

## Discovery of photo identifies farmhand on 2¢ Trans-Miss

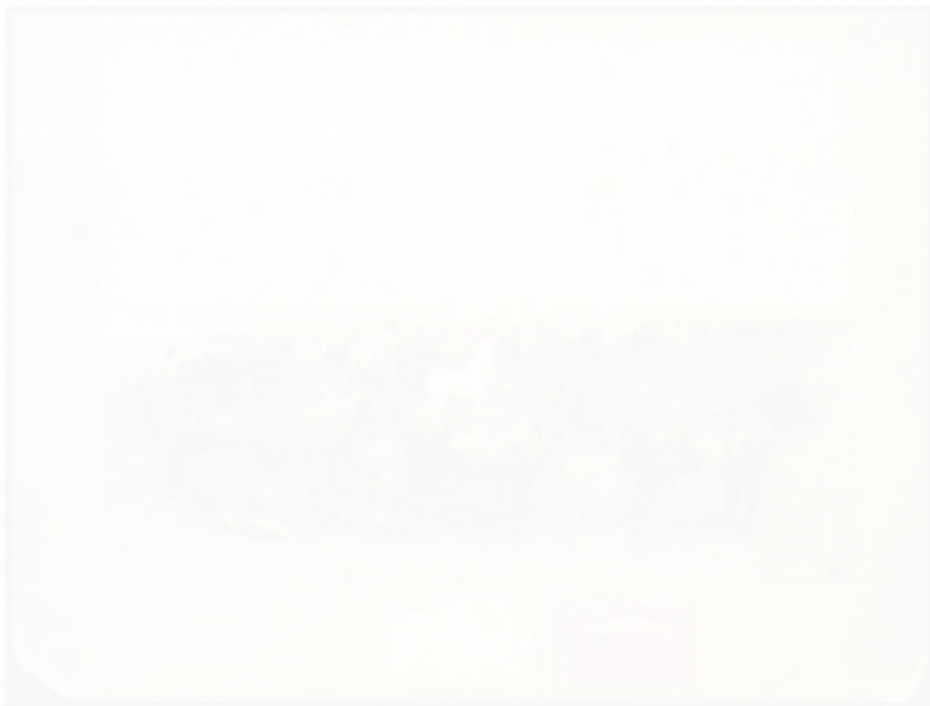
By Peter Schwartz

More than 100 years have passed since the United States Post Office Department issued the original nine Trans-Mississippi commemorative-stamp set in 1898.

Across this great expanse of time comes new information that positively identifies an individual whose image appears prominently on the set's familiar 2¢ Farming in the

West stamp, shown here as a mint single and affixed to an old photograph that is the key to this story.

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This aging photograph shows the familiar scene depicted on the 2¢ Trans-Miss West stamp, shown here as a mint single and affixed to an old photograph that is the key to this story.

West stamp, shown here as a mint single and affixed to an old photograph that is the key to this story.

The occasion of the Trans-Mississippi Exposition centenary was celebrated in 1998 with the issuance of new stamps reproducing the designs in two colors, as they were originally planned.

The farming scene appears on the

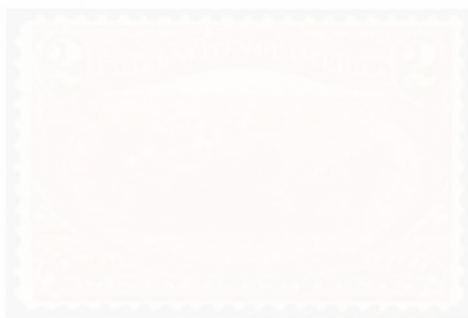
\$2 stamp in the 1998 set, following the organization of the designs as they appear on early bicolor proofs of the original issue.

The stamps in the Trans-Mississippi series depict scenes of life in the American West during a period of great agricultural and urban development.

The domestic letter rate was 2¢ in 1898, and as one might expect, more of the 2¢ denomination were printed than any other in the series; nearly 160 million were produced.

Anticipating the 2¢ stamp's widespread usage, the Congressional Postal Committee — the body that approved the designs for the series — took the opportunity to use it as an advertising vehicle, hoping that its enigmatic "Farming in the West" scene would attract people to the business of agriculture in the Midwest.

Despite its ubiquity, the 2¢ stamp is un-



The 2¢ Farming in the West Trans-Mississippi stamp of 1898. The identity of one man depicted in the central design has been newly determined through family artifacts.

Amenia and Sharon Land Co., perhaps around 1893.

At one time, the Dalrymples Farming Corp., located close to Amenita, is said to have claimed, albeit erroneously, that the photo showed a view of its land. The image shows a huge train of farmhands, plowing equipment and horses working what was known as a "bonanza farm."

According to information published on the Internet's World Wide Web by the North Dakota Geological Survey at

[www.state.nd.us/ndgs/ndn3.html](http://www.state.nd.us/ndgs/ndn3.html)

the "bonanza farm" phenomenon began in 1873, made possible by the accumulation of great tracts of the flat arable land of the Red River Valley by successful farmers from failed farmers.

Such farms were unique to Cass County, N.D. New farming techniques were developed to work these huge fields, requiring the great number of farmhands and equipment typified by the vignette of the 2¢ issue.

The survey's web page even mentions the 2¢ Trans-Mississippi stamp and its bonanza-farming image.

About a year ago, I acquired the large 8-inch by 10-inch sepia-toned photograph of

(Please turn to page 52)

## Anyone may add photo to Australia's hologram stamp celebrating the Millennium

Australia is celebrating the coming of the year 2000 with a hologram stamp that can be personalized.

Australia Post issued this 45¢ domestic-rate stamp Nov. 1.

The stamp has an attached tab, or label, on which your photograph can be printed.

Anyone, not just people living in Australia, can submit their photographs for the personalized stamp.

The hologram on the stamp switches from the year "1999" to "2000."

The rest of the stamp pictures colorful fireworks, which are often used to ring in the New Year in Australia.

Chris Shurey of Melbourne designed the Celebrate 2000 stamp. Avon Graphics produced the hologram.

SNP Ausprint printed the stamp by offset (a transfer process) in sheets of 10 and 20.

The sheets of 10 are for those who wish to have the stamp personalized.

The stamps in the sheets of 20 have attached tabs that read "Celebrate 2000."

Australia Post originated the concept of personalized stamps at the Australia 99 world stamp exhibition held March 19-24 in Melbourne.

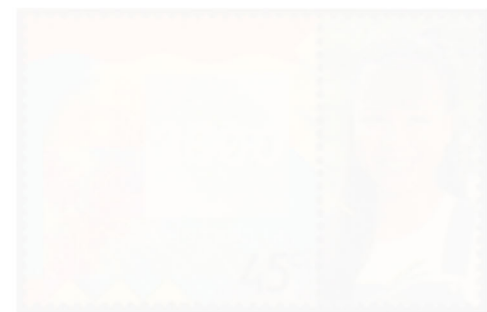
Visitors to the show could have their photographs taken and printed on the tab of a stamp showing the ship *Polly Woodside*.

Australia Post issued six Greetings stamps, plus a new version of the *Polly Woodside* stamp, Sept. 1 with tabs that could be personalized by sending a photograph in by mail. However, at that time, the personalization service was only open to people living in Australia.

The service is now open to people around the world, according to a report in the October-December edition of Australia Post's *Stamp Bulletin*, a publication for collectors.

To receive more information about how to order Australia's personalized stamps, send an e-mail request to Australia Post at: [pstamps@auspost.com.au](mailto:pstamps@auspost.com.au)

The mailing address for further details is Personalized Stamps, Australia Post, GPO Box



Australia Post will issue a Celebrate 2000 stamp Nov. 1. This hologram stamp has a tab that can be personalized with your photo.



Australia's Celebrate 2000 stamp also will be printed with the attached tab, or label, shown here. The stamp is for the domestic rate.

4081MM, Melbourne, Victoria 3001, Australia.

Orders for the personalized stamps must be on the proper forms from Australia Post.

Also, Australia Post adds that overseas customers will be required to pay postage costs related to shipping the stamps.

In its *Stamp Bulletin*, Australia Post explained why it is celebrating the year 2000: "It promises to be the New Year of a lifetime because millions of people in the Western world view Jan. 1, 2000, as the advent of the new millennium.

"The fact that the new millennium will not begin until 2001 will not deter people from celebrating — the dawn of the year 2000 just sounds more magical than the dawn of 2001." ■

## Lebanon bans all mail bearing French stamp showing Israeli flag

A French stamp showing Israel's flag is banned on mail in Lebanon, according to an Associated Press report dated Oct. 22 from Beirut. All mail franked with the stamp is to be returned.

The French stamp in question was issued Jan. 24, 1999, to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of diplomatic relations with Israel.

The 4.40-franc stamp, designed by Jean-Paul Cousin, shows the flags of both France and Israel. Its French inscription reads, "Relations/Diplomatiques/France/Israel."

According to the reports in

Lebanese newspapers, the General Security Directorate sent instructions Thursday, Oct. 21, to Libanpost, the Canadian-Lebanese firm that operates the country's postal service, to return mail carrying the stamps.

The Associated Press report

stated that Lebanon is technically at war with Israel, and any contact with Israel is considered a crime punishable by imprisonment.

The report also stated that France's Postal and Telecommunications Ministry would not comment on the ban. ■

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# New Scott catalog numbers

Three United States stamp issues were assigned Scott catalog numbers in October by Scott Publishing Co.

The three issues consist of 24 different stamps: six 33¢ Broadway Songwriters stamps issued Sept. 21, 20 33¢ Insects & Spiders stamps issued Oct. 1, and a single 33¢ Hanukkah stamp issued Oct. 8.

The Hanukkah stamp is the only self-adhesive stamp in the new group.

Like the six 33¢ Hollywood Composers stamps issued five days before them, the Broadway Songwriters stamps were each assigned major Scott catalog numbers.

The numbers for the Songwriters stamps, 3345-50, immediately follow those for the Composers issue, 3339-44.

Scott editor Martin Frankeviez told *Linn's Stamp News* that the 1999 Scott Commemorative Plate Block album supplement will have a space to mount a plate block of eight Songwriters stamps with top label.

The 20 Insects & Spiders stamps had a single Scott number, 3351, assigned to the full pane of 20, with minor

Scott No.	Description	Issue Date
3345	33¢ Ira & George Gershwin	Sept. 21
3346	33¢ Lerner & Leowe	
3347	33¢ Lorenz Hart	Oct. 1
3348	33¢ Rodgers & Hammerstein	
3349	33¢ Meredith Willson	
3350	33¢ Frank Loesser	
3350a	block of six 3345-50	
3351	Insects & Spiders pane of 20	
3351a	33¢ Black widow	
3351b	33¢ Elderberry longhorn	
3351c	33¢ Lady beetle	
3351d	33¢ Yellow garden spider	
3351e	33¢ Dogbane beetle	
3351f	33¢ Flower fly	
3351g	33¢ Assassin bug	
3351h	33¢ Ebony jewelwing	
3351i	33¢ Velvet ant	
3351j	33¢ Monarch caterpillar	
3351k	33¢ Monarch butterfly	
3351l	33¢ Eastern Hercules beetle	
3351m	33¢ Bombardier beetle	
3351n	33¢ Dung beetle	
3351o	33¢ Spotted water beetle	
3351p	33¢ True katydid	
3351q	33¢ Spinybacked spider	
3351r	33¢ Periodical cicada	
3351s	33¢ Scorpionfly	
3351t	33¢ Jumping spider	
3352	33¢ Hanukkah	Oct. 8

letter designations assigned to each individual stamp.

The 33¢ Hanukkah stamp was assigned Scott 3352. A 32¢ stamp using the same design was issued in 1996 and is listed as Scott 3118.

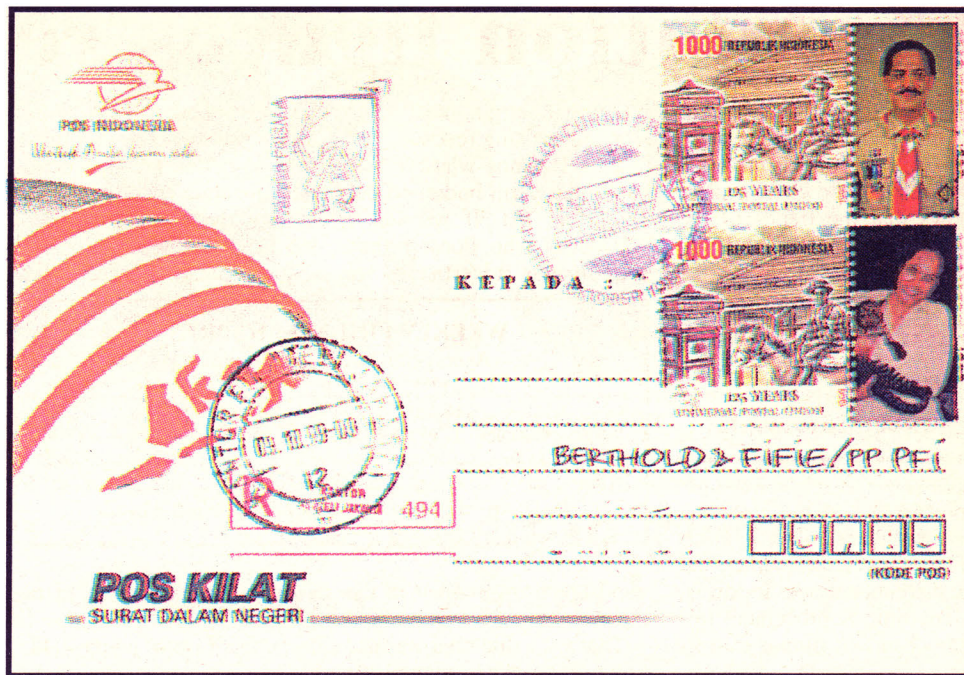
The new Scott catalog numbers are summarized in the accompanying chart. They also

appear in this week's *Linn's* 1999 U.S. Stamp Program, on page 32.

The new numbers will be listed in the Catalogue Update section of the December *Scott Stamp Monthly*.

Information about Scott postage stamp catalogs, albums, album supplements or *Scott Stamp Monthly* is available from Scott Publishing Co., Box 828, Sidney, OH 45365; telephone 937-498-0802.

David C. Akin is Scott new issues managing editor. Martin Frankeviez is Scott assistant editor for new issues. ■



## Indonesia's personalized stamps

This cover bears two examples of an Indonesian stamp with an attached label personalized with photographs. Berthold Sinaulan, who e-mailed the picture of the cover to *Linn's*, reports that Indonesia issued two stamps Oct. 9 that could be personalized. These stamps mark the 125th anniversary of the Universal Postal Union and show postal service of the past and present. The 1,000-rupiah denominations pay a domestic express mail rate. Sinaulan reported that the service to create a personalized stamp currently is offered only at the central post office in Jakarta but will eventually be offered throughout Indonesia. He added that 100,000 examples of the stamps for personalizing were printed in sheets of 10 (five of each design). Another photograph appears in the border area to the left of the stamps.

## Stamp issued day of crash shows golfer

A stamp depicting professional golfer Payne Stewart was issued on the same day he died in a plane crash, according to information from Leonard Cohen of Marlen Stamps & Coins Ltd. of Great Neck, N.Y.

A Learjet carrying Stewart and five other passengers crashed Oct. 25, killing all aboard. Also on Oct. 25, the African nation of Angola released a stamp showing Stewart in his

familiar knickers and a tam-o'-shanter hat.

The 200,000-kwanza stamp is part of an issue commemorating the 33rd Ryder Cup. Stewart played on the United States Ryder Cup team in 1987, 1989, 1991, 1993 and 1999.

Cohen reported that to his knowledge, the Angolan stamp is the first stamp to honor Stewart, who had won 18 tournaments in his career, including two U.S. Open titles. ■

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Dr. Datner sold off his used stamps years ago, but doggedly held onto his U.S.A. unused holding. Three years ago we first saw his holding and last year we managed to buy it!

Over the years he had used up some nice material for postage. What remains is a large holding of pre 1930 unused U.S.A. Very strong in 19th Century, Columbians and definitives; this lot has many stamps that have a substantial catalogue value.

Many of these stamps were not saved by philatelists, but rather were "curiosities" or "keepsakes" of Dr. Datner's patients. By today's standards these stamps must be graded mostly Fine although some Average and Very Fine stamps should be in each lot.

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