

The PhilateliKid

The newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids (SCCFK)

Collect Stamps (The Most Educational Hobby)

www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org

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Hurricane Lane

Hurricane Lane passed through the Hawaiian Islands from Wednesday, August 23, 2018 to Saturday August 25, 2018. Most of the damage occurred on the southernmost island, the “Big” Island of Hawaii. The next island in the chain is Maui, where I live. It got hit pretty hard also, but the area on Maui where we live is somewhat sheltered from the storm and we did not experience any damage at all. When hurricanes hit, one of the frequent occurrences is the fact that trees or tree limbs fall onto power lines, thus cutting off electricity to whole communities. We were lucky that we did not experience any power outages where we live, nor did we have any interruption of water. That occurs when the water pumping stations lose electrical power.

In preparing for this hurricane, which is only the 6th Level 5 hurricane in the Central Pacific

since recordkeeping began, we stocked up on drinking water, canned foods, flashlight batteries, etc. All the public schools were closed, and even the University of Hawaii Maui Campus, where I teach, was closed.

Gas stations ran out of gas as people filled their tanks, not knowing when the next opportunity might be, and grocery store shelves were bare. The post office closed and sealed off the drop box for mail

being dropped off. Even if a person went to the post office, which was closed, there was no way to leave any mail at the post office.

The main Post Office Building in New York City occupies an entire city block. Along the front of the building are carved these words (running the entire length of the block):

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds.



In 1912, a building then called the General Post Office Building (since renamed the James A. Farley Post Office Building) was constructed in what would later become ZIP code 10001. Smack in the center of Manhattan, the grand building was built right across from Penn Station and Madison Square Garden. It had prime real estate and a profile to match—white columns, a grandiose reception hall, and even a dry moat around it to light up its gigantic basement.

It also had an architect with a taste for classical flair. William Mitchell Kendall designed other column-studded sites like the Manhattan Municipal Building and the Arlington Memorial Bridge. Kendall, whose dad was a classics scholar, also loved the words of the

ancients as much as their columns. So when he designed the post office, he decided to inscribe it with a phrase by Herodotus, the Greek scholar sometimes known as the father of history.

Kendall modified a translation of Herodotus's work by George Herbert Palmer, a professor at Harvard and a preeminent classicist, for the building. The line was written by Herodotus in paragraph 98, book eight of his book *The Persian Wars*, which recounts the history of a war that took place between the Greeks and the Persian Empire from 499 to 479 BCE (the exact time period of the war is disputed).

Although the phrase has never been the Official Motto of the USPS, maybe it should be modified slightly to say:

Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds, but if it is a hurricane, then that is a different matter altogether.

Stamp Show in Columbus Ohio - Power Point Presentation

I gave an hour-long presentation on August 9th at the Columbus Stamp Show on the topic of How to Establish and Successfully Run a Stamp Collecting Club for Kids. It was well attended, but sadly, none of the APS Board members who were present in Columbus (19, I believe) attended even a few minutes of the presentation. A few hours later, one of the Board members approached me, as I was volunteering in the Youth Area, and tried to explain how busy the Board members were, and that it was wrong for me to be "angry" that none of the Board members attended. Whereupon I corrected the Board member (who was loudly berating me) and informed him that I was not "angry," I was "disappointed." During the 20 minute conversation, I pointed out how actions speak louder to me than words, and that we each have only the same number of minutes in a day, and that we have to choose our priorities. The Board members chose other priorities. I expressed my deep concern about the future of our hobby if APS leaders do not realize the extreme importance of developing new stamp collectors, who one day will grow up and become APS members, and that the efforts I have seen so far are not resulting in growing the hobby. Time will tell...

In the meantime, the APS membership numbers continue to steadily spiral downward.

There are approximately 35,593,000 elementary school children in public schools in the United States. If just one tenth of one percent (0.001) of those children were to join the APS, that would amount to an increase of 35,593 members, which would more than double the current membership of 29,706. That is just one out of a thousand kids. The fact is that well over 50 percent (50.0%) of elementary school kids enjoy stamp collecting, and there is also tremendous enthusiasm from Principals, teachers, staff, and parents.

A video of the Power Point Presentation is available on our website (see below.) Just click on the "Starting a SCCFK" button. **Also – try the new game on the website. Fun to do with kids, too.**

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids is a 501(c)(3) organization. Donations are greatly appreciated and if \$10 or more you will be sent a written receipt. You also can donate via PayPal on our website.

Visit our website at www.stampcollectingclubsforkids.org or www.yummystampcollecting.org

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