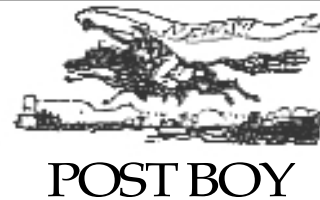


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am  
in the Sparks Heritage Museum at Pyramid and Victorian Avenue

# N.S.S.S.



May 11, 2002

**PPresident:**

**Dick Dreiling**

35 Mc Lemore Ct.,  
Sparks, NV 89436  
(775) 425-0623

**Vice President:**

**Jim Ringer**

605 E. Huffaker Ln.,  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 853-3137

**Secretary/Editor:**

**Nadiah Beekum**

2560 Howard Dr.  
Sparks, NV. 89434  
(775) 355-1461

**Treasurer:**

**Michael Mc Auliffe**

4820 Pinespring Dr.,  
Reno NV 89509  
(775) 826-1848

**Editor:**

**Howard Grenzebach**

180 Pompe  
Lemmon Valley  
(775) 972-6301

**Directors:**

**Nadiah Beekum**

2560 Howard Dr.  
Sparks, NV. 89434  
(775) 355-1461

**Stan Cronwell**

10000 Blue Spruce Dr.,  
Reno, NV 89511  
(775) 849-7850

**Frank Fey**

2601 Monterey Circle  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 826-1476

**James S. Goodwin**

50 E. Quail St.,  
Sparks, NV 89431  
(775) 358-7781

**Ed Hartly**

1285 Baring Blvd.,  
PMB # 306  
Sparks NV 89434  
(775) 626-8513

**Al Shay**

2930 Outlook Dr.,  
Reno, NV 89509  
(775) 825-8304

**Brandon Wimbley (Jr. Rep.)**

3965 Pargue Verde,  
Reno. Nv 89502

The weather's getting better as summer wends it's lazy way towards Reno. Let's hope it gets here in time for the **Greater Reno Stamp and coin Show** on June 15th and 16th.

Looks like our next meeting on May 11th will be shorter than usual. It seems there will be a tour coming through our beloved museum at 11:30 in the AM. We will need some able bodies to help set up some tables and chairs outside for the tour's luncheon before we go. Plan on ending the meeting by 11:00.

**Brandon's** meeting of the Junior stamp club went rather well this week. While only four people showed up for the meeting, they were four guys that had been to previous meetings. Now that there are "regulars" the club should be able to start growing. However, these guys are going to have to stop spreading rumors that the meetings are not coed.

**Duane Wilson** was the promulgator of this week's program. He showed us a little bit about cachet making. Duane makes most of his cahets with his computer, occasionally adding some of his own artwork to produce some rather fine finished pieces, What is a cachet, you ask? Duane tells us it's "a design of words or pictures" according to Scott. Duane is a member of the Art Covers Exchange group and passed around one of their newsletters showing us some of the

work of their other members. We were also treated to many pictorial cancellations that went well with the cachets Duane produced. I thought Duane made some very impressive cachets and judging from the conversations I overheard after the program, several other members agree with my assessment. My favorite was the "Designer Jewelry - The Al Queda Collection." Way to go Duane.

On page three of this issue I have a special book review that will replace the promised questionnaire. In the next issue I will keep my promise. This week, however we have a decision to make as to whether to attempt to create a philatelic library or have an auction. Be sure to read page three so we can have your input.

Take a look at the **quiz page** if you haven't lately. I know the questions have been tough lately, but I'm trying to make them a little easier so that a few more of you can earn some auction bucks for the auction later on this year. Now's the time to take advantage and start warming up for when the questions become harder. Get a few of these under your belt right now and later it will be a challenge for you. Come on. Jump in. The water's fine.

See you at the next meeting. If you have anything to put in the Post Boy, submit it to me at [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com), or give it to me at the meeting. Howard

# United States Postal Systems

## 1775-1993

### The Postal Role in U.S. Development

Between the Revolutionary period and the first World War, United States postal officials applied themselves to improving transportation of the mails. From those early days to the present, the Postal Service has helped develop and subsidize every new mode of transportation in the United States. The postal role was a natural one; apart from postal employees themselves, transportation was the single most important element in mail delivery, literally, the legs of communication.

Even when the general public was skeptical or fearful of a new means of transportation, postal officials experimented with inventions that offered potential for moving the mail faster, occasionally suffering embarrassment, ridicule, or even abuse in the process.

As mail delivery evolved from foot to horseback, stagecoach, steamboat, railroad, automobile, and airplane, with intermediate and overlapping use of balloons, helicopters, and pneumatic tubes, mail contracts ensured the income necessary to build the great highways, rail lines, and airways that eventually spanned the continent.

By the turn of the 19th century, the Post Office Department had purchased a number of stagecoaches for operation on the nation's better post roads -- a post road being any road on which the mail traveled -- and continued to encourage new designs to improve passenger comfort and carry mail more safely. Ten years before waterways were declared post roads in 1823, the Post Office used steamboats to carry mail between post towns where no roads existed.

In 1831, when steam-driven engines "traveling at the unconscionable speed of 15 miles an hour" were denounced as a "device of Satan to lead immortal souls to hell," railroads began to carry mail for short distances. By 1836, two years before railroads were constituted post roads, the Postal Service had awarded its first mail contract to the railroads.

As early as 1896, before many people in the United States were aware of a new mode of transportation that would eventually supplant the horse and buggy, the Post Office Department experimented with the "horseless wagon" in its search for faster and cheaper carriage of the mails. In its *Annual Report* for 1899, the Department announced that it had tested the practicality of using the automobile to collect mail in Buffalo, New York. In 1901, the Post Office Department entered into its first contract to carry the mail by automobile between the Buffalo Post Office and a postal station in the Pan American Exposition grounds. Although it took 35 minutes to traverse the 4 1/2 miles between the two offices, the Department professed great satisfaction with the contract and prepared for similar service on January 1, 1902, at Minneapolis.

From 1901 to 1914, the Post Office performed all of its vehicle service under contract. Then, unhappy with exorbitant rates and frequent frauds uncovered in these accounts, the Department asked for and received approval from Congress to establish the first government-owned motor vehicle service at Washington, D.C., on October 19, 1914.

Next issue, The Pony Express

*-Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier 'n puttin' it back in. - Will Rodgers*

Two issues ago I mentioned a questionnaire as a possible substitute for an interview. Here it is at last. Just fill out the answers on a separate page (or the back of this one) and return it to me and you'll have your fifteen minutes of fame.

Your name \_\_\_\_\_

1. When did you start collecting? Like most of us, did you put it down and start again 20 or thirty years later?
2. What do you collect?
3. Most of us have a specialty, how about you?
4. Why do you specialize in this. What drew your attention to this particular field?
5. What about Postal History, is that part of your interests too?
6. Why stamps? Why not coins or trains or Barbie dolls?
7. Do you collect coins, trains or Barbie Dolls?
8. What do you think others would find to be the most fascinating aspect of your stamp collection and/or your specialty?
9. How did you come to join our stamp club and how did you find out about us?

Don't forget to include your name with your answers to these questions. Please feel free to add anything you might feel is important to this interview. There are several questions I have probably forgotten to ask. Also, ignore any question you don't want to answer. Return the questionnaire to myself (Howard) or one of the club officers if I'm not at the meeting.

In the next issue I'll "interview" myself so that all of you will have an idea of what will be included and what to expect. In this manner we can get to know each of the club members just a little better. We all have a story to tell, this is our chance to tell a small part of it.

*The only 15 letter word that can be spelled without repeating a letter is uncopyrighable.*

**The Computer Corner**

<http://www.frii.com/~rmingee/cogpage.htm>



Recognize these? No, they're not doodles. They are Cog Wheel Cancels and Dick Dreiling found a website that deals with them. Above, the picture depicts the three types of cogwheel cancellations found on American stamps. Below is the top of the opening page of this site. The pictured stamps display all three types.

This site is very informative and the author, Rick Minge, appears to be very knowledgeable in this subject. I sent an email to him, commenting about the page and asked a question about one of his covers. He was not only kind enough to answer my query, he also took the time to send a larger scan of the cover in question. If you check out his page, don't forget to send him a thank you note. He put a lot of work into this for us.

Rick's page takes us into his stamp collection. Each of his links takes us to a different cover or group of covers and the last page to a grouping of about fifty stamps, all with cogwheel cancels. Each of the cover has a brief write-up on the home page and a more complete write-up when you go to the link. The covers include one from the Civil War era and several pre and post war mailings.

**Rick's Personal San Francisco Cog Wheel and Postal History Display!**

Page Last Updated 5/25/08



The SF cog wheel was in use **PRIMARILY** during the years 1861-67 (although other years have been observed) and can be found on the 1861 issue, Scott #63-78. There were three types (all shown above and below), two "long armed" versions and one "short arm" version (**EASY** to ID). Differences in the two similar long arm versions are noted in the diameter of the circles and also the width of the "arms" (note difference between #71 and #78b).

Rick hasn't finished building his site yet so, it'll be a good place to return to now and then. The fourth link on the home page will take you to three more pages of several covers each that have yet to be dealt with "(oh the time, where does it go!)". Good research does take a little time. Thanks Rick.

The following questions relate to early stamps of various countries. All can be found pictured in most comprehensive stamp catalogues.

1. One of Canada's earliest stamps (1851) depicts this animal:  
A. wolverine    B. beaver    C. goose    D. moose
2. One of Australia's earliest stamps (1913) depicts the country's map along with this animal:  
A. kangaroo    B. koala    C. kookaburra    D. emu
3. On an early stamp of Burma (1940) an elephant:  
A. moves teak    B. pulls a barge    C. plows a rice field    D. carries a prince
4. On an early Dubai stamp (1963), this creature rests alongside the portrait of a sheik:  
A. hermit crab    B. scorpion    C. snake    D. mosquito
5. What is featured on one of Egypt's earliest stamps (1867)?  
A. a mummy    B. the sphinx    C. a camel    D. a galleon
6. Both large and small varieties of these, are featured on early Finland stamps (1856-58):  
A. emeralds    B. opals    C. rubies    D. pearls
7. This 'divine herald of mythology' appears on the earliest of Greek stamps (1861):  
Answer: *(One Word)* \_\_\_\_\_
8. Iraq's first stamps (1923-25) issued under British mandate, depict:  
A. a Sunni mosque    B. boats on the Tigris    C. all of the above    D. an Assyrian winged bull
9. Jordan's first stamp as an independent kingdom (1946) depicts:  
A. symbols of peace and liberty    B. its flag    C. its monarch    D. Kerak Castle
10. Kiribati, among the first to usher in every new year, issued a stamp in 1979, depicting the country's flag....and on this flag is shown:  
A. a map of the islands group    B. the Southern Cross    C. the sun on a watery horizon    D. pale blue and white stripes

All of the answers to these questions can be found in your Scott catalog, even if it's an old one. Or they can be found on the World Wide Web or in general information books on philately. Ten auction bucks per correct answer.

Good luck to all and happy answers.

Easy one wasn't it? Told you it would be. Here's the answers to last issue's quiz.

1. For convenience to local postal clerks, Great Britain was the first country to introduce perforated postage stamps.
2. Great Britain perforated their stamps with tiny holes (perf 16) back in 1854.
3. Though usually indicating the purchaser or used as a precancel, these tiny holes can represent a distinct variety like France's famous 'EIPA' airmail stamp.
4. British Guyana issued its first stamp in 1850.
5. Bavaria introduced its first stamp in 1849, soon most of the German States followed with their own.
6. King George the V was on the regular British issues which Ireland used for their first overprints.
7. Earl L. Ovington flew the first official American airmail cover in 1911, in Long Island, N.Y.
8. Both red and black Maltese Cross cancels exist on Great Britain's 'Penny Black.'
9. Though now part of the United Nations, the UPU headquarters are located in Bern, Switzerland.

Hope you got them all right and picked up the extra ten bucks. For those of you who didn't turn in an answer sheet but took the quiz anyway. Why not? We're not publishing names, except on the occasion when someone comes up with an unexpected answer that they get credit for (Keith Carvin, last issue). If you get nine of them wrong, I won't tell a soul and you get ten auction bucks that you can spend at the auction on some crazy little item. Not a bad deal!

*"Due to budget constraints and energy conservation, not to mention the outrageous PG & E prices, the light at the end of the tunnel will be shut off."*