

Post Boy



March 2020
Volume 53, Issue 3

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

FREE raffle of an UNOPENED Inverted Jenny pane of 6 stamps. Remember this has a face value of \$12 and if you find an upright Jenny pane the retail price is \$50,000 plus. Come to both meetings in March and participate in the free raffle at each meeting. The unopened panes are from the estate of Stan Cronwall. Every member that signs in at each meeting will receive a free raffle ticket.

Regular club meetings in March:

Mar. 14 - This is an Auction Day meeting where members can put up to 5 items on the auction table using the [NSSS Auction Sheet](#) with the Minimum Bid. Preceding the auction will be announcements and a raffle. Plus, the free raffle of an unopened Inverted Jenny pane.

Mar. 28 - This is a Consignment Day where members can have up to 10 items for sale. After announcements and regular raffle there will be another free raffle of an unopened Inverted Jenny pane. The philatelic presentation will be given by **Steve Foster** discussing "Correspondence from The Flying Wallendas."



Volunteers are needed for the Program Chair and another for the Nomination & Election Committee. Please consider donating a few hours of your time to fill either of these positions.

The Stamp Show Committee also needs some volunteers. The more members that volunteer the less work there is for everyone.

The Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show is July 25-26, 2020 in the Hall of Fame Museum at the National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St, downtown Reno.

Start planning your exhibit now. Every member is encouraged to have a My Favorite Thing page for exhibit at the show. There are examples on the club website: <http://renostamp.org/exhibits.html>

Post Boy Reporter

February 8 meeting - James Steckley and Erik Fields came early to set up the meeting room with tables and chairs. Attendance was 28 members and one visitor, Mike Pierce, who wanted to sell some of his mint U.S stamps. The refreshments were provided by **John Walter**.

The raffle had the usual 10 prizes with **Eric Moody** winning the Bonus prize and **Betty Mudge** winning the Money prize of \$15.00. **Mike Potter** won the free drawing for the \$12 Inverted Jenny pane. He did not open the sealed pane at the meeting.

Erik Fields gave a report on the Greater Reno Stamp and Cover Show on July 25-26. **Dick Dreiling** and **Howard Kadohiro** volunteered to solicit and manage the show exhibits.

The live auction had 63 lots and one donation lot. A total of 32 lots sold for \$378.25. The total included \$175.00 in the silent cover auction. The auctioneers were **Mike Potter** and **Gary Atkinson** with help from **Dick Simmonds** and **George Ray**.



Some members during the break discussing stamps.

February 22 meeting - James Steckley and Erik Fields arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Gary Atkinson** provided the refreshments. Attendance was 27 members and one visitor, Donna, who wanted to sell her childhood collection (which she did). This was a consignment day with the table overflowing with items. An additional table was provided to sell donated items. A new 2020 Membership Directory was available for the members.

Paul Glass reported the club has 65 members. **Eugene Smoots** is accepting donations for the Penny Boxes. **Erik Fields** suggested members make some Feb. 29 (Leap Day) covers using the recent Wild Orchid booklet stamps.

Betty Mudge conducted the raffle with the usual 10 prizes and the bonus raffle prize going to **Dick Simmonds**. The money prize of \$11.50 went to **Gary Atkinson**. The free drawing for the \$12 Inverted Jenny pane was won by **Nadiah Beekun**.

Gary Atkinson gave an excellent slide presentation of "My Experiences with Expertizing" showing examples of his stamps and certificates from the "Big 4" expertizing organizations. He showed the literature and tools used to do preliminary inspection before considering sending the stamp off to be expertized. He emphasized every serious collector should have the basics of a perforation gauge, watermark fluid or spectroscope, magnifier up to 30x, fluorescent light, color chart or stamp examples of proven colors, and proper lighting. Having classic U.S. stamps expertized will enhance the ability to sell in the future.



Gary Atkinson during his presentation.

Member Spotlight - John Walter by Dave Parsons

In order to let NSSS members know their fellow members, the Post Boy will feature different members in its issues. This is a good chance to find out what others are interested in and the background of the member.

This month's featured member is **John Walter**. John was born in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, moved to New York for college, where he received a draft notice so enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He stayed in New York (Plattsburg AFB) for his first assignment, then was offered an assignment to Japan (3½ years), California (3 years), Grand Forks, ND (2 years), Guam (2 years), and finally settled in Tucson, AZ.

John was in the Air Force for 20 years from 1969 to 1989 serving as a nurse practitioner for the last 15 years in service. He then worked 10 years in Tucson at University Medical Center before retiring in 2000. He moved to Reno in 2005.

John began collecting stamps when he was in High School, put everything in a box while attending college and first couple of years in the AF. Collecting resumed when he was stationed in Japan 1971-1975.

John joined the Club in 2007 and has served as President, Vice President, Director, Donations Chair, and Chair of the Nomination & Election Committee. He currently serves as Secretary, with additional responsibilities as the Newsletter Editor and Webmaster. He is active in setting up stamp collecting exhibits in local libraries and Vassar post office in Reno and presenting philatelic programs at club meetings.

John's collecting interests include Japan, Peoples Republic of China, and used U.S. Postal Stationary.

When asked what his dream stamp (under \$5000CV) would be, John said he would like to have a Ryukyu Island #17. Since we don't have a real one for him, he'll just have to settle for this picture on the right.

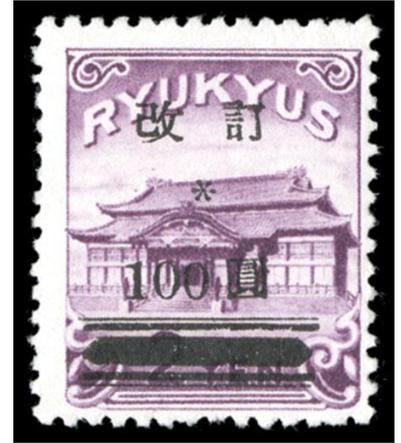
John also is looking for U.S. aerogrammes: #UC49, and UC52 - must be used and addressed to an overseas address.

John has been married to wife Kirsten for 53 years and they have 3 daughters who live in Tucson, Incline Village, and Reno. John enjoys overseas traveling, having visited all seven continents.

While serving as President of NSSS, he was also President of his Homeowners' Association, and AAIL, an investment education group. He is one of the most active members in the Nevada Stamp Study Society.



John Walter at a recent meeting



As a Vietnam Era veteran taking care of the wounded coming home through Yakota AB, Japan (1971-1972), John put together a new 6-page Vassar post office exhibit to salute and celebrate National Vietnam War Veterans Day on March 29. More information on page 7.

John's email address is walter60@gmail.com

Hiroshima-Shi (Hiroshima City), Two Stories by Howard Grenzebach

The day was August 6, 1945. At 08:15 Tsutomu Yamaguchi had just concluded business in Hiroshima and was walking to a shipyard and later would return home. He looked up into the sky and saw an airplane flying overhead. It had just dropped something that was apparently light, as a parachute opened to slow it down. Then there was a light, as bright as “the lightning of a huge magnesium flare.” He jumped into a ditch, and though he was injured, he survived an atomic bomb explosion. He was less than 2 miles from ground zero.

Three years and three days later, August 9, 1948, Takeshi Sasaki sent the cover below from the bombed city, Hiroshima to a relative in Honolulu, Hawaii. Sasaki was a common name in Hiroshima, and I could find nothing about Mr. Takeshi using a Google search. John Walter found the information on the cover dates and Mr. R. Sasaki. Rikimatsu Sasaki was born in Japan in 1896 and died in 1986 as an American citizen.



Story two:

After a restless night Tsutomu Yamaguchi found a train still running that would return him to the company that sent him to Hiroshima. He arrived the next morning and was treated at a local hospital, then went to see his family. The following morning, August 9th, he went to work. He was trying to explain the situation in Hiroshima, but his bosses didn't believe him (one bomb couldn't do that). While he was explaining he saw a flash of light outside the window of this place of business in Nagasaki and survived his second atomic explosion.

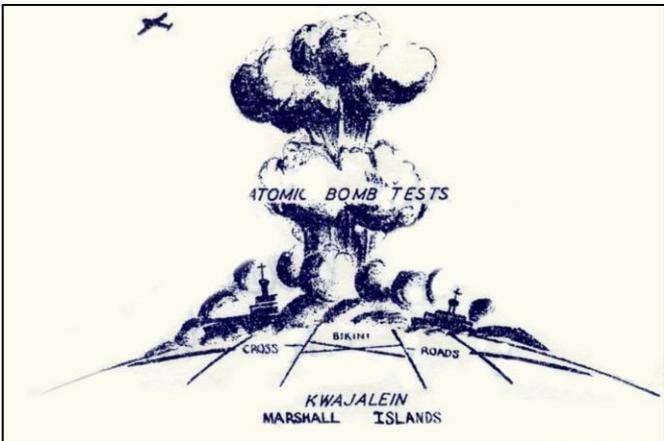
For more information: <https://www.history.com/news/the-man-who-survived-two-atomic-bombs>

Howard Grenzebach currently serves as a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.

Able Day, Bikini Atoll

By John Walter

Dave Gehringer shared a two-page letter obtained at a stamp show but, he can't remember when and where. He thought it was interesting especially with the logo on top of the page.



Wilber, the letter writer, is waiting for a test of the atomic bomb on "Able Day" at Bikini Atoll. The letter is not dated but doing some research on the A-bomb test, code name Able, did take place on July 1, 1946. According to the letter writer the cover had a "special cancellation" applied. Alas, there was no cover with the letter.

The scan of the two-page letter about Able Day is on the right with the letter typed below.

Dear Bob & Harriett, Able Day Bikini Atoll

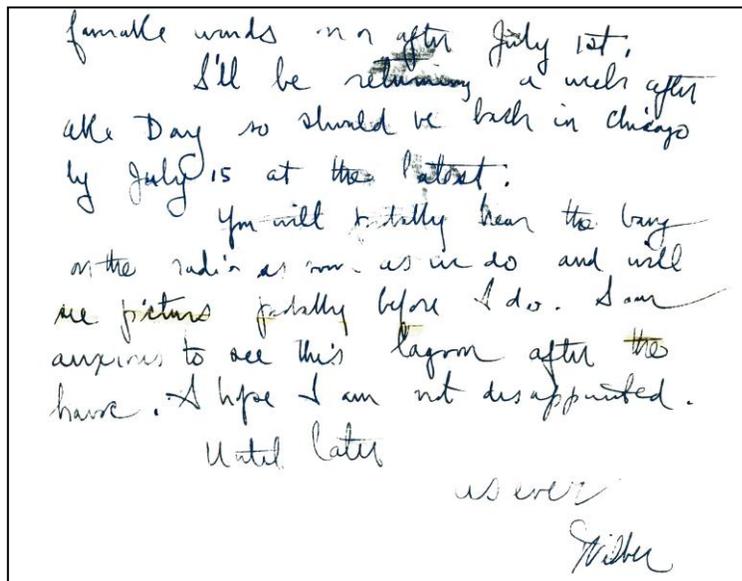
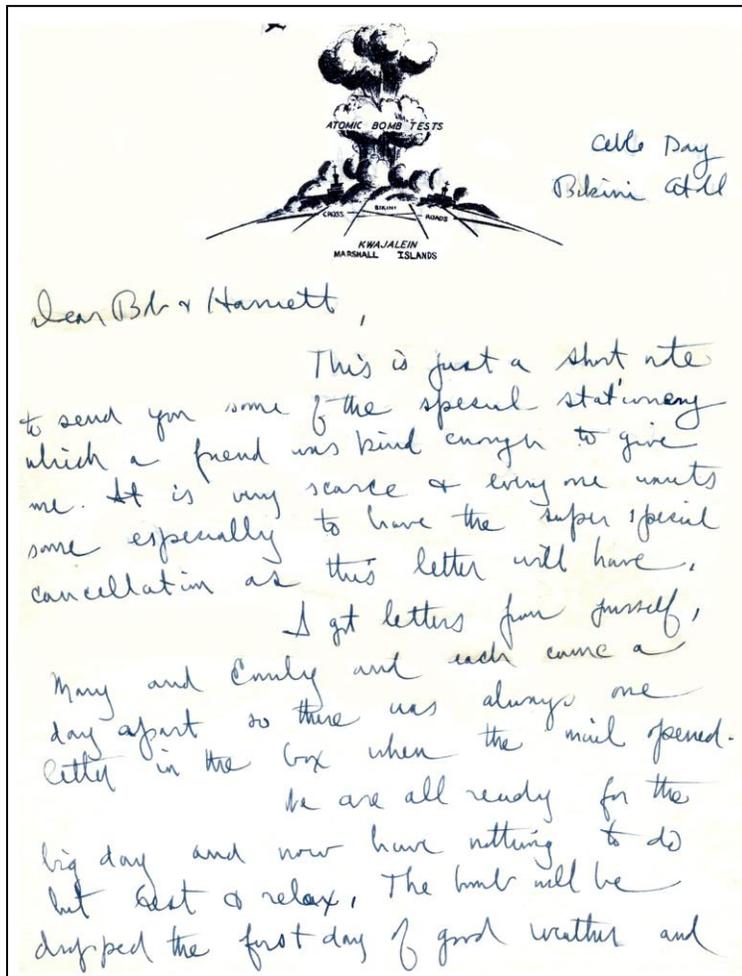
This is just a short note to send you some of the special stationery which a friend was kind enough to give me. It is very scarce & every one wants some especially to have the super special cancellation as this letter will have.

I get letters from yourself, Mary and Emily and each came a day apart so there was always one letter in the box when the mail is opened.

We are all ready for the big day and now have nothing to do but rest & relax. The bomb will be dropped the first day of good weather and favorable winds on or after July 1st.

I'll be returning a week after Able Day so should be back in Chicago by July 15 at the latest.

You will probably hear the bang on the radio as soon as we do and will see pictures probably before I do. I am anxious to see this lagoon after the havoc. I hope I am not disappointed. Until later, as ever, Wilber



The rest of the story about Able Day:

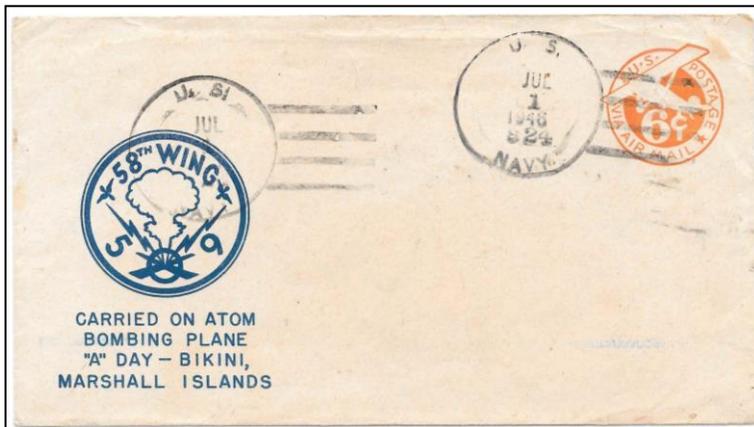
Operation Crossroads was the code name given to a series of nuclear tests on Bikini Atoll in 1946. It was well publicized with more than 42,000 people participating and observing the operation to “study the effects of nuclear weapons on ships, equipment, and material.”¹ The exercise was open to news media coverage, invited guests, scientists and foreign military observers. The “targets” were 78 vessels assembled in Bikini lagoon. The ships were mostly American vessels including the carriers USS Independence and USS Saratoga, battleships USS Arkansas, USS Nevada, USS New York, and USS Pennsylvania. A few captured German and Japanese ships were included.²

Test Able was conducted on July 1, 1946. It was the first of three planned tests. Only Able (air detonation) and Baker (underwater) tests were conducted. The Able bomb (23 kiloton, Gilda) was dropped from a B-29 of the 509th Bomb Group. The bomb detonated 520 feet above the ships missing the target vessel, USS Nevada, by 750 yards.²

Test Able was the first nuclear test after Hiroshima and Nagasaki.



Able's cloud boiled up to a height of 11 kilometers.³



509th Bomb Group cover



Fleet Post Office cancel July 1, 1946 (eBay image)

The Fleet Post Office received “sacks of mail ... from the philatelic community, all over the world, asking for cancellations of stamps with the atom bomb test cancellation cachet. Each collector sent 20-30 stamped envelopes to be hand cancelled. Sailors were assigned to “hand cancel” these letters with special hand cancels in lieu of the machine cancellation.”⁴ A sailor later recalled “There must have been thousands of these letters. I recall no limit to the outside (non-participants) number of requests ...”⁴ Samples of these covers are shown above.

“Operation Crossroads has a large philatelic footprint. Covers were made for most, if not all, of the target vessels as well as many of the support ships.”² The support ships were about 20 miles from the detonation.

References:

¹ <https://www.history.navy.mil/research/archives.html>

² <https://numismaticnotebook.com/2019/06/23/operation-crossroads-welcoming-in-the-atomic-age/>

³ <https://www.ctbto.org/specials/testing-times/1-july-1946-test-able-bikini-atoll/>

⁴ <http://marshall.csu.edu.au/Marshalls/html/Stamps/BikiniTestCovers/BikiniTestCovers.html>

John Walter is the Post Boy editor and NSSS Secretary and he collects U.S. used postal stationery, Japan, People's Republic of China, some U.S. stamps & covers.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

By John Walter

On March 28, 2017, President Donald J. Trump, signed into law The Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017, designating every March 29 as *National Vietnam War Veterans Day*. March 29 was chosen to be celebrated in perpetuity as March 29, 1973 was the day Military Assistance Command Vietnam was deactivated.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day joins six other military-centric national holidays codified in Title 4 of the United States Code §6 (i.e., Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day, Navy Day, Veterans Day).

The United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration honors all United States veterans who served on active duty in the U.S. Armed Forces from November 1, 1955 to May 15, 1975, regardless of location.

The following Nevada Stamp Study Society members have provided their military service dates to be saluted on March 29:

Gary Atkinson, USA, 1973-1980

Richard Dreiling, USN, 1957-1987

Harvey Edwards, USN, 1973-1979

Paul Glass, USAF, 1960-1986

Howard Grenzebach, USAF, 1960-1964

Charles MacLeod, USA, 1969-1972

Barbara Mathews, USN, 1973-1974

Scott Mathews, USN, 1973-1982

Additional Background: U.S. involvement in Vietnam started slowly with an initial deployment of advisors in the early 1950s, grew incrementally through the early 1960s and expanded with the deployment of full combat units in July 1965. The last U.S. personnel were evacuated from Vietnam in April 1975.

This national commemoration was authorized by Congress, established under the Secretary of Defense, and launched by the President to thank and honor our Nation's Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice.

Congress outlined a total of five objectives for this U.S.A. Vietnam War Commemoration, with the primary objective being to thank and honor Vietnam veterans and their families for their service and sacrifice on behalf of the Nation, with distinct recognition of former prisoners of war and families of those still listed as missing in action. The four remaining objectives highlight the service of our Armed Forces and support organizations during the war; pay tribute to wartime contributions at home by American citizens; highlight technology, science and medical advances made during the war; and recognize contributions by our Allies.

The local Chapter 989 Vietnam Veterans of America and sponsoring organizations are having a ceremony to honor Vietnam Veterans who served during the Vietnam War era and recognizing those Nevadans who died on March 28 at Truckee Meadows Community College, 7000 Dandini Blvd, Reno, NV 89512. The event is free and open to the public from 1 - 3 p.m. More details on the website: <https://vvareno989.org/>



David Parsons, USAF, 1970-1972

George Ray, USMC, 1955-1959

Richard Simmonds, USAF, 1964-1985

James Steckley, USCG, 1963-1967

John Walter, USAF, 1969-1989

Vern Watts, USA,

Robert Wolf, USN, 1952-56 and USA, 1962-79

The Vassar Post Office has a new philatelic display for the month of March to celebrate National Vietnam Veterans Day. Here are a few of the pages / items on display.

Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Both letters were sent from Cua Viet, South Vietnam.
Both have the same circular postmark: U.S. Navy 14009 Br. Unit



Sent on April 2, 1961 to a commercial address in Waltham, Mass 02154



Sent on Nov. 28 (unknown year) to Marquette Michigan 49855

Vietnam Soldier's Mail

During wartimes the postal administration authorize active duty service members and designated individuals to send mails for free by writing "Free" or "Soldier's Mail" (or equivalent) on the item of mail in lieu of paid postal franking, or by using appropriate free franked postal stationery.

Unless otherwise designated, such mails are serviced by both the military and civil postal systems that accept them as First Class letter mail.

Reference: 39 U.S.C. 3401(a) U.S. Postal Service Armed Forces & Free Postage.



Sent from Phan Rang Air Base, South Vietnam
By Airman First Class Peter Kraut to his parents in Riverside, CA
Postmarked Nov. 17, 1966

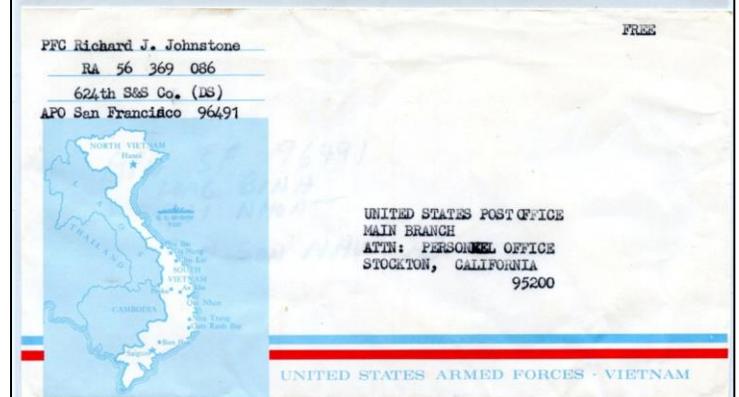
Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Envelope provided by the military, sent "free".
Sent from Chu Lai, South Vietnam to Colorado Springs, CO.
No date was on the cover.



Vietnam Soldier's Mail

Envelope provided by the military, sent "free".
Sent from Qui Hhon, South Vietnam to Stockton, CA post office
No date was on the cover.



March Quiz - Luxembourg

By Stan Cronwall

Luxembourg (officially the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg) is a land locked country in western Europe bordered by Germany on the east, Belgium on the north and west, and France to the south. It consists of less than 1,000 square miles of land with a population of under 600,000 making it one of the least populated countries in Europe, but with highest growth rate.

It is a representative democracy with a constitutional monarch and is the world's only remaining duchy. It has one of world's highest per capita GDP.

1. Currently, Luxembourg has no air force, no navy and a standing army of only 800 men. During WW II, it did have a few soldiers who were involved in the D-Day landings in France. Did Luxembourg ever issue a Military stamp?

- a. Yes b. No

2. In 2000, a single stamp and souvenir sheet were issued to mark the Accession of Grand Duke Henri. He and Princess Maria Theresa are shown posed in different apparel on each. What are they wearing in the souvenir sheet stamp?

- a. Both in royal robes b. She in red blouse – He in a suit c. She in pink suit – He in uniform

3. As of the end of the 2014, Luxembourg had never issued a self-adhesive semi postal. What was the first year of issue for a self-adhesive regular stamp?

- a. 2015 b. 2000 c. 1995 d. 1992 e. 1988

4. A stamp showing a crowd celebrating a parade led by a U.S. Jeep and Sherman Tank was issued in 1994 commemorating the 50th anniversary of Luxembourg's liberation. Two flags are shown on the stamp. What nations do they represent?

- a. Luxembourg & the U.S. b. France & the U.S. c. Great Britain & the U.S.

5. Industrial output was dominated by steel until the 1960's but, has since diversified with the financial services sector leading the way. Luxembourg's first stamps dealing with the steel industry were issued in 1926 showing the foundries at Esch, while the latest stamp (through 2014) shows another steel making operation. What steel making process is shown on that stamp issued in 2000?

- a. Electric arc furnace b. Rolling Mill c. Blast Furnace

6. A souvenir sheet was issued in 1977 to mark the 150th anniversary of Luxembourg's stamp showing a member of the royal family at the time. Who was that person?

- a. The Duke of Earl b. Grand Duke William III c. Grand Duchess Marie Adelaide

(Confused? Check Scott regular issues 1 & 2)

7. In 2004, a stamp was issued to commemorate a significant anniversary of the Luxembourg Stock Exchange. While you might expect to see a bull and a bear, the stylized art rendering appears more like a bear and a pig. Maybe that is a more apt portrayal of investors.

What anniversary did this mark?

- a. 100th b. 50th c. 75th d. 125th

8. Two stamps issued in 1962 commemorated an International Cross-Country Bicycle Race. One has the emblem of the 1962 Championship, while other shows a participant doing what?
- a. Walking the last leg of the race b. Carrying his bike c. Carrying both parts of his broken bike
9. While the Scott catalog does not explicitly say semi-postal stamps were issued for Christmas, sets indicated as having surcharges for charitable work began appearing in 1954 and carried on through 1970. Thereafter, although still with surcharges for “various charitable purposes” or “charitable organizations” the Nativity became a subject in many semi-postal sets.
- In what year did these Christmas issues change to a more secular theme?
- a. 1988 b. 2000 c. 1979 d. 2011
10. In 1940, Germany was occupying Luxembourg and issued a second set of overprinted stamps. This time, instead of German stamps, four earlier Luxembourg issues were used. How were these stamps denominated?
- a. In Francs b. In Silbergroschen c. In Reichs pfennigs

- Bonus Question:** There have been several versions of the Luxembourg Coat-of-Arms. What were the most significant differences between the issues of 1930 and 1936?
- a. The 1930 issues did not have the crown, and the bars on the shield were thinner and it had a very pointed lower end
- b. The 1936 issue was printed bright green while the 1930 version was in both claret and olive green
- c. The 1936 version was watermarked with vertical gum
- d. The 1930 versions were watermarked with double crosses enclosed in octagons

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

Feb. Quiz Answers: 1. b 2. a 3. c
 4. c 5. b 6. c 7. b 8. c 9. a
 10. d **Bonus:** d

Buy Want Sell Trade

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 **Nadiyah Beekun** at (775) 762-4905, <http://www.RenoStamps.com> or email: classicnevada@yahoo.com.

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.

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

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.