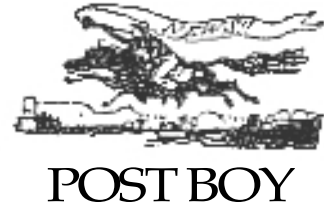


P.O. Box 2907 Sparks, Nevada 89432

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.

March 8, 2003

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This month we had another couple of successful meetings with a large portion of our members in attendance. There was a good auction at the first meeting. The second meeting was as well attended and the silent auction had a greater than usual number of items for sale along with a sizable turnover of stamps and covers were sold.

The program was given by **Frank Fey** and was all about expertizing your stamps. I wonder if we can impose upon Frank to write an article for the Post Boy for those who were unable to attend the meeting or hadn't taken notes while they were there.

This month, on the computer page, I have chosen to present a non-philatelic site (why not. The Glassine Surfer does it all the time). This one is for all the email you receive that proclaims to give you the true story about whatever

subject it chooses. Is it really true that Pepsi omitted the Words "Under God" from the pledge of allegiance when they printed it on their cans? Go to this page and learn.

February is gone now and with only four weeks on last month's calender you can continue to use that calender well into March. April follows March and so I would like to remind all that April is the time to set your clocks ahead one hour for daylight saving time. I'll remind again in April if I get the Post Boy to you in time. What day does this transpire? It's on the 6th Day of April (a Sunday) at 2:00 O'clock in the morning. Be sure to get up early to set your clocks. For those who work, plan on one hour less sleep that day.

Next meeting is on March 8th. See you there!

There is a fine line between "hobby" and "mental illness."

United States Postal Service

The Post Office Department was transformed into the United States Postal Service, an independent establishment of the executive branch of the Government of the United States. The mission of the Postal Service remained the same, as stated in Title 39 of the U.S. Code: "The Postal Service shall have as its basic function the obligation to provide postal services to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people. It shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities."

The new Postal Service officially began operations on July 1, 1971. At that time, the Postmaster General left the Cabinet, and the Postal Service received:

- * Operational authority vested in a Board of Governors and Postal Service executive management, rather than in Congress.
- * Authority to issue public bonds to finance postal buildings and mechanization.
- * Direct collective bargaining between representatives of management and the unions.
- * A new rate-setting procedure, built around an independent Postal Rate Commission.

Title 39, the Postal Reorganization Act, also vested direction of the powers of the Postal Service in an 11-member Board of Governors. Nine members (the Governors) are appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. They serve staggered nine-year terms, and no more than five Governors may belong to the same political party. Governors are chosen to represent the public interest generally, may not represent specific interests using the Postal Service, and may be removed only for cause.

The nine Governors appoint the Postmaster General, who is the chief executive officer of the Postal Service and who serves at their discretion, and these 10 people select the Deputy Postmaster General. All are voting members of the Board of Governors, which directs the exercise of the powers of the Postal Service, reviews its practices and policies, and directs and controls its expenditures. The nine Governors alone approve rates and classification changes following a recommendation by the Postal Rate Commission. The entire, 11 member Board determines when rates and classification changes become effective. The Postmaster General appoints all officers of the Postal Service.

The Postal Reorganization Act also changed the United States postal system in other ways:

Finances and rates: It established an independent Postal Rate Commission of five members, appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate, to recommend postal rates and classifications for adoption by the Governors. It authorized the Postal Service to borrow money from the general public and phased out the general public service subsidy, which the Postal Service ended earlier than required in 1983. It also authorized appropriations to reimburse the Postal Service for carrying congressionally established categories of free and reduced-rate mail and required that rates for each class of mail cover direct and indirect costs attributable to that class, plus a proportion of institutional costs.

Personnel: It established a postal career service, a framework that permits terms and conditions of employment to be set through collective bargaining, and prohibited political recommendations for

appointments within the Postal Service. The Civil Service retirement program was retained.

Labor-management relations: The Act authorized collective bargaining on wages and working conditions under laws applying to private industry and provided for binding arbitration if an impasse persists 180 days after the start of bargaining. The ban on strikes, applicable to all federal employees, remained. It authorized the National Labor Relations Board to determine proper bargaining units, supervise representative elections, and enforce the unfair labor practices provisions found in the law. It also protected the rights of all employees to form, join, or assist a labor organization, or to refrain from such activity.

Transportation: It extended laws governing common and contract carriage of mail by railroads to motor common carriers and authorized negotiated contracts with star route operators and motor common carriers.

Pay: The Act established the policy that the Postal Service would maintain compensation and benefits for its officers and employees on a standard of comparability to that offered by the private sector for similar levels of work. However, the Act mandated that no officer or employee shall be paid compensation at a rate in excess of the rate for Level I (Cabinet Officer level) of the Executive Schedule.

Despite the manifold accomplishments of the Postal Service since Reorganization, the mechanization of operations and the ZIP Code had apparently reached their peak in the 1970s, and more was needed to cope with increasing mail volume. In 1978, the Postal Service decided to develop an expanded code of four add-on digits that would speed processing when coupled with new mechanization capable of sorting mail to small geographic segments, such as a city block or single building.

ZIP+4

Introduced in 1983, the ZIP+4 code added a hyphen and four digits to the existing five-digit ZIP Code. The first five numbers continued to identify an area of the country and delivery office to which mail is directed. The sixth and seventh numbers denote a delivery sector, which may be several blocks, a group of streets, a group of post office boxes, several office buildings, a single high-rise office building, a large apartment building, or a small geographic area. The last two numbers denote a delivery segment, which might be one floor of an office building, one side of a street between intersecting streets, specific departments in a firm, or a group of post office boxes.

On October 1, 1983, the Governors of the Postal Service approved price incentives for First-Class Mail bearing the ZIP+4 code.

By the end of 1984, 252 OCRs were installed in 118 major mail processing centers across the country and were processing 24,000 pieces of mail per hour (an average productivity rate of 6,200 pieces per work hour) -- a substantial increase compared to the 1,750 pieces per work hour processed by MPLSMs.

Duct tape is like the Force. It has a light side and a dark side, and it holds the universe together.

www.snopes.com

Today I have a page that has nothing to do with stamps. I think I just lied. The EID stamp is prominent on the page below, but first, let me explain what this site is all about. Since the advent of the internet a world full of people can talk to each other and say whatever they want. I'm sure most of you have, at one time or another, met a person that doesn't understand the difference between fact and fiction. There are a lot of people on the internet like that person that spread their stories wherever they can find a willing ear. Is the story true, or is it just another "Urban Legend"? Did you earn money from Microsoft by forwarding a message for their "beta" test? Go to the reference page and type in the right phrase and Snopes.com will tell you if it's true. They will also tell you a little of the history of the story and some of the variations that developed as it passed from hand to hand.

Urban Legends Reference Pages

Urban Legends in the News www.snopes.com
Odds & Ends Search

Top Searches <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Stop buying gasoline from the Middle East2. Oliver North and Osama bin Laden3. Pepsi left 'under God' out of the Pledge of Allegiance4. JDBCMOR.EXE computer virus5. 'Leuren' avoids rapist by calling #77 on her cell phone6. Bill Gates/Microsoft /AOL are giving away money.7. #9-9 phone scam8. 'WTC Survivor' computer virus9. Thieves knock out victims with phony perfume.10. Congressmen don't pay into Social Security11. Thieves use plastic strips to steal ATM cards and PINs12. Jane Fonda in Vietnam.13. U.S. postage stamp honors Muslim holiday14. Cindy Williams' article about military pay raises	Automobiles	Business	Coke/Cola	College	Computers	Crime
Critter Country	Disney	Food	Gorge Gallery	History	Holidays	Lost Legends
Horrors	Humor	Inboxer Rebellion	Language	Legal	Music	Religion
Love	Luck	Medical	Military	Movies	Radio & Television	Travel
Photo Gallery	Pregnancy	Quotes	Racial Rumors	Titanic	Toxins	Contact Us
Science	Sex	Sports	Rumors of War	Message Board	Donations	
Weddings	Wooden Spoons					

Any time I receive a story about Hillary Clinton, a, guy who saved a buddy's life during WWII or some dire warning about a certain telephone number, I like to go to this page to see what the scoop is on that story. Most often, someone has told a small fib. Once in a while the story's true. That's nice when it's a good story.

What about the EID story? Turns out that it is an anti-Muslim story that has a grain of truth large enough to make the story sound feasible. The story also includes the Kwanzaa and Hanukkah issues in it's attempt to stir a boiling pot.

By the way, here's another site that you might find useful. This is where I got my information for the opening page of this journal.

<http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>

4.

Post Boy

March 8, 2003

Here's another reasonably easy quiz. So sit down with Mister Scott and some cookies and milk and see if the two of you can't work this one out in the next fifteen or twenty minutes. Good luck. Happy learning.

- 1) How many souvenir sheets make up the Bicentennial issue of 1976?
A. 3 B. 4 C. 5
- 2) The skyline of what city is shown on the 1951 stamp marking the landing of Cadillac?
A. Detroit, Mich B. Annapolis, MD C. Minneapolis, Minn,
- 3) Labor leader Samuel Gompers was the subject of a 1950 stamp. What was it's denomination??
A. .03 cents B. .04 cents C. .05 cents
- 4) What color is the Edith Wharton 15 cent stamp of 1980?
A. Blue B. Red C. Purple
- 5) Who appears on the five-dollar stamp of the 1938 definitive series?
A. Howard Taft B. Calvin Coolidge C. Woodrow Wilson
- 6) What sport is featured on a 1978 U. S. envelope?
A. Auto Racing B. Swimming C. Air Racing
- 7) What is the denomination of the only registry stamp issued by the United States?
A. Five cents B. Ten Cents C. Twelve Cents
- 8) What two people are shown on the four-dollar Columbian issue (1893 or 1993)?
A. Queen Isabella And Columbus B. Queen Isabella and Ferdinand
C. Queen Isabella and her Court
- 9) The Sokols are honored on a 1965 issue. What is their area of special interest?
A. Radio waves B. Sociology C. Physical Fitness
- 10) What is shown on the air post special delivery stamps of 1934?
A. The Great Seal of the United States B. A horse drawn delivery truck
C. Fields of wheat

Bet that didn't hurt a bit, unless you dropped your glass of milk on your foot. Maybe next month I'll try to find something a little more challenging. Maybe not.

5.

Post Boy

March 8, 2003

Well, I guess this one was easy as pie. Most everyone scored some high numbers and I expect to see some good scores next month too. In the meantime here's the answers to last month's quiz. Hope you did good!

1) The inverted Jenny, Scott Number C3a sold for twenty four cents from the post Office though it may cost a little more now.

2) Amelia Earhart (number C68) and Blanche Stuart Scott (number C99).Quimby Bleriot was also honored with Scott number C128 in 1991.

3) John F. Kennedy on UC12 on may 12, 1965.

4) Daniel Boone was part of a mural with 3 other frontiersmen by Gilbert White.

5) Number 836 issued on June 27,1938.

6) Issued on September 14, 1959, number 1135 to celebrate the centenary of the ADA and to promote Dental Health.

7) Issued on May 25 to celebrate the centenary of the city of Chicago and the restoration of Fort Dearborn.

8) 1939 was the year of the fair and the issue of a stamp featuring the "Tower of the Sun" from that fair (number 852).

9) Green (QE1 to QE4).

10) Hereford Steer along with an ear of corn (number 1328).

I must admit, number 8 had me confused for a while. I kept looking at the New York Worlds Fair issued in the same year. Other than that I did just fine. How about you? That quiz was worth a hundred Auction Bucks and so is the next one.

Don't be irreplaceable. If you can't be replaced, you can't be promoted.

6.