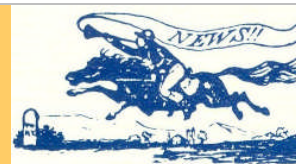


Post Boy



November 2017
Volume 50, Issue 11

MEETINGS 2ND & 4TH SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 10:00 A.M. (9 A.M. FOR GOSSIP & TRADING)
[SILVERADA ESTATES CLUBHOUSE](#) LOCATED AT 2301 ODDIE BLVD., RENO

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Announcements

The stamp club did something special on Oct 28. **Harvey Edwards** put together a 6 minute movie tribute to our members who served in the military. The members listed on page 4 provided a short bio and overseas duty locations. All the branches of the military are represented except the Coast Guard. Years represented are from the Korean War to 1995. For those members not on the list, please contact Harvey so you can be recognized next time.

The next club meeting is **Nov. 11** - Veterans Day and Auction Bucks auction day. For the Auction Bucks auction members bring garage or yard sale items to the meeting for club members to use those hard-earned Auction Bucks. Every year we have a lively auction on items which can include donated wine, books, philatelic items, even had a computer/desk chair in the auction. Now is the time to clean out the garage or shed of unneeded items.

The meeting on **Nov. 25** will feature a presentation coordinated by **Nadiah Beekun**. Member participation is needed since the topic is your "Philatelic Resolutions for 2018." To get everyone started here is some suggestions from my list: Design and make some My Favorite Thing pages.

Make new album pages for items laying around waiting for a permanent home.

Develop a topic for a meeting presentation.

Update your philatelic inventory.

Write an article for the Post Boy newsletter.

Research and develop an exhibit for the Reno Stamp Show in July.

Place an ad in the Post Boy on the Buy, Want, Sell, Trade page (getting tired of seeing the some stuff advertised, now is your chance to update the page).

Our last get-together for the year is on **Dec. 9** - The annual Christmas and Holiday Party. This is a social event for spouse and other family members. The party is at the same venue as the club meetings but the time is 1 p.m. to about 4 p.m. The club provides the turkey and members are asked to bring pot-luck items, such as, vegetables, Hors D'oeuvres, desserts, etc. Sign-up sheets will be at the November meetings or contact [Barbara Diederichsen](#). More details on the party will be in the December Post Boy.

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Post Boy Reporter

Oct. 14 meeting - There were 23 members and two guests in attendance. **David Drake** was attending his first meeting and joined the club. Gary Roberts and his wife attended as guests. **Barbara Diederichsen** provided the refreshments. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge**. There was the usual 10 raffle prizes plus a bonus prize won by **John Wetterling**. The raffle money of \$12 was won by our guest, Gary Roberts.



Guests: Gary Roberts and his wife.

The live auction was conducted by **Harvey Edwards** and **Gary Atkinson** with help from **George Ray**. There were 48 auction lots with 26 lots selling for a total of \$254.90.



David Drake, our newest member.

Oct. 28 meeting - There were 28 members in attendance. **George Ray** provided the refreshments, including some Halloween cupcakes. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes and the Bonus raffle prize going to **Don Garrett**. **John Walter** won the raffle money of \$ 10. Announcements included: **Barbara Diederichsen** passed around the sign-up sheets for refreshments for next year's meetings; she also has a sign-up sheet for the pot luck Christmas Party for Dec. 9 from 1 to 4 p.m.; **Nadiah Beekun** will coordinate the Nov. 25 presentation on member's "Philatelic Resolutions for 2018." Regional stamp shows this month are SACAPEX in Sacramento on Nov. 4-5, and Filatelic Fiesta in San Jose on Nov. 11-12.



Chip & Lydia MacLeod, Mike DelGrosso, Betty Mudge, George Ray, and Gary Dahlke.

Howard Kadohiro gave a presentation: "Veteran Howard M. Keller, Mariner, A Philatelic Tribute." He reminded us that World War II Merchant Marines (The Forgotten Soldiers) had to fight for veteran's benefits for forty years before they were able to receive them, even though they suffered casualty rates equal to or greater than the other services. Howard Keller is the father-in-law of **Howard Kadohiro** and he showed numerous covers and letters sent to family during WWII and through the late 1940s. One letter told of the evacuation of 500 Norwegian refugees; a cover of U.S. postal stationery cancelled in Liverpool with a censor mark; and Russian post cards sent home. Another reminder is that the Merchant Marines did not have the same free frank privileges as active duty personnel. Howard Keller died in 2009 and his ashes were spread beyond the Golden Gate Bridge on a Seaman's Memorial Cruise.



Closed Album - Jean Johnson May 7, 1933 - Oct. 13, 2017



Jean Johnson was born and schooled in San Francisco and later the northern Bay area. She graduated as a home economist from UC Davis and then worked in Winnemucca, NV as an extension agent. Her first masters degree was from University of Nevada in Reno. Her second, in library science, was from the University of Oregon in Eugene. She was a research librarian at the University of Wyoming in Laramie. While living in WY she collected many philatelic event covers on the state's history.

She traveled all over the world and drove over 500,000 miles on trips around the US (visiting every state) and Canada. She enjoyed her overseas trips and made long lasting friends while traveling. Her travel buddies from Australia visited her in Sparks a few times.

After retirement, she moved to Sparks in the early 2002. She was active in the Newcomers Club of Reno-Sparks with special interest in the garden club and travel group. As a member of the Newcomers Club she formed a special group for stamp collectors which had at least a half-dozen members.

Shortly after arriving in Sparks Jean joined the Nevada Stamp Study Society. In the stamp club she served as a Director, Program Chair, and the Chair of the Auction Bucks program for many years. She was a long-time member of the American Philatelic Society.

Her areas of collecting interest were Australia, New Zealand, Canada, Great Britain, and the U.S. When she was confined to a wheelchair, after back surgery about five years ago, her stamp hobby gave her great pleasure. Whenever she had visitors her stamps and covers were always on her lap or a nearby table. Jean enjoyed making auction and consignment sheets selling her duplicates at our club meetings. She also shared a few dealer tables at our stamp shows, and even shared a dealer table at the 2017 APS winter stamp show, selling some stamps and covers and even an entire collection.

She was an accomplished philatelic exhibitor with her 5-frame exhibit entitled - *The Chinese New Year (The Lunar New Year)*. She exhibited mostly at western stamp shows including: Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, Penpex (2013), APS Summer Show Sacramento (2012), SACAPEX, ROMPEX, and Vancouver Stamp Show where she was awarded a Gold. Her [entire exhibit](#) is on the club's website.

Jean has an older sister who lives in Reno with her husband and a niece and grand-niece in Arizona.

Jean did not want a funeral service after she passed away. So remember her in your thoughts and prayers.



Jean Johnson and Betty Mudge at a meeting in 2014.

Salute to our Military Veterans

The first meeting this month is on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. As a tribute to our members who served in the military the Nevada Stamp Study Society salutes you for your serve. These are the members who provided information on their active duty military service:

Nadiah Beekun , MS2, Navy, 1977-1981	Italy
Stan Cronwall , Captain, Army, 1959-1966	
Richard Dreiling , CWO-4, Navy, 1957-1987	Vietnam (2 tours), Japan
Harvey Edwards , ETN2, Navy, 1973-1979	
Terri Edwards , Captain, Army, 1981-1985	West Germany
Don Garrett , 2nd Lt., Army, 1957-1966	
Paul Glass , Colonel, Air Force, 1960-1986	Japan
Howard Grenzebach , E3, Air Force, 1960-1964	Spain
Roy Kirk , Army,	Korean War Vet
William Littell , A1C, Air Force	
Charles MacLeod , E-5, Army, 1969-1972	Vietnam, Japan
David Parsons , 1st Lt., Air Force, 1970-1972	
Harry Pinkham , SMSgt., Air Force (22 years)	Vietnam
George Ray , Sgt., Marines, 1955-1959	
Richard Simmonds , Colonel, Air Force, 1964-1985	
John Walter , Major, Air Force, 1969-1989	Japan, Guam
Vern Watts , Army & Alaska Army Nat. Guard	Vietnam
Marla Wetterling , CTR3, Navy, 1990-1995	Azores
Robert Wolf , BM3, Navy, 1952-1956	Korea, Germany, Greece, Iran, Vietnam (Bronze Star)
Robert Wolf , Sgt.1st Class, Army, 1962-1979	

In the right-hand column are the countries individuals listed for an overseas assignment or duty.

Apology if your name is not on the list. Information was requested at the last 2 meetings and in the Oct. Post Boy. The list will be updated and published in next year's November Post Boy.

At the Oct. 28 meeting the military veterans were offered a "flag star" given as a tradition in the submarine corps. The insert reads: "I am part of our American Flag that has flown over the USA. I can no longer fly. The sun and winds caused me to become tattered and torn. Please carry me as a reminder that **You Are Not Forgotten.**" <http://www.starsforourtroops.org/>



The Stamp That Built a Canal

By Stan Cronwall

After days of searching the web, using up the better part of a black ink cartridge, and half a ream of copy paper, I decided to scrap a piece being written about the Panama Canal. It just became too involved and bound up in both political and business intrigues and corruption at the highest levels.

Instead, I started from scratch to pen a piece on some of the details surrounding the decision as to where to build an inter-ocean canal between the Atlantic and Pacific.

Let's start in 1850 with the country of Columbia which included the province of Panama (until 1903). Columbia gave France permission to build a canal through the isthmus in Panama.

Expeditions were sent in 1877 and 1878 to survey the route and plans were drawn for a sea-level canal with a tunnel of indefinite length. The canal was generally to follow the path of the Panama Railroad Company which actually held a monopoly concession for the isthmanian route.



The plan and costs were presented to an international engineering congress held in Paris May 14-29, 1879. There were 136 delegates from France, Germany, the U.S. and other countries. Only 42 were civil engineers, while the rest were promoters, politicians, speculators and personal friends of the man appointed President of the venture, Ferdinand Marie de Lesseps.

On the left is a Panama stamp Scott #401 commemorating de Lesseps' 150th anniversary of his birth.

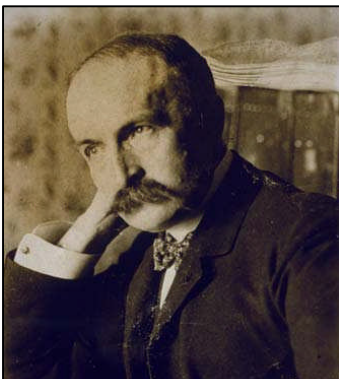
(We need to keep in mind that it was de Lesseps who gained the concession from the Egyptian Government and headed up the project to build the successful sea-level canal at Suez during a ten year period 1859-1869.)

There were two factions at the Paris Congress; one with an unconfirmed canal construction grant from the government of Nicaragua, and the other with the grant from Columbia. On May 29 1879, the Paris Congress by a vote of 98 to 8 adopted the Panama and Limon Bay route in preference to the Nicaraguan site.

Two years of survey work commenced. Funding for the project in Panama came from subscriptions to stock. These efforts fell short, but despite being underfunded, work on the canal started January 20, 1882.

The French soon came to understand that the project was in trouble. Rains caused landslides and there was no way of dealing with the medical problems from yellow fever and malaria.

Plans were then revised to make this a lock canal, but funding was discontinued in 1888, and de Lesseps company was liquidated to satisfy stockholders.



Philippe Jean-Varilla

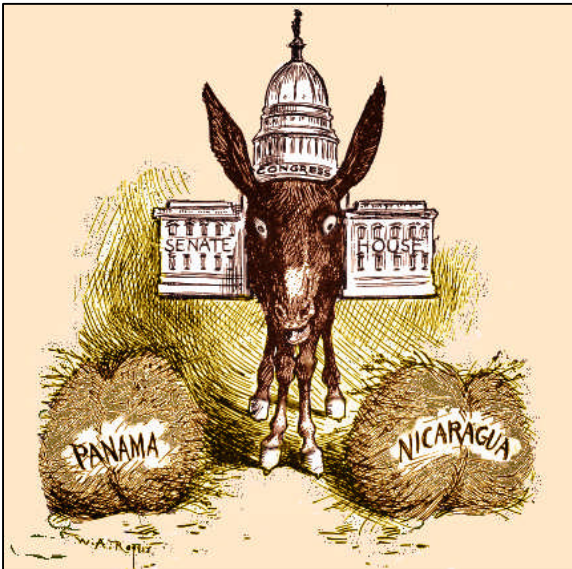
George Grantham Bain Collection, Library of Congress

One of the engineers on both the Suez and Panama projects was Philippe Jean Bunau-Varilla. In France, interest in the canal continued with the New Panama Company. Bunau-Varilla purchased stock in the new company becoming its Chief Engineer, but the firm abandoned hopes of finishing the canal. Instead it tried to sell it to the U.S.

The New Panama Company had a New York lawyer and lobbyist, Nelson W. Cromwell. Working with Bunau-Varilla, the two primary stockholders began a campaign to persuade the U.S. Government to buy up the interests of The New Panama Company.

Bunau-Varilla made trips to the U.S. meeting with prominent people, lectured and published a booklet entitled *Panama or Nicaragua*. He attempted to convince his audiences that the combination of volcanoes and being prone to earthquakes made Nicaragua unsuitable for construction of a canal.

In 1897 and again in 1898, the U.S. Congress appointed Canal Commissions to research the issue of locating a site for an inter-ocean canal. Both came back with recommendations that Nicaragua was the site to build the canal due primarily to costs. The U.S. Congress was leaning heavily toward building the canal in Nicaragua. The House of Representatives had already voted in favor of Nicaragua. It was thought that the Senate would agree.



Cartoon from the New York Herald on the congressional debate over whether to build a canal through Panama or Nicaragua, with an allusion to Buridan's ass). Date circa 1900. Source New York Herald (Credit: The Granger Collection, NY). Author W. A. Rogers

Enter Ma Nature. On May 2 1902 on the island of Martinique a volcano exploded killing 30,000 people.

In 1900, Nicaragua had issued a set of stamps Scott 121-133 featuring a smoldering and spewing Momotombo volcano:

In 1902, as the time for the critical vote drew near, Cromwell planted a story in the *New York Sun* about Nicaragua's Momotombo volcano erupting causing tremors.



The story goes that it was either Cromwell who had noted a previous piece of correspondence franked with the Nicaraguan 5 centavo dark blue Momotombo stamp or an associate of Bunau-Varilla showed him one of the stamps. In any case, it was Cromwell the lobbyist who went to various Washington, D.C. stamp dealers and acquired enough copies of the 1 centavo stamp to put on leaflets sent to each undecided

Senator. (Other sources say they were sent to all Senators and members of the House)

Whatever the reason, the Spooner Act was passed by Congress. The Act authorized the President to buy the rights and properties of the New French Canal Company and build the canal.

Debate had opened in the Senate on June 4 and came to a vote on June 19 passing by a vote of 67 to 6, and passed the House on June 25 by a 260 to 8 vote. The Act was signed into law by President Roosevelt three days later.

And, that is how a stamp changed the course of a canal and history.

Stan Cronwall is a member and his 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; and, Post WW II Soviet Zone Hitler Head Obliteration stamps, covers & cards.

Photos Attached to Post(al) Cards by Patrick Crosby

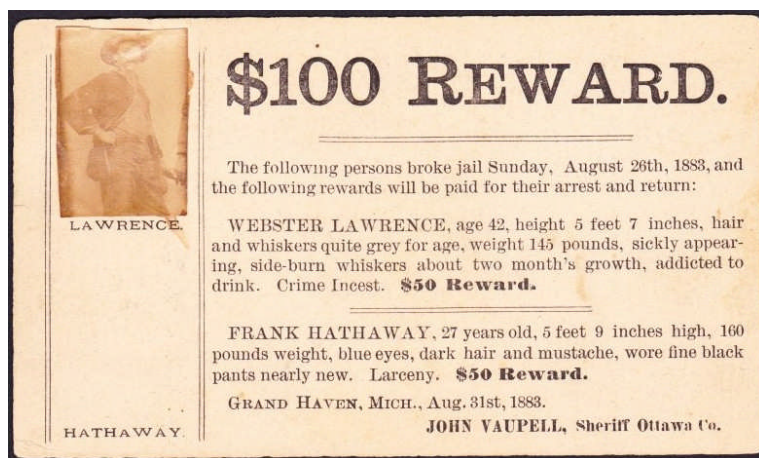
The February 8, 1883 issue of the Weekly Exposition (Brockway Center, MI) reports:

The county jail at Grand Haven was discovered to be on fire, but the promptness of the fire department saved the building with little loss. The fire caught from a stove in the main hall and was undoubtedly caused by the prisoners trying to burn themselves out. Sheriff Vaupell kept them under control, however.

Then there was a jail break later in the year when Sheriff Vaupell was prompted to send out reward cards to the surrounding area sheriffs.



Front of Scott UX7 postal card with 2¢ stamp added.

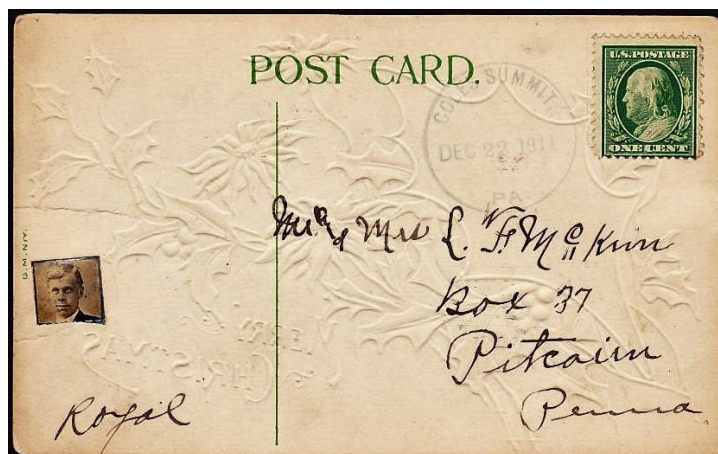


Reverse of the postal card with a \$100 reward notice.

The reward card shown above was sent to Mason, MI, about 90 miles east of Grand Haven, MI. A 2¢ stamp (Sc. 183) was added to a 1¢ postal card (Sc. UX7) to make the then current 3¢ per 1/2 ounce letter rate. The card is postmarked Sept. 1, (1883), and one month later the letter rate dropped to 2¢ per 1/2 ounce, while the postal card rate remained the same at 1¢. This card required letter postage since "...no matter could be attached to a postal card; if it was, the card was to be treated as a letter." (*Postal Service Manual*, July 1873).

Reward postal cards can be purchased starting around \$10 for the simplest example. Sometimes they were cut down in size by a sheriff to fit into a binder or file for future reference. My card from 1883 with a photo attached and the 3¢ letter rate cost me \$73 in 1989. I purchased the 1911 greeting post card a year ago for \$1.

Post Office regulations were changed in 1907 for postal and post cards allowing thin sheets of paper to be attached, like an address label, newspaper clipping, or a photograph. The sender of a Christmas Greetings post card (on the right) postmarked December 22, 1911 at Coles Summit, PA glued a small photo (of himself?) in the correspondence area and a 1¢ stamp (Sc. 374) paid the proper card postage. Not much is known about Coles Summit, but it was likely a small coal mining community which was on a railroad line with a fourth class post office. It was on a Star Route, so a private contractor who guaranteed speed and security was hired by the Post Office Department to bring the mail to the post office at Coles Summit.



References:

Chronicling America—Historic American Newspapers (Library of Congress),
www.chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/newspapers

Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-2011, (American Philatelic Society, 2011)

Kenneth A. Wood, This Is Philately, (Albany, OR, Van Dahl Publications, 1982)

The Daily Postal Bulletin (Washington, DC, Office of the Postmaster General) No. 8233 (March 4, 1907), No. 8381 (August 26 1907), No. 8538a (March 2, 1908), No. 8642 (July 2, 1908)

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 post cards.

Vassar Post Office Display for November and December

Every two months **John Walter** and **Stan Cronwall** change a philatelic display at the main Reno Post Office. For November we honor military veterans with some patriotic covers, a cover and letter from WWI, a V-Mail letter from WWII, and covers from Desert Storm. The December display case shows U.S. Christmas stamps and a few covers. The Christmas stamps came from the club's penny box.



November Quiz on U.S. Air Post

By Stan Cronwall

1. The flag of Alaska and the statehood stamp issue both have a star constellation. What is the name of this constellation? a. The Little Dipper b. Orion c. The Big Dipper
2. There have been only two Air Post Semi-Official stamps issued privately. One of these is reported to be the first stamp in the world to show an airplane. a. True b. False
3. Issues C4-C 6 were brought into use intended primarily for the new night flying service inaugurated on July 1, 1924. Three zones were created. – New York-Chicago, Chicago Cheyenne, Cheyenne-San Francisco. The postage rate was unusual; 8 cents per ounce per zone. These stamps were in restricted distribution, because they were . . .
a. Not for use on regular mail b. To be used only for the new night flying service c. Sold only at the Philatelic Agency in Washington, D.C.
4. The Pan American Games issue of 1959 depicts an athlete. What is the athlete doing?
a. Shooting a basketball layup b. Throwing a discus c. Running with a torch
5. There have been a number of U.S. regular issues and air post stamps featuring the Wright Brothers or their airplane. One that is frequently overlooked is: a. C 47 b. C 20 c. C 38
6. The set of three prized and pricey U.S. Zeppelin stamps were issued for use on the first Europe-America round trip flight of the German airship Graf Zeppelin in May 1930. Unusual for U.S. stamps and undoubtedly contributing to their lofty prices, the Zepps were withdrawn from sale rather than being valid forever. The date of withdrawal was?
a. The day after war was declared on Germany b. June 30, 1930 c. December 31, 1934
7. The plane known as the Stratocruiser was shown on two stamps C 36 and C 44. The plane may also have been shown on the 80 cent issue showing Diamond Head in Hawaii. What company built this plane?
a. Lockheed b. Douglas c. Boeing
8. Starting with Alaska Statehood stamp (C 53) the stamp designers and the approving body(ies) lost their way and many of the air post issues have morphed into just another vehicle for honoring or celebrating things that once was reserved to the regular issue commemoratives.
What about the Montgomery Blair issue, or the Alaska Purchase, or the National Parks Centennial, and gets even more afield with an air post issue for Italian born political writer, Philip Mazzei, the summer Olympic Games of 1984, and the 350th Anniversary of the Settling of New Sweden. Which of these air post issues continued that journey away from subjects related to air mail:
a. California Missionary Father Junipero Serra b. The French Revolution Bicentennial c. The Pre-Columbian America issues
9. A set of four stamps was issued to commemorate the 20th Congress of the UPU Congress. The subject of these was? a. Futuristic Mail Delivery b. The Evolution of Mail Delivery c. Historic Oddities of Mail Delivery
10. In 1934, the U.S. Post Office Department released two air post special delivery stamps. The purpose of these stamps was to provide?
a. Additional revenue for the construction of better airport mail handling facilities b. Provide for pre-payment of the air postage and special delivery fee in one stamp c. Insure expedited service for all Federal Government mail

BONUS: The 20¢ U.S. Parcel Post stamp was shipped to Post Offices on December 12, 1913. This was the first government-issued postage stamp of any country to show an airplane? a. True b. False

The November quiz is worth 110 Auction Bucks, including the bonus. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at either of the Nov. meetings or email to postboyquiz@renostamp.org

Oct. Quiz Answers: 1. c, 2. a, 3. c, 4. e, 5. a, 6. b, 7. c, 8. b, 9. c, 10. b
Bonus: a

Buy, Want, Sell, Trade

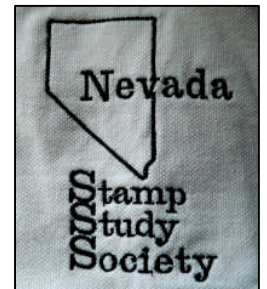
If you would like to have an advertisement in the Post Boy, please email editor@renostamp.org.

Buying : Stamp Collections Worldwide & United States, Large or Small Estate. Postal History , Post Cards , Ephemera, Stock Certificates, Checks, Old Business Ledgers and Billheads, Mining Lumber, Staging & Express, Pony Express, California Gold Rush. Photographs 1840's - 1920's , California & Nevada Oil Paintings, anything Rare from California or Nevada History... Contact member **Mark Baker** 530-417-1117 or Email Mark@goldrushpaper.com.

For Sale: Canada - large selection of mostly MNH stamps from 1982 on. Contact member **George Ray** 359-9296.

For Sale: U.S. Plate # Blocks MNH from 1930 on. Later years Plate # Blocks 15% off face value. Want lists requested for specific plate numbers/positions. Contact member **George Ray** 359-9296.

For Sale: Monogrammed shirts with the Nevada Stamp Study Society logo for \$25. The monogram can also be placed on a shirt you provide for \$15. Right now the shirts are dark blue with white monogram or white shirt with dark blue monogram. Members regularly wear the monogrammed shirt at meetings. Contact member Dave and Susan Gehringer (925) 408-6807 or ds-ginger@sbcglobal.net or. They will need your shirt size and color when ordering. Cropped logo from a shirt is on the right.



Wanted - Covers from "cat mail" used in 1879 in Liege, Belgium. The city commissioned 37 cats to deliver mail to nearby villages. Contact member **Stan Cronwall** email: stlaine@aol.com

Buy and Sell - almost anything philatelic and ephemera. This includes stamps, post cards, FDCs, photos and documents of mining, and also Western interest. Plus selling philatelic supplies. Contact member **Nadiah Beekun** at (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email: classicnevada@yahoo.com.

Wanted - pre-1950's, picture postcards from Scotland, preferably castles and abbeys. Contact member **Marla Wetterling** (775) 575-1337 or email: opusnrosebud@att.net.

Wanted: U.S. aerogramme: #UC49, and UC52 - must be used and addressed to an overseas address. Also needed is FDC of UC63a. Contact member **John Walter**, email: walter60@gmail.com.

Wanted: Articles for the Post Boy newsletter. Many of the stamp club members purchase auction and consignment lots at meetings. How about a short article on why the item was purchased and a scan of the item. What about your purchases made at the Member Bourse on July 22? Let us know why you bought a certain item. Submit article to editor@renostamp.org

Wanted: Advertisements for philatelic items you may be seeking for your collection or an exhibit. You may be surprised by the items our members may have lurking in their collections. Also wanted are advertisements for items or duplicates you want to sell. Contact the editor (775) 851-7968 or editor@renostamp.org.