



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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JANUARY 11, 2003

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Hope everyone had a Good holiday season and received all the presents they asked for from Santa Claus. Hope you all had a safe New Years eve and won all your bets for the 2003 New Years day football games. One more thing to hope for and that's a great and successful 2003.

Have you looked at the quiz in the last issue of the **Post Boy**? If not, go back and take a look. You still have time to bring in the answers and earn a hundred auction bucks to start the new year with. This month's quiz will be a little tougher and I won't be including the answers to last month's quiz in this month's Post Boy. Instead, we'll have a brief story about a few of our fellow club members.

For those of you who have been unable to pay the yearly dues so far, or who have just plain forgotten, this would be the perfect time to bring it in. It's only \$17.50 and will benefit our treasurer, **Mike McAuliffe's**, piece of mind.

In this issue is a short but interesting read about the

Havasupai tribe that lives in the Grand Canyon. It may be a good idea to write a letter to them. There may be a stamp collector among them. Did you know they have four waterfalls on the reservation? Two of them are pictured on page three.

A message from the President

With the dawning of a New Year, I hope yours is wonderful and prosperous. Remember, this is YOUR club. If you have any suggestions that can be used to make it better, please give a written note to me or any member of the Board of Directors. I can guarantee it will be carefully considered. One thing our club can use to become more successful is dependable volunteers. There are lots of things we would like to do, but it is unfair to ask the same eight or nine people to continue to give of their time and effort. Remember, we have elections coming up in July, but nominations for the offices being vacated will be accepted in May. Start thinking now about who you would like to nominate, but talk to them first to ensure they will serve.

Happy New Year,
Dick Dreiling

ZIP Code

The change in character of the mail, the tremendous increase in mail volume, and the revolution in transportation, coupled with the steep rise in manpower costs, made adoption of modern technology imperative and helped produce the ZIP (Zoning Improvement Plan) Code.

Despite the growing transport accessibility offered by the airlines, the Post Office Department in 1930 still moved the bulk of its domestic mail by rail, massing, re-sorting, and redistributing it for long distance hauling through the major railroad hubs of the nation. More than 10,000 mail-carrying trains crisscrossed the country, moving round the clock into virtually every village and metropolitan area.

The railroads' peak year may have been 1930. By 1963, fewer trains, making fewer stops, carried the mail. In these same years, 1930-1963, the United States underwent many changes. It suffered through a prolonged and paralyzing depression, fought its second World War of the 20th century, and moved from an agricultural economy to a highly industrial one of international preeminence. The character, volume, and transportation of mail also changed.

The social correspondence of the earlier century gave way, gradually at first, and then explosively, to business mail. By 1963, business mail constituted 80 percent of the total volume. The single greatest impetus in this great outpouring of business mail was the computer, which brought centralization of accounts and a growing mass of utility bills and payments, bank deposits and receipts, advertisements, magazines, insurance premiums, credit card transactions, department store and mortgage billings, and payments, dividends, and Social Security checks traveling through the mail.

In June 1962, the Presidentially appointed Advisory Board of the Post Office Department, after a study of its overall mechanization problems, made several primary recommendations. One was that the Department give priority to the development of a coding system, an idea that had been under consideration in the Department for a decade or more.

Over the years, a number of potential coding programs had been examined and discarded. Finally, in 1963, the Department selected a system advanced by department officials, and, on April 30, 1963, Postmaster General John A. Gronouski announced that the ZIP Code would begin on July 1, 1963.

Preparing for the new system was a major task involving realignment of the mail system. The Post Office had recognized some years back that new avenues of transportation would open to the Department and began to establish focal points for air, highway, and rail transportation. Called the Metro System, these transportation centers were set up around 85 of the country's larger cities to deflect mail from congested, heavily traveled city streets. The Metro concept was expanded and eventually became the core of 552 sectional centers, each serving between 40 and 150 surrounding post offices.

Once these sectional centers were delineated, the next step in establishing the ZIP Code was to assign codes to the centers and the postal addresses they served. The existence of postal zones in the larger cities, set in motion in 1943, helped to some extent, but, in cases where the old zones failed to fit within the delivery areas, new numbers had to be assigned.

By July 1963, a five-digit code had been assigned to every address throughout the country. The first digit designated a broad geographical area of the United States, ranging from zero for the Northeast to nine for the far West. This was followed by two digits that more closely pinpointed population concentrations and those sectional centers accessible to common transportation networks. The final two digits designated small post offices or postal zones in larger zoned cities.

ZIP Code began on July 1, 1963, as scheduled. Use of the new code was not mandatory at first for anyone, but, in 1967, the Post Office required mailers of second- and third-class bulk mail to presort by ZIP Code. Although the public and mailers alike adapted well to its use, it was not enough.

Long ago when men cursed and beat the ground with sticks, it was called witchcraft.....Today, it's called golf.

The following section (Mule Mail) is a continuation of the previous page about postal history from the post office. The rest was taken from a few websites about the Havasupai Indians living in the Grand Canyon. If you're interested, do a Google search for "Havasupai Tribe" (use the quotation marks). I received 903 sites.

Mule Mail- High Tech, Then Low Trek

Descent into Grand Canyon, 1970 The sign on the only cafe in town reads "No Fries 'Til Mail." Life in the community of Supai, Arizona, literally survives on its mail--and eats more mail than it reads. Arguably the most remote mail route in the country, the Supai route is the last mule train delivery in the United States. The route brings everything from food to furniture to the tiny Havasupai Indian Reservation, consisting of 525 tribal members who live deep below the south rim of the Grand Canyon.

The only way in and out of Supai is an eight-mile trail on foot, mule, or horseback. The first two miles of the trail consist of a dizzying series of switchbacks that careen along the red rock cliffs of the Grand Canyon's shale formation.

Helicopters and air drops are impractical here, so the mule train makes the three- to five-hour trip five days a week, even through wind and rain. During a typical week, more than a ton of mail is sent via the mules, with each animal carrying a cargo of 200 pounds.

Post Office

The Supai Post Office is where visitors can buy stamps, mail letters and post cards which goes out on the only pack train mail in America. Every piece of mail will bear a special postmark to this effect.

The village

The village, also known as Supai, has been home to the Havasupai Indians for many centuries. As time evolved the village has grown with many homes sprouting and taking root in areas where there used to be only farmlands. The village boasts a small café, lodge, post office, school, church, clinic, police station, and a general store.



By 1919 with the establishment of the Grand Canyon National Park, the Tribe was restricted to 518 acres, 5 miles wide and 12 miles long in a side canyon. The Tribe has since had returned to them 188,077 acres of their former homelands which makes up their reservation today.

www.ransomer.freemove.co.uk/



Ray's Philatelic Articles



- **Hello** and a warm welcome to this website...If you're tired of following links

which turn out to be defunct or which simply lead to dealers' lists containing little or no real philatelic information, then you've come to the right place. Here you'll find only links to articles which contain worthwhile information and/or stamp images of real value and which I'm sure will prove of use to both the postal historian and the philatelist.

Got a good site for all you researchers to go to and find out where to get the information you need on the internet. Ray doesn't carry the articles himself but will link you up to almost anything you need.

The beginning of the first page is printed above. At the bottom of this page are two links that take you within the site. One link is to the introduction. It is a quick and easy read and explains, in simple terms, what the site is all about and how to get around. It is also a plea for new material, so if you have anything to add I'm sure he will be appreciative. The other link is to the site map. This becomes two more links.

The first of these two is the "Country" link. It is pretty straight forward. a series of buttons containing the letters of the alphabet appear. All you need do is determine which letter your countries name begins with.

The second is the "Category" link. It includes; Airmail, Back of the Book, British Empire, Censored, Forgery, Misc., Perfins, Postal stationary, Railway mail, Ship mail, Specimen, WW1 and WW2. The "Forgery" link has several general links that give an overview as well as links to sites, country by country. "Misc" covers many philatelic as well as non-philatelic subjects such as maps, dictionaries and calenders, These sites are, of course, related to stamps.

All-in-all, I think Ray has don an excellent job in presenting a site that is easy to navigate and gives us very good and useful information for stamp collectors.

If 4 out of 5 people SUFFER from diarrhea...does that mean the fifth one enjoys it?

First quiz of the year. I'll try to be kind. This one is a quiz about stamps of the United States. You'll need your Scott Catalog or your U.S. stamp album and a magnifying glass so you can look at those miniature pictures and read the little writing. Ten questions worth ten Auction Bucks each. Enjoy.

- 1). The 200th Anniversary of what university is marked by a stamp issued in 1954?
A. UCLA (Cal) B. LSU (LA) C. Columbia (NY)
- 2). What is the denomination of the stamps of the "Over-run Countries" series of 1943 - 44?
A. Three cents B. Five cents C. Ten cents
- 3). What ship is shown on a three cent commemorative stamp issued in 1947?
A. Constitution B. Enterprise C. Nautilus
- 4). What Native American appears on the five cent stamp in the Jamestown Exposition set?
A. Geronimo B. Red Cloud C. Pocahontas
- 5). What sport is featured on a U.S. envelope issued in 1971?
A. Golf B. Baseball C. High Jump
- 6). What is shown on the eighty cent airmail stamp of 1952?
A. Capitol Bldg (DC) B. Diamond Head (HI) C. Alamo (TX)
- 7). What do all U.S. issues from 1847 to 1894 have in common?
Printed by; A. Private firm B. Public printing office C. Both
- 8). What U.S. president appears on a five cent stamp issued in 1875?
A. Zachary Taylor B. George Washington C. Abraham Lincoln
- 9). What was the last year in which Hawaii issued its own stamps?
A. 1895 B. 1900 C. 1905
- 10). Who is the artist that appears on the five cent stamp in the 1940 "Famous Americans" series?
A. John Payne. B. Whistler C. Daniel C. French

This one might be a hard nut to crack if you try to do it off the top of your head but pretty easy if you go to the catalog and look up the stamp. You'll probably find all the answers in your own collection. Good luck. And remember, if you can't find the answer take a stab at it. You can't lose.

Time to meet some more of our fellow stamp club members. We start today with Harvey Edwards.

Harvey started collecting stamps about six or seven years ago, first by bringing home blocks or sheets of stamps and putting them away in a folder. One birthday his daughter brought Harvey a nice gift. It was a stamp album with a few stamps already in it and a copy of the Post Office's "USA Philatelic". Then Harvey met Stan & Elaine Cronwall. It was they who encouraged Harvey to do more than accumulate and find a focus for his stamps. Credit is also given for bringing Terri and Harvey into the club.

Harvey started collecting stamps because he "likes the challenge of the hunt". While he hasn't found his true specialty, Harvey likes St. Pierre et Miquelon and stamps that represent submarines. Harvey was once a submariner himself. There are several stamps from S.P. & M. that picture submarines on them. To fill a minimum order requirement, Harvey would purchase more from that country. Now his purchase dollars are aimed towards completing that collection as well as subs. Harvey has also been fortunate in meeting some of the world specialists in S.P. & M. who have steered him away from forgeries in that area (there are many) and helped in adding new stamps. Harvey has also added to the St. Pierre home collection. Postal history is still in the future along with his exhibits but Harvey has created a few covers and postal history of his own.

Ed Davies began his collection at the tender age of eight and has continued collecting ever since with occasional breaks of less than a year. Like most of us, Ed has a world wide collection but focus's on United States and British Commonwealth. He started with Canadian (Ed hails from Canada) and British stamps and expanded to the rest of the Commonwealth and United States. Postal history is not among his interests. The most interesting part of Ed's collection is those tough to get countries like the Faroes and British Antarctica.

Ed does have a small collection of coins but refuses to collect anything larger. "Stamps are lighter and take up less space." They sure are and they sure do.

Ed retired to Northern Nevada recently. He took residence in Carson City and proceed to look for the local stamp store. As we all know the only store in town, or several towns, is here in Reno. It was Roger Lauderdale that directed Ed to the NSSS. This is Ed's first stamp club. Hope it is everything a stamp club can be for you, Ed.

Bill Brew was collecting as a young man of twelve years but eventually lost interest and didn't start again until the ripe old age of thirty-five. Bill collects U.S. singles and plate blocks, Great Britain, Canada, Isle of Man, Newfoundland, Danzig and Ireland and specializes in First day covers by Staehle. Bill hopes to eventually have all his (Staehle) covers. Lately, postal history has taken a larger role in Bill's collecting interests. "Stamps are an individual hobby, but writing about stamps and their history is information for everybody.

Bill moved to Carson City in 1976 and transferred his connections from Sacramento Stamp Club to the Nevada Stamp Study Society in Carson City where our club had it's beginnings.

For those of you who are new to the club or lost your copies, I will bring in several pages of the interview questionnaire to the next meeting on January 11.