



Claude C. Ries Chapter # 48 • Newsletter Number 139

October 1, 2006 • Editor: Mike Mendoza



AMERICOVER 2006 has come and gone, and I had a most enjoyable time.

The night before my Wednesday morning flight to Cleveland, I busily baked 6 batches of my taste-tempting chocolate chip cookies, which, in case you don't know, I use primarily for bribing dealers, Cachetmakers, and other members into contributing covers to the AFDCS journal auctions.

My flight was uneventful (thank goodness!). Unfortunately, the man sitting in the window seat of my row talked during the entire 4 1/2 hour flight to the young lady sitting next to him (I sat in the aisle seat). I would have asked him to cease and desist had he been talking to me. But, because the young lady seemed genuinely interested in everything he had to say, and would interject a question when there was an occasional 5 second break of silence, I decided to keep my mouth shut. It's remarkable that I was able to concentrate long enough to read almost 200 pages of my book, "Angels and Demons".

After arriving and retrieving my suitcase from the baggage area, I telephoned Mark Goodson, who had graciously consented to pick me up from the airport. While I waited curbside, the temperature was in the low 90s with very high humidity. Realizing the chocolate chips in the cookies were beginning to melt, I started to feel a bit anxious. Fortunately, Mark, along with Rollin Berger, who did the actual driving, Norm Elrod, and Kurt Laubinger, picked me up a short time

later, after which we all went to eat dinner at Domenico's Steakhouse. No, I didn't eat steak! I did enjoy an outstanding chicken picatta meal with an excellent salad.

I checked into the hotel later that evening and settled into my room for some quiet time, in preparation for the next day's tour of some of the interesting sites in Cleveland. The room suite was very spacious and comfortable, and my chocolate chip cookies found a welcome home in the room's refrigerator.

After eating a scrumptious breakfast with friends the next morning, I gathered the 37 other "tourists" together for our city tour. I had volunteered to act as Tour Leader, not Tour Guide, to take attendance and supervise the on boarding and off boarding of our Trolley "bus".

Our first stop was the Court Building. After going through a lengthy security check (we had to check in our cameras, as none were allowed in the building), we saw a number of murals on the inner walls of some of the lobby rooms. At the same time, a heavy rainstorm moved in. After telephoning the tour driver to pick us up, the rain let up, and we were on our way to an old indoor shopping area. After spending some time there, we were taken to The International Aviation Museum for Women in the Waterfront area. There were a number of interesting displays of women in aviation, like Jackie Cochran and Amelia Earhardt. Some of our "tourists" found some interesting aviation covers in the gift shop. The next part of our tour took us to the University neighborhood of Cleveland, where there is much renovating taking place. While in that area, we ate lunch at the University Inn, also known as Sokolovski's. The food was exceptionally good, and everyone enjoyed the lunch and the conversation. I had my first taste of pierogis, and I'm hooked!

*Continued on page 2*

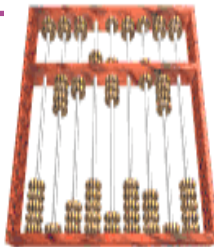


# Editor's Note

Wow! Three more members from our club win awards in the 2005 AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest. Read the article by Michael Litvak. We have another great newsletter thanks to all of you who take the time to contribute. That's what makes it interesting and I know there are many of you that want to contribute but don't take the time to do it. We have many talented members with a lot to share. Also congratulations to Foster Miller and Michael Litvak for the AFDCS Distinguished Service Awards. Read the article by Kathy Clements. The masthead this month is a group photo of our club members in the AFDCS Auction Committee with their special recognition service awards. Read the article by Bonnie Fuson. Thanks for all your input. It's a pleasure and honor to put this newsletter together.

## Circulation Report

Paid Members for 2006	36
Pending Renewals	1
Lifetime Members	3
Honorary	1
Webmaster	1



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After lunch, we returned to the Waterfront area where we disembarked and spent about 3 hours in the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. I was most impressed with the visual and audio presentations, along with the quantity of memorabilia (clothing, contracts, records, musical instruments, photos, etc.) from all of the musical groups and individuals featured in the many displays.

After returning to the hotel, I ate a small meal, and proceeded to the Executive Committee meeting to take care of some important society matters. After the meeting, I spent most of the rest of the evening chatting with friends and fellow Ries Chapter members, Bonnie, Via, Dave, John, Foster, and Mark.

The next morning, I attended the annual breakfast meeting for the officers of the American Ceremony Program Society. After we finished, the convention officially opened at 10:00 A.M. I went to my room where I grabbed one bag of my cookies from the refrigerator, then proceeded to the dealers' bourse to secure some auction donations. An hour later, I joined the crowd in the hotel Atrium for the First Day Ceremony for the Antique Clock. I spent the rest of the day attending seminars and, once again, chatting with friends.

The President's Awards Banquet was the highlight of the evening. Steve Ripley, Betty Buchanan, and I once again took care of the 50-50 raffle. After Chris made some important announcements, we dug into our dinner. After dinner, we were treated to the annual presentation of the Cachetmakers' Contest Awards. Several Ries Chapter members were recipients of a significant number of this year's awards. Please read more about this in the separate article found elsewhere in this newsletter.

The real surprise of the evening came when Dave presented a special framed cover he designed for his mother for her 80th birthday. After we all sang "Happy Birthday", we enjoyed a second dessert, a piece of the special birthday cake he ordered for his mom.

I started Saturday morning with another hearty breakfast, after which I attended the AFDCS Business Meeting. After the meeting, I volunteered my services at the AFDCS Youth Area. Lee Taylor did a wonderful job of coordinating the area for this year's convention. Her daughter spent much of her time there show young and old attendees the art of making a First Day Cover on the computer. For the rest of the day, I was busy with the ACPS meeting and auction. A few of us got together for another tasty meal, this time at a nearby seafood grill. When we returned to the hotel, I picked up another bag of cookies and proceeded to obtain more auction donations from the Cachetmakers at the Cachetmakers Midnight Bourse. My good friends, Dave Rosenthal and Dick Monty, ably assisted me in this endeavor. The Cachetmakers were quite generous with their donations, and you will see all of their contributions in the April, 2007 auction in FIRST DAYS.

After breakfast on Sunday, I attended the AFDCS General Meeting, where a question and answer session elicited much discussion about AFDCS affairs and the convention. Later in the meeting, Chris Lazaroff presented the annual Special Recognition and Distinguished Service awards. The AFDCS

## SESCAL ALERT

On Sunday, October 15th at 1 P. M. the chapter will have its regular LAX meeting at the Radisson Hotel.

The Ries Chapter is honored and pleased to invite you to join us for cake and punch in honor of our elder statesman, Frederick Langford, who will celebrate his 90th birthday later in the month. Frederick has been a stamp collector for 80 years. In addition to the usual business and cover drawing, member Bob Lewin will give a talk, "The Art of Washing Covers."

At the end of the show, we will help take down the exhibit frames and then proceed on to the California Pizza Kitchen at 3280 N. Sepulveda Blvd. in Manhattan Beach. From the hotel go South down Sepulveda Boulevard past Rosecrans and turn left into Manhattan Village shopping center.

*Continued from page 2 (Litvak's Latherings)*

Auction Committee was one of the recipients of a Special Recognition award. Two Distinguished Service Awards were presented this year, one to Foster Miller and the other to me. You may read more about these award presentations in another separate article found elsewhere in this newsletter.

After the meeting, I took the last of my cookies into the dealers' bourse and was able to obtain several more donations for the journal auction. I was also able to acquire a number of items for my collections of House of Farnam covers, stamp show labels, ceremony programs, and EFOs.

On that Sunday evening, I joined over 30 other convention attendees (including Bonnie and Via) on another tour of Cleveland, followed by another delicious meal, this time at a restaurant in Little Italy.

Interestingly, during the convention, Bonnie, Via, and I discovered that we had separately booked the same return flight on Monday to LAX. So, the next day, the three of us rode the same hotel shuttle to the Cleveland Airport, hung out together waiting for our flight, and enjoyed another uneventful trip back to Southern California.

If you have never attended an AMERICOVER convention, you are certainly missing a wonderful experience. By the way, rumor has it that the convention will probably be coming to the San Diego area in 2008. You shouldn't have any excuse for not attending that convention, what with it being in our own "backyard".



## CLUB FUND RAISING

We need a volunteer to list and manage eBay sales for the Chapter as Rick Range is no longer able to provide this most valuable service for us.

We still need your handmade limited edition covers though. We can also use any donations of extra philatelic stuff you might have around the house that you don't really want any more. Please send your donations to our president Michael Litvak.

## PLANTY'S BEST CACHETS

(First in a Series)

By Robert S. Lewin

A few weeks ago I loaned my copy of Professor Earl Planty's original Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers to Mike Litvak. When Mike returned it to me, he commented that he had no idea there was so much information contained in Planty's comments, which unfortunately have not been included in the current version printed by Mike Mellone. It struck me that, if a collector as prominent and knowledgeable as Mike was unaware of the valuable comments made by Dr. Planty, it was likely that many more would also be in the dark. Apparently lost is not only the richness provided by these comments, but also lost is any mention of all of the "best" cachets selected by Dr. Planty. This series of articles is my attempt to help educate our readers, and hopefully bring to light these magnificent covers for all to enjoy.

Dr. Earl Planty graduated from Harvard, obtained his master's degree from Columbia, and his Ph.D. from Cornell. He was nationally known as an educator, philatelist and author. His monumental work, Planty's Photo Encyclopedia of Cacheted First Day Covers, is the bible for First Day Cover collectors, and provided a great impetus to the hobby when it was first published in 1977.

Believing that models for cachets were missing, Dr. Planty left a record throughout his encyclopedia of his own standards of a "good" cachet by designating those cachets that he considered outstanding as one of "Planty's Best Classical Cachets." He did this "to help collectors reach a more fully informed position on quality in cachets, a necessity for intelligent self choice." This series of articles will highlight some of the covers that were crowned as "bests" by the leading authority in our hobby.



Our first cover, shown in Figure 1, is a combination cover for two stamps issued on the same day - Sc 643 and Sc 644 on August 3, 1927. This extraordinary cover was first cancelled in Bennington, VT at 7 a.m. for Sc 643, Vermont's 150th anniversary. It was then carried by hand to Albany, NY

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for the second cancellation by 5 p.m. on Sc 644, honoring the surrender of Gen. John Burgoyne. This was no small feat in 1927, given the nature of the roads and transportation available. It was then delivered, and back stamped, the next morning to Mr. J. R. Gerow, Jr. in Liberty, NY - a most appropriately related cancellation.

Professor Planty comments: "It is a small, primitive cachet, a little bare, undecorated, sparse and even stark, like the times it represents. It is simple, unsophisticated, even a little childish or crude. It portrays a youth of perhaps 12 or 13 years, a drummer boy, wearing high boots, cocked hat, and what looks like a formal wig. His coat is too long, probably a cast-off from an older, adult hero. In all its elements, it suggests the hard days of the revolution. Its naive, awkward simplicity is reminiscent of the unprepared, inexperienced, raw young nation at war with a much stronger power. A prolonged look at the cachet can suggest the pains endured and the pride felt as our nation gained its freedom. This cachet is authentic, real." Wow!



Shown in Figure 2 is our second cover, also for Sc 644, which Planty titles: "Habbert's Brother to the Green Drummer Boy." Only 300 of these covers were made by an Albany stamp dealer, who cancelled 288 of them at Schuylerville, NY where the battle actually occurred, and 12 of them at Bennis Heights, where an earlier skirmish took place. Cancelled at the actual spot of one of the 15 most decisive battles in world history, Planty considers it first or second among his Best Classic Cachets.

We might keep both Viet Nam and Iraq in mind as we read Planty's eloquent comments. "The cachet shows a big and powerful man, an armed (English?) gentleman with long musket, cocked hat, bright red jacket (a Redcoat?) with colorful blue lapels. Imagine any soldier so dressed and standing thus, a conspicuous, bold, inviting target for a sharpshooter's bullet, standing openly, smirking, challenging, disdainfully exposed on a little hill. He looks complacent, over confident. This is no American colonial patriot. Instead it is a misled, misinformed type, who deprecated the American opposition and fought them from traditional, European serried ranks. They misjudged and misunderstood the courage of the small new nation that dared oppose the best of the British regulars. Here this lordly figure represents the invading Army, unknowingly exposed to danger. He was ready to be had by

Continued next column

a lesser, younger, disrespected, rag tag, but well motivated opponent, committed to its cause."

These are just two of the 124 covers designated as the best by Dr. Planty. (This does not include an additional 103 covers by Beazell that Planty also considered among the best classic cachets.) In future articles we will share more of these beautiful cachets. In the meantime, if anyone would like a listing of Planty's Best, an SASE will do wonders.

## CEREMONY INVITATIONS

Ries Chapter members interested in attending local First Day Ceremonies should contact Membership Secretary Kathy Clements no later than six weeks before a ceremony you would like to attend. This way your name can be given to the USPS so you will receive an invitation in a timely manner. The invitation list will be updated for each event.

If you hear of ANY ceremonies, first or second day or otherwise in our local Southern California area, kindly contact Kathy as soon as you know so others can make arrangements to participate if they want. If you have computer access, email the information to the membership at large.

Special thanks goes out to Nancy Ross who is the USPS Lead Events Specialist in Washington, DC. She has been very helpful in seeing that we get invitations to ceremonies in Southern California. She has also seen to it that the "red double-ringed round dater" is at the actual ceremony for our convenience.

If you are interested in attending ceremonies out of the area, please contact Nancy Ross directly at (202)268-3251 or nancy.b.ross@usps.gov. Just tell her you are a Ries member and she will assist you.

## AFDCS Distinguished Service Awards To Ries Chapter Members

By Kathy Clements

The recipients of the 2006 AFDCS Distinguished Service Awards are Foster Miller and Michael Litvak, both Ries Chapter members.

The DSA is given to an AFDCS member who has volunteered his/her lengthy time and efforts at improving the society for the benefit of all of its members. All previous DSA recipients vote upon the award. For some years, the DSA is not presented, as there is no recipient worthy of receiving it.

Foster and Michael received their awards at the August 6 Sunday morning AFDCS General Meeting at AMERICOVER in Independence, OH. They were both humbled and proud to receive the DSA, as it is the highest service award presented by the AFDCS.

The entire Ries Chapter congratulates Foster and Michael, two of our very own, for this distinguished honor and for their service to the AFDCS.



## KIDS ALERT DONATIONS NEEDED

Kathy Clements needs your help. She will be working on a cachet-coloring contest this fall with students at St. Anastasia Catholic School in Westchester. She wants to have a good supply of freebies to hand out to the children. Whatever you can donate will be much appreciated.

We need cut corners, used mixtures, albums, catalogs, covers, and any stamp supplies. Kathy will also take back issues of Scott Stamp Monthly and other publications.

Please bring your donations to SESCAL or the Tuber Fest.



## Special Recognition For The AFDCS Auction Committee

As part of the General Membership Meeting on Sunday morning at AMERICOVER, the Distinguished Service Award and the Glen C. Michel Special Recognition Awards are presented to deserving volunteer members of the AFDCS.

At this year's AMERICOVER in Independence, Ohio, the eight members of the AFDCS Auction Committee were proud recipients of beautifully framed Special Recognition Awards for their tireless volunteer work at producing the two auctions that appear in the April and October issues of **FIRST DAYS**. Part of the framed certificate on the award states "For dedicated outstanding service . . . helping to generate more than \$100,000 in revenue for the Society during the past five years."

All of you should know by now that the Auction Committee is comprised of eight members of your own Ries Chapter. These members are: Dave Bennett, Kathy Clements, Bob Lewin, Michael Litvak, Tina Phillips, George Rost, Shirley Ulling, and Rick Whyte.

Congratulations to the Auction Committee for their efforts, and we hope that all Ries Chapter members show their pride in the committee's work by contributing quality covers to the auction, so that the committee can continue to generate funds to help support the many benefits provided to the members of AFDCS.

## Letters To The Editor

What a nice surprise to hear from you! And, I have to admit to a vicarious thrill thinking about the activities of the Ries Chapter. Mike Litvak and Dave Bennett (although I have had no personal contact with Dave) are hero figures for me.

I note with considerable interest your forthcoming activity with St. Anastasia Catholic School. For several years I have found that elementary school art teachers (1) know nothing of FDCs; (2) are delighted to have a volunteer take over several class sessions. And in regard to the kids, to whom I provide some instruction about first day covers and then some blank envelopes and stamps for them to make their own cachets (which I then get serviced for them), I have found that invariably some covers are produced that are more attractive than about 80 percent of those extant by established Cachetmakers. The hope, of course, is that some of them may one day enter our avocation.

In short: I can think of no activity more laudable than the kind of work (fun) you will be having at St. Anastasia! I will put a small packet of surplus materials in the mail for you to use.

Thanks again, Jay Davis Chapel Hill, NC  
Thanks, Jay, for the two large packages of Showgard Stamp Mounts.  
Kac



## WRITE YOUR OWN ADVERTISING

To all those members who make covers and want to sell them, here is your opportunity for free advertising. Compose your ad. Include a picture of one of your latest covers, if you like. Send it off to Mike Mendoza in time for the Dec. 1, 2006 newsletter.



## Welcome New Members

Welcome new member Ralph Achgill of RKA Covers in Lafayette, Indiana. Delighted to have you in our group. When I mailed out the last newsletter, I decided on the spur of the moment to go through First Days and send Ries' Pieces to everyone who had an email address. I received some nice responses. The best is printed for your enjoyment in the new column Letters To The Editor.

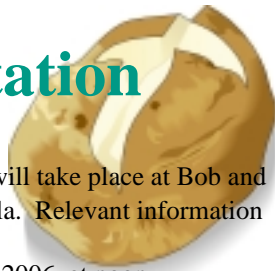


## "Candle-labra"



October 4	Dave Bennett
October 7	Frosty Godfrey
October 15	Ron Sobel
October 16	Michael Litvak
October 23	Frederick Langford
November 29	Ron Krisman
December 19	Gladys Jones
December 20	Alan Warren

# Tuber Fest Invitation



This year's Ries Chapter Tuber Fest will take place at Bob and Annie Lewin's new residence in Temecula. Relevant information is as follows:

When: Sunday, December 10, 2006, at noon  
Where: 33130 Pampa Court  
Temecula, CA 92592  
Bob's cellphone: (949) 689-5357

Directions: You first need to get to Interstate 15 south. How you do that will depend upon where you live. We recommend you check Mapquest or another "Map" website, if needed. Once you get to the 15 south, you travel past Lake Elsinore and the 215 freeway, then take the Rancho California exit. Continue to the signal and turn LEFT on Rancho California. Travel a few miles to Butterfield Stage (signal) and turn RIGHT. Travel past the first signal (Pauba) to the first left you can make---the street is Royal Crest, and turn LEFT. Travel a short distance until the street dead ends at Wyandotte. Turn RIGHT, and then turn LEFT onto Pampa Court. 33130 will be on your left.

For those of you concerned about the traveling distance and time, we recommend carpooling. Another alternative is to book a room at the local Pachanga Resort, spend the night or nights relaxing and/or gambling, then join us on Sunday.

Please contact Kathy Clements to coordinate the food.



## DUES PLEASE

Ries Chapter dues are payable in November and December for the following calendar year.

We will be collecting 2007 dues at the Tuber Fest at Bob Lewin's home on December 10th. If you will not be able to attend, we will gladly collect those dues at our meeting at SESCAL on Sunday, October 15th @ 1pm. Please make your check out to "RIES CHAPTER #48 AFDCS". You don't want to miss even one issue of our famous newsletter.

Some newer members will be asked to pay partial dues so everyone is on the same renewal schedule.

Now that the newsletter is available free over the Internet on the AFDCS website, some might say, "Why do I need to pay my dues?" Only dues paying members are eligible for drawings at club meetings. And only paid up members are eligible for our famous Dave Bennett Ries Chapter Event Covers.

The bottom line is, we want you to be a paid up member of "The Club That Eats!"

## Stamp Collectors Are What?

Bonnie Fuson's definition of a philatelist: A person who not only picks the fly shit out of the pepper, but sorts it by color, size, shape and date of deposit!

## Cachets By Clements Red Dog Covers Hollywoodland Local Post

Kathy Clements  
3976 Olmsted Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90008-2626

### First Days & Events Since 1986 Entertainment Is My Specialty Combo Covers Are My Passion

Marian Anderson, Ronald Reagan  
E Y "Yip" Harburg, Henry Fonda  
Art of Disney-Celebrations  
American Advances In Aviation  
Presidential Libraries, Sporty Cars of the 50's  
Arthur Ashe, Let's Dance Bailemos  
Greta Garbo, Jim Hensen & Muppets  
Constellations, Christmas Cookies  
Hattie McDaniel, Crops of Americas  
Sugar Ray Robinson, Art of Disney-Romance  
Judy Garland, Happy Birthday  
DC Comics Super Heroes, Baseball Sluggers  
American Motorcycles, Holiday Snowflakes

FDOI & Lots of Local Un-officials  
Email Me at [curfmeistr@aol.com](mailto:curfmeistr@aol.com)

## "What's Doin"

October 15	SESCAL Radisson Hotel LAX 1 P.M. Meeting 4 P.M. Take down frames 5 P.M. Dinner @ Calif Pizza Kitchen Manhattan Beach
December 10	Tuber Fest NOON Home of Bob Lewin in Temecula

# AMERICANA ISSUE

## Part 5

By  
John Pollock

The next four Americana stamps (ninth, tenth, eleventh and twelfth) to be issued were the 1c Inkwell and Quill Sc.1581, the 2c Speakers Stand Sc.1582, the 3c Early Ballot Box Sc.1584 and the 4c Books, Bookmark, Eyeglasses Sc.1585. These stamps all have a common theme titled "A root to democracy." The denominations of the stamps were planned by the Postal Service to be used for postage make-up. The printing process and press used to produce them were "line-engraved intaglio" and "Webfed monocolour intaglio press (Cottrell). The stamps have an overall phosphor tagging and perforation is 11 \* 10 \_, all were released at Saint Louis, Missouri on December 8, 1977. The total first day cancellations for all four stamps were 530,033.

The 1c Inkwell and Quill Figure 1 shows a first day of issue cover containing a 1c block plus a 9c Dome make-up stamp to satisfy the domestic letter rate which at that time was 13c. The stamp design of the 1c block shows an old fashion inkwell and a quill pen with quotation "The ability to write, a root to democracy," is colored dark blue on a greenish background. The stamp designer came from the graphic design firm of Kramer, Miller, Lomden and Glassman of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The cachet depicts an elementary school scene with two pupils at their desks, one writing with a quill pen, the other attentive to the teacher's critique. The cachet also mimics the quotation found on the stamp. Up until the end of the year 2005 the image of this stamp design was used in Linn's Stamp News journal as part of their heading of the Reader's Opinion column. Today, the image has disappeared from Linn's new format.



Figure 2 shows another use of the 1c stamp as postal make-up for the 17c Rachel Carson first day cover, the domestic letter rate when the Rachel Carson stamp was released being 18c. The cover has a first day of issue of May 28, 1981.



The 2c Speakers Stand, Figure 3 shows a first day of issue cover containing a 2c block plus a 5c George Washington make-up stamp which was applied to satisfy the domestic letter rate at that time. The stamp design of the 2c block shows a stars and stripes shield speakers stand. On top of the stand are a water jug, a drinking glass, and speaker's notes. Also in the design is a quotation that reads "Freedom to speak out, a root of democracy." This stamp is colored red brown on a greenish background, and was designed by V. Jack Ruther of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The cachet depicts an orator taking advantage of free speech at a public gathering and a repeat of the quotation that is engraved on the stamp. This stamp design was also utilized by Linn's Stamp News as the old heading for the Reader's Opinion column.

An example of postage make-up is shown in Figure 4. The 2c Speakers Stand stamp is used as make-up for the pair of 9.3c bulk rate coil stamps, Mail Wagon 1880's first day of issue cover. The domestic letter rate when this cover was posted was 20c. The cover has a first day of issue of December 15, 1981.

The 3c Early Ballot Box, Figure 5 shows a first day of issue cover containing a 3c block plus a 1c Inkwell make-up stamp which was applied to satisfy the domestic letter rate at that time. The stamp design of the 2c block shows a ballot box with the quotation "To cast a free ballot, a root of democracy," is colored olive on a greenish background. The stamp was designed by Clarence Holbert of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The cachet shows a vignette with election officials and citizens' participating in an election casting their ballot, the cover is produced by Fleetwood. Voting at

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the time of the constitution was only available to white males of age and it was much later after passage of amendments 15, 19, and 24 that covered everyone of age to vote.

The 4c Books, Bookmark, Eyeglasses, Figure 6 shows a first day of issue cover containing a 4c block. The design shows a stack of books, an open book with bookmark and eyeglasses lying on the open pages plus the quotation "A public that reads, a root of democracy," the stamp is colored rose magenta on a cream background, and was designed by V. Jack Ruther of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The cachet depicts a library scene with details closely aligned to that of the stamp and having the same quotation as that engraved on the stamp.

References:

The United States Specialist, November 1979 p611, December 1979 p652, January 1980 p12, February 1980 p77.

(To be continued)

## Where Are Your Covers? Cover Donations For Our Meetings

Our club tries to have a drawing at every meeting and get-together. It seems, however, that the same few people donate all the time and others have never contributed. Think about it. We must all be givers, if we are to be takers.

## We Need Your Articles & Photos

If you enjoy reading this newsletter, we need your input. Please share your experience(s), your knowledge, your stories, your interests, and your opinions by writing an original article for the next issue of Ries' Pieces. We are also happy to print photos with captions, if you don't want to write an article. We welcome all submissions.



- Suggestions for articles:
- Your Ugliest Cover(s)
  - Your Cover Making Process
  - Cover Mistakes That Got By
  - First Day Ceremony Reports
  - Postal Employee Horror Stories
  - How You Started Making Covers
  - Web Site Tips & Recommendations
  - Pleasant Postal Employee Encounters
  - Lucky Accidents That Made A Cover Better

**Next issue of Ries' Pieces is December 1, 2006  
Deadline to submit articles is Nov. 1, 2006**

Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information and specifications for submitting articles.



## Snail Mail Memberships

Our club newsletter is now sent out by email by vote of the majority of the membership. This way you can print it out in color or just read it on line at your leisure.

Snail Mail Members are Regi Ausmus, Louis Bushnell, Elena Cornejo, Bill Goldberg, Carol Gordon, Gladys Jones, Allen Klein, Ron Krisman, Frederick Langford, and Dick Odell. Your newsletters will be mailed out by our membership secretary, Kathy Clements.

## COVER TRADING

To all those members who make covers and want to trade for a special topic or postmark that you collect. Compose your want list and email the copy to Newsletter Managing Editor Kathy Clements in time for the December 1st issue. We will be happy to post it for you.

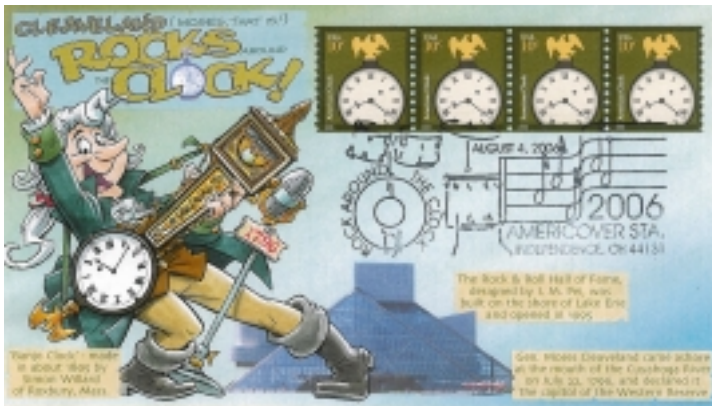


# MEET THE CLOCKS



Two Claude C. Ries Chapter members made First Day Covers for the American Clock definitive, water-activated stamp issued August 4 at AmeriCover in Cleveland, OH-Dave Bennett and Bonnie Fuson. The stamp, which is now issued in a WAG coil of 10,000, was first issued Jan. 24, 2003, as a pressure-sensitive pane of 20.

Bennett explained his all-over cachet by describing its historic elements. General Moses Cleaveland, surveying and homesteading for the Connecticut Western Reserve, came ashore from Lake Erie at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River in 1796 and declared the high ground to be the new capital of the Western Reserve. Even though he left his mark on a great city, an early newspaper couldn't quite fit all of the letters of his name into its masthead, and the "a-less" Cleveland became his legacy.



The image on the stamp is merely the top portion of a very popular form of a 19th century timepiece, the wall-mounted Banjo Clock. Cleveland (the city) is known as the Home of Rock and Roll, not only because the term originated with Cleveland disc jockey Alan Freed in 1951, but because the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame sits on the shores of Lake Erie as a major downtown attraction.

Bennett put all these disparate elements together so his FDC shows General Moses Cleaveland, playing his banjo clock like an electric guitar outside the distinctive façade of the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and Museum.



Fuson, keeping to her Disney-themed FDC series, selected a key clock in Disney history to match the new clock stamp. In 1933,

in the depths of the Great Depression, the Ingersoll-Waterbury Clock Company was facing filing bankruptcy. Someone at the firm had the bright idea to put Mickey Mouse's image on the World War I Army surplus watches then in the company's inventory. Eleven thousand of these were sold at Macy's New York store in one day! From June of 1933 till June of 1935, 2.5 million Mickey Mouse watches were sold by Ingersoll, which gladly paid Walt Disney a quarter of a million dollars in licensing fees.

The company was saved, but customers had a complaint; there was no Mickey Mouse alarm clock! This oversight was quickly corrected and Ingersoll produced a "wake-up alarm system" from 1934 on. The new alarm clock featured an animated "wagging head" Mickey clock spray painted in Depression green (a grayish-green color). It was exhibited at the 1933-1934 Century of Progress Exposition in Chicago. It is also the cachet on Fuson's FDC.

## BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE

Have you lost or misplaced any of our "Mendoza Produced" issues? Well, not to worry. We have some available for sale to members to benefit the treasury, starting with Issue #103 February 1, 2000.

If you would like any back issues, they are \$2.00 each plus one first class stamp per copy. Please make your checks out to Ries Chapter AFDCS and mail your requests to our Membership Secretary Kathy Clements.

You can also go to [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org) and click on LINKS then ADFCS Chapters, then Claude C. Ries Chapter #48. From there you can download the on-line issues from February 05, April 05, June 05 and August 05 in Adobe Reader.



## We Need Your Photos

Since we are doing our newsletter on-line, we can have one of great proportions.

There are no space limitations as to the newsletter length. So, please send us your candid photos, with captions, from First Day Ceremonies and other club events. You don't need to write a story to go with them, if you don't want to. Please email us copies of your most recent First Day Covers too. Share them with club members and get some free publicity. Maybe you will make a sale or two. We welcome all submissions.



# Ries Chapter Members Shine In The Cachetmakers' Contest

By Michael Litvak



The awards for the 2005 AFDCS Cachetmakers' Contest were presented at the President's Awards Banquet on Friday evening at AMERICOVER in Independence, Ohio.

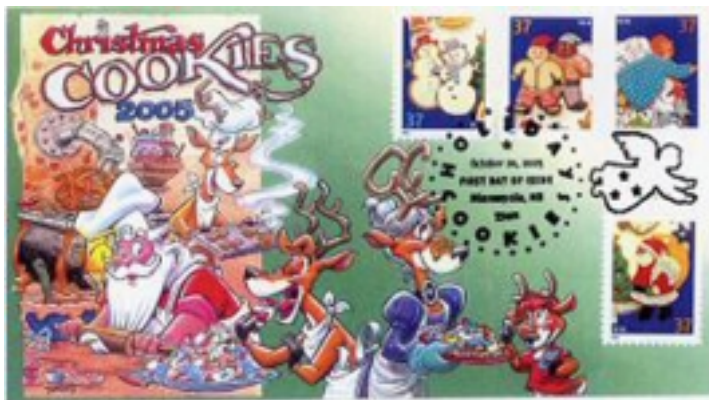
Each year, one or more Ries Chapter members are the proud recipients of these awards, which are beautifully framed reproductions of their winning entries. This year, 3 of our talented members received a total of 6 Cachetmakers' Contest awards. They are:

-----Dave Bennett: Winner Category 4 (Hand painted/Mechanically Reproduced) for his Christmas cover; Winner Category 7 (Printed Art/Single Color) for his Wisconsin Wild Life cover; Honorable Mention Category 2 (Printed/Printed from Original Art) for his Iceland cover

-----Elena Cornejo: Winner Category 9 (Computer or Copier Art/Single Color) for her Garbo cover; Honorable Mention Category 13 (Esoteric Covers) for her Muppets cover

-----Doris Gold: Honorable Mention Category 4 (Mechanically/Mechanically Reproduced) for her Marian Anderson cover

On behalf of all of the members of the Ries Chapter, I congratulate Dave, Elena, and Doris on the creative abilities and their deserving awards.



# RONALD McDONALD HOUSE



## Subject: Pull-tabs for Ronald McDonald House Charities

Hello Everyone,

I just received another supply of the little houses to collect pull-tabs for the patients and families of Ronald McDonald House Charity. I have been saving tabs for 5 years. Once you get in the habit it's very easy.

The tabs not only come on sodas and beer, but also some cat and dog food cans and soup and vegetable cans. They also come on cans of Ensure nutritional supplement. Surprisingly, the very large pull-tabs on tennis ball 3-packs are a newfound source of triple sized tabs. All pull-tabs are needed for this ongoing fundraising project.

If you are a local Los Angeles Ries Chapter member, when the little box is full, you just transfer the tabs to a baggie and let me know. You keep the little house so you can continue collecting the tabs, forever and ever.

If you would like to start saving pull-tabs, just go to your local McDonalds in your town and ask for one of the little cardboard houses to aid in reminding you. You can turn in the saved-up tabs to any McDonald's franchise manager or owner.

To all of you who already save the tabs for me, I really appreciate your efforts on behalf of the children and their families who use the services of Ronald McDonald Houses all over the country.

Thanks for all your help,

Kathy Clements  
(323)292-5460, (213)703-7809



# TIMING IS EVERYTHING!

By Bonnie Fuson

It was time for AMERICOVER, the annual AFDCS convention, held this year near Cleveland, OH. It was time for the Postal Service to issue its 10 cent American Clock stamp in a coil version. It was also time for Dave Bennett to do something special for his mother Carolyn on her 80th birthday. They all happened at the same time.

## And what a time it was.

The President's Banquet on Friday, Aug. 4, featured great food, raffle winners, the awarding of many plaques to winners of the annual AFDCS Cachetmakers contest and a surprise birthday celebration. It was only a surprise for Dave's Mom; she thought it was for somebody else.

"She was completely surprised by the little ceremony," Dave said, "even though mention was made of it in the program. ('Oh look,' she said, 'someone else has a birthday, too!') And despite Mike leaving the framed artwork of the cachet sitting right at her place when we came to the table!! She was pretty overwhelmed."

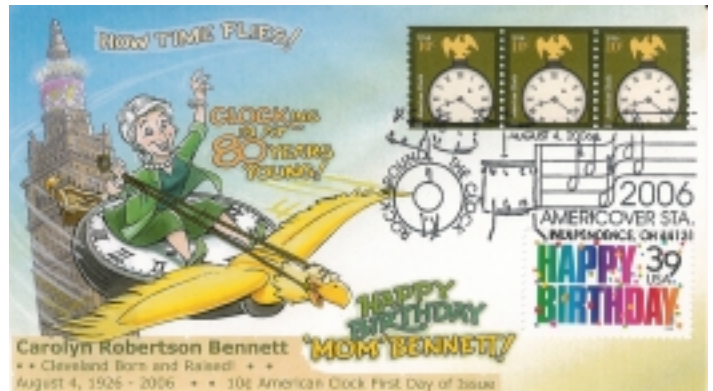
In making the presentation to his Mother, Dave told AFDCSers "Many of you know I got my FDC genes from my Dad. What you didn't know was that I got my art genes from my Mom!

"My Mom was an art major in college-the same college I wound up attending, Ohio Wesleyan University-and was pretty talented in watercolors and interior design," Dave explained later, "but she never really pursued them once she started raising a family. Her lettering and handwriting are still the most beautiful of anyone I know. When I was in school, she was always the first parent called upon when signs needed to be made!"

Dave got interested in both cartooning and stamp collecting when he was nine. His father, Herb Bennett, was in the military then and stationed in Iceland. He wrote letters to his son, who became fascinated with the Icelandic stamps and began collecting them. Dave's first cachets were made when he was a high school freshman. It was for a Canadian stamp of a sparrow. He and his father made various FDCs over the years and officially launched Bennett Cachetoons in 1987 for the North American Wildlife stamp set.

After presenting his Mother with her special First Day Cover and a framed gift of the original art work, a giant cake made a grand appearance. It was served to all sitting at the table with Dave and his mother, to banqueters and eight boxed pieces for Dave's family members at home.

Describing his special cover he said, "This special FDC shows Carolyn (Bennett) riding the eagle-powered clock from the stamp past Cleveland's most famous skyline silhouette, the Terminal Tower. (It) bears the special pictorial cancel form AmeriCover that shows a drum set as a tie-in to the 'Rock Around the Clock' theme of the convention. The strip of three 10-cent Clocks are combo-cancelled with the new 39-cent Happy Birthday stamp to raise the concordance level. Only 20 covers were serviced at the convention."



## Specifications for Newsletter Articles

1. Article must be typed as a Word document, MAC or PC the latest version possible.
2. Article width - 3 5/8" or 7 1/2".
3. Type style Arial.
4. Type size 10 point.
5. No rules or boxes.
6. Please spell check and proof read your article for correct grammar & punctuation.
6. Send article on a disk, PC or MAC and a hard copy print out.

I use a MAC and PageMaker 7.0 program for publishing the newsletter. If you have photos or illustrations, please send me the originals and I will scan and return your original or save as a jpeg, or pdf file and e-mail as attachment.

Newsletter publishing schedule:

December 1, 2006	article deadline Nov. 1, 2006
Feb. 1, 2006	article deadline Jan. 1, 2006
April 1, 2006	article deadline Mar. 1, 2006

Mail articles to: Mike Mendoza • 16534 Farmington St. • Hesperia, CA 92345  
 Phone: 760-948-7158  
 e-mail: mike.b.mendoza@usa.net




### WEB SIGHTINGS

You can also visit our website at <http://www.rieschapterafdcs.com>. Many thanks to Rick for designing the site. If anyone has any suggestions for additions to the site, you can contact Rick at [sales@thepostmark.com](mailto:sales@thepostmark.com). Also the National AFDCS website, [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org) has a link to our website.

### WRITE YOUR OWN BIOGRAPHY

To all those members who have not had a bio printed in the newsletter, you are hereby invited to write your own and include a snapshot if you like. It can be as long and as detailed as you like.

Enjoy The California Experience



**Contact for information:**  
Michael Litvak 626-798-5831  
 Kathy Clements 323-292-5460

**Annual Dues:**  
\$15.00

## Claude C. Ries Chapter 48

American First Day Cover Society  
Dues Renewal & Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ (Work) \_\_\_\_\_

Collecting Interest: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Kathy Clements, 3976 Olmsted Ave. Los Angeles, CA 90008-2626

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 AND THIS IS YOUR LAST ISSUE.

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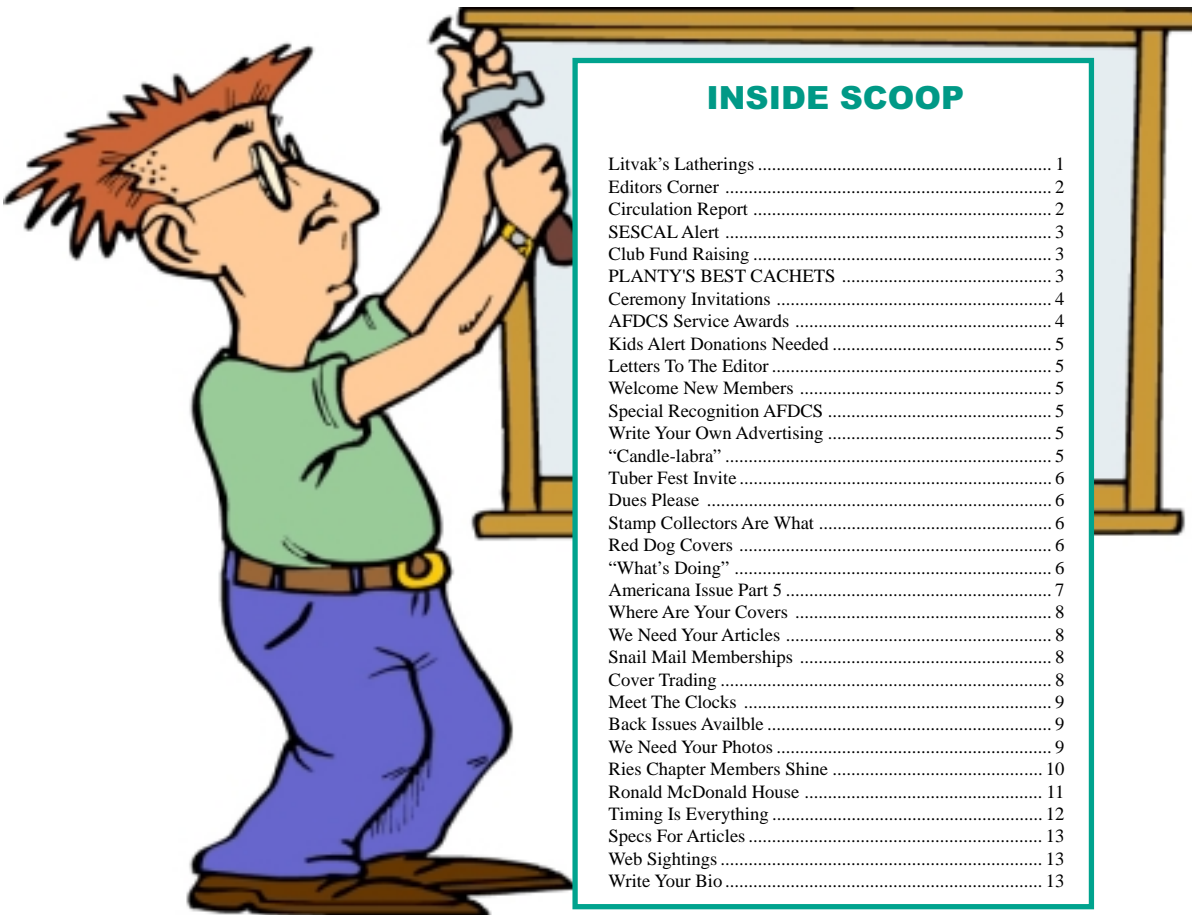
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CLAUDE C. RIES CHAPTER, AFDCS

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**RIES' PIECES**

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