

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.

June 11, 2005

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It is now the month of June and summer is coming on strong (I think). The weather is balmy, the sun is shining and the birds are chirping in the trees (I hope). Is the snow off Peavine yet?

The election of our club president, treasurer and two board members is looming (first meeting in July). This coming meeting will require us to nominate members for the positions available. President is one of those positions. Stan Cronwall will not be running for reelection, citing health problems. Stan has done our club a great service and I think we all owe him a debt of gratitude. If you have someone in mind for that position, be sure he or she wants the job before you nominate. The president's position requires that the person running has held a position as an elected officer in the past.

If an NSSS member is not able to attend the election meeting, they may obtain an absentee ballot at the last meeting in June, or from the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee is Jeanne Paquin and John Wetterling.

Under the NSSS By-Laws, the President selects the Show Chair subject to confirmation by the NSSS Board of Directors. The Show Chair then chooses the dates and venue for the

event. Anyone interested in Chairing the 2006 Show needs to contact Stan Cronwall before the end of the first NSSS meeting in June (6/11/05). If you have thoughts on a possible site for the 2006 Show, you will be able to submit it to the Show Chair for consideration.

The May program, given by Mike Johnson, was about the Washington/Franklin issues. An impossible task given the short amount of time allowed and he came as close as possible to accomplishing the impossible.

For the June program Ed & Arline will be doing a short spot on making pages from a disk on the computer. They are donating the disk to the club library so anyone needing pages can make them.

On the same subject, Ed and Arline must give up the program chair. If you would be interested in the position, see Stan Cronwell. He will be selecting soon.

The Sacramento Stamp Fair will be held on 11 & 12 June at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Court, Sacramento (just off Carlson and Fair Oaks)

The San Francisco Stamp Fair will be held on 15-17 July at the Holiday Inn Hotel, 1500 Van Ness, San Francisco (between Pine and California Streets)

**Reno's First
Transcontinental Air Service**
C. Wm. Brew

Sept. 9, 1920. A big day of the year for Reno Nevada. The first transcontinental air mail flight would land at Blanche Field, Reno, Nevada. It was scheduled to land at noon. The U.S. Post office truck was standing by for the immediate delivery of the mail to the local post office.



Fig 1.

At this time the U.S.P.O. airmail service was divided into three zones. The first zone was from New York to Chicago. Air mail postal rate of eight cents per ounce was for New York to Chicago. Chicago to Cheyenne was the second zone. The postal rate was 8 cents per ounce and 16 cents per ounce for New York to Cheyenne. The third zone was from Cheyenne, Wyoming to San Francisco, Cal. The rate was eight cents per ounce and 24 cents from New York to San Francisco. Fig. 1 is Scott Nos. C4, C5 and C6. These stamps were issued on Aug. 15, 17 and 21, 1923, for the new night flying service. This service would begin on July 1, 1924.

It is in the third zone where Reno is part of the third leg of the west bound air mail service. The mail plane flew from Cheyenne to Salt Lake City, Utah. From Salt Lake City it stopped at Elko, Nev., Reno, Nev. and arrived at San Francisco, Calif. According to the Reno Gazette Journal, the pilot that landed at Reno was Stanhope S. Boggs. The plane was a De Haviland Four. There were five sacks of mail on board the plane, when it left Salt Lake City. One for Elko, one for Reno and three for San Francisco.

There was plenty of excitement around Reno's Blanche Field as they waited for the plane to land. As the plane approached the field, it suddenly lifted and made another pass to land. The pilot made four passes before landing. Mr. Boggs explained, later, he was not sure he would clear the trees at the end of the runway. After landing, the mail was rushed to the waiting trucks to be carried to the main post office. Postmaster White, of Reno, greeted Mr. Boggs. Pictures were taken of Mr. Boggs and several prominent citizens. After the preliminary greetings Mr. Boggs was taken to a luncheon, downtown in his honor.

After the formal reception, Mr. Boggs returned to Blanche Field to continue his flight to San Francisco, arriving at 4:00 p.m.

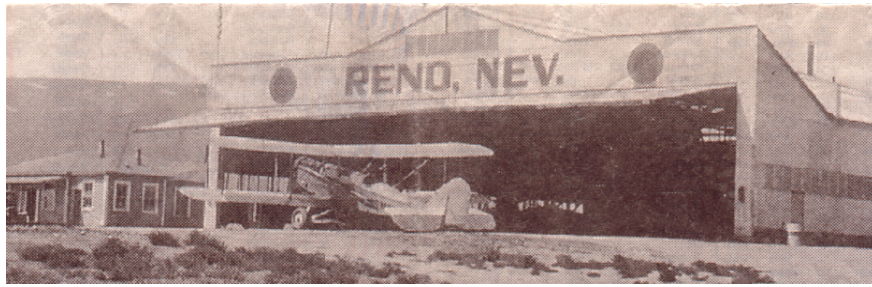


Fig 2.

The next day, Sept. 10, Pilot Raymond J. Little flew from San Francisco eastward, leaving at 5:30 a.m. He had been scheduled to leave on the 9th of Sept., but bad weather prevented his takeoff. He landed in Reno at 8:20 a.m., delivered the

mail and picked up two bags of mail. One for Salt Lake City and one for points east.

Mr. Sharpneck relieved Mr. Little, as the pilot. After the plane was refueled and completely inspected, Mr. Sharpneck prepared for the takeoff. The Nevada State Journal describes the takeoff. "Pilot Sharpneck climbed aboard, pulled down his goggles, turned up his high collar and with the help of a half dozen men, advanced to the runway. Then, with a loud noise, the plane moved down the runway about a hundred yards, bounced a few times and was truly airborne. just in the nick of time"

The second westbound plane was scheduled to land in Reno on Sept. 11th, but due to delays en route from Cheyenne, darkness overtook him at Lovelock, NV. Pilot J. P. Murray landed in an alfalfa field. the residents of Lovelock were delighted to see a plane for the first time and this emergency landing provided them with lots of excitement.

This first transcontinental flight proved a success for coast to coast mail delivery.

Flying was a hazardous occupation in those days. Mail Plane No. 102, flown by pilot Steen narrowly missed a woodpile at the end of the runway, taking off from Blanche Field in Reno, Nev. The De Haviland stalled on takeoff, but quickly recovered to avert the crash. However, pilot Steen did crash at Mamouth Springs, about 60 miles southwest of Salt Lake City. The propeller, landing gear and lower wings were damaged. Pilot Steen was not injured.

Today, Washoe County Golf Course covers the field where Blanche Field was located. There is a plaque commemorating the field located on the 7th hole. Fig. 2 is a picture of the Reno Hangar as of 1924. Fig. 3 shows Stanhope S. Boggs.

75 years have since passed and Reno's airport is very large and busy today. It is not at the same location, but Reno, Nev. was a part of the history of U.S. air mail.



Fig 3

<http://www.dalestamp.com/course.htm>



Time to go back to school? Dale's Enterprises is a commercial operation that sells stamps at a set price and through "mail bids". Normally I won't highlight a commercial site unless I find it to be friendly to the collector. In other words, they must do more than sell stamps. Dale's has a six part course in philately and that's enough to catch my attention on this page.

The courses are numbered like college courses; Dale Philately, Course 101, Philately Course 102, etc. This makes it easy to keep your place and advance through the courses according to the structure given. These courses aren't about how to lick stamp hinges or where to find stamps for your collection and you won't have to learn anew about what to look for in a stamp album. This has more to do with existing stocks of American stamps, legends and so on. Here's the layout;

Course 101; **Some Thoughts On The Designing of Postage Stamps.** This course is a paper written by Leon Helguera and published by the National Philatelic Museum in 1952. It is just what the title suggests, thoughts on stamp design by one of the premiere designers of American and United Nations stamps.

Course 102; **Some Historical Background On Two Popular Series of United States Stamps.** This is a discussion of the definitive pictorial issue of 1869 with the public outcry against them and "Farley's Follies" and another public outcry from the stamp collectors during the early Roosevelt administration (Farley was only trying to make his boss happy). The 1869 definitive's discussion is repeated in course 104, **America's Most Beautiful Set of Stamps?**

There are three more courses offered bringing the total to six. There is also the promise of more courses to come. When I first opened this site (many months ago) there were only four courses so Dale is keeping his promise. The courses aren't really scholastic in the sense that you will learn how to collect or improve your collection, but they are educational as to what you may already have or what you may want to add to your collection later. Perhaps the future will bring "classes" more specific to collecting like how to recognize printing types and how to spot forgeries. Right now it is still a pretty good site to visit and, with an invitation for the future.

At last we can get out the 'ole straw hat with a light shirt and a pair of shorts with the pencil and get this puppy done. Enjoy the iced tea in the shade cause the sun's starting to get hot. I am hearing lately that the vitamin D from the sun is more important than the possibility of skin cancer so enjoy the sun too.

1. What is the denomination of the only certified mail stamp issued in the United States?
A) 15 cents B) 25 cents C) 30 cents
2. A stamp honoring the World's Fair was issued in 1962. In what city was the fair held?
A) New York City B) Chicago C) Seattle
3. The Alamo appears on a nine cent stamp issued in 1956. In what city is it located?
A) Houston B) San Antonio C) Dallas
4. The originator of the memorial poppy appears on a 1948 stamp. Who is she?
A) Moiena Michael B) Sarah Diego C) Alice Cooper
5. What is the central design feature of the airmail set issued for the Canal Zone in 1951?
A) Aircraft B) Globe and wing C) The Panama Canal
6. What ship appears on the fourteen cent postal card of 1978?
A) USCG cutter "Eagle" B) USS Constitution C) Sloop John B
7. What is the denomination of the bulk mail stamp showing a drum?
A) 9.3 B) 11.5 C) 7.9
8. What type vessel is shown on the International Naval Review stamp of 1957?
A) Aircraft Carrier B) Submarine C) Battleship
9. What American couple appears on the paid reply postal card of 1951?
A) George ad Martha Washington B) Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt
C) Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln
10. When did the US stop issuing stamps for Cuba?
A) August 8, 1898 B) December 14, 1900 C) May 20, 1902

OK, pencils ready? Scott Specialized at the ready? TV off, thinking cap on? Well, come on. It isn't that hard. This one's a breeze. Another easy hundred bucks

A couple of trips to the back of the book were required in this quiz. hope it wasn't too far to travel. As long as you have access to the Specialized there should be no problem with the answers. I believe there is a Scott's Specialized in the Reno library on Center Street and another in the main Sparks library.

1. - C) 300 years ago, in 1682, the French explorer Rene-Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, followed the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. He claimed the river valley for France and named it Louisiana in honor of Louis XIV. #UX95
2. - A) Four stamps, #'s 1691-1694, together, show John Trumbull's painting of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The painting was inaccurate as only John Hancock signed it on July fourth. Other members of Congress signed it "eventually".
3. - B) The Mississippi statehood stamp (#1337) was issued on December 11, 1967 to celebrate it's sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary. The flower is a Magnolia.
4. - A) The 1956 exhibition was known as FIPEX or the Fifth Philatelic Exhibition. A souvenir sheet was issued (#1075) for it in New York City.
5. - B) Andrew was our seventeenth president succeeding Abraham Lincoln at the end of the Civil War. He was also the first president to suffer impeachment after implementing Lincoln's policies for the recovery of the south. #822
6. - A) #798 shows a painting of Virginia Dare, the first English child born in the Americas, held by her mother with her father standing behind. She was born on August 18, 1587 as part of the "Lost Colony", a group of colonist who disappeared and were never heard from again.
7. - B) Gilbert Charles Stuart appeared on #884 which was issued, along with the other Famous American stamps, in 1940. He painted the unfinished portrait of George Washington that hung on every classroom wall that I attended in the 1950's.
8. - C) The AFL-CIO was represented by a picture of a hard-working father with his wife and child. #1082.
9. - B) Herman Melville's Moby Dick, the great white whale, is shown on #U554 to honor the writer *and* the whaling industry.
10. - A) Luther burbank was an American plant breeder and horticulturist., made famous with the Burbank potato. #876

I think it might be worth pursuing the story of Virginia Dare and the Lost colony (how do we know about her if the colony was lost?). Hope you scored another hundred Auction Bucks.

Since the weather can't seem to make up it's mind if it's Summer or Winter, take a heavy coat and a bottle of suntan lotion and enjoy your front yard while you knock out this quiz. It's an entertainer.

1. What anniversary of the claiming of Louisiana was marked by a 1982 postal card?
A) 150th B) 250th C) 300th
2. How many stamps are there in the July 4th, 1976 Declaration of Independence issue?
A) Four B) Six C) Eight
3. What flower is shown on the Mississippi statehood stamp?
A) Camellia B) Magnolia C) Peach blossom
4. In what city was the 1956 International Philatelic Exhibition held?
A) New York B) San Francisco C) Seattle
5. Who is on the seventeen cent stamp of the 1938 definitives?
A) Abraham Lincoln B) Andrew Johnson C) Ulysses S. Grant
6. Who is shown with Virginia Dare on the 1937 commemorative?
A) Her Parents B) Her brother C) Her husband
7. In what year did artist Gilbert Charles Stuart appear on a United States stamp?
A) 1938 B) 1940 C) 1957
8. A mosaic from the headquarters of what labor group is shown on the 1956 "Labor Day" issue?
A) AFL B) CIO C) AFL-CIO
9. What animal is featured on a United States envelope issued in 1970?
A) Traveller (Lee's horse) B) Moby Dick (Capt Ahab) C) Spot (Dick and Jayne)
10. What scientist appears on the three cent stamp in the Famous American series?
A) Luther Burbank B) Thomas A. Edison C) Cyrus McCormick

Some of these can be tough, if you make them that way. Did Gilbert Stuart's signature appear on his famous painting of Washington, therefore meaning, he appeared on a US stamp in 1847? Well,,,,,,,,,,,,,probably not, or at least I don't think that's what Bill Olcheski meant when he wrote the question. Why not get out your microscope and find out if its there?

Well, this one certainly had a bunch of interesting stuff in it. Postmaster provisionals, Chinese resistance to invaders, artists and even a nod to Johnny Appleseed. What more could you ask for.

1. - B) The Panama-Pacific Exposition celebrated the completion of the Panama Canal in 1914. The stamp (# 400A), which predated the completion by a year, gave salute to the discovery of the San Francisco Bay.

2. - C) Abraham Lincoln is shown with Sun Yat-Sen, founder of the Chinese Republic in 1912, for five years of Chinese resistance to the Japanese during WWII on # 906.

3. - A) Henry Wadsworth Longfellow is pictured with his fellow Poets on a one cent stamp, #864.

4. - A) Our sixteenth president is shown on the sixteen cent stamp of the 1938 definitives. he is the man who was the cause of (not by his intention), carried us through and ended the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln on # 821.

5. - C) Johnny Appleseed was on another stamp (#1317) and John Glen will be, one day. The Senator was Robert A. Taft, son of the president, William Howard. He was co-author of the Taft Hartley Act to control the labor unions (#1161).

6. - C) In 1962 only one airmail envelope was issued, #UC36. I show a jetliner rising into the sky on a red background. It is square.

7. - A) #1031A was issued as part of the 154 definitive series, but not until 1960 and pictures the Governors Palace. I am informed that only vendors with native American blood are allowed to sell their wares under the "ramada".

8. - A) "The Wake of the Ferry" is used to honor John Sloan, one of America's great painters on # 1433, issued in 1971, not 1970. The other two mentioned in the quiz are also his. My favorite is "McSora's Bar".

9. - C) #1603 was issued in 1975 and pictures the Old North Church where Paul Revere had Robert Newman hang the lanterns (One if by land, two if by sea).

10. - B) Postmaster provisionals were privately produced stamps that were paid for out of the postmaster's budget. The New York Postmaster started using them in 1845.

Not as easy as many of the quizzes have been in the past but some of those questions grabbed my attention. If there was a problem finding Sloan's painting (#8), it was because of the date, so points will be awarded, even if you are wrong.