

Post Boy

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



April 2023
Volume 56, Issue 4

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 –

April 8 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m.
After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a live auction. Members can have up to 5 lots on the auction table. Extra lots may be added up to 60 total lots.
There will be a Board meeting after the regular meeting.

April 22 - In person and online via Zoom meeting starts at 10 a.m.
After announcements, committee reports and raffle, there will be a philatelic presentation. Members can have up to 10 lots on the consignment table. Extra lots may be added as lots are sold.

Online Auction #28 – All lot descriptions and images are due by noon on June 25. The auction will start at noon on June 27 and end at noon on July 6. Email auction lot info to **Dave Parsons**:
NSSSauctions@gmail.com

No online auction in April or May due to travel plans of auction master and website manager.

Email to the editor: I found this article on your website through a google search - “Rattlesnake Island Local Post Air Mail” By Tom Reymann. I would like to pass on to Tom and any other club members that the Rattlesnake Island Local Post (RILP) has re-started operations as of the first new stamp issue in 12 years on Nov. 10th, 2022. And this year’s new issue will be the Battle of Lake Erie on Sept. 10, 2023 – the 210 year anniversary. For more information on RILP please visit our website at <https://www.rilp.org/>
Or write RILP.ORG, PO Box 45, Gypsum, OH 43433
Dave Gill, RILP – PMG, Rilp43452@gmail.com

2023 Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. Free admission and parking, National Bowling Stadium, 300 Center St., Reno.

Take a look at this month’s quiz. It’s about The Wild West.

Post Boy Reporter

March 11 meeting – The attendance was 23 members including two members via Zoom. **Erik Fields** and **James Steckley** arrived early to set up the meeting room. **Steve Foster** provided the refreshments after **Howard Grenzebach** was “snowed in.”

James Steckley made announcements about USPS new issue stamps, and the receipt of two donations.

Erik Fields reminded members about the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. The dealer’s prospectus is on the website. Erik still wants to have competitive exhibits.

John Walter had a new Vassar post office display this month with the themes of baseball and appropriately cancelled covers for St. Patrick’s Day. He also reported on the website and the need for more Post Boy articles.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes and a bonus prize won by **Scott Mathews**. The money of \$10.50 was won by **George Ray**.

The live auction had 47 lots plus 5 donation lots with 29 lots selling for \$124.00. **Mike Potter** was the auctioneer with **Nadiah Beekun** and **Howard Kadohiro** helping.

March 25 meeting – Attendance was 23 members including one member via Zoom plus two visitors, Gerry Barrett, and his friend Judith Stewart. Gerry brought some stamp collection items to sell and get information on other items.

Erik Fields and **James Steckley** arrived early to setup the tables and chairs. Refreshments were provided by **Mike Potter**. Members **David and Trice Klauber**, who were visiting family locally, introduced themselves to the members. They are both officers in the Poway Stamp Club (by San Diego).

James Steckley discussed upcoming USPS new issue stamps for April. Four members are planning to attend WEST-PEX, April 28-30, in Burlingame, CA. Hopefully the snow season will be over by then. Donner Pass on Interstate 80 has received over 670 inches (56 feet) of snow this season which forced multiple road closures. **John Walter** reported on his activities with the Vassar post office displays, the Post Boy newsletter and the club website.

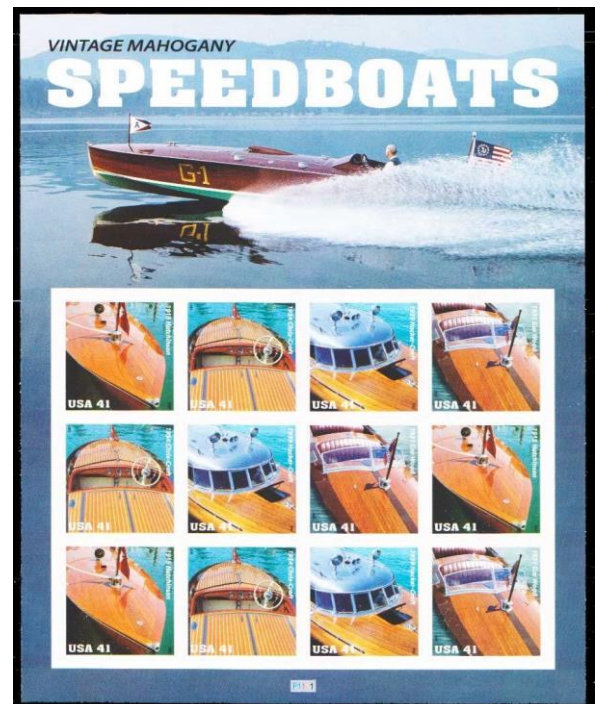
Erik Fields reported on the Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show, July 29-30. He is hearing from dealers and has a few confirmed. He would like to have competitive exhibits, especially from members. Volunteers are needed now and at the show. Contact Erik if you want to help.

Dave Parsons reported on the Online Auction #27. There was a total of 61 lots with 41% being sold with \$226.00 in gross sales.

The raffle was conducted by **George Ray** with 10 prizes. The bonus prize was won by **Gary Atkinson** and the money prize of \$11.00 went to **Robert Bernal**.

James Steckley gave a presentation on wooden speedboats, the history and lore, incorporating images from the 2007 stamp issue on the subject. Some interesting historical data on the Thunderbird Lodge at Lake Tahoe and the Thunderbird wooden boat and boathouse at the lake.

James showed his first attempt at making a wooden boat using his woodworking skills and installing a remote-controlled motor to power the propeller. See the pictures on page 4.



Test Cover Gone Astray

By Patrick Crosby

After reading Dave Gehringer's article on his presentation "Pan American Test Covers" in the March 2023 *Post Boy*, I wondered if I had any such covers. I was surprised to find out that I had just purchased two last year, but I didn't know their background.



These test/philatelic/advertising covers were to be mailed November 1, 1946, by anyone at any U.S. post office, but one of mine was postmarked October 31, 1946. Perhaps the sender thought it wouldn't be canceled until the next day, but it was canceled at 4:30 p.m. This didn't stop the cover from receiving the full treatment all test covers were to receive at each of the Pan American Airways' 28 Caribbean, Central American, and South American offices. Included in the test:

- 1) Mark the cover "Return to Sender," accomplished here with a pointing hand. Many times this was just handwritten.
- 2) Draw a line through the address.
- 3) Stamp the back of the envelope with the date received. This is the "P.A.A." (Pan American Airways) marking. There is also a Panama post office "R" (received) back-stamp.



4) Place proper airmail postage on the front lower left of the cover. A Panama 8 centesimos airmail stamp (Sc. C6C) pays the airmail rate back to the sender and a 1 centesimo Panama Postal Tax Stamp (Sc. RA16) was also applied, both courtesy of Pan Am.

5) Promptly return to the local post office, in this case in Panama City, Panama, who canceled the new stamps with a “DE” (depart) handstamp.

Wait a minute – did I say “Panama”? This cover is addressed to Porto au Prince, Haiti! The test was to demonstrate the speed and dependability of airmail service to our southern neighbors. Whoops!

Although the U.S. airmail rates to some of the test countries was lowered to 10 cents beginning on the test day, November 1, 1946, the rate was already at 10 cents for Panama and Haiti and proper U.S. postage had been paid. I paid \$3 or \$4 for my test covers, but most I see are \$8 -\$10. There are also many covers mailed a day later, November 2, 1946.

References:

Lingen, Roy, “Pan Am Air System Test of 1946” (8-15-2009) Stamporama.com (select Articles).

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.

Wooden Speedboat

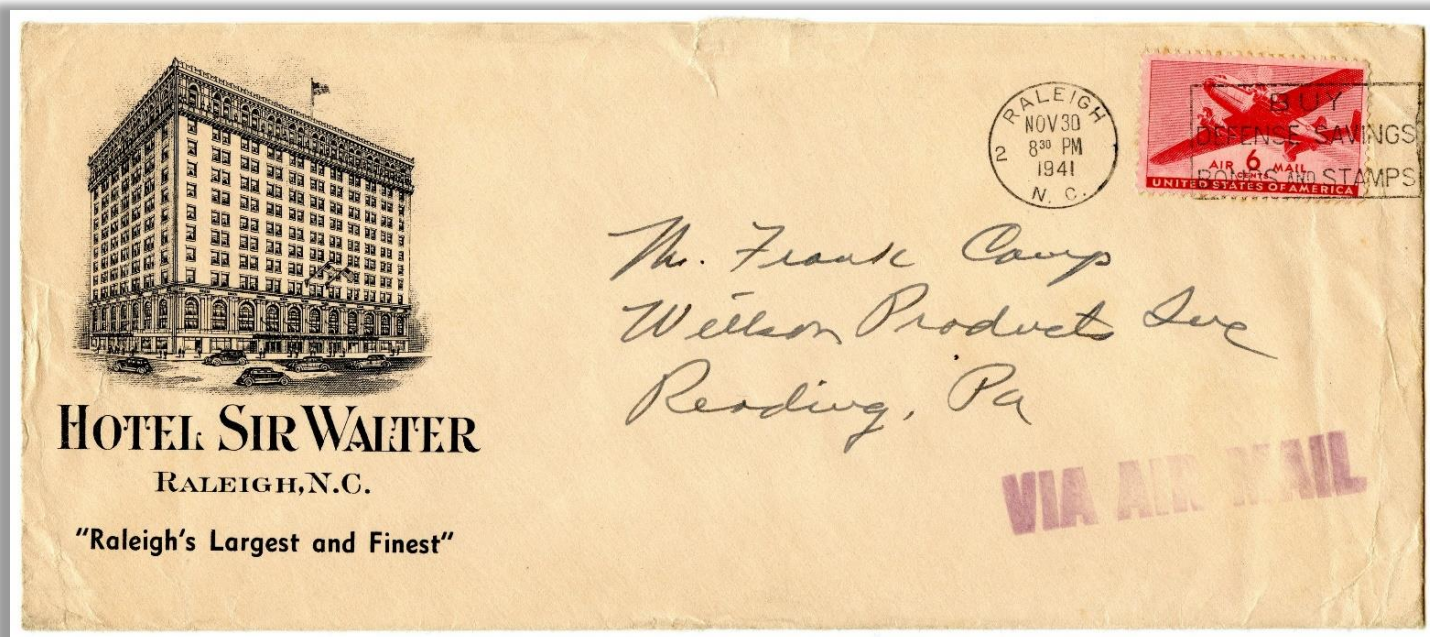
Picture of **James Steckley** with his handcrafted wooden speedboat. He installed a remote-controlled motor to control the propeller. He says it “worked perfectly in the bathtub.”



Hotel Sir Walter

By John Walter

How can anyone pass up a cover like this with your surname being used in the cachet. I couldn't. It was in the front of a cover box on a dealer's table at WESTPEX a few years ago.



Following are the main elements of the cover I researched. It turned up a few surprises.

Let's look at the postmark first. The **slogan & cancel** is from Raleigh, North Carolina, dated Nov. 30, 1941, a week before the attack on Pearl Harbor. The cover was canceled on Sunday at 8:30 p.m. The slogan cancel reads: "BUY DEFENSE SAVINGS BONDS AND STAMPS."

The 6¢ airmail stamp (Scott 25) was issued a few months earlier on June 25, 1941. The domestic air mail rate was 6¢ from July 1, 1934 to March 25, 1944, per oz. on all routes.

The stamp was the first in a series of seven transport airplane values being 6¢, 8¢, 10¢, 15¢, 20¢, 30¢, and 50¢. Here are all the airmail stamps in the Transport Series.



The additional rubber stamp in red "VIA AIR MAIL" makes sure the cover traveled for the paid service.

Now for some interesting history looking for the addressee company: **Willson Products Company.**

The company was located at the corner of Washington and 2nd Streets in Reading. It was founded in 1871 and manufactured safety products for ear and eye protection. It was the first company in the United States to manufacture optical lenses. One of the founders, Thomas Willson, patented the process for hardening glass, enabling the production of shatterproof protective eyeglasses.

Working with Thomas A. Willson & Co., the National Safety Council was formed to set standards in 1913 for uniform safety standards for America's workers. By the late 1930s, the company is manufacturing a large range of products, including ear protectors, breathing devices, gas masks, and the Saf-t-bra.

As the world was changing with the war in Europe, the company helped the war effort by making aviator goggles and high-altitude oxygen masks for pilots in the military. By 1943, the factory was manufacturing all of the sunglasses issued to the U.S. military during World War II and reached its peak at 1,300 workers.

In 1950, Willson Products begins to manufacture swimming goggles. During this year, Florence Chadwick wears them to traverse the English Channel. In 1980 due to the Occupational Safety & Health Act (OSHA), Willson stops manufacturing safety eyewear and focuses its attention on developing new varieties of respirators, gloves, and other protective equipment. Under the name Dalloz Safety Plant since 1997, the factory closed in 2002, ending the campus' 130 year history of manufacturing safety products.



GoggleWorks Center for the Arts, <https://goggleworks.org/about/history/>

But that is not the end of the story. Located in the former Willson Products Company building, GoggleWorks Center for the Arts is a community art and cultural resource center. The mission of the GoggleWorks is "to transform lives through unique interactions with art." At 145,000 sq feet the GoggleWorks campus comprises the country's largest interactive visual art center. The complex also includes a 131-seat theatre, which presents art house films daily, a café, and store, which retails the work of over 200 individual artists from around the country.

The building was added to the U.S. National Register of Historic Places in 2006.

Now for some history about the **Hotel Sir Walter.** Built in 1923-24, Hotel Sir Walter was known as the "third house of state government" or "third house of the legislature" through the 1950s, because it was the hub of political activity in North Carolina before the Legislative Building was constructed in 1963.

In 1934, the Depression forced the building's lessees into bankruptcy, and the hotel was leased to the North State Hotel Company. The following year, North State fully renovated the building, and in 1938, the company added 50 rooms to make the hotel a 400-room facility, at that time the largest in the state.

These additions solidified the Sir Walter's reputation as one of North Carolina's top convention hotels.

Politicians, journalists, and lobbyists conducted much of their work in the hotel — and the late Rep. William "Billy" Watkins once said more laws were passed at the Sir Walter than at the Capitol itself.

Wives, daughters, and secretaries of politicians — as well as women officials themselves — also met together at the Sir Walter Hotel for more than 50 years in what was called the Sir Walter Cabinet.

Members of the cabinet committed themselves to political work such as endorsing the women's suffrage movement, aiding the North Carolina Symphony, bettering prison conditions + calling for improvements to roads and highways. It was the only organization of its kind in the nation for decades.

A gentleman's space called the Sphinx Club also operated in the basement under the street sidewalk during the hotel's existence. The club was reportedly a retreat for the men to get away from their wives.



Opened in January 1924, 10 story neoclassical design.



Image courtesy of B. Fullington, Capital City Camera Club, 2010.

The building was converted into 140 apartments for seniors in the late 1970s, about the time Fayetteville Street was transformed into a downtown pedestrian mall. The building continues to serve as senior apartments today. It is the only affordable housing for seniors in downtown Raleigh. The historic Virginia Dare Ballroom is a longstanding event space located within the building and is still in use today, despite the building's conversion from a hotel into an apartment complex. The ballroom has played host to thousands of events over its century-long existence and is now a popular wedding and party venue.

Since 1978, the Sir Walter building is listed on the US National Register of Historic Places and is downtown Raleigh's oldest surviving hotel building.

My \$5.00 cover has connections to two properties on the U.S. National Register of Historic Places. How nice is that!

And of course, the use of my surname makes this cover a premium possession.

References:

<https://raltoday.6amcity.com/hotel-sir-walter-raleigh-nc>

National Park Service website: <https://www.nps.gov/nr/travel/raleigh/sir.htm>

John Walter collects U.S. used postal stationery, U.S. navy hospital ship covers, Japan, some UN and U.S.

Cancelled or Not!

By Howard Grenzebach

The stamp on the left side of this page is mint and has not been cancelled while the other one (the stamp on the right) has a good CDS cancel that is hard to read having been struck twice. But there's a problem here. I only have one copy of this stamp. The picture on the right is a picture of the stamp on the left. Allow me to explain.



The stamp was made with the engraving process. An engraver etches the design into a plate leaving shallow ruts to accept the ink. The plate is then pressed onto a sheet of appropriate paper leaving the ink as color and slightly raised on the surface of that paper. The result is what is deemed by many collectors as the most beautiful of the printing processes.

Now and then the printing moves a bit faster than usual, and a printed sheet hasn't the time to dry before the next sheet is printed and laid on top. The damp ink is then transferred to the sheet above it which shows as a reverse print (or image) like this one.



Most transfers show up as small smudges of ink on the gum side of a stamp but now and then a masterpiece of a transfer finds its way to the collector.

There is an alternative (and more likely) explanation for this unusual result. During the printing process a sheet failed to go through. The print was then transferred to the backing plate. Then the next sheet would rest on that plate being printed normally (on top) while picking up the ink from the backing plate resulting in this beautiful reverse print on the back of a normal stamp. And the rest of the stamps from this same sheet are still out there, somewhere.

The scan on the right comes from the front of the stamp on the left.

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



Some of the attendees at the March 25 meeting.

Quiz – The Wild West

By Eric Moody

U.S. and Canadian postage stamps have often featured early Western subjects, from cowboys, Indian leaders and wagon trains to fur traders, frontier politicians and lawmen. This quiz tests your knowledge of some of these Wild West stamps.

1. The California Gold Rush was first commemorated on a U.S. stamp in:
(a) 1898 (b) 1904 (c) 1948 (d) 1949
2. This famous French explorer and imperialist, who ranged westward and southward from eastern Canada (where he founded the city of Quebec) starting in the first decade of the 1600s, has been honored on both Canadian (#97, 102, etc.) and U.S. (#4073) stamps. His name is:
(a) Jacques Cartier (b) Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle (c) Jean Nicolet (d) Samuel de Champlain
3. A colorful backwoods frontiersman of the late 18th and early 19th centuries, he had a Kentucky town named for him, and has been celebrated in numerous Hollywood productions and on U.S. stamps (#904, 1357). He is:
(a) Davy Crockett (b) Daniel Boone (c) Jim Bowie (d) Jedediah Smith
4. This gold mining excitement of the 1890s was commemorated on its host country's stamps in 1996 (#1606a-e). It was the:
(a) California Gold Rush (b) Alaska Gold Rush (c) Yukon Gold Rush (d) Fraser River Rush
5. Overland pioneers, usually with covered wagons, are seen on a number of U.S. stamps. The first time was in:
(a) 1869 (b) 1898 (c) 1924 (d) 1947
6. Pony express mail carriers have been celebrated on U.S. and Canadian stamps. Their first U.S. appearance was in 1869, the first Canadian stamp featuring them came considerably later, in:
(a) 1955 (b) 1963 (c) 1970 (d) 1996
7. A Shoshone woman, she served as a guide for a famous Far Western exploring expedition in 1804. First depicted (anonymously) on a U.S. stamp in 1954 (#1063) she is:
(a) Pocahontas (b) Lonesome Dove (c) Sacajawea (d) Sarah Winnemucca
8. This presidential candidate in 1856, who has appeared on U.S. stamps (#288, 2869i), first became famous as an explorer of the Far West. He is:
(a) James Buchanan (b) Davy Crockett (c) John Wesley Powell (d) John C. Fremont
9. In 1994 this stamp (#2869g) that depicted a famous cowboy was recalled and replaced because it mistakenly carried a portrait of someone else. The subject of the stamp is:
(a) Charles Goodnight (b) Andy Adams (c) Monte Walsh (d) Bill Pickett
10. This early American Indian scholar, honored on a stamp in 1980, developed a written form of the Cherokee language. He was:
(a) Chief Joseph (b) Sequoyah (c) Quanah Parker (d) Tecumseh

11. A frontier lawman, most notably of Kansas and Arizona, he became famous and a Hollywood personality shortly before his death in 1929. This controversial figure, who was depicted on a U.S. stamp in 1994, is:
(a) "Wild Bill" Hickock (b) Bat Masterson (c) Wyatt Earp (d) Bill Tilghman
12. She starred as a sharpshooter in "Buffalo Bill" Cody's Wild West Show right after the close of the American Frontier. Once featured on a U.S. stamp (#2869d), she is:
(a) Annie Oakley (b) Calamity Jane (c) Josie Pearl (d) Molly Brown

The April quiz is worth 120 **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

March Quiz Answers: 1. c 2. b 3. d 4. c
5. b 6. d 7. b 8. d 9. a 10. b 11. c
12. d

Vassar Post Office Display

Displays for this month are The Art of Disney and April ... Time To Play Ball.

