

# Post Boy



December 2020  
Volume 53, Issue 12

Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M. - until further notice

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## Announcements

### December Stamp Club Meeting:

**December 12** at 10 a.m. - Virtual meeting only. Zoom instructions will be sent a few days before the meeting. No Christmas Holiday Party this year.

**Urgently Needed** - A Quizmaster for developing the Post Boy monthly quizzes. Contact John Walter [editor@renostamp.org](mailto:editor@renostamp.org)

**Auction #4** started at noon on Dec. 2 and ends at noon on Dec. 10. There are 99 lots waiting for bids.

<https://renostamp.org/auction>

Instructions are on the webpage. Send all auction bids to:

Dave Parsons at email: [NSSSauctions@gmail.com](mailto:NSSSauctions@gmail.com)

November was an eventful month for members of our stamp club. We lost **Bill Littell** on Nov. 10 (see Closed Album article on page 4), **John Walter** (and his wife) tested positive for COVID-19 on Nov. 17 & 20 (both doing well), **David Lauber** was diagnosed with a melanoma lesion in his eye and **Patty Clark** was in the hospital after a fall at home.

Condolence and Get Well cards are sent to members as needed. If you know of members getting sick, please contact Howard Grenzebach at: [howardg@renostamp.org](mailto:howardg@renostamp.org)

Please stay safe. Use facial covering when out and about along with social distancing. Don't forget frequent handwashing is essential.

Keep working on your favorite hobby. The club wants to hear about your philatelic endeavors when we can meet again in-person.

*Wishing everyone a safe and joyful holiday season.*

## **The Year in Recap!**

### **By Harvey Edwards, President**

Welcome to December of 2020. If you look back and can only remember the months of January, February, and COVID, it would be understandable. And to be honest, COVID has been in so much of the news that I'm not sure anyone remembers too much of January and February.

The year started out like many of the club's previous 43 Januarys (the NSSS was formed in August 1975): talk of the Holiday Party, socializing over refreshments, remembering "closed albums," and bidding on auction items.

In the February-March timeframe, the "fertilizer" hit the proverbial "ventilation system" and the philatelic world, along with the rest of the world, turned upside down when the words "coronavirus" and COVID-19 entered our everyday vocabulary.

Many stamp clubs haven't had a meeting, in-person or virtual, since late February or early March. Our club, after much discussion, went forward with its first March meeting. Then, due to health guidelines and concern for our members' health, the second meeting went virtual using Zoom. There were 9 members in attendance at that first experimental meeting. (I don't know it as a fact but the NSSS may be the only club not to miss any meetings this year.)

First day of issue ceremonies went virtual, stamp collecting videos popped up on the web and stamp shows were postponed or cancelled, including our own 2020 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show that had been scheduled for July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> at the National Bowling Stadium.

In early July, we had our first combination in-person/virtual meeting. Yes, just when we were starting to get the hang of Zoom meetings, we had to upset the cart. If my count is correct, we have had 6 in-person/virtual meetings. But, due to another huge uptick in COVID cases in October and November, there won't be any additional in-person meetings for the rest of the year. For those wondering, December 12<sup>th</sup> will be the club's 18<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. (A special thanks to **Dave Parsons** for allowing the club to use his Zoom account.)

Meeting attendance pre-COVID was typically 25-30 members. Since that first virtual meeting with 9 attendees, we have grown our meeting attendance, split between in-person and virtual, back up to about 20 members over the recent months. One really great outcome of the virtual meeting is that our members can attend from anywhere. And they do! Some of the more distant locations include Hawaii, Arizona, and Mexico. The Board is exploring what purchases we need to make in order to continue a virtual aspect of the meetings in a post-COVID environment.

NSSS membership has remained strong. The Board of Directors voted to extend all memberships through July 2021. NSSS has also welcomed 6 new club members this year: **Madeline Sanford** (January); **David and Trice Klauber** (June); **Tom Reyman** (June); **Debbie Grugal** (September); and **David Morton** (October). Sadly, the albums closed for three of our members: **Gary Dahlke** (March), **Don Garrett** (June) and **Bill Littell** (November).

In other news, although we had to cancel the July stamp show, the club decided to continue with the show covers since the post office had already approved the cancellations. The covers celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Carson City Mint. Many of the covers have been sold but some are still available for purchase at \$2 each.

With many thanks to **Dave Parsons**, **John Walter**, **Howard Kadohiro**, **Howard Grenzebach**, the club has also initiated an on-line auction. There have been 3 successful auctions. And buyers have been getting

some very exceptional value for their purchases! (Auction 4 is available for bidding December 2<sup>nd</sup> through noon December 10<sup>th</sup>. The club receives 10% of the selling price for member-listed lots and 100% of the “blue sheet” or donation lots.)

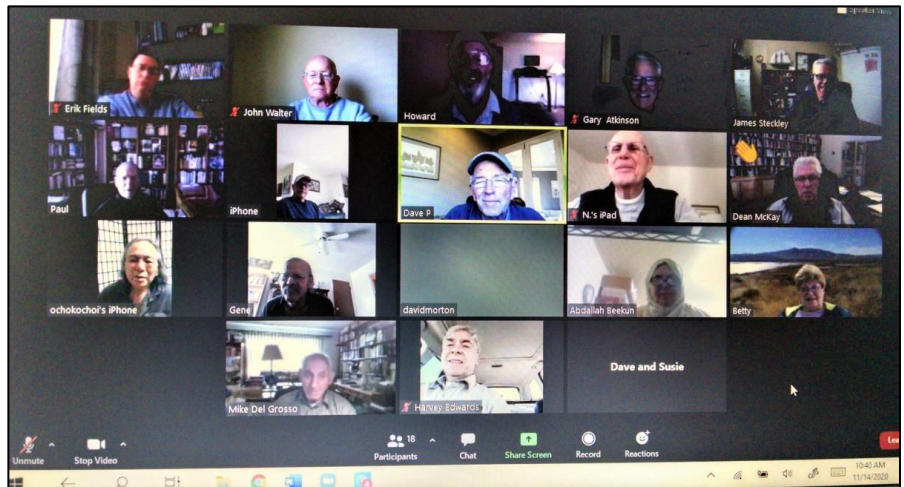
In closing out this 2020 recap, I wish you all a safe holiday season. I hope that you will join us for the December 12<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting. There will be a door prize raffle at the meeting, but you must be “present” to win. And stay tuned for 2021.

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## Post Boy Reporter

**November 14 virtual meeting** - With increasing numbers of COVID-19 cases in the local area only virtual meetings will held until further notice. The meeting was conducted by **James Steckley**. Attendance was 20 members. Thanks to **Dave Parsons** for allowing the club to use his paid Zoom account so we can have these virtual meetings.

**Dave Parsons** reported on the online Auction #3 which ended on Nov. 10. 40 of 59 lots sold for a total of \$369.50. **John Walter** gave a report on the Post Boy, the club website and display at the Vassar PO.



Some of the members at the Nov. 14 virtual meeting.

**November 28 virtual meeting** - **Harvey Edwards** conducted the meeting via Zoom with 21 attendees, 20 members and one guest, Dale Eggen, from Los Altos, CA. Both Dale and his wife collect Postal Routes of NV and serve on the WETSPEX Board of Directors. Harvey reminded the members this is the 17<sup>th</sup> virtual meeting since March. The stamp club did not miss any meetings since the pandemic guidelines started in mid-March.

**Dave Parsons** reported that online Auction #4 will start at noon on Dec. 2 and end Dec. 10 at noon. So far there are 25 member lots and 56 donation lots submitted. More member lots are being solicited.

The USPS announced 63 (so far) new stamp issues for release in 2021. New postal rates are being discussed with the first-class rate to remain at 55-cents. If the new rates are approved they will take affect on January 24. The January Post Boy will have those rates listed if approved before Jan. 1.

The 2021 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show has reserved the same venue as in past years at the National Bowling Stadium for July 24-25. The St. Louis Stamp Expo still is planning an in-person show for March 2021.

A virtual raffle was conducted with **Dick Simmonds** winning an unopened pane of the 2015 Inverted Jenny stamp with a face value of \$12. There are still over 50 undiscovered upright Jenny panes worth about \$50,000. I'm sure Dick will let us know if he is so fortunate to have one of those panes.

Condolences and Get Well: **Bill Littell** passed away on Nov. 10, **Dave Lauber** was diagnosed with a melanoma lesion in his eye, **Patty Clark** fell at home and was hospitalized, **John Walter** tested positive for COVID-19 on Nov. 17. John had mild COVID symptoms mainly with a dry cough for about 10 days.

## Bill Littell - Closed Album

November 14, 1932 - November 10, 2020

**From Glynis Littell:** Bill was born in Omaha, Nebraska and moved to California when he was 4 or 5. Lived in California until 2009 when we moved to Reno.

Bill owned his own business, Littell's Oxygen, Inc. He took it over from his dad when he passed away around 1950. He sold medical and industrial gasses (welding gases, etc.). I used to tell people that he sold hot air. The business was quite successful, and he was well respected in his field. He retired in 1994.



**Bill and Glynis Littell at the December 2019 stamp club Christmas / Holiday Party.**

We were married July 8, 1967 — we had 53 wonderful years together. Bill had a son and daughter by a previous marriage, and we adopted a son in 1970. Unfortunately, they have all passed. His daughter just in August. Our son in March 2019. His other son died in 1994. It has been a rough 20 months.

We do have a grandson (our son's son) living in Florida and a granddaughter (Bill's daughter's daughter) in Idaho. She has 2 girls - our great grandchildren.

Bill collected primarily U.S. stamps and started as a young child. His claim to fame with the stamps was trading his upside-down Jenny to a "friend" for one that was correct. He was young and thought his was wrong and wanted one that was correct. I believe he did finally get an upside-down Jenny. Cost somewhat more by that time 😊. He loved spending time at the club with all of you. Did a lot of buying and trading at club meetings. Then spent a lot of time at home organizing and entering them in his computer.

Thank you and everyone in the stamp club for your caring and support of Bill. I know he thought a lot of all of you.

**From Nadiyah Beekun:** I was calling Bill Littell the other day, and it rang and rang and then went to voice mail. I left a brief message and a short time later, got a call from his wife Glynis. Bill had passed on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November. I wasn't surprised because he had already warned me about the cancer coming back, and I knew that he was in one of the care facilities. He had me on speed dial, and sometimes he would misdial me when he was trying to call his wife, and we would talk for a couple of minutes and then say goodbye. As long as I have known him, he and I would always talk a few minutes and I would ask him questions about my business and he would make suggestions about advertising, product placement, and building customer loyalty. We would also talk about stamps.

Bill was a Stamp Collector, and a stamp accumulator. I suspect that he was a bit of a general accumulator as well from his stories about yard sale finds. He first showed up in my little space in the Antiques & Treasures Mall about 10 years ago, wanting to see if I was interested in buying some of his stamps. I didn't know then, but he was having a go round with cancer at the time. As we were talking, I was advising him that most stamps were not worth a lot, and that only a few in any collection might be worth real money. I showed him some examples of less valuable stamps, and he said he hadn't seen these before ... or those ones, or the other ones. He wanted them. "I thought you came in here to sell stamps?" "Another time." He bought the stamps and arranged to come back.

Bill found out that he really did like stamps and the stories that came with them. He was apparently a successful businessman who had retired and so in between Philatelic Discussions, we would talk revenue enhancement



strategies for my store, and focusing on core product in a niche market. And he kept buying this stamp or that. If he came across something in a garage sale, he would bring it in for evaluation and was pleased as punch when he made a score.

When a customer comes into your business every week or two, you soon realize that it is because you have something he wants. I don't think that it was because of my great beauty (have you seen me?) but rather because Bill Littell enjoyed the conversations about growing a business and talking about stamps! I put my foot down! I told him that I wasn't going to let him come into the store or buy anymore stamps from me UNTIL he went to a Nevada Stamp Study Society meeting. It took him a couple of weeks, but when he finally got there, he found a home! He very rarely missed a meeting, and he would get to talking about stamps with the members around him and a comment would come from up front about "we are having a meeting here..." But it would happen again because the group around him was talking stamps, not counting beans!

The last few month for him were hard. Bill had some personal tragedies, and then, the cancer came back. He put me on a hunt for a specific stamp.... a U.S. Scott #3. I almost snagged one for him but was not sure of the veracity of the vendor. He said it was the only stamp that he wanted that he didn't have. Regretfully, I couldn't help him in time. I will continue to look for one that would meet HIS specifications and will add it to my collection, next to the Frank Fey used U.S. #1, in remembrance.

I am not going to miss him, because I will always have and appreciate his friendship and advice. I am not going to miss Bill, because I can still see him in my booth, or at a meeting, or at the club Christmas, er, HOLIDAY Party. I will regret not getting to work with him on creating a stellar stamp exhibit about the creation of the Silver Centennial Stamp of 1959. (He came across the original artwork for the stamp at a garage sale. Great Story.) I will regret him not being able to sell me the leftovers that he didn't want of stamps and supplies that he got at NSSS club auctions and consignment sales. I will regret not being able to go to my phone and say, "Hey Siri, Call Littell."

**From James Steckley, Vice-President:** My remembrance of Bill was his being the third person to arrive at the clubhouse on meeting day. Erik Fields and I would be setting up for the meeting and Bill would come in with his briefcase and a McDonald's bag, sit down and have his breakfast. He was very kind, and I am just sorry that I only knew him for a short time.

**Other remembrances:** Most members saw Bill sitting at the back table at meetings with his briefcase open, an album with same stamps to sell or trade and the ever-present Mystic catalogue as his reference. When a visitor came to the meetings to possibly sell an inherited collection or accumulation, Bill always seemed to be in front offering to buy everything in the box. He succeeded in buying many collections.

We miss you, Bill.



Scott #3 - in honor of Bill.

## 2020 Volunteer Activities

At the end of the year the stamp club recognizes those members who have served the membership in various ways. If you don't see your name on the list, there are things you can do to enhance your club participation. Our president can fit your skills to different club activities. In addition to the officers and directors, here are our extraordinary volunteers:

- Historian – **Dick Dreiling** (member since 1975)
- Archivist - **John Walter** (using the NSSS website & club laptop computer)
- Program Chair - **Dave Gehringer**
- Get Well & Sympathy Cards – **Howard Grenzbach**
- Donations Chair - **James Steckley (George Ray - pre-pandemic)**
- Nomination & Election Chair - **John Walter**
- Sign-In Log & Auction Bucks Accounting/Distribution – **Betty Mudge**
- Silverada Clubhouse Meeting Place Liaison – **George Ray**
- Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show special cancellations - **Harvey Edwards**
- Post Office and Library Displays:
  - Vassar Post Office – **John Walter** (every 6-8 weeks)
  - Carson City Library – **John Walter & Dave Gehringer**
- Storage Unit – **Mike Potter**
- On line auctions - **Dave Parsons, Howard Kadohiro, John Walter (webpage)**
- Auction accounting - **Erik Fields and Dave Parsons (on-line auction)**
- Boy Scout Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Liaison – **Paul Glass**
- Meeting Room setup - **Erik Fields, James Steckley and George Ray**
- Council of Northern CA Philatelic Societies Liaison – **Harvey Edwards**
- Penny Boxes – **Eugene Smoots and Betty Mudge**
- Raffle Coordinator/Operator – **Betty Mudge** (pre-pandemic)
- APS Liaison & Ambassador Membership Program - **Paul Glass**
- Membership Chair - **Paul Glass**
- Member Database & Directory - **Harvey Edwards**
- Librarian - **Dave Gehringer**
- Webmaster - **John Walter**
- Post Boy Editor - **John Walter**
- Member profile page for the Post Boy – **Dave Parsons**
- Post Boy quiz master – **Stan Cronwall**
- APS Estate Advisory service - **Paul Glass**
- Youth Program - **Dave Gehringer**
- Refreshments Coordinator (pre-pandemic) – **Barbara Stanfield**
- Auctioneers (pre-pandemic) – **Gary Atkinson and Mike Potter**
- Auctioneer's Assistants (pre-pandemic) – **George Ray and Dick Simmonds**
- Original Post Boy articles - **Pat Crosby, Tom Reyman, Howard Kadohiro, John Walter, Harvey Edwards, Dick Dreiling, Gary Atkinson, Howard Grenzbach, Paul Glass, Mike Del Grosso, Stan Cronwall, Dave Parsons, Nadiah Beekun, and Emmanuel GPS.**



## CAM 18 – Elko to Reno, Nevada

By Tom Reyman

In 1927, the U.S. Post Office Department began a plan to establish a coordinated air mail service from Chicago to San Francisco. This service would be given the designation of Contract Air Mail Route 18 or CAM 18. The carrier for this route was to be the Boeing Air Transport company. To support this new air route, the Post Office ordered 25 new Boeing Model 40 biplane aircraft. The service was scheduled to begin on July 1, 1927 from all of the cities along the 1,918 mile route.

The cities of Elko and Reno, Nevada were included in this plan. The featured cover shows that the mail was postmarked at 11 A.M. on July 1 at Elko and was received at Reno at 4:30 P.M. on the same day. The pilot for this leg of CAM 18 was John W. Sharpnack.

### Boeing Model 40

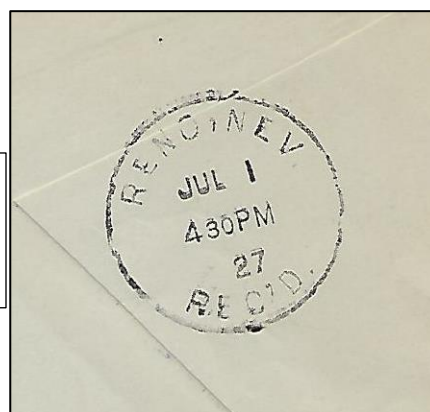


Role	Mail Plane
First Flight	July 20, 1925
Introduction	July 1, 1927
Number built	Ca. 80



The cover was posted with the 10-cent #C10 stamp depicting the “Spirit of St. Louis” aircraft flown by Charles Lindbergh in May 1927 from New York to Paris just six weeks before this CAM 18 flight. The Air Mail Postage rate in July 1927 was 10 cents.

Just 5½ hours after the Elko postmark was applied, this receiving postmark on the back as the cover arrived in Reno.



*Tom Reyman is a Nevada Stamp Study Society member whose collecting interests are U.S. FAM covers, general Air Mail covers, Canadian Semi-Official Air Mail stamps and covers, and Cape Breton (Nova Scotia) covers.*

## December Quiz - Christmas Island

by Stan Cronwall

There is a place called Christmas Island. Actually, there are two Christmas Islands.

The first "Kiritmati" is a Pacific Ocean raised coral atoll in the Northern Line Islands and a part of the Republic of Kiribati. The name "Kiritmati" is a respelling of the English word "Christmas" in the Kiribati language.

In the 1950's and 1960's, the island was used for U.S. and British nuclear weapons testing including hydrogen bombs. The island is the largest atoll in the world.

The Christmas Island in this quiz is The Territory of Christmas Island which is classified as an Australian external territory comprised of the island by the same name. It is small with an area of 52 square miles and a population of 2,564. It is located in the Indian Ocean 200 miles south of Java and Sumatra and about 960 miles northwest of the closest point on the Australian mainland.

The island was first sighted in 1615 and named on Christmas Day in 1643 by another ship captain, but only settled in the late 19th century. It appeared on English and Dutch navigation charts as early as the start of the 17th century.

Several English surveys beginning in 1872 gathered biological and mineralogical collections. An 1887 survey included rocks which were nearly pure phosphate of lime. This being a key ingredient in munitions and explosives, led to the annexation of the island by the British crown in 1888.

The Phosphate Mining and Shipping Company began operations in 1899 using indentured servants from Singapore, Malay and China. The island was administered jointly by the British Phosphate Commissioners and from the UK Colonial Office through the Straits Settlements, and later the Crown Colony of Singapore before authority was transferred over to Australia in 1958.

During WW II, the Japanese coveted the phosphate deposits. The island suffered several bombing raids as well as a landing from nine ships and Japanese occupation in early 1942. Acts of sabotage by the work force and the torpedoing of a Japanese cargo ship at the wharf meant only small amounts of phosphate were exported during the occupation. In October 1945, a British naval ship re-occupied the island.

Over the years, phosphate mining had been the island only significant economic activity, but in 1987 the Australian Government closed the mine. The mine was re-opened in 1991 by a consortium which included many former mine workers as shareholders.

Chances are that none of us have been to this island or are likely to go there even on what would be a somewhat exotic vacation.

On to the Quiz:

1. The centennial of the first phosphate mining lease was marked in 1992 with the issue of 5 stamps. One of these featured a steam locomotive used in that operation. The locomotive was a?  
a. Shay                      b. Mikado              c. Mallet
2. One of the stamps in a 1972-1973 long set of 16, shows the "Flying Fish" and a map of the island. How many other stamps in this set featured fish?              a. 8              b. Zero              c. 4
3. Perhaps to lessen confusion as to which Christmas Island issued the stamps, the caption of "Indian Ocean" was added to the issues beginning with the release of?              a. 1958              b. 1965              c. 1968-1970
4. Red crabs appear quite often on Christmas Island stamps. In 2003, a set of two was issued to mark the Christmas season. The stamps featured Santa and red crabs helping by?  
a. Pulling Santa's sleigh              b. Wrapping gifts              c. Making toys              d. None of these



5. Scott reports that Christmas Island stamps became valid for postage on items mailed in Australia, and Australian stamps valid on items posted on Christmas Island. At the same time, the "Indian Ocean" caption was replaced by the word "Australia". In what year did this become effective?  
a. Has not happened yet      b. 2001      c. 1993
6. Although Christmas Island does have an airport that handles commercial flights, the country has never issued Air Post stamps.      a. True      b. False
7. Each year Christmas Island Australia issues at least one stamp marking the Chinese New Year. This is not unexpected given that 36% of the population practices the Buddhist Religion. What is unusual is the philatelic emphasis on Christmas given that Christianity ranks only third at 18%. What was the first year to have a Christmas Tree featured on a stamp?  
a. 1977      b. 1999      c. 2015      d. Has not happened yet
8. The island is a part of the British Commonwealth under Queen Elizabeth II. When was the last time she was depicted on a Christmas Island stamp?      a. 2016      b. 2000      c. 1958      d. 1942
9. In 1914, the Christmas Island Phosphate Company constructed a standard gauge 18 km railway from the mine to the port ship loading facility. The line was closed in 1987 when the Australian Government closed the mine. Only the earthworks remain. The rest went to scrap with some rail being sold to India. However, in 1994 a set of 3 stamps was issued showing what parts of the rail operation?  
a. Three of the locomotives      b. Locomotives and ore hopper car consists      c. Trains being loaded  
d. Mine yards and portside facilities
10. The island was uninhabited until the late 19th century which allowed many species to evolve without human interference. In the early 1970's, concerns were expressed about the impact of phosphate mining on the flora and fauna. As a result, Christmas Island National Park was established in 1980 initially covering the southwest corner of the island, and then extended in 1986 and 1989 to include most of the rain forest so that today the Park covers 63% of the island.  
Between 1990 and 2010, stamp sets were issued in support of the World Wildlife Fund. What animals were featured on these sets?      a. Reptiles      b. Fish      c. Birds

### **Bonus Question:**

Three sets of Christmas Island stamps deal with events from WW II. The first set from 1991 marks the 50th anniversary of the island's War Time Evacuation. The last set was released in 1995 marking the 50th anniversary of the end of WW II.

The middle set issued in 1992, features two ships from events that happened in 1942. One vessel was an enemy combatant, and the other from a country that was essentially neutral. What do these stamps depict?

- a. Events that never happened in a stamp set that was never issued      b. Torpedo hits on both ships  
c. Air attacks on both ships      d. Sinking of both ships

The December quiz is worth **110 Auction Bucks**.

Please complete the quiz and give your answers to Betty Mudge at the next in-person meeting or email to [postboyquiz@renostamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renostamp.org)

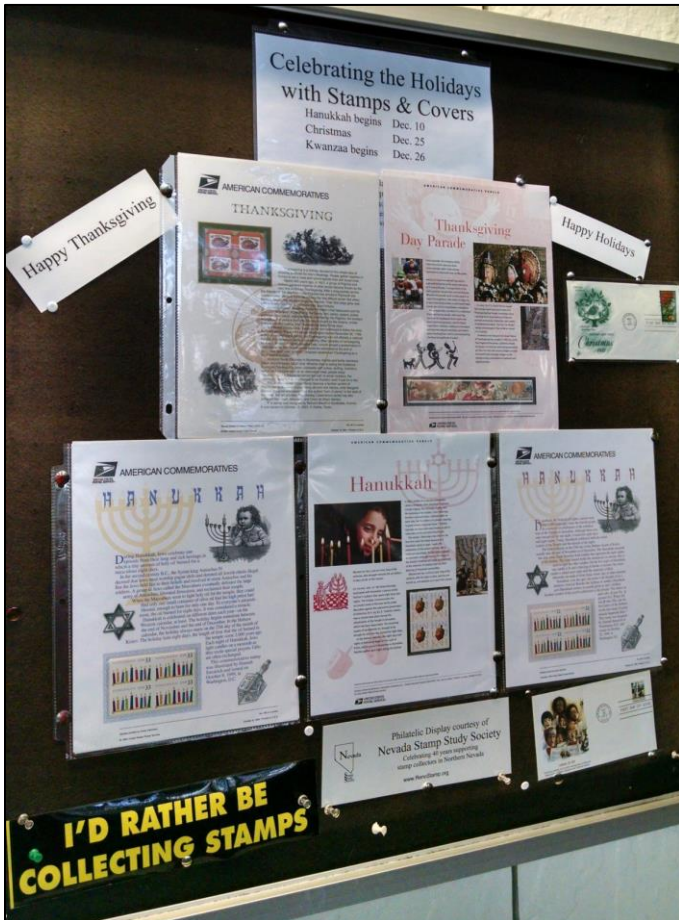
<b>Nov. Quiz Answers:</b> 1. a, b & c    2. c    3. b    4. b 5. d    6. a & d    7. a, b & c    8. d    9. a    10. c <b>Bonus:</b> c
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## Vassar Post Office Display

A new philatelic display was put up on Nov. 17 by **John Walter** at the main Reno post office on Vassar St. The themes covered the upcoming holidays of Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and Kwanzaa.

As you can see, each wall frame holds six pages with some extra space for individual covers. All postal patrons must pass this display before getting to the clerk's desk area to conduct their postal business.

The display can also be viewed after postal hours through the large window in the covered plaza area.



## New 2020 Holiday Stamps

