

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.



POST BOY

President: Mike Johnson
(775) 626-6545
renostamp@earthlink.net
rpaycheck@msn.com

Vice President: Stan Cronwall

Secretary: Howard Grenzbach
(775) 972-6301
artfulputz@aol.com

Treasurer: Paul Glass
425-8939
pglass@charter.net

Editor: Howard Grenzbach
(775) 972-6301
artfulputz@aol.com

Proof Reader: Jim Biehl
West Chester, PA.

Directors:
Frank Fey
(775) 826-1476
frankfey@gbis.com

Stan Cronwall
(775) 849-7850
stlaine@aol.com

Sumayya Beekun (Jr. Rep.)

Jeanne Paquin
paquinj@sbcglobal.net

Mike Potter
359-9419
mpotter-134@aol.com

Jean Johnson
331-0816
jeasjo@hotmail.com

I like February. Its cold, but at least its short!

There was a board meeting on January 23 after the regular club meeting. It was established that a quorum was present and by vote, **Stan Cronwall** was elected to fill in the vacated post of Vice President of the club for the duration of the term. His position on the board is now open to nominations. If you would like to fill the position as director, someone can bring your name up for nomination.

Tara McAuliffe has kindly consented to fill the position of program director. I'm sure I speak for us all in thanking Tara for taking on this task for us. You can help out by donating some of your time presenting a program in your own area of interest. You can contact Tara at her e-mail address;
tarakmca@aol.com

Our second meeting this month will be important to you if you are thinking about exhibiting. **Terri Edwards** has volunteered to help out after the meeting and present a short forum and, perhaps, some hands on help to put an exhibit together. Bring in some of the material you might want to show and maybe you'll learn how. Time is limited though. We have to be out of the museum by 1:00.

The date for the **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** has

been set for July 12 and 13. If you have an idea for a show cancelation or cachet, now is the time to get them ready for Duane Wilson. We also have the date set for the Christmas Party. It will be held on the 13th of December this year. Don't know about the picnic yet.

Just a reminder about Linn's 2007 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll. You will find it in the January issue of the Post Boy. Make your choices and send by e-mail or bring it to the next meeting. The deadline to vote is coming soon and if we turn our votes in as a club, we get a mention in Linns. Not a big deal but nice enough.

NOVAPEX 2008 March 1st, 10am - 5pm to March 2nd, 10am - 4pm. Senior Citizens Hall 2290 Benton Drive Redding, California

The **Filatellic Fiesta** will be held on March 7th-9th, 2008 in honor of the San Jose Fire Department. 10am to 6pm, Sun 10 to 4. Gateway Hall Santa Clara County, Fair Grounds.
<http://www.filatellicfiesta.org/>

FRESPEX 2008 March 15th 10am - 6pm March 16th 10am - 4pm Veterans Memorial Building, 435 Hughes Avenue in Clovis, California

SOPEX 2008 April 5-6 Jackson County Fairgrounds, Take Exit 33 from I-5 to the Padgham Pavillion, Central Point. Contact Donald Cramer, 551-779-4671

The Last Issue of a Dying Dictatorship

In the parlance of the American collector this stamp would be known as "Scott, B293". To the European mind it is "Michel #910". It is the last stamp issued by the Third Reich in Nazi Germany. The first day of issue is April 21st, 1945, a time of great turmoil for the "Thousand Year Reich" proclaimed by dictator, Adolph Hitler, a Reich which lasted only twelve years. The dictator committed suicide and the army, what was left of it, was turned over to Admiral Donitz, who capitulated to the Allies on May 7th, of that year. The stamps had a period of use for that short time. Other stamps were ready for production, now known as the NSSK issue, but the machinery to produce them were in allied hands and they never came into being.



At the time of their issue at the Capitol in Berlin, the city was under siege by the Russian army. Artillery shells fell everywhere. Buildings were being destroyed and people were hiding in basements or take the chance of being injured or killed. Many attempted escape to the west in hopes of reaching friendlier shelter in the hands of the American and European allies. Hitler had given orders that all normal functions of the city will continue and that all government offices would be open. Those failing to continue with their duties would be arrested and shot. Many were given the capital punishment for staying home or trying to escape. The post offices were open for business. The new stamps were on sale. You could mail a letter in those last days, if you had the courage to walk out into the streets.

This stamp followed the theme of the previous issue, the "Volkssturm". The Volkssturm was the People's Army, those people who were left after the regular army failed and the Hitler Youth, who had also been sent to the front lines, collapsed. The stern, determined look of an SS soldier who will not fail his Fuhrer and the German

people or he will die in the attempt to save the Reich is the main character on the stamp. The flag bearer is said, by some, to be Horst Wessel, the man who wrote the famous song, "The Horst Wessel Lied (song)", taken by Hitler as the theme song of the Nazi party. He was an early member of the party who joined the SA and was killed in 1930 during one of the street brawls that helped bring the party into power.



The other half of the last issue, B292 or Michel #909, is shown at the left. These stamps were the first two of a four stamp set. The rest of the set, mentioned earlier as the NSSK stamps, were designed and ready for production but were never printed. This one shows the resolute stare of an SA soldier carrying a torch.

At least one post office in Berlin were open as late as April 28th and it is possible that some brave collector was willing to post a letter to himself (where else could he send it?) in order to complete a collection. Used stamps from this period might exist but many of the cancelers were "liberated" and used to create covers and used copies of the issue. These

"used" copies are fraudulently made have little value. While a few covers were expertized after the war, they have since been called into question. Used copies of these stamps can be very costly and the Scott values them at over \$800 each. Covers would be worth a great deal more. below is a "used" copy that was postmarked by one of these liberated cancelers. This one is very common. it reads - Berlin-Charlottenburg, 20-4-45. This is the date the stamps were placed on sale and this post office was abandoned with the Russian assault. Is it possible this is a legitimate cancel? Anything is possible but it is highly unlikely. What I am saying here is this is not the stamp to collect if you expect to have genuinely used stamps in your collection. I paid ten bucks for this one knowing it was probably a fake cancel and based on the knowledge I have gained since the purchase, I haven't been disappointed.

This is an interesting set for your collection with a lot of history for such a short lived issue. if you have a chance to get the set, the price range should be from \$30 to \$40 for a MNH set and a little less for the fake cancels.



<http://www.wreckandcrash.org/>

The Wreck & Crash Mail Society



Sometimes it helps to have a sense of humor about what you do, especially when it involves human tragedy. Crash mail often means someone is hurt or even killed, but there is nothing the collectors of this popular area can do about that except take a slightly less serious attitude towards their hobby. That attitude is reflected in their opening page. The first page has a picture that has the appearance of a comic book cover and the newsletter is called "La Catastrophe".

The home page has 13 links (for non-members), one more for members and a 15th under construction. Three data bases are available relating to aircraft crashes, railroad accidents and ship wrecks. All of them take you to other parts of the internet. I notice "Ken Sanford" on more than one of these pages. He has put together several of these databases for the Society. To learn about crash mail, go to "Aspects of Interrupted Mail" written by Norman Hoggarth. Its a bit slow coming up but patience will be rewarded with a lot of info and a slew of covers. The "Member's Pages" has some really neat covers to show. I saw several

addressed to some of the old movie stars. You may recognize a few like Deanna Durbin and Donald O'Connor. There is an auction page (once a year) but you have to join the Society to sell or bid in which case you can fill out an application form (there's a link). The dues are UK£13.15. That's \$26.20 to you and me.

All and all, this is a very interesting site to explore and learn about this, sometimes difficult, area of philately. Its also an opportunity to meet people that speak a different (Winston Churchill one referred to the English and Americans as "two people separated by a common language". Go to this website and explore. I see no reason why you wouldn't enjoy the visit. Who knows? You might join them.

Last month I gave you a tough quiz (you can thank Bill Olcheski), The answers may or may not have been in the Scott Catalog. This month you should have all the answers on the tip of your tongue. I hope you can get them to come off! The subject is abbreviations.

1. You often see the abbreviation, "USPS". What does it mean?
A) **U.S. Postal System** B) **U.S. Postal Service** C) **You Should Paste Stamps**
2. FDC was mentioned in last month's Post Boy. It stands for?
A) **First Day Cover** B) **Florida Dog Control** C) **Federal Data Commission**
3. NH is one you might see on eBay. It means;?
A) **New Hampshire** B) **No Hinges** C) **Never Hinged**
4. O.G. can be faked but means?
A) **Oh, Gosh** B) **Original Gum** C) **Organic Gum**
5. What is the meaning of "Perf"?
A) **Perforation** B) **Perfunctory** C) **Performance**
6. CTO is oft invoked, meaning?
A) **Canceled To Order** B) **Cream On Top** C) **Cancellation TechnOlogy**
7. IMPERF refers to?
A) **Improper Perforations** B) **No Perforations** C) **Impossible Perforations**
8. Perfin is one that sometimes confuses people. Are you one of them? Whoever collects them won't get this wrong.
A) **Perforation Initials** B) **Perforation Indentation** C) **Perforations In Nebraska**
9. WMK?
A) **We Make Kings** B) **Wassermark Kancel** C) **Watermark**
10. NG should be an easy one for you. What does it mean?
A) **No Glue** B) **No Got** C) **No Gum**

Bonus question: Has New York City ever had a Sunday mail delivery?

I suspect you will get perfect score on this one (if you didn't go for the silly answers). If not, you should go back to stamp school or look at the questions *before* you answer them? On the other hand, some of the answers are a little tricky, like number one.

Wow! A tough quiz last month and a few of our usual quiz takers were a little longer in getting the answers to me. Fortunately, I have the "Fundamentals of Philately", by L. N. Williams (APS) at my side. I guess having the answers at the back of Bill Olcheski's book of stamp quizzes helped a little too!

1. A. I remember as a child, my mother kept a sachet in her dresser to keep her clothes smelling nice. Imagine my surprise when I found a cachet is not the same thing. Its the design on the left side of a cover.

2. B. It was several years that collectors discovered the thrill of finding a cover that was cancelled the day the stamp was issued. The USPS recognized FDC's in 1937 with a cancel that said "First Day Of Issue".

3. A. This is one I would have gotten wrong. Using multiple stamps of different on a cover makes a "Combination" cover.

4. C. The US FDC Society may or may not exist, but the collectors that specialize in FDC's belong to the American First Day Society..

5. C. The first FDC cachet was created by George W. Linn. Would you like to see it? Come to the Nevada State Fair (volunteering will get you in for free) and take a look at the exhibits there. Dick will be happy to show it to you.

6. A. It's not really "announced" in Scott, but they do give the date of issue and you can't tell with the stamp. Just look at the cancellation then look it up in Scott.

7. B. I had the first FDC cancellation up for sale last month (no takers). It was given on #795, the sesquicentennial of the Ordinance of 1787, issued on July 13, 1937. I wonder if that was on a Friday?

8. C. You could send payment to the postmaster in the city of issue or you could affix the stamp yourself to get a first day cancellation. The answer is "both".

9. A. The post office gives no guarantees but you can always curse the post office when they damage your cover. You can also spit in the wind, but you do have recourse. You can return it for replacement

10. B. The post office can do "handback" cancels but not if the postage is less than the going rate. You must add stamps for the correct rate!

Bonus question. On the second and third page of last month's Post Boy are a number of stamps that say Papua New Guinea.

Interesting quiz in an area most of us don't collect. Also a difficult quiz. If you didn't get them all correct, only you and I will know and I won't tell anyone!

For those of you who have started a postcard collection or would like to, I have found a list of terms that will be important if you will be buying them from a dealer. It will also be handy if you want to sell yours. It is about the abbreviations used.

Abbreviations Used for indicating CONDITION

| Code | Definition | Clarification |
|---------------|-------------------|---|
| mt/MT | Mint | Card has no flaws what-so-ever, same condition as was issued. Usually never used in any way. If postally used, MUST be noted-PMKD. |
| ex/EX | Excellent | Card may have very slight/faint edge, and corner wear, no face, or back damage at all. No Creases, can be postally used. Canceled on front-allways noted-COF. No Writing on front-allways noted-WOF. |
| vg/VG | Very Good | Card may have noticeable edge wear and corner damage, Creases are allways noted. Can be postally used. Sometimes Canceled on Front. Could have light writing on front, ususally around edge, or where appropriate to write. Card can have slight publication errors, that is part of the original printing. |
| gd/GD | Good | Card can have more noticeable edge wear and corner damage/creases, face/back may have minor damage. Usually postally used. Can have writing on front, edges and/or where appropriate for writiing. |
| fr/FR | Fair | Card can have very noticeable edge wear and corner damage/creases, face/back can have damage. Creases will be obvious. |
| pr/PR | Poor | Card has heavy damage in all respects. Usually only kept until a better card is found. Use as a space filler. |
| Reproductions | | Card indicates that it is a older card that has been reproduced - Usally not by the Original Publisher. (Will allways indicate that the card is a reproduction) |
| Reprints | | Card could have been published in prior years and is being reprinted for sales purposes by the original Publisher. (may or may not indicate that it is a reprint) |

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

Winick Snippets

By Les Winick

As syndicated in 435 non-philatelic newspapers

A postmaster in an area of the country that had been hard hit by snowstorms asked his supervisors why he couldn't close his office if his carriers were not able to deliver the mail and the customers couldn't come into the post office to pick up their mail.

The official reply was that if the post office is not opened as required, the postmaster would be charged with abandoning the office.



Residents of New York City recently received mail on a Sunday, an event that recalls the days of the 5-cent cigar and 10-cent beer.

A local post office had a huge back log of mail. The supervisor received permission to have 40 letter carriers make their normal weekday rounds. According to the Wall Street Journal, the people did not believe their eyes.

One elderly person refused to let the mail carrier into the building saying it must be a burglar dressed up as a mailman. Others complained that their bills were received one day early.

The carriers received another day off to make up for the Sunday that they covered their routes.



We used to believe the old saying of "finders keepers, losers weepers" was true. The proverb was ruled invalid by Maryland Judge Richard Gilbert, who ordered a \$150,000 stamp collection returned to its original owner.

"Finder" Robert Canter discovered the stamps in a dresser that he bought at a used furniture store. He was ordered to return the stamps to the "loser," a well-known stamp collector.

Based on testimony given, Len Kapiloff bought the stamp collection for \$150,000 in 1976 and lost the stamps somewhere between then and 1981. Kapiloff learned of the existence of the stamp collection in 1983 when he saw an ad placed in a stamp newspaper offering the items for sale.

In his decision, Judge Gilbert wrote that the old saying was "toothless" since the courts had rejected it since the 1600's. The finder of lost property could hold it "against all but the original owner."

It has not been determined how the stamps got into the dresser. Canter is reported to have said that he will appeal the ruling. This is a cause of "Finder Weeper, Loser Keeper."

Sunday • February 11, 2001

Rebel at latest stamp acts

By Robert W. Hind

I am having trouble with U.S. Postal Service math. Does anyone teach U.S. Postal Service math in our Vacaville schools?

I cleaned out desk drawers and found quite a few U.S. postage stamps. When I tried to add their values together, it was impossible without a crib sheet.

Once upon a time, postal stamps were money instruments - pieces of paper with a monetary value printed on the face. Since about 1975 or so (I do not collect stamps and rely on my memory), Christmas stamps did not have a value printed on them (they cost a dime).

In 1978, an A (orange) stamp appeared (cost 15 cents) and a postcard was printed in orange with no value (cost 10 cents). Then we got the purple B; same design as A (cost 18 cents), and a purple B postcard (12 cents). Then we got the brown C stamp, same design as A and B (cost 20 cents), along with the brown postcard (cost 13 cents).

In 1981, we had a few more Christmas stamps, no face value (cost 20 cents) and a green D stamp (cost 22 cents), along with a green postcard (cost 14 cents). In the late '80s we got a multicolored E-Earth stamp, not of the same design as A, B, C or D (cost 25 cents).

The early 1990s got much better. We got the multicolor F-flower stamp that did not look like anything A through E (cost 29 cents), and we got our first new-math U.S. Postal Service makeup rate stamp - no graphic on the face just: "This U.S. stamp, along with 25 cents of additional U.S. postage is equivalent to the F stamp rate" (cost 04 cents).

We then got another F flag stamp for dispensation from a machine (cost 29 cents). We then got half a dozen or so 1991 Christmas stamps - no face value (cost 29 cents), a no-face-value bulk rate (cost 10 cents) and a G-Official Mail (cost 32 cents) along with a G-Old Glory (cost 32 cents), a G-Old Glory postcard - same designs as the 32-center (cost 20 cents) - and another G-Old Glory, first-class of the same design as the other two G-Old Glory stamps (cost 25 cents).

So I sent in a suggestion to the U.S. Postal Service to go back to monetary value on the face of each stamp, in order that we of little math language ability can at least add up the right amount of postage. I recently bought some of the new stamps and was pleased to see "1 cent" on the additional postage stamp without a new alphabetical designation. Then I looked at the new first-class stamp that merely had "USA First Class" printed on the face.

Now I cannot even attempt to add numbers and letters of the alphabet in an attempt to arrive at the proper postage.

Am I the only person who has encountered this math quandary?

How about a little input from our Vacaville teachers, or Postal Service employees who may be able to clear up this muddy water.

• **The author, a regular contributor to the editorial pages of The Vacaville Reporter, lives in Vacaville.**

Where did you work as a young lad or lass?

Back in the "olden days" when most of were young, there seemed to be any number of part time jobs available to youngsters who were willing to work during the summer or after school. Sometimes, before school! Got to admit, they were usually miserable jobs that took determination just to go back to every day. I received a suggestion that it might be a good idea if we shared our experiences in those jobs. Did you work for a post office or in a stamp store? Stan Cronwall had such an experience;

Back in the mid-late 1950's most high school and college kids did have part time jobs of one kind or another whether it was trying their hand as being entrepreneurs mowing lawns, and raking leaves or shoveling snow, or maybe even a real job where we learned about paying into Social Security and of course income taxes.

How about the Post Office. They were always looking for part time youngsters to trudge through the snow around the Christmas Holidays. Those heavy leather bags were stuffed with Christmas Cards on top of everything else. And remember, residential deliveries were made twice a day - morning and afternoon. Businesses got their mail three times a day.

I learned early on that some dogs just plain don't like people coming into their territory/front yard. They growl, jump up on you, scratch, and bite. For whatever I was or wasn't being paid, it wasn't worth getting gnawed on by some mangy cur.

People do like to get their mail especially when it around Christmastime, so what's a poor part time mailman to do?

It came to me in flash. Deliver their mail to the house on either side. Good neighbors do pass mis-delivered mail back and forth. We still do.

If the bad dogs were inside the house on a given morning or afternoon, the people got their mail. If "Killer" or "Fang" was running loose in yard, yapping and frothing at the mouth at me, I just marched on by to the next dog-less yard.

More stories another time about the time of year when the baby chick were shipped in to the farmers, or the baby ducks around Easter.