



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.

July 12., 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

Al Shay was our presenter in May and what a great presentation it was. Al is very knowledgeable about plate blocks. I learned that the blocks come in complete sets of four blocks because there are four in an uncut sheet. Good show, Al, we'll be looking forward to your next presentation.

June's presentation was given by **Harvey and Terri Edwards**. The subject was, "Where do I go with my Stamp Collection Now?" Since Harvey and Terri are taking a new direction with their collection, they chose to inform the rest of us on the efforts involved. Should I focus more sharply on what I have or go with something entirely new? A good talk, very informative.

In the July presentation, **John and Marla Wetterling** will be helping us to understand circuit books and how they work.

The **The Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show** won't be held at the Reno Town mall as we had planned. Space problems put a stop to that. The **Convention Center** will be the new location. All will be happening on the same dates of October 11th & 12th with the theme in conjunction with Columbus Day. We expect to have 15 dealers this year (11 have already signed) and the Post Office will be with us again. There is space available for forty frames so, let's get those exhibits together and we'll have a real fine show this year.

In the last issue **Dick Dreiling** suggested several members as nominees for the upcoming elections. Two more members, **Ed Davies** and **Harvey Edwards**

would also like to serve as board members. This is the kind of dedication that makes this such a great club.

Dick Dreiling hasn't been to the last couple of meetings. His wife, **Dee**, has been in the hospital (Saint Mary's) with a staph infection and Dick has been spending his time with her. Hope she is feeling better and gets well soon. Our prayers are with you Dee. You are welcome to visit Dee at the Tahoe-Pacific Hospital at 2385 E. Prater Way in Sparks. She is in room 726B. The phone number is 331-1044. I'm sure she would appreciate some friends.

Another good couple of meetings with good (as usual) attendance. Lately, each new meeting has seen new visitors. Hope they decide to join us. At a time when collector rolls are dwindling, our club keeps growing. We must be doing something right.

HELP! We need to have your cachet submissions for the stamp show soon. The deadline is for the second meeting in August. Time to finish up and get 'em in.

Help! Bring in your stamps and covers to be displayed at the Sparks Library to the next meeting (July 26).

Help! Mike Johnson would like some help (volunteers) getting stamp merit badges earned for some willing members of the Boy Scouts of America. Let's get some future new members for the **NSSS**.

Last **help!** As we begin the new fiscal year, don't forget to pay your **dues**. This year they go to \$20.00.

How Rates Are Set

The Board of Governors of the Postal Service proposes new rates to the Postal Rate Commission (PRC). This proposal comes in the form of a formal request accompanied by testimonies and analyses explaining the need for a rate increase and how the various rate proposals were developed.

The PRC has ten months in which to render an opinion and a recommended decision to the Governors. During that ten-month span, the PRC conducts open hearings. In this process:

- * The Postal Service answers questions from various interested parties, such as customers, competitors, and consumer advocates, about the proposed rates.
- * The interested parties critique the Postal Service's rate proposals and offer their own alternatives.

If the PRC does not give a recommended decision to the Postal Service after ten months, the Postal Service may implement the proposed rates temporarily.

The Governors have several options after they receive the PRC's recommended decision.

- * They may accept the recommended decision and, with the other two members of the Board, order new rates into effect on a specific date.
- * They may reject the PRC's recommended decision and return it to the PRC for reconsideration. Current rates stay in effect.
- * They may allow the recommended decision under protest; acting with the other members of the Board, order the new rates into effect on a specific date; and return the decision to the PRC for reconsideration or appeal the decision to the courts.

Finally, the Governors can modify the Commission's second or reconsidered decision by unanimous vote if they determine that the recommended rates yield insufficient revenue.

Postal Rate Commission

The Postal Rate Commission is a five-member independent agency created by the Postal Reorganization Act of August 12, 1970, as amended by the Postal Reorganization Act Amendment of 1976 (90 Stat. 1303), approved September 24, 1976.

The Postal Rate Commission acts upon requests from the Postal Service or in response to complaints filed by interested parties. Its major responsibilities are to submit recommended decisions to the Postal Service on postage rates and fees and mail classifications; issue advisory opinions to the Postal Service on proposed nationwide changes in postal services; submit recommendations for changes in the mail classification schedule; and receive, study, and issue recommended decisions and reports to the Postal Service on complaints from the mailing public about rates, classifications, services, and the closing or consolidation of small post offices.

STAMP COLLECTOR

by Robert Service

My worldly wealth I hoard in albums three,
My life collection of rare postage stamps;
My room is cold and bare as you can see,
My coat is old and shabby as a tramp's;
Yet more to me than balances in banks,
My albums three are worth a million francs.

I keep them in that box beside my bed,
For who would dream such treasures it could hold:
But every day I take them out and spread
Each page, to gloat like miser o'er his gold:
Dearer to me than could be child or wife,
I would defend them with my very life.

They are my very life, for every night
Over my catalogues I pore and pore;
I recognize rare items with delight,
Nothing I read but philatelic lore;
And when some specimen of choice I buy,
In all the world there's none more glad than I.

Behold my gem, my British penny black;
To pay its price I starve (I myself a year;
And many a night my dinner I would lack,
But when I bought it, oh, what radiant cheer!
Hitler made war that day-I did not care,
So long as my collection he would spare.
Look-my triangular Cape of Good Hope.

To purchase it I had to sell my car.
Now in my pocket for some sous I grope
To pay my omnibus when home is far,
And I am cold and hungry and footsore,
In haste to add some beauty to my store.

This very day, ah, what a joy was mine,
When in a dingy dealer's shop I found
This franc vermillion, eighteen forty-nine...
How painfully my heart began to pound!
(It's weak, they say) I paid the modest price
And tremblingly I vanished in a trice.

But oh, my dream is that some day of days,
I might discover a Mauritius blue,
Poking among the stamp-bins of the quails;
Who knows! They say there are but two;
Yet if a third one I should ever spy,
I think-God help me! I should faint and die....

Poor Monsieur Pans, he's cold and dead,
One of those stamp-collecting cranks.
His garret held no crust of bread,
But albums worth a million francs.
But albums worth a million francs.
On them his income he would spend,
By philatelic frenzy driven:
What did it profit in the end...
You can't take stamps to Heaven.

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We haven't brought you a member's profile for a few months. It's time we did.

Richard Dreiling, whom we know as Dick collects US and UN singles and First Day Covers (FDC's), specializing in US Cachet makers. "I attempt to get the earliest cachet by a given cachet maker." Scott number 894 (US) is another interest of Dick's. #894 is the Pony Express issue of April 3, 1940 and he is assembling the cachets for that issue because of the different treatments afforded the cachets by different makers. Postal history does not interest Dick unless it's an especially nice cover from the pre-stamp era. Dick also collects postcards from Reno and Sparks.

Dick, who started collecting when he inherited his grandmother's stamp collection, knows that others would enjoy the old scenes of Reno and Sparks in his postcard collection as well as the variety of cachets for a single stamp. It was Mother Dreiling that brought Dick to the club when she pointed out an article in the Reno paper about a club meeting in Carson City. That was in 1975. They went to the meeting and enjoyed a program about the production of stamps and joined in September of that year.

Dick was still in the Navy and was stationed in Lemoore, California at the Naval Air Station. He made bi-monthly commutes to pick up his mother in Sparks and drive to Carson City for the meetings of the NSSF. Later he was stationed at the Naval Air Facility at Alameda, California and became a member of the East Bay Collectors Club (and NSSF), then NAS at Moffit Field, California. He continued his commutes to Sparks and Carson City except for two six month deployments to Misawa, Japan. Dick became the Show chairman for NEVPEX 81 during his second deployment at handled all the advertising, bourse dealers and other items for the show by mail and returned to the US on June 10 in time to see the show on June 20. That year the NSSF hosted the National Convention of the American First Day Cover Society and had the first First Day of Issue for Reno, the Protect the Habitat block of four. Dick has been a continuous member of our club ever since.

This month I have opted to give you several sites rather than one. Most of these sites do not warrant a one page write-up but certainly warrant a space in this column. Sorry, but no pictures this time. I promise to have one for you next month.

<http://www.gs.dial.pipex.com/museum4.htm#sm>

Want to visit a philatelic museum the next time you go outside the US? This site will help you to get there. Some museums have website. This site will give you a link. It also has links within the us.

<http://www.apfelbauminc.com/library.htm>

Apfelbaum has a site with a library of stamp anecdotes from the past (1868 to 1962). Subjects include "A War Stamp Courts Martial" and "Letter Postage 250 BC".

http://www.postalhistory.com/search_for_information.htm

Jim Forte has a commercial site for postal history. He will be happy to sell you all the covers you want. The address above will take you to a page on his site called "Search For Information". And that's what that page does. It helps you to find information about your cover, not buy covers.

<http://jamesjreeves.com/>

I won't often put commercial pages up here unless they have something special to offer. This company has the best prices on stamp mounts I've found, so far.

<http://WWW.OregonStampSociety.org/>

Would you like to visit other stamp clubs or read other newsletters? The Oregon Stamp Society has given us this opportunity. This is a series of links to other stamp clubs, organizations and societies. Take a visit and meet somebody new.

<http://www.geocities.com/athens/oracle/2691/welcome.htm>

History anyone? This site is called "World War II on the Web". This is a good place for you WWII stamp collectors to start your research. It's a good place for general information on WWII if you had friends or relatives involved. Even if you're just interested in the war, this should be page one.

<http://www.ringsurf.com/netring?ring=stampcollectors;action=list>

This site is called "Stamp Collectors on the Internet". There are only 17 sites displayed (at this writing) but may grow larger. I noticed a few commercial site among the collectors , so be prepared.

<http://www.ohmygosh.on.ca/stamps/dubai/resource.htm>

Do you collect Arab or "Dune" States? You'll love this site. It is a collection itself and a rather large one at that. This page has links to every site that has anything to do with the Dunes and then some.

<http://www.philatelly.com/philatelly/>

And, finally a page of generally useful (sometimes useless) information.

Back to being easy on you again. No foreign stuff today. Have a seat in the rocking chair on the front porch with Mr. Scott with a nice tall glass of Coke (or Pepsi) and engage in a little chat about the stamps of yesteryear. Maybe you'll find the answers to these questions.

1. What American folk art is the subject of a 1978 series?
A) Quilt making B) Macrame C) Whittling
2. What sport is shown on the Olympic Games airmail issue of 1972?
A) Ski jumping B) Skiing C) Downhill Slalom
3. What was the name of the Russian spacecraft shown on the 1975 US ten cent stamp?
A) Likud B) Soyuz C) Mir
4. What birds appear on the wildlife conservation issue of 1957?
A) Whooping Cranes B) Mallards C) White Owls
5. How many different windmills appear on the booklet panes of fifteen cent stamps issued in 1980?
A) Four B) Five C) Six
6. What are the denominations of the stamps in the Lincoln sesquicentennial issue of 1958-59?
A) One, One, two and four B) One, Two, Two and four C) One, three, four and four
7. What scientist appears on the ten cent stamp in the Famous American series of 1940?
A) Jane Addams B) Dr. Walter Reed C) Luther Burbank
8. What Airplane is shown on the twenty-five cent Trans-Pacific issue of 1935?
A) Gray Goose B) Spirit of St. Louis C) China Clipper
9. In what year was a stamp issued marking the centennial of Oregon statehood?
A) 1954 B) 1957 C) 1959
10. Whose gun battery appears on the Battle of White Plains stamp of 1926?
A) Alexander Hamilton B) George Washington C) Von Steuben

This should not be too difficult to handle. I believe all will do well. Enjoy the quiz, I'll look for you answers at the next meeting.

"Life isn't like a box of chocolates...it's more like a jar of Jalapenos. What you do today, might burn your behind tomorrow."

This month, a stint to the Isles of Great Britain to test your knowledge of the Princes, Kings and Castles of our ancestors. Hope you did well on this one. Some of the questions were a little tricky.

1. - B. Bonnie Prince Charles for his investiture as the Prince of Wales. (#595-99)
2. - A. Mohatma Gandhi along with the flag of India graced this issue of England to celebrate his 100th birthday. (#600)
3. - C. Charles Dickens and William Wordsworth. Two of the great writers of the nineteenth century. (#617-21)
4. - B. The Penny Black is honored by the Philympia, the London philatelic Exhibition on September 18 to the 26. (#642-44)
5. - A. Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips to mark their wedding on November 14, 1973. (#707-08)
6. - C. “Winnie” , also known as Sir Winston Spencer Churchill was born in 1874. (#728-31)
7. - B. Sailboats and yachts for the bicentennial of the Royal Thames Yacht Club (and other yacht club anniversaries). (#745-48)
8. - B. Stockton and Darlington Railway was pictured on the seven pence (you’ll see it if you look at the stamp, not the caption). (#749)
9. - C. Queen Elizabeth II. The Silver Jubilee marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of her reign. (#810-14)
10. - A. Primroses (what could be more British?) and Daffodils. Also Bluebells and Snowdrops. Issued because they like flowers. (#855-58)

I didn’t see any questions about the questions or answers this month so I guess all is well. I do enjoy seeing some argument, though. It gives me an opportunity to learn something new. After all, somebody else makes up these quizzes so I’m not offended. Most everyone who turned in an answer sheet did well on this one. I think I’ll take another look at that quiz on Azerbaijani paper varieties.

How come we choose from just two people to run for president and 50 for Miss America?