



PERRYSCOPE

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE
GARFIELD-PERRY STAMP CLUB

FIRST THURSDAY each month at the WYNDHAM INDEPENDENCE, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence, at 7 p.m.

February 2026

Whether stamps or stickers, the technology is the same

Note: This column is reprinted courtesy of The Chronicle-Telegram of Jan. 10, 2026.

By Dennis Sadowski

There's a day to celebrate just about anything it seems, even stickers.

Jan. 13 marked National Sticker Day, established 10 years ago by StickerGiant, an online company which produces stickers for a variety of purposes.

What's that got to do with stamp collecting, you wonder? In a way, stamps are a kind of sticker that prepays postage on letters and packages. Just don't tell collectors that their albums hold a bunch of stamp stickers regardless of their historic or monetary value.

Stickers today, like stamps, are produced with pressure-sensitive gum, allowing them to be peeled from a backing paper and easily placed on just about anything to communicate an idea, political message, emotion, product or greeting.

R. Stanton Avery developed pressure sensitive, or self-adhesive, technology in 1935. He was born on Jan. 13, 1907, and



The first U.S. self-adhesive stamp was issued in 1974. Instability in gum's chemical composition caused the stamp to stain.

National Sticker Day marks his birthday. Avery, founder of what today is the Avery Dennison Corp., died Dec. 12, 1997.

Historical note: After his invention, Avery established the Kum-Kleen Adhesive Products Co., later Avery Adhesives and still later Avery International. In 1990 the company purchased the Dennison Manufacturing Co., which produced paper products. Dennison also produced a type of stamp hinge for mounting stamps that remains highly sought after by

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Mailing party set for February meeting

The February 5 GP meeting will find us preparing nearly 1,800 cards for the annual March Party for mailing.

We'll gather to label and affix stamps to the cards for mailing in mid-February.

We suggest that you bring a dampened sponge because most of the stamps being used on the cards will be the lick-and-stick variety.

With plenty of hands, the work should go quickly.

136th Garfield-Perry
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kudos to Shoults, Nilsestuen

Stamp shows remain alive and well.



I just returned from the Sarasota National Stamp Exhibition in Sarasota, Florida. I arrived a little more than an hour after the show

opened Jan. 16 and I found one of the last parking spots. Entering the bourse area, I saw collectors at all tables and walking around the room. It was a beautiful sight.

The exhibits were wonderful. The best part of the exhibits were

the large gold medals received by Gregory Shoults for “Washington and Franklin Coils: Flat Plate Coils and Coil Waste Issues 1908-1915,” and by Ken Nilsestuen in the literature category for an article in *The American Philatelist*, “Dodging the Algerine Corsairs.”

Shoults also won the show’s Grand Award, making his exhibit eligible to enter the American Philatelic Society Champion of Champions competition, which takes place at the Boston 2026 Stamp Expo in May.

Nilsestuen also received the literature Reserve Grand Award.

Congratulations to both of our members!

March Party

We are truly down to last minute planning for March Party 2026. At this point we need volunteers to work the show. Contact Rocco Caponi at or Ken Nilsestuen to see how you can help. Reach out to Carol Thatcher to help at the registration table.

We especially need someone with great people skills to ask each guest if they are a member of the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club and if not, would they like to join. Walk around the show and thank our guests for attending.

Philatelically yours,
Howard S. Chapman

Technology

Continued from page 1

collectors today because they featured gum that allowed a hinge to easily be peeled from a stamp. The hinge style is no longer produced.

At their start in the 19th century stickers, labels and stamps would have a gum paste applied to their backside. The gum would be dried before packaging and shipping. When moistened, usually by

someone’s tongue and occasionally by brush, a stamp or sticker could be applied for its intended purpose. Call it lick and stick. Hence the term “stickers.”

It took about three decades before Avery’s technological breakthrough would make its way to stamps. The first self-adhesive stamps were released in the mid-1960s by countries in tropical climates, such as Sierra Leone and Tonga, which wanted to avoid the tendency for stamps to stick together in humid conditions.

The first pressure-sensitive stamp issued by the U.S. Postal Service appeared in 1974 with the goal of convenience for users. Produced by Avery Dennison, it featured a dove weathervane and was issued for the Christmas mailing season. It was imprinted “PRECANCELED” so it did not have to be postmarked.

The stamp also was produced with slits so it could not be easily

removed and reused.

However, the stamp turned out to be a failure of sorts. Collectors, accustomed to soaking stamps from paper in a water bath before placing them in an album, could not get the stamps to release no matter how hard they tried. The instability of the gum also caused discoloring in most stamps.

Avery Dennison went back to work. It was 15 years before the next self-adhesive was issued: a 25-cent design featuring a bald eagle and shield. It was produced in a pane of 18 stamps and made available in select cities.

In 1990 self-adhesive stamps appeared in panes of 12 in the size of a dollar bill so they could be dispensed from bank ATMs. Gradually more and more self-adhesive stamps were produced each year, and by 2002 virtually every stamp released had pressure-sensitive adhesive, pleasing most postage stamp users.

On the go update

In last month’s *Perryscope* we missed including GP member Jay Stotts as a member of the team for the one-frame competition at Chicagopex in November.

The team claimed first place in the competition and included GP member Greg Shoults.

It’s not too late to consider pulling together a team for Chicagopex 2026. Perhaps GP can be part of the fun again.

An unexpected Cincinnati, er, Cinderella

By Elias I. Traboulsi

As I was exploring an old U.S. Liberty album with dozens of extra stamps hinged in the margins of the pages and in between the printed images, I came across a large stamp with “Ohio Invites You to Honor Washington” glaring at me. I immediately resorted to my telephone entrusted stamp identifier method to find out as I suspected that this was a cinderella.

The specific label on this stamp was issued to promote the 1932 George Washington Bicentennial Celebration in Cincinnati. The design is a highly symbolic and geographically specific snapshot of the Queen City at the time, highlighting the city's connection to Washington and its embrace of the future.

The apparent stamp clearly references the 200th anniversary of Washington's birth in 1732 and emphasizes Ohio's participation in the nationwide celebration from February to Thanksgiving in 1932.

Washington's profile portrait anchors the right side, linking the local event to the national figure, while Cincinnati's Union Station (Union Terminal), a massive, half-circle structure is depicted on the left. Union Terminal was nearing completion around the time of the bicentennial (it officially opened in 1933). This art deco landmark

was a symbol of modernity, progress and Cincinnati's growing role as a transportation hub.

Finally, the zeppelin flying over the terminal represents the cutting edge of transportation and travel

Cincinnati's celebration during that landmark year.

While I could not find a definitive issuing bicentennial committee or organization, the stamp is likely the result of collaborative

work between the Ohio George Washington Bicentennial Commission and the Cincinnati Union Terminal Co. or the city of Cincinnati. The label's primary message, "OHIO INVITES YOU TO HONOR WASHINGTON," indicates it was a publicity piece for the state's official bicentennial effort.

The prominently featured Union Terminal suggests that the Cincinnati Union Terminal Co. almost certainly

was involved. At the time the terminal was a huge civic achievement and a source of immense city pride even though it didn't officially open until 1933. Promoting the Bicentennial *and* the shiny new terminal simultaneously was a perfect cross-marketing opportunity.

I could not find public records detailing the print run of the promotional label, although given the scale of the bicentennial observance and the civic pride in the new train station, it was likely large -- perhaps tens of thousands or more. Let us know if you have a postal cover that has this cinderella affixed to it.



A cinderella label from officials and leaders in Cincinnati marked the bicentennial of President George Washington's birth in 1932 and showcased the city's pride in the construction of the modern train station known as Union Terminal.

in the early 1930s. At that time, zeppelin airships, like the German Graf Zeppelin, were global icons of luxury and long-distance travel, symbolizing the future of aviation.

The image visually connects Cincinnati's new terminal with the broader world of travel. While it holds no postal value, the label is a historically significant item, desirable to collectors of local history, Zeppelin memorabilia, and Cincinnati history. It encapsulates Cincinnati's pride in its newly completed Union Terminal and its dual celebration of both American history and modern progress. It is a wonderful historical artifact that serves as a beautiful snapshot of

Upcoming events

Feb. 6-7: 95th McKinley Show, McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW, North Canton, Ohio

Feb. 27-28: Toledo Stamp Expo 2026, The Stamp Collectors Club of Toledo, Graystone Banquet Hall, 29101 Huffman Rd., Perrysburg, Ohio

Feb. 28: Norwalk Post Card Show, Eagles Hall, 151 Cline St., Norwalk, OH

March 6-7: MICHIPLEX 2026, Michigan Stamp Club, Sokol Cultural Center, 23600 W Warren Ave., Dearborn Heights, Michigan

March 13-15: 136th March Party, Garfield-Perry Stamp Club, Best Western Plus, 15471 Royalton Rd., Strongsville, Ohio

GP programs

The club meets the first Thursday of the month except July and August. Meetings begin at 7 p.m. at Wyndham Independence, 6200 Quarry Lane, Independence; (216-447-1300).

Club members are invited to meet for dinner at 6 p.m. at The Sanctuary Restaurant at the hotel.

Upcoming programs are:

Feb. 5: March Party mailing

March 5: March Party planning

April 2: March Party review and planning for 2027

May 7: To be determined.



Club Officers

Howard Chapman, president

Ray Beer, vice president

Clint Many, secretary

Ken Nilsestuen, treasurer

Rocco Caponi, Chris Duston, Carol Thatcher, trustees

Matt Liebson, legal adviser

Perryscope is published 10 times a year by the Garfield-Perry Stamp Club.

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Send news and information to
Perryscope@garfieldperry.org.

The club is online at garfieldperry.org.

"The collecting of stamps brings untold millions of people of all nations into greater understandings of their world neighbors."

- Cardinal Francis Spellman laying the foundation stone of the Cardinal Spellman Museum of Stamps and Postal History, July 27, 1972

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