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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Well, another National Topical Stamp Show (NTSS) has passed by and my wife and I were unable to attend due to the needs of a sick daughter. Needless to say, we were most disappointed, as we enjoy the annual show very much and it is nice to meet old friends that we only have a chance to see once a year. Never mind, as Fran says in her message, the 2008 show is in Portland, Oregon, and we shall look forward next year to combining the show with some more enjoyment of the scenery in Oregon and during the journey across country to get there!

This issue contains several reports from our Secretary, Chris Dahle, including the meeting report on page 59, the Secretary's report on page 81 and a rather disturbing membership report on page 64. This report indicates that we are likely to drop 18 members for various reasons, primarily failure to pay dues. Apparently, this is a not uncommon trend among various philatelic groups across the country. Many long-time collectors are aging and unable to continue with the hobby while some have already departed from our ranks. Naturally, these members are not being replaced by the addition of new members at the same rate. Most of us know the reasons why many young people do not take up the hobby, but it behooves us all to try and encourage them whenever we can. The Secretary's report has the membership at 138 members in good standing, which is a far cry from the fact that we used to be one of the largest Units in the ATA.

Another disturbing trend appeared at the show, at which while there were plenty of visitors from out-of-town, the local collectors did not put in much of an appearance, despite a wealth of advertising put out by Ray Cartier, the Executive Director. It was certainly disappointing and something the ATA will be addressing during the coming year. Another factor may have been that the Sunday was Father's Day, which will be the case in Portland next year as well, but there were still Friday and Saturday available for visiting the show.

This issue does not have a full complement of columns and this may be due to holidays taking our associate editors on vacation. We have not put in a "member's wants" column for some time and I hope that some of you who have duplicate material or are looking for some specific item will put something in. Remember that there are quite a number of collectors who subscribe to the journal and it is a good place for specialized needs. I have a few duplicates that I shall be putting in the next issue to start the ball rolling again and I hope some of you will follow suit.

That seems to be all at present except to mention the dry weather here. We are under a blanket water restriction at present and it is a bit strange trying to watch the tennis from Wimbledon where they have been rained out frequently. I would be happy if they could send some to us!!

Until next time - Alan J. Hanks

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(For overseas airmail - add \$10)		Half page insertion	\$10
		Quarter page insertion	\$ 5
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