

# Harriet Tubman honored in the newest U.S. issue

By Dominic Sama  
Inquirer Stamp Editor

While a teenage slave, Harriet Tubman put in back-breaking hours as a field hand, performing all the chores of a male slave, but the experience was to toughen her for a life far more demanding and rewarding.

Mrs. Tubman, who will be honored Wednesday with a 13-cent commemorative stamp, was probably the most active "conductor" of the Underground Railroad. As a fugitive she fled her native Maryland and returned at least 19 times to lead more than 300 slaves to freedom.

Deeply religious but unschooled — she could neither read nor write — Mrs. Tubman continually outsmarted bounty hunters. Fellow slaves called her "Moses" but to plantation owners her capture was worth \$40,000.

Mrs. Tubman was born around 1820 in Dorchester County on Maryland's Eastern Shore and was given the name of Araminta Ross. However, she later assumed the name of her mother, Harriet Greene.

In 1844, she was forced by her master to marry John Tubman, a free black who, it was said, threatened to turn her in to the authorities if she did not forget her plans to escape. Undaunted, she fled five years later and went to Philadelphia by way of the railroad. She made her first raid to Maryland after Congress had passed the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850.

"Passengers" were required to observe a simple rule in their escape: They could not surrender or attempt to return, a rule that was enforced at gunpoint.

Mrs. Tubman continued to make forays mostly into Maryland to guide slaves out, often taking them as far north as Canada. In 1857, she led her aging parents to Auburn, N.Y., and settled them on a tract of land purchased from William H. Seward, who later promoted the purchase of Alaska.

One of her "stations" on the railroad was the home of Thomas Garrett of Wilmington. Garrett, a native of Upper Darby, was an abolitionist who operated a hardware store. In 1848, he was convicted of aiding fleeing slaves and the heavy fines put him out of business. Friends, however, helped him start over and he continued to aid runaway slaves.

During her exploits, Mrs. Tubman was befriended by radical abolitionist John Brown. In 1860 she plunged into the women's rights movement and addressed anti-slavery rallies.

## Stamps



D.C. 20013. If the postal service affixes the stamps, a fee of 13 cents per stamp should accompany a self-addressed envelope to Harriet Tubman Stamps, Postmaster, Washington, D.C. 20013. Deadline is Feb. 16.

## Nauru

On Jan. 31, 1968, Nauru won independence, and the 10th anniversary of becoming a republic will be commemorated with a set of two stamps, 15 and 60 cents. The issue day is, naturally, Tuesday.

## New Zealand

The centennial of two towns, a county and the telephone will be observed on four commemoratives, 10, 10, 12 and 20 cents, respectively, by New Zealand.

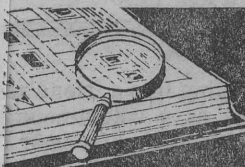
## Turks and Caicos

A set of four focusing on the 7,000-foot deep Turks Passage Channel will be issued by the Turks and Caicos Islands. The stamps, 6, 20, 25 and 55 cents, feature a map of the channel, a passing cargo ship, a lighthouse and another ship. Issue day is Thursday.

## Meetings

**WEDNESDAY:** Haddonfield Stamp Club, borough hall, Kings Highway East, Haddonfield, N. J. Auction, 8 p.m.

**THURSDAY:** American Topical Association, Philadelphia chapter, Jefferson Medical College student lounge, 1025 Walnut St. Alan Warren will present a slide show, "The American Revolution on First Day Covers." 3 p.m.



## STAMPS and COINS



### STAMPS

U.S. PLATE BLOCK—SALE					
#720.....\$1.25	#829.....\$4.50	#1043.....\$1.00			
804......25	1031......15	1044.....1.00			
805......25	1031A.....1.10	1044A.....1.00			
806......25	1033......20	1045.....1.50			
807......25	1035......25	1046.....1.50			
808.....1.40	1036......30	1047.....1.75			
811.....1.20	1038......50	1048.....4.00			
815.....1.75	1039......75	1049.....4.00			
817.....3.25	1041.....4.00	1050.....6.75			
820.....2.50	1042.....1.00	1051.....8.00			
825.....3.00	1042A.....1.00	1213......45			

Plus 6% Tax and \$1.00 Postage

Philly Stamp Co. 1804 Chestnut St.

### COINS

## DELAWARE VALLEY COIN & STAMP CO.

BUYING SILVER \$\$\$

PAY MINIMUM \$4.25 Ea. Fine +  
Paying TOP PRICES ON  
ALL SILVER, GOLD & RARE COINS

Call or Stop in

BAZAAR SHOPPING CENTER

Clifton Heights, Pa. Open 7 Days a Week (215) 244-6534

Harriet Tubman



Black Heritage USA 13c

Harriet Tubman



Black Heritage USA 13c

Harriet Tubman



Black Heritage USA 13c

Harriet Tubman



Black Heritage USA 13c