

Nevada

P.O. Box 2907

Sparks, Nevada 89432

N.S.S.S. meets on the 2nd & 4th Saturday of each month at 10:00 am
in the NNMC at 1855 Oddie Blvd. in Sparks

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



N.S.S.S.



POST BOY

April 10, 2010

President: Stan Cronwall
849-7850
Stlaine@aol.com

Vice President: Jeanne Paquin
885-7768
paquinj@sbcglobal.net

Secretary: Howard Grenzebach
(775) 677-7143
artfulputz@aol.com

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

Editor: Howard Grenzebach
(775) 677-7143
artfulputz@aol.com

Directors:
Charles White
830-0622
ypchuck@hotmail.com

John Walter
851-7968
john@walter-us.net

Harvey Edwards
246-4769
diveecho@ix.netcom.com

Travis Fey
Junior Representative

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

Jean Johnson
331-0816
jeasjo@hotmail.com

Well, looks like March went out like a lion. It was windy, cold, warm and just about everything else it could be. Wonder how April will be.

Time to begin considering new officers for the club. Elections will be coming in July. Positions coming up are Vice-President, for a 2 year term, Secretary, 2 year term and one Director, a 3 year term. Anyone interested in running for one of these positions, please contact **John Walter**, the chairman of the election committee.

Also coming up will be the **Stamp Show**. Cachet and postmark will be needed for the Show Covers. While no theme has been decided on yet there are several anniversaries coming up that may be used to promote the show. The 150th anniversary of Pony Express, the 100th anniversary of the Johnson-Jefferies boxing match and the 100th anniversary of the Boy Scouts are three possibilities. There is also the recognition of the USS Nevada

"My Favorite Things" will once again be a part of the Show. Its time to start reworking this popular exhibit. If you had one in the show before, try to find another one to add to the show or replace some of the exhibit that is starting to grow a little stale. If you haven't put one into this part of the show, its a good way to start exhibiting. And, its not difficult. All you have to

do is show off a part of your collection that you like in one page and tell us why you like it. Nothing to be afraid of here either. Most of the members who have put a favorite thing into the exhibit will happy to help you with yours.

The **Christmas in March party** went off without a hitch thanks, mainly, to the efforts of **Kay Williams**. Kay would like to thank **Barbara Stanfield** and **Laura Beck** for stopping in early to help set up. Kay also would like to thank those wonderful people who stayed after the party to clean up.

The program this month was given by **Terri** and **Harvey Edwards** in the form of a CD from the American Topical Association. It was all about unusual stamps, including 3D stamps, CD stamps and even stamps that showed you a short movie. Wow! And, oh yes, the CD was narrated by our own Terri Edwards and put together by Terri and Harvey. Looks like we have a professional team in our club. Thanks for a great show.

Easter Seals Show April 10-11
Over a million .02-cent stamps, Easter Seal Center, at 3205 Hurley Way, Sacramento, CA

WESTPEX April 23-25 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, CA, 1800 Old Bayshore Dr. Hours are 10 to 6, Sun., 10-4.

CSA #13, used on July 4th, 1864. SCV \$400.00.

Wow. What a stamp. How many Confederate stamps do you find that were used on Independence Day. The stamps not in great shape but very few used CSA ever are and this is no exception. The asking price? \$85.00.



Used Confederate stamps are at a premium. Finding one is difficult enough. Buying one is usually an expensive proposition. Buying one for eighty-five bucks is almost unheard of, depending on which stamp it is and it's condition. For some reason its fairly easy to find one that hasn't been expertized.

The stamp appears to be genuine but the cancel could be a forgery. How do I tell? First of all, to be clear, without being expertized it is not known to be a forgery. Here are some of the steps I would take to make a decision whether or not to purchase.

The first thing I would look at is the letters and rings of the cancel. I note that the bottom right of the cancel seems to spread out just a little compared to the upper left. This may indicate the use of a rubber device. Were rubber canceling devices used by the South during the Civil War? Were they used in Charleston South Carolina? This may not be a rubber device so what did they use? Wood? Cork? What are the characteristics of those cancelers?

Then look at the conditions that Charleston was under on July 4th, 1864. Were they under attack or threat of attack? Was it raining that day? What if conditions were perfect that day and the Union army was nowhere near, the sun was shining and the temperature was a balmy 74 degrees? It's July fourth, a holiday celebrated by all Americans, even the ones from the South. Was the post office open that day or were the people that weren't at war all down to the picnic grounds to celebrate our independence from King George III?

I don't have the answers to these questions but if I did it would be an easy decision to make. The suggestion here is that forgeries can sometimes be determined by the events surrounding the time the stamp was used as much as it can be determined by the stamp itself. Other physical aspects used to determine if the cancel is real would be the size of the rings, distance between inner and outer ring, the font used and the ink. That's why we're not the experts.

Track & Confirm

I thought I might share a story with you about an experience I have had with the USPS. Its a bit of a chuckle and tells us a little bit about both the efficiency and inefficiency of that semi-private firm.

As many of you know, I have dealings with Wensy, an on-line auction site. I had sold some stamps to a gentleman in China and since I don't have a PayPal account we had to decide on an alternate method of payment for the stamps. We settled on cash. He sent the cash (in USD) via registered mail. After waiting for a response from me for two weeks, a long, long time when you have sent money to a stranger, depending on his honesty to complete the transaction, he wrote me asking if the letter with the money in it had been received and he included the registration number so I could check. I checked. Here is the post office's response on the USPS website;

Track & Confirm

Search Results

Label/Receipt Number: **RR37 5686 798C N**
Service(s): **Registered Mail™**
Status: **Origin Post is Preparing Shipment**

We have received notice that the originating post is preparing to dispatch this mail piece.

Detailed Results:

- **Origin Post is Preparing Shipment**
- **Inbound International Arrival, January 14, 2010, 6:05 am, ISC NEW YORK NY(USPS)**
- **Foreign International Dispatch, January 09, 2010, 9:31 am, SHANGHAI, CHINA PEOPLES REP**
- **Foreign Acceptance, January 05, 2010, 4:39 am**

Track and Confirm
Enter Label/Receipt Number.



As you can see, the letter had arrived in New York on January 14th and is being prepared for shipment to Nevada. I sent the information to my customer in China along with the USPS site so he could see for himself. A week later I received the letter and we concluded our business.

A few days ago, just out of curiosity, I chose to go to the post office website to see how they treated a foreign registered letter after it left the port of receipt and was sent on to its final destination. The post office report you see above looks exactly like the one I saw and passed on to my Chinese customer in January, but it's not. It's the one that showed up on the USPS site when I checked a few days ago. I wonder if they'll ever let that letter go???

<http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/index.html>



National Postal Museum

Yeah, I know, we've been here before. Still, revisiting an old site might bring you something new. Going back to this one doesn't dissappoint. I have visited many times but it was only for an article or to find some information. This time I'm starting on the front page and there are some changes. The first is the addition of many links.

Just below this is a link that invites you to ride with the Pony Express. It also



suggests the possibility that your life will be more fulfilled by going to their "volunteer" page and offer your services. Hmmmmm, maybe that's true.

The first link is to the exhibits but we've seen this before. The second is to the collection. "The national collection illustrates and invites research into United States philately and postal operations." That's a good page to visit. The next is "Educators" where tours for students are offered and teachers can find curriculums (ten different) about the history of the post in America.

At last we get to the meat of the matter. "Stamp Collecting" has three links, including resources and Preserving and conserving your collection. Then there's "Research" which has videos, symposiums, photographic archives and quit a few other links to help you learn the history your collection offers.

After all those links and you're tired of doing all that research, you can find a bit of respite in the game room. also called "The Activity Zone" where you can download a game that challenges you to move 20 mailbags from Philadelphia to New Orleans in 1853. Can you do it? And when you've moved the mail you might try your hand at several other games, puzzles and even a quiz. Of course, there is wallpaper to download. Maybe you'd like a picture of Owney to use as a background on your computer. Finally, there's the library and all the links on the opening page of the NPM site.



Its a really good site with lots of resources for the postal historian or just a point of reference for the collector. There is good entertainment here and lots of places to learn about stamp collecting. The only problem I have with it is that, on a dial-up connection to the internet, it is painfully slow. A little moderization on my part might solve that problem. Good site. Highly recommended!

We're going to the Carib Islands, mon. To the land where the wild Rastafarians live. We're going to Jamaica to swim in the clear blue sea and relax on pink sand beaches and eat conch sandwiches and listen to the steel drum band. All right, so you're just going to page five of the Post Boy. Enjoy the quiz.

1. In what body of water is Jamaica located?
A) Caribbean Sea B) Gulf of Mexico C) Atlantic Ocean
2. What ruler is shown on the 1952 Boy Scout issue?
A) Queen Victoria B) George V C) George VI
3. In what year did Jamaica gain its independence?
A) 1952 B) 1962 C) 1972
4. What British leader appears on a 1966 set?
A) Harold Macmillan B) Churchill C) Macbeth
5. A The Jamaican Pavilion at what exposition is featured on a 1967 stamp?
A) Seattle Worlds Fair B) Expo '67 C) West Indies Trade Fair
6. Sir Alexander and Lady Bustamente appear on a 1968 set. What event does that set mark?
A) Day of the Dead B) Independence Day C) Labor Day
7. The introduction of what animal to Jamaica is marked by a 1973 set?
A) Mongoose B) Cobra C) Rat
8. What instrument is being played on the lowest value of the 1977 set honoring the Jamaica Military Band?
A) Trumpet B) Clarinet C) Tuba
9. What Jamaican scientific venture is saluted by a three cent stamp issued in 1972?
A) Earth Satellite Station B) Smallpox Vaccination C) Cure for Malaria
10. What is the central design feature of the 1976 set marking the 21st Olympic Games?
A) Olympic Rings B) Beauty Queen C) Track events

Bonus question: The change lady had to account for \$200.00 every day. **True** or **False**?

Enjoy the quiz.

I've lways wanted to go to Italy, especially the North. Maybe this is as close as I'll ever get. But that's OK too.

1. A. On the 100th anniversary of his birth, Albert Einstein is pictured (#1356) with, of course, his most famous equation, $E=MC^2$.
2. C. In January 1979 Italy issued two stamps (#1352 & 1353) showing a cyclist carrying his bike to honor the World Cross-country Bicycle Championships.
3. B. The Opera House, La Scala was built in 1778. Italy #1312 and 1313 were issued to celebrate the 200th anniversary in 1978.
4. A. The game of Volleyball was chosen to be pictured on the 19th Stamp Day issue. The stamps were issued in sheets of 24 stamps and 8 labels. (#1280-82)
5. C. Titian was an artist of the Renaissance who's work influenced many of the great artists who followed him. He died in 1576 and was honored with a stamp on the 400th anniversary of that day by Italy with #1233.
6. B. Issue #1134 shows a map of Italy surrounded by the symbols of the International Rotary Club on the fiftieth anniversary in that country.
7. A. Michaelangelo Caravaggio was born in 1573 so the stamp issued in 1973 (#1116) celebrated his 400th birthday.
8. C. Construction on the Tower of Pisa was begun in 1173 and completed almost two hundred years later between 1360 and 1370. #1117 celebrates that construction.
9. B. Saverio Mercadante was not only a composer but a composer of opera and a prolific one at that. His works were many and influenced the likes of Verdi and other composers of his time. # 1033.
10. B. Giuseppe Mazzini is shown on #C129. He spent most of his political life in exile. In 1849, when he finally returned to Italy, he became the leader of a group to form a Republican government only to be attacked by France who captured Rome and sent him back into exile. Italy finally united under King Victor Emmanuel but did not become a republic until 1946.

Bonus question. False. If you enlarge the picture on page 3 to about 200% and turn it sideways, you can clearly see that the tim is 6:10. Or, just read the article.

Now you know all about Italy. Except for what the pizza taste like. Good quiz and lots of correct answers from the quiz takers. Are you one? Why not try this month's quiz and start earning some extra auction bucks.

This is not a story about stamps that Bill wrote for us but a story about Reno. It's a good story about the people who live here and the realities of the city.

The Machines

by
Bill Brew

The change lady approached her station and began preparing for her day of work.

Her first customer was a sweet elderly lady, a regular "Good morning, Mrs. Rodney," she welcomed.

"Feel lucky today?" she asked. "You bet, " Mrs. Rodney replied.

Mrs. Rodney's gray hair, small spectacles and the fatigued clothes she wore did not hide the sparkle as the change lady handed her two rolls of nickels. She turned to the nearest nickel slot machine and began to play. With a well developed pull on the handle she methodically began stuffing the nickels onto the slot. Three, five, ten, fifteen tries, still no money dropped into the steel bucket at the base of the machine. On the twenty-sixth pull of the handle there was a ringing of the bell and lights began to flash. The little old lady turned to the change lady and with a smile on her beaming face she shouted, "I hit it! I hit it!" She scooped all of the nickels out of the tray and took them to the change lady to count them. "Twenty dollars is what you get." announced the change lady, and handed her a twenty dollar bill. "You hit it big today, didn't you?" said the change lady.

"I sure did, honey." Mrs. Rodney replied, as she grabbed her cart of groceries and ambled out the door.

The change lady stared at the old lady shuffling out of the store and thought to herself of all the times that lady had been in there, playing nickels in the slots and not getting anything back.

"What makes people go after the big prize and pay so dearly for it." She thought. Just then a couple, in their twenties and looking like they had just gotten married asked for the roll of nickels.

"Good luck." the change lady said, as she has done each time she hands a customer a roll of coins. "Must be the tradition for the gambling scene." She noted to her self. "Doesn't seem to help, though."

She remembered the first day she had started on this job of providing change for

the little old ladies, the old men and the young couples who thought they could win a big chunk of money on one single pull of the handle. At first it was nice meeting all of the people, talking with them, getting tips for changing their winnings to paper money and telling them "Good luck", when they bought a roll of coins. As time passed she could see all of the money that was being put into the machines, which never paid off. She noticed the expectations that were dashed as each lost all of their coins. She would smile and say, "Better luck next time." Others would look a little down and disappointed as they left the store. Some seemed dazed or stunned, especially if they put in a large sum of money. Some would do a little mystic gesture for good luck as they played their coins. But the result was always the same. No jackpot.

She wondered how those people with such a limited income, where every penny counts, where every bit of money they had was needed to sustain their lives, could bring themselves to waste it in the machines. The change lady felt like shouting, "You fools! You can't win."

The boss brought the change lady back to reality.

"Time to clean up and count your money." he said.

She had to account for the \$250.00 she was given for her change drawer at the beginning of her shift. If she was over she could pocket the difference and if she was short she had to dig into her purse and make up the difference. Twenty dollars a day was her wages and one mistake could wipe it all out. A do-nothing job for a do-nothing pay is what her boss told her when she started. She breathed a sigh of relief when she found she had balanced and now she could go home, eat supper and relax in front of the television.

"One more day has passed, one more day closer to those two precious days that she could call her own," she thought to herself.

The change lady took off her change belt and put it in the drawer. She arched her back as if a weight had been removed from it and murmured to herself, "God, those coins seem to get heavier every day." She took the bag of money to the store manager who locked it in the safe. Her day was done. She picked up her purse and headed for the door to the parking lot. It was a long day and she was tired of doing nothing, her feet hurt and her shoulders ached and she muttered to herself, "That hot bath will feel good tonight." As she passed the long line of slots that she had been watching all day, she glared at the monster machines. She hesitated. "You know," she said to herself, "That one hasn't paid off all day. Maybe, just maybe.....", as she reached for her coin purse.

This is the last of the non-denominated stamp issues pictured in Linn's.



34¢
Scott 3457, 3461, 3463
Dec. 15, 2000



34¢
Scott 3496
Jan. 19, 2001



10¢
Scott 3520
June 29, 2001; 2003



37¢
Scott 3627
June 7, 2002



37¢
Scott 3628
June 7, 2002



37¢
Scott 3629
June 7, 2002



41¢
Scott 4129-35
April 12, 2007



10¢
Scott 4157-58, 4385
July 4, 2007; 2009



Forever stamps
4125-27
April 12, 2007



34¢

Scott 3454, 3458, 3465
Dec. 15, 2000



34¢

Scott 3455, 3459, 3464
Dec. 15, 2000



34¢

Scott 3456, 3460, 3462
Dec. 15, 2000



15¢

Scott 3522
Aug. 3, 2001



37¢

Scott 3620-25
June 7, 2002



37¢

Scott 3626
June 7, 2002



5¢

Scott 3693, 3775, 3785,
3868, 3874-75, 4348
Oct. 21, 2002; 2003; 2004;
2005; 2008



25¢

Scott 3792-3801, 3844-53
June 26, 2003; 2004



39¢

Scott 3965-75
Dec. 8, 2005