



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.

December 10, 2005

President: Terri Edwards

22 Hilltop Dr.
Carson City, NV 89706-7771
(775) 246-4769
renostamp@earthlink.net

Vice President: John Wetterling

1054 Rimfeild Dr.
Fernley NV 89408
(775) 575-1337

opusnrosebud@msn.com

Secretary

Treasurer: Michael McAuliffe

4820 Pinespring Dr.
Reno NV 89509
(775) 826-1848
mike291911@aol.com

Editor: Howard Grenzsbach

180 Pompe
Lemmon Valley, NV 89506
(775) 972-6301
artfulputz@aol.com

Directors:

Frank Fey

2601 Monterey Circle
Reno, NV 89509
(775) 826-1476
frankfey@gbis.com

Paul Glass

320 Carlene Dr.
Sparks, NV 89436
425-8939
pglass@charter.net

Mike Johnson

2980 Lida Lane
Sparks NV 89434
626-6545

rpaycheck@msn.com

Tara McAuliffe (Junior Rep.)

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

Jeanne Paquin

610 E. Proctor #16
Carson City, NV 89701
paquinj@sbcglobal.net

Mike Potter

1085 Emerson Way
Sparks, NV 89431
359-9419
mpotter-134@aol.com

Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all. So far the winter's been good to us. At this writing, there is no snow but, knowing the weather in Reno, snow will be with us by the 24th.

I am trying to get this out a little early so it will give me a chance to remind all of the **Holiday party** to be held on the **first Saturday** this month on **December 3rd**. Bring gifts, one per each member of your party (guests are always welcome). Be sure to indicate if the gift is for a male or female if it has such an orientation. Gifts that are fun, not expensive are expected. There is a ten dollar limit, but if it cost ten, forty-nine, its probably all right. Eleven is too much. It will be held at the Masonic Temple. The address is 601 W. Pekham. Turn west (left going toward downtown, right going away) on Pekham off Virginia Street. Its six

blocks, on the corner. Be there by six for refreshments, 7 for dinner.

There will be no regular meetings in the month of December. The next meeting will be held on January 14, 2006. Happy New Year.

PENPEX is on the horizon. In Redwood City at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Dr. Dec. 3-4 from 10 am to 5:30, 10 - 4 on Sun. Directions are in the last issue.

On Dec. 4 is the **Chico Stamp and Coin Show**. Held at the New Chico Masonic Family Center, 1110 W. East Ave. from 10am to 5.

The **Sacramento Stamp Fair** will be held Jan 14 & 15 at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 5961 Newman Ct. Hours will be 10-6pm and 10 - 4pm on Sun.



Christmas in Bethlehem

In Bethlehem the town where Jesus is said to have been born is the site of the Church of the Nativity, which is ablaze with flags and decorations on every Christmas. On Christmas Eve natives and visitors alike crowd the church's doorways and stand on the roof to watch for the dramatic annual procession. Galloping horsemen and police mounted on Arabian horses lead the parade. They are followed by solitary horseman carrying a cross and sitting astride a coal-black steed, then comes the churchmen and government officials. The procession solemnly enters the doors and places an ancient effigy of the Holy Child in the Church. Deep winding stairs lead to a grotto where visitors find a silver star marking the site of the birth of Jesus. Christian homes in Bethlehem are marked by a cross painted over the door and each home displays a homemade manger scene. A star is set up on a pole in the village square.

Christmas in Ethiopia

The Ethiopian Christmas known as Ganna is celebrated on January 7th. This celebration takes place in ancient churches carved from solid volcanic rock and also in modern churches that are designed in three concentric circles. Men and boys sit separately from girls and women. Also the choir sings from the outside circle.

People receive candles as they enter the church. After lighting the candles everyone walks around the church three times, then stands throughout the mass, which may last up to three hours.

Food served at Christmas usually includes injera, a sourdough pancake like bread. Injera serves as both plate and fork. Doro wat, a spicy chicken stew might be the main meal. A piece of the injera is used to scoop up the wat. Baskets decorated beautifully are used to serve the wat.

Gift giving is a very small part of Christmas celebration. Children usually receive very simple presents such as clothing. In Ethiopia Christmas day is January 7, so on Christmas Eve the city is crowded with pilgrims from all parts of the country. They remain outdoors all night, praying and chanting. In the morning, a colorful procession makes its way to a nearby hilltop where a service is held. Three young men march at the head of the crowd, lashing whips from left to right to keep the people in line. Those who worship are fed with bread and wine that has been blessed by priests. After the service is over the rest of the day is spent dancing, playing sport and feasting.

Christmas in Iraq

In the Christian homes an unusual ceremony is held in the courtyard of the home on Christmas Eve. One of the children in the family reads the story of the Nativity from an Arabic Bible. The other members of the family hold lighted candles, and as soon as the story has been read a bonfire is lit in one corner of the courtyard. The fire is made of dried thorns and the future of the house for the coming year depends upon the way the fire burns. If the thorns burn to ashes, the family will have good fortune. While the fire is burning, a psalm is sung. When the fire is reduced to ashes, everyone jumps over the ashes three times and makes a wish. On Christmas day a similar bonfire is built in the church. While the fire burns the men of the congregation chant a hymn. Then there is a procession in which the officials of the church march behind the bishop, who carries an image of the infant Jesus upon a scarlet cushion. The long Christmas service always ends with the blessing of the people. The bishop reaches forth and touches a member of the congregation with his hand, putting his blessing upon him. That person touches the one next him, and so on, until all have received "the Touch of Peace."

Christmas in Micronesia

Christmas Day is a church family day for Protestant Christians. Everyone attends the local church and spends most of the day there. The long worship service includes a message from every minister, lay preacher, and missionary in the area. Another hour or two is spent in hymn and carol singing. If gifts are presented, it is considered proper for each recipient to applaud himself as he goes to receive the two bars of soap he is likely to be given.



The first stamp with a Santa was Sct #1472 issued in 1972



Garfield was first shown on #223 issued in 1890



The first American stamp with a Christmas theme shows a wreath #1205 issued in 1962



#1729 was issued to replace the Madonna and child stamps but a controversy ensued and the religious stamps were returned the following year.



The first issue picturing toys had four stamps and four different toys.

Other stamps had toys on them but this one is the first with a toy bear



While religious themes are common on Christmas stamps, the first didn't appear until 1965 with #1276



The first Christmas stamp to be designed by a child was #2108 issued in 1984 and drawn by Danny La Boccetta.



Several designs show churches, homes and other buildings, but #2245 is the first to show a village scene in winter.

<http://www.hwcn.org/link/cpc/>



Christmas Philatelic Club



In 1994 the Christmas Philatelic Club held their twenty-fifth anniversary in Harmony, Minnesota, the place where the club was born. How do I know this? I went to their website and clicked on the link that said "25th Anniversary Celebration". The page told me all about their efforts to put the celebration together, convince the postal service to hold a first day ceremony in Harmony for that year's Christmas issue and create a cacheted cover for the event. How could I resist! The site required me to explore it. If you collect Christmas stamps and covers, you may want to consider joining this club.

The club is affiliated with the APS and the ATA and is filled with Santa, snowman, toy and Madonna and Child collectors. There is a link to the members page. If you go to it you will not only find a little information about the individual members but you can converse with them too, through their e-mail. You won't have to be a Christmas collector to have something to talk about. Many collect in other areas. Brian, for instance, collects Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

How do you collect Christmas? There's a page for that question. many people are interested in collecting Christmas but are not sure how to go about it, after all, Christmas is a large area. Every christian country in the world produces Christmas stamps and some non-christian countries do too. How about collecting Christmas towns? Did you know there is a Bethlehem in Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and New York? Well, you know now! Then there is Christmas, Florida, Holiday, Missouri and Nazareth, Texas. And that only scratches the surface. Check it out. See what you might want to collect.

This weak endeavor only scratches the surface. there are links, article archives and a museum in Austria to visit and much more. If you don't collect Christmas, visit the site. You may change your mind. If you do, visit and find something new. This site covers a lot of ground and is very informative. I recommend a look. If you go to the site once, you will return.

Egg nog at the ready? Pencils at the ready? Time for the Christmas quiz. For you new members, this is the puzzle you want to do to start the new year off right With Auction Bucks in your pocket. Its probably the easiest quiz of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

1. When Santa Claus (#1472) was a young man, he was known as Ulysses S. Grant (#223). As he grew older, he put on a little weight, his beard turned white and he started giving toys to all the boys and girls.
A) Tain't so B) What a crock C) I don't know
2. The Christmas wreath (#1205) is a tradition only in America!
A) Don't think so B) I saw one in Soho once C) The Germans do it
3. George Washington was pictured on which Christmas issue?
A) #1729 B) The 1977 issue C) Design # A1118
4. The first Christmas issue showing toys (#1415-18) was?
A) Four stamps B) Also pre-canceled C) Six cents
5. Waiter, there's a fly in soup! Postman, there's a bear on my stamp. Did this really happen?
A) I Don't like soup B) Sure! In 1981 C) On #1940
6. What type of scene is pictured on U S Christmas stamps of 1965?
A) Religious B) An angel C) Either
7. In 1970 two sets were issued. One showing a Nativity (1414), the other?
A) Toy horse B) Doll carriage C) Toy train
8. A Santa Claus stamp (#2108) was designed in 1984. What is the name of the designer?
A) Danny B) La Bocchetta C) Danny La Bocchetta
9. In 1986 a stamp showing a "village scene" (#2245) was issued. Was this the first village scene shown on a Christmas stamp?
A) Well, duh! B) Look at the next question C) One hundred and forty two
10. All of the issues mentioned have something in common. What is it?
A) They all show "firsts", such as the first issue showing President Grant, Santa, a wreath and so on. See if you can figure them all out.

Quizzes can sometimes be daunting but if you know your U S stamps, this one should pose no major problems. Did you figure out the answer to number 10?

An error of year in question number 3, as pointed out by several quiz takers, will give all of you an automatic correct answer. Isn't life grand?

1. - A) The postcard, #UXC6, honored the Virgin Islands and their flag. The postal rate for air postal cards (and post cards sent by air) in 1967 was six cents.
2. - C) Ramon Magsaysay thwarted a communist revolution in the Philippines and became president as a result. The Rockefellers established the Magsaysay Awards in his honor for people who demonstrate leadership in improving the lives of Asians.
3. - A) In 1872, Montgomery Wards sent out their first catalogs in the mail and started a business that continues today. The stamp, #1468 was issued in 1972 not 1927.
4. - B) Washington Irving was the first American author to gain fame in European society for stories such as "Rip Van Winkle", that poked fun at the upper class of New York City, (#859).
5. - A) A brand new post office building was built to usher in the modern era of postal automation in Providence Rhode Island. The stamp, #1164, issued in October, 1960.
6. - C) In 1908, Abner Doubleday was credited with the invention of baseball in 1839. Today that credit is deemed unlikely, however it is known that Alexander Cartwright established the first organized baseball team, the Knickerbockers, and wrote the first set of rules for the game in 1845. #1381 celebrates 100 years of *professional* baseball and was issued on September 24. 1969.
7. - B) #1405 shows Edgar Lee Masters, a prolific writer, who became famous for one volume of poems, Spoon River Anthology (1915).
8. - A) The set was issued to promote the "Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition in Omaha (and to replace the Columbian Exposition Commemoratives, disliked by the stamp collectors of the day). The eight cent (#289) pictured Troops guarding a wagon train.
9. - C) #1504 show Angus and *Longhorn* cattle on the Rural America issue of 1973.
10. - B) Francis Marion, also known as the swamp fox (UX94) was famous for the guerilla tactics he used in the Revolutionary war (Mao borrowed from him), largely against British Colonel Tarleton who gave him the name. G. C. Scott (A) was an actor in "Patton", T. Gage (C) a British General in the first action of the Revolutionary War.

The Swamp Fox sounds like a Mel Gibson movie, "The Patriot". Did you see it? Interesting group of questions. Stimulates thought about the BEP, baseball and the Revolutionary War.