

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.



## POST BOY

March 11, 2006

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February showers bring March flowers? That doesn't sound right! Its the third month already. How the time flies. Lots going on this month. Read on.

February's program was brought to us by the GPS (German Philatelic Society) thanks to **Mike Potter**, our program director. It was all about Zeppelin mail, Bet you didn't know the Zeppelins made so many stops. I didn't either.

ARIPEX was held in Arizona last month and **Terri Edwards** took her exhibit to the show. Congratulations on another win. Terri brought a Vermeil award home with her. Huzzahs and kudos to you.

**Frank Fey** had a stay in St. Mary's in February and came back to the second meeting to tell the tale. Welcome back, Frank. We're all glad to see you.

This month's program will be given by **Howard Grenzebach**. It will be about making album pages on your computer using the "Word" program from Windows "Office". Other pro-grams such as Appleworks or Open Office will also be discussed. This information can also be applied to making exhibit pages, cachets, cancel-ations, ads or any purpose you can think of. Should be a useful program. Be sure to come for this one. You don't have a computer? Try using the one you have in the library (its your taxes that paid for it). According to one librarian I talked with, you will need a floppy disc to record your work on. If you

don't finish the first time you can bring the disc back and continue until you have it done your way. Very good for specialized collections!

The club picnic this year, will take place on August 19th in a new location. it will be held in a park near the new library on the Pyramid highway. A map to the park will appear in this news-letter as soon as I can find a map and the space for it.

There will be a **board meeting** at the end of the club meeting on March 11th. All members are invited to attend.

As you know, the **Reno Stamp Show** will be held on July, 15-16 2006. We still need a cancellation and cachet for the show covers. The cancella-tion is required 10 weeks before the show, on May 10th. We need your ideas no later than April 22 to sort them out. You may want to consider making an exhibit for the show. If you have never done one before, there is plenty of help available from some of the other members that have exhib-ited. The proper time to begin a new project is today. Tomorrow you'll be a day behind.

**FRESPEX** will be held on March, 11-12 2006 in Clovis (NE of Fresno) in the Veterans Memorial Bldg. at 5th St. and Hughes Ave. From 10-6, Fri. and 10-4 Sun.

**WESTPEX** is coming up on Apr 28-30 in burlingame (S of SF, on Hwy 101) at the SF Airport Marriott Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Hwy. 10-6, Fri., Sat. & 10-4 on Sun.

## **Proper etiquette at stamp shows can enhance transactions with dealers**

The above headline was taken directly from the January 30th issue of Linn's Stamp News. The article was written by James T. Dempsey. It is all about how we, as buyers, should behave when attending a bourse at a stamp show and what the proper etiquette is when dealing with the dealers. There is a lot of good information here and the article is well organized and written. We shouldn't take food and drink to the dealers table (makes sense), we don't want to spread our stuff all over his/her table (leave room for other people), don't take too many seats, the dealer has other customers too. All this make very good common sense, so what's wrong with this picture? Most of us have common sense but there are always a few boors at the table with no manners and will never have them and Dempsey's article won't change that. What about the dealer's etiquette? Aren't they here to serve us, not the other way around?

## **Proper etiquette at a stamp shows can enhance transactions with buyers**

Ahhhhh, that's better. Now, lets get started.

Know what time the show opens and be ready for your customers at that time. Many of them are anxious to get started. They want to fill up those empty spaces in their collections and want to see as many dealers as they can in the time allotted to them. Don't waste their time making them wait on you!

Don't bring your lunch to the table unless you plan to keep it there until you have time to take it elsewhere to eat. Do you think the collectors want to buy stamps with ketchup stains or be given change with money made sticky with your soda pop? Of course not.

Most of your customers will bring the things they need to determine if the stamp you offer is the stamp they need. They will usually bring tongs, magnifiers, perf guages and watermark fluid, but out of all those people coming to see you, some will forget. Provide for them. After all, they're willing to spend their money with you. Be prepared to help them out.

Don't ignore your customers so you can have a friendly chat with another dealer. You can do that before or after the show. Pay attention to your customers. Chat when no customers are around. Try not to judge who's going to spend more money so you can pay attention to them. The customer who's willing to spend the big bucks may surprise you. I speak from experience. The last time I was at a bourse, I was ignored. The dealer wanted to chat it up with the dealer next door. I had pulled out about \$100.00 in stamps and wanted to look some more. I expected to spend \$300.00 or so with this guy and I always under-estimate. He wanted to chat. I left.

When you're selling stamps in Pennsylvania or California, bring out the Michel for reference, use the Scott for price. Michel is a German book and reflects the prices realized in Germany, not in the USA. The Germans pay more for gas than we do. They also pay more for stamps. We are a larger market and you can sell more stamps and gas here than you can in Germany. Use the Scott!. If you're going to charge a high price for a stamp, make sure it's properly expertized. I don't want to fight you to get my money back if I find out its a forgery. Again, I speak from experience.

If you're going to charge full catalog value for a stamp, make sure it meets the criteria Scott provides for that value. The stamp must be Very Fine or better. It is well centered but can be off in one direction, but not too much. It will have full original gum and may be lightly hinged. Perforations are intact around the entire stamp. Anything in lesser condition is a lesser stamp and deserves a lesser price.

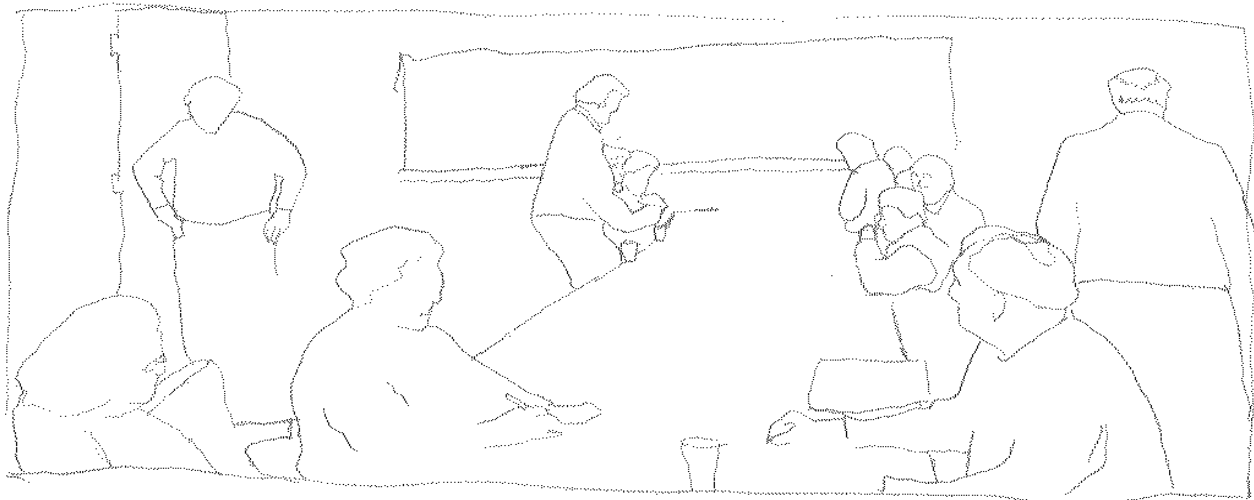
Please remember, without the customer you have no business. You don't go to shows, you don't sell stamps, you don't buy a new SUV! There are more rules of good behavior and I'm sure you can figure them out. It's just common sense and we all have that, don't we? The etiquette works for both sides of the table, and, I know, there are boors on both sides of the table. Lets just do our best. We'll keep getting along as we always have.

## Who are these People?



This picture was brought to me at last month's meeting with the question. "Can you identify these people?" They are all members of the NSSS from a time when the meetings were held at one of the physics rooms at UNR. I remember attending a couple of those meetings when I first joined the club, sometime in the middle or late ninties. I do recognize one or two of the faces but most escape me. I was still a new member and hadn't gotten to know the members yet. Some didn't show up when the meetings were moved to the Sparks museum and a few have since left the club. While I can look at this picture and say, "Gee, I remember him.", I was not yet familiar with all their names and hadn't connected the names with the faces. I'm not in the picture, so it may have been taken before I joined.

I will bring the picture in to the next meeting, perhaps someone will help to identify as many of the old members as possible. We can use this in our club's history.



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



Here's a site you might find interesting. It not a complicated site and the graphics are rather simplistic. The logo above is as fancy as it gets. I mean no disrespect towards the maker of this site as I find it both informative and a pleasant place to visit. His name is Kevin Blackston, he is Christian and has designed a site for your children (or grandchildren) to learn about stamp collecting. I mention this because there is a page entitled "Note to Parents" where he will tell you this himself. The picture of him



comes from another page he created called "About". Its a little difficult to find the link. Its located next to the "contact" link. You might also enjoy his personal page, called "Kevin's Husetop in the Wilderness" so click on it and enjoy.

But I digress. There is an awful lot offered in this site. If you like, you can download the stamp album pages that he made from Open Office Writer. You can get that system free from Openoffice.org. Its a lot like the Windows "Office". The download may take a while in PDF form. It is 8.63 megabytes and includes 627 pages of American stamps. If that's too much, you can do it in 1.35 megabytes by downloading the ODT format. However, he does give you options. Maybe you don't collect up to 1995. The pages are divided into seven

volumes and you can pick and choose whichever you like or even a single page that you might be missing.

But wait, there's more. Go to the "Gallery page to see what he collects. Its an all-American collection. Apparently that's his specialty. How about trading some stamps with him. He would love to do that. He has set up the trades so that you "pay" for his stamps with your stamps. Do you sometime have a tough time identifying your stamps with the descriptions given like "Panama-Pacific" or Hudson-Fulton"? The page is called the "Identifier" and it will do just that. How easy can it be?

The page I like best is one called "Articles. It seems Mr. Blackston is also an author and writes about stamps. I am hoping he will allow me to steal some of his work for the Post Boy some day. With proper credit given, of course, since many readers of this Computer Page may not be able to read his articles for themselves.

All-in-all, I spent an enjoyable hour or two exploring Mr. Blackston's pages and I hope you will pay a visit to him too. Seems like a real nice guy and he has put together a very useful site for you and me. Send him an e-mail. Let him know what you think.

The first question in this series could have been a real toughie, making you look through the whole book for an answer. Thank goodness for multiple choice! So take a sweater and sit on the porch, or shorts and a t-shirt outside or sit by the fire, out of the rain and do this puzzle. Who knows what March weather will bring?

1. In what year was a stamp issued honoring the Library of Congress?  
A) 1978                                      B) 1980                                      C) 1982
2. Gustaf Mannerheim appears on a 1960 set. What country did he come from?  
A) Norway                                      B) Finland                                      C) Sweden
3. Mount Mckinley is the subject of a fifteen cent stamp issued in 1972. Where is it located?  
A) Alaska                                      B) California                                      C) Oregon
4. What two sports appear in stamps issued in 1969?  
A) Football/Baseball                                      B) Tennis/ping pong                                      C) Basketball/Hockey
5. What painter is on the ten cent stamp in the Famous Americans series?  
A) Frederic Remington                                      B) Gilbert Stuart                                      C) Leroy Neiman
6. How many stamps are there in the American quilts issue of 1978?  
A) Four                                      B) Five                                      C) Six
7. What is the denomination of the 1949 airmail stamp honoring the Wright Brothers?  
A) Six cents                                      B) Nine cents                                      C) Eleven cents
8. The Battle of New Orleans anniversary rated a stamp in 1965. What year was that battle fought? Hint; remember the song?  
A) 1815                                      B) 1813                                      C) 1812
9. Harlan Fiske Stone was the subject of a 1948 stamp. What was his job?  
A) Chief Justice                                      B) Editor of the Times                                      C) CEO of Firestone
10. Virginia Dare appears on a 1937 stamp marking the anniversary of the settlement of which American Colony?  
A) Roanoke Island                                      B) Jamestown                                      C) Plymouth

Time for another 10 Bucks bonus. Tell me the name of the first man to post a letter, sent by air, in the United States. You know who he is and I would like to know, too!

Easy money, isn't it?



1. C. The memorial is not on #929 but the photo by Joe Rosenthal is. The memorial (the statue created by Felix W. de Weldon after the photo by Rosenthal) was dedicated on Nov. 10, 1954 by Eisenhower in Washington DC, just outside Arlington.
2. B. The Confederate postal authorities took a different tack than the US system and allowed living persons to be pictured on a stamp. That living person was Jefferson Davis, the first (and last) president of the CSA?
3. B. The number one sport of the Winter Olympics is pictured on #716. That sport would be Ski Jumping, a sport the US was not the best in, in 1932. The Finns and Norwegians were placed at the top of the list that year.
4. B. Intercollegiate football began when Rutgers played against Princeton on November 6th of 1869 in New Brunswick, New Jersey, defeating them in a 6-4 barn-burner. # 1382 celebrates the 100th anniversary of that game.
5. B. Brussels was the site of the first World's fair held since 1940 after Hitler decided to start WWII (what an idiot). Go to <[expomuseum.com/1958/](http://expomuseum.com/1958/)> to find a link to that fair and others.
6. C. On Nov 1st, 1962, the United States issued a four cent stamp, # 1205, picturing a wreath and two candles for use in the regular mails during the Christmas (holiday) season. This was the first holiday issue in the US.
7. C. Alexandria Virginia (C40) is the home of Gadsby's Tavern and stomping grounds for George Washington. Robert E. Lee had a home in this small, quiet city of 130,000, that began its existence as a warehouse in 1730!

8. B. The Soo Locks were opened in June of 1855 after a two year construction project by the Fairbanks Scale Co. The project was completed on time with a cost overrun tripling the projections estimates, at just under one million dollars. #1069.



Soo Locks under construction



Scott # CJ28

9. C. The Canal Zone seal is on # J25-29. In 1903, the US signed a treaty with Panama that gave the US exclusive control over an area 10 miles wide in perpetuity. In the '50s (and, again in the '60s) the people of Panama rioted, wanting to fly their flag in the Canal Zone. In 1977 the US relinquished control to Panama.

10. A. Thomas Hart Benton was a card carrying communist who was immortalized when his painting was placed in the Truman Library. he was the descendant of a Missouri senator of the same name who helped his territory become a state.

## **Stagecoaches fared well despite frequent robberies**

by Herman Herst, Jr.\*

A call at the Collectors Club in New York should be on the itinerary of every visitor to the City. It lies in the heart of New York at 22 East 35th Street, just off Madison Avenue. Even better is to time the visit to coincide with one of the Club's regular meetings. The local telephone number for enquiries is 638-0559.

One exhibit you might ask to see is the "treasure box" carried on a stagecoach which was shot open by a bandit during a stagecoach robbery. If I recall correctly it was the famed "Black Bart" who did the trick.

Some day Hollywood will discover Black Bart; a robber with the flair for the unusual. He liked to write poetry, and after each robbery he would leave a poem with the victims. He was courteous to lady passengers, but he relieved all men of their wallets and valuables.

Wells Fargo and Company assigned one man full-time to capture him. The surprise came when he was finally caught. He turned out to be a supposedly reputable San Francisco lawyer who doubled as a bandit. He might never have been caught, but in making his getaway after one robbery, the handkerchief that covered his face blew away and he was traced by the Chinese laundry marks on it.

Actually, there are more stagecoach robbers killed on television every night than during the half-century or so that the private express companies carried mail and treasure in the far west. If one were to be guided by our television programmes, no stagecoach driver would have ever lived to enjoy old age. The truth is a bit different.

At the Chicago Columbian Exposition in 1893, Wells Fargo and Company had an historical exhibit. Most of the items shown at that time are presently on display at the Wells Fargo Museum in Downtown San Francisco, another "must" for philatelic visitors to the City where many people have left their heart. I understand that another similar museum is being opened in Los Angeles, to display the surplus material from the San Francisco Museum.

Although a San Francisco bank used the stagecoach motif as its trademark, there is no direct connection between the financial institution and the stagecoach company that existed in the last century.

Visitors to the exhibit in 1893 were given a booklet detailing the history of Wells Fargo and Company. It included a section on the period when stagecoach activity was at its zenith, between November 1870 and November 1884.

Those years were fateful one for the booming west. The Indian Wars were ending; the last one, the Modoc War in Oregon, was still in the future, but most of the Indians were on reservations. Law had come to the "wild west". Railroads burgeoned, bringing rapid transportation to towns previously approached only by horses. Most importantly the transfer of funds by telegraph made the actual carriage of gold overland unnecessary.

A booklet was distributed at the Exposition with some interesting statistics. The total loss incidental to stagecoach robberies in the fourteen-year period was \$927,756.65, or less than the million dollars some television stories mention as being on one stagecoach. In that period there were 313 attempts to rob stagecoaches, all but 34 being successful. There were only 23 robberies of Wells Fargo and Company offices or stations, and four attempted train robberies.

In casualties the bloodshed was happily far less in historical retrospect than is shown on television. Two Wells Fargo and Company personnel met death in those fourteen years, and six were wounded. In addition, four stagecoach drivers were wounded, but none were killed. The robbers did not do so well. Sixteen were killed during attempted robberies, and seven were hanged by outraged citizens.

Horses fared badly also; seven were killed during hold-ups and fourteen stolen. Although horse stealing was a serious offence, some robbers preferred not to leave the means of pursuit at the scene of their crime.

This article comes to us thanks to the American Stamp Club of Great Britain and can be found at; <http://www.stamps.org/CAC/index.htm>.

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## Winick Snippets

By Les Winick

As syndicated in 435 non-philatelic newspapers

On Jan. 9, 1773, George Washington wrote the first letter carried by air in this country. French balloonist Jean-Pierre Blanchard made a 10 mile flight from a Philadelphia prison yard in the presence of the President and other dignitaries. The first trip with an "air mail" letter lasted 46 minutes.



A Japanese artist has developed the specialty of mailing unwrapped objects into an area of collecting that he calls "mail art."

Professor Shozo Shimamoto of Kyoto Education University has gathered more than 20,000 pieces of mail from more than 55 countries. Each item is unique. Each piece was mailed unwrapped with stamps affixed directly on the item, and then sent through the individual country's mail system.

It all started four years ago when an artist friend in the U.S. sent a piece of Styrofoam to Shimamoto with the stamps pasted on the foam along with the name and address. The Japanese educator was so intrigued with his "mail:" that he asked friends all over the world to send him samples of items from their country.

Among the items in his collection are a plastic diaper cover with the message, "I'm struggling to nurse my child." A twenty foot long section of garden hose, with one cent stamps pasted the full length of the hose; and a dried octopus with 180 yen in stamps pasted on its head.

In an interview in the Japan Times, Shimamoto said he believes that "Art is primarily the means to take others by surprise. "He feels that while artists can not make any money from this form of art, it will satisfy their imagination and creativity."

Many foreign post offices will accept items for mailing that are irregular in shape as long as the item mailed does not break or damage other mail while handling.

The U.S. Post Office does not have any firm regulations on unwrapped parcels. While they do accept hotel room keys, magazines and newspapers that are not in envelopes, the manual is vague on other objects. Check with your local postmaster before sending that objet d'art to a friend.

More "Snippets" to come.