

## Bill Littell - Closed Album

November 14, 1932 - November 10, 2020

**From Glynis Littell:** Bill was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to California when he was 4 or 5. Lived in California until 2009 when we moved to Reno.

Bill owned his own business, Littell's Oxygen, Inc. He took it over from his dad when he passed away around 1950. He sold medical and industrial gasses (welding gasses, etc.). I used to tell people that he sold hot air. The business was quite successful, and he was well respected in his field. He retired in 1994.

We were married July 8, 1967 — we had 53 wonderful years together. Bill had a

son and daughter by a previous marriage, and we adopted a son in 1970. Unfortunately, they have all passed. His daughter just in August. Our son in March 2019. His other son died in 1994. It has been a rough 20 months.

We do have a grandson (our son's son) living in Florida and a granddaughter (Bill's daughter's daughter) in Idaho. She has 2 girls - our great grandchildren.

Bill collected primarily U.S. stamps and started as a young child. His claim to fame with the stamps was trading his upside-down Jenny to a "friend" for one that was correct. He was young and thought his was wrong and wanted one that was correct. I believe he did finally get an upside-down Jenny. Cost somewhat more by that time 😊. He loved spending time at the club with all of you. Did a lot of buying and trading at club meetings. Then spent a lot of time at home organizing and entering them in his computer.

Thank you and everyone in the stamp club for your caring and support of Bill. I know he thought a lot of all of you.

**From Nadiah Beekun:** I was calling Bill Littell the other day, and it rang and rang and then went to voice mail. I left a brief message and a short time later, got a call from his wife Glynis. Bill had passed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. I wasn't surprised because he had already warned me about the cancer coming back, and I knew that he was in one of the care facilities. He had me on speed dial, and sometimes he would misdial me when he was trying to call his wife, and we would talk for a couple of minutes and then say goodbye. As long as I have known him, he and I would always talk a few minutes and I would ask him questions about my business and he would make suggestions about advertising, product placement, and building customer loyalty. We would also talk about stamps.

Bill was a Stamp Collector, and a stamp accumulator. I suspect that he was a bit of a general accumulator as well from his stories about yard sale finds. He first showed up in my little space in the Antiques & Treasures Mall about 10 years ago, wanting to see if I was interested in buying some of his stamps. I didn't know then, but he was having a go round with cancer at the time. As we were talking, I was advising him that most stamps were not worth a lot, and that only a few in any collection might be worth real money. I showed him some examples of less valuable stamps, and he said he hadn't seen these before ... or those ones, or the other



**Bill and Glynis Littell at the December 2019 stamp club Christmas / Holiday Party.**

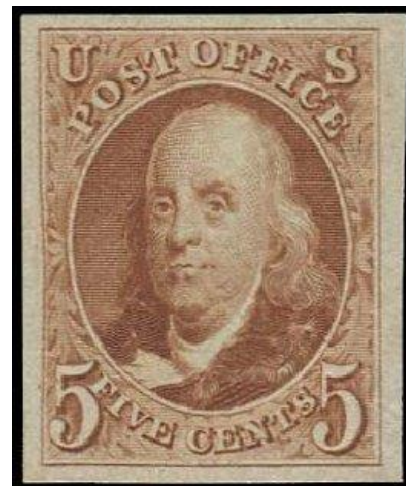
ones. He wanted them. "I thought you came in here to sell stamps?" "Another time." He bought the stamps and arranged to come back.

Bill found out that he really did like stamps and the stories that came with them. He was apparently a successful businessman who had retired and so in between Philatelic Discussions, we would talk revenue enhancement strategies for my store, and focusing on core product in a niche market. And he kept buying this stamp or that. If he came across something in a garage sale, he would bring it in for evaluation and was pleased as punch when he made a score.

When a customer comes into your business every week or two, you soon realize that it is because you have something he wants. I don't think that it was because of my great beauty (have you seen me?) but rather because Bill Littell enjoyed the conversations about growing a business and talking about stamps! I put my foot down! I told him that I wasn't going to let him come into the store or buy anymore stamps from me UNTIL he went to a Nevada Stamp Study Society meeting. It took him a couple of weeks, but when he finally got there, he found a home! He very rarely missed a meeting, and he would get to talking about stamps with the members around him and a comment would come from up front about "we are having a meeting here..." But it would happen again because the group around him was talking stamps, not counting beans!

The last few month for him were hard. Bill had some personal tragedies, and then, the cancer came back. He put me on a hunt for a specific stamp.... a U.S. Scott #3. I almost snagged one for him but was not sure of the veracity of the vendor. He said it was the only stamp that he wanted that he didn't have. Regretfully, I couldn't help him in time. I will continue to look for one that would meet HIS specifications and will add it to my collection, next to the Frank Fey used U.S. #1, in remembrance.

I am not going to miss him, because I will always have and appreciate his friendship and advice. I am not going to miss Bill, because I can still see him in my booth, or at a meeting, or at the club Christmas, er, HOLIDAY Party. I will regret not getting to work with him on creating a stellar stamp exhibit about the creation of the Silver Centennial Stamp of 1959. (He came across the original artwork for the stamp at a garage sale. Great Story.) I will regret him not being able to sell me the leftovers that he didn't want of stamps and supplies that he got at NSSS club auctions and consignment sales. I will regret not being able to go to my phone and say, "Hey Siri, Call Littell."



Scott #3 - in honor of Bill.

**From James Steckley, Vice-President:** My remembrance of Bill was his being the third person to arrive at the clubhouse on meeting day. Erik Fields and I would be setting up for the meeting and Bill would come in with his briefcase and a McDonald's bag, sit down and have his breakfast. He was very kind, and I am just sorry that I only knew him for a short time.

**From JJ Johnson:** Sorry to hear about Bill passing away. Whenever I could come to a meeting, I always sat beside him, even way back when we met at the Muslin Center. He bought stamps from me (and even gave me a few) and we always compared our "Mystic stamp collection binders." He was always a very animated talker and we had many a lively conversation about stamps. I used to bring him an extra donut when I went up to refill my coffee. Nadia wrote a beautiful story on Bill and I appreciate being able to read it. Likewise, the great and moving tribute/words from Glynis. When I get back to coming to the meetings it will be truly difficult since I won't have Bill to sit beside and chat with anymore. I may just keep that seat vacant in his memory. He will be greatly missed by me. Thanks so much for sharing. The stamp club is really like a family. I am grateful to be a part of it over the many years. Cheers to all and best of the Christmas and holiday season to all.

**Other remembrances:** Most members saw Bill sitting at the back table at meetings with his briefcase open, an album with same stamps to sell or trade and the ever-present Mystic catalogue as his reference. When a visitor came to the meetings to possibly sell an inherited collection or accumulation, Bill always seemed to be in front offering to buy everything in the box. He succeeded in buying many collections.

We miss you, Bill.