyramid, the resulting structure would be over three times as large as the Great Pyramid of Egypt. (USA #1009, ISSUED 1952)

GRANGERS IN THE NIGHT



The National Grange was originally a secret society called *The Order of Patrons of Husbandry*. It was conceived by Oliver Hudson Kelley, a clerk in the U.S.

Government Agricultural Department. Kelley observed first hand how the small independent farmers and producers were being swallowed up by great industrial empires. He knew that farmers needed protection from all manner of despoilment at the hands of some very powerful and greedy men. Kelley therefore encouraged farmers to cooperate with one another for their own defense. He set-up lodges or, as it were, granges. In time the National Grange emerged which influenced the introduction of the Granger Laws. This accomplished, the National Grange withdrew and assumed a purely social and educational role. Nevertheless, it was and continues to be a fraternal, ritualistic organization with "secrets." It meets behind closed doors and has special signs and passwords. (USA #1323, ISSUED 1967)

GUESSWORK



Sequoyah (1773-1843), the Cherokee Indian scholar honored on this stamp, assumed the American name George Guess upon reaching maturity. This name was after an American trader whom he believed to be his father. Sequoyah (Guess) went on to develop an 86 letter alphabet that enabled his people to both

read and write their difficult language. He spent about twelve years developing his system for which he both borrowed symbols from an English grammar book and devised his own "marks" as needed. His system enabled thousands of his fellow tribespeople to read and write. In the beginning, he was severely ostracized by his tribe for, as it were, *meddling with the white man's secrets*. It is believed that his Indian name, Sequoyah, means "hog's foot." This translation indicates that he was handicapped with a club foot. The Cherokees customarily named their children after their physical characteristics. A club foot deformity would have left a hoof-like print in the ground giving rise to the strange name. Sequoyah's name is perpetuated in the sequoia tree and in Sequoia National Park, California. (USA #1859, ISSUED 1980)

HARDBALL CALL



This Canadian stamp shows the date 1838 for the origination of the game of baseball in Canada. This date is one year earlier than that established (1839) by the United States as the following stamp (USA #855) issued in 1939 shows.



The Canadians claim that on June 4, 1838, a game of "baseball" was played at Beachville, southwestern Ontario by teams representing Oxford County and Zorra Township. It is stated that the game was played with cedar bats. Canadians allege that the game itself was probably developed from the English sport of rounders. Whatever the case, it is a fact that the game was not called "baseball" until after 1845. (CDN #1221, ISSUED 1988)

HAVING A GAS



Doctor Crawford Long discovered the benefits of using ether for surgery while having fun with friends. As the story goes, he and his colleagues had played around with laughing gas (nitrous oxide) on a number of occasions. When this gas became hard to obtain, Long suggested they switch to ether. While his friends were under the influence of ether in small

amounts, Long noticed that some of them fell and severely bruised themselves but felt no pain. This led him to experiment with ether for an actual operation and painless surgery dawned. Long's first practical use of ether took place in 1842 in an operation to remove a tumor from the neck of James Venable who felt no pain during the surgery. Long, however, did not make his discovery public until 1849. In the meantime, a Massachusetts dentist, W.T.G. Morton, used ether in 1846 to extract a patient's tooth and Morton made his findings public. Consequently, as a result of Long's reporting delay, he was not originally recognized as the prime pioneer anesthetist. As it presently stands, both men are given credit, however, Long is given priority. (USA #875, ISSUED 1940)

HEDGES NEVER HEDGED



Yellowstone was the first U.S. national park. Cornelius Hedges' inspiring words, *This area must be set aside for the use and benefit of the people*, are incised in the granite arch at the northern entrance to the park. Hedges was one of the members of the expedition that first explored the park area. The original plan of the exploration party members was to use the Yellowstone territory for private speculation. They planned to do this by obtaining titles to the land. Hedges, overwhelmed with the beauty of the area made

his noted statement which apparently expressed the sentiments of all the other members of the expedition. The group's recommendation on use of the land led to

the Act of Dedication making Yellowstone a national preserve for the purpose Hedges envisioned. (USA #744, ISSUED 1934)

HERO BY DEFAULT



Frederick Yohn's epic painting *Herkimer at Oriskany* was used for the design of this stamp. We see Nicholas Herkimer severely wounded but still directing the battle. Although it is generally believed Herkimer was *mortally* wounded at Oriskany, this belief is not correct. As Yohn's painting shows, Herkimer was wounded in his left leg. He did not die on the battlefield. He died ten days after the battle. His death was the direct result of an unskilled amputation of his wounded leg. (USA #1722, ISSUED 1977)

HORSELESS CAVALRY



The first United States volunteer cavalry regiment was organized in 1898. At the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, Theodore Roosevelt hurriedly resigned from his position as Secretary of the Navy to join his friend Leonard Wood in organizing this elite

fighting force of hand picked horsemen. The unit, known as the *Rough Riders*, fought a spectacular battle on San Juan Hill, Cuba on July 1, 1898. The force seized the heights of the hill, exposing Santiago and the Spanish fleet to artillery bombardment. One of the fearless American leaders, Captain William O'Neill, who is shown on this stamp, was killed in the battle. In reflecting on this battle, and other action seen by the Rough Riders, one naturally envisions a gallant charge of men on horseback to the accompaniment of thundering hooves, gun shots and battle cries. With the Rough Riders, however, this picture is not quite true. The fighting men of this unit fought every battle on foot! Only the commanding officers had horses. In fact, the men nicknamed themselves *Wood's Weary Walkers*. (USA #973, ISSUED 1948)

HOUSE THAT JAMES BUILT



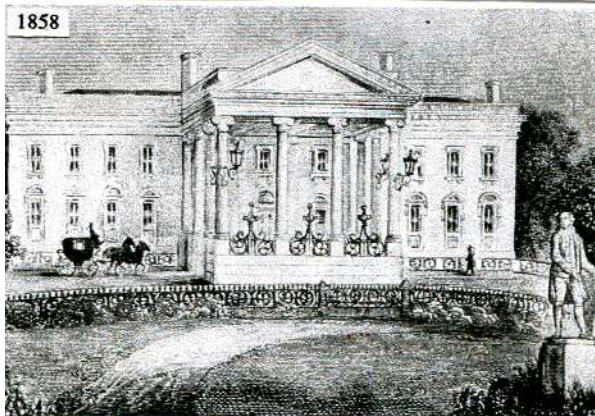
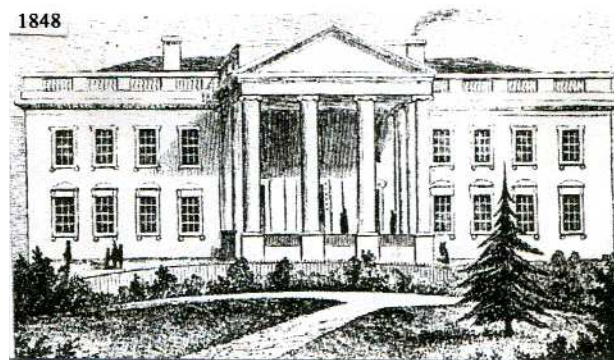
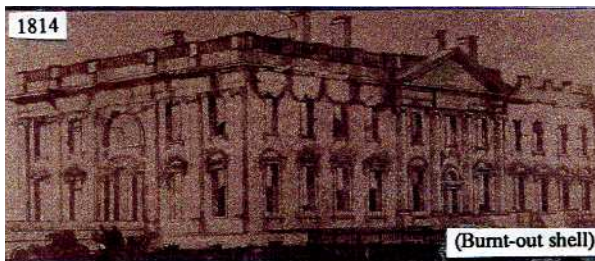
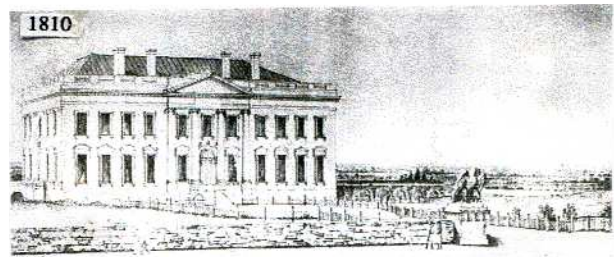
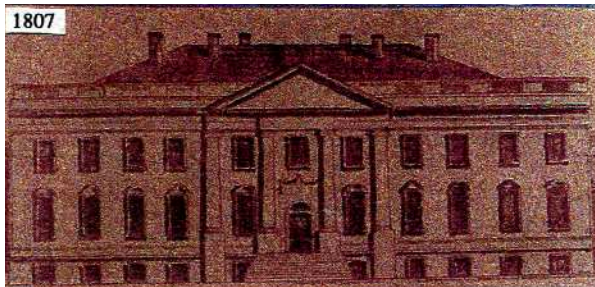
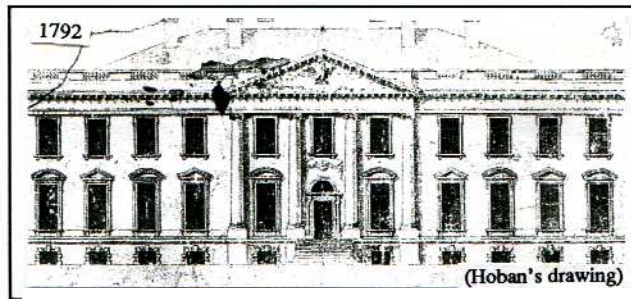
Architect James Hoban (1762-1831), who is honored on this stamp, won a *contest* for the design of the White House. In addition to the honor of building

the structure, Hoban received a prize of \$500 (or a gold medal according to some sources) and a lot in the District of Columbia. The White House depicted on this postage stamp shows how the structure (north view) appeared after *about* 1829. The north portico was added at that time. Although the building had probably been called the "White House" from the time it was originally built, it was not officially known by this name until November 1810. Hoban's original submission for the building was for the provision of a three-story building. The third story was deleted at the request of George Washington. Hoban's final drawing,

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

general artistic renderings and later a photograph of the building in the early years are interesting. The follow-

ing illustrations trace the north view, starting with Hoban's final drawing. (USA #1936, ISSUED 1981)



HOUSE, STORY AND FORGOTTEN GLORY



Samuel de Champlain's home in Quebec is shown on this stamp. It was in this house that the great explorer and first governor of French Canada envisioned the comforts of family life after explorations and the rigors of colonial administration. While in France (1610), Champlain, age forty-five, married Hélène Boullé, a girl of twelve (12). Because she was so

young, a special clause was included in the marriage contract delaying consummation of the marriage for two years. Ten years after their marriage, Champlain brought his wife to the wonderful house he had built in New France, which he had so often described to her. When she arrived she burst into tears. The great house had not been lived in for over eighteen months and was a shambles. The house was put in order and Hélène tried to make the best of life in the New World, but such was not her life-style. In time, the wonderful house became a prison to the homesick and lonely young woman. Samuel took her back to France and tried to adjust to Hélène's way of life. This plan failed, so Samuel returned alone to his first love, the colony. Samuel and Hélène each died in their separate worlds. (CDN #99, ISSUED 1908)

INDIAN GIVERS



Between 1787 and 1790, some 600 prosperous Parisians were goaded into buying "beautiful" land in America. Certainly, the sales descriptions of the land were indeed true. Problems with Indians, however,

were "overlooked." The Scotio Company undertook the sales scheme. This company, by a complex and shady arrangement, involved Reverend Manasseh Cutler (shown on this stamp) and Arthur St. Clair. While existing government policy was against purchases of large tracts of land by speculators, it is apparent Cutler and St. Clair used their power and political influence to get around policy obstacles. Just how many French braids found their way onto Indians' belts will never be known. However, Manasseh and Arthur, it is certain, lost no time in uncorking French wine. (USA #795, ISSUED 1937)

JUSTICE FIRST AND FOREMOST



Prior to becoming the second president of the United States, John Adams (1735-1826), then a prominent lawyer, successfully defended the British soldiers charged in the Boston Massacre. Although well known for his anti-British sentiments, Adams put the law

above his personal convictions. Other lawyers had been asked to take the case, but none would risk his reputation and safety in defending the soldiers. Eight soldiers were charged with actually firing into a peaceful crowd. During the trial, it was disclosed that the crowd (or more precisely, the mob), had attacked one of the soldiers who fired his gun in self-defense. The other soldiers then became caught up in the fracas. The jury acquitted six of the soldiers and the remaining two soldiers were found guilty of manslaughter. These two soldiers then pled, "benefit of clergy." Under this process, they each read a passage from Scripture, were branded on their thumbs and dismissed. (USA #806, ISSUED 1938)

KANE'S QUEST



The purpose of both Elisha Kent Kane's Arctic expeditions was to find the missing Sir John Franklin exploration party, or determine its fate. Franklin, who tried to sail the Northwest Passage in 1845, disappeared

with his entire crew of 128 men in two ships, the *Erebus* and the *Terror*. Kane made expeditions in 1850 and 1853 but was unable to find any trace of Franklin. Two years after Kane's death (1859), another exploration party found the remains of the ill-fated Franklin expedition. They were discovered on King William Island which is near Victoria Strait where the ice had trapped the ships. The record of the expedition showed a last entry on April 25, 1848. A recent investigation indicates that lead poisoning from tinned food may have played a major role in the deaths of the explorers. (USA #2220, ISSUED 1986)

KEY INFORMATION



Francis Scott Key was not on the receiving side in the British bombardment of Fort McHenry (1814) when he wrote his famous poem now known as the *Star Spangled Banner*. He was on a British ship, the *Minden*, and he watched the bombardment from the deck of that ship. Before the bombardment, Key, an American attorney, along with Colonel John Skinner, had rowed out to the *Minden*. They were in the process of negotiating the release of Dr. William Beanes who was being held prisoner on the ship. The British had called a truce to allow their passage. Beanes had been accused of spying and was taken prisoner after the British had burned the City of Washington. Key and Skinner enjoyed a dinner with the British officers who later agreed to release Beanes. The two Americans, however, were informed that the release would not be effected until the British had bombarded Fort McHenry. Key, therefore, could do nothing but watch the action which inspired him to write his immortal poem. The theme of the poem dwells on the fact that the American flag proudly waved throughout the bombardment and was still seen waving the next morning. The question might well be asked as to how the flag was visible from Key's vantage point. In this connection, the flag size was 42-feet by 30-feet, and as such would definitely have been visible. The source of Key's portrait shown on the stamp is not known to your author. The following engraving of

Key, however, is much more flattering. An interesting side-issue related to Francis Scott Key is the fact that he was a Federalist and opposed many of the issues that led to the War of 1812. Accusations during the war that Federalists were pro-British dealt the final blow to the party's power. (USA #962, ISSUED 1948)



KIDNAPPED KIN FOLK OF ROANOKE



Virginia Dare, the first white child born in America, virtually disappeared along with the entire Roanoke settlement. The only traces found were the words "CROATOAN" carved on one of the posts of the colony's deserted fort, and the letters "CRO" carved on a nearby tree. One plausible explanation may be that some colonists starved to death (probably out looking for food) and the others had been taken away and massacred by the Indians. Possibly the children were adopted by the Indians. There is a Croatan (note spelling) Indian tribe in North Carolina, so perhaps herein lies the answer. To this day, the Croatans believe the blood of the first colonists runs in their veins. With regard to the illustrated stamp itself, it has the distinction of being the only U.S. stamp that depicts an identifiable female baby. (USA #796, ISSUED 1937)



KRAKEN NEWS



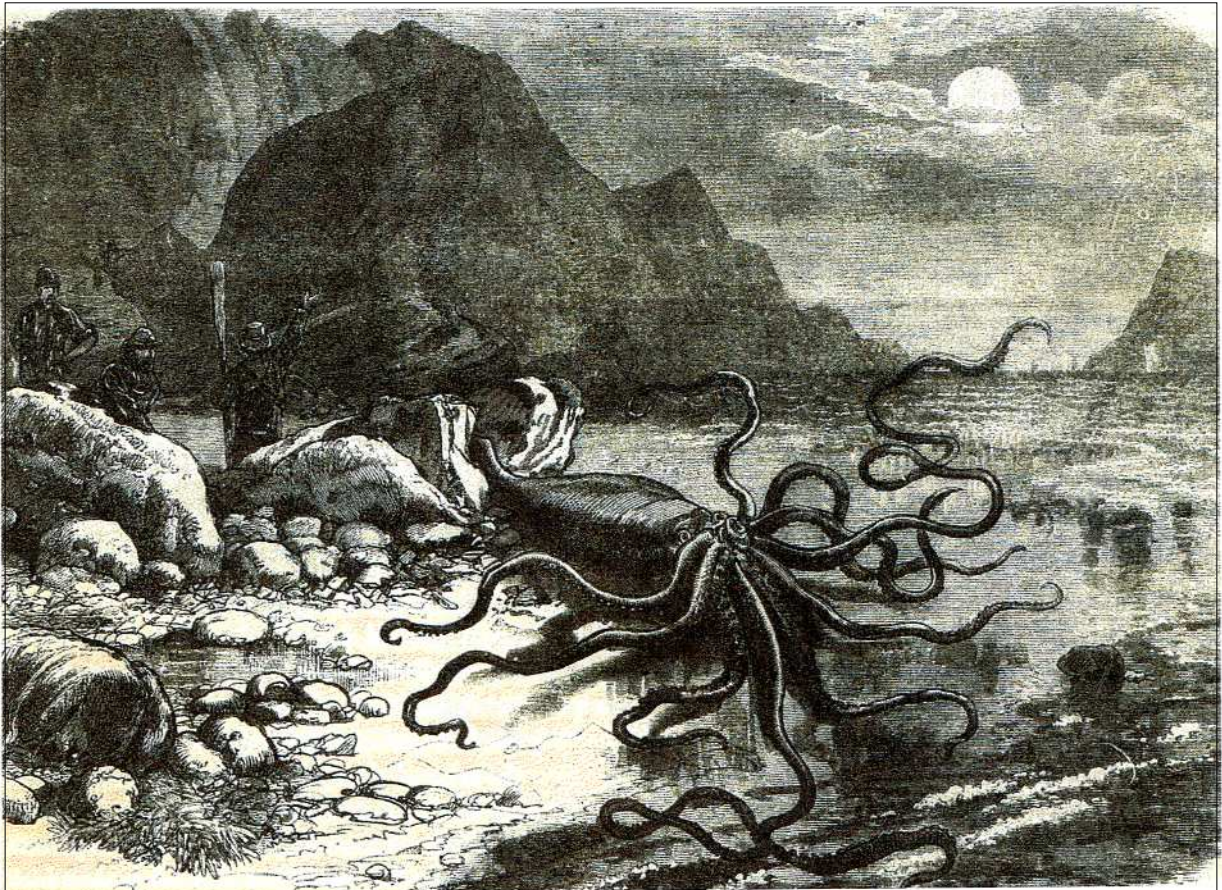
Canada's legendary creature the *kraken* may not be as legendary as we are led to believe. In September 1877, a giant cuttle-fish was found beached on a Newfoundland shore. The following is a reprint of an article on the event that appeared in the *Canadian Illustrated News* on October 27, 1877.

THE MONSTER DEVIL FISH

The latest addition to the remarkable collection in the New York Aquarium is by far the most curious of all specimens. It is a monster cuttle-fish, made familiar to the public by Victor Hugo, as the devil-fish. The present one is the largest that has ever been seen and, while to the student it is a choice object of examination, to the uneducated public it is a most horrible-looking creature. On the 22nd September a heavy equinoctial gale swept the shores of St. John's Newfoundland, and this wanderer was driven ashore in an exhausted condition at Catalina, on the northern shore of Trinity Bay. The tail had got fast on a rock as it was swimming backward, and it was rendered

powerless. In its desperate efforts to escape, the ten arms darted about in all directions, lashing the water into foam, the thirty-foot tentacles in particular making lively play as it shot them out and endeavoured to get a "purchase" with their powerful suckers, so as to drag itself into deep water. It was only when it became exhausted and the tide receded that the fishermen ventured to approach it. It died soon after the ebb of the tide, which left it high and dry on the beach. Two fishermen took possession of the "treasure trove," and the whole settlement gathered to gaze in astonishment at the monster. The two men loaded their little craft with the body of the gigantic cuttle, and arrived with it at St. John's on the 26th ult., in a perfectly fresh condition. As soon as the news spread an eager desire to view the monster was awakened, and the fishermen were advised to exhibit it before the public. The Government granted the use of the drill-shed for the purpose, and on the floor, supported by boards, the creature was laid out in all its gigantic proportions. The lucky fishermen reaped a golden harvest and found the big squid by far the best catch they had ever made. The scene was very curious. There lay the cuttle with its ten arms stretched out, two of them 30 feet in length, having rows of powerful suckers an inch in diameter at their broadened extremities. The other arms, eight in number, were entirely covered with suckers on the underside, and were 11 feet in length. The body is 10 feet in length and nearly 7 feet in circumference, and terminates in a caudal fin 2 feet 9 inches across. When taken from the water the color of the squid was a dusky red, but that has disappeared, and the body and arms are now perfectly white. There is the usual horny beak, the parrot-like mandibles of which project from a membraneous bag in the centre of the mass which constitutes the head, and from which the ten arms radiate. Certainly the idea of being clutched in those terrible arms, from which there could be no escape when once they had closed, and then torn and rent by the formidable beak, is enough to send a shuddering thrill through the stoutest heart. Posterior to head were a pair of huge staring eyes, the sockets being eight inches in diameter. Their expression, when the creature was alive on the beach, is said by the fishermen to have been particularly ferocious.

The following engraving with the caption, *Capture of Monster Devil Fish, at Catalina, Trinity Bay*, accompanied the article. (CDN #1290, ISSUED 1990)



LADIES' CHOICE



Mrs. John F. Kennedy inspired the design of this postage stamp. She wished to have a modern stamp for White House mail that showed the executive mansion. The stamp was created to please her. (USA #1208, ISSUED 1963)

LAPORTE LAMENT



This stamp was issued ten months after the murder of Pierre Laporte. The diabolical circumstances of his murder prompted the early action. Laporte was labor minister for the province of Quebec. He was kid-

napped in October 1970 and murdered by members of the FLQ (Front de libération du Québec). This radical separatist group had previously kidnapped the British Trade Commissioner, James Cross. When ransom demands for Cross were turned down, Laporte was kidnapped. He was playing touch football with his nephew outside his home at the time. Cross was later released unharmed, but Laporte was strangled to death with the chain of his religious medal. His body was found in the trunk of a car at St. Hubert, Quebec. The situation with the FLQ became so intense the Canadian Federal Government invoked the War Measures Act. In March 1971 Paul Rose of the FLQ was tried and convicted for the murder of Laporte. He was sentenced to life in prison. (CDN #558, ISSUED 1971)

LEARN AS YOU CHURN



The Erie Canal, which was considered an engineering marvel in its day, was planned, designed and constructed by a crew of amateurs who "learned on the job!" The chief engineer was actually a country lawyer with some limited experience in surveying. Those who

worked on the canal became, as it were, graduates from the "Erie School of Engineering." With this qualification, they went on to build canals and railroads in many states. Built at a cost of \$7 million, the Erie was an immediate success, offering safe, cheap and reliable passage. At times, it is said there were so many barges waiting to pass through Erie's locks that a person could walk from boat to boat for a mile without getting his feet wet! Although the stamp shows the date 1817, the Erie Canal was not completed until 1825. However, the canal was approved by the New York State legislature in 1817 and the first shovel full of earth was removed on July 4 of that year. Nevertheless, by this same reasoning, we should be celebrating the moon landing by the date the project was approved. (USA #1325, ISSUED 1967)

LEST WE FORGET



Canada's issuance of this Superman postage stamp appears to be a bit of a reminder that the superhero was born in Canada. One parent, however, was American. The Superman cartoon image was created (drawn) by the *Toronto Star* artist Joe Shuster. Shuster worked with the American writer, Jerry Siegel, who was certainly highly involved in the final product. Both men are given equal credit in creating the man of steel. As time went on, however, Superman seemed to out-grow Canada and he became more of an American icon. Undoubtedly, many people were surprised when this stamp was released. (CDN #1579, ISSUED 1995)

LIGHT STATISTICS



Below the names of the lighthouses seen on these stamps, there is a series of individual codes. The codes for the last stamp shown (Haut-fond Prince) are enlarged below.



The codes stand for statistical data concerning each lighthouse. The interpretation for the Haut-fond Prince lighthouse is as follows:

F1	-	Flashes a white light,
2 1/2S	-	every two and one-half seconds,
25.3m	-	at a height of 25.3 meters,
20M	-	that is visible for 20 nautical miles.

The code for the Rose Blanche lighthouse shows "FIR" which indicates a red light. Other notations, "Radio beacon" and "Racon," respectively indicate radio and radar transmission facilities. The code notations are shown on marine maps and other navigational publications concerning lighthouses. CDN #1063-66, ISSUED 1985)

LOTTO P.E.I



Prince Edward Island, previously known as St. John's Island, was once totally divided-up by a lottery. Originally a French possession, the island was passed over to the British in 1763. Britain decided to use the lottery process to divide the land among one hundred of its elite upper class. The island was sectioned off into sixty-seven townships and these were assigned to the new owners on a "draw" basis. (CDN #618, ISSUED 1973)

LOYALIST LEGACY



When the United Empire Loyalists fled to Canada as a result of the American Revolution, they took their slaves with them. While slavery was prevalent in Canada at that time, the Loyalist movement gave the practice a tremendous boost. Regulations on slavery were slowly phased in with some unusual rules as follows: a slave could be bound for no more than nine years; children of slaves were to be freed upon reaching the age of twenty-five; a slave owner was denied the right to regain a runaway slave. (CDN #1028, ISSUED 1984)

MAN BEHIND THE SIGNS



articles on traffic safety and even served as a consultant for other countries. In 1921 he established a non-profit study center for traffic regulations in Saugatuck, Connecticut. The following Canadian stamp (CDN #447) issued in 1966 emphasizes highway safety.



In the year 1900, William Phelps Eno, a forty-two year old resident of New York City, was so disgusted with the daily traffic chaos that he published an article entitled *Reform in Our Street Traffic Urgently Needed*. Apparently, the article was all that was needed to get people thinking. Almost over night Eno became a traffic safety expert. He originated stop signs, one-way streets, taxi stands, pedestrian safety islands and traffic rotaries. He even put together a manual on police traffic regulations. His ideas worked their way across the continent and traffic safety became a way of life. As time went on, horses gave way to the automobile, but this made no difference to Eno. He continued to write

While Eno is certainly the "Father of Traffic Safety," he never learned to drive an automobile. When travel by motorized vehicles became necessary, he depended on his chauffeur. Right up to his death in 1945, the closest Eno got to driving was on the back of a horse. (USA #1272, ISSUED 1965)

MERIWETHER MYSTERY



This stamp commemorated the great Lewis and Clark expedition (1804-1806). Three years after the expedition (1809), Meriwether Lewis died under very strange circumstances. He set out for Washington, D.C. from St. Louis, Missouri, intending to go by way of New Orleans and the ocean. For some unknown reason, he changed his mind during the journey and went overland. He stayed at an inn called Grinder's Stand in the Natchez Trace where he was found dead the following morning of two gunshot wounds. Grinder, the inn owner, said Lewis committed suicide. Evidence, however, suggests he was murdered. It is unlikely he would need to shoot himself twice. Also, no money was found on his body and his watch was later recovered in New Orleans. A monument erected to him in 1848 at the site of his death shows the following inscription:

Beneath this monument erected under legislative act by the state of Tennessee, A.D. 1848, reposes the dust of Meriwether Lewis, a captain in the U.S.A., private secretary to President Jefferson, senior commander of the Lewis and Clark expedition, and governor of the territory of Louisiana. Under the Grinder House, the ruins of which are still discernible, 230 yards south of this spot, his life of romantic endeavor and lasting achievement came tragically and mysteriously to its close on the night of October 11, 1809.

The report of the commission appointed to carry out the provisions of the monument act contains this significant statement: *Great care was taken to identify the grave, Governor Nixon, ESQ., an old surgeon, had become very early acquainted with the locality. He pointed out the place, but to make assurance double sure, the grave was reopened and the upper portion of the skull examined, and such evidence found as to leave no doubt of the place of interment.* Interestingly, Lewis was a member of the Masonic Order. At the time of his probably murder, he was carrying his Masonic apron folded in his coat. Blood from his wounds stained the apron. In time, this relic found its way back to the Masonic Fraternity. The stamp design for the figures of Lewis and Clark was taken from a monument in Charlottesville, Virginia, sculptured by Charles Keck. Lewis is in the foreground, Clark directly behind him. (USA #1063, ISSUED 1954)

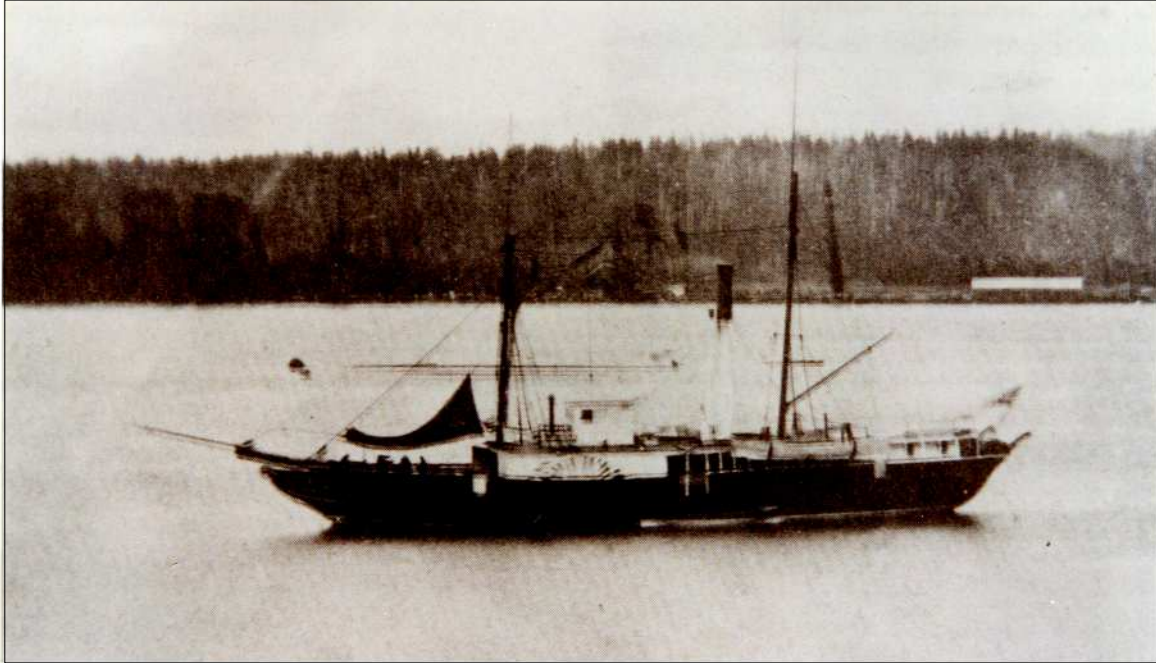
MINIATURE MAN-OF-WAR



The Hudson's Bay Company steamship *Beaver* was the first steamship to operate on the West Coast of North America. Ploughing the waters off the coast of British Columbia, the innocent looking ship was much more fierce than she appeared. Equipped with four brass cannons, muskets, cutlasses in racks round the main mast and an arsenal of hand grenades, the *Beaver* was ready for most eventualities. Even without knowledge of her weaponry, the Coastal Indians were terrified when the ship first appeared. They believed the vessel carried a fire devil

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

or ran by witchcraft. In Bella Bella, the awestruck natives fashioned a crude replica of the fearsome *Beaver*. They used a 30-foot dugout canoe for the hull fashioned with a deck. The craft was painted black with simulated (painted) ports. It was powered by braves (under a cover) using bright red paddles. The stamp depicts the ship as it originally looked in 1835. In the early 1860's a larger superstructure with cabins was erected on the decks to improve passenger accommodations. The following is the earliest known photograph of the vessel (circa 1863).



In addition to structural improvements, the ship's engines were overhauled which dramatically increased her speed. By this time, other steamers were operating in the same waters as the *Beaver*, competing for the same business. When the *Beaver* won a race between Victoria and New Westminster, the owners of the competing ships were devastated. Fearful of losing their business, they decided to eliminate the *Beaver*. They effected an agreement with the Hudson's Bay Company whereby they paid the Company \$1,000 a month to keep the *Beaver* out of service! She eventually went back into operation in other capacities and her honorable service has been well documented. Her sad ending, however, hardly befitted her proud history. On the night of July 25, 1888, she beached at low tide on the rocks at Prospect Point in the Burrard Inlet (Vancouver, B.C.). While rumors that the crew was intoxicated have not been substantiated, it is known they were in a bar prior to sailing that evening. It is also known that after the wreck they waded ashore and went back to the same bar. As salvage of the ship was not economical, she was just left to rot. While the City of Vancouver was urged to have the ship removed and preserved, nothing was done. Ravished by the sea, the elements and souvenir hunters, the *Beaver* quietly disappeared. Some of her contents and parts, however, have found their way into the Vancouver Maritime Museum. Also, numerous souvenir items crafted from her wood and metal are in the museum and private collections. The adjacent photograph shows two souvenir hunters onboard the rotting hulk (circa 1890).



BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

One souvenir item, a gavel (shown below) made from wood of the *Beaver*, was presented to Zenith Lodge No. 104, Burnaby, British Columbia in 1924.



A letter from the British Columbia Arts, Historical and Scientific Association accompanied the gavel. The letter, as transcribed in the minutes of the lodge, reads as follows:

Dear Sirs: (S.S. Beaver, Paddle Wheel)

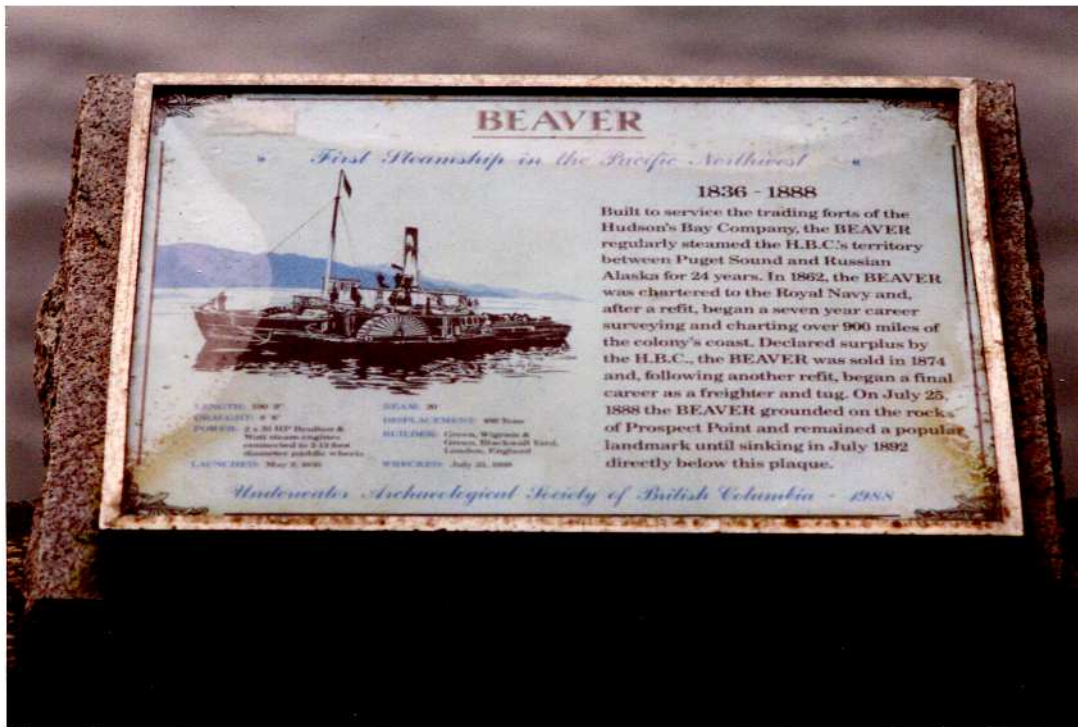
She was built by Messers Green, Wigrams, Green at Blackwell by order of Hudson's Bay Company, launched in the early summer of 1835. King William was present at launching and the Duchess of the Blood Royal christened her. (NOTE: This last statement is not substantiated by historical records.)

On the 29th August 1835 under command of Capt. David Hume, the Beaver in company with the sailing vessel Columbia started on her voyage across the Atlantic for Fort Victoria, Columbia River, "the first steamship on the Pacific Ocean." 4th April 1836 she and the Columbia dropped anchors at Fort Victoria, headquarters of Hudson's Bay Co. She shortly started exploring coast of Alaska, visiting trading posts etc. In 1837, she discovered Esquimalt Harbour and in 1838 tested the coal discovered in her furnaces; she carried miners up the Fraser in 1858 and the Caribou goldfields. Her day was now passing and she was sold to a commercial company to end her days as a common tug and after 53 years of active, distinguished service, her service was brought to a close on a summer night - July 25, 1888; with a boom of logs, was driven on the rocks at Prospect Point, Vancouver and wrecked; over a few years, fell to pieces, and the old Beaver launched by a King, christened by a Duchess, the first to double the horn and the Pioneer of the Pacific passed forever into history.

In November 1996, the gavel was donated to the Vancouver Maritime Museum for placement in the museum's permanent *Beaver* exhibit.

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

For some years, a plaque on the Prospect Point sea wall, as shown in the following photograph, marked the ship's final resting place.



This plaque is no longer present. The historical information it featured is as follows:

BEAVER

First Steamship in the Pacific Northwest

1836-1888

Built to service the trading forts of the Hudson's Bay Company, the **BEAVER** regularly steamed the H.B.C.'s territory between Puget Sound and Russian Alaska for 24 years. In 1862, the **BEAVER** was chartered to the Royal Navy and, after a refit, began a seven year career surveying and charting over 900 miles of the colony's coast. Declared surplus to the H.B.C., the **BEAVER** was sold in 1874 and, following another refit, began a final career as a freighter and tug. On July 25, 1888 the **BEAVER** grounded on the rocks of Prospect Point and remained a popular landmark until sinking in July 1892 directly below this plaque.

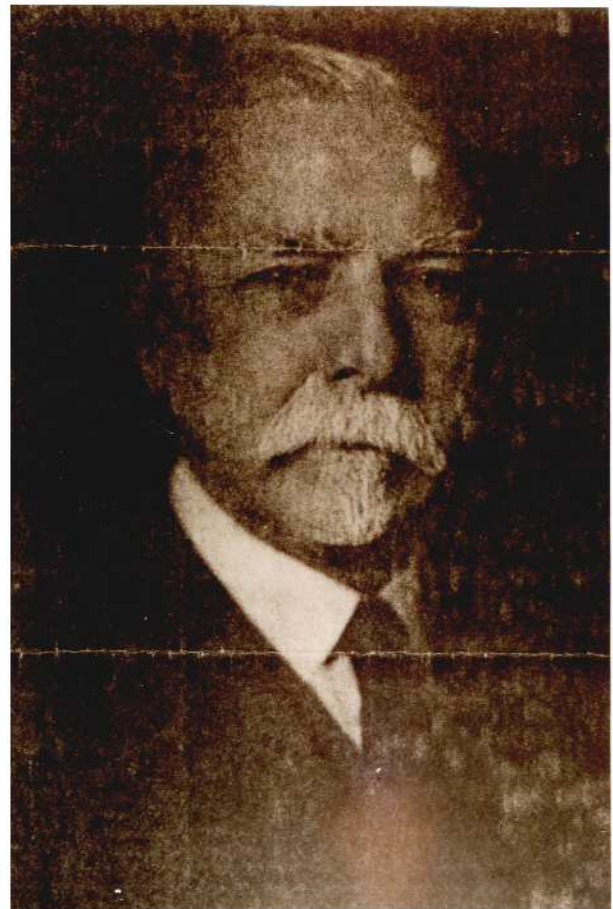
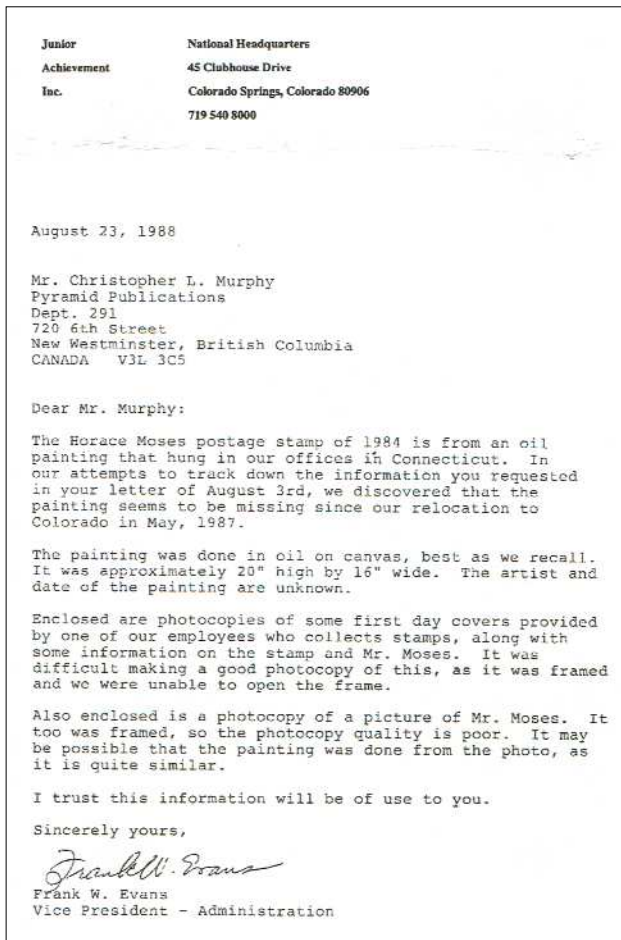
Underwater Archeological Society of British Columbia -- 1988

Like so many famous and romantic ships of yesteryear, the *Beaver* has drifted into nonexistence. As always, it is a case of, *you don't know what you've got 'till it's gone*. (CDN #671, ISSUED 1975)

MISSING MOSES



The design of this stamp was taken from an oil painting of Horace Moses (1842-1947) that graced a wall at the National Headquarters of Junior Achievement in Connecticut. Unfortunately, the painting went astray when the Junior Achievement office moved to Colorado in May 1987. All the details are given in letter shown below. Certainly, someone "out there" has the painting, and it is hoped that one day it will surface and again take its rightful place with the Junior Achievement people. (USA #2095, ISSUED 1984)



MONUMENT MUSING



The Washington Monument was designed by Robert Mills (1781-1855). Mills' original design for the monument included a circular colonnade or pantheon at the base to place statues of the nation's illustrious dead. Below this structure, Mills included vaults for the earthly remains of the patriots. Unfortunately, these features were omitted in the final plans for the

monument. It appears finances were a major concern. As awe-inspiring as the monument is, Mills was definitely right. The pantheon and vaults would have given the monument far greater artistic and historical profile. As they say, however, "it's never too late." Another stamp (USA #1158), as follows, that shows the monument was issued in 1960.



Here we see the structure somewhat ghost-like in the background. Its misty appearance echoes a little mystery that to this day has never been solved. When the monument was under construction, Pope Pius IX (Guiseppe Maria Ferrero Mastai Ferretti) contributed a block of marble to be used for the structure. The thoughtful pope was featured on a Vatican stamp (VATICAN #476), as follows, issued in 1969.



Everyone was naturally very pleased with this unique gift -- well, almost everyone, the block was stolen! Remarkably, as a result of the theft, public cash contributions for the project became so curtailed that work could not continue. Fortunately, the government stepped-in and the monument stands today, less the papal contribution. The questions as to who stole the papal block and where it presently rests remain unanswered. (USA #2149a, ISSUED 1985)



MOTHER'S DAY FINAL PLAY



This stamp was issued to commemorate Mother's Day. Ironically, the successful crusade for a Mother's Day observance was undertaken by a woman who was not a mother! Anna M. Jarvis (1864-1948) took up the cause in 1908, previously attempted by several other Mother's Day pioneers. Anna was totally devoted to her mother, whom she lived with and cared for, to the exclusion of seeking marriage herself.

BEHIND THE SCENE REVELATIONS

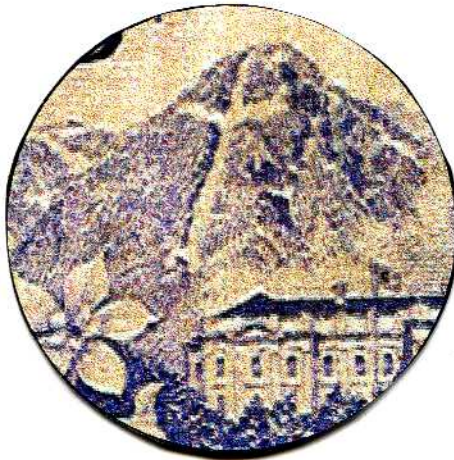
Through Anna's efforts, West Virginia, Oklahoma and Washington proclaimed official Mother's Day recog-

nition in 1910. Within one year, all other states followed suit. (US #737, ISSUED 1934)

MOUNT OF THE HOLY CROSS



This stamp shows Colorado's Mount of the Holy Cross in the background. While erosion has now taken its toll on the natural cross formation, at one time it did appear as we see it on the stamp. The following illustrations show the stamp detail (left) and a photograph of the mountain taken August 24, 1873. It certainly appears this was the photograph used for the stamp design. If so, then it predates Colorado's statehood by three years. According to legend, the mountain was named by Spanish monks who came to the area in the 18th Century. (USA #1001, ISSUED 1951)



MYSTERIOUS ENDING



In 1849, mystery writer Edgar Allen Poe became engaged to widowed Sarah Royster Shelton, the writer's childhood sweetheart. A short time before the planned wedding, Poe traveled to fetch his aunt. On his way to that destination, he stopped in Baltimore. He was found lying unconscious on the street on October 3, 1849, and died four days later without regaining consciousness. (USA #986, ISSUED 1949)

