



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



POST BOY

N.S.S.S.

May 10., 2003

President:

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

Editor:

Howard Grenzebach
180 Pompe
Lemmon Valley, NV 89506
(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 Hartley
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

This week we had our usual plethora of collectors in attendance and a lot of great materiel for sale. The presentation, Preservation and Restoration was given by **Howard Grenzebach**.

Take a look at the computer page this week even if you don't have a computer in your home. The subject of this issue is a company that does restoration called FCI. It appears to be a good company and one of the few in existence. An address is given that can be reached thru the post office so even if you are put off by modern electronics, this time the page applies to you.

This week I have been working on the members list and getting it ready for publication. I have included names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses as well as areas of interests (stamps) for all members. If you don't want any of this information included, please notify me. My email is artfulputz@aol.com and my mailing address and phone number is in the column to the left. I also need areas of interest and email for most members. I will bring a copy to the next

meeting so you can see what needs to be added or deleted from the book.

In the last meeting timing for the stamp show was discussed. It was suggested that the show be held in October this year since we missed our usual June show. October is Stamp Month nation wide and seems a good time to hold it. In October, hotel rates drop in Reno making it possible for visitors to stay a couple of days and enjoy the show. Finally, it was agreed that the weekend of the 11th and 12th would be good as this is the Columbus day weekend. An obvious Columbus theme was suggested so dig out your Columbus covers and stamps and start putting together your exhibits. The official name for the show will be **The Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show**. It will be held at the **Reno Town Mall**, at Peckham Lane and South Virginia. There is plenty of parking available and it's free. Let all your stamp collecting friends know and don't forget to remind them about cheap hotel rates and free parking. Did I forget to mention free admission?

*Grandchildren are God's
reward for not killing your kids.*

The Age of Automation

Today, a new generation of equipment is changing the way mail flows and improving productivity. Multiline optical character readers (MLOCs) read the entire address on an envelope, spray a barcode on the envelope, then sort it at the rate of more than nine per second. Wide area barcode readers can read a barcode virtually anywhere on a letter. Advanced facer-canceler systems face, cancel, and sort mail. The remote barcoding system (RBCS) provides barcoding for handwritten script mail or mail that cannot be read by OCRs.

The ZIP+4 code reduced the number of times that a piece of mail had to be handled. It also shortened the time carriers spent casing their mail (placing it in order of delivery). First tested in 1991, the delivery point barcode, which represents an 11-digit ZIP Code, will virtually eliminate the need for carriers to case mail because mail will arrive in trays at the delivery post office sorted in "walk sequence." The MLOC reads the barcode and address, then constructs a unique 11-digit delivery point barcode using the Postal Service's National Directory and the last two digits of the street address. Then barcode sorters put the mail in sequence for delivery.

Until now, most of the emphasis in automation has been processing machine-imprinted mail. Still, letter mail with addresses that were handwritten or not machine-readable had to be processed manually or by a letter sorting machine. The RBCS now allows most of this mail to receive delivery point barcodes without being removed from the automated mailstream. When MLOCs cannot read an address, they spray an identifying code on the back of the envelope. Operators at a data entry site, which may be far from the mail processing facility, read the address on a video screen and key a code that allows a computer to determine the ZIP Code information. The results are transmitted back to a modified barcode sorter, which pulls the 11-digit ZIP Code information for that item, and sprays the correct barcode on the front of the envelope. The mail then can be sorted within the automated mailstream.

Letter mail represents approximately 70 percent of the Postal Service's total mail volume, so development of letter mail equipment has received the most attention. In addition to letter-mail processing, the Postal Service is taking steps to automate mail-forwarding systems and the processing of flats and parcels. The Postal Service also has accelerated installation of automated equipment in lobbies to serve customers better. The backbone of this effort is the integrated retail terminal (IRT), a computer that incorporates an electronic scale. It provides information to customers during a transaction and simplifies postal accounting by consolidating data. Postage validation imprinters have been attached to the IRTs to produce a self-sticking postage label that has a barcode for automated processing.

The following article was forwarded to me by Stan Cronwall. An interesting read.

WHEN WERE U.S. MAILS FIRST CARRIED BY RAIL?

The first known instance of United States mail be transported by rail occurred on the South Carolina Railroad extending westward from Charleston, South Carolina in November, 1831.

On or about January 1, 1832, the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad began carrying mail between Baltimore and Frederick, Maryland.

Shortly after the opening of the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad line between Baltimore and Washington in 1835, a car was fitted with compartment for carrying United States mail between the two cities. The postmaster in Washington and the postmaster in Baltimore each had a key to the mail compartment.

On July 7, 1838, an act of the United States Congress made all railroads official post routes.

Part 2, Stamp Grading and Condition

These grades represent the opinion of the Glassine Surfer also known as Michael Mills.

Stamp Grades

Superb:

- * Perfect in all respects. The finest quality.
- * A rare grade.

Extremely Fine or Extra-Fine:

- * Close to perfect.
- * Design is well-centered. Margins are even all around. Designs of even the earliest issues are well clear of the perfs on all sides.
- * Imperforates have even margins that are wider than usual for that particular issue.
- * Cancels are light and neat.
- * Mint have OG.
- * Condition: Rich, bright color. Clean. Perfs intact.
- * Condition: no faults.
- * Many early stamps are never seen in this condition.

Very Fine:

- * Design is balanced and well-centered. There are ample margins, though not necessarily perfectly even.
- * Imperforates have three normal sized margins.
- * Cancels are light and neat.
- * Mint have OG.
- * Condition: Rich, bright color. Clean. Perfs intact.
- * Condition: no faults.
- * Grade used for most catalog values.

Fine/Very Fine:

- * Design is "slightly" off-center, or may be off-center *either* horizontally or vertically but not both. Design is well clear of the perfs.
- * Imperforates have two normal size margins, and design does not touch the edge.
- * Cancels do not detract from the design of the stamp.
- * Mint have LH or HH, depending on the age of the issue.
- * Condition: no faults.

Fine:

- * Design is "noticeably" off-center both horizontally and vertically. The design barely misses the perfs, but they do not cut into the design.
- * Early issues have perfs or separations that may cut into the design.
- * Imperforates have thin margins.
- * Cancels may be heavier than usual, perhaps even obscuring the design.
- * Mint have LH or HH, depending on the age of the issue.
- * Condition: no faults.

Good or Average:

- * Design is off-center and perfs may cut into the design.
- * Cancel is heavy and obscures the stamp's design.
- * No tears or thin spots.
- * Lowest collectible grade.

Poor:

- * Design is off center and the perforations cut far into the design.
- * Cancellation is thick and heavy, smeared, blurred.
- * Generally not suitable for a collection.

The Computer Corner

<http://home.golden.net/~hanssitt/SRShtml/SRSHome.html>

F.C.I. (First Choice International) started out as L. Armstrong restoration Service. You may have heard of them. They are a small company that is run part time. The owner has a day job. He is a stamp collector that is dedicated to preserving stamps for the enjoyment of future collectors. The page opens with the symbol below and pictures of a stamp (Wurttemberg #32) that he has restored by adding paper to the bottom edge, cleaning some stains, filling a thin and reperfing the



bottom edge where the paper had been added. You can click on the pictures to see a high resolution copy of those pictures.

Further on down the page are similar copies of his work and a “certificate of restoration.” Is this a cheat? That depends on you. It is your responsibility to inform other collectors that

your stamp has been restored.

“Guess this kind of work is expensive, huh?” It can be if the work being done is on an expensive stamp. At the bottom of the page is a price list that has been created in Canadian, American or international currencies. You just click on the flag that represents the currency you want to use. The price list is pretty complete and covers everything from re-gumming to re-perfing, thin repairs, clean-ing and all the other repairs he is willing to undertake. Somewhere in the middle of this page he gives an example of the cost of repairing a specific stamp. The final bill came to about 6% of the Scott value. He bases his pricing on the Scott value not the type of work he does so your lesser stamps (under \$100.00) are pretty reasonable. There is a surcharge for the more valuable stamps or those over \$100.00.

There are also sections in the first page called “Mission Statement”, “Warranty”, “Ethics”, “Readers Comments”, and “Stamp Restoration Records” among others. This will give you a little insight as to what kind of person you are dealing with. In “Ethics”, he compares his point of view to the APS’s point of view. You can read it to find out for yourself.

For those of you who can’t get to your computer at the library, the address in snail mail is printed below along with this email address for those of you who can get to the computer. I will also bring a print out of his price list in USD to the next meeting I attend.

First Choice International Inc.
or
FCI Stamp Restoration Service
306 Guelph Street
Kitchener, ON N2H 5X3
CANADA

Tel: (519) 579-7461 (Mobile / Voice Mail)
Tel: (519) 579-7208 (Home / Voice Mail)
Fax: (519) 579-0288

E-mail: hanssitt@golden.net

Well, it's not yet time to get tough. You should be able to get thru this one with Mr . Scott by your side and a little hot chocolate for the cool weather we've been having lately. Enjoy the quiz.

- 1) A 1980 issue features a juggler. Who is he?
A. Emmet Kelly B. W. C. Fields C. Marcel Marceau
- 2) What two denominations did the Champions of liberty use?
A. 4 and 8 cents B. 3 and 6 cents C. 8 and 12 cents
- 3) What is the nationality of a ship shown on a three cent stamp issued in 1953 to mark the founding of New York?
A. Greek B. Dutch C. Italian
- 4) How many stamps were there in the 1974 set marking the centenary of the Universal Postal Union?
A. Eight B. Twelve C. Fourteen
- 5) In the 1940 Famous Americans, what is the denomination of the John Greenlief Whittier stamp ?
A. One cent B. Two cents C. Three cents
- 6) What tree is featured on the Connecticut Tercentenary issue of 1935?
A. Bristlecone Pine B. Sherman Oak C. Charter Oak
- 7) The U S issued a stamp for the Phillipines in 1934. What sport was shown on the two stamp?
A. Tennis B. Swimming C. Baseball
- 8) Who's painting of the Virgin and Child appears on the 1979 Christmas issue?
A. John Whistler B. Andrew Vincent Peale C. Gerard Davis
- 9) In what year did the U SS issue four Christmas stamps showing toys?
A. 1966 B. 1968 C. 1970
- 10) What playwright appears on the one dollar stamp of the Prominant Americans issue of 1965-68?
A. Oscar Wilde B. William Thackeray C. Eugene O'Neill

That shouldn't have hurt a bit unless you spilled the hot chocolate. Hope you did well. As usual, ten Auction Bucks for each correct answer.

This one was pretty straight forward. Look it up in Scott and record the answer. You should be getting pretty familiar with Mr. Scott by now. Hope you did well, here are the answers.

1. - A. Six cents. C1 issued in 1916.
2. - C. Charles Lindbergh. The stamp honors Lindbergh but portrays his aeroplane the Spirit of St. Louis. Does this violate the concept of not honoring living people on stamps??
3. - B. Liberty. # 939, issued to commemorate the Merchant Marines during WWII.
4. - C. Four. # 989 - 992, starting with the statue of "Freedom" on the capitol dome.
5. - A. Ten cents. # 868 was among the poets.
6. - A. Women Marines. # UX 56 issued July 26th, 1968 for the 25th anniversary of the Women Marines.
7. - C. Deep orange. Actually there were two issues commemorating Mahatma Gandhi. The four cent red-orange (# 11774) and the eight cent carmine, ultramarine and ocher (#1175). It was the last of the series.
8. - A. William McKinley. # 829 was part of the "prexie" or presidential issues
9. - C. 1853. # U 1. They were first issued on July 1st, 1853 by George F. Nesbitt & Co. The Nesbitt seal was ordered removed from the tip of the top flap on July 7th, so if you have one with the crest, you have one of the earliest issues.
10. - A. A kerosene table lamp. The fifty cent, one dollar, two dollar and five dollar stamps all depicted lamps of an earlier era.

Interestingly enough, I'm learning quite a bit about stamps and envelopes (etc.) from looking for a little extra information about the answers. Like George Nesbitt looking for a little free advertising. That's the American way. This quiz was worth 100 Auction Bucks. Everyone who entered an answer sheet is 100 Bucks closer to what they want at the auction. Spend it wisely.

Humans are the only primates that don't have pigment in the palms of their hands