

Interest In Stamp Collection Is At One Of Highest Points

Over 24 Billion Is Expected To Be Issued This Year

In a statement marking the 110th anniversary of the March 3, 1847, law authorizing the first U. S.

postage stamps, Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield notes that interest in stamp collecting is at one of the highest points in history.

Philatelic Agency sales, he said, are at a 5-year high (\$1,894,855 last fiscal year) and the Post Office Department expects to issue a record of more than 24 billion stamps during this year—commemorative and ordinary series combined.

There are two general types of stamps—the one known as the regular or ordinary issue and the other the commemorative. The regular issue is usually the smaller of the two and is available at post offices at all times. The designs of these stamps are not changed often and their sale is more or less constant. Commemorative stamps are issued to honor a person or subject on some important occasion, or on some significant anniversary—such as the 100th, 150th, 200th and so forth. These stamps are all of a temporary nature and are usually kept on sale for less than a year.

The first stamps ever issued by the United States—issued under authority of the March 3, 1847 law—went on sale in New York City July 1, 1847.

These first stamps were a nickel issue with a picture of Benjamin Franklin and a dime issue with a picture of George Washington.

These 1847 stamps, together with the 10 stamps of an 1851 series, were voided by Congress in 1861, apparently fearing Confederate sources would turn supplies of them into U. S. cash.

Thus, although they have philatelic value, the earliest U. S. stamps actually are worthless for postage purposes.

This was the only time this was ever done, though, and any other U. S. postage stamps may be used for postage regardless of age, so long as they are unused.

First of the U. S. commemorative stamps were in 1893, the Columbian Series issued for the Chicago Columbian Exposition that year.

And the first identifiable woman ever to appear on a U. S. postage stamp was Spanish Queen Isabelle, in the Columbian Series.

Early U. S. stamps were printed privately for the government, but since July 1, 1894 they have generally been printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington, D. C.

Which stamps shall be issued, design, denominations, subject matter and so forth, incidentally, are matters under the jurisdiction of the Postmaster General—by law.

Probably the most spectacular sale of stamps from the collector's standpoint in the United States occurred in 1918. In a Station of the Washington Post Office, a clerk sold 100 new 24-cent airmail stamps printed with the plane upside down. Today these stamps are worth thousands of dollars each

philatelically. The Post Office Department today is getting about 25,000 letters a year from the public about stamps, in addition to hundreds of thousands of letters a year ordering stamps or requesting philatelic price lists or other philatelic informational material.

Most of the stamp letters that are not directly concerned with buying stamps are from individuals suggesting a new stamp issue.

But many of those who suggest current public personalities, such as political figures, movie stars, popular current singers and the like, apparently are unaware of the law which says no living individual's portrait shall appear on a U. S. postage stamp.

Despite this law which prevents many requests for new issues from being considered, the Post Office Department today has more than 2,600 different subjects on file as possibilities for stamps—almost every one suggested over and over by hundreds and even thousands of persons. These 2,600 are all on valid subjects where the restriction against living persons does not apply.

And all are given appropriate consideration. However, in its entire history, the United States has issued only 840 different stamps, and it will necessarily take a long time to get around to many of these subjects.

These stamps have been in many different denominations—for example, one in 1895 for \$100 (for mailing publications in bulk).

For the special benefit of collectors, the Post Office Department maintains a Philatelic Agency in Washington, offering sales of all available issues of United States stamps at face value—both over the counter and by mail.

In addition, every effort is made to have commemorative stamps available at post offices shortly after they are issued.

Many of the thousands of letters being received, Mr. Summerfield said, have acclaimed the service of the Philatelic Agency, and the beauty and interest of recent stamps.

In the 1956 fiscal year, he pointed out, 21 new postage stamps, 1 commemorative airmail envelope and 1 commemorative postal card were issued.

"It is our policy to give careful attention to the devotees of this wholesome hobby," Mr. Summerfield added. "We feel that the large number of beautiful stamps issued and the interesting variety of subject matter have made this one of the brightest periods in the 110-year history of stamps for collectors, and have served many other useful purposes."

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT POSES RURAL PROBLEM

Jobs for rural people seeking part-time, non-farm employment poses a major problem in North Carolina, according to H. A. Aurbach, rural sociologist at N. C. State College.

Nationally, the number of part-time farmers has increased consid-

ABUNDANT LIFE BY ORAL ROBERTS

FAITH GUIDED HIM IN A HURRICANE

For many years Mr. T. J. of Garfield, New Jersey, has been an electrician at the Wright Aeronautical Plant. Though a regular day-shift worker, he was assigned to a midnight shift for one week-end. This was in 1955.

During that week-end, a terrible hurricane struck. Suddenly the incoming power lines failed, leaving the entire main plant in darkness. The man usually in charge of the main substation where the deadly 26,000 volt lines were, was on vacation. Mr. J. had received no instructions as to what to do in such an emergency. Yet, this was his responsibility.

He ran from the main plant to the substation. Lightning cracked and struck all around. But let him tell it in his own words: "Suddenly, I realized I knew nothing about the sub. I stopped. I was terribly frightened. I prayed: 'OH, GOD, PROTECT ME FROM HARM AND GUIDE ME TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. PLEASE SEND ME HELP. I NEED IT BADLY.'"

His short prayer contained three requests: for protection, guidance, and help to come. Now see how God answered! "I got off for the substation—no longer scared—sure that God would help me. Knocking off switches, I threw in the breakers. As the outside lines were tied in, the power began to surge again. (Answers 1 & 2). There came a knock at the door. A man yelled, 'Public Service, let me in!' He was from the power company, assigned to the

meter still lying around in the woods, better haul it out before long. The bark beetles will get it if you don't watch out."

R. E. Douglass, forestry specialist for the N. C. Agricultural Extension Service at State College, says the deadline for getting these logs out of the woods should be April 1. "Bark beetles are becoming active on these warm days. They will deposit eggs in pine that has been cut unless it is rather well dried out. After a while these eggs hatch and mature into a new crop of very expensive little pests. They are apt to invade and kill surrounding pines."

The best control measure, adds Douglass, is to remove from the woods all logs and pulpwood, including tops and lap wood of saw-log trees. And while you're in the woods take a good look at the standing pines. Bark beetles may already be at work on your prized stand. If so, remove the infested trees at once.

Everyone admits that no matter how much intelligence, strength, or natural resources we have, there are limitations to our ability to handle every situation successfully, because we are human.

Prayer and faith in God will let into our lives that which, if we depended solely upon our own might, we would be left without. Jesus said, "If you believe, all things are possible to him that believeth." Most people take this promise as they do a life-preserver in a boat; think it might be comfortable to have, but hope it will never be needed.

But God is a good God! He delights to help us. He is able and he is willing to assist us in every phase of our lives. In this day, today, take him as your partner. Turn your faith loose and let God show you how to meet your problems and difficulties. The same God who helped Mr. T. J. is anxious to help you.

have used only about 10 per cent of the funds available to our state under the program.

Practices that will be applicable this spring include planting a permanent cover of grass and legumes to protect the soil or to change land use, establishing trees and shrubs for erosion control, planting forest trees and building farm ponds.

According to Walker, farmers will receive two kinds of payment for participating in this program. First, the farmer will receive up to 80 per cent of the cost of establishing the conservation practice on the reserve acreage and second, he will receive an annual rental payment of \$10 per acre during each year.

PAT BOONE—EASY-GOING ROCK 'N ROLLER

At 22, the idol of thousands of teen-agers, Pat Boone feels that getting a college education is more important than fleeting success. Read the unusual success story of this unique singing star in March 17th issue of

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the contract is in effect. The purpose of this program, Walker pointed out, is to help maintain the farmer's net income at the same time he is reducing his plantings of cash crops and practicing more conservation on the land.

Additional information on the program can be obtained from the local ASC office, Walker said.

It is better that some should be unhappy than that none should be happy, which would be the case in a general state of equality.

—Samuel Johnson



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erably during the past 20 years, Aurbach declares. This trend, he says, has been much slower in North Carolina.

In fact, much of this change to part-time farming has yet to take place in the Tar Heel State, Aurbach says.

Aurbach points out that the trend toward part-time farming will continue as long as off-farm job opportunities are good and new mechan-

ization reduces or changes the labor needs on farms.

Why hasn't part-time farming increased more rapidly in North Carolina?

Two factors are primarily responsible, Aurbach believes.

The type of farming is one. Many farms—especially those with tobacco—require a lot of attention, particularly during certain seasons. As a result, he points out, farmers find it difficult to adjust their work to meet the requirements of other occupations.

Another factor, Aurbach says, is the relatively limited non-farm opportunities available in North Carolina, especially in the eastern part of the state.

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