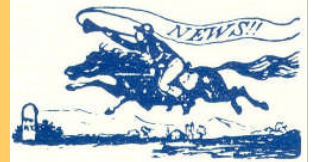


Post Boy



May 2018
Volume 51, Issue 5

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

Officers:

President - Harvey Edwards
president@renostamp.org

Vice President - Gary Atkinson
vp@renostamp.org

Secretary - Howard Grenzabach
secretary@renostamp.org

Treasurer - Mike Potter
treasurer@renostamp.org

Directors:

George Ray

Paul Glass
membership@renostamp.org

Nadiah Beekun
nadiah@renostamp.org

Dave Gehringer
dave@renostamp.org

Howard Kadohiro
director@renostamp.org

Post Boy Editor

John Walter
editor@renostamp.org

www.RenoStamp.org

PO Box 2907,
Sparks, NV 89432

Announcements

Elections this year are for the following positions: Vice-President, Secretary, and two Directors. Nomination forms are available at the meetings from **George Ray**. All nominations must be submitted by the July 14 meeting.

Looking at the philatelic calendar for our stamp club, the fun and family events are starting next month. Here is the complete list.

Club Event Calendar

June 23 – Member bourse table meeting: Members pay \$5 for a table to sell as much as they want without any further cost or commission to the club. No raffle this day. Contact [Mike Potter](#) to reserve a table.

July 28-29 – Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show: Exhibitors and one page My Favorite Thing are needed for the show. Contact [Dick Dreiling](#) for the exhibitor prospectus or [go on-line](#). Volunteers are always needed before and after the show for the setup on July 27 and take-down on July 29. Contact [Erik Fields](#).

August 11 – Annual picnic at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse: Contact [Marla Wetterling](#) for planning and food items you are bringing. The club supplies the grilling meat and drinks. Family members are invited to the picnic.

August 18 - Youth Program at Minden Library: The club is having a philatelic display at the library the month of August. On Aug. 18 the library meeting room is reserved for hands on stamp collecting projects for children and families. There will be lots of free stuff for the children to take home. Volunteers are needed from noon to 2 p.m. Contact [Dave Gehringer](#).

November 10 – Auction Bucks Auction: The entire meeting is for spending your hard-earned Auction Bucks from all the volunteer hours and activities members performed throughout the year. Donations of garage-type and philatelic items are needed. Wine and alcohol is permitted to be auctioned.

December 8 – Holiday/Christmas Party at the Silverada Estates Clubhouse: [Marla Wetterling](#) will handle the sign-up sheet for the pot-luck food items. The highlight of the party is the gift exchange. Family members are invited to the Christmas party and encouraged to participate in all the activities.

Start planning now to participate in all these events.

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Post Boy Reporter

April 14 meeting - There were 26 members in attendance and three visitors – Donni & Mike Stanton from Yerington and Terry Faff from Gardnerville. The refreshments were provided by **Dick Dreiling**. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes. **Dick Simmonds** won the bonus raffle prize. **Harry Pinkham** won the raffle money of \$10.50.

George Ray reported on our meeting site, the Silverada Clubhouse. The club does not pay any rental fees but does contribute some monies for outside plants and carpet cleaning. This spring the club is donating \$40 for the spring planting. The stamp club also uses the clubhouse for the annual picnic and Christmas party.

Nadiah Beekun indicated that the Reno Postmaster or executive assistant may come to the April 28 meeting. If not, **John Wetterling** will discuss “Descriptions of Stamps on the Web”.



Some of the members at the April 14 meeting

The live auction had 48 lots, plus 5 donated lots from the estate of **Jean Johnson**. The auctioneers were **Gary Atkinson** and **Erik Fields** with **Dick Simmonds** and **George Ray** assisting. A total of 28 lots sold for \$261.50.

April 28 meeting - There were 30 members in attendance. **Gary Dahlke & Rose Moratti** provided the refreshments. The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with the usual 10 donated prizes and the bonus raffle prize going to **Jeanne Paquin & grandson**. The raffle money went to **Don Garrett**. The Consignment table had 70-80 items, with many being sold.

Another reminder that nominations are needed for upcoming elections for Vice-President, Secretary and two Directors. **George Ray** has the nominations forms.



Officers from left – Gary Atkinson, V-P; Harvey Edwards, President; Mike Potter, Treasurer

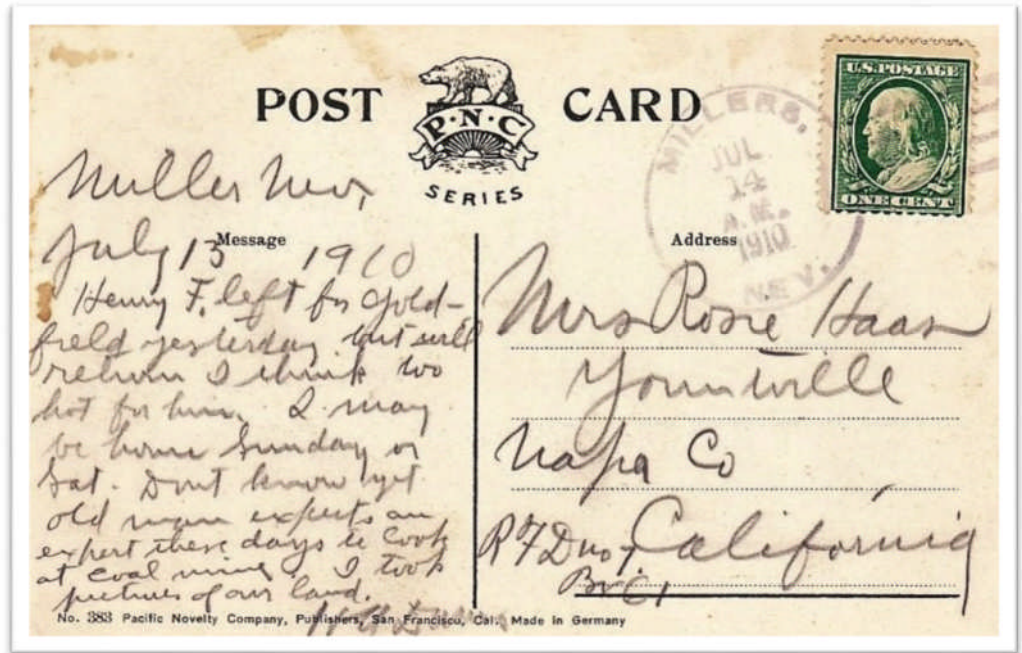
The Reno postmaster could not attend the meeting, so **John Wetterling** discussed the “Descriptions of Stamps on the Web.” Specific items discussed were grading, re-gumming, perforations, thins, hinging, color, cancels, and scuffs & abrasions. In most cases it is buyer beware and the importance of contacting the seller with any questions.

A few club members attended the WESTPEX show (April 27-29) in San Francisco, the largest West Coast stamp show. There were 75 dealers, 280 frames of exhibits, numerous stamp society meetings, educational seminars, and much more. **John Walter** represented our stamp club at the meeting of the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. **Howard Kadohiro** helped with the annual meeting of the Hawaiian Philatelic Society. **Dave Gehringer**, a member of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, USS Saginaw Chapter 59, helped with their program on “Naval Unofficial First Day Covers” given by Steve Shay. **Eugene Smoots** and **Erik Fields** also attended the show.

Millers, Nevada – Postal History and Travel Guide

by Patrick Crosby

I spotted a picture post-card (on the right) at an online store canceled in 1910 at Millers, Nevada. Realizing that Millers was not a currently operating post office, I quickly bought the recently offered card for \$2.70, figuring I'd find out more about it later – and I did! In fact, within a week of receiving the card I found myself in Tonopah and Goldfield, the nearest living towns to Millers and whose mining operations were the reasons for Millers' existence.



Tonopah, the county seat of Nye County, NV, came to be when, after 30 years of mining, Jim Butler supposedly with the aid of his errant mules, finally hit it big by finding silver ore in 1900. In 1902 gold-bearing quartz was discovered 26 miles south and the boomtown of Goldfield came to be, now the county seat of Esmeralda County, NV. By 1903 there was a lot of unrest in these towns dealing with unions (mining companies vs. unions and unions vs. unions) and, also a Tonopah miners' riot against Chinese laborers. Because of this riot China actually boycotted U.S. imported goods.

Both of these towns were in need of a railroad for efficient transportation of ore to mills. The Tonopah Railroad was built in 1903 and a location out of the hills and with available water was chosen for a station and watering stop 13 miles to the west of Tonopah. This flat desert spot was named Millers (once in a while spelled Miller's) after Charles R. Miller who was a director of the railway, a vice-president of the Tonopah Mining Co., and later became a Delaware state senator, then its governor. The Tonopah Railroad was merged with the Goldfield Railroad in 1905 and the Tonopah & Goldfield Railroad transported ore and passengers until 1947.

In late 1905 a large power plant was completed in Millers allowing a sampling plant to open, and the town had 2 boarding houses and 2 saloons. With the continued support of Charles Miller, in 1906 Millers was selected as the site for a 100-stamp cyanide mill. By 1907 the T & G Railroad built repair shops, and another large mill was constructed.

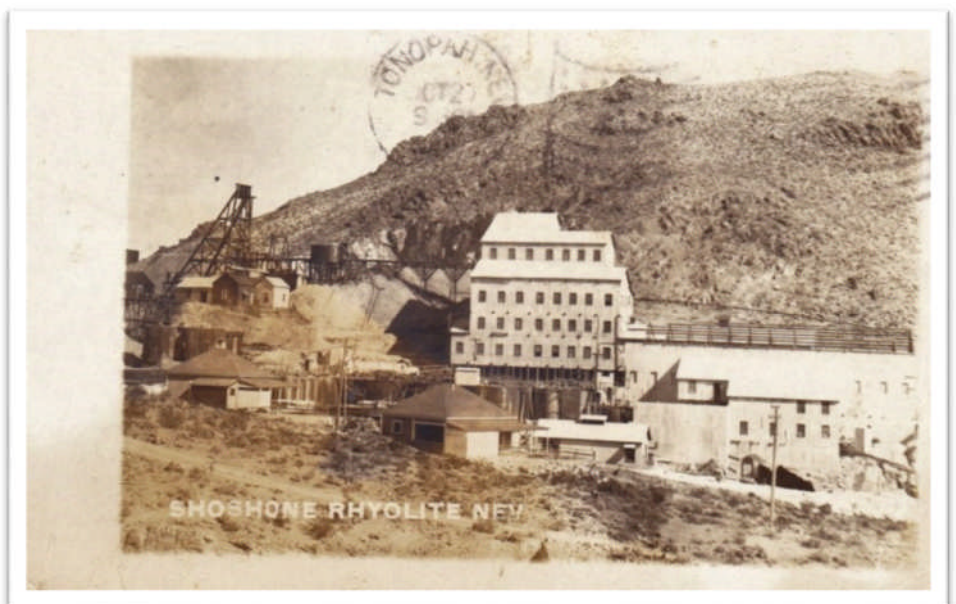
Postmarks from Millers can be expected to be found from 1906 to 1931, perhaps with a lapse around 1920. The post office was established in early 1906 (*USPOD Daily Bulletin* #7946, 3/26/1906). The USPOD stopped issuing Doane-style post-marks in the fall of 1906, so Millers must have received their Type 3 Doane canceling handstamp in 1906, which is shown on my card from 1910. The post office was discontinued 9/12/1919 (*USPOD Postal Bulletin* #12055, 3/12/1919) with mail, stamps, stamped paper, and postal account book going to Tonopah, and other supplies and records going to Sacramento, CA. Millers' 500 ton mill had been closed for a year but the *Tonopah Daily Bulletin* reported it was to reopen in early 1920.

The post office may also have been closed for a while then reopened because a *Postal Bulletin* (#15779 p.3, 12/12/1931) shows the Millers post office was to be discontinued 12/31/1931 with mail to go to Tonopah. At this time and probably previously, Millers was a fourth-class post office, the lowest tier of post office. These were allowed to operate inside non-drinking establishments. The postmaster received no salary but instead received a commission on canceled stamps and P.O. box rentals plus what the postmaster could earn from sold stamps, waste paper, old newspapers, unclaimed printed matter, and waste twine. Special delivery and money orders were probably available. Additional benefits included the prestige a postmaster was accorded at the time and that the post office was likely inside his general merchandise store with postal customers stopping by regularly.

Millers grew to its largest population of 274 in 1910 and was a noisy place while the mills were in operation, probably 24 hours a day. Baseball was big with league competition from other mining towns, and Millers fielding a quality team. In 1908 the Millers ballfield had bleachers seating 300 and wire netting installed for fan protection. The visiting team and its fans often arrived and returned home on a special train. On a Sunday in May 1909 there was a non-league game pitting the Millers' married men against the unmarried men. The stakes were no dinner that night for the losers. The married men lost 16 to 5, but rumors were that they were eating anyway (*Tonopah Bonanza*, 6/1/1909).

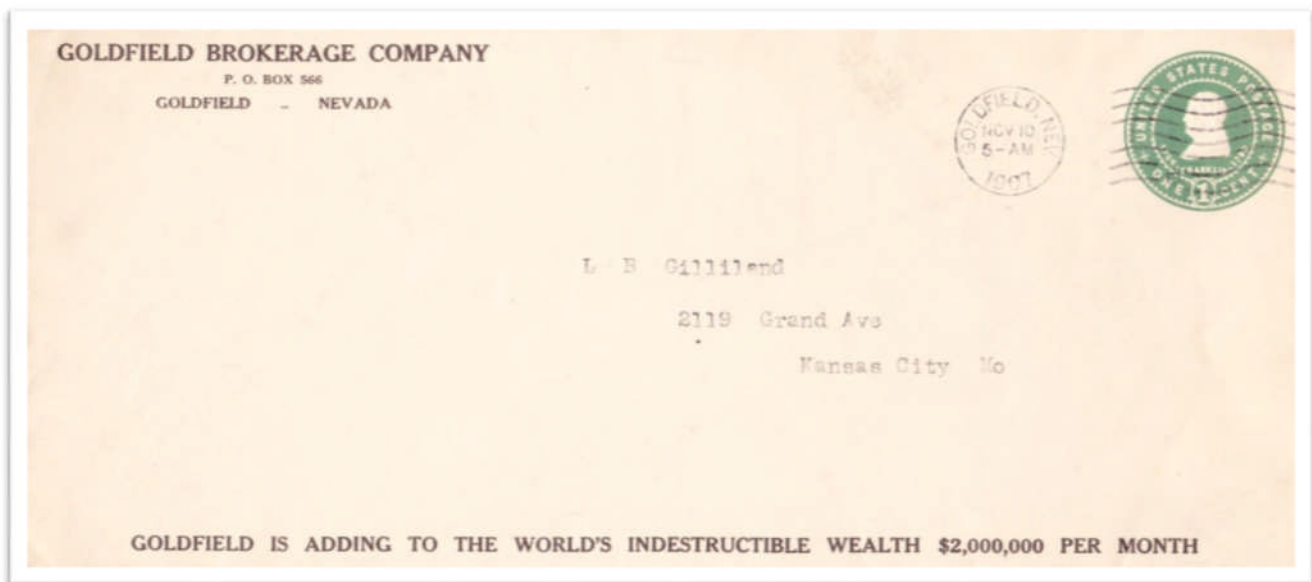
Millers' mills and railroad shops closed because of a mining slowdown in 1911, but other activities continued. In 1941 there were 28 souls in town and with the demise of the T & G Railroad in 1947 Millers quickly became a ghost town. Now there are no signs there was ever a railroad or a town. What is there is Miller's Rest Area with restrooms and an area for free overnight camping. RV's are welcome (no clean-out available) but no trucks are allowed in the rest area. On a moonless night the star gazing is magnificent. What catches the eye during the day is a brightly shining "beacon" just to the north. This marks the innovative Crescent Dunes Solar Electricity project with its multitude of heliostats, which are computer controlled moving mirrors being optimally focused on the top of a 640' tower. They provide rays for molten salt which stores concentrated electricity later used to produce steam and generate electricity.

The gradual decline of Tonopah's mining operations began when the April 1906 San Francisco earthquake (est. 7.9 magnitude) and resulting fires destroyed 80% of the city and investment capital from that city dried up. Then the financial Panic of 1907 spread across the United States and Tonopah lost two of its three banks. A 1906 population of 10,000 declined to 3,900 by 1910. In 2010 there were 2,478 residents. *Webster's Geographical Dictionary* (1964) notes Tonopah as a "distributing center for gasoline, machinery, blasting powder, whiskey, and food-stuffs". The card shown on the right of the Montgomery Shoshone mining operations near the now ghost town of Rhyolite, NV has a Tonopah American machine flag cancel used as a receiving cancel the day after it was mailed from Rhyolite on Oct. 26, 1910.



Today Tonopah is an attractive town set in the hills amid mining operations with hotels, restaurants, and many historic structures. It's about the midway point between Las Vegas and Reno (448 miles apart) and accommodates many overnights. The Central Nevada Museum is a joy with indoor and outdoor displays of the diverse history of the area – fossils, minerals, Native Americans, pioneer life, mining, and military (a test area to the southwest conducted over 1,000 above and below-ground nuclear bomb tests since 1951). If you enjoy walking, an absolute must see is the Tonopah Historic Mining Park which overlooks the town. Many separate defunct mining operations are in the park and you can walk into the old mining hoist houses with their massive machinery. Stand on top of grates installed over the Mizpah Mine's 600' deep shaft and look straight down – whoa! The Mizpah was by far the biggest producer in Tonopah and was owned and adeptly managed by Belle Butler, Jim's wife and an honored woman of Nevada's history. Expect stiff winds in both Tonopah and Goldfield, making cold days even colder, but probably welcome in the summer. The east-blowing winds saved the towns from much of the nearby nuclear bomb testing fallout, but southern Utah didn't fare as well.

If it was made of metal after 1900 you can probably find it slowly rusting somewhere in Goldfield. With the boom years ending by 1920 and the long-lasting effects of two devastating fires in 1923 and 1924 the town today "is but a whisper of its former self." It was Nevada's largest town with a reported population of around 25,000 in 1908 which dwindled to 268 in 2010. Enjoy the many miners' cabins, some still occupied as there is still gold mining. A few varied shops with pleasant owners are scattered and the Esmeralda County courthouse is a welcoming place to get out of the wind and enjoy the architecture and woodwork. Amazing to me are the multitude of travel trailers and camper shells left over the years to the elements. I think some are used as windbreaks for residences. If you are a connoisseur of French fries like I am, The Dinky Diner is for you. It is the only eating establishment in Goldfield, while back in 1907 there were 27 restaurants.



The bragging at the bottom of the Scott U379 envelope (above) postmarked in Goldfield in 1907 was no idle boast.

The glory days of Millers, Tonopah and Goldfield are over, but postal history helps to preserve their memories.

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.

Stamps of the Suez Canal Company

By Stan Cronwall

While rummaging around looking for information for a future piece that involves the Suez Canal, I came across a set of stamps completely unknown to me, and probably to most of you as well.

The Suez Canal opened on November 17, 1869 operated primarily by the Suez Canal Company (SCC) owned by the French and the Ottoman Empire.

During the construction period beginning in 1859, the SCC set up its own postal system to convey company administrative mail between its work sites. In 1860 it formed an agreement with Posta Europea for delivery of its mail to the nearest Posta Europea office in Damietta, Suez or Zagazig.

Posta Europea was a privately owned postal service in southern Egypt founded by an Italian printer who initially acted as a forwarding agent for mail to and from Europe. The enterprise became so successful that it gradually connected all major towns in Lower Egypt resulting in the government winding down its own service in the area. The firm proposed to the Viceroy that there be a uniform postage for any destination in Egypt and the issuing of postage stamps.

In 1864, the Viceroy was so impressed with the proposal that he decided to re-purchase the postal monopoly of Posta Europea. On January 2, 1865 ownership officially passed to the Egyptian Government. The cover on the right has the handstamp of Posta Europea.



A Posta Europea handstamp cover from Cairo to Marseille

At that time, SCC resumed its own postal system. The SCC carried mail free from Port Said in the north to the Port of Suez in the south until July 1868. This was primarily SCC company mail, mail of its employees and other residents of the Canal area. To cover the cost of this service, the decision was reached in November 1867 to begin charging for the carriage of private mail to take effect July 1, 1868. The SCC ordered a set of four stamps from Paris in April 1868.



(Do not depend on color when trying to determine if SCC stamps are genuine. The 1 centime is black to pale gray; the 5c from yellowish-green to pale green; the 20c from deep indigo to pale blue; and 40c from carmine to dull vermillion.)

The stamps were shipped in June 1868 but arrived just over a week too late for the introduction of the postal fees. Nonetheless, the stamps were immediately placed in service. The stamps were recognized by the French consulates in both ports, but not by the Egyptian Government.

The service lasted about 40 days. When some members of the public objected to what they called an “extra tax” going to SCC and the Egyptian postal authorities became concerned about this infringement on the state postal monopoly and loss of revenue, they moved to close down the SCC service. The Egyptian Postmaster General took control on August 16, 1868.

The Egyptian Government immediately opened civil post offices on the sites of the former SCC offices. Most of the SCC postal facilities and equipment were transferred to the Egyptian Government.

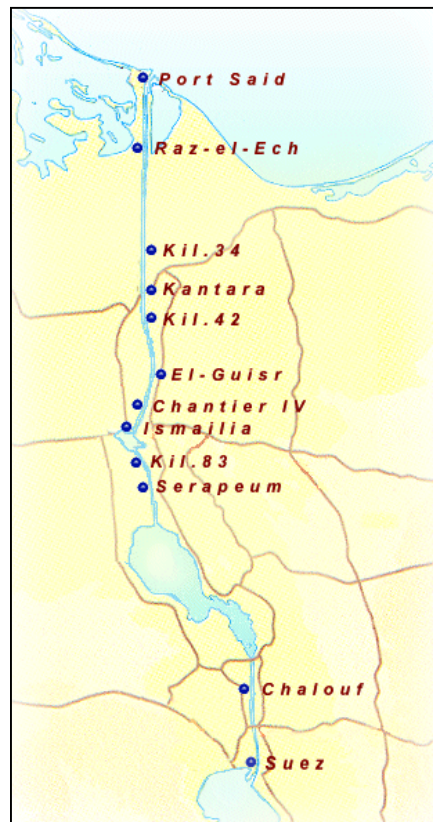
The map on the right shows the SCC post offices along the Canal route.

As a result, genuinely used examples of the SCC stamps are extremely rare with only a few known covers and all these have pen cancels.

(NOTE: There are no known Canal date stamp cancellations because the canceling devices also arrived late just before the Egyptian Government stopped the service.)

To complicate matters further, genuine stamps are known to exist but with forged cancels.

As always, let the potential buyer BEWARE!



Stan Cronwall is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society 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.



Vassar Post Office Display for May and June

Every two months the stamp club changes the philatelic display at the Reno main post office. **John Walter** and **Stan Cronwall** decided on stamps and covers to commemorate Memorial Day and Flag Day in June.

Next time you visit the PO tell the clerks how much you appreciate the stamp collecting display.



May Quiz on Ryukyu Islands

By Stan Cronwall

Ryukyu is the name of an island chain in the western Pacific Ocean extending southwest from the Japanese Island of Kyushu to Formosa separating the East China Sea from the Pacific Ocean. It is made up of some 63 islands, the largest being Okinawa. It was part of a feudal domain in Kyushu from 1609, and was formally annexed by the Empire of Japan in 1872. Following the surrender of Japan ending World War II, the islands came under the occupation of the U.S. military in 1945, with a civilian government set up under American control in 1952. The islands reverted to Japan in 1972.

1. A chart in the Scott Specialized Catalog deals with Perforation and Paper Varieties of Scott 44-53. The paper legend guide on paper includes information on color. Which of the following colors are referenced?
a. White b. Greenish c. Off-White d. Blueish e. Ivory
2. The regular issue commemorating the 7th Annual Newspaper Week October 1-7, 1957 features a kind of rocket. What type is shown? a. An ICBM b. A Pencil c. A Deep Space Probe
3. The 1952 stamp issued to celebrate the establishment of the civilian Government of the Ryukyu Islands features which the following visual elements?
a. A map of the islands b. A helicopter shaped seedpod from a Japanese Maple c. A dove
4. The Olympic torch was routed through Okinawa on its way to Tokyo for the 1964 Games. The torch was delayed by the following natural event? a. An earthquake b. A tsunami c. A typhoon
5. Tuberculosis Prevention Seals (shown in the Scott Catalog) were issued by the Ryukyu Tuberculosis Prevention Association from 1952 through 1971. The first issues WX1 and WX1a are actually overprints of what?
a. U. N. TB stamps b. U. S. Christmas Seals c. SEATO TB stamps
6. Ryukyu Air Post stamps for many years featured the Heavenly Maiden in the design. What is she shown doing?
a. Flying over mountains b. In battle with the Wind God c. Playing the Flute
7. Another interesting and useful feature for collectors is the Scott listing of regular and commemorative Ryukyu stamps which reports which of the following?
a. Quantity serviced by the postal system b. Quantity issued c. Quantity recalled for errors
8. Ryukyu issued a single Special Delivery Stamp in 1950. The design featured which of these elements?
a. A mailman on a motorcycle b. Postal system helicopter c. A Sea Horse and Map of the Islands
9. In 1971, in commemoration of Philatelic Week, a stamp was issued that featured the following:
a. An ice cream churn b. A water carrier c. A backpack for a baby
10. The first Ryukyu stamp in 1948 was a 5 sen magenta issue that had two printings. The first was characterized by thick yellow gum, dull colors, rough perforations and printed on grayish paper. The second had white gum, sharp colors, clean-cut perforations printed on white paper. What was featured on this stamp?
a. Cycad b. Pineapples & sugarcane c. Trees & Wooded Hills

BONUS: Japanese fencing (the sport not the property delineation) was featured on a stamp issued in 1962 to commemorate the All-Japan competition in Okinawa. What is the name of this sport in Japanese?

- a. Tai Chi b. Kendo c. Tai Kwando

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

<p>April Quiz Answers: 1. c, 2. b, 3. b, 4. c, 5. b, 6. c, 7. a, 8. b, 9. c, 10. c, Bonus: c</p>
