

Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

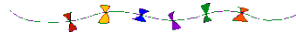


Vol. 81, No. 3, March 2013

Neal E. Danielson
Editor



"Go Fly A Stamp"



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SHAMROCK by Neal E. Danielson



The Shamrock is a three-leaved old white clover. It has been the symbol of Ireland, since the 18th century, as a result of St. Patrick using the shamrock as metaphor for the Christian Trinity (Father, Son and Holy Spirit) according to historical legend. This symbol is similar to the way a rose is used for England, the thistle for Scotland and leek for Wales or the Bald Eagle for the United States. The Shamrock is a registered trademark by the Government of Ireland. Tradition lends itself in many places to be worn on your lapel on St. Patrick's Day. This is the day when people all over the world are Irish for a day!

The Shamrock is also used by and for a number of organizations and events: During the American Civil War it signified the Second Corps of the Army of the Potomac; the flag of Montreal, Quebec, Canada located in the lower right quadrant of the flag, one of the four major ethnic groups that make up the population; it is featured in the Canadian Coat of arms; Soldiers of the Royal Irish Regiment of the British army and on St. Patrick's Day they wear a sprig of shamrock, decreed years ago by Queen Victoria in recognition of fellow Irish soldiers who had fought bravely in the Boer War; Sports groups such as the Irish football club Shamrock Rovers; Danish football club Viborg FF; German football club SpVgg Greuther Fürth; Shaquille O'Neal former NBA player was nicknamed the "Big Shamrock" after joining the Boston Celtics; and in the logo of the House of Pain whose members are American musicians of Irish descent.

The original Irish shamrock is said to be none other than white clover, a common lawn weed originally native to Ireland. It is a vigorous rhizomatous, stem-rooting perennial with trifoliate leaves. Sometimes, a fourth leaflet will appear, making a "four-leaf clover," said to bring good luck to the person who discovers it. The name "Shamrock" has been given to a number of towns throughout the country: Louisiana (has two towns), Arkansas, California, New Mexico, Texas and Missouri to name some.

The town of Shamrock, Missouri is located in Callaway County. The Post Office was established on January 10, 1933 with John M. Crockett as Postmaster, followed by Pearson W. Overley July 9, 1935. The office was discontinued December 2, 1861 and re-established June 4, 1863 due to the American Civil War. Many settlers in the community were of Irish descent. Some have indicated that the Post Office was named for a big rock near the place where the first Post Office was located, which is about two and a half miles east of the present community of Shamrock and some say it was named for the emblem of the Emerald Isle, but has not been verified.

A commercial cover (Figure 1) of Southwestern Bell Telephone, franked with three 1¢ green George Washington Stamps (Scott #804) and tied to the cover with a balloon four-bar cancel postmarked Shamrock MO. Mar 17 1954. The green stamps give the cover a delightful addition along with the Shamrock cachet that included "Shamrock MO." The cover was sent to an individual in Topeka, Kansas.

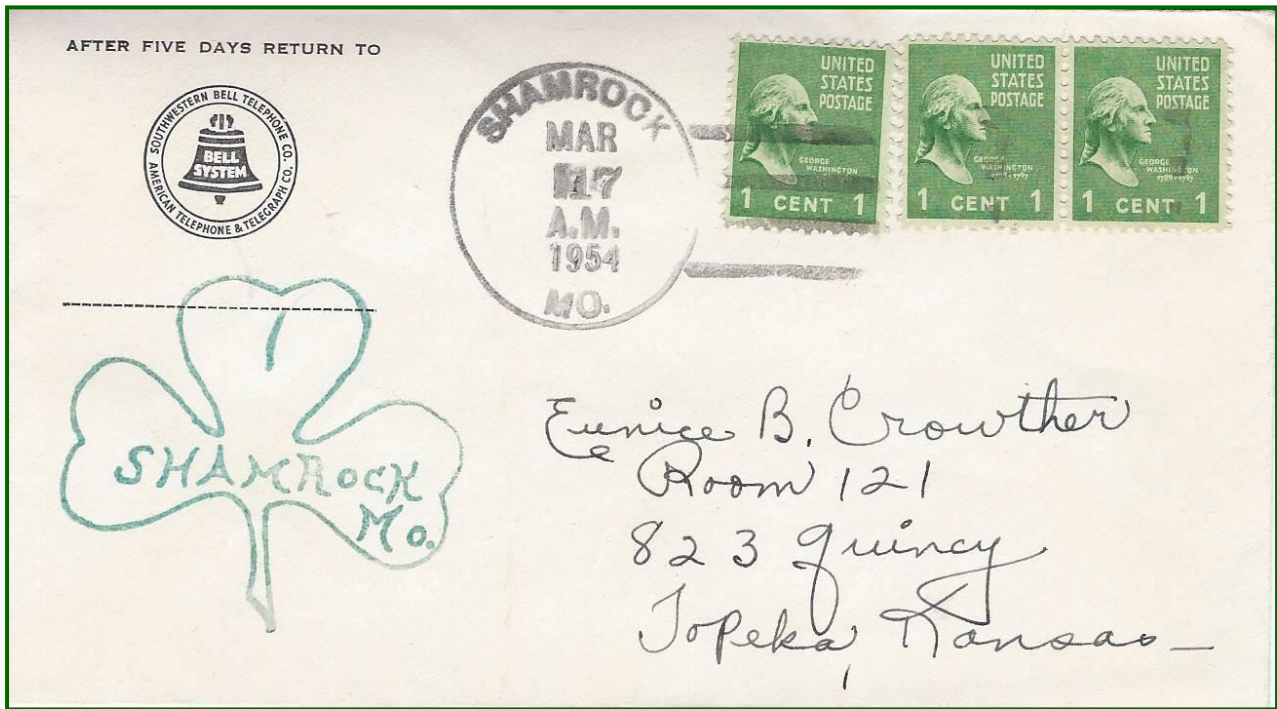


Figure 1-Shamrock, MO commercial cover

References:

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: Shamrock Missouri

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TRAVEL KANSAS—NORTH TO SOUTH—EAST TO WEST by Neal E. Danielson

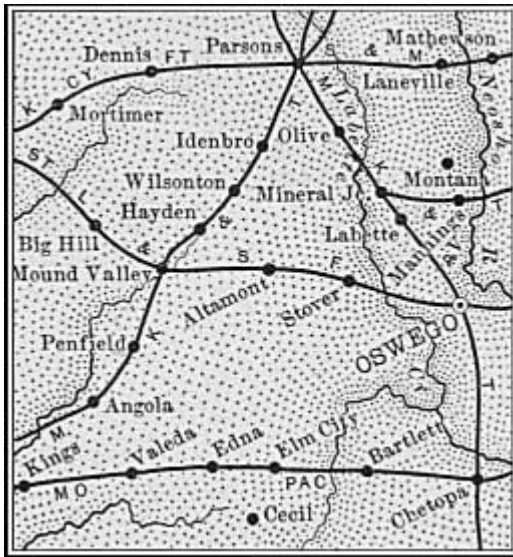


Figure 1--Labette Co. Railroad Map ca1899

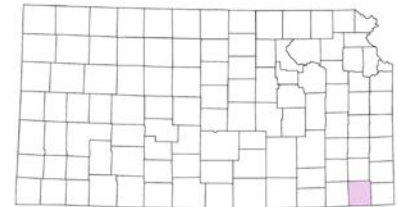


Figure 2--Labette County

Travel Kansas—Valeda, Kansas located in Labette County in the southeastern part of the state, along the border with Oklahoma (Figures 1 & 2). The small community is located on the Missouri Pacific Railroad that transverses the County from east to west along the southern boundary of the County, just a short distance east of Coffeyville in Montgomery County. The County of Labette was named for the Kiowa Indians. Oswego is the County Seat which lies on the eastern part of the County.

This part of the State was known during the Territorial days as Osage ceded lands. Initially the Counties of Neosho north of Labette and Labette Counties were known as Dorn County, in honor of an Indian Agent for the Osages and other tribes from 1857 to 1867 by the name of A. J. Dorn, but politically it was not a favorable name and was soon changed to Neosho.

The large County soon became split by the north being controlled under political influence resulting in the southern part to become an agitation to the north in 1866. This brought about a major divide in the County and on February 7, 1867 the Legislature passed an act, signed by the Governor organizing Labette County, which was followed by an act defining the boundaries of the two Counties on February 26, 1867.

Labette County paid close attention to the intelligence and progressive spirit of the inhabitants by giving early attention towards establishing schools. As soon as small groups settled in the County a school of some sort was provided to develop the youth.

The first building to be erected was normally the schoolhouse. The first such building was normally made of logs with bare earth as the floor, with rude seats and no desks. There were public schools and subscription schools/ The first districts of 25 was set up in Labette County with the No. 1 being assigned to Oswego the County Seat. Most of the districts were established along streams where the earliest settlements were made. By 1867 some 73 children attended school and 12 years later in 1879 the County had 97 school districts with a student body of 7,273, but it grew to 8,661 student population in 105 organized districts. The small community of Valeda, Kansas even grew to the point that they were able to build a high school, but as with smaller communities in Kansas as time passed the population dwindled due to the job market the schools ends up being closed with students transported to other larger schools. Valeda's High School build still stands (Figure 3) but the student population has gone.



Figure 3--Valeda High School

Valeda's post office initially established in a town called Deerton on August 5, 1881 but on August 3, 1886 it was transferred to Valeda, but it closed on January 12, 1968. Figure 4 is a cover franked with a 5¢ Civil War Battle of the Wilderness Centennial stamp (Scott #1161 issued on May 5, 1964) and tied to the cover with a four-bar circular-date-stamp postmarked from Valeda, KS Jun 24 1965 and sent to an individual in Pittsburg, Kansas which is located Crawford County at the upper right of Labette County.

References:

Blue Skyways website: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/counties>



Figure 4--Cover postmarked from Valeda, KS 1965

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A ROSE BY ANY OTHER NAME by Neal E. Danielson

William Shakespeare's in his play *Romeo and Juliet*, gave us this line, when Juliet says ".....what's in a name? that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.....", came to mind as I found this event cover (Figure 1) from the American Rose Society National Convention held in Pasadena, California, April 25, 26, 27, 1940. As well as the Annual Rose Bowl and Parade on New Year's Day also held in Pasadena, California. The cover is franked with a 3¢ James Russell Lowell stamp from the American Poets issue on February 20, 1940 (Scott #866) and tied to the cover with a seven-wavy-line circular-date-stamp and postmarked from Pasadena, Calif. on Apr 26 1940.



Figure 2--American Rose

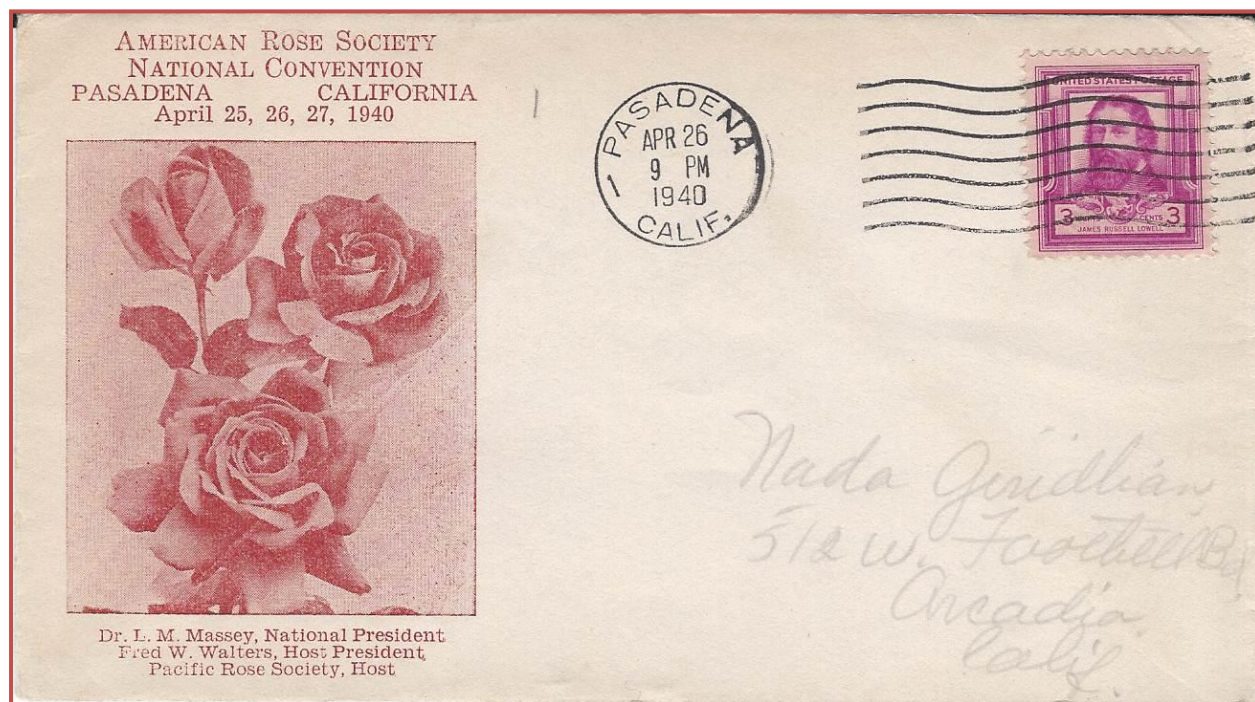


Figure 1--American Rose Society Event Cover

As noted, Dr. L. M. Massey was National President of the American Rose Society. He was a very active member of the Society over the years as well as his volunteer service in the community and politically. The American Rose Society was originally founded in 1892 and is the oldest horticultural society for one specific plant, the Rose, in America. The Society is dedicated exclusively to the cultivation and enjoyment of roses and provides educational opportunities for its members and others as a nonprofit organization. The Society members are afforded educational programs, resource publications and continuing research and opportunities for rose societies to become affiliated as a national network with 300 current affiliates.

The majorities of its members are home gardeners with interest in growing roses and want to expand their knowledge of rose culture. Just like the philatelic world they have an opportunity to enjoy the thrill of exhibiting their interest, the roses, in competition with other rose-lovers. Above this they have photography contests for participating in rose-related activities. The Society has a set of specific guidelines and standards for judging these competitions. Additional service is provided in workshops, seminars, garden events and rose shows across the United States. They have an award-winning bi-monthly magazine, *American Rose*, devoted to rose culture and roses.

The Society is headquartered on the grounds of the beautiful American Rose Center near Shreveport, Louisiana. The campus of the American Rose Center features more than 20,000 rose bushes that comprise nearly 400 cultivars of modern and old garden roses.

The Mission Statement of the American Rose Society states: “The American Rose Society exists to promote the culture and appreciation of the rose, through education and research, to members, to local rose societies and their members, and to the public.”

The Vision Statement of the Society states: “The rose is America’s national Floral Emblem. We aspire to be the nation’s best source for information, research and education about the rose for our members and for the general public. We will share this information through a website, a national network of Consulting Rosarians, and rose shows and non-competitive rose exhibitions open to the general public.” The Rose has become America’s Flower (Figure 2) as a result of the Societies efforts.

On November 20, 1986 the American Rose Society was present when President Ronald Regan, signed a Proclamation 5574 declaring the Rose to be The National Floral Emblem of the United States of America (Figure 3). This proclamation gave the Rose its place among the beloved patriotic symbols of our nation, such as the American Flag; the Great Seal including the U. S. Motto; the Bald Eagle; the National Anthem; the official March, and the National Tree, the Oak.



Figure 3--President Regan signing Proclamation

References:

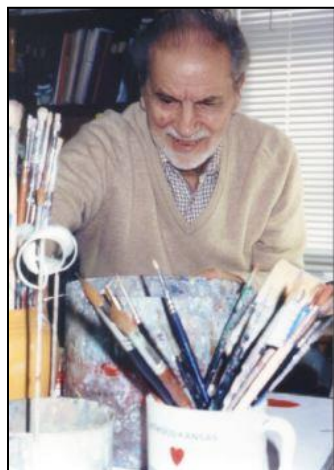
American Rose Society website

Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: American Rose Society and Shakespeare quote

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A KANSAS STAMP DESIGNER by Jeff Lough



Wendelin & His Brushes

Rudolph A. Wendelin was born in Herndon, Kansas February 27, 1910 and grew up in Ludell, Kansas. Both of these small northwest Kansas communities were in Rawlins County. After attending the KU School of Architecture he attended art schools in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Washington, D. C.

In 1933 Mr. Wendelin was employed by the U. S. Forest Service as a draftsman and illustrator. He also served with the “Division of Engineering” and the U. S. Naval Intelligence Department before returning to the Forest Service after WWII. There was a period of time that Wendelin was the art consultant and caretaker of Smokey the Bear’s image.

Rudolph Wendelin designed five U. S. Post Office Department stamps. They were the 1958 Forest Conservation Stamp (Scott #1122); the '61 Range Conservation Stamp (Scott #1176); the '64 John Muir Commemorative (Scott #1245); the '69 John Wesley Powell Stamp (Scott #1374); and the Smokey the Bear Stamp in 1984 (Scott #2096). He also co-designed the '60 Fifth World Forestry Congress Stamp. His contribution was the graphics illustrating the multiple use of forestry. Many of Mr. Wendelin’s Smokey the Bear designs have been incorporated into three dimensional objects and many illustrations and objects are for sale on eBay. Rudolph Wendelin passed away in 2000 at the age of 90.



Scott #1176



Scott #1374



Scott #1245



Scott #1122



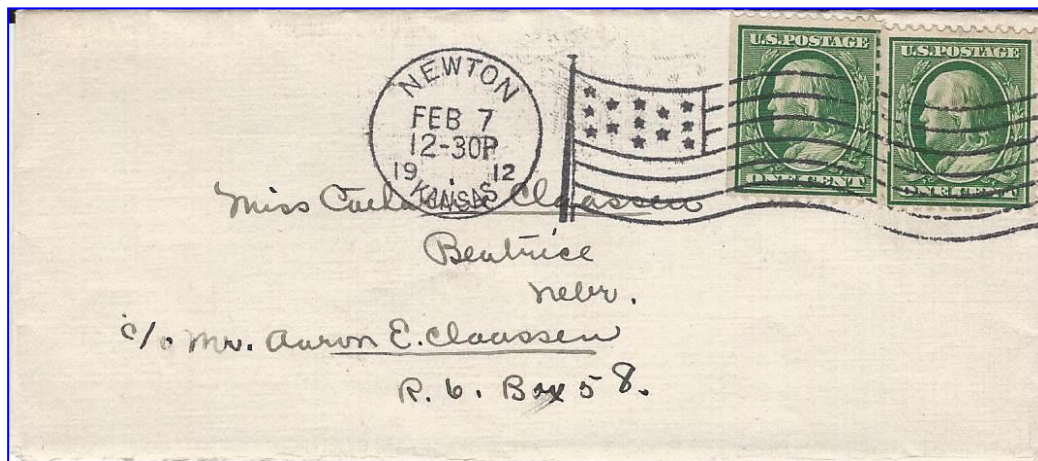
Scott #2096

DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF by Neal E. Danielson

This is the 42nd in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

This small cover comes to us from just north of Wichita in Newton, Kansas. The small cover measures 5 6/16 x 2 6/16 inches and is franked with two one cent Benjamin Franklin stamps (Scott #374) and tied to the cover with a seven-wavy-line flag cancel with a CDS postmarked Feb 7 1912 Newton Kansas. The small cover was sent to a young lady in Beatrice Nebr. The back of the cover has S.W.A.K. (sealed with a kiss).

The Newton Post Office was originally established in Sedgwick County June 6, 1871 and became part of Harvey County when it was established February 29, 1872, even though it was settled as early as 1869. Harvey County was named for James M. Harvey, then Governor of Kansas. Beatrice is located in Gage County, Nebraska at the point where the DeRoin Trail crossed the Big Blue River in southeast of Nebraska.



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