

# Collectors get stamp of approval on profits

By LOUISE OKRUTSKY

In 1840, the government of Great Britain issued the first adhesive postage stamps. By 1880, stamp collectors were gathering the bits of glued paper into albums.

At first, the adhesive stamp was a time saving device. Instead of taking letters to be hand canceled, postal patrons could affix the stamp onto correspondence at their leisure.

Today, stamps are becoming a money saving device. Investment in stamps is sometimes seen as a hedge against inflation, according to Richard Dur-

ham, partner in Huron Stamps of Farmington.

Proper investment in stamps can be as effective a hedge against inflation as land or antiques.

When zeppelins were acclaimed as the newest mode of transportation, they were used to transport packages as well as persons. Packages carried by the zeppelins had special stamps. Known as zeppelin stamps, the stamps were worth between \$400-\$500 five years ago.

Today, the same stamps are worth between \$4,000-\$5,000, according to Durham.

Baby reps, single blocks of stamps such as those issued by the United States for the Century of Progress exhibition, were worth about \$30 in mid 1978. Six months later, Durham says they are selling for \$200.

AS WITH INVESTING in antiques, age alone doesn't make a stamp worthwhile, according to Durham.

Commemorative stamps issued in memory of famous persons or events are nice to look at but poor investments. They are too common. So are blocks of two-cent stamps and just about every stamp made during post war boom in the '40s.

But the \$5 stamp issued until 1956 is worth about \$125. Although it isn't a rare stamp, it's tough to obtain because it forms the cornerstone of many collections which focus on stamps printed during the 20th century in America, according to Durham.

When investing in stamps, such activities as the centering of the stamp and the absence or presence of hinge marks should be considered.

In the most valuable stamps, the white border around the printed block is of even width. An off center stamp can still be valuable and will appreciate in worth but it will usually draw less on the market than a well centered specimen.

Hinge marks are a disturbance in the glue. When the stamp is held up to the light, the glue appears thinner in one spot than the others. This is caused by the use of an adhesive square which affixes the stamp into an album. When the hinge is removed, a mark is left.

THE REMOVAL OF THE paper hinge could inflict damage to the stamp.

But nowadays it isn't unusual to see some less scrupulous collectors and dealers who do not damage stamps, but harm says.

The adding or erasing of cancellation marks is another area of concern for the less than honest dealer.

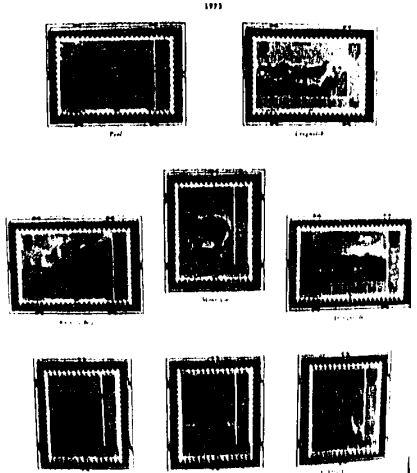
Any competent chemist can do it, said Durham, referring to the removal of cancellation marks.

Some times a stamp is worth more if there is a cancellation mark on it. This is true for stamps which were issued by governments about to fall. If the stamps were released shortly before the government collapsed, almost no one has a chance to use the stamp to send a letter. The uncanceled stamps become common, and the canceled ones become the rarities.

Between 1904-1918 Germany cancelled the Cancellations After 1918 the canceled ones had the least to be collected on page 303.



FIRST DEFINITIVE ISSUE:



These decorative stamps from the Isle of Man are worth about \$100 a book (staff photo)



Richard Durham has found many forms of pleasure in collecting and maintaining multitude of rare and beautiful stamp (staff photo, Bruce Schenker)

## THE INSIDE ANGLE

**DO YOUNG REPUBLICANS DISCO?** Imagine Angle's surprise when it discovered that Detroit Youth Republicans (who give themselves the moniker DYR) are co-sponsoring a singles disco at 9:30 p.m. Friday, April 6, at the Rotsford Inn in Farmington Hills. Infinitely Sound will provide music to imitate John Travolta by from 9:15-11:15 p.m. Admission is \$4 for members and \$5 for non-members. (Angles was relieved to discover that the DYR still has its tie tight in the right place — disco invitations request proper attire.)

**STEPPING FROM disco to art,** IA notes that Farmington's own nationally known potter, John Glick, is the subject of a minute-long television spot for the Michigan Council for the Arts.

**CLARENCEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL** band students are having a rummage and bake sale from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on March 31 at Clarenceville Junior High, 20210 Middlebelt. Weather permitting, a car wash will be part of the Saturday events. Proceeds will go toward helping band students participate in their trip to Mexico City on May 2. Donations can be brought to the junior high school from 2:30-4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 4:30-10 p.m. Fridays. For further information, call Winifred Black 478-8753. (IA wants to know who is the mayor of Clarenceville?)

**THEY'RE NOT HORSEING AROUND** in Farmington Hills. Angles is watching for some new signs to appear around town warning motorists to watch for horseback riders. The diamond shaped signs feature the picture of a woman in traditional riding gear riding a horse.

**SPEAKING OF ROAD SIGNS,** Angles wonders about the children crossing sign in front of East Junior High School. Seems some ambitious, but anonymous, local artist added to the picture of the two children walking to make them look like the Coneheads. (From the south of Farmington, perhaps?)

**CONGRESSMAN WILLIAM BRODHEAD** will be the featured speaker at a Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce breakfast meeting at 8 a.m. Monday, April 16, in the Rotford Inn. The meeting will kick off a Chamber program for the year.

**THE RED CROSS BLOODMOBILE** will be at Farmington High School, 33000 Shawansee, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 4. For an appointment, call 474-6156 during blood drive hours.

**THE FINNISH CULTURAL CENTER OF FARMINGTON** Hills, in cooperation with the Oakland County Heart Unit, will offer free blood pressure readings at the center, 35200 W.

Eight Mile Rd., west of Farmington Road. Blood pressure readings will be given from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. on April 4, 11 and 25. For further information, call the Michigan Heart Association, 557-8500, or the Finnish Cultural Center at 478-0039.

**A WORKSHOP TO TRAIN** volunteer reading tutors will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, April 7. Learn to teach adults to read and write. The Detroit Literary Coalition will be training volunteers in the Lunsbach method of tutoring. It is a one-to-one method designed specifically for adult students and non-professional adult tutors. Tutors will be working in cooperation with the Detroit Public Library. The training workshop will be conducted at the main branch of the Detroit Public Library on Woodward, across the street from the Detroit Institute of Arts. The workshop costs \$13. For further information, call 833-9107.

**BONNIE SHUSTER**, daughter of Mrs. Ione E. Shuster, 32400 Dearborn, Farmington, is one of five graduate students of Syracuse University's Maxwell School who have been selected by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management to participate in one of the federal government's most prestigious internship programs, the Presidential Management Intern Program. A 1977 graduate from the University of Colorado at Boulder, Colo., Ms. Shuster majored in English and economics. She was a researcher with a private consultant to the Colorado Department of Corrections.

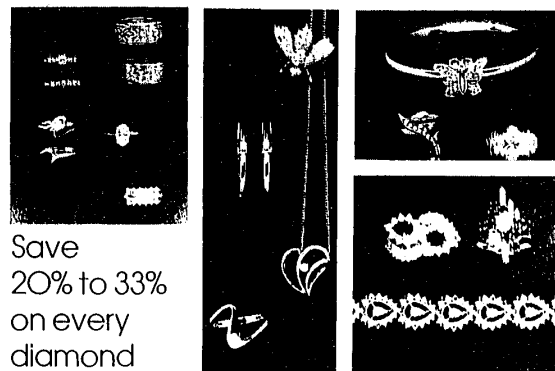
**ANGLES IS SMILING** over the progress of Wendy Williams and company at Farmington High School. As you remember, Ms. Williams figured her senior class ought to have a class play. So, on her own, she rounded up 18 actors and various technical crewmembers to put on a "Salto of Romance and Jollity."

Ms. Williams and friends were almost called to a halt by the hills connected with producing a play. Costumes, it seems, would cost about \$400. Thanks to Hope Nastail and the Farmington Players, the fledgling troupe will be able to secure the costumes for \$100. Quite a savings. Now, all the troupe needs is a helping hand with the \$300 bill for renting the school auditorium. They expect to have their building permit soon to stage rehearsals. Angles wonders if anyone out there would like to kick in a few bucks to help the ambitious students. Patrons of the arts should call IA at 477-5452.

### DEADLINES

Material should be sent to Inside Angle, 23302 Farmington Rd., Farmington 48024. Include name and phone number of the sender and allow at least two weeks before publication. Typewritten notices are always appreciated.

## Hudson's Semi-annual Diamond Sale:



Save 20% to 33% on every diamond in our collection

It's a brilliant look by recognizing what you own. Hudson's collection of diamonds and other precious stones of fabulous designs, including old fashioned, vintage, pearls, diamonds, rubies, sapphires, emeralds, and more. Some are set with natural rubies, emeralds, or sapphires. Save through April 7, in Fine Jewelry. Selection will vary by store. And be sure to ask about our convenient credit plan.

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