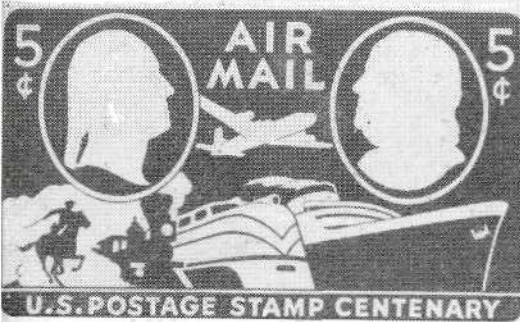
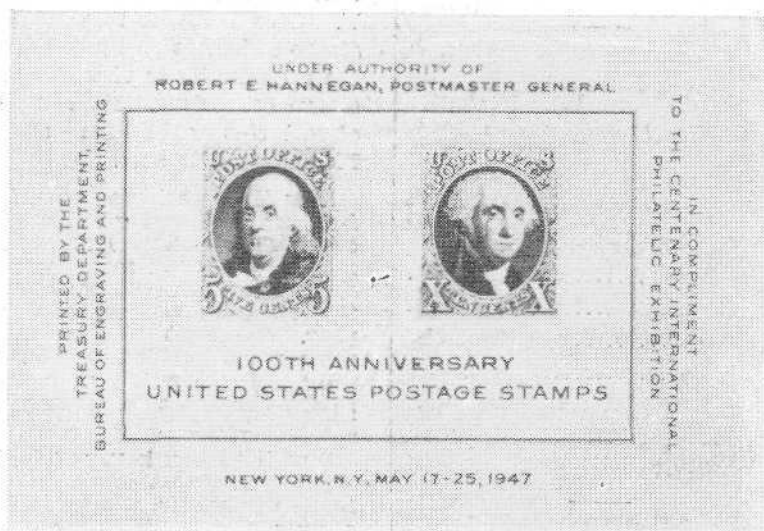


HOBBY-SWAPPER

The Collector's Monthly



Illustrations of the Souvenir Sheet, Air Mail Envelope and Commemorative Stamp to be issued during Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition, New York, N.Y., May 17 - 25

April 1947

10c

William Elhelbert Burke

By C. Spencer Chambers

It was in Waterford, Ohio, a little over a hundred years ago one of America's foremost singing clowns was born. As a child he was a wit and mimic and the usual prophecies were made by his unappreciative neighbors, all pointing directly to a penal institution. But time proved the prophets to be poor guessers as Billy Burke climbed to the highest pinnacle in the circus world.

At fourteen he was apprenticed to a druggist of Fredericktown, Ohio, where he became a shining light for the drug store's younger trade. By wise cracks and excellent mimicry which he personally had in stock at all times "brought in business" to the satisfaction of his employer.

Then came the Civil War. Billy Burke, though but sixteen, put aside his comedy until a future day, and joined the Union army. At the battle of Arkansas Post, he was seriously wounded and for a short time wholly incapacitated, which brought about an honorable discharge.

Burke made his way to Pittsburgh, Pa. and secured a position with the firm of Eaton, McCrum & Co., where he was very unhappy. He resigned and joined up with a "fly by night" minstrel company which did its last flying in Wheeling, a short distance down the Ohio River. Burke returned to the "Smoky City" and at once J. M. Nixon signed him for his circus which was playing in Texas, taking the sea route Burke was shipwrecked and lost at sea. But fortunately the United States steamship South Carolina picked him up and took him safely into the port

at New Orleans. What became of the Nixon contract no one seems to know as Billy never mentioned it to anyone. Next we find the singing clown with Thayer and Noyes Circus working out of the Crescent City, Neptune seems to be at odds with Billy, for in August while ascending the Red River on the steam boat *Ida May*, she went to the bottom. Burke escaped minus his professional wardrobe, which was totally lost. This was another close call to register into a far away port which made him a land traveler until he went to England in his prime. After two years with Thayer and Noyes, he joined Mike Lipman's outfit for a season. Then his great opportunity came. Forepaugh signed him for two years. When the contract terminated he would not renew as he had a great desire to go with L. B. Lent's permanent circus in New York. Being a two-year man it seems he next joined up with

.....turn to page 9

Special Circus Edition

Hobby-Swapper will publish a special Circus Edition next month in connection with the CFA convention to be held in Dayton, May 10 to 12. This issue will carry features and illustrations from leading authorities on Circusiana.

CORRECTION

We wish to correct the date in the heading of the CFS convention of last month. The date of the Circus Fans Association of America convention to be held in Dayton, Ohio, is May 10 to 12.

CIRCUS — WANT TO BUY — MAGIC

Cash for Circus and Magic programs, posters, heralds, couriers, old prints, books (fact), letters, letter heads, photos, route books, songsters, handbills, lithographs, etc. State all in first letter, giving dates, number, condition, price. Cash paid day items received. America's foremost dealer in Circus material.

C. SPENCER CHAMBERS

P. O. BOX 722 : SYRACUSE 1 : NEW YORK

Business Directory

Rate—three lines for 6 months, no change in copy, \$3.00; or 12 months for \$5.00.

ANTIQUES, CHINA AND GLASS-ware. Emma Huffman, South Main St., Camden, Ohio, on Federal Route 127. 6

GLASS, CHINA, BUTTONS, CUR-rier & Ives, Historical Items. Al-most everything except furniture. Mrs. Lou R. Pierce, Second St., one street off U. S. 127, Camden, Ohio. 6t3

NEW & USED BOOKS, BACK CO-pies magazines. Pat's Trading Post, 105 W. Main, Johnson City, Tenn.

CIGAR BANDS FOR COLLEC-tors. 40c for 25 or \$1 for 75c. Hob-bey Sales Co., Box 88, Red Lion, Pa.

ANTIQUES—GENERAL LINE FUR-niture, china, glass. U. S.-27, be-tween Millville-Oxford. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sapp.

ANTIQUES—WHEN IN CAMDEN, stop at Hattie Hibbins, S. Main St., Camden, Ohio. x6

BURKE

.....from page 4

James Robinson and Frank Pas-tor's Circus (See page 5, Hobby-Swapper for December, 1946) which "offered much, but gave little in the form of cash." When this circus sold its properties to the Great Chicago Show, Burke went to New Orleans where for the want of a better job went with the "Trans Atlantic" for a brief period.

Lent, who now had a traveling organization took Burke on at St. Louis until the end of the season which was soon to close in Atlanta.

The "Great Eastern" was win-tering in that city, so with the understanding he could cancel after the season opened if the Montgomery Queen Circus in California wanted him, which it did, Burke left in August for San Di-ego to do another "two year" con-tract.

In 1882 he returned East to open with the largest show in the world The Barnum, Bailey and Hutchinson Circus and again was a decided hit.

(These facts were given to a press agent by William "Billy" Ethelbert Burke during the season of 1882, when you and I were very young, yes, very young).

PERSONALS

Thanks to Mrs. J. V. Schurtz of Deming, N. M. for the Arizona egg stamp." Mrs. Schurtz has quite a collection of agates, crystal forma-tions, jaspers, colored florspar and a stamp collection of over 10,-000 varieties. Her son brought her a stamp album from Germany fol-lowing World War I which con-tains 2500 stamps collected before 1918 . . . a prize for anyone.

Mrs. G. A. Thies of Watertown, Mass., a collector of individual salt dips states, I enjoy the Maga-zine and glad to be an early sub-scriber so I can watch it grow. I collect salt dips and watch eagerly for ads about same."

Earl Byer of Tishomingo, Okla., says, "I sure don't want to miss an issue of Hobby-Swapper."

Edward A. Moran, 3629 Oxford Ave., Riverdale, New York, is form-ing a Transportation Museum and desires information as to where he can acquire any items of trans-portation: automobiles, motorcy-cles, trucks, made before 1927; horse-drawn vehicles, a railroad coach, a trolley car and other ve-hicles. Also desires the literature relating to same; models of all types of transportation, license plates, lamps, horns, etc. xx

BURNT CORKERS

Geo. Evans, Pres., L. E. Brown, V.P., C. J. Tripp, Treas

D. W. Denton, Secy., Lancaster, Ohio

DIRECTORS: A. O. Brown, Chas. McClintoch,
Karl L. Denton, Elmer Jackson, Perrin Hazelton,
J. Lester Haberkorn, Oak Shannon.

Chris W. Viohl, Jr.

The Minstrel Show now in a temporary state of dormancy as far as the professional troupe is concerned has been the subject of debate as to why this came about and no doubt it will be a moot question for a long time. It has been argued that the talking pictures were responsible but this is just one facet of the many sided argument.

As far back as in 1910 there were writers predicting the end of Minstrelsy due to the trend of management and owners to mix the old time Minstrel Show with a type of entertainment foreign to the original with the emphasis on grandeur.

This trend continued until some of the so called Minstrel Shows were in reality elaborate vaudeville entertainments. There is considerable feeling that the Minstrel Show is not dead and the public would welcome a good old time show with open arms as evidenced in the popularity of recordings of songs such as "Open the Door Richard" that is certainly of the Minstrels. It is quite true that the professional Minstrel Show is a thing of the past in big cities especially the northern ones but in the smaller towns and the south it is a different thing and some day, and we hope real soon, someone will put a real old time Minstrel Show on the road and make a big go of it.

By D. W. Denton, Sec'y

The foregoing article by Chris Viohl, jr., of Wilmington, Delaware, implies an optimistical outlook as to the possible return some day and perhaps not too far in the future, of the traveling professional Minstrel Show.

Himself a veteran minstrel man, having served several seasons with the Neil O'Briens Minstrels as well as the Al G. Fields Minstrels, he has a wealth of "Minstreliaanna"

stored away in the little gray cells, from which he will draw occasionally for a story for our column in Hobby-Swapper.

We'll be looking forward to another of his short stories in a later issue.

A few weeks ago, the writer was privileged to attend the annual Burnt Cork Opry given by the Meig's county chapter of the Isaac Walton League at Pomeroy, . . . turn to page 11

100th Anniversary of U.S Postage Stamps

On the cover this month, we illustrate a commemorative stamp, two-color miniature sheet and a 5c air mail envelope to be used next month by the Post Office Department in honor of the Centennial of the first U. S. postage stamps. The miniature sheet shows a reproduction of the first postage stamps issued by the United States in 1847.

These stamps will be first issued in New York, N. Y., during the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition to be held May 17 to May 25. This exhibition will occupy the first three floors of the Grand Central Palace in New York City.

Many of the most valuable stamps of the world will be on display as well as printing presses, envelope machine, engravers from Bureau of Engraving and Printing, a transfer press from the American Bank Note Co., a flying post office, motion pictures and many other interesting exhibits.

If you are a collector, you will not want to miss this show, so plan now to attend this greatest exhibition ever held.

Although the miniature sheet will be sold only at the Exhibition and Philatelic Agency, the 3c commemorative stamp and 5c air mail envelope will go on sale at all post offices.

CASH — MINSTREL — CASH

Highest prices paid for Minstrel Programs, Heralds and Photos. List issued each month.

C. SPENCER CHAMBERS
P.O. Box 722. Syracuse 1, N. Y

PRECANCELS

By Dave Kelly

28 Water St. West Milton, Ohio

Someone just recently said that "precancel collecting is not a hobby, it's a habit." Without much argument, I believe this statement will be accepted in good spirits by the collectors. It goes without saying that the larger and better collections of precancels are represented by many hours and sometimes years of pleasant, entertaining and tireless efforts through organization. By organization, we mean membership in an active precancel club, correspondence and personal contacts with other collectors and "THE HABIT."

WHY I COLLECT PRECANCELS

By C. H. Miller
1029 Philadelphia Drive
Dayton 7, Ohio

My reasons for collecting precancels are: They are easy to get by either buying or swapping. The business of swapping in precancels is one of the best ways to build a collection. The fellows are all good Joes and it doesn't matter what you collect just so you collect PRECANCELS."

BURNT CORKERS

. . . from page 3

Ohio. Being a red hot Minstrel town, the show played to two S. R. O. houses in Pomeroy and nearby Middleport. Producer and director of the Minstrel was Eddie Condon, formerly understudy for Jim McIntyre of the famous McIntyre and Heath Minstrels that put out such grand shows early in the 1900's.

The professional atmosphere of the entire production stood out as an evidence of Mr. Condon's years of Minstrel experience and his ability to inject some of this into his show proves his qualifications as a very capable director and just about gives him the well earned title of Mr. Minstrel himself as far as Meig's county, Ohio, is concerned. Keep up the good work Eddie!

After learning of the Burnt Corkers Organization, Mr. Condon was very much impressed and

promptly "jined-up" and offered to help promote the organization in his locality. So now, he is our representative in that neck of the woods.

Date and place for the 1947 Reunion and Picnic have already been set and the all-day use of the large Rising Shelter House in Rising Park here at Lancaster, has been arranged. The date—Sept. 7, 1947.

NOTICE—ALL BURNT CORKERS

We have arranged with the publisher of this magazine to include this—the April issue to all Burnt Cork members on the mailing list.

To those who have not as yet sent in their subscription by now, please do so at once since this little magazine is serving as our best means of promoting the growth of our organization. It's really getting bigger all the time and enthusiastic letters are coming in regularly from Ex-Minstrel Mokes in all parts of the county. So fellas, if you want to receive the magazine after April, 1947, get that fifty cents in to the publisher at once. See you all again in May.

Show a Photograph

Preserve those rare items by
showing a photograph instead.

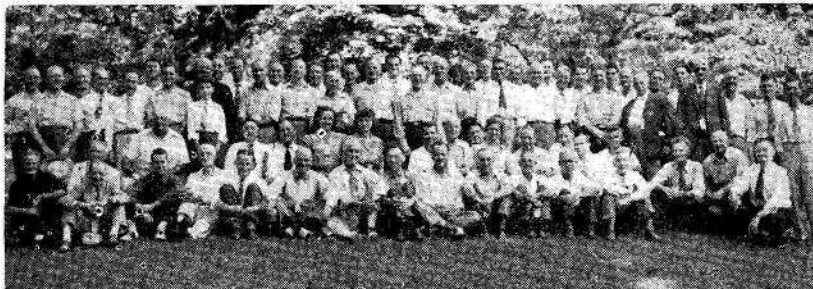
Estimates given.



SHANK PHOTOS

Camden, Ohio

Burnt Corker Picnic Held In 1946



A Chronological History Of The Movies

By Hugo Zeiter
of Danville, Ill.

PART I

1872

Governor Leland Stamford of California, made a bet with some friends that when a horse runs, all four feet may be off the ground. He won his bet and proved his point by employing photographer Edward Muybridge to set up a battery of 24 still-cameras to photograph a race horse in action. Although the results were not a movie as we know today, it involved the fundamental principals of motion picture photography.

1885

George Eastman invented the celluloid 33 mm roll film.

1888

Thomas A. Edison purchased 40 foot reels of 35 mm film from Eastman to use in his Kinetoscopes which he sold to penny arcades and fair carnivals. In this same year Edison's staff projected the first film onto a screen.

Emile Reynaud, a Freshman, used paintings for his presinoscope (a form of picture animation). Substituted paintings with photographs later on.

Francis Jenkins made the first colored movie of a dancing girl in America.

Robert Paul invented a projector in England.

1889

In November of this year, Friese-Greene stood at the corner of Hyde Park, London, and exposed 20 feet of film with the first movie camera in England.

1895

The Lumiere Brothers patented the first projector in France as well as the first color film known as the autochrome plate.

Edison erected his first studio at Fort Lee, New Jersey. The big Edison-Paul fight started.

1896

Robert Paul filmed the Derby in England.

The funeral of Queen Victoria was also filmed.

First newsreels made their appearance.

Mary Irwin's: *THE KISS* was filmed.

1897

The first major theatre disaster occurred in Paris where 180 people were burned to death. 130 of these belonged to the nobility.

Films becoming more ambitious.

(Continued next month)

New Air Mail Stamp



Hobby-Swapper

"The Collector's Monthly"

122 South Main Street
Camden, Ohio

April 1947

Vol. 2 No. 3

HARRY M. SIMPSON
Publisher

Associate Editors

Katherine J. Justh Baross, Hollywood, Calif
Thomas Burnett,..... Camden, N.J.
C. Spencer Chambers,..... Syracuse, N. Y.
Dave Kelly,..... West Milton, Ohio
M. L. Simon,..... Detroit, Mich
Dorothy L. Freas,..... Woodhaven, N. Y.
Edward L. Beard,..... Cincinnati, Ohio

10c a single copy.

50c a year in U. S. A.

Display advertising rates sent upon application.

Permission to copy articles in this Magazine must be secured from both the author and publisher.

HOBBY-SWAPPER, published monthly by Harry M. Simpson, Camden, Ohio. Entered as second-class matter May 6, 1946, at the post office in Camden, Ohio, under the act of March 3, 1879. Printed in U. S. A.

The Publisher Says



Next month marks the 100th anniversary of the United States Postage Stamp and the opening of the Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition in New York, N. Y. This exhibition will afford stamp collectors and non-collectors the opportunity to view truly great stamp collections. Plan now to attend this exhibition and see Philately at its best.

Now that we have passed our first hurdle (sending out notices to our first subscribers) and are still standing on both feet, we shall settle down with plans to enlarge this magazine during our second year. Our first plan is to determine what hobbies our readers represent, so, would each reader send us a post card listing their hobby? Thanks.

I wish to thank E. Mitchell of Chamby-Basin, Quebec, Canada, for the Canadian stamps including a copy of the Alexander Graham Bell commemorative.

The Weekly Philatelic Gossip had its face "lifted," starting with the March 8th issue and now has a very attractive cover. WPG is an outstanding publication and features "The Inside Straight" by Harry Weiss . . . this column is very popular among stamp collectors. D. E. Dworak is owner and publisher.

Sincerely,
Harry M. Simpson

Join Central Ohio Precancel Club

Dues, \$1.00 per year.
Write Hobby-Swapper
For application.