

## Off to the Northeast with Stu

by Stu Hanlein

As most of you were attending the August meeting of the KPS, my wife and I were arriving at the 83<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Precancel Stamp Society (PSS) held in Bedford, New Hampshire. We arrived late in the evening on August 1, after a 12 hour trip from our son's home in Maryland (from Maryland to Maine, it seemed that everyone was returning home from the shore) and \$25.00 in road tolls. (After talking to the locals, we returned home on an inland route, which was about 25 miles longer, but only one 50-cent toll.) The PSS show started on the following morning at 8 a.m. with about 50 people in attendance. There were 30 precancel dealers and every precancel collector was busily visiting all the dealers. I searched the dealers' inventories for one particular type of precancel from Knoxville that I needed to complete my collection of all types listed in the PSS catalogs but was unable to find this \$4.00 item.

The Perfin Collectors Club attended the show in full force. These club members are religious in their zeal to collect "holey" stamps!

The show was a complete success for me as I added several hundred new stamps to my various collections and acquired the latest catalogs, which are now on computer disks. As a matter of fact, I noted several younger collectors who I think are attracted to the hobby because of the computerization of these catalogs. I never saw so many laptops at one show. The only disappointment during the show came when the scheduled whale watch for the non-collector spouses was cancelled because of high seas caused by a hurricane in the Atlantic.

After this exhausting week we visited with our son near the Washington, DC area. I got out my trusty Linn's and found two shows on the weekend. I went to HagerPex XXX sponsored by the Hagerstown, Maryland Stamp Club. There were 13 dealers at this show and only 2 had any precancel stamps so it was a let down for me. I did have a good day when I found a Minkus Global Supreme album binder for my worldwide collection. I managed to find several stamps for my worldwide stamp collection and I met some very nice folks. This show was a mere 50-minute drive from my son's home.

The next day, Sunday, August 15, the Suburban Maryland Stamp and Cover Show was held in Rockville, Maryland, which was only 10 minutes away. My luck ran out as 2 of the 10 dealers had been in the Hagerstown show the day before. I did find 3 new precancels but that was about all as there were more covers than stamps and I don't save them - - yet! Again I enjoyed meeting some new dealers and educated them on the need for inventorying more precancels. One dealer mentioned that he bid on a lot of precancels recently at an auction and was astounded that the lot went for several thousand dollars. He later found that there were two of the perf 10 x 11 errors in the lot!!

In closing may I suggest when you are away from home, check the Linn's Stamp Events Calendar before you go and take in a show while you are on the road. Even if you don't add any new stamps to your collection you will enjoy being with folks whom have a similar interest as you.