

Nevada

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
<http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp/>



N.S.S.S.



September 9, 2006

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The Fall is on its way and the temperature is dropping. Again, we say goodbye to Summer. It was a scorcher.

With the fall on the way its time to start preparing for the Auction Bucks Auction, the first meeting in November. We have a lot of new members this year that haven't experienced it and have been wondering what those "Bucks" are for, so I hope you old-timers will bear with me whilst I explain.

Every year, in November, we, the members of the NSSS succumb to a bit of madness in the form of an "Auction Bucks" meeting. When you walk in the door that day you will find the tables covered with all manner of odds and ends, many but not all related to stamp collecting. Last year we had a purse made of stamps. You may bring a few items if you wish but don't expect to bring them home and don't expect to be compensated for them. Everything will be auctioned off in return for Auction Bucks. Then the "bucks" will be recirculated next year when you turn in a Post Boy quiz (1200+ Bucks a year) or volunteer to help at a club function.

In the last issue of the Post Boy I wrote an updated version of the club's history and neglected to mention another of our club's oldest members, a past president and, for many years, the editor of this very publication. I wish to apologize to **Bill Brew** for that omission. Bill has been with the club since very shortly after its inception in August of 1976 and is

one of our most upstanding members who has made many, many contributions of his time and efforts to the club and to the benefit of us all.

NCCPS Happenings

Hank Washauer

The Council now has its own banner and we encourage all clubs to create flyers about their organization to place on the Council table at The Filatelic Fiesta in the San Jose Civic Auditorium to be held October 20-23, 2006, Fri and Sat 10AM to 6PM and Sunday 10AM to 4PM. Volunteers will be most welcome to man the table. Please Contact **Vesma Grinfelds**, President at dzvesma@sprintmail.com or 3800 21st Street, San Francisco CA 94114

We had our usual success at the State Fair this year. We met lots of people who had inherited a stamp collection and got lots of promises to attend a meeting to find out what they're worth. I hope they show up. There were a few who may join us too.

Special thanks must be given to **Dick Dreiling** for his tireless efforts on behalf of the club. He is at the Fair ever day from the time it opens to close. And let's not forget about **Mike Potter** who makes sure everthing arrives for the set-up in time to get all underway. He also tears it down and returns it to storage and sees to it that the frames are clean. Lotta work. Thanks!

And special thanks to the exhibitors who put their best foot

(feet, actually) forward to entertain us and show all what stamps are about. They were; Nadiah Beekun (Mail Call, white ribbon), Dick Dreiling (Reno History in Postcards; - First Day Cover Cachet Makers, Non-competitive), Keith Carvin (Honoring a Native Son, Blue Ribbon; Philately, White Ribbon; Scandanavian Postmarks), Stan Cronwall (The Story is in the Cards, Red Ribbon; Arthur Szyk, Red Ribbon), Samayah Beekun (The Eid Stamp Story, White Ribbon; - How I get my Stamps, Non-competitive) and finally Jerry Stanfield, The Nurses, loaned to us by Barbara Stanfield. And, while they didn't entertain us (unless you were there), there were all the people who volunteered to man the tables and help set up and take it down when we were done. There are 20 names on that list. Thank you very much!

There is one more thing that came out of the show. Another show! Fernley will be 100 years old and they wish to celebrate on September 16th. Why is this of interest to us? Well, after all, we are historians. Ahh, but there's more. From 10 am until 4 pm on that day they will have a special commemorative cancellation available. The stamp chosen for the celebration is the "birthday" stamp to emphasize the 100th year birthday party. I will bring copies of the day's program.

I have a few items in the newsletter today that I hope you'll find of interest. Page three is about perforations and was given us by Anthony Torres of the Third Reich club on Yahoo. He's a very knowledgeable collector! On page four (the computer page) is a collection of sites that don't really have any association with stamps, but they are fun. Forgive me? Pages 9 & 10 also stray from philately to take us to New York on 9/11 with a perspective of that day from Jack Searles.

Oct. 6-8, **WINEPEX** (Redwood Empire) San Rafael at the Marin Civic Center Exhibit Hall on the Avenue of the Flags (take the San Pedro exit off highway 101 and head towards Civic Center, take left at light by Center, follow road under Center and take a right on Avenue of the Flags. There will be "stamp show" signs to direct you to the parking area). Fri., 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 3. Exhibitors needed (no Fee);

<http://www.norcalstamps.org/news.html>

Oct. 14 & 15, **Humboldt Stamp Show** in Eureka, CA. at the Red Lion Hotel, Redroom Ballroom on 1929 4th St. Sat 10-5, Sun 10-4 with a silent auction on Sunday.

Oct. 20 - 22, **Filatelic Fiesta** in San Jose at the Civic Auditorium (135 San Carlos St.). Fri. & Sat, 10 - 6, Sunday 10 - 4. Parking information will be placed on the website and this is critical as parking downtown can be a chore. filatelicfiesta.org

Oct. 28-29 **East Bay Collector's Club**, Walnut Creek Civic Center.

Information on the East Bay show was sketchy. If you know more about it please e-mail me at artfulputz@aol.com.

What will they think of next?

One would think that getting unwanted mail is bad enough, but the advertisers started sending us spam when we discovered computers and the internet. Now we're just poor, simple stamp collectors here in Nevada and are not too sure about what to do

with these new stamps. They come with our spam. Has the USPS figured out how to charge the spammers for sending their mail to us? The stamp, pictured above right and complete with postmark, came to Stefan Boiadjev attached to a piece of spam he received recently. Think this one will show up in the new Scott catalog? And where can we put it in an album? Can I get one MNH from a local dealer or must I go to the spammer? Questions, questions.



PERFORATIONS

Perforations are holes punched in the paper, in which small (generally circular, but not always) pieces of paper are removed, hopefully completely (sometimes, especially if the perforating machine is old, worn, or improperly adjusted, the paper is not completely removed, or the holes are not “cleanly” punched, but look like the removed material was torn out.) sometimes paper is not removed, as in “sewing machine perms”, and should be called rouletting.—The “perms” are the *removed* portion, with the remaining “bridge” between holes usually called the perforation teeth. Unfortunately, it is common to refer to these teeth as perms, just to confuse the matter.

Perforation gauge is the number of perforation holes in a 2 centimeter distance. Rarely are they full “gauge” if measured accurately, but typically the “finest” distinction listed is in 1/4 gauge. Gauge is widely varying, typically from as low as 3 or 4 up to 16, but the most common gauges for after 1900 are from 10 to 14. The difference in range is due to the desired ability to tear the stamps apart uniformly. The finer the gauge, the easier it is to tear out individual stamps. Conversely, if the gauge is too fine, the sheets tend to separate and make handling them difficult.

Paper is generally stronger in one direction than the “cross direction”. This is an artifact of how the paper is made. With hand made paper the paper fibers are scattered in all directions, and therefore is usually the same “strength” in all directions. Machine made paper is usually stronger along the axis that the paper web was made, than it is across the web. This is due to the fact that the paper fibers tend to be “aligned” to a greater degree in the direction that the wet pulp is fed onto the web. That is also the reason why some stamps have different gauges on the horizontal and vertical sides. If all sides were the same gauge, on that particular type of paper, it would be too easy to tear in one direction and too difficult to tear in the other direction.

Perforation gauge is listed as if the stamp image side were showing. The horizontal gauge is typically listed first, with the vertical gauge second. For some issues where there are different gauges on 3 or all 4 sides, the gauge is listed as top, right, bottom and left.

A key factor that is rarely discussed or listed is the size of the perforation hole. For most issues this is not a concern, but for some issues with a long period of validity and are periodically reissued (normally definitives) there may be perforations that measure the same gauge, but have a different perf hole size. Typical of these are USA Washington & Franklin issues of the early 1900s and some of the Bavarian coat-of-arms issue from the 1880s. Perforation hole size can be a great way of identifying if the perforations are genuine or reperfornated, especially for some issues like the 1948 Buildings issue of the Bizone (post war Germany).

Another key factor in identifying genuine perforations is, for lack of a better term, is runout. This is the “wobble” of the perforation holes from a true straight line in a sheet. While it tends to be more prevalent in line perforations than in comb or harrow perforations, it also exists for those systems. This could be the best indicator of fake perforations for the 1948 Buildings issue and for some of the rarer USA coil issues.

This article is a result of questions asked in the Third Reich club on Yahoo clubs. The response, above, was written by Anthony Torres, a member of that club and I give many thanks to him for writing it. I hope he forgives me for “tweaking” it a little to fit the interests of the members of the NSSS. -- Howard

I took a look in the rule book for stamp club newsletters and couldn't find anything that would forbid me to put something in here that doesn't pertain to stamps. This is the page usually reserved for stamp related computer pages but this time I thought it will be nice to take a break from stamps and try something different. Back to stamps in the next issue, in this issue, lets play. Here are several sites that tickle my fancy or are useful.

<http://snopes.com/>

You know all those e-mails you get? Some of them twist the truth just a little. Find out which ones. Or look some up so you can spread the rumor yourself.

<http://www.theanimalrescuesite.com/cgi-bin/WebObjects/CTDSites.woa>

Animal Rescue site. Feed an animal every day then look at what else you can do. And it cost you only a few minutes of your time.

<http://www.slate.com/?id=3944&cp=1787&nav=navom>

Slate Magazine. A place to get those nagging questions answered. Like, How do bogs keep things fresh? and, How To Aim a Rocket. Or, How To Head Butt Like a Pro.

<http://www.nevadagasprices.com/Reno/index.aspx>

A useful site in this age of rising gas prices. This gives you prices in the Reno area. You can check other areas too.

<http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/gmdhtml/gmdhome.html>

Would you like to know how to get from here to there in 1621? Or, what did the US look like after the "Peace of 1783"? Check out this map site. Interesting and useful!

http://www.pgacon.com/tips_on_scanning.htm

Tips on scanning. This comes from a larger site but this part is useful. He also has a stamp page!

<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/archivepix.html>

Look at the stars and celestial objects in pictures taken through the Hubble telescope.

<http://webexhibits.org/daylightsaving/b.html>

Everything you ever wanted to know about daylight savings, and then some!

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

The Darwin Awards. Not for the faint of heart. About people doing dumb things who helped us all and removed themselves from the gene pool.

<http://roso.epfl.ch/dm/murphy.html>


You've all heard of Murphy's Law and probably experienced it. Here is that law and all its variations (and there are a lot of them), as well as who Murphy is.

<http://digicc.com/fido/>

This one will blow your mind. You figure it out. I couldn't!!

<http://www.foundmoney.com/php/page.php?asid=1000&temp=cobindex&linkname=>

"As seen on Oprah"! Also known as Found Money.com. Who doesn't like found money?

There's a tool in the toolbar () called "Text Select Tool" that allows you to highlight and copy. Use that to copy these address'. So much easier *and* much more accurate.

Last month I suggested a departure from our usual quizzes about United States stamps. Now we get to use a regular catalog. Volume 1 if you have one of the newer catalogs. Come to think of it, volume 1 if you have an older catalog. Australia is the country in question here.

1. The Parliament House of Australia is shown on a 1927 stamp. What city is it in?
A) Sidney B) Melbourne C) Canberra
2. What bird is shown on the 1927 issue marking the centenary of Western Australia?
A) White swan B) Black swan C) Coscoroba swan
3. What Australian animal is shown on the lowest value on the 1937-46 definitive set?
A) Koala bear B) Platypus C) Kangaroo
4. The Duke of Edinburgh and what other royal person was the subject of a three stamp set in 1954?
A) Queen Elizabeth II B) The Queen Mother C) Princess Anne
5. What youth group is honored on a 1948 stamp?
A) Boy Scouts B) Girl Scouts C) The Australian Youth League
6. What opera singer is the subject of a 1961 commemorative?
A) Dame Nellie Melba B) Yvonne Kenny C) Dame Joan Sutherland
7. The centenary of what organization is marked by a 1963 commemorative stamp?
A) Rotary Club B) red Cross C) Greenpeace
8. What British hero appears on a 1965 commemorative?
A) Harold Macmillan B) Neville Chamberlain C) Winston Churchill
9. What famous explorer is the subject of a 1970 set of stamps and souvenir sheet?
A) Capt. James Cook B) Hamilton Hume C) Abel J. Tasman
10. Joseph B. Chifley is honored on a ten cent stamp of 1975. What was his claim to fame?
A) Labor organizer B) Opera singer C) prime minister (1945 to 1949).

For a 10 Bucks bonus. How many centimeters are used in establishing a standard perforation?

Now you know all about Australian stamps. Perhaps next month we can go to Spain or Czechoslovakia.

Legendary figures and Hawaiian kings. What more could you ask?

1. A. "Casey Jones, you better watch your speed" (Jerry Garcia). Casey Jones died in a train wreck on April 29, 1900. #993 was issued on that day in 1950. Another stamp was issued in 2000 for the 100th anniversary of that famous train wreck.
2. A. Mahatma Gandhi, the peaceful hero of India, has been portrayed on many stamps of that country. In 1961, in the US, it was the Champion of Liberty # 1174.
3. It depends on which catalog you're looking at. Bill Olcheski's says #FA1 is carmine. My 1992 says red. All 3 color choices are variations of red. They're all right!
4. B. #'s 1579 and 80 were issued on October 14, 1975 and were the Christmas stamps for that year. Bet you were looking for the the "A" stamp. I was!
5. A. #523 represents a change in the size and shape of the Washington/Franklin series that started in 1909. Ben Franklin was pictured on the two dollar stamp.
6. C. While all three ships (Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria) were Columbus', he sailed on the Santa Maria which is shown on the three cent stamp, #232.
7. B. Kamehameha IV (Liholiho) was a young and perhaps the best king for his Kingdom of Hawaii. After building a hospital and moderating the power of the Americans in his country, he died unexpectedly at the age of 29.
8. A. Picturing the New York City hospital, this card, #UX 60, sold for six cents in post offices across the country. Much more, if you find one with the blue & yellow omitted.
9. A. The Mighty Mississippi stretches from Kenora Ontario to New Orleans and is called the Great River Road. # 1319.
10. B. Both Stamps picturing Eugene O' Neil are found under the same listing for the definitives of 1965. #1294 was issued on Oct 16, 1967 and #1305 on Jan 12, 1973.

Bonus: The Best of Show award was given Terri Edwards for "A Tourist's Guide to New Orleans at the Beginning of the 20th Century."

For the true story of Casey Jones (John L. Jones) go to; watervalley.net/users/caseyjones/casey For the lyrics of two song versions see; <http://arts.ucsc.edu/GDead/aGDL/kcj.html>. Many fanciful stories have been written about Casey, nicknamed for Cayce, KY where he was born, including the two song versions. By the way, how'd you do on #10? That was a tough one for me to find and I knew the answer.

<http://www.stamps.org/CAC/index.htm>

Winick Snippets

By Les Winick

As syndicated in 435 non-philatelic newspapers

Why is the mailman's uniform blue?

The uniform is actually gray-blue. Originally the letter carrier's uniform was a dark blue similar to that worn by the Union Army during the Civil War.

There were two reasons why this color was selected: The original indigo blue is a dye that will not run when wet. Since the mailman is out in all kinds of weather, this was the main reason for the choice of color. The other reason is that it was felt that blue has the power of authority about it, and is probably the reason why the policemen's uniforms are also blue.

Incidentally, "madder" red was also selected for the American and British flags and British uniforms for the same reason as the indigo blue; the color will not run when wet.



Our US post office tried camels for mail delivery during the Civil War. They did not work out because the animals stampeded when they came into contact with horses or mules and bit their drivers. Today, letter carriers only have dog bites to worry about.

The Pony Express only lasted 18 months but it captured the imagination of the American people. It was April 3, 1860 that the Pony Express made its first run from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA.

Classified ads in newspapers called for "Young skinny wiry fellows not over 18. Must be expert riders willing to risk death daily. Orphans preferred. Wages \$25 per week."

The young men also had to sign a statement to promise not to use profane language, gamble, or become drunk. The riders pledged that they would do nothing that would be "incompatible with the conduct of a gentleman."

Among the riders who signed up for this hazardous duty was a 15-year old boy named William E Cody, later better known as "Buffalo Bill."

A local legend in Missouri states that the doughnut was invented by the sweetheart of a Pony Express rider. She is said to have put a hole in small cakes so her boyfriend could hook them with his gun barrel as he rode by.

Despite the cost of \$5 for each letter carried across the mountains, the Pony Express was never financially successful. When the transcontinental telegraph lines were finished on Oct. 24, 1861, the Pony Express ended.



Did you know that George Washington has its own Zip Code - 98824? That's for the town of George, in the state of Washington.

Council Club Challenge II

The Northern California Council "Club Challenge Committee" announces the second Club Challenge to be held in June 2007 at COALPEX. The Challenge is a Council mentoring program designed to help collectors who want to expand their stamp collecting into showing parts of their collection in philatelic exhibitions. Experienced and successful exhibitors volunteer to work with anyone who wants to (begin or improve) an exhibit. Experienced exhibitors that help you become a better collector and enjoy the hobby more.

If you ever thought it could be fun to try your hand at exhibiting - or maybe you tried it but were not satisfied - then get in touch with challenge committee chair. David McNamee at 925-934-3847 (dmcnamee@aol.com) or Council president Vesma Grinfelds at dzvesma@sprintmail.com. If you are experienced (Vermeil or better at a major show like WESTPEX), we need more people who are willing to coach and to participate in the Club Challenge display.

The rules are simple:

- * A team represent a Council Club. Each club can have more than one team.
- * Each team is composed of a Novice and a Mentor. A "Novice" is an exhibitor who wants to learn more about philatelic exhibiting and has never won a Vermeil at a national show like WESTPEX. A "mentor" has achieved at least a Vermeil at a national show and is willing to coach the Novice to build or improve their exhibit.
- * Both Novice and Mentor must build "new" exhibits. "New" can be brand-new, or it can be an improved version of any previous attempt that has not won a gold at a local show or Vermeil at a national show. Expanding from a one-frame format to multi-frame will be considered "new."
- * The team's two exhibits must be a minimum total of four frames and a maximum of 7. Single frame exhibits will be constructed for 16-page frames. Multi-frame exhibits will be constructed for 12-page frames.
- * Exhibits will be judged under APS rules for philatelic judging. The judges will also select a team that has the best two exhibits, and the winning team's club will win possession of the Club Challenge Perpetual Trophy until the next Challenge.

The Committee has designated PENPEX (December 2006) and NOVAPEX (March 2007) as "warm-up" shows where Team Members can test their ideas in real competition before the official Challenge at COALPEX in June 2007. Winning a Vermeil or better at these "warm-up" shows will not disqualify you from the Challenge!

The California Collector's Club is the reigning Club Challenge champ. What Club will be next?

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One man's opinion...9/11

Jack Searles

It seems like both a moment and a lifetime since I last had the opportunity to write an article for this newsletter. In such a short period of time the world has changed and become much more uncertain than it was a few short weeks ago.

Many of you know I was not at the last meeting of the Olean Stamp Club. As I am writing this I'm not sure what business was conducted, whether the auction lots sold, the treasury balance or the presentation given. I promise to have this information to you in a later newsletter.

In a sense I traded my attendance at the last Club meeting for a front row---now called ground zero---view of the events of Tuesday September 11, 2001 in New York City. I was there for a noble cause of attempting to get the best interest rate for bonds issued by Cattaraugus County for capital projects. We stayed at the Marriott Financial Center Hotel---a hotel that no longer exists on anything but paper. This hotel was 1 block from the World Trade Center. Filled with both anxiety and enthusiasm related to doing our presentation, we left the hotel just minutes after the first plane had hit the first tower. Debris, of all types, was everywhere. While we stood watching the fires associated with the first plane crash--- the fires that engulfed at least 10 floors of the tower, the second plane hit and panic ensued. I had never known panic before this time and now wish it on no one.

In the aftermath our party of four was saved, when so many others were not. We have all thought ourselves lucky, and then guilty, then we have felt soul wrenchingly tired and numb.

While living this day in what seemed like an eternity, all I wanted to do was get home and be with my family. In some ways while dazed I have perfectly clear vision of what is important. To the quizzical looks of many around me I have been recently heard to say---"that's not important". What is important are the personal relationships in your life. In a world where life can be snuffed out in an instant what is important is what we do

and the relationship we have with those around us and those that are important to us. If you have not hugged your children, been with your parents, called and consoled your friends and significant others---you should do that. This is what is important!

Oftentimes, as a stamp collector you get caught up, fixated by the hobby. It develops a life of its own and a priority probably higher than appropriate. After all, there is so much to learn and so little time. But, remember, stamp collecting is a hobby, not a reason for being. What is important are our interpersonal relationships---both positive and negative. These are what give life meaning.

We are on the cusp of war, potentially world war, which will affect each and every one of us. If you have not discovered, renewed, and/or affirmed your relationship with God, whoever he or she may be, this also is vitally important. We need help and direction. This too is exceedingly important.

I heard on the news that a "911" stamp is being proposed in Congress to commemorate the events. Its title seems an odd juxtaposition of marking the day of the attack while simultaneously acknowledging the efforts of those responding to what had to have been an emergency "911" call. I'm sure this stamp, if approved, will sell very well because the nation has been touched of the events of this day in New York City, Washington, DC and rural Pennsylvania. But somehow, the wounds still seem too raw. We need time as individuals and a nation. We need to know what is next...

Our world has changed. It is much more uncertain and less safe than it was a few short weeks ago. We will all be fine, we will all get through this, but please don't lose track of those things that are important. Patriotism is great, rhetoric is great, a new stamp is great, wanting to help is wonderful...but hug your children, kiss your wife, call your parents, brothers, sisters and friends...now what we need is each other and faith in what the future can be!

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