



Post Boy



July 2015
Volume 48, Issue 7

Nevada Stamp Study Society

**MEETS THE 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM AT THE SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE
LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD. (BEHIND THE SAK'N SAVE AT ODDIE AND SILVERADA.)**

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Upcoming Events

July 11 - Regular meeting with stamp auction (up to 10 items per member).

July 25-26 - **Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show** at the National Bowling Stadium. There are 13 confirmed dealers (all the tables are booked). More show information is at: <http://renostamp.org/show.html>

Volunteers are needed to help with the stamp show set-up on Friday, July 24 starting around noon. The needed help is for light work (placing table cloths on tables) to heavy work with setting up about 40 show frames. The same kind of help is needed for the tear down on Sunday starting at 4 p.m. Help is also needed at the welcome table on Saturday and Sunday of the show. Let [Harvey](#) know if you can volunteer for a few hours on Friday, Saturday or Sunday. There is free parking in the National Bowling Stadium garage.

August 8 - **Annual picnic** at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse beginning at 10 a.m. Please contact [Barbara Diederichsen](#) to sign up for bringing a dish - salad, condiments, chips, etc. There will be a large 40th Anniversary cake for dessert.

Elections

The annual elections are fast approaching. The positions open for nominations are: President (2 year term), Treasurer (2 year term), and two Directors (3 year term). [Nomination forms](#) are available at the meetings and on the website.

The 2015 elections will take place at the picnic on August 8.

Wanted: Post Boy Editor

The Post Boy is in need of an editor. Marla is working full-time and busy with multiple family issues and cannot continue as the editor. John Walter has volunteered to publish the July issue. Please talk with John if there are questions or interest.

Currently the Post Boy is composed using MS Word, but the format can easily be converted over to Open Document using free software, such as, Open Office or Libre Office. After the editing is done it is saved in PDF.

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Post Boy Quizzes and Auction Bucks

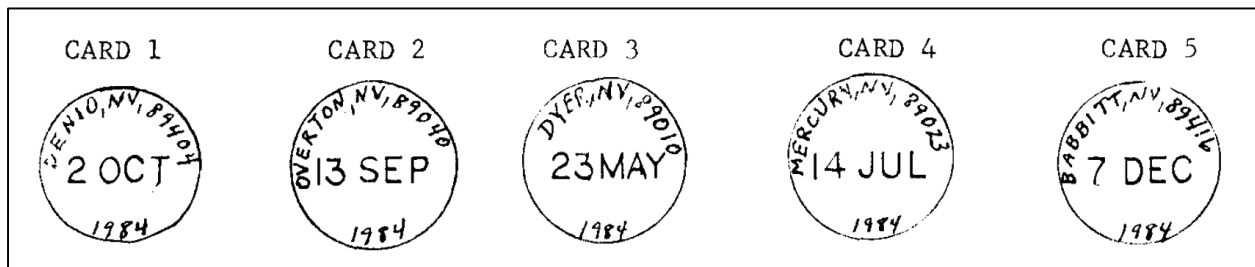
Each month the Post Boy has a philatelic quiz that is worth up to 100 Auction Bucks, when completed and given to [Betty Mudge](#). Betty is the person who keeps track of all your club activities and awards the Auction Bucks in time for the Auction Bucks auction the first meeting in November. So be sure to sign-in at each meeting and list your time spent on volunteer club activities. Just coming to a meeting is "worth a few bucks."

Now is the time to catch up with a Post Boy quiz answer from the April issue. The "quiz" was actually a philatelic related murder mystery "A Cold Day In June" written by Bill Brew in 1984. If you recall, there was a murder of the security person at our stamp show at the Pioneer Theater. Before he died the guard put 17 stamps in his hand, "a stamp from each of the following countries: Angola, Danzig, Denmark, Ecuador, France, Hungary, India, Japan, Luxembourg, Mongolia, Nepal, Obock, (overprinted) Spain, Turkey, Uganda, Western Australia and Yemen." There were three known gangs operating in the area and the first letter of each stamp spelled out the Wolfe Gang members - Dan Wolfe and Judy Smith. That was an easy 100 auction bucks.

At the club meeting on June 11, the members had an interesting discussion about the possible combination to a philatelic safe. The mystery was "The Key To The Safe" written in 1985 by member Doug Willick. The mystery was published in the June 2015 Post Boy. The answer did not appear in future Post Boy's in 1984, so here are some of the answers we came up with:

- 21217 - use the first digit of each date (RD)
- 57477 - number of letters of each town (MP) (repeating number)
- 24557 - the sum of each date (MP) (repeating number)
- 84025 - the difference between the larger date number, subtracted from the other (MP)
- 40036 - last number of each Zip Code (MP) (repeating number)
- 89436 - Zip Code extraction (RS)
- 21217 - first digit of each date (RS) (same as first answer)
- 71212 - same as above but in reverse order (RS)
- 34327 - month order using second digit of day of month

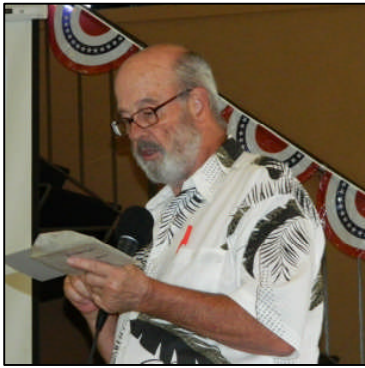
The trick was to figure the safe combination from the five post card postmarks the stamp collector had mailed to himself from specific post offices and on particular days. "When the cards were returned to him, he affixed them to the door of his safe and they indicated the combination."



Some answers were automatically excluded since the number could not repeat itself. That still left five possible answers. If anyone has a different answer, please send or email to [John Walter](#). ■

Tape Stains, Removable? or How To Goop Your Stamps

by Howard Grenzebach



This stamp is from a collection I won (raffle, auction?) at one of the meetings. It was, apparently, attached to an album page using a piece of Scotch (or other brand) tape that was rolled to form a circle of tape with the two ends attached to the stamp. Owing to the stain left, it likely spent several years attached to that page and came off when the adhesive, dried.

Is there any way to recover this stamp? I have run into this problem often and spent no small amount of time trying to clean the stamp. Usually, with little or no result. Efforts include lighter fluid and turpentine

which is good for breaking down the adhesive but does little to clean the stain, and stain removers which can't get past the adhesive nor will it remove this type of stain.

While walking through a store I spotted a can of "Goop", a hand cleaning soap I once used after working on my car (many years ago, in my youth) to clean the grease grime from my skin. It worked quite well so I bought a can and took it home. I always used it on my hands but I noted that the top of the can it could be used to "lift stains from clothes and other things as well." Stamps are other things. I decided to give it a try.

I am using this stamp because it is a very common stamp that is badly stained and creased. Nothing to lose. The instructions on the can say, "Do not wet first. Rub the cleaner on your hands until clean and rinse in warm water." Easy enough.

I will try the process as suggested and whatever other process, using Goop, I can think of if this doesn't work and let you know the results in a future issue. I must admit, it looks promising.



OK, the process has been tried and the results are in. The stain has been substantially cleared from the front of the stamp and considerably reduced on the back. But, when tried on another stamp the ink was partially removed giving it a faded look. Bottom line is, try it but be cautious. It may affect the ink on the stamp if it is not stable. On the other hand, it will take that "ring-around-the-collar" out of your shirts and get that ground in grease off your hands. ■

Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids

Robert Martin (NSSS member) developed a website to publish *The Philatelikid* which is a newsletter for Stamp Collecting Clubs for Kids. Newsletters from Dec. 2014 are online. Some information about forming a school-based program to teach stamp collecting to children is also on the website.

<http://stampcollectingclubsforkids.org/> ■

July Post Boy Quiz

Compiled by Stan Cronwall

1. The U.S. placed the Kansas and Nebraska overprints on sale at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C. on May 1, 1929. The stamps had been distributed to the two states beginning April 13 and the earliest known usage was April 15. The stamps were issued as an experiment to combat post office robberies by making it impossible to sell the stamps outside of the state where they are stolen . The use of the “control” overprints was discontinued. Why?
a. Post office robberies declined
b. a Federal Court ruled that any stamp issued by the Government had to be available for use in all 48 states
c. who knows it was a Government decision
2. Mail was moved by 56,571 miles of pneumatic tubes between Post Offices and railroads in New York, Chicago, St Louis, Philadelphia, Boston and Brooklyn. The last of these operated in New York until:
a. 1933 **b.** 2011 **c.** 1953
3. The U.S. Canal Zone Postal Service went into operation and issued its first stamps in:
a. 1894 **b.** 1904 **c.** 1914
4. A figure of denomination must appear on postage stamps used for international mail. Strictly speaking, the U.S. “A”, “B”, “C”, and the others that followed must be classified as “local postage stamps” because they are not valid for international use. However, that usage has been tolerated:
a. True **b.** False **c.** Another case of an urban legend
5. On July 1, 1938, the U.S. Post Office began requiring that all matter bearing pre-cancelled stamps where the postage was 6 cents or more include the user’s initials and the month and year on the stamp. For pre-cancel collectors, this was the beginning of what they term:
a. “Extras” **b.** “Dateds” **c.** “Specials”
6. In an attempt to render a better accounting of U.S. Government postal costs, Official Stamps were re-introduced in 1983. Later they were named “Penalty Mail” stamps, along with postal cards, stamped envelopes, and both plain and window types. The previous iteration of Officials had been declared obsolete in:
a. 1917 **b.** 1906 **c.** 1883
7. The U.S. introduced its first aerogramme on April 29, 1947. The indicium had a value of:
a. 15 cents **b.** 10 cents **c.** 8 cents
8. When it was discovered that the U.S. Postmaster General James Farley presented a “favored few” imperforate sheets of U.S. stamps, the philatelic community was in an uproar. To help tamp down the anger, the U.S. Post Office placed on sale at the Philatelic Sales Agency a number of stamps imperf without gum. These “special printings’ were available to the public only from March 15 to June 15, 1935. These are known as:
a. Farley’s Follies **b.** Farley’s Fantasies **c.** Farley’s Frauds
9. Perfins were authorized by the U.S. Post Office Department on May 8, 1908. These are designs, initials or numerals perforated in postage stamps by private firms and governmental agencies to discourage stamp theft and misuse. Collecting these would be a challenge. In the U.S. alone, recorded perfins exceed:
a. 2500 **b.** 5000 **c.** 6400
10. A U.S. Special Handling stamp was issued April 1, 1925 with a face value of 25¢. On June 25, 1928, 10¢, 15¢ and 20¢ denominations were added. Affixing a Special Handling stamp to 4th Class mail does what:
a. Nothing – the stamps were withdrawn in 1959
b. Insures that it is accorded the same handling as 1st Class mail
c. Upgrades the handling to second day delivery

Don't forget, each correct answer is worth 10 auction bucks. Please give the answers to Betty Mudge at the next stamp club meeting. You can also email the answers: PostBoyQuiz@renostamp.org

June Quiz Answers: 1. a; 2. b; 3. c; 4. a; 5. c; 6. a; 7. b; 8. c; 9. a; 10. a

Going to Our Stamp Show 2015

by John Walter

Our annual Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show is in a few weeks on July 25 and 26 at the National Bowling Stadium. The show will take place in the National Bowling Museum on the first floor. Free parking is available in the stadium parking garage - just tell the attendant you are attending the stamp show.

Sign up to help at the registration desk. It's a great opportunity to meet both collectors and non-collectors. We expect to have many walk-ins since the show is at street level and bowling takes place both in the main area and also on the first floor across the lobby from our show. Everyone who visits will have a story to tell.

Before the show even begins, visit our [website](#) and click on the show page. There is a diagram of the dealer table placements and a list of the dealers with emails. If you are looking for specific material, please contact the dealers to ask if they will bring the material, if available. I have done this in the past and had some nice "stuff" to look at. I did not always buy the material, but thanked the dealer for bringing it for review.

Some stamp show tips: Create a want list. Pack a pair of stamp tongs. Set your budget and stick to it. You want to avoid buyer's remorse. Be prepared to convey to the dealer your collecting standards, i.e., mint, o.g., used, F-VF, VF, superb, graded, etc. Let the dealer know what kind of material you are looking for. If he doesn't have it in stock, he might be able to watch for it and contact you if the right item comes in. Bring your check book and some cash, since not all dealers accept credit cards. Don't forget to wear your club name tag and shirt. The dealers do notice and you can always ask for discounts as a club member.

As our club membership directory is assembled, it will list our member's collecting interests. There are many times I see interesting items I know fellow members are collecting, and purchase them myself to give as gifts or offer to resell them.

So keep an eye out for what others are seeking, and perhaps they can reciprocate. It happens sometimes that two collectors will stumble upon a "eureka!" item for each other. Everyone wins, and you might have a new friend for life.



Dealers on the stamp show circuit see more material than you could ever hope to see, and they will look for items for you if they know what you want.

Be willing to work with the dealer. When asked what you collect or what you would like to see, the least helpful response you can make is to say you are "just looking." That does not allow the dealer to help you, and it is far more likely that you will end up feeling that there was nothing to buy at the show. You didn't give the dealer a chance to sell.

Here is a trick that often brings happy surprises. If you have run out of things to look for at a stamp show, ask a few dealers if they have anything new on hand that they might show you.

Dealers buy and sell among one another at shows, and they buy from customers, so they often have new items on hand that haven't been formally added to their stock. You might be the first person to see these items if you specifically inquire, and you never know what gems could turn up. I have done this many times and had the first look at items and purchased a few over the years.

Collectors always want to buy things at the lowest prices possible. But remember, dealers are paying the costs of producing the stamp show through their booth fees. Dealers also have overhead that includes travel to and from the show, food and lodging, acquisition of material, insurance, taxes, labor, supplies and all of the risks associated with operating a business.

That said, it does not mean that you shouldn't negotiate. If you are purchasing an inexpensive item, it makes no sense to bargain for a lower price, but if you are spending significant amounts of money, it does no harm to ask the dealer for his or her "best price."

But, while it doesn't hurt to ask the question, don't insult the dealer if he can't or is unwilling to negotiate a downward price.

He knows what he paid for the item and how much he has to make to stay in business. In this case, if the asking price is more than you want to pay, the appropriate response from you is simply "no, thanks." Don't feel forced into buying something you don't really want or can't afford.

For most collectors, time spent visiting the various dealer booths is the highlight of any stamp show. Dealers, too, enjoy their time spent with fellow enthusiasts.

Often the problem at a stamp show is seeing too many things to buy, rather than too few. But attending shows is surely one of the best parts of our hobby.



Please make some time to visit the exhibits. If you are thinking of exhibiting, this is the time to educate yourself and see what fellow philatelists have accomplished in telling a story about something that has a special interest to them. The exhibit judge will be critiquing the exhibits Saturday afternoon. The exact time will be in the show program. This is an excellent time to "follow along" and hear the comments at each exhibit frame.

All club members are encouraged to make a few "My Favorite Thing" pages for exhibit in the show frames. This is another activity that is both educational and fun.

One last thought for everyone to consider is the Awards Banquet on July 25 at 6:30 p.m. In past years it was held at the Sienna Hotel. With the recent sale of the Sienna no new reservations are being taken for any functions. So to make it easy for the stamp show attendees, the banquet will be held on the third floor of the bowling stadium, just above the museum. The club is offering to subsidize meals in honor of the NSSS's 40th Anniversary. Contact [Stan Cronwall](#) if interested in attending the awards banquet. The buffet menu and prices are listed on the last page of this newsletter. ■

Post Boy Reporter

This is a brief report from the June 11 stamp club meeting. Rich Jones, Jacque Bloomquist's son, had a table full of his mom's philatelic treasures which he was selling. President Stan Cronwall made announcements including the upcoming picnic on Aug. 8. Vice-President John Walter asked for volunteers to run in the elections and someone to be the editor of the Post Boy. More information is on page one. The Show Chair, Harvey Edwards, discussed the stamp show. All the dealer tables are sold, plus the U.S. Postal Service will be at the show both days. If you want the USPS to bring special items from their vault, please contact [Harvey](#) ASAP.

As usual, there were 10 raffle prizes to be won by lucky members who purchased raffle tickets. John Wetterling won the final prize which was half the raffle money collected. Before Howard Grenzebach gave his presentation on "Goop Your Stamps," he reminded everyone that the penny boxes contain some very interesting items. For 2-cents a stamp, you can pick as many stamps from any country and have some quality time adding them to your collections. Howard looked at just the Germany stamps and showed a few items including one stamp with a SCV of \$22.50 - all for 2¢ each. ■



Nevada Stamp Study Society was incorporated on August 5, 1975. This year is the 40th anniversary of that event. Part of the celebration is looking back at some of the earliest Post Boy newsletters.

From the April 1985 issue of the *Post Boy*

The last meeting provided those in attendance with some very good buys. Most of Russ Thayer's material was sold. There are a few items left, which will be placed in the mini-auction until all is gone.

On April 13, Dick Sverid will be our guest speaker. The subject will be Historical Event Covers of World War II. Members will be in for some fine information on this subject, as Dick, as in the past, will indicate an extensive knowledge of this era.

NEVPEX '85 is progressing along most rapidly. We have approximately 160 frames bought and reserved. Which leave about 40 left. If you had planned to enter this show, applications should be in Dick Dreiling or Gus Geiger's hands as soon as possible. When the 200 frames are filled, that will be the end of it for this year. It may be the first time that NEVPEX may have to turn away exhibitors.

Also, with TOPAX, the U.S. Post Office has decided to use Reno for another first day issue. There will be two stamps released on June 21. Postal Authorities will be visiting us again, and a fine program will be presented.

We will be needing a work party for replacing the glass in the frames with plastic. We have 20 frames of plastic, with 20 more being constructed. Sometime in the near future, we will need to have this work completed. One good Sat. or a couple of evenings will be all the time that would be needed to finish the job.

Editor's note: The NEVPEX '85 was held at the Reno-Sparks Convention Center. Looking at previous show summaries, over 20 dealers participated on a regular basis. ■

Congratulations to NSSS members for community recognition/awards

Congratulations to Dick Dreiling who appears as the featured person in the July issue of *Silver Strike*, a free publication distributed in the Sparks area. Dick's photo is on the front page and four more photos inside the two-page article "Tales of the Rails" with the subtitle "Sparks Museum Showcases Community's Heritage." Dick currently services on the museum's board as secretary.

Charles White needs to be congratulated for being selected as the "Rookie of the Year" by the Central Reno Rotarian group. ■



**2015 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show
July 25-26, 2015
National Bowling Stadium
300 N. Center Street
Reno, NV 89501**

Awards Dinner - July 25 at 6:30 p.m.

National Bowling Stadium - Third Floor Conference Room
(The conference room is directly above the stamp show area)

Buffet Menu: Smokehouse Sampler Buffett

- Smoked Turkey Cobb Salad – buttermilk ranch dressing
- Loaded Macaroni Salad – smoked Cheddar, bacon, scallions and hardboiled egg
- Creamy Coleslaw
- Smoked Beef Brisket – Texas toast and our Signature barbecue sauce
- Barbecued Pulled Chicken – mini onion rolls
- Pulled Pork Quesadilla – Jack cheese, poblano peppers, spicy salsa and avocado crema
- Blueberry Peach Cobbler – cinnamon whipped cream

Wine is available at \$4.00 per glass or \$28.00 per bottle served at the table.

\$20 per person for first 40 registrants

Please contact Harvey with your reservations by **July 17**.

Email: show@renostamp.org

Phone: 246-4769 or cell at: 527-2362

The stamp club is subsidizing the dinner with a discount of 40% in honor of the stamp club's 40th anniversary.