

Top Capital 11-27-60



The Stamp Corner

# Originator of Basketball To Be Honored

Spokane Capital - Journal

10-1-61

By BROOK L. HAINES  
The 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. James Naismith and the 70th anniversary of the game of basketball will be honored by a 4-cent stamp to be issued November 6 at Springfield, Mass., according to word received from Rep. Robert F. Ellsworth.

Naismith (1861-1939) was born at Almonte, Ontario, Canada, on November 6. While a physical education instructor on the staff of the Y.M.C.A. College at Springfield, Mass., he originated the game by nailing two peach baskets on the wall of the gym.

As originally played, the game had 9 men on a team—(there were 18 members in that particular gym class). When a member of the class suggested that the new game be called "Naismith ball," the originator disapproved of the idea with the comment, "Such a name would kill it instantly."

WHEN ANOTHER member of the class — Frank Mahan — suggested "basketball," that was approved by Dr. Naismith and was adopted. When the popularity of the game extended outside the confines of the Springfield College, there was a demand for a set of fixed rules. Dr. Naismith drafted these in 1892. There were 13 rules, of which most remain basic to the game today, so the fundamentals of the game remain.

In 1898, Naismith received his M.D. degree from Gross Medical College at Denver, Colo. He then became a member of the faculty of the University of Kansas at Law-



DR. NAISMITH  
Peach Baskets to Glory

rence, as a professor of physical education, where he remained through the years. In later years, this same faculty became noted for another member, Phog Allen, known to some as "Mr. Basketball."

All the usual first-day services will be extended by the Postmaster at Springfield, Mass. The original printing calls for 100 million copies.

THE DEATH of Dag Hammarskjold raises thoughts concerning possible com-

memorative stamp issues. The United Nations has not used personalities as subjects for its postal paper. Hence, the possibility of a special U.N. issue is somewhat remote. However, some member countries of the U.N. may take steps along such a line. If the U.S.A. had not stopped its "Champion of Liberty" series, this nation might have a good subject for another commemorative issue.

Arizona's 50th anniversary of statehood will be marked by a 4-cent stamp to be issued February 14, next year. Belmont Faries, writing in the Washington (D.C.) Sunday Star, further comments as follows: "The announcement was made last week by Senator Hayden and Congressman Udall, who are working with the Post Office Department in the choice of a design.

The stamp is expected to be a multicolor issue, probably featuring the giant saguaro cactus and its yellow and white flower. A suggested design in vertical format has a copper background (Arizona is the Copper State) and pictures the saguaro cactus and its flower in green and yellow. Although Phoenix, the state capital, is expected to be the first-day city, Tucson has not been eliminated from consideration.

THE H. E. HARRIS, pocket-size U.S. stamp catalog, is off the press. The publication contains 160 pages and carried nearly 2,000 illustrations.

When the 4-cent Workmen's Compensation Law commemorative stamp went on sale at Milwaukee, Wis., on September 4, there were 410,236 first-day covers cancelled. A total of 661,704

stamps were sold there that day. Five cities have been granted authority to utilize special cancellations reading, "America's Space Age

World's Fair Seattle USA 1962" from November 1, 1961, through October 21, 1962. They are: Spokane, Yakima and Olympia, Washington; Eugene, Ore., and San Francisco, Calif.

Jack E. Naismith will leave Saturday for Springfield, Mass., to attend the memorial for his father, Dr. James Naismith, inventor of basketball. The day-long activities on Nov. 6 will include the cornerstone-laying ceremonies for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame at Springfield, the game's birthplace, and the issuance of a commemorative stamp by the United States Post Office. Jack Naismith now teaches woodworking in the Greater Kansas City school for exceptional children. His wife, Mrs. Evelyn Alrich Naismith, is head of exceptional children in the Wyandotte, Kan., Welborn School, Kansas City Kan.

Spokane Journal 11/2/61

