



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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February 8, 2003

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With New Years and the Super Bowl past us, February might seem a bit of a bore. I know how to fix that! Be at the next stamp club meeting. The date is above this paragraph. (oops, my bad, I didn't meet the deadline, so just ignore that date thing) Our last club meeting was a good one. **Dick Dreiling** gave us a program on how to use a stamp catalog. And, he passed around a picture of a "painting" that was done entirely of postage stamps. It is up for sale, if you're interested. In 1922 it was valued at \$100,000.00. Wonder what it would cost you now.

Here's the line up for this and next month's programs. On February 22 **Frank Fey** will give a presentation on U.S. Back-of-the-Book (BOB) and certification. On March 22 **Steve Foster** will give us an adventure in collecting Asia with an emphasis on India and Burma.

If anyone might have some club materials such as minutes of the meetings, corporation papers or any club documents please return them to **Nadiah Beekum**. They are needed for the tax year to retain the club's non-profit status.

Speaking of Nadiah, we should be getting some new flyers out soon. I just made the separations and Nadiah will make the plates and print them when she gets a few spare moments. With all those boys and girls running around her house, I don't know how she can find the time.

In this month's issue we have a story written by Stan Cronwell about conservation. Postal reform is the subject of this month's history of the post office. The article on the computer page is about post-war German stamps. A limited area of stamp collecting but interesting.

*Definition of a teenager? God's punishment for enjoying sex.*

## Postal Reform

*Mobile, AL, letter carriers preparing mail for delivery, 1956*By the mid-1960s, the Post Office Department was in deep trouble. Years of financial neglect and fragmented control had finally impaired its ability to function in terms of facilities, equipment, wages, and management efficiency, as well as in terms of the highly subsidized rates that existed on all classes of mail -- rates that for many years bore little relation to costs.

In 1966, the Chicago Post Office ground to a virtual stop under a logjam of mail. At a hearing in 1967, Oklahoma Congressman Tom Steed, chairman of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Treasury-Post Office, stated the case for postal reform while questioning Postmaster General Lawrence O'Brien. The Congressman asked:

"Would this be a fair summary -- that at the present time, as manager of the Post Office Department, you have no control over your workload; over the rates or revenue; over the pay rates of the employees that you employ; you have very little control over the conditions of the service of these employees; you have virtually no control, by the nature of it, of your physical facilities; and you have only a limited control, at best, over the transportation facilities that you are compelled to use -- all of which adds up to a staggering amount of 'no control' in terms of the duties you have to perform?"

What Congressman Steed did not articulate was that this total lack of control by the Postmaster General meant that, in most cases and except for the ZIP Code, the mail was being handled virtually in the same way it had been handled 100 years earlier, despite skyrocketing mail volume.

## Postal Reorganization Act

*Letter carriers, 1946*In May 1969, four months after he became a member of President Richard Nixon's Cabinet, Postmaster General Winton M. Blount proposed a basic reorganization of the Post Office Department. The President asked Congress to pass the Postal Service Act of 1969, calling for removal of the Postmaster General from the Cabinet and creation of a self-supporting postal corporation wholly owned by the federal government.

On March 12, 1970, after extensive hearings, the House Post Office Committee reported a compromise measure containing postal reform provisions similar to those proposed by the President and providing a pay increase for postal employees, but postal employees called it "too little, too late." Six days later, a postal work stoppage began and ultimately involved approximately 152,000 postal employees in 671 locations.

The Postmaster General agreed to negotiate with the seven exclusively recognized unions upon the employees' return to work. Consequently, the employees went back on the job, and negotiations began on March 25. On April 2, the negotiating parties announced they had agreed to recommend to Congress a general wage increase of six percent, retroactive to December 27, 1969, for all federal employees, plus an additional eight percent increase for postal workers that would take effect if the parties could agree on legislation reorganizing the Post Office Department and if the legislation could be enacted. Management and the unions agreed to develop jointly a reorganization plan and, on April 16, 1970, announced agreement on such a plan.

The agreement was embodied in a legislative proposal and sent to Congress by President Nixon. The proposal included four basic provisions enunciated earlier by the Postmaster General as necessary to reform the postal system: adequate financing authority; removal of the system from politics, assuring continuity of management; collective bargaining between postal management and employees; and the Postal Service's setting rates after an opportunity for hearings before an impartial rate panel. In addition to the eight percent pay increase for postal employees, the bill provided for negotiation of a new wage schedule so employees could reach the maximum step in grade after no more than 8 years, instead of 21 years.

On August 3, by a roll call vote of 57 to 7, the Senate approved the conference report on House Resolution 17070, a modified version of the legislation proposed by the President; three days later, the House of Representatives approved it. On August 12, 1970, President Nixon signed into law the most comprehensive postal legislation since the founding of the Republic, Public Law 91-375.

## **Stamp Conservation**

by Stan Cronwall

The day after we arrive in Tucson, the ARIPIX Show opens for three days (1/24-26) at the Tucson Convention Center. More than 300 exhibit frames will be mounted.

I thought I was going to "shop" for a few postcards/covers, and to fill in some stamp gaps in my collection from the German Occupied Areas during WW II.

BUT, I began to transfer stamps into the new specialized album Elaine bought me for X-Mas only to discover that the MNH material purchased back in the 1960's (as I was starting to focus on the Third Reich) is no longer pristine.

When we first moved to Tucson (1980) and were starting our first business, we operated out of our pool house. It had a large closet which we used to store office supplies, some files, and all my stamp stuff including a lot of reference materials such as books and magazines. The collection was on the back-burner because of the efforts to get the new business off the ground, and insufficient funds for the activity.

We moved to real office space a few years later, so the only reason to go into the pool house was to use the bathroom, or access the pool cleaning equipment and chemicals.

It was years before we realized that there was a roof leak that centered over the closet. A lot of the reference material had to be tossed, but the stamp material seemed largely undamaged. Wrongo . . .

Apparently, the combination of the moisture in the air from the leak and the extreme temperatures combined to somehow damage the gum on the stamps even though they were in mounts. Then again, maybe it was the mounts themselves. I was using Crystal Mounts back then, and they went out of business somewhere along the line. Later I became aware that there were some problems with the mounts, but nothing specific.

When I re-activated my collection in late 1994/early 1995, I went through the Scott album I was using (until recently) and the stamps appeared to be fine. No color running, or other discoloration. I ASSUMED, all was okay.

In the last two weeks, I have discovered the extent of the "gum disturbance" on virtually all of the MNH material acquired prior to my re-start in 1994/95. Probably 90+% has at least some "gum disturbance" and probably 75% is significant.

Then to add insult to injury, I spent some time at the library checking out the 2003 Scott prices against my damaged goods to see what it would take to replace them.

OUCH.

Soooooo. My time (and money) at ARIPIX will now also be spread across having to deal with possible replacements for some of the damaged items.

A word to the wise, watch out where you keep your stamps in your new house. If that hobby room upstairs gets really hot, you may want to keep the collection(s) in a cooler place.

A sadder but wiser.....Stan

## **Post-World War 11 Era Army Post Office (APO) Covers from Germany**

By MYRON Fox

This article is not intended to be a scholarly treatise. The author does not pretend to be the last word on all these issues. It is rather my intent to expose to you what I know through covers collected by me over some 30 years and point you at some good references for your further study. I could wait another 30 years to be more complete, but that is never possible. I welcome your inputs for possible further discussions in this journal.

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Above is the opening page of Mr. Fox's website, though I deleted the first couple of paragraphs that dealt with his background. I found what he had to say in the third paragraph most interesting. For not being a "scholarly treatise" it is pretty scholarly.

Mr. Fox has included a large number of pictures of his collection with an explanation of each cover along with an abundance of information on the APO numbers, their locations and the units assigned to those numbers. Most of the covers he uses are US covers going to the US. Some are sent within the theater of operations and one or two are German. He has one cover used by the American Military Intelligence Operations that was issued by the GESTAPO in Bremen. His research on this one must be pretty good. I didn't see any markings on that would indicate that it was NAZI.

Even if you're not interested in the cover, there is a great deal of information about the occupation forces in Germany during the post war era. The following paragraph is from the site:

Soon after the occupation began it was decided after several incidents that combat forces did not make for a good occupation force. A new organization called the US Constabulary was established. It had a new flashy uniform and a high esprit de corps. It was headquartered in Bamberg (Figure 24). Eventually a school was established at Sonthofen. Figure 25 is from the school and postmarked APO 407 in Munich. Figure 26 shows the picture side of this card which shows students walking in the school.

All in all, a very good site if you're interested in German postal history during the post WW11 era. Or would like to peek into somebody else's collection. This one is a one page site that has forward and back buttons. These buttons take you to related pages and eventually back to the GPS home site on which this page is located.

I bring you this site because it is one of my areas of interest. I took up post war Germany about two years ago when I saw a similar site. Perhaps you have a site that reflects you're area of interest and would like to pass it on for others to see. Better yet, your own website. We'd like to see some of your collection. If you have a site or know of one you would like to see on this page, contact me at [artfulputz@aol.com](mailto:artfulputz@aol.com). I'll be happy to write it up.

New quiz. Not exactly in the “tough” division. You should do well here without sweating bullets or any other kind of ammunition. Relax, enjoy the quiz and show us your knowledge of 20th century American stamps. By the way, the book I’m taking these quizzes was written in 1982. You may want to keep this in mind while looking through the Scott for your answers.

- 1) What is the denomination of the stamp with the famous inverted airplane?  
A. .16 cents            B. .24 cents            C. \$1.80
- 2) What woman flyers are the subject of US airmail stamps  
A. A. Earhart & B. S. Scott            B. Jacqueline Kennedy & Grace Kelly  
C. B. Spears & C. Agulara
- 3) What president appears on an eleven cent airmail envelope of 1965?  
A. FDR            B. HST            C. JFK
- 4) What pioneer is shown on the Kentucky statehood issue of 1942?  
A. Daniel Boone    B. Davy Crockett    C. Jim Bowie
- 5) In what year did the United States issue a stamp marking the landing of the Swedes and Finns in America?  
A. 1928            B. 1938            C. 1948
- 6) Three children appear on a four cent stamp of 1959. What are they promoting?  
A. Dental Health    B. Hygiene            C. Drug abuse
- 7) On the century of progress issue of 1933, what fort is shown on the one cent stamp?  
A. Fort Chicago    B. Fort Hood            C. Fort Dearborn
- 8) In what year was the Golden Gate Exposition held in San Francisco?  
A. 1915            B. 1923            C. 1939
- 9) What color are the special handling stamps of 1925?  
A. Red            B. Green            C. Blue
- 10) What animal is shown on the Nebraska Statehood stamp of 1967?  
A. Hereford Steer    B. Longhorn Steer    C. Black Angus Steer

Now there, that wasn’t hard. With a little help from Mr. Scott, this test should be a breeze. Hope you did well. Don’t forget to put your name at the top.

I seem to have gotten some argument about the answer to question # 5. Nobody paid any attention to the answers I provided and instead inserted their own answer, "bowling". Bowling? Why on earth would the US Post Office issue an envelope honoring Bowling? Well I don't know but, they did (U111) and it's a very nice envelope. The golf envelope (the answer provided by the book I get these quizzes from) was issued in 1977 not 1971.

- 1) Columbia University in New York City, #1029.
- 2) Five Cents, #'s 909 - 921, issued from 43 to 44.
- 3) The Frigate Constitution, # 951.
- 4) Pocahontas, # 330.
- 5) Golf (wrong, it's bowling).
- 6) Diamond Head, Honolulu, Hawaii, C 46.
- 7) All Printed by private firms.
- 8) Zachary Taylor, # 179.
- 9) 1900. The last regular issue postage stamps from Hawaii first came out in 1899 (#'s 80 - 82) and probably continued through 1900 Revenue stamps, however, were issued by Hawaii as late as 1913 (R13-16).
- 10) Daniel Chester French (# 887).

How about that Daniel Chester French. I didn't know he was an artist. See how much you can learn from these quizzes? Did you take this one? Did you score well? Did you write in bowling? Well, I certainly hope you scored well. Answers are worth 10 auction bucks each. A quick way to earn a C-note.

*The early bird may get the worm, but the second mouse gets the cheese.*