

P. O. BOX 2907 • SPARKS, NEVADA 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Sat. or each month at 10:00 a.m.
in the Sparks Railroad Musium at Pyramid and Victorian Ave.



POST BOY

N.S.S.S.

Presents
The Post Boy

April, 2000

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NEVPEX 2000 is on for this year. The Convention Center has been leased for the 3 days. This will be June 16, 17, 18th. We set up on Fri. afternoon and the show opens at 10:00 a.m. The times of the show are as last year. 10 to 6 on Sat. and 10 to 5p.m on Sun.

A special cancel will be needed by the Post Office to be used on all show covers. A special show cover is being created by **Cindy Scott**. Her covers are always outstanding.

The insurance policy has been paid for the year. It will cover 2 main events. One of which is NEVPEX 2000.

Ed Kotsull provided the refreshments for the Mar. 11th meeting and **Roy Zimmerman** provided them for the Mar. 25th meeting.

Al Shay won the door prize at the Mar. 11th meeting and **Kay Williams** won it at the Mar. 25th.

Mr. Ho has returned from his journey and **Al Shay** and **George Costello** were active again after illness had them incapacitated for a few weeks. We missed their presence.

The Treasurer, **Mike McAuliffe**, reported the Convention Center is paid if full for this year's event.

A list of the members and their collecting interests is posted on the last page of this issue. As you will see, not every one's name is their. If it is not on this list, please contact **Bill Brew** and the list will be updated. The list will provide a source of trading and items to bring to the Mini-auction and on consignment day.

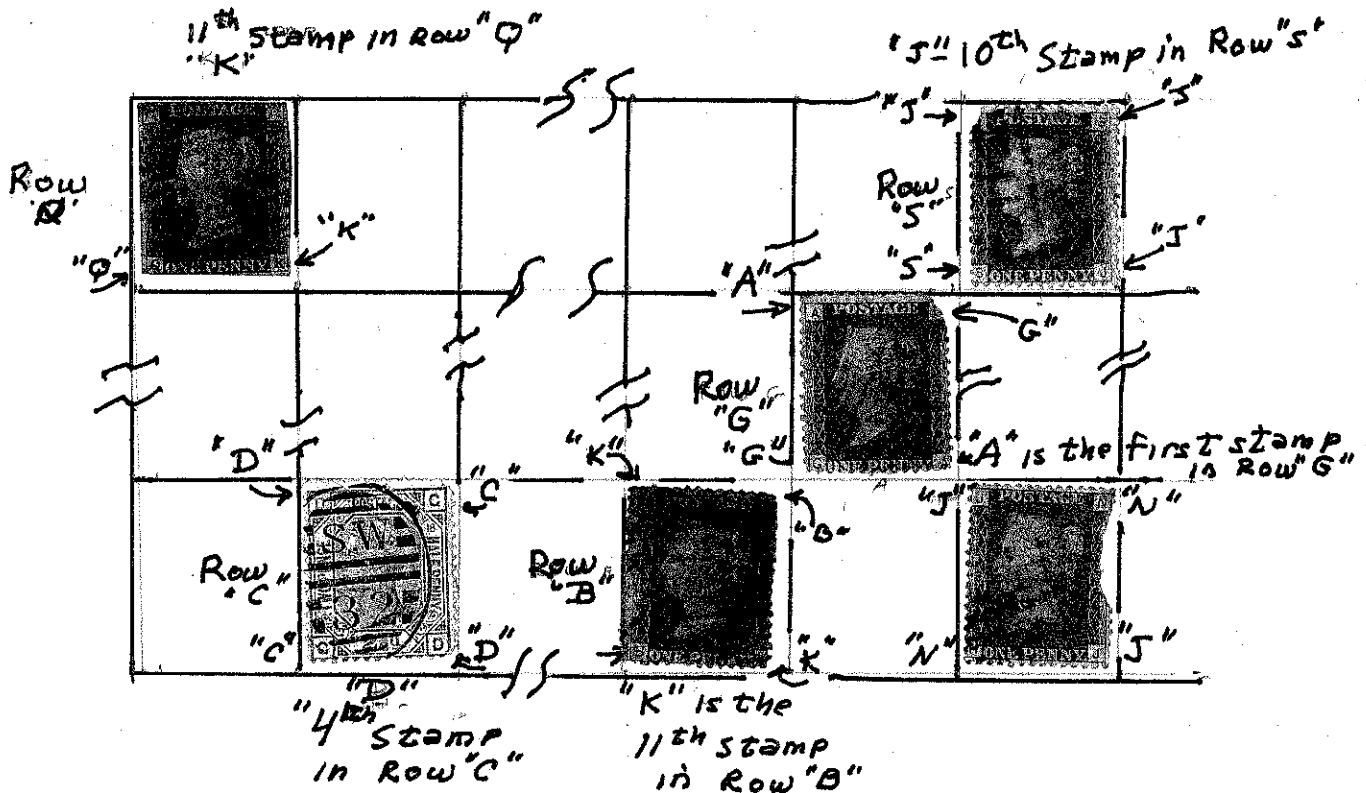
Our attendance is increasing each meeting as well as our membership. It looks like 2000 will be a great year for N.S.S.S.

The program chairman, **Roy Zimmerman**, needs volunteers for upcoming programs. Please contact him.

"To promote and enhance the hobby of Stamp Collecting"

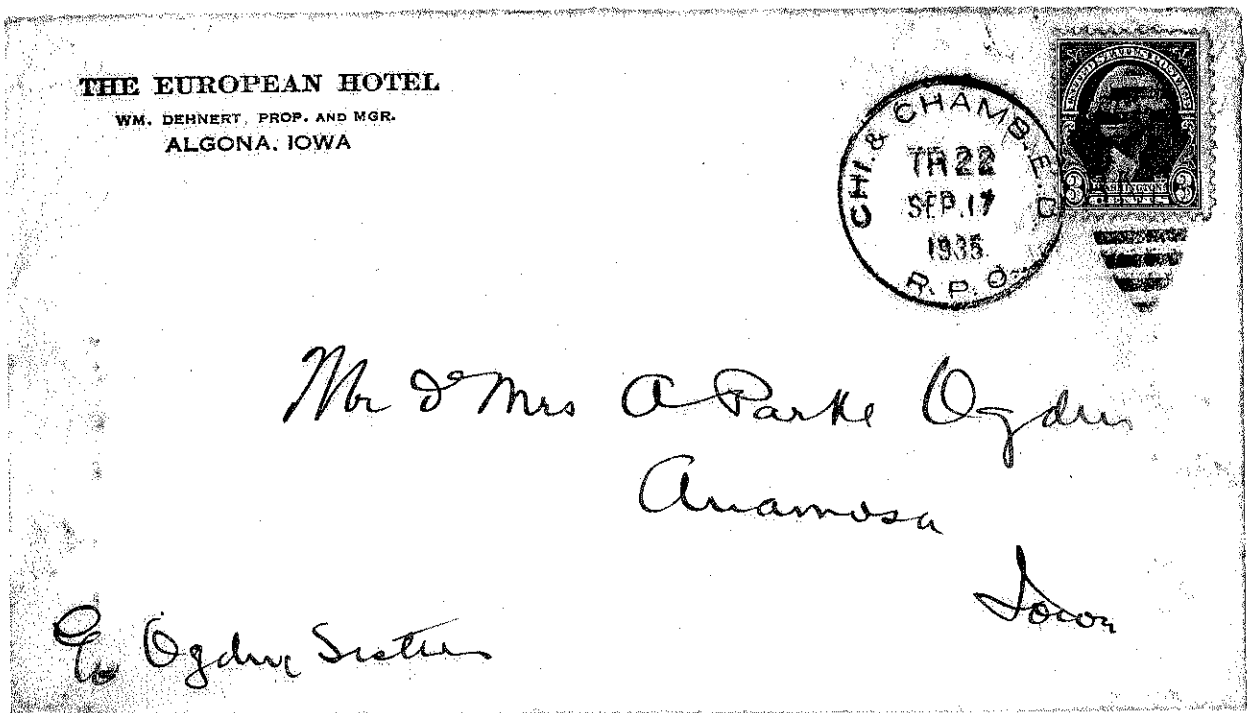
Plating is an interesting side line for some philatelists. Plating is described as restoring a sheet of stamps by using individual stamps and placing them in the correct location that the original sheet was printed. Not many stamps issued by various governments provide the opportunity to do this type of work. One of the first was the Great Britain's numbers 1 and 2. Scott No. 1,2,3,4,8 to 21. Also, Scott No. 29 and 30, 31,32 and 33. Plus many other early issues of Great Britain. Those issues had the distinct printing which had letters in the corners of the stamp. The letters indicated the position in the horizontal and vertical rows in which that particular specimen was placed. The left corner refers to the horizontal row and the right corner to the vertical row. When four corners are used the lower ones indicated the stamps position in the sheet and the top ones are the same letters reversed. Other countries that provided the opportunity to plate were the German stamps issued during WWII. The stamps were made in ASAP situation. Thus, first group of stamps were photographed and copied and recopied and recopied, etc. until a sheet was completed. Each time the stamps were copied they picked up dust specks and added to the previous copy. Thus, by very deep scrutiny of the stamps one could place that stamp in a particular location of the original sheet.

In effect it would be like tearing apart the sheet of the Western Heroes into individual stamps and then replace them back into their original position. Not too tough an operation as compared to plating the earlier stamps mentioned above. Below is a drawing with some of the stamps as they would be located in a sheet.



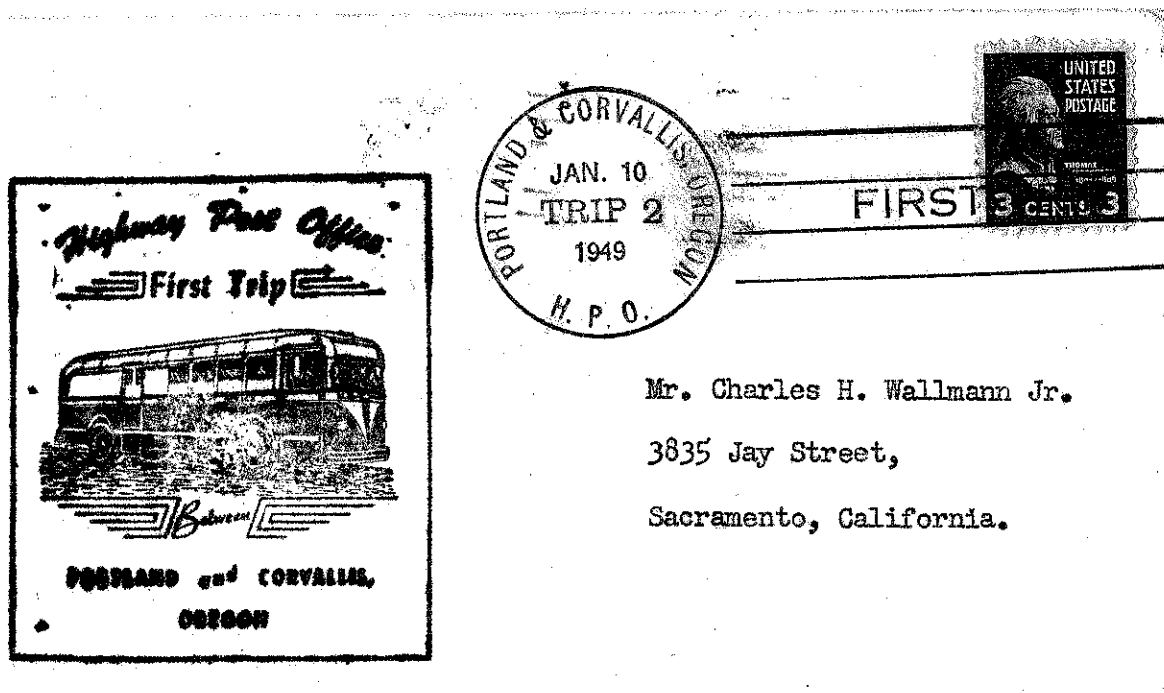
You will notice that the letters go from A to X in either direction. The first twelve letters A to L makes 12 rows down and 12 stamps across. This will make a sheet of 144 stamps. Letters M to X makes 12 row down and 12 stamps across. The stamps are printed in sheets of four sections of 144 stamps. This makes a total of 720 stamps per printed sheet. The sheets are then separated into sheets of 144. These sheets are sent to the post office for the clerk to cut them into individual customer needs. Later the stamp were perforated to make separation easier. So if you desire to spend some (SOME) time plating the British stamps do so. It can be a lot of fun to try to complete a sheet of 144 then continue on until you have the whole 720 stamps. If stay with the SC #33 at .40 cents catalog you might be able to enjoy the hobby at the reasonable cost. Notice the plate numbers are of different values. The last stamp available for this project would be SC #108 at catalog value of \$.75. Any way, have fun.

Below is a U.S. railroad cover. It is a source of great philatelic information. Railroads, in the early days provided a lot history of letters being transferred from city to city. Collecting railroad covers is interesting and there is a stamp club that specializes about them. Many countries had this type of service over the years. Canada, Great Britain, Europe and Asia. Many of these covers have distinct cancels, along with the identification of the railroad used to carry the mails. Look this over carefully as the Auction Bucks questions relate to information provided on the cover.



The cover below was carried by the Highway Postal Office. This system was used to handle mail to cities or areas that were not on the Railroad Postal system. This system also carried the mail to the nearest railroad using the U.S. Postal Railroad Offices.

This part of the philatelic history was replaced by the air mail system, however, the U.S. Postal Service still transports much of its mail by truck and trains, but does not cancel the letters as was used in the earlier Highway Postal Offices.



Mr. Charles H. Wallmann Jr.
3835 Jay Street,
Sacramento, California.

Auction Bucks Quiz.

1. What train lines did this cover travel upon?
2. What was the year and date?
3. What was the trip number of this run?
4. What route was used for carrying this cover mail by H.P.O?
5. What was the trip number and date of this cover?

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eBay Dos and Don'ts

- **DO** your homework. What is the same item selling for — not just on eBay but at shows, in ads in *Stamp Collector*, elsewhere on the Internet? With frequently bought-and-sold items, a bit of research can quickly pay big dividends.
- **DON'T** succumb to "auction fever" — the irrational, machismo-induced conviction that "this and *only* this one will do!" If you do, you're likely to overpay, end up feeling dissatisfied — and have only yourself to blame.
- **DO** keep your catalog handy. Use it to confirm that what you're bidding on is what the seller says it is. Is there more than one variety? How many stamps are in the full set? What is the current catalog value? This is information you need.
- **DON'T** be intimidated. The computer is just another tool. The actual transactions are not much different from ordering from a dealer ad in *Stamp Collector*.
- **DO** ask questions. If you're uncertain, need to know what shipping will cost, or want to have an item expertized, there's a place right on the bid screen to make it easy for you to "ask seller a question" via e-mail and find out.
- **DON'T** believe everything you see in print. It may say "gorgeous cover," but if you see a crushed corner, stains and a smeared cancel, that's what you'll get.
- **DO** remember: a bid is an obligation. Don't bid unless you plan to pay.
- **DON'T** be afraid to return material if it fails to live up to what was promised. Reputable sellers cheerfully accept returns as part of the cost of business.
- **DO** figure out what a special item is worth to you and bid with confidence at that level. If you are outbid at your maximum price, you won't feel bad about it. If you win, you'll feel good — and you may win at well under your top bid.
- **DON'T** rely on sniping — last-second bidding at a level slightly above the current high bid — to get an item that you really want. It can be successful, but it doesn't work often against intelligent and determined competition.
- **DO** leave feedback — good where it is merited, neutral if it is appropriate, bad (only) if all else fails. Feedback is the built-in check-and-balance system on eBay that helps keep both buyers and sellers in line.
- **DON'T** post negative feedback until you have exhausted every other means to resolve a disagreement. Negative feedback should be a last resort.
- **DO** keep complete records of all eBay transactions, to prevent confusion. You can set up a file in your e-mail to save all eBay-related messages as well.
- **DON'T** forget to contact the seller when the sale ends to arrange payment and shipping, and to pay promptly, after you've won a lot.

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