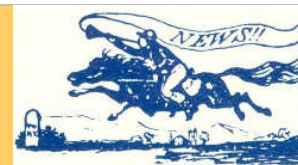


Post Boy



April 2016
Volume 49, Issue 4

MEETS THE 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 AM AT THE
SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD., RENO

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president@renostamp.org

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President and Editor Comments:

By John Walter

An interesting email was received last month: "My name is Courtney and I'm a mentor and tutor for a small group of kids in my local area. My class and I wanted to give you a shout and send you some virtual "high-fives" on your web page, <http://www.renostamp.org/links.html>. We enjoyed your stamp resources and bookmarked them for our project. :)" Courtney has an after-school program on stamp collecting at George Washington Carver Elementary School.

If you regularly "surf" the Internet pursuing your favorite hobby and have favorite web sites, please let me know and I can add them to the links page.

The Buy-Want-Sell-Trade page is not in this issue since I wanted to clear a backlog of Post Boy articles. You heard me right. I have six articles waiting to appear in the Post Boy, plus one more article I am writing on my recent purchase of a box of WWI era and WWII covers purchased at the March 12 auction.

We had a special guest at our Mar. 26 meeting. Megan Orient from APS was in town to discuss arrangements for the Reno AmeriStamp Expo on March 3-5, 2017. See page 2 concerning her discussion about the upcoming stamp show.

The meetings for April are the 9th, for an auction, and the 23rd for consignment sales and a philatelic program.



Megan Orient, APS Show & Exhibitions Manager, and John Walter at the March 26 meeting.

Post Boy Reporter

March 12 meeting - The meeting was well attended by 25 members. **Steve Foster** provided the refreshments. The members present voted to have the Christmas Party at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse on Dec. 10. The clubhouse closes at 5 p.m., so the party will start around 1 p.m. A volunteer is needed to coordinate the party activities, e.g., sign-up sheet for pot-luck food items, decorations and setup of the tables, etc. A volunteer is also needed to cook a large turkey, or a couple of volunteers to cook a few small turkeys.

The raffle had the usual 10 items with a bonus prize won by **Gary Atkinson**. **Bill Littell** won the 50-50 money drawing of \$10.

Members had 60 items in the auction and 4 Blue Sheet (donated) items. There were 12 successful bidders on 24 lots with a total of \$199.65.



Paul Glass, Howard Grenzebach, Dave Gehringer and Gary Atkinson at the Mar. 12 meeting.

March 26 meeting - There were 24 members and two guests present for the meeting. **Dick Dreiling** provided the refreshments. The raffle had 10 prizes and a Bonus Prize, provided by Megan Orient. The Bonus was won by **Mike Potter**. **Howard Grenzebach** had the lucky ticket for the \$11 in the 50-50 money drawing.

The new NSSS 2016 Membership Directory is available from **Paul Glass**.

The program was provided by Megan Orient, APS Show & Exhibitions Manager. Megan discussed the many aspects of the American Philatelic Society, its membership, benefits, and used the website to show the recent revamping and additional content available. There was a discussion about the upcoming AmeriShow Expo 2017 on March 3-5 in Reno. She is soliciting volunteers to help setup, man society booths, and announced that members are eligible to attend the awards dinner for free if they volunteer 8 hours or more - what a deal. Megan offered many suggestions to enhance the exhibit area with different local displays. Also discussed was local trips to points of interest: National Auto Museum, Virginia City, Lake Tahoe, Carson City, etc. The only variable for sightseeing trips would be the weather in early March.

Megan offered a special APS membership price for joining at the meeting. **Nadiah Beekun** signed up immediately.



About half the members present at the May 26 meeting.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - Vern Watts

by Dave Parsons

To inform the NSSS membership about their fellow members, the Post Boy will spotlight different members in an issue. This is a good way to find out about collecting interests and the background of the member.



This month's featured member is Vern Watts. Vern was born in San Antonio, TX before going into the Army. After that he moved to Anchorage, Alaska and lived there for 20+ years prior to relocating to Nevada. Vern now resides in NW Reno at Somerset (now Stan will have to behave).

Vern is a new member of the NSSS joining the club in February 2016. Vern has been collecting for years but has only recently become more keenly involved in the hobby. He collects primarily U.S., especially commemoratives.

Vern is now retired. He attended St. Mary's University in San Antonio. After ROTC, Vern served as a Military Aviator (helicopters) in the Army, including time in Viet Nam. After the regular Army, Vern spent 40 years in Alaska as a commercial helicopter pilot (10 years) and over 25 years in the Alaska Army National Guard as a military helicopter pilot, Commander of an Aviation unit, and special staff officer. Vern has been married for

45 years and has a son and a daughter.

Last June he became a grand-father to a bubbly little girl. Congratulations! In addition to stamp collecting, Vern is deeply involved with music. Playing the clarinet and saxophone, Vern is active in the Sierra Swing Dance Band, and the D.G. Kicks Jazz band.

When asked what his dream stamp (under \$5,000 CV) would be, Vern didn't designate any specific stamp(s). He mentioned he was interested in 1930's and 1940's air mail stamps. So for Vern, we have selected the 1930 Zeppelin Passing Globe, Scott number C15. The stamp to the left would be a nice addition to his collection, and comes in below the \$5k threshold.



Vern is looking forward to expanding his stamp knowledge and getting a handle on his collection, including understanding values.

If you wish to contact Vern, his email is wattsv11@gmail.com.

<u>Upcoming Stamp Shows:</u>	WESTPEX -	San Francisco	Apr. 29 - May 1, 2016
	World Stamp Show -	NY2016	May 28 - June 4, 2016
	Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show		July 23 - 24, 2016
	APS Summer StampShow -	Portland	Aug. 4 - 7, 2016
	APS Winter AmeriStamp Expo -	Reno	March 3 - 5, 2017

Origins of the VW "Beetle/Bug" on Stamps

by Stan Cronwall

The origins of the VW "Beetle/Bug" started with some small car concepts developed by Dr. Ferdinand Porsche while working for Daimler in their design department. Daimler and other luxury car manufacturers tinkered around with the idea of a small car, but these were largely stripped down versions of their expensive models.

Porsche shopped his ideas to motorcycle manufacturers such as Zundapp who declined to become involved because of sharp increase in their basic motorcycle business, and NSU who were concerned about the high tooling costs.

Daimler-Benz came together as a single company in 1926 with their joint products beginning to be called Mercedes-Benz. Porsche's small car ideas were not well received by the Board of Directors. He left to join Steyr Automotive but was laid off due to The Depression.

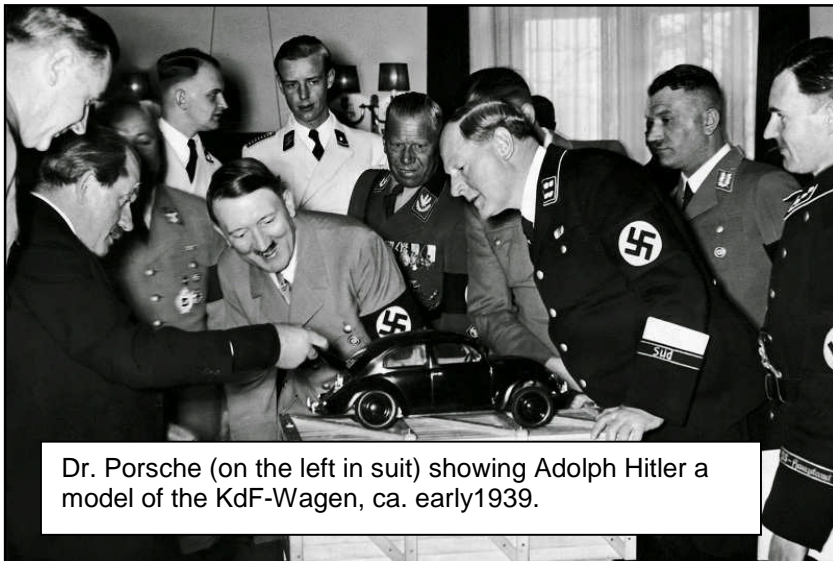
He then formed his own design and consulting services for engines and vehicles. Porsche continued to work his small car design.

In 1932, struggling auto manufacturers Audi, DKW, Horch and Wanderer were combined to form Auto Union GmbH.

Enter the impact of new Chancellor Adolf Hitler. At the 1933 Berlin Auto Show Hitler announced his intention to motorize the nation with every German owning either a car or tractor in the future. He unveiled two new programs: the "people's car" and a state-sponsored motor racing program to develop a "high speed German automotive industry".

At the time only about 1 German in 50 owned a car.

To initiate these programs, Mercedes-Benz was to be given an annual grant of 500,000 Reichsmarks. Later in the interest of increasing the competition to build race cars it was decided to split the grant between Auto Union and Mercedes-Benz.



Dr. Porsche (on the left in suit) showing Adolph Hitler a model of the KdF-Wagen, ca. early 1939.

In June 1934, Porsche received a contract from Hitler to design a "people's car" (or Volkswagen) following on his earlier small car design work originally for Zundapp. Hitler demanded that the production vehicle be capable of transporting two adults and three children at 100 km/h (62 mph). This was when the speed limit on the autobahn original sections was 66 mph.

The car would be available to citizens of the Third Reich through a savings plan for 990 RM (\$396 US in 1930's dollars) — about the same

price as a small motorcycle. The average German income was about 32 RM a week at the time.

The first two prototypes were completed in 1935. They had air-cooled rear flat-four engines, torsion bar suspension, and a "beetle" shape with the front hood rounded for better aerodynamics

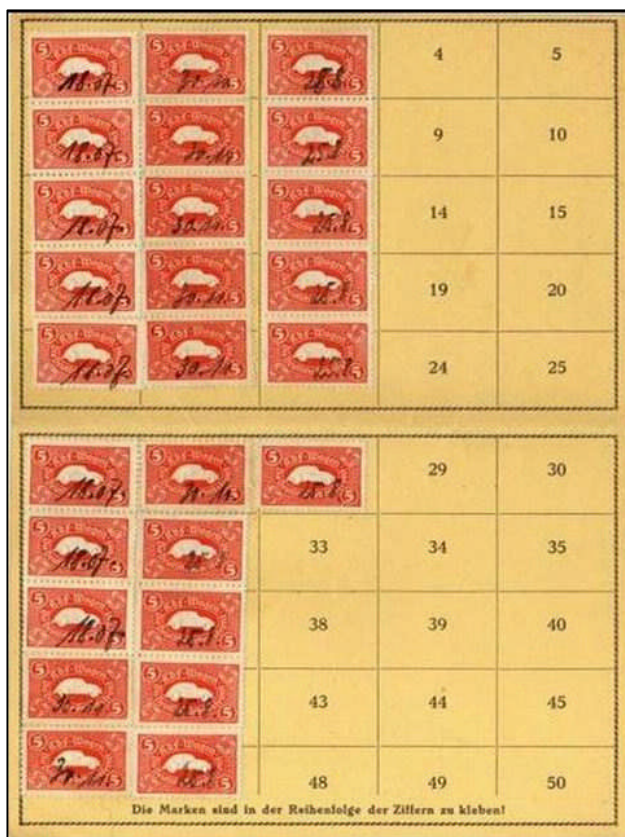
Several other pre-production batches followed during 1936-1939. Prototypes were built in Stuttgart. These were called the KdF-Wagen.

It soon became apparent that private industry could not turn out a vehicle for only 990 RM. It was then that Hitler decided that to sponsor an all-new, state-owned factory. The construction began May 26, 1938 near Fallersleben, while nearby Stadt des KdF-Wagens, now called Wolfsburg, was purposefully built for the factory workers. This factory built only a handful of cars by the time the war started in 1939.



Germany issued a three stamp set (B134-136) early in 1939 to promote the Berlin Automobile and Motorcycle Exhibition with the surtax for Hitler's National Culture Fund. The set, pictured above, shows the early types of automobiles with the highest value featuring the VW as the "modern automobile":

The set was re-issued (B 141-143) on May 18 overprinted in black promoting the Nurburgring Auto Races. This was one of the venues for the international motor races prior to the introduction of what is now known as Formula 1.



savings cards became blue and the stamps green.

Beginning in 1933, KdF (Kraft durch Freude = Strength through Joy) was an umbrella organization that provided affordable leisure activities such as concerts, plays, libraries, day trips and holidays. KdF rewarded workers and their families with going to the movies, to parks, keep-fit clubs, hiking, sporting activities, film shows and concerts. For example, by 1939 KdF had sold more than 45 million package tours and excursions. It had over 7,000 paid employees and 135,000 volunteers. Every factory and workshop with over 20 employees had a KdF representative.

In 1938, KdF began a program by which the German citizen could register to buy a new KdF-Wagen. They began by purchasing a KdF-Wagen Sparkarte from their local Deutsche Arbeitsfront (German Labor Front) KdF representative for 1 RM (40 US cents).

Once the buyer had a KdF-Wagen Sparkarte he or she was obligated to spend at least 5 RM (\$2.00 US) each week buying stamps to paste on the savings booklet. The stamps were canceled when sold.

The first KdF savings booklets were yellow and the stamps red (illustrated above). In late 1941, the

Here are mint examples of the green version with the same embossed image of the vehicle:



Completion of roughly three and a half cards meant that the subscriber had pre-paid enough to receive a vehicle.

The KdF cars could not be ordered and paid for in cash by civilians. Only companies could pay in cash using "one easy payment plan" if they chose to.

336,000 people paid into the savings plan. One report says that none ever took delivery of a car. Others say that the few who did receive vehicles had to return them for the war effort and instead got a voucher saying they could deem them after the war.

After the war, some of the subscribers received a voucher from the new Volkswagen company which could be used to partially offset the price of the postwar model.

The factory did produce a limited number of the original design. A Type 1 cabriolet was presented to Hitler on April 12, 1938 — his 49th birthday. What few others produced went to the diplomatic corps and the military.

The factory was primarily converted to the production of the Kubelwagen which was the German equivalent of the American Jeep and an amphibious variant Schwimmwagen. During WW II, the Germans produced 50,435 Kubelwagens (1940-1945) and 14,265 of the Schwimmwagen variant.

These are photos of both the Kubelwagen and Schwimmwagen (notice the outboard motor on the rear):



Post war, a variant on the Kubelwagen was introduced in the U.S. as "The VW Thing" which was sold 1972-1974. New U.S. DOT requirements forced VW to discontinue the model in 1975. To the right is the 1974 model.

Stan Cronwall collecting interests include Germany: Third Reich 1933-45 and the areas it occupied (stamps covers & cards). He also collects U.S. World War II Patriotic Covers and Cards, Civil War Patriotic Covers (both U.S. and CSA), U.S. Naval Covers, DDR stamps, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.



A U.S. Postal Card Re-mailed in a Foreign Country

by Patrick Crosby



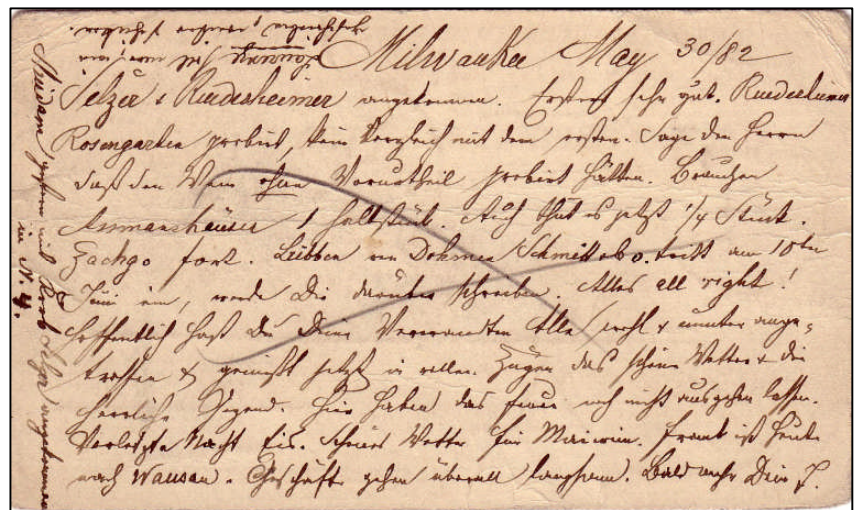
This is a story of being in the right place at the right time. I was at a large stamp show 15 years ago and asked a dealer I didn't recognize my usual question, "Do you have any U.S. postal cards?" He showed me the cover here illustrated. Noting the German postage stamp on front he remarked, "I think this card was forwarded in Germany, but I'm not sure. I told a regular customer of mine I'd hold it to show him, but if you want it you can have it."

Having been interested in postal

history for a while and having a "sub-collection" of postal cards with stamps added, I knew that there was no additional charge for items forwarded in (or between) Universal Postal Union countries. I also knew I wanted any U.S. postal card with a foreign postage stamp added. I paid the \$55 asking price and scooted out of the area before the "regular customer" arrived.

So this is the first U.S. postal card meant for international usage, Scott UX6, and it paid the correct 2-cent rate to Germany. Mailed in Milwaukee, Wisconsin May 30, 1882, it was probably received at the address in Frankfurt a/m (Frankfurt am Main) around the 10th of June. It seems that the addressee, Schickel, was no longer in Frankfurt, and perhaps no longer with the same company (... De Giorgi). But since the card was held for a few days, being postmarked again on June 16th, it was no longer eligible for forwarding. A 5 pf. postage stamp (Scott 38) paid the then current domestic postcard rate and it was sent on to Mainz, Germany.

I do not know what the message side says or relates to. A German friend was unable to read the handwriting with the old German script. Ten years ago in *Postal Stationery* magazine a collector was offering \$350 for any U.S. postal card from 1873 to 1885 with a foreign postage stamp added. This card remains a highlight in my collection.



Patrick Crosby is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal cards, especially used, including first days; the 1886 Grant Letter Card (or Sheet); UC16, the first U.S. aerogram; and postal history on business or picture postcards.

April Quiz from United Nations

by Stan Cronwall

1. In what year were United Nations stamps first issued?
a. 1946 b. 1948 c. 1951
2. A souvenir sheet produced in 1967 shows a stained glass window in the New York headquarters of the U. N. What is the name of the artist and title of the work?
a. The Five Continents by Jose Maria Sert
b. Memorial Scene by Marc Chagall
c. Peace Mural by Candido Portinari
3. Three U. N. stamps were released in 1964 saluting education for progress. What was the common design?
a. A family climbing a line graph b. A mother bird feeding her young c. A child at a blackboard
4. What was the highest value of the first U.N. definitive set?
a. \$1.00 b. 50-cents c. 25-cents
5. What was depicted on the 1954 stamp honoring the U.N. Food & Agricultural Organization?
a. An ear of corn b. An ear of wheat c. A rice paddy
6. U.N. commemoratives from 1956 were in two denominations. What were they?
a. 3 and 5 cents b. 3 and 8 cents c. 4 and 8 cents
7. In the Art at the U.N. series of 1968, who designed the statue shown on the 75 cent stamp and what was the subject titled?
a. Refugees by Kaare K Nygaard b. Armillary Sphere by Paul Mansip c. The Search for Freedom & Happiness by Henrik Starcke
8. What building is shown on the 20 cent definitive in the 1965-1966 series?
a. U.N. Headquarters in New York b. WHO Headquarters in Geneva c. U.N. Building in Santiago, Chile
9. What U.N. organization is featured on the commemoratives of 1956?
a. UNESCO b. U.N. General Assembly c. UNICEF
10. What is the main visual on the 1961 issue honoring the International Court of Justice?
a. The U.N. Emblem Over the Globe b. The Scales of Justice c. An Abstract Group of Flags

BONUS Question: The centenary of the Universal Postal Union was commemorated by the U.N. in 1974 with a single stamp showing:

- a. A symbolic representation of flags in the shape of a dove b. A posthorn encircling the globe
- c. Hemispheres and cog wheels

With the bonus question, this month's quiz is worth 110 Auction Bucks, if all your answers are correct. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at the April meetings or email to

postboyquiz@renostamp.org

March Post Boy Quiz Answers: 1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. a, 7. c, 8. b, 9. a, 10. a. Bonus: b
