



NAVA

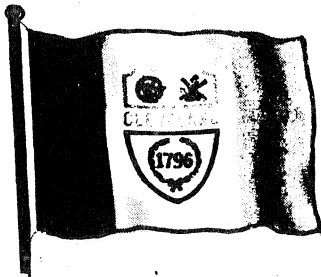
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NEWS

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NAVA 9



CLEVELAND

NAVA's annual convention for 1975 will be held October 10, 11 and 12 at the Hollenden House, Cleveland, Ohio. The annual meeting is the highlight of NAVA's activities as vexillologists from all parts of North America get together to see old friends, make new friends, and indulge in their favorite pastime: talking about and looking at flags from all over the world. Plan now to save these dates so that you can join your fellow "flag wavers" for a truly interesting and worthwhile weekend, as your fellow NAVA members who have attended annual meetings in the past can attest.

Final details for registration and hotel registration will be mailed to you about six weeks before the meeting, but it now appears that registration will be about \$25.00, for which you will receive the following:

- * The annual banquet on Saturday, October 11.
- * Luncheon on Sunday, October 12.
- * Coffee/Tea breaks Saturday morning and afternoon, and coffee/tea and sweet rolls on Sunday morning.
- * A bus tour of historical and vexillological sites in the Cleveland area.

Rooms at the Hollenden House for the meeting are at the special convention rate of \$23. for single rooms; \$30. for double, or twin beds.



Persons wishing to deliver a talk on vexillology or related topics should write to John Purcell, the Corresponding Secretary, before September 15. His address is 16500 Heather Lane, Apt. 201, Middleburg Hts., Ohio 44130. Please provide him with the title of your talk, what (if any) audio-visual equipment you will need provided for your talk, and approximately how long you think it will last. (Please plan to limit talks to 20-25 minutes, unless you have an exceptional topic, in which case please explain.)

Friday evening, October 10, there will be a social hour and cash bar cocktail party to welcome all our members and friends to Cleveland, and Saturday, we are planning a NAVA "first", in the planning stages for a couple of years now: this year we will display the personal flags of NAVA members at the banquet, so be sure to bring yours along (with flag-stand), and if you haven't gotten it finished yet, get busy! (Suggested size for personal flags for banquet display is 2 x 3 feet.)

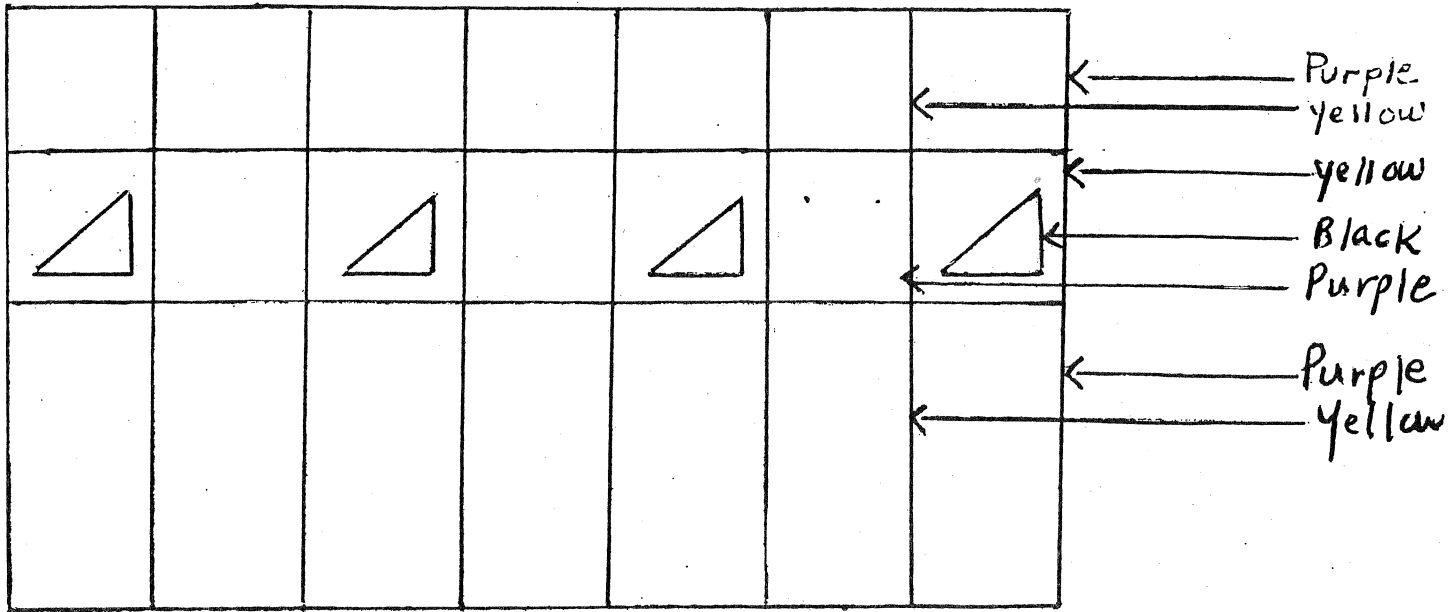
Cleveland's Growth Association says, "The Best Things in Life Are Right Here in Cleveland!" and the Cleveland Bicentennial Commission says, "Cleveland's the City with the Spirit of '76" (literally, as you'll see on the bus tour!). We hope it's also the site for one of NAVA's best conventions ever. See you in Cleveland in October!

- Dr. John M. Purcell

Vexillology in the News

- * FAMILY OF BETSY ROSS WANTS TO MOVE BODY: Betsy Ross, the Revolutionary War seamstress credited with making the first United States flag, may soon have a new resting place - and just in time for the nation's 200th birthday celebration.
Seventeen of her descendants, including five great-great-great-great-great grandsons and four great-great-great-great-great granddaughters, have petitioned Philadelphia Common Pleas Court to have her reburied in the garden of her historic home, three blocks from Independence Hall and the famed Liberty Bell. A hearing has been scheduled for July 17.
"It's only fitting that she be brought back home," said William Balderston, 78 year-old retired president of the Philco Corporation, who is Betsy Ross's great-great grandson.
"Her grave should be more accessible to the public," he said.
Betsy Ross is buried in Mount Moriah Cemetery in Southwest Philadelphia.
(- The New York Times, 18 May 1975)
- * Mrs. Junko Tabei, a Japanese housewife and first woman to scale the world's tallest peak, Mount Everest, on May 15th, unfurled the flags of Japan and Nepal at the summit.
(- The New York Post, 24 May 1975)
- * NEW FLAG BOOK FOR SALE BY THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS: The Library of Congress has placed on display replicas of 12 flags of the Revolutionary period that conform to the originals in proportion, color, and manufacture. The flags hang above the Library's Great Hall and are described in a booklet entitled "Twelve Flags of the American Revolution", which sells for \$1.25. Write to the Information Office, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540. All mail orders must be prepaid.

THE PERSONAL FLAG OF NAVA MEMBER, JOHN M. PURCELL



Description: The field of the flag is composed of seven vertical stripes, alternately purple and yellow (4 purple, 3 yellow). A horizontal stripe, one-fourth the width of the flag, occupies the lower quarter of the upper half of the flag. This stripe is, in turn, divided vertically into seven stripes alternately yellow and purple (4 yellow, 3 purple). One each of the yellow squares thus formed is a black isosceles triangle, the right angle of which rests on the sinister (observer's right) side of the square. The triangle is centered in the square; there are four in all.

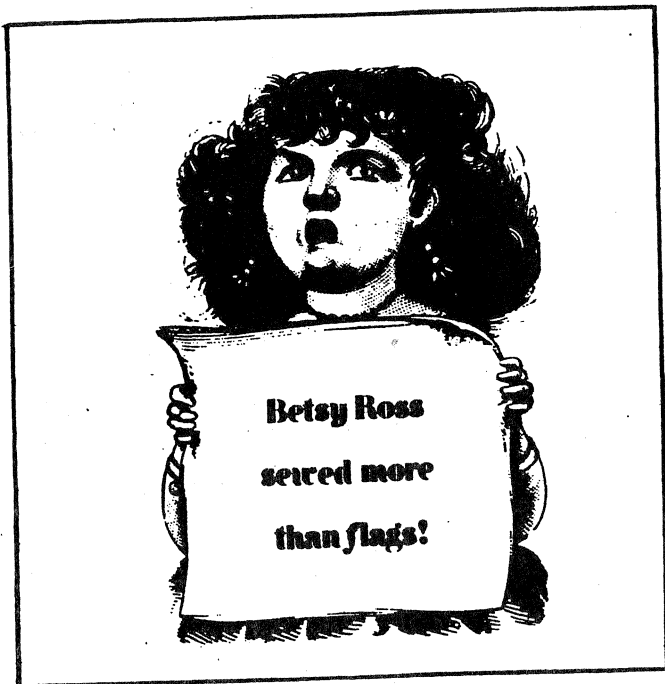
Dimensions: Black triangles measure one and two-fifths ($1 \frac{2}{5}$) units (both legs of the right angle) in a square of two (2) units. The proportions of the flag are four units to seven (4:7).

Symbolism: Yellow and black are the colors from the Purcell coat-of-arms. Purple is the personal color of John M. Purcell. The 7 vertical stripes are for the 7 letters in "PURCELL". The four black triangles are symbolic of the 4 black boars' heads which appear on the Purcell Coat-of-Arms. The boars' heads are a war-like representation of the early meaning of "Purcell", viz., "piglet".



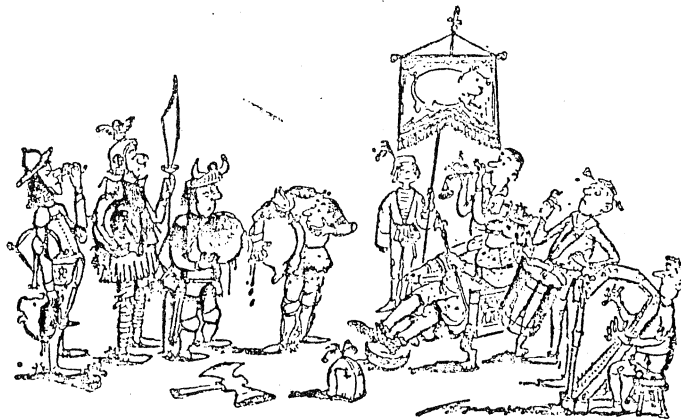
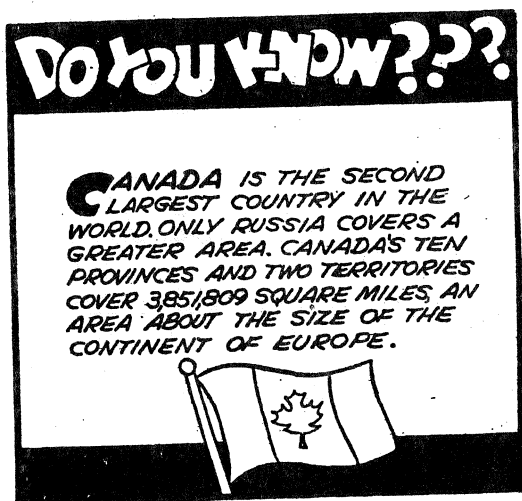
* Charles E. Brannon, a NAVA member and Curator of the Tumbling Waters Museum of Flags, 2080 Myrtlewood Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36111, has arranged a Traveling Bicentennial Exhibition, "The Glory and the Dream". An $8\frac{1}{2}$ x 11 catalog, containing fifty-two pages complete with photographs of all of the sixty-nine items in the exhibition, as well as detailed descriptions of the flags and their history, is available for \$2.50 plus 50 cents postage.





Women's Liberation response to a
vexillologist

from: Bicentennial Broadside, published
by the National Council of Churches



Battle Royal

BLINDMAN'S BUFF, the game of childish innocence, once provided adult sport that was anything but innocuous. When played by grown men swinging clubs, it ranked as medieval France's favorite public spectacle—a kind of poor-man's-mayhem that even the nobility enjoyed watching. Every village fair offered, besides wrestling matches, a "blindmen's" bout. Two simpletons, blindfolded, wielding heavy sticks, and grasping ropes tied to a stake, groped to find and kill the tethered goose or shoat that was the prize. Naturally, their buffets—from which the game's name derives—often landed on each other. This was considered screamingly funny. The king's taste, however, conceived something better. In 1425, Charles VII sponsored a bizarre show in Paris. Four blind beggars, arrayed in full armor, were led in stately procession as if to a knights' tournament, preceded by music and a banner depicting a pig. In a palace courtyard, where the pig was staked and a large crowd watched, the men were handed regular weapons of war. The resulting battle over the pig, in which the blind men hacked each other with swords, axes and lances, proved so nearly lethal that it was finally stopped. The pig was divided among them, as their reward for a royally diverting spectacle.

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