

# Post Boy

Connecting and supporting stamp collectors, of all ages and interests, in Northern Nevada since 1975



June 2022  
Volume 55, Issue 6

In-person & Virtual meetings 2nd & 4th Saturday starting at 10:00 A.M.  
Silverada Estates Clubhouse, 2301 Oddie Blvd, Reno ([map](#))

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## Announcements

### Meetings –

**June 11, 2022** – In person and via Zoom. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. but sign in early to socialize. There will be a short presentation and pictures from the Vassar post office tour. Members are allowed 5 auction lots for the live auction.

**June 25, 2022** – In-person and via Zoom. Meeting starts at 10 a.m. Come early to set up your consignments lots – 10 per member. After the raffle there will be a philatelic video presentation, Part 2 of “No Longer in Service.”

### Stamp Shows -

Mark your calendar – **July 23-24** for Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show at the National Bowling Stadium, 300 N. Center St., Reno.

If you plan to attend the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, now is the time to register at APS and make hotel reservations if you plan to stay overnight. Show dates are **August 25-28** at the Sacramento Convention Center.

On 5/21/2022, **Richard Simmonds** wrote:

*At my stage in life, I'm not "into" my stamp collecting but I still enjoy meeting with fellow collectors. I am amazed at the terrific job you have done with the on-line stamp auctions and just wanted to say "Thank You" for your efforts (even though I'm unlikely to be one of the buyers).*

Ed: The comment is much appreciated for the many hours **Dave Parsons** and **John Walter** contribute to make the monthly online auctions a success.

There is no online auction in June. The next Auction #20 starts July 12 at noon and ends July 21 at noon.

## Post Boy Reporter

**May 14 meeting** – Attendance was 16 members via Zoom. **James Steckley** reminded everyone there is no in-person meeting on Aug. 27 since the Silverada Estates Clubhouse is not available. That is also the weekend of the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento. James has lots of donated Scandinavian material from the estate of **John Sunde**. **Emmanuel GPS** donated 2 boxes of material. There was a discussion about the cost of mailing online auction lots. The buyer is responsible for this cost. Large lots with albums are a problem because of the high cost of mailing. Picking up the large lots are best if you are in the local area.

**Jeanne Paquin** arranged a tour of the Vassar post office on June 1 at 2 p.m. **Mike Potter** is busy contacting members we have not see in over 2 years. Sorry to report that **Russ Dyer** passed away in late 2021. No local obituary was found. A closed album article will appear when we learn more about Russ.

**Erik Fields** announced The Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 23-24, is progressing with 2 more dealers needed. **Nadiah Beekun** is willing to take the last table. Exhibits are still needed. Contact Erik for questions on exhibits.

**James Steckley** gave a great presentation on the history of the 1-cent magenta stamp. It was fascinating to hear about the stamp's provenance over the past century and a half (1873-present). The stamp is now owned by Stanley Gibbons in London. You can own a "piece" of this gem by purchasing a NFT (Non-Fungible Token).

**May 28 meeting** – Attendance was 29 members (24 in-person and 5 online via Zoom) plus 2 visitors. This was the first meeting for **Mo Sung** since the pandemic started over 2 years ago. One visitor was Robert Dragone from Chico who resumed collecting during the pandemic. He talked about becoming a member.



Some of the attendees at the May 28 meeting. On the right is the remote camera and projector used for the Zoom attendees. Harvey Edwards is the person getting the equipment ready.

**Erik Fields**, **James Steckley** and **George Ray** arrived early to set up the tables and chairs plus putting the coffee pot on. Refreshments were provided by **Betty Mudge** and **Scott Mathews**.

**Dave Parsons** reported on the Online Auction #19 which ended on May 26. There was a total of 91 lots with 60% being sold with \$492 in gross sales. There is NO online auction in June.

**Tuck Vosburg** donated a book to the club library, "The One-Cent Magenta" by James Barron.

**Eric Fields** reported on the stamp show for July 23-24 – One dealer table is open, exhibitors are needed, help to set up frames at the show with sign-up sheets on the next few meetings, show postcards will be mailed in early July, show will be part of Reno Artown.

The raffle was conducted by **Betty Mudge** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **George Ray** and the money prize of \$10.50 went to **Dave Gehringer**.

Philatelic presentation by six members who attended WESTPEX in April: **John Walter, Dave Gehringer, Howard Kadohiro, Edith Eggen, Fred Gregory, and Gary Atkinson**. All discussed some of their purchases, society meetings, etc. No official attendance was available yet, but it was well attended with over 60 dealers and over 250 frames of exhibits.

**June 1** – Tour of the main post office on Vassar Street in Reno. **James Steckley, Dave Gehringer, Barbara Stanfield, and John Walter** had the privilege seeing the inner workings of several sorting machines including postmark application, “not at this address” labeling, large envelope and magazine sorting, and a few other machines I forgot their names. We were fascinated with the live animal area with tropical fish, hatching chicks, and a few other creatures being mailed.



**Just one parcel of many with live animals including tropical fish.**



**Behind the blue storage bins is the newest parcel sorting machine.**

Charlene Balz, Assistant to the Postmaster, conducted the almost 2-hour tour. The building is over 100,000 square feet. The pride of the sorting area employees is a new machine that receives packages from UPS and Amazon, plus the USPS. The packages are loaded on a large conveyor machine and each package is deposited in the appropriate delivery container – ready for that “final mile.” Trucks start arriving 3 – 4 a.m. for the bulk of the sorting to start the day. The new machine can sort over 2,000 parcels per hour.

In the center of

the building is a climate-controlled area with a massive computer with petabyte hard drives (roughly 1,000 terabytes) which stores every mail piece scanned. The information is stored for at least 30 days (sometimes longer) before deletion. There is also the secure locked area with certified and other signature requirements. Another locked area is for cash and equivalents such as gold bars. Yes, they are mailed via USPS.

Since this is the only sorting facility in northern Nevada, all mail from as far as Elko comes for sorting then returned to individual post offices for delivery.

Come to the June 11 meeting to see more pictures and discussion from the post office tour.



**Letter carrier sorting station. Not used much with modern sorting machines doing most sorting down to individual houses/businesses.**



## More on the Mailomat

By Patrick Crosby

In a May 2022 *Post Boy* article James Steckley introduced the Mailomat Coin Operated Letter Box by showing an advertising /instructional postcard. I would like to add some tidbits on the postcard and the Mailomat.

It seems the free Mailomat postcards were available from about 1942 until 1948, which is the World War II era. Pitney Bowes had their Mailomat machines in use beginning in 1939 and the first of three postcard versions, "pre-war", is shown in James' article. But manufacturing materials and employees were scarce and manufacturers had other priorities. So a second variety of free postcard was printed with the information paragraphs changed. The "wartime" cards included "Manufacturing will begin when the war is won" and "Use this card to say "hello" to that boy in the service." Then there is a third version, "post-war". All three versions are shown and have the same photo views of a lady depositing mail and a mailman emptying the collection box in b/w or blue. The address sides, printed in blue, black or brown, can vary a bit in their notations. Some card examples are darker overall, but this is not toning.



Mailomat machine

### The "MAILOMAT"

... is a coin-operated postage meter and U.S. mailbox for people with letters to mail—and no stamps. It is a "self-service postoffice" that stamps and mails your letters without need of adhesive stamps.

**INSTRUCTIONS:** to mail a letter you (1) drop money in coin slot (2) dial desired stamp value (3) insert letter in letter slot. The machine does the rest: automatically takes your letter, *prints* a postage meter stamp with dated postmark on it, and holds it for scheduled mail collection. It prints stamps from 1c to 33c including fees for Air Mail, Special Delivery. Though it does not make change, it charges no premiums for postage. *Metered* Mail, needing no postoffice canceling and postmarking, often catches earlier trains and planes—for earlier dispatch and delivery.

The "Mailomat", a product of Pitney-Bowes, Inc., Stamford, Conn., was developed in cooperation with the Post Office Department to increase public postal service in postoffice lobbies, railway terminals, etc. When stamp windows are crowded or closed, try this new "stampless" mailing convenience. And when using the mails these days, at home or office, remember to *mail early and often*—to help your Post Office help you!

#### Pre-war instructions.

### The "MAILOMAT"

... is a coin-operated U. S. mailbox for people who have letters to mail—and no stamps. It is a "self-service postoffice" that mails your letters without need of adhesive stamps.

To mail a letter you (1) drop money in coin slot (2) dial correct postage denomination (3) insert letter in letter slot. The machine does the rest; automatically takes your letter, *prints* postage and postmark on it, and holds it for collection... provides postage from 1c to 33c, including Air Mail, Special Delivery, etc., with no premium for postage. *Metered* mail needs less postoffice handling, often catches earlier trains and planes, starts on its way sooner.

The "Mailomat" is a pre-war invention of Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co., Stamford, Conn., now converted to war production; was developed in cooperation with the U. S. Post Office Dept. to facilitate public use of the mails in post office lobbies, railway terminals, etc. Manufacturing will begin when the war is won. Try this new "stampless" postal service now. Use this card to say "hello" to that boy in Service. And when using the mails these days, at home or office, remember to *mail early and often*... to help clear the track for war mail... and to help the Post Office help you!

#### War time instructions.

### The "MAILOMAT"

#### COIN-OPERATED LETTER BOX

... furnishes postage and mailing service, day and night, to people who have letters to mail... and no stamps. It is a coin-operated U. S. mail box and postage meter.

To mail a letter you (1) drop coins in a slot (2) dial your postage value (3) insert your letter... and away it goes, stamped, postmarked and automatically deposited for collection. No adhesive stamps... no stamp-licking... no premium for postage.

This "self-service post office" *prints* U. S. meter stamps in denominations up to 32¢ on letters of various kinds and sizes, including Air Mail, Special Delivery and foreign mail. It can handle as many as 72 letters a minute.

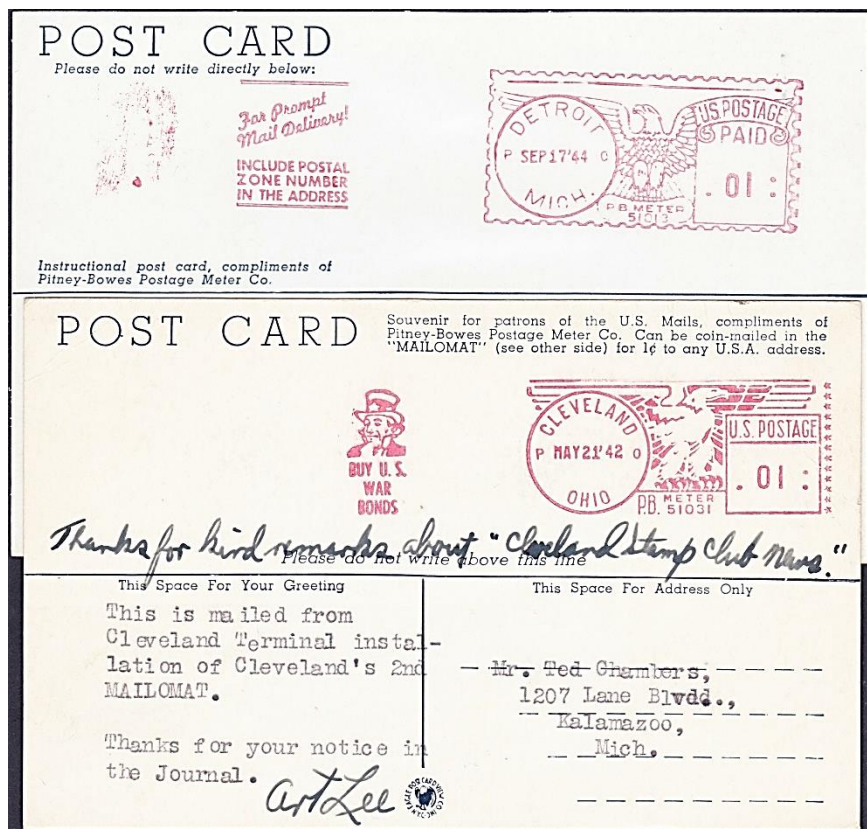
The "Mailomat" was developed by Pitney-Bowes Postage Meter Co., Stamford, Conn., in cooperation with the U. S. Post Office Department, to provide the public with stamp-buying and mailing facilities at times and places where they are not now available... in post office lobbies, hotels, stores, railway terminals and other public places.

#### Post-war instructions.

The Mailomat automatically stamped an item with a meter stamp which included the date and therefore did not require further canceling (metered mail must be posted on the date shown). Besides Pitney Bowes prototype cancels and much later cancels, the meter stamp was a Type G or Type I, and either of these is found on the postcards (see illustrations below). If a Mailomat was in a post office, then "P O" or "POST OFFICE" is found in the stamp's dial. The "P O" was not used when the Mailomat was installed elsewhere, like a department store, an hotel, or a railway station.

Any mail items that were processed through a Mailomat can be identified by the P.B. Meter number located bottom/center of the meter stamp. Besides the prototype (with 100 or 101), the numbers were only 5 digits and are 51001 to 51171 and 52000. Other Pitney Bowes postage meters used 90000 on up and mostly into the 6 digits. Each meter machine has a unique number. Some servicers of ship and patriotic covers used Mailomats.

It is reported that 155 Mailomats were placed into service in 68 towns beginning May 17, 1939, with the last one being placed into service on January 12, 1963. Beginning about 1954 large post offices received "Screenline" Mailomats which were flush mounted on a wall and didn't need the collection box. Most of the meter stamps were printed in red ink, but because of red Christmas envelopes the ink color might be changed to purple for the season.



The top one shown is "Group G – rectangular framed" and the bottom one is "Group I - rectangular unframed".



The "Mailomat" First Day Cover shown is for the first day a specific Mailomat was placed in service in Minneapolis, MN. Early on the postage value range was 1¢ to 23¢. Eventually there was 1½¢ rate option for third-class printed matter, like my philatelic cover. In 1959 the value range became 2¢ to 39¢. I'm not sure, but it seems that all third-class items put through a Mailomat would then have been dated, which is not supposed to happen because third-class is not time sensitive. The Mailomat did not make change.

The free Mailomat postcards are no longer free, but they don't necessarily cost a lot. Since they were free many unused cards were snatched up (today's value \$2-\$4 unused). For cards serviced through a Mailomat with a Pitney Bowes meter stamp I've paid \$1.50 to \$8.00 over the past three years, but the exact same things can be found online for as much as \$85.00, so shop wisely.

Reference: *The United States Postage Meter Stamp Catalog*, by Rick Stambaugh, [www.en.wikibooks.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Postage\\_Meter\\_Stamp\\_Catalog](http://www.en.wikibooks.org/wiki/United_States_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog)

**Patrick Crosby** is a member of the Nevada Stamp Study Society and collects U.S. postal stationery, stamps, and postcards with an emphasis on postal history.



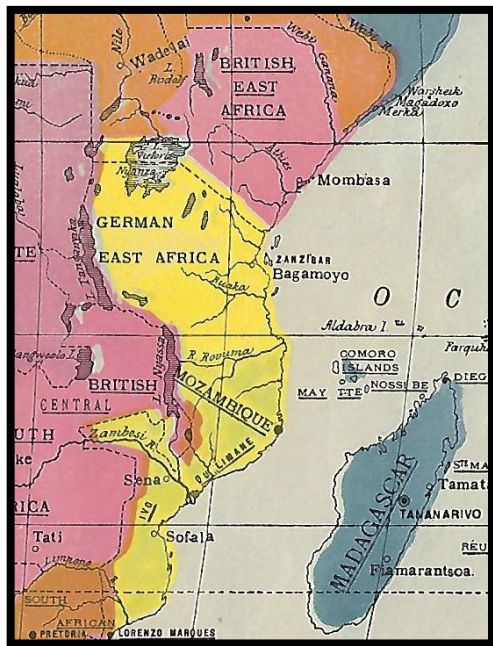
## British Occupation of G.E.A.

By Tom Reyman

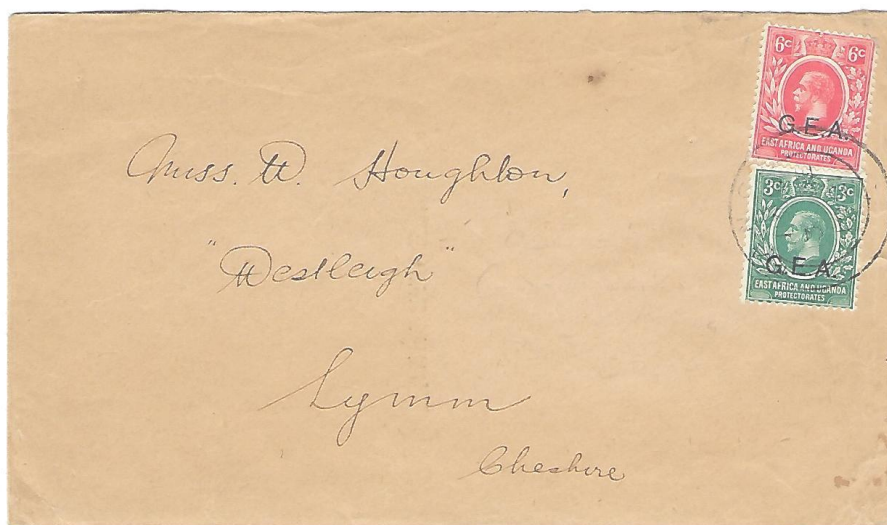
During most of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Africa was partitioned into colonies by the European countries of Belgium, France, Spain, Great Britain, Portugal, Italy, and Germany. The German colony of German East Africa (G.E.A.), situated on the East Coast of Africa bordering Lake Victoria, was a small, single land holding. It was bordered by the colonies of Belgium, Portugal, and Great Britain. When WW1 broke out in Europe, these colonies became the enemy of G.E.A. in Africa. There were large offensive campaigns between the combatting colonies and casualties exceeded 500,000 people, including over 300,000 deaths.

When WW1 ended, the German colonies world-wide were forfeit to the winning allies and G.E.A. was ceded to the British. Under British occupation, postage stamps of East Africa and Uganda (an adjacent British colony formerly called British East Africa) were overprinted with "G.E.A." and used in the former German East Africa from 1917 to 1921. In 1922, the territory was renamed Tanganyika and new postage stamps with that name were issued.

This cover was sent from occupied G.E.A. to Cheshire in England on December 13, 1919.



East Africa in 1896



1919 cover franked with two stamps overprinted with G.E.A.

In 1935, Tanganyika postal stamps and postal system were merged with Kenya and Uganda to become Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika (known as KUT to collectors). Another change came in December 1961 when Tanganyika separated from KUT to become an independent state. In April 1962, Zanzibar and Tanganyika formed a joint government and that was later renamed Tanzania in October of 1965.

**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.

## First Mail Flights Miami to The Bahamas

By Tom Reyman

The distance from Miami, Florida to the islands of The Bahamas is only about 190 miles. The Bahamas has for many years been a popular vacation and business destination for visitors from Florida and elsewhere. The tropical setting surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean made the Bahamas attractive and drew a great deal of attention from United States vacationers and provided the Bahamas with a good business base. Before 1929, mail between Miami and Nassau was transported by boat. As air travel became more reliable, the possibility of an air connection between Miami and Nassau in the Bahamas became a reality.

On January 2, 1929, Pan American Airways officially began first regular flights from Miami to Nassau and return using Fokker Tri-motor aircraft under the FAM-7 contract. There had been three FAM-7 survey flights in October 1928 to verify the route and assess airport issues before the official first flights were approved. One issue that was unresolved on January 2 was the official postage rate between the two destinations. Since the postage rate had not been established, all mail was carried regardless of the postage applied.

Only 83 first flight covers were carried on January 2 to Nassau. Here are two of those 83. The purple cachet was applied to all the covers on this flight. Notice that a variety of envelope designs was used.



This cover flew with seven cents postage while the next cover had ten cents worth of stamps.





Apparently, Nassau was much more prepared for the first flight from Nassau to Miami as 2,000 pieces of mail were carried on the return flight to Miami. These are two examples.



**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.



## June Quiz – U.S. Stamp “Firsts”

By Eric Moody

1. The United States was relatively late in honoring performing artists on its stamps. The first actor to be featured was  
(a) John Barrymore (b) W.C. Fields (c) Will Rogers (d) Douglas Fairbanks
2. The first actress didn’t appear on a stamp until after 1980. She was  
(a) Ethel Barrymore (b) Lynn Fontanne (c) Judy Garland (d) Grace Kelly
3. The first depiction of a bald eagle on a postage stamp occurred in  
(a) 1859 (b) 1869 (c) 1899 (d) 1911
4. She was the first infant shown on a U.S. stamp:  
(a) Betsy Ross (b) Pocahontas (c) Virginia Dare (d) Shirley Temple
5. The first non-President to appear on a postage stamp was  
(a) Alexander Hamilton (b) Benjamin Franklin (c) Christopher Columbus (d) Henry Clay
6. The year 1857 saw this first postage stamp innovation:  
(a) gum adhesive (b) coils (c) perforations (d) watermarks
7. The first woman (an actual personality, not a statue or a symbolic or mythological figure) to be shown on a postage stamp was  
(a) Martha Washington (b) Dolley Madison (c) Queen Victoria of Great Britain (d) Queen Isabella of Spain
8. A skier appeared for the first time on a stamp in  
(a) 1898 (b) 1924 (c) 1932 (d) 1960
9. The first U.S. Naval officer to be depicted was  
(a) Admiral David Farragut (b) Commodore Oliver Perry (c) Stephen Decatur (d) John Paul Jones
10. Several literary figures were featured on early U.S. stamps; the first novelist to be honored was  
(a) Washington Irving (b) Mark Twain (c) Edgar Allan Poe (d) James Fenimore Cooper
11. A locomotive was first depicted on a postage stamp in  
(a) 1849 (b) 1869 (c) 1898 (d) 1901
12. The electric automobile made its initial appearance on a stamp in  
(a) 1901 (b) 1924 (c) 1960 (d) 1988
13. (Bonus) An airplane appeared for the first time on one of the Post Office’s stamps in  
(a) 1913 (b) 1918 (c) 1923 (d) 1928

The June quiz is worth 130 **Auction Bucks**. Please complete the quiz and give your answers to **Betty Mudge** at the next in-person meeting or email to:

[postboyquiz@renotamp.org](mailto:postboyquiz@renotamp.org)

<b>May Quiz Answers:</b> 1. c 2. d 3. b 4. d 5. b 6. c 7. c 8. d 9. a 10. d 11. b 12. d 13. c
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## More Announcements

### New book available in club library

This book on the saga of the 1-cent magenta stamp was donated by **Tuck Vosburg**. It is available on loan from the club library. Contact **Dave Gehringer**, the librarian, if you want to borrow the book.

### Stamp Show Exhibitor Prospectus

A volunteer is needed to help with the stamp show exhibits. Contact **Erik Fields** if you have some time to coordinate, solicit and help set up the exhibits at our stamp show.

The Exhibitor Prospectus is available on the club website: <https://renostamp.org/show/2022/2022-Exhibitor-Prospectus>

The entry fee is \$4.00 per frame for adults. Novice exhibitors may enter up to four frames at no charge with additional frames at \$4.00 per frame. Juniors 14 years and under can enter at no cost.

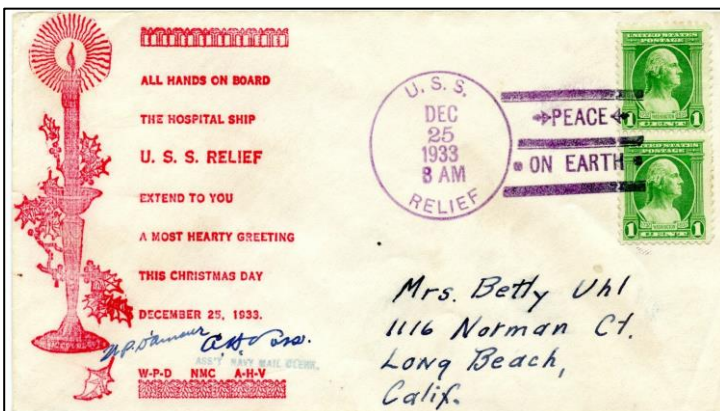
Start planning your exhibit now.

### Recent Purchase at WESTPEX

During the presentation at the club meeting on May 28, **John Walter** showed a few of his purchases in a new collecting area, Navy Hospital Ship covers. Below are two covers from the USS Relief VI (AH-1).

The sixth *Relief* (Hospital Ship No. 1) was the first ship of the U.S. Navy designed and built from the keel up as a hospital ship. The keel was laid down on June 14, 1917, at Philadelphia Navy Yard; launched on December 23, 1919; given the designation AH-1 on July 17, 1920, and commissioned on December 28 1920.

With a bed capacity of 550 patients, *Relief* was one of the world's most modern and best equipped hospital ships.



Postmarked Christmas Day 1933 and signed by the Ass't Navy Mail Clerk.



Postmarked in 1935 while on Fleet Maneuvers around Hawaii.