

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.



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Now that the **Auction Bucks Auction** is over there are no more meetings until January. That is, unless you count the Christmas Party. I hope I can get this issue out before that happens because the map of the party is on page 7. Just in case you need it.

As you know, the Christmas party is a simple affair. Come, bring the kids, a friend or wife or husband. Turkey will be served and Dick will be the chef. make sure you bring presents for the gift exchange, one for each person in your party. Be sure to mark it if it is gender specific. And, for goodness sake, have a good time.

Hope everybody had a good time at the Auction Bucks Auction. By the way, did you know it was instituted by Bill Brew? I didn't know that. Glad he started it. I got a neat microwave egg poacher. Just can't figure out how it works.

For those of you who do not usually do the Post Boy quiz, try it this time. Its the easiest one of the year and you could earn a 100 bucks for next year's auction. Think of it, if you do one every month, it would be worth 1200 bucks and that's enough for anything you might bid on, including those nice wine bottles!

This month I have the usual Christmasfare. Well, as usual as anything I might do. On the

first page there's what you're reading now (as if I had to tell you that), the second brings a small tribute and Merry Christmas to our absentee voters in Iraq. The next page tells you how they celebrate Christmas in Denmark and what place is more Christmassy. The computer page (page 4) isn't as much about stamps (although, a little) as about Christmas. Of course the quiz is easy, as it usually is, and just a little silly, so you might enjoy it even if you don't do it often. Finally the answers to last month's quiz (less silly).

It's a short issue. I do that every year as a Christmas present to me, and one to you too if you don't like my writing style. So, enjoy.



Merry Christmas



It is the greatest time of the year because this is the time we celebrate the birth of our lord, Jesus Christ. It is also a sad time of year because our men in uniform are still fighting a war for the freedom of a people in another land. This page is for them and our flag. May God bless them all!



Christmas in Denmark

Christmas in Denmark is supposed to be when a mischievous elf called Nisse can have his fun. He is said to live in the lofts of old farmhouses and enjoys playing jokes. He wears gray woolen clothes, a red bonnet, red stockings and white clogs. Families leave him a bowl of rice pudding or porridge on Christmas Eve to keep his jokes within limits. Usually though he is kind and helpful helping out on the farms and being especially good to the children.

Christmas Eve dinner begins with rice pudding that holds a magic almond inside. Whoever finds the almond receives a prize. They then have goose, red cabbage and browned potatoes. After that lots of pastries and cakes.

The Danish tradition is the Christmas plate. This was a tradition in the early days where rich Danes gave plates biscuits and fruit as presents to their servants. These plates were the nicest and best kind and were not used for everyday use, this is the reason why they became so collectable.

They take much pride making their own decorations with bright paper, bits of wood and straw. The parents secretly decorate the tree, and children are not permitted to see the tree until dinner on Christmas Eve. The tree is then lit up and families gather around to sing carols and hymns.

Each Sunday in Advent, guests are invited to join in the lighting of the candles on the Advent crown. Adults drink a warming mixture of red wine, spices and raisins, and children drink a sweet fruit juice, like strawberry. Everybody eats small cakes of batter which have been cooked over the fire in a special pan, and dusted with icing sugar.

In Denmark Christmas Eve is a special time. It is at this time parents secretly decorate the Christmas tree with home made wood and straw baubles. The children are only able to see the tree before dinner when it is lit up and the family gathers to sing carols and hymns.

In Denmark Christmas Eve is called Juleaften and is the biggest occasion of the year. Parties go on all night, with traditional prune-stuffed roast goose, red cabbage, fried pastries, and cinnamon-laced rice pudding called Grod.

The Christmas elves called Julenisse are appeased with rice pudding, and dishes of seeds are placed outdoors for wild birds.

Christmas in Alaska

Most Alaskan Christians celebrate Christmas on December 25th, just as people do in the continent of the US. Santa Claus may arrive for a pre-Christmas visit, but, food, gift giving, and decorations are like what you might see in Texas or Wisconsin.

The songs sang at each home include Aleut words Gristuusaaq suu'uq, or Christ is born. Everyone joins in the closing words, Mnogaya leta, or god grant you many years. At the end of the carols the host provides carolers with maple-frosted doughnuts, cookies, candy, piruk, or fish pie, and sometimes smoked salmon.

In Alaska children wander from house to house carrying a colored star on a long pole, and singing carols.

<http://www.worldofchristmas.net/christmas-stamps>



Christmas Stamps

Well, the picture's a little screwed up but the spirit is there and that's kind of what it looks like on my computer. Let's hope its better for you on your computer. Normally, I try to find a web-site that stays with a single theme, usually stamps. This site isn't about stamps but had a single page that includes christmas stamps while the rest is about Christmas. Good enough for me!

This site tells the story of the first stamp, the first Christmas stamp, the first official Christmas stamp, the first official US Christmas stamp, Christmas seals and Christmas towns (towns with Christmas names). But, this site had so much more, I had to pass it on to you. There's Christmas symbols, superstitions, recipes, stories trivia, poems, vacation tips and on and on and on.

If you need (or want) to know anything about Christmas, go to this site and it will answer your questions. Good site

This month is the special Christmas quiz that I make so easy so that new people might be enticed to try their hand. Easy hundred auction Bucks here! Give it a shot.

1. Last year in this spot the Post Boy printed questions that were so easy to get right that no one missed this question?

A) True

B) True

2. While these questions are often about stamps and Christmas, sometimes they can be on a different subject .

A) Probably not true

B) Get real

3. The 25 day of December is has been recognized as the day for exchanging gifts for at least 100 years in the United States.

A) Could be 101 years

B) At least

4. Christmas was at one time, outlawed in Great Britain and many of it's colonies, including several of the American Colonies?

A) Are you sure?

B) Must be so if its in print,

5. Christmas stamps in the United States are usually issued, for sale in the post offices, sometime in October

A) Usually, its in November!

B) No, you idiot!

6. Rudolf, a reindeer made famous in Gene Autry's song, "Rudolf the Red-Nosed Reindeer", had a drinking problem?

A) It was because he had "A nose so bright"

B) No, you idiot!

7. The first US stamp to celebrate Christmas with a "religious" theme was # 1321, issued in 1966 with an image of "Madonna and Child" by Hans Memling?

A) Okay, of you say so

B) True story

8. It was so well received they did it again next year?

A) Yep!

B) It was # 1336

9. Santa Claus is such a controversial figure, coming out of paganism, that the post office has never okay'ed a stamp with his image?

A) What? Are you kidding?

B) Santa is controversial?

10. Everybody had a great Christmas this year?

A) You got it!

Sorry, no bonus question. Merry Christmas!!!

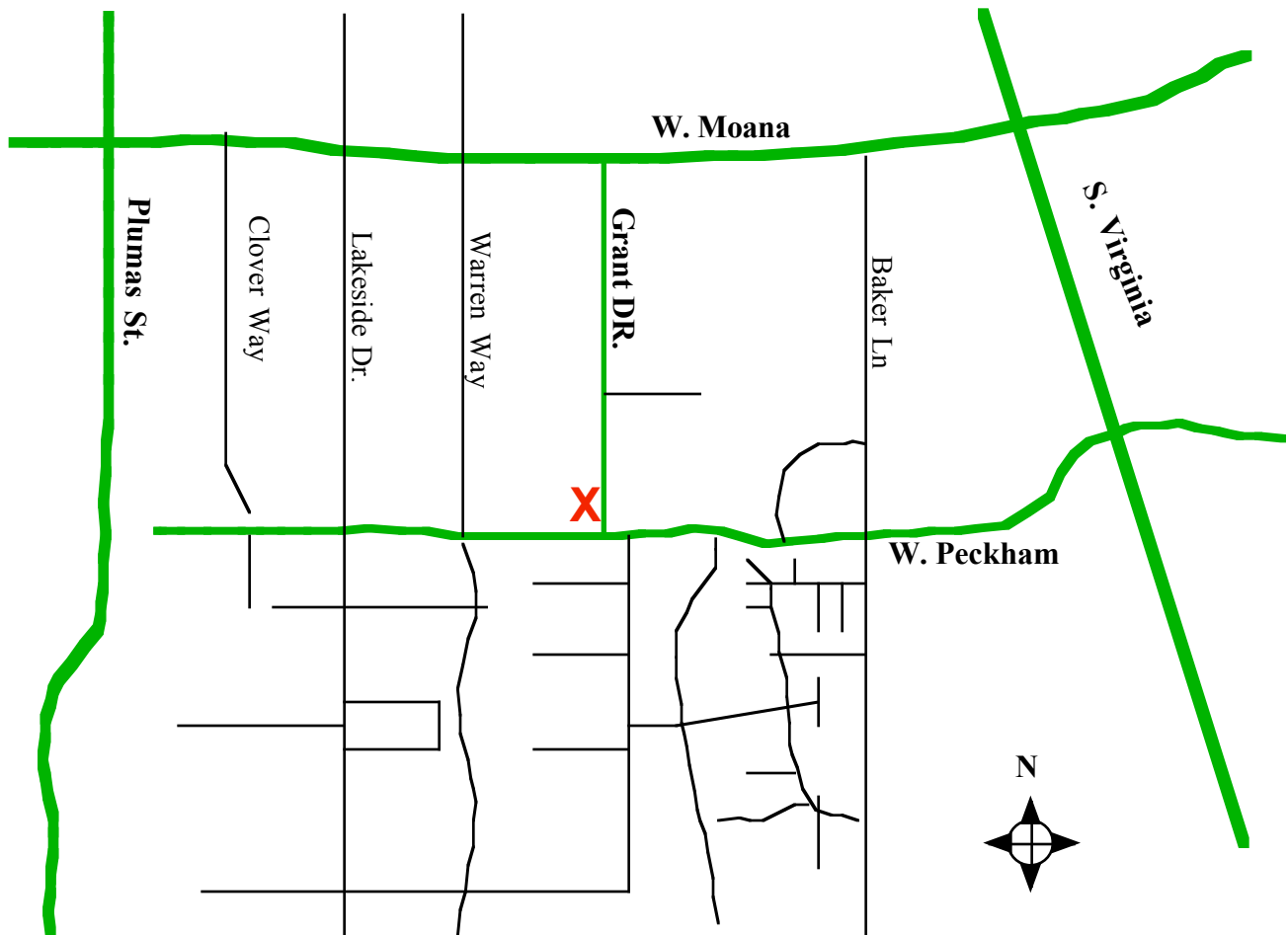
It amazes me how much I don't know about the country my ancestors came from. These quizzes are helping.

1. A. The engraving of the reading of the Confessions of Ausburg was made fifty years after the event in 1580 and shown on Germany #1330. This was the first creed of the Lutheran church.
2. A. A German dictionary is the answer for this one. Germany #1325 shows the old and the new version, well, at least one page from each, of the Duden Dictionary, first published in 1880.
3. B. In 1949 Germany became a Federal State under the name of West Germany. Six years later they became a member of the NATO alliance. The twenty fifth anniversary of that event is celebrated on #1322, issued on January 10, 1980.
4. A. Annelies Marie Frank died in a nazi concentration camp at Belsen in March of 1945 and is remembered thirty four years later on Germany #1293, issued on May 7, 1979.
5. B. They were Nobel Peace prize winners. Gustav Stresemann in 1926 for supporting reparations after WWI. Ludwig Guidde in 1927 for his writings on peace. Carl von Ossietzky in 1935 for promoting world disarmament (which enraged Hitler). # 1203a-c.
6. A. #1163 shows ice hockey players at the 1975 World Championship held in Munich.
7. C. Konrad Adenauer was Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany from its inception in 1949 until he retired in 1963, a remarkable achievement since he was 73 years old when he became chancellor. He is honored on #1205.
8. C. Thomas Aquinas is shown as a teacher on # 1134. he rationalizes reason with faith and gave five proofs of God.
9. A. #1123 shows the calculator invented by W. Shickhard in 1623 (like an abacus).
10. A. "R" is for Roswitha or so says #1117 which venerates the millenary (1000 years?) of Germany's first poetess.

Bonus: As noted on page seven, Lisbon is the city and Portugal the country!.

Adenauer became Chancellor when he was 73? Now that is amazing! He was mayor of Cologne (Koln) in 1933 but Hitler didn't like him.

To the Christmas Party



While this map isn't perfect it is pretty accurate as far as where the streets end. For instance, Clover Way comes up short of Peckham and Peckham doesn't go all the way to Plumas. North is the top of the map and south is the bottom.

The easiest route is Virginia to Peckham to Grant, park the car and have a good time at the party. You can also take Grant, Lakeside or Warren from Moana but not Clover. Baker also reaches all the way to Peckham. If you're on Plumas, go to Moana then Grant and turn right. The party is where the big red **X** is. Don't get lost in the streets south of Peckham.

Have fun at the party and drive safely.