

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

September 10, 2011

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

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

Secretary: Casey Macken
(775) 688-9870
stampsharefun@yahoo.com

Treasurer: Terri Edwards
246-4769
renostamp@earthlink.net

Editor: Howard Grenzbach
(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

Paul Glass
425-8939
pglass@charter.net

Jean Johnson
331-0816
jeasjo@hotmail.com

Summer is just about over so you may want to check those heaters. We'll be waking up to cold mornings soon. We will also be waking up to the **Reno Balloon Races** and **Air Races** this month. By the way, you might note the date of this issue. When converted to numbers it is 9-10-11.

I have been writing (with the help of others) this publication for almost ten years now and am ready for another to become the editor. Of course I will work with you to get you started and will be happy, from time to time to contribute stories in the future. Please contact me if you are interested. My information is to the left under "Editor." The December issue will complete my tenth year and will be my last issue.

Another **Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show** has been put to bed so we will be going over the successes and shortcomings in the next meeting. Bring what thoughts you may have on the subject. It looked like a pretty good show to me in spite of not having competitive exhibits this year. The upside of that being the rather brief presentations by **Terri and Harvey Edwards** at the show banquet. By the way, did you attend? It was a very tasty meal with lots of enjoyable company. Maybe you'll decide to come next year.

This month's "My Favorite

Things" comes to us from **John Walter**. It is about an American Aerogramme sent from Turkey, an "Unusual Usage".

This month's presentation was given by Robert Martin, our resident stamp club grower. It was about how to get children interested in collecting stamps. He will be leaving us for a while to go to Hawaii (poor son if a gun) and would like someone or several someones to help encourage young stamp collectors and form clubs in the schools. How about you? Will you do it?

John Walter took some pictures at the stamp show. You can see them on his website at; www.walter-us.net/stamps. Then there is the display at the Carson City Library. Jeanne Paquin joined forces with Julie of the Humane Society and Warren from the CC Guide Dogs. to put up the exhibit. You can find pictures of that on his site too.

WINEPEX Sept 30-Oct 2 at the Marin Civic Center San Rafael. Hours 10-5 and 10-3 on Sun. E-mail Bob Rawlins at rawlins@sonic.net to exhibit.

East Bay Collectors Club will be held on Oct 22-23 at the Walnut Creek Civic Center 1375 Civic Dr.

SACAPEX will be held on Nov. 6-7 at the Scottish Rite Temple in Sacramento, 6151 "H" Street. Hours are 10-6 and 10-4.



The Titanic

(C)opyright 2011, Tony Servies) **Continued**

The five men represented some of the best postal workers of two nations. Americans John March, Oscar Woody, and William Gwinn worked alongside British clerks John Smith and James Williamson on the voyage.

The Accident and The Postal Workers

Late in the evening of April 14, 1912, the ship struck an iceberg and suffered irreparable damage. While the magnitude of the disaster was unknown at the time, the ship was doomed as compartment after compartment began flooding.

"I urged them to leave their work. They shook their heads and continued."

The postal workers rushed to the mail room to begin rescuing the mail. It has been estimated that the workers retrieved up to 200 sacks of registered mail and had carried them to the upper decks on the slim chance that it might get rescued. Even as water began to fill the post office, the men admirably answered the postal workers call of duty to save the mail from destruction. Their admirable efforts might have cost the men their lives; as they tried to get the mail above deck, their chances of getting aboard one of the precious few lifeboats, while slim at best, vanished completely as the chivalrous call for women and children first seized the day.

The men were claimed by the frigid Atlantic waters in the early morning hours of April 15, 1912. Coincidentally, it was postal worker Oscar Woody's 44th birthday.

The Aftermath

None of the mail was ever recovered. The icy Atlantic had doomed these five gallant men and claimed all of the mail. But two life-jacketed bodies were later recovered floating in the detritus of the shipwreck. Birthday celebrant Oscar Woody and fellow American John March were recovered. Woody, whose body had badly decomposed

was quickly buried at sea after his effects were removed. The body of his fellow co-worker, John March, had fared better; it was able to be interred in a cemetery in New Jersey in the United States. The bodies of the other three men were never located.

Inside Oscar Woody's coat pockets were found facing slips. These pieces of paper were used by the postal workers to label sacks of mail that had been sorted. When attached to a mail sack they would indicate the delivery destination and the sorting clerk's name for tracking purposes. Apparently, Woody had stashed a handful of the facing slips in his pockets while he had been working.

"I saw them no more."

Also found on Woody's body was a chain with some of the ship's mailroom keys on it and the letter assigning Woody to service on the Titanic. These items are the only postal items recovered from the disaster.

So far, no mail has been recovered from salvaging operations. The debate remains unsettled as to whether any of the mail could even be intact after being underwater for such a long time. Ocean currents, tremendous pressures, biological elements, and even the rusting hulk of metal that was once a proud ship would all serve to harm any mail. It seems doubtful that nearly 100 years after the disaster that any mail would have survived.

Honoring the Postal Workers

As word began to spread about the last hours aboard the doomed ship, stories of heroes began to emerge. The incredible story of the postal worker's last actions did not go unnoticed.

Numerous memorials were offered by two grieving countries. Southampton, initial point on Titanic's maiden voyage was also home to most of the ship's crew. The town suffered an incredible loss of 549 lives.

A memorial to the five postal workers aboard Titanic was installed in the High Street Post Office. It was forged from a spare propeller donated by shipbuilder Harland and Wolff. The plaque reads:

This tablet is erected by the Postal and Telegraph Service to the honor and memory of John R. Jago Smith, James B. Williamson, British Sea Post officers, and their American colleagues William H. L. Gwinn, John S. March, [and] Oscar S. Woody who died on duty in the foundering of S. S. Titanic April 15, 1912

"Steadfast in Peril"

In April, 2008, the High Street Post Office was closed. A controversy arose since it was possible that the plaque that adorned the walls would be sold at auction like numerous other Titanic memorabilia. However, Southampton city council members have directed that the memorial be placed in Southampton's Civic Center, thus thwarting any plans to profit from the disaster.

At the time of the disaster, U.S. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock noted the "bravery exhibited by these men in their efforts to safeguard under such trying conditions the valuable mail intrusted [sic] to them should be a source of pride to the entire Postal Service."

Indeed.

www.stampcommunity.org/

Stamp Community Family

Education is the key to collector success!



This is not the first stamp community I have suggested for you and it is much like any other. What I like about this one is it seems to be larger and I recognized a few names I saw in it. Jay Carrigan, for one, who's website appeared in this column some time ago.

"Education is the key to collector success!" That is part of the name of the site and the first thing I look for in offering these sites to you. You might also note the APS logo which is a recommendation in itself and many users are members.

As with many of this type of site, you must register to post a message or question. After (or before) you register I suggest you read the Stamp Community rules. The first one is "If you wouldn't want your 10 year old daughter to see it, then don't post it here." The rest of the rules are equally logical. There are a few rules that follow from their experience rather than logic, for instance, you must post 100 times before you can add a link and 50 "quality" posts before you can post anything involving buying, selling or trading. They tell you what "quality" means in the rules section.

On the opening page are several subject areas with sub-sections in each. "U. S. Stamps and Covers Discussions (right under the rules) includes classic stamps, modern stamps, BOB, covers and postcards, Once you choose a heading and a topic within that heading, like Classic Stamps, you will find a number of questions or statements. One thing I noticed is people answer quickly and as best they can. That tells me it's an active forum and, if you have a tough question, you'll at least get an idea of what the answer is or were to look for it.

I have had the page open as I write this and find myself exploring it rather than doing the job I set out to do (writing this). It just that interesting. It is very educational. I can answer some of the questions while there are several more I will learn from. This is a good site to share your knowledge while learning from someone else's. After you've been active for a while you can start trading or selling and buying stamps from other collectors. I like the site and I'm sure you will too. But first you have to go to it.

Poland is a country that has been in existence for hundreds of years. They first became a country in the tenth century under the rule of a prince. The first king was crowned in 1025. After his death, Poland lost power and was ruled by foreign kings. In the 14th century Poland was again reunited and grew to rule over most of Europe. The nobles began bickering and the country was overran and was divided between Russia and Prussia. They were reunited after WWI have been in existence ever since.

1. The 25th anniversary of the signing of what treaty was marked by a stamp issued in 1980?

- A) NATO Alliance B) Warsaw Pact C) Federation of Soviet States

2. The originator of penny postage was the subject of a 1979 stamp. Who was he?

- A) Rowland Hill B) Wadlow Bodowski C) Arthur Sczyk

3. What American president appears on a 1975 stamp?

- A) John Kennedy B) Dwight Eisenhower C) George Washington

4. In 1975 four stamps appeared with cartoon characters. What were they saluting?

- A) Children's TV B) Polish flag C) Polish Army

5. What animal appears on a 50 groszy stamp of 1975?

- A) Ducks B) Chickens C) Swans

6. What Polish composer is the subject of a 1970 stamp?

- A) Penderewsky B) Chopin C) Oginskiy

7. What bird is the national symbol of Poland?

- A) Stork B) Condor C) Eagle

8. What American Revolutionary general (a Polish patriot) appears on a 1967 set?

- A) Pulaski B) Steuben C) Kosciuszko

9. What American first lady is on a 1964 stamp

- A) Eleanor Roosevelt B) Jackie Kennedy C) Mamie Eisenhower

10. What kind of boats are racing for the European championship on the low value of the 1961 set?

- A) Canoes B) Speedboats C) Kayak

Bonus question: Who was Oscar Woody?

Oscar got you buffaloed? Read the article.

We're back in the USA again. Easy stuff for most of us, after all, we bought most of these stamps when they were issued. It must be like ancient history to Travis.

1. A. The postal card was issued for the World Jamboree in Idaho in August, 1967. It showed Borah Peak in the Lost River Range and cost six cents. (UXC7)

2. C, Ramón Magsaysay was a guerrilla commander during WWII and was elected president of the Philippines in 1953 and served until his death in an airplane crash in 1957. #1096, issued in 1957

3. A. Oops. A juxtaposition of numbers. Should have been 1972, not 1927. The answer is 100 years of the Mail Order business. You get credit for this one.

4. B. Washington Irving is shown on the low value of the Famous Authors series. Nathaniel Hawthorne and Edgar Allen Poe didn't make the list in 1940. (859)

5. A. Providence Rhode Island got the first automated post office and was appropriately honored on #1164.

6. C. #1381 was issued for the celebration of the 100th year of professional baseball. The stamp was printed in yellow, green and red and shows a baseball thrown in the the strike zone. The batter is stepping into the ball and swinging his bat.

7. B. The Spoon River Anthology was written in 1916 and was a collection of epitaphs of the people of Spoon River, an imaginary mid-western town, by Edgar Lee Masters who was a poet. (1405)

8. A. The Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition took place in Omaha, Nebraska in 1898. This issue celebrates that fair and the settlement of the West. The eight cent stamp shows a troop of ten calvarymen guarding a wagon train.

9. C. There were three stamps (1504-6) issued for Rural America in 1973. Two were ten-cent stamps, one showing a tent of the Chautauqua Institute (an arts and education center, in New York) and the other , a train traveling through a wheat field (introduction of hard winter wheat by the Mennonites). The other is an eight-cent stamp showing Longhorns and Angus beef (introduction of Aberdeen Angus cattle).

10. B. Francis Marion was given the name "Swamp Fox" by British Lieutenant Colonel Banastre Tarleton who spent much of his time chasing Marion and his band of guerrillas through the swamps of South Carolina but could not catch him. (UX94)

Bonus question. If the Titanic sailed in March, 1917, she was a ghost ship because she sank on April 15, 1912 and sailed on April 10th of that same year. The answer is "false."



Could this Cover be Real?

It is near mid April, 1945 and we are at the Vienna Printing Works. The SS/SA stamps are being printed and packaged for shipment to post offices all over Germany but much of West Germany is in the hands of American and

British troops. To the east the Russians have crossed the Austrian border and are approaching their city. The stamps are sent to Berlin for distribution. As the truck leaves the city on April 13th the Russians enter Vienna. Soon the Printing Works is captured and handfuls of the unperforated stamps go into the pockets of the invading army.

The truck arrives in Berlin as another Russian army enters Zossen, south of Berlin, assaulting and finally capturing the German High Command. On April 16th they proceed north to the capital city to begin the final battles of the war. On Hitler's birthday (April 20th) the Russians start lobbing shells into the city. The first covers of the last issues of the Third Reich are canceled with this date as are many single stamps.

It is the 21st of April (the official issue date of the SS/SA stamps) and the Russian troops have reached the outskirts of Berlin. Yesterday the Charlottenburg post offices closed its doors. C2 and C27 in the Southeast follow suit today along with other post offices around the city. Three post offices are believed to have remained open until the 28th but they neither received nor delivered mail.

On April 22nd Marshall Koniev's Ukrainians cracked the southern most defenses of Berlin and began to move into the districts of Zehlendorf and Tempelhof. The next day Marshall Zukov's army smashed into Berlin from the east. By the 28th the Russian troops were closing in on the center of the city. On April 30th Hitler commits suicide effectively ending the thousand year Reich nine hundred and eighty-eight years early. On May second General Weidling (commander of Berlin) surrenders. It is at this point the mystery of the



final issue, (Mi 909-10 or Scott B292-3) of nazi Germany begins.

The single stamps as pictured in the second picture on the previous page are easily dismissed as post war creations. Somebody liberated a canceler and started having a field day. Genuinely used stamps are rare and must be certified. But this is where the mystery deepens. There are no certified copies of off cover stamps. Because the cancels and ink are real there's no way to determine if it was used by a postal clerk to cancel a cover that was sent through the mail before the war's end. So, how about the covers?

The discussion began shortly after the war and several (perhaps 25) were certified by the BPP but the question of *real* delivery came up. Were the covers actually delivered by the post office before the war ended? If they were, then they are genuine, postally used covers. What actually happened during this brief period between April 20th and May 1st, the period of legitimate use? As near as can be ascertained there were several philatelic covers made by stamp dealers and taken to the post office for cancelation then taken to another post office for a receiving cancel. These are not covers delivered by the post office, rather they are "handbacks", covers presented for cancelation but not delivered. So, that ends it right? Hmmmmm.

The arguments about the validity of the covers hangs on a postal regulation introduced the previous year providing for the use of "emergency deliveries." Outside help could be hired by the post office to deliver mail in the event there was no other way to get it to the address in a timely manner. The people arguing the covers are real say these dealers carrying covers from post office to post office fulfill the requirements of this regulation. On the other side the argument goes they were not hired by the post office and were only making rare cover for future sales. In any case, most of these covers were registered covers and those can only be delivered by the post office under strictly controlled circumstances. Note the registration number (on a white label) on the picture of the cover on the previous page showing this one, like most, to be a registered cover.

While it may seem unlikely, under those circumstances, that anyone would be crazy enough to go outside their basement, they could just as well be blown up in their house as at the post office making some money. After all, money is probably going to be scarce when the war ends, as proved to be the case. Most, if not all of these covers are probably post war creations, I'm willing to bet even the dealers, no matter how greedy, were more apt to find a safe place to hide while the bombs were falling and the enemy soldiers were marching into town.

In any case the arguments have not been settled and the BPP (Bundesprüfungsamt) will not allow its experts to expertise these covers until the dust settles. I doubt they are willing to do so anyway. Would you be willing to pay \$2500.00 to \$3000.00, maybe more for one of these covers? If you buy one now and find out later its real, it could be worth a lot more. If you want to buy one, I have some ocean front property in Lemmon Valley I'd like to talk to you about.

ClassicNevada

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WANTED: Germany Third Reich postcards from the **Heinrich Hoffmann Studios**. (Hoffmann was Hitler's personal photographer) B/W or color, photo or illustrated, mint or used. Paying \$ 45.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com.

BENNY'S BIN

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inside the Arts & Antiques Mall



Wanted; Covers of Switzerland from 1882 to 1907 (later is OK) that used the "Standing Helvetia" as postage. Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or artfulputz@aol.com



Wanted; the 1949 Silver Wedding issue. Have you seen this stamp? There are several like it from various British colonies. I need about half of them to complete my collection.

Contact Howard at (775) 677-7143 or artfulputz@aol.com

For Sale; Stamps and Covers at my online store at **Wensy.com**. Type "artfulputz" in the search box. click on "user" then "go". You'll have to join but its easier than eBay. Most prices start at 1/3 of Scott. Contact Howard at artfulputz@aol.com

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WANTED: Germany Third Reich "**Kinder Cards**" mint or used. These are cards showing children "playing at war" usually with some junior sized weapon, helmet and/or uniform. Most are color but some can be B/W. Most are illustrated, but some are photography. Paying \$35.00 and up depending on subject matter and condition. Stan Cronwall 849-7850 or stlaine@aol.com.

My Favorite Things

An easy way to get started on your first full frame exhibit. Just show us what you like on one page and tell us a little about it.

U.S. Aerogramme – Unusual Usage



The aerogramme was postmarked on 17 July 1969, one day into the manned Apollo 11 flight to land men on the moon and safely return them to Earth. It was postmarked at the Diyarbakir Air Station and sent via the U.S. Air Force Postal Service to New South Wales, Australia.

The Diyarbakir Air Station operated for 41 years as a joint American-Turkish NATO frontier post for monitoring the former Soviet Union and the Middle East. It also tracked space vehicles used in the NASA program. The station closed on 30 September 1997.

Diyarbakir is the largest city in southeast Turkey with a population of about 1.5 million. Approximately 72% of inhabitants use Kurdish in most of their daily speech, followed by Turkish. The city is situated on the banks of the River Tigris, and sometimes referred to as the "unofficial capital" of Kurdistan.

