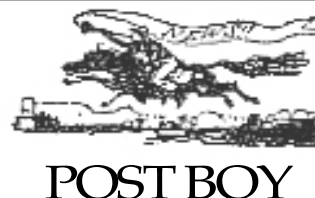


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.



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July 13, 2002

Hope everyone had a good 4th of July, didn't drink too much and made it home safely. There were lots of good fireworks on TV and, I hope, downtown (didn't get to see them myself).

The summer NSSS picnic is coming u. Make sure to sign up with **Dick Dreiling** and let him know what you are bringing so we don't wind up with too much potato salad. Guest are welcome, just tell Dick how many. July 20th is the date at Rock Park. It's easy to find,. Going east on I 80, take the Rock Boulevard turn off and follow Rock south 'til you come to it on the right. If you find Brookside golf course, turn around cause you just missed it.

Hope you didn't miss the last meeting. We had a lively discussion of the **Greater Reno Stamp and Coin Show**. Everyone had a chance to voice their opinion on the shortcomings as well as the longcomings of the show. I think we learned a lot from this one and should be able to do a bang-up job on it next year. Attendance at this show wasn't as good as we would like, there were some small problems with advertising. Hopefully that will be corrected next time and some of the coin dealers wanted to leave early. This made people think it was closing time. All in all, sales were fair but could've been better. Well, we learn these thing through experience and next year we'll learn something new.

Time to start thinking about new officers for the club. Elections are coming up. We need some nominations for seats. Please check with the nominee to make sure he or she wants the position and has the time to fulfill their duties. The officers that are in place now have done a great job for us. Lets hope they are willing to continue as thing are. **Jim Ringer's** position as Vice President will be opening. He is unable to continue. So we need a nomination to replace him. You've done a great job, Jim. Hate to lose you.

At the first meeting of June, there was a lot of talk about eBay and concern about

possible bad buys on that site. I just wanted to remind everybody to look at **Sherryll Oswald's** website called "eBay-forgeries, fakes, dodgy sellers, scams". It was in the March 8 issue of **Post Boy**. If you've lost your copy, here's the address www.pcug.org.au/~sherryll/Forgeries/Forgeries_article.htm. Very helpful pages. In this issue are more helpful pages about forgeries of the world. Check page 4.

While your thumbing through this issue, check out page 3. We're stating to get to know some of our members. **Stan Cronwell** sent in his interview as did **Hugo Havet**. As promised, I also interviewed myself. By golly, I think we all came off pretty well. If you still have the "interview" issue, make a copy of the question page and fill it out. I attend most meetings and will be happy to take your interview and turn it into a short story about **you**. Everybody deserves their fifteen minutes of fame.

In the last issue I asked a question about a stamp from Grenada but didn't get an answer, Guess there are not too many collectors of Grenada. So here's another. I have this stamp from Canada. It's a common stamp (# 267, I think), but the bottom margin is too large and it is imperforate on three sides.



What is it? I don't see it in the Scott catalog. I find a coil which I assume it to be. It's the third imperforate side that has me baffled.

If you have a question that you'd like to put to the members, bring it to me, Howard, and I'll put it in this column. I'll even do the scan for you.

United States Postal Systems 1775-1993

Pony Express

In the meantime, in the first half of the 19th century, the population of the United States began to flow steadily into the newly acquired territories of Louisiana, Oregon, and California. Wagon trains inched along the old Santa Fe, Mormon, and Oregon Trails, their passengers often ravaged by ambushes, hunger, disease, and pestilence.

When gold was discovered in California in 1848, the pioneer movement quickened, and in that year the Post Office Department awarded a contract to the Pacific Mail Steamship Company to carry mail to California. Under this contract, mail traveled by ship from New York to Panama, moved across Panama by rail, then went on to San Francisco by ship. It was supposed to take three to four weeks to receive a letter from the East, but this goal was seldom achieved.

Some overland mail reached California as early as 1848, if erratically, via the military through Fort Leavenworth and Santa Fe. Scheduled overland service for semi-weekly trips began on September 15, 1858, after the Post Office issued a contract to the Overland Mail Company stage line of John Butterfield, whose stages used the 2,800-mile southern route between Tipton, Missouri, and San Francisco. Although the specified running time was 24 days, cross-country mail often took months.

Californians felt their isolation keenly. Los Angeles, for example, learned that California had been admitted to the Union fully six weeks after the fact. Three years later, in 1853, the *Los Angeles Star* somewhat plaintively asked its readers: "Can somebody tell us what has become of the U. S. mail for this section of the world? Some four weeks since it has arrived here. The mail rider comes and goes regularly enough but the mail bags do not. One time he says the mail is not landed in San Diego; another time there was so much of it the donkey could not bring it, and he sent it to San Pedro on the steamer -- which carried it up to San Francisco. Thus it goes wandering up and down the ocean" It was abundantly clear that faster transportation was needed to the Pacific.

In March 1860, William H. Russell, an American transportation pioneer, advertised in newspapers as follows: "Wanted: Young, skinny, wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred."

Russell had failed repeatedly to get backing from the Senate Post Office and Post Roads Committee for an express route to carry mail between St. Joseph, Missouri -- the westernmost point reached by the railroad and telegraph -- and California. St. Joseph was the strategic starting point for the direct 2,000-mile central route to the West. Except for a few forts and settlements, however, the route beyond St. Joseph was a vast, unknown land, inhabited primarily by Native Americans.

Many people believed transportation across this area on a year-round basis was impossible because of the extreme weather conditions. Russell, however, thought a route was feasible and was ready to organize his own express, with or without a mail contract, to prove it.

As a first step, Russell and his two partners, Majors and Waddell, formed the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company. They built new relay stations and readied existing ones for use. The country was combed for good horses, animals hardy enough to challenge deserts and mountains and to withstand thirst in summer and ice in winter. Riders were recruited hastily but, before being hired, had to swear on a Bible not to cuss, fight, or abuse their animals and to conduct themselves honestly.

Starting on April 3, 1860, the Pony Express ran through parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. On an average day, a rider covered 75 to 100 miles. He changed horses at relay stations, set about 10 or 15 miles apart, transferring himself and his mochila (a saddle cover with four pockets or cantinas for mail) to the new mount, all in one leap.

The first mail by Pony Express via the central route from St. Joseph to Sacramento took 10 1/2 days, cutting the Overland Stage time via the southern route by more than half. The fastest delivery was in March 1861, when President Abraham Lincoln's inaugural address was carried in 7 days and 17 hours.

From April 1860 through June 1861, the Pony Express operated as a private enterprise. From July 1, 1861, it operated under contract as a mail route until October 24, 1861, when the transcontinental telegraph line was completed, and the Pony Express became a legend.

Next issue, The Confederate Postal System.

Let's meet a few of our fellow members.

Stan Cronwell started collecting stamps when his Grandmother gave him some stamps and an Album when he was just ten years old. And, like most of us, stopped when he was 14 or 15, started again in his late twenties, stopped again and started up in 1994 or '95. He joined our club when he met Jim Ringer, here at the Sparks Heritage Museum. Thanks, Jim, he was a great addition to the club.

Stan collects Third Reich and the German occupations along with U.S. Naval covers/submarines and U.S. FDC's, Civil War covers and Zeppelins. His specialty is Third Reich and it's occupations. He was a History major in college, specializing in the Balkans and Near East and is now an amateur historian on World War two; especially the European Theater which explains his specialty. "Appalling" is the word Stan uses to describe the enormous amount of reading he does to research his material. His expertise shows each time one of us buys some of his stamps or covers.

.....

Hugo Havet began his collecting experience in 1935, but quit after a while. He started collecting again in 1960 and has continued ever since. It seems One of our NEVPEX shows caught his attention and this is what brought him into the club. Our last show must have been of great interest to him because he also has a coin collection.

Hugo collects the Middle East including Saudi Arabia, Syria, Lebanon, and Kuwait. In addition to that, Nepal, The Vatican and Liechtenstein. He specializes in the Middle East after having spent 30 years in Saudi Arabia and Syria. Hugo feels that perhaps the most interesting aspect to collecting the Middle East is getting to know that part of the world. We'll have to ask him to elaborate on that some day. Hugo must have a lot of stories to tell.

.....

Howard Grenzebach started collecting stamps at the tender age of seven when given a few stamps by his grandmother. He continued collecting until his teens when something more interesting came along. The collection was put away until 1968, but was stopped again in 1972 when his collection disappeared while moving around the country. Quite a traveler that guy. It was started again in 1985 when he noticed and purchased some Nazi stamps at an antique shop in Reno. Howard learned of the club when he inquired at the library. The club met at UNR at the time. It was a little tough to find, but find it he did.

Howard collects Third Reich, occupations and post war stamps as well as Vietnam from it's earliest days as Cochin China and Annam and Tonkin to the reunification in 1976. He specializes in Third Reich, an interest that started when he lived in post war Germany for a couple of years in 1952. "Perhaps the most interesting aspect of collecting is the Postal History.", Howard tells us. "It puts you in touch with the history of the times and German history of that time is probably the most important history of the century."

Donkeys kill more people annually than plane crashes.

<http://www.geocities.com/claghorn1p/>

Forgeries are a subject very near and dear to my heart as well as to my wallet. I have a rather larger collection of them than I would like to have and, I suppose, so do you. We can't help but have a few, they are pervasive. Don't be saddened if you find a forgery or two. It's all part of the learning experience. You can make lemonade out of lemons. Start a collection. Most collectors call these collection "reference" collections. And so they are. These collections will help you to determine if you are buying a fake before you buy it, or, at the least, identify it before the return limit runs out on what you have already bought. Here's a site that can help you to identify much of what you already have. Check it out.

Comparative Philatelic Forgery Identification Site

This site shows stamp fakes and forgeries by country and year of issue. You can click on a country name to see a thumbnail catalog of that countries issues and then select a stamp by clicking on that postage stamp. Alternately, you can first click on a year of issue and then select the stamp from there. Clicking on a stamp will bring more detail deeper in the tree. Check back often as this Philatelic Forgery site is new regularly. Forgers covered are Sperati, Fournier, Spiro, Oneglia and others.

This site is intended to be educational, informing viewers of common forgeries and showing their characteristics, primarily by comparison. This site is not intended to be used to certify genuine original stamps, as that can only be done by comparison face to face with genuine reference stamps and forgeries by an expert.

We are working on putting the entire Fournier Album on CD. Click the link to the left to see a sneak preview.

This site deals mostly the Fournier "facsimiles" and Sperati forgeries. Fournier and Sperati made the most common forgeries on the market. It is not intended to be a site to expertise your stamps, but to help you identify the forgeries you have or might buy.

It is a very simply set up page. Point an click an alphabet letter and it takes you all the countries under (say) the "G's". For some countries such as The Confederate States or Vietnam, it will take you to another site that will help you with your identification. The Confederate States will take you to Kevin Baker's site and Vietnam will take you to the Society of Indo-China Philatelists.

They are also working on putting the entire Fournier album on a CD and will give you a sneak peek. The album open with an introduction that may help you to become a forger yourself. First you'll have to learn French. The preface is written in French, German, Italian, German and, of course, English. The pictures (or scans) have the appearance of being taken from the original pages. There 171 Fournier pages represented on 7 web pages.

All-in-all, a very interesting site with a lot of information that can help you set up a new collection or, if you prefer, a "reference collection." I highly recommend this site. And for all of you who left your computers at the library, go down and check it out.

The longest recorded flight of a chicken is thirteen seconds

These question are of general knowledge. A few of them may take a bit of digging to find the right answer (how many stamp collectors are there?). So, go ahead and dig.

1: What is the term that describes the collection and study of postage stamps, covers, and related post material?

Answer: (One Word, spelling counts) _____

2: What is the distinction of the world famous 'Penny Black'?

- A. the world's most valuable stamp
- B. the world's smallest stamp
- C. the world's rarest stamp
- D. the world's first stamp

3: What is the world's most valuable stamp?

- A. Penny Black
- B. Blackjack Issue
- C. Inverted Jenny
- D. British Guiana 1 cent stamp

4: What term is used to describe stamps in unused, original condition, just as it came from the Post Office?

- A. Imperforate
- B. Mint
- C. Complete
- D. Se-tenant

5: What term is used to refer to a stamp showing a production which is not constant?

- A. Die
- B. Coil
- C. Freak
- D. Mutant

6: Approximately how many stamp collectors are there in the United States?

- A. 650,000
- B. 22 million
- C. 850,000
- D. 35 million

7: Who was the first person in the world, other than a head of state, to be pictured on a stamp?

- A. Benjamin Franklin
- B. Sir Wallace Cornwall
- C. Benjamin Disraeli
- D. Herbert Hoover

8: What foreign country was first to issue Disney stamps?

- A. St. Vincent and the Grenadines
- B. Monaco
- C. San Marino
- D. Andorra

9: What country issued the world's longest pictorial set?

- A. Poland
- B. USA
- C. Italy
- D. Turkey

This one is a little trickier than most, but you should be able to answer all correctly. Number 3. could draw some argument so just pick the best answer. As usual, ten auction bucks per answer and ten extra if you get them all right.

Good luck to all and happy answers.

42.7 percent of all statistics are made up on the spot.

This one was pretty easy too, but tougher one lie ahead. But not just yet. Here's the answers to last issue's quiz.

Question #1 B. beaver



Question #2 A. kangaroo



Question #3 A. moves teak

Question #4 A. hermit crab



Question #5 B. the sphinx



Question #6 D. pearls

Question #7 Hermes, 'Messenger of the Gods'

Question #8 C. all of the above



Question #9: A. symbols of peace and liberty

Question #10 C. the sun on a watery horizon

This week managed to see a few more players who all did pretty well. It's a good time to start preparing for the auction and win a few "bucks" for the event. Now's the time to start entering while the questions are still easy. In shorter time than you may think. I might start putting the toughies up again.