



STAMP
STUDY
SOCIETY

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N.S.S.S. POST BOY

Presents

The Post Boy

May, 1999

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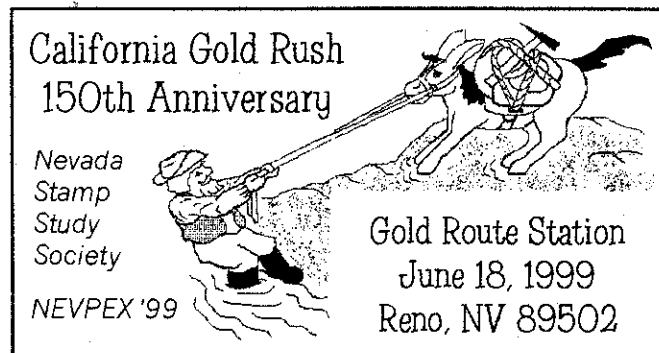
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Isn't it great the way NEVPEX 99 is progressing. This year's NEVPEX is receiving more interest from stamp dealers. At last count, there were 14 dealers and another possible one, but there may be more before the show takes place. The rent for the use of the coliseum has been paid in full. We still have enough capitol in the bank to take care of the other expenses, at least, most of them. The need for volunteers to help with the show is still there. Contact Dan Forgues or Dick Dreiling to see where they can assign you. Sign up as soon as possible.

Cindy Scott passed around a copy of the new cachet with its appropriate subject. Below is a copy of the cachet. Very nice work.



The Junior program is moving along. The reports from Barbara Stanfield and Dick Dreiling indicate more and more juniors are getting interested in the program. They are doing a fine job.

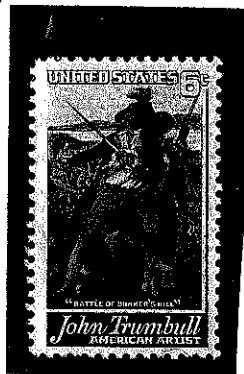
N.S.S.S. has a new coffee maker thanks to the generosity of James Goodwin. Now there will be **FRESH** coffee at the meetings. Thanks again, Jim.

"To promote and enhance the hobby of Stamp Collecting"

One of the decisions that has been brought before the members of N.S.S.S. is whether to have a joint show with the Reno Coin club. As long as the show is called Nevada Philatelic Exhibition, NEVPEX, it cannot include coin collectors, doll collectors etc.etc. Philatelic means stamps not coins. If the name of the show was changed to Nev, and Reno Philatelic and Numismatic Bourse, then, it can include coin collectors. Or call it a hobby show and include doll collecting, star gazing, railroading, quilting etc, etc. Why people have a hard time understanding this, I don't know.

The election for the positions of President, Treasurer and two board members will be coming up in July. Those who desire to fill one of these positions please contact Tom Morrissey or George Costello. Blank ballots will appear in all the next issues of Post Boy. You can nominate members, if they desire to be nominated and submit them. The final voting will take place at the last meeting in July. Those elected officials will be sworn in at the first meeting in August.

The following stamp is no. Scott 1361.



The following questions refers to this stamp. Each correct answer receives 20 Auction Bucks.

1. What was John Trumbull's occupation?
2. What was he noted for?
3. Who were the two men pictured on the stamp, which was titled "Battle of Bunker Hill."
4. In what state was the Battle of Bunker Hill fought?
5. Who won?

Answers to April Quiz:

1. International Civil Aeronautics Conference,
2. To commemorate the progress of air flight..
3. Albany, NY; Rome NY; Syracuse, NY: and Utica, NY.
4. The Wright Bros. and Lindbergh.
5. The Wright Bros. first flying machine.

Good Luck.

Railway Post Offices is an exciting and interesting part of the U.S. Mail system. It began in the 1860s with the Development of the railway system. A mail car was added to the train for the purpose of sorting and delivering mail to the stations along the train's route. It didn't take long for the system to expand. The railroad became the primary and fastest method of handling the mail. Coast to coast was accomplished in 1889. The railroad cancel R. P.O. with its assigned number became a collector' subject.

The name of the railroad route, Chicago and Omaha, is on the inside of the cancel. This railroad company was Chicago and North Western Railway. The sample at the end of this article shows the route to be the run between Chicago and Omaha. The number in the cancel represents the Trip No. 14. The W.D. stands for Western Division. S.D. stands for Southern Division. Likewise, N.D. and E.D. The R.P.O stands for Railway Post Office.

The letters were sorted by a postal clerk as he traveled along the route. In all probability the process was just routine, as opposed to the many climatic events that happened in earlier days. Train wrecks, fires, error in catching the stringers or throwing the pouch into the designated areas.

One such clerk, a substitute, now a regular, put the hook out too soon and caught a semaphore post. It was ripped from its holdings. Now confused about the goof he just made, he promptly threw the sack of mail just in time to have it crash into the station's window. The crew laughed so much that no demerits were given. For weeks after, the crew still hooted the "sub" when he would board the mail car. It was a while before he was assigned to perform the task again.

The R.P.O. clerks were not as charismatic as the engineers, but the intelligence and high efficiency of the clerks was superb. It required an annual test of 284 difficult questions. A sorting test requires the clerk to sort cards at a rate of 16 per minute.

The sorting of the mail by these clerks was astounding. The myriad of slots, boxes, pigeon holes would confuse any average individual. But, for the clerk he could pump the mail into its' designated place at a rate of 3 times the test required and into unmarked slots. He must have a memory of 3000 to 10000 destinations. Routes, time schedules of the various trains along his route was imbedded into his mind. It became automatic for him.

One such incident describes a situation where one of the clerks had a heart attack and was asked where he lived. Hardly had the victim spoke his address, a preoccupied clerk barked out "Carrier 145, 2nd morning delivery, if its special, pouch it to the Main...."

There were more serious moments, such as the time the clerk got his chain caught in the pouch when he threw it off the train. He went with it and at 65 mph there was little doubt of his outcome. Other deadly risks were possible. Wrecks and holdups were always on the horizon.

Holdups were rare but they did happen. All mail clerks were required to carry firearms. Pistols, mainly. There are several incidents where the clerk needed them to help stave off a robbery attempt. As late as 1939, two postal clerks repulsed a desperate group of bandits, with gun play. This was on the Chicago and Carbondale train, No. 31, at Onarga, Ill. Badly wounded, they managed to wound one of the bandits and saved a \$56,000 payroll.

Wrecks still happen these days. For the mail clerk, he would first notice railroad ties and rails passing past the windows and the mail flying like pigeons, in the car. He

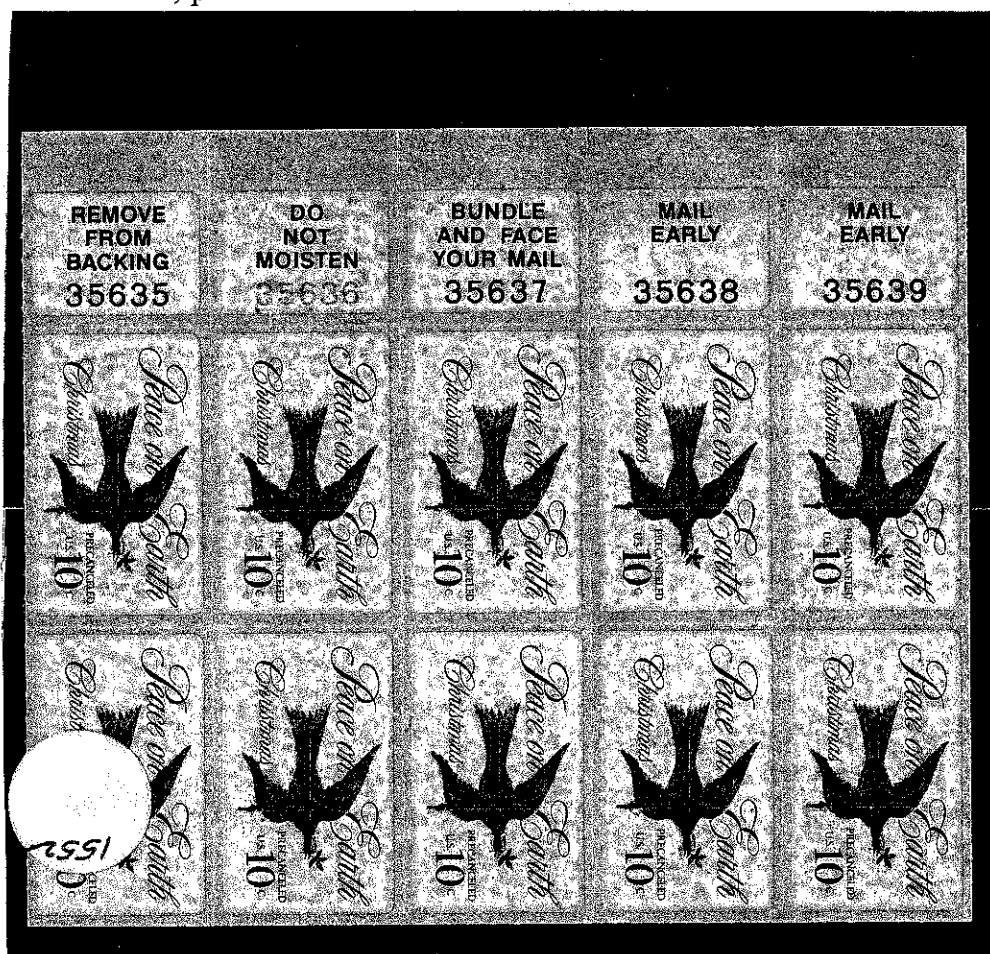
This announcement may be a little too late, but something may still be done about it.

Nadiah Beekun noted the schools are having Ocean Week and if we could put together a display of "ocean, fish or sea or other marine life" to be sent to the Junior Stamp Program, it might interest other students to join the program. This display could be sent around to the schools on a rotating basis. Call Nadiah if you can help. 355-1461. Thank you, Nadiah, for bringing this to our attention. If any members have some ideas about a program like this please contact the Junior Program managers.

Did you know? The term "Foxing" does not enter into our everyday life of stamp collecting. When the term is described chances are that you will immediately think of a U.S. Stamp that fell under its spell.

Foxing. This term describes a condition associated with deteriorating paper. Specifically, foxing refers to yellowish-brown spots or stains that appear on aging paper, due to a chemical reaction. In many cases, old covers, maps and stamps have these telltale stains. In recent years, foxing also has been associated with several early attempts at self-adhesive stamps. Because there was no barrier layer used, the adhesive used with these stamps is eating away at the paper. Such is particularly true of the 1974 United States Dove Weather vane stamp. In some cases, foxing can be reversed to salvage these stamps. Foxing is considered a stamp fault.

In regards to the March Auction Bucks Quiz, it was brought to my attention, the answer to question number 5 was incorrectly given by myself. The correct answer is "**Charlton Heston.**" The movie was Far Horizons made in 1955. Sorry about that. Those who submitted a Unknown or Other answer, please contact Barbara Stanfield and receive an additional 20 Auction Bucks.



Example of Foxing on the Dove Stamp

knew he was in for a wreck. Only two people, ahead of the mail clerks, knew the wreck was to happen. The engineer and the fireman.

The life of a postal mail clerk had some glamour and lots of hard work. Once it was in their blood they usually stayed for a lifetime. One mail clerk racked up 2,717,500 miles of R.P.O. duty. Many others could claim over 1,000,000 miles of duty. That's dedication.

Its interesting what information can come from a couple of covers and lots of research.

Enjoy the subject and maybe you might want to collect more of the R.P.O. covers.

I **don't** collect R.P.O. covers, but I ran across a couple and it turned out to be an interesting subject. By joining the Mobile Post Office Society a great source of information was sent to me. The MPOS has a publication called the Transit Postmark Collector. It covers railroad, highway post offices ,street car post offices and many other subjects relating to mobile postal service. It is issued bimonthly. The dues are \$18.00 per year.



At the last meeting in April, old Bill provided the program. It was on Perfins. I don't collect Perfins, but became interested in their various beautiful and unusual designs. So, by joining the Perfin club a good source of information was opened to me.

My one country, which was my specialty was St. Lucia. It consisted of stamps canceled A11 (St. Lucia special cancel prior to the first stamp of St. Lucia) to the last issue in 1961. On exhibiting it the response was "Nice, Uh Huh." or "that's nice." ect.,ect.,ect. This meant to me it was polite way of saying "Big Deal". So writing about philatelic subjects provided me a way to give information to many people. I found that I write better than I talk. By giving this talk on a subject that is not one of my collectibles, and in answer to someone who asked "Why?" Well, that's why. If someone can be exposed to a new side of stamp collecting that might prove interesting to them, then I have accomplished my mission. It beats opening up an album and pointing to a stamp and saying "I got this" and "I got that."

Here is the space for members to place the names of the nominees for:

President _____

Treasurer _____

Board Members: (two) (2) to be selected.

The answers for Auction Bucks:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____