



Carl Miller • Susan B. Anthony  
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Puzzling stamps from Togo • Canada Map Stamp  
S.S. Michigan • My Family's Stamp  
Local Advertising Covers

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Editor: Fred Haynes (fredmhaynes55@gmail.com)

The Rochester Philatelic Association, PO Box 10206 Brighton Station, Rochester, NY 14610 <http://www.rpastamps.org>

## Carl Miller

April 15, 1945  
- August 14, 2020



Lifetime RPA member and club officer Carl Miller passed away in August. Carl was a regular fixture at most RPA meetings and events for three decades. His infectious smile and persistent can do attitude will be missed by his family and friends. He is survived by his 4 children, a step-daughter, 9 grandchildren, 5 great-grandchildren, his sister Carol, his ex-wife Stephany, and a long list of philatelic friends.

After serving in the Navy aboard the USS America aircraft carrier, Carl became a field operator for RGE, ultimately specializing in underground cable repair. But Carl was also one of those tireless workers who took to the field to help restore power after a winter storm. Oh could he tell stories about the blizzard of 1984 or the ice storm in 1991.



**Carl Miller enjoyed life, and in doing so, he helped the rest of us enjoy life, too.** On the left, Carl wore Christmas lights in his beard the Tuesday before Christmas in 2016 to the weekly lunch "meeting" some of us attend at the Morningstar restaurant (*photo by Ada Prill*). On the right, Carl dressed as a railroad engineer and brought his train set to ROPEX 2019 when we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad (*photo by Fred Haynes*).

*continued on page 6 (see Carl Miller)*

## Stamping on Susan B. by Michael J. Nighan

For 173 years notable Americans have had their faces plastered on a US postage stamp. Considering that February 15 was Susan B. Anthony's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday, it's surprising to note that the USPS failed to issue a stamp in her honor, even though stamps are being bestowed on lesser luminaries such as Arnold Palmer and Bugs Bunny. Perhaps they took the view that the "Women Vote"

stamp, commemorating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ratification of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment, is sufficient and that it would be redundant to honor both the amendment and the woman who pushed for its passage for over 50 years.



But it wasn't that way back in 1936.

In the nine decades after America's first postage stamp was issued, the only women who had made an appearance on those little bits of sticky paper had been Martha Washington, Pocahontas, "Whistler's Mother" and Queen Isabella. Not until 1936 did the Post Office finally recognize a woman for what she had accomplished, rather than simply for being famous.

After years of fruitless lobbying by women's groups for a Susan B. Anthony stamp, in July 1936 Postmaster General Farley suddenly announced the August 26<sup>th</sup> issuance of a three

*continued on page 3 (see Susan B. Anthony)*

## Upcoming RPA Meetings

This section usually contains a schedule of upcoming meetings with program information where it is known. For now, the message remains short and painfully simple. **RPA regrets that we are not able to start our fall schedule (twice/month meetings) in September and that we remain uncertain when we can meet again.** A notification will be sent to members as soon as we are able to schedule a fall or winter meeting.

**Editor's Note:** *It may be uncertain when we can meet again to share our common passion for philately, but one thing is certain. The next Hinges and Tongs will be in November. We typically share our summer philatelic fun at our first fall meeting. Perhaps that can happen, but it is also possible to share it in the newsletter. Just send me a quick note, with a picture if appropriate, and I will make sure to get your news into the November newsletter. You will see some news from your RPA colleagues in this issue. I hope to hear from many of you.*

## RPA News: Another Lifetime Member

Congratulations to Dave Roehrig, who became our newest Life Member in 2020. Dave reached the 25 year milestone for having joined our club in 1995. As a coincidence, he brings our total count of life members to 25. Stamp collecting is clearly a lifetime hobby. Dave was club treasurer from 1996-2000 and has been a great help during ROPEX setup and take-down over the past two and a half decades. Congratulate him the next time you see him.



**Dave Roehrig, our newest RPA Lifetime Member:** Whether setting up frames at ROPEX or helping at our June strawberry night, Dave is always first to lend a hand to our activities. I guess Dave likes that hat!

## What is Going On?

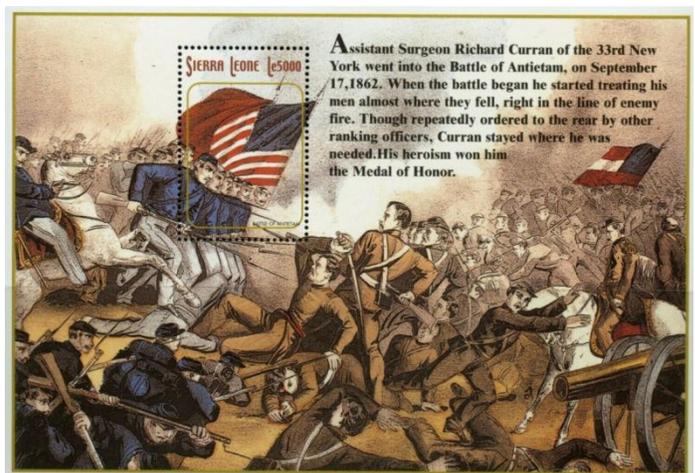
by David Farnsworth

Is the stamp below depicting a new game called "Vibrate the Table"? Are the people preparing for an invasion from a neighboring country or their own government? Is the table moving because they are scared and trembling? The image below has the country's name and a translation in English of the message masked with two white rectangles.

*see the unmasked stamp on page 3*



**This month's stamp quiz:** Can you name an Irish born Rochesterian who won the Medal of Honor for heroic medical service during the battle of Antietam, opened a pharmacy, represented the region in the NY State legislature, and served as Rochester mayor in the last decade of the 19<sup>th</sup> century? Oh, and by the way, his is depicted on a postage stamp from Sierra Leone.

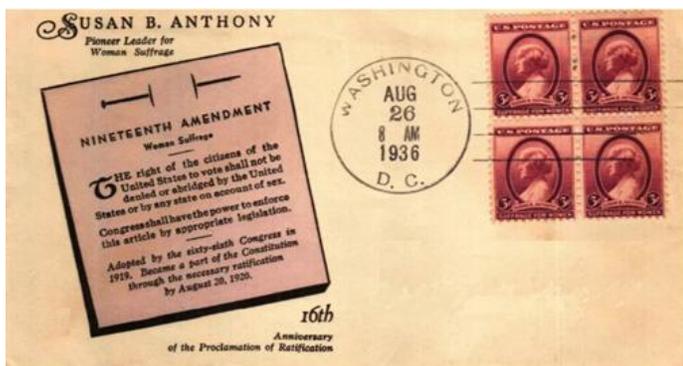


**Sierra Leone Scott #2477 (issued August 27, 2001)**

## Susan B. Anthony (continued from page 1)

cent stamp to jointly honor Anthony while commemorating women's suffrage. Given that Franklin Roosevelt was running for re-election that year, and given that 16<sup>th</sup> anniversaries are seldom subjects for commemoration (The 19<sup>th</sup>. Amendment had been ratified in 1920), there was probably some validity to the claim that this was a cynical political move.

The Rochester Rotary and the local chapter of the League of Women Voters immediately contacted Farley, staking out Rochester's claim to First Day honors by virtue of the fact that Anthony's entire career working for women's suffrage had been spent here. But Rochester was informed that they were out of luck as the stamp would be issued in Washington, DC, the rationale being that the nation's capitol, where the 19<sup>th</sup>. Amendment had been ratified, was the more appropriate city.



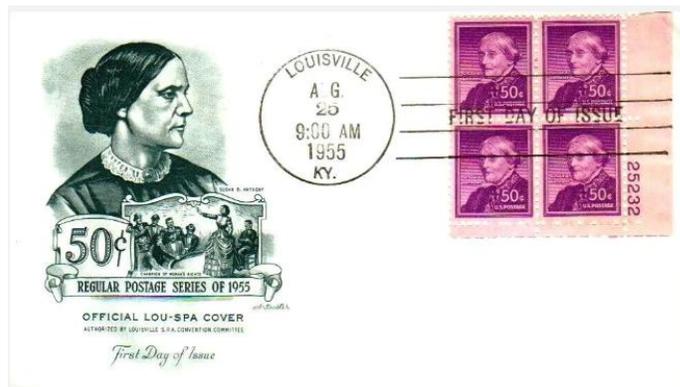
First Day cover from the 1936 3 cent Susan B. Anthony stamp.

When the Rochester post office opened on August 27, hundreds of Anthony stamp buyers were lined up. By the end of the day 60,000 stamps had been sold. Impressive, but a let down for William Hunt, Rochester's postmaster, who had initially ordered 600,000 stamps, later adding another 400,000 fearing that he wouldn't be able to meet the demand!

Then, in 1955 Rochester got a second shot at philatelic glory when it was announced that Susan B. Anthony would appear on the 50 cent issue of the "Liberty Series". (1)

This time a local congressman, Harold Ostertag, contacted the Postmaster General requesting First Day honors for Rochester on the grounds that, "Many, if not most of the events which projected Miss Anthony into fame took place in Rochester, NY." This time Rochester lost out to Louisville, KY, for the flabbergasting reason that the Society of

Philatelic Americans were meeting there! (The claim that the issue date of August 25 commemorated the meeting between Anthony and President Theodore Roosevelt overlooked the fact that the meeting took place on November 15.)



1955 Susan B. Anthony First Day of Issue Cover

So, for almost seven decades the Post Office has continued to stamp ON, rather than issue a stamp FOR, Susan B. Anthony even though over 200 stamps honoring specific women and commemorating women's rights events have been issued during that time. This includes four more stamps dealing with the 19<sup>th</sup>. Amendment.

*ABOUT THE AUTHOR:* Retired from a far-too-lengthy career in the arcane field of telecommunications regulation, and sadly, a lapsed stamp collector for the past 50 years, Michael Nighan now spends his time researching and writing on local history and bemoaning the numerous home and abroad trips he and his partner Judy have had to cancel during COVID Days. The full-length version of this story, and other interesting articles by several writers, can be found on the Talker of the Town blog site:

<https://talkerofthetown.com/2020/07/24/stamping-on-rochester-and-susan-b/>

Did you recognize the stamp on Page 2?



Now you know what to do in case the earth moves!



**To the editor:**

I enjoy the web pages published by the Rochester Philatelic Association (RPA) and in particular, the member presentations, exhibits, and articles and the club newsletter.. For myself, and given my own collecting interests, Bob Lighthouse's "The 1898 Canadian Map Stamp- Printing and Varieties" stands out.

The current postings have proven an invaluable source along with other sources in my own collection and studying of Canada's Imperial Penny Postage. One of my more recent acquisitions is the 'RPO' cancelled version (to the right) of which the Lighthouse collection has several although they are not documented as such.



As well, I appreciate that the most recent publication of the RPA's 'Hinges and Tongs' was made available to the general public as it made for a good Sunday-morning read. From the pages, I noted the recent bidding success and acquisition of a large block of our favorite "map stamp" by Mr Lighthouse and I say congratulations! It is a visually attractive block; thanks for sharing! From my own collection, the largest block is this Plate 3 block of 10.



**By Vince Chermishnok**

**Nadadouro, Portugal**

**Editor's Note:** Our webpage continues to draw global interest. The last 100 unique visits have come from 4 continents and 12 different countries. In the past month, the site has been visited by 187 different folks.

**Puzzling Stamps by David Farnsworth**

The message or purpose of most postage stamps is obvious – some famous person is shown, a Red Cross or Red Crescent is displayed, or Olympic rings appear. I have always liked stamps whose meaning is not clear without a great deal of closer inspection. Any stamp has unknown features, but some stamps require an explanation to have even a superficial idea about the reason it was issued.



These two stamps appear to depict the wreckage of a small airplane in an otherwise undisturbed area, which might be a courtyard. The text indicates they are Republic of Togo stamps from 1984, and they mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of an attack (*attentat*) at Sarakawa (January 24, 1974). That does not describe how the plane, if it is a plane, ended up on the ground. The plane might be a fighter plane of an enemy or maybe it is a Togolese plane with some story. The event is not identified except for the date and place, which is the village Sarakawa in Togo. The information being delivered is a mystery, which makes these stamps fit my criterion. Perhaps the pictured event is well known in Togo and no textual explanation is required. But, what is going on?

The two Togo stamps Togo Scott Numbers 1178–1179, were issued January 24, 1984, ten years to the day after a Togo Air Force transport plane that had many politicians aboard crashed. Among the survivors was the President of Togo, Gnassingbé Evadéma. He claimed that it was an assassination attempt and he was the only survivor, both of which may not be true. Evadéma said that it was his mystical powers that saved him and declared a recurring national holiday to celebrate. He was president from 1967 until he died in 2005. His son Faure Gnassingbé became president in 2005 and is president to this day.

Togo also issued a set of stamps on January 24, 1976 (Scott 922-923), to commemorate the crash and the president being miraculously unscathed.

And now, you know “the rest of the story”.

## S.S. Michigan by Larry Rausch

*S.S. Michigan*

The cover shown below has my favorite cancellation -- a "Wheel of Fortune". This cover represents the only known cover from Norris City, Illinois using this cancellation. That fact may not be too far-fetched as the town only had 40 residents in 1880. With this low population, the number of surviving postal used covers would probably be small.



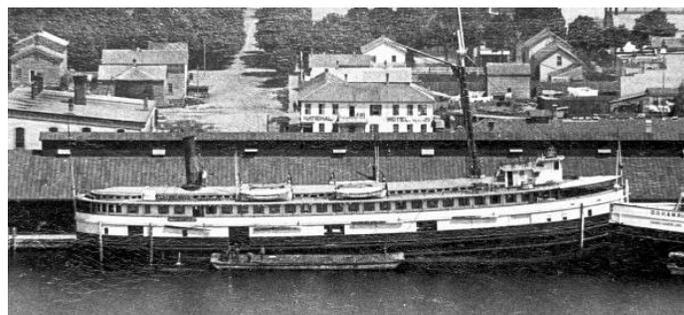
What also intrigued me was the marking on the lower left of the cover indicating it traveled part way to its destination of Erie PA on the ship S.S. Michigan.

The **S.S. Michigan** (above right) was built by the Detroit Dry Dock Company in 1881 as a passenger steamship measuring 204 feet by 35 feet to transport passengers across the Great Lakes. At the time of her construction, she was one of the most advanced steamships on the Great Lakes.. In February 1885, while on a rescue mission to save her ice trapped sister ship, The Wisconsin, The Michigan became entrapped in an ice pack.

The tugboat, Arctic, arrived as a last effort to save The Michigan only to be trapped as well. Later that evening as water seeped into the Michigan its captain ordered the crew to abandon ship. All the crew, now safely on the tugboat Arctic, watched as the Michigan slipped under the ice. As conditions improved, the tug was able to free itself.

Now jump ahead in time to 2005. The Michigan Shipwreck Research Association located the S.S. Michigan wreck in 270 feet of water 12 miles off Holland, Michigan. She lies upright on the bottom and you can view her video on the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Gf200xHARE>



The S.S. Michigan before it sank in 1885.

## My Family's Stamp by Kelly Armstrong



Our family has a micro brewery business in Astoria, Oregon. My wife and I are part owners. Our youngest son is the president and our son in law is the CEO. We received some official information a few weeks ago and one of the stamps on the attached image was used on the envelope. I contacted our son and asked if he could send me one that was mint. David never does things small, he sent me a whole sheet of Buoy Beer stamps.



Four Buoy Beer stamps from a sheet of 24

Buoy Beer Company is a mid-size micro brewery located in beautiful Astoria, Oregon. Buoy just celebrated their 5th year in business. The brewery is located inside a former fish cannery right on the Columbia River. They bottle and can their beer and distribute in Oregon and Washington state. They also have a tap room and full line restaurant. The beers range from light ales to darks. Lagers and IPA's are the most popular. My favorite is Dunkel which is a Lager. In non-Covid times, they employed around 100 people. The food there is excellent and of course the beer is delightful. The Buoy Beer stamps are a great and inexpensive marketing tool. I plan on framing my sheet and hanging them on my office wall.

## Carl Miller (continued from page 1)

Carl Miller's philatelic interests revolved around topical collecting, but with incredible diversity. His most extensive topic, and the one he was most proud of, was his collection of Pierre de Coubertin. Carl did not collect all Olympic stamps, just stamps and covers featuring the founder of the modern International Olympic movement. With each new issue Carl was immediately active on E-bay looking for dealers with stamps or covers.

Carl was a proud American and that entered into his thematic collecting. He loved bald eagles and buffalo, both uniquely symbolic with America, and he jumped on chances to add to his topical collections. He loved trains and incorporated that into his topical stamp collecting. After retiring from RGE, Carl drove a school bus for several years. Naturally, that evolved into yet another topical collection: school buses on stamps. Carl also loved Elvis and his collection of covers from the 1993 US 29 cent stamp was extensive.

What is more, Carl loved to show and share his latest acquisitions. One joy for those of us that joined Carl at the Morningstar Restaurant for lunch each and every Tuesday was wondering what new acquisition Carl would bring to the "meeting". He never disappointed us whether he brought a new stamp or cover or something from his coin collection or ink well/pen collection.

If you attended ROPEX, you met Carl as you entered the venue. He greeted all who attended, explaining the theme for the year and the cachet cover the club had created. Usually he brought a display from his own collection to compliment the club's theme. You could not miss him!

Carl was a good man and an even better friend. He will be truly missed.

by Fred Haynes

### Carl Miller – Democrat and Chronicle Obituary



**Carl Miller at ROPEX:** In 2017, Carl brought his display of old ink pens and ink wells, "the things you needed before the stamp went on". Photos by F. Haynes

## Rochester Advertising Covers by Tom Fortunato

Rochester has always been a "city of business." This was especially true during the city's boomtown period from 1850-1925 when companies large and small transformed the area into New York's third largest metropolis. And with that growth in business came a philatelic barrage of advertising covers. They are colorful, illustrative, educational and just plain fun to look through.

I've compiled over 900 local advertising covers to a site on our club webpage:

<http://www.rpastamps.org/ads/index.html>

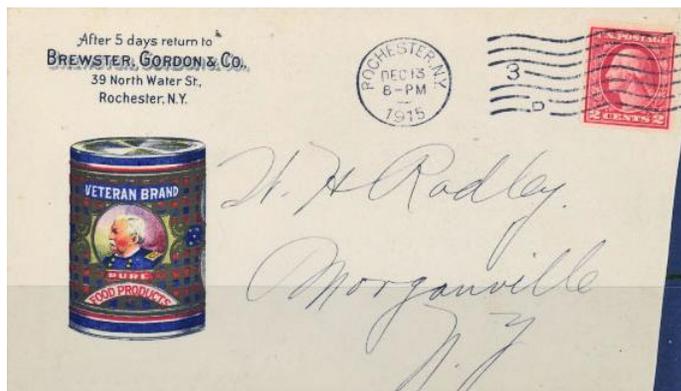
Spend some time and perhaps you will agree that they represent a wonderful way to examine a by-gone era in Rochester's history.

There are also links to presentations on Rochester Trivia Using Advertising Covers and also Rochester Landmark Buildings on this page. Check out the new Rochester Postal History page too.

Just a couple example covers to whet your appetite:



J. Hungerford Smith Co. – soda fountain requisits



Brewster, Gordon & Co. – wholesale grocers