

2022 WESTPEX Report

By John Walter

The 3-day stamp show was held in the same venue, the Marriott Hotel in Burlingame, Ca next to the SF airport. I attended all 3 days with **Dave Gehringer**. On Friday morning we left an hour later than usual and what good planning. We only had a 20-minute traffic stoppage as we reached Donner summit. The chain control people were dismantling the portable facility and opening I-80. There was about 18 inches of snow at the summit, but the road was just wet and no ice as we drove through the area.

We arrived in Burlingame about 1:30 p.m. and checked in at our hotel, then immediately went to the show. WESTPEX advertised 62 dealers and 260 exhibit frames with 46 exhibitors. Lots of show visitors walking around to visit the dealer booths on Friday afternoon. Saturday was also busy with Sunday seeing the usual slowdown of visitors.

Most of my time was spent attending society meetings since I belong to the United Postal Stationery Society, Ryukyu Specialists Philatelic Society, Saginaw chapter of the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, and the American Philatelic Society.

Plus, I always enjoy attending the Hawaii Philatelic Society meeting which provides some macadamia nuts straight from Hawaii. The presentation by Harold Tuchfeld was extremely interesting entitled *"The Intimate Trans-Pacific Embrace: San Francisco & Hawaii 1876-1916."* I learned a lot of Hawaii history listening to the follow up questions and discussion on the island's early history.

The Schuyler Rumsey live auction was in action for 4 full days. Nothing like witnessing live bidding by in-person, telephone and Internet bidders. Talking with a few bidders, some lots were being sold for 2 to 10 times over estimated values. WOW!

The exhibit area had many postal history 10-frame exhibits with many Large Gold awards. The dealer bourse area was busy every time I walked through. I did manage to receive a check from Ed Dimmick who will be at our show in July. Two other dealers expressed an interest, and I gave them a Dealers Prospectus. Richard Clever (Asia Philatelics), and frequent dealer at our show sold most of his stock at auction and was helping at Jim Dempsey's booth, A & A Stamps. Jim Dempsey will also be retiring later this year.



Stamp Art dealer booth.

I represented our stamp club at the Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies. Some interesting reporting: The California Collector's Club has disbanded; the Alameda Stamp Club has only 6 members; Sacramento Philatelic Society has about 200 members; the Council is looking for a new webmaster; Fremont Stamp Club cannot get someone to be president, so they have a different "host" volunteer run each meeting. Tom Hayes will chair the speaker's bureau and Vesma Grinfelds will remain as chair for show judges. Only two exhibit-judged shows in the Bay Area – Penpex and Filatelic Fiesta.

John Walter collects U.S. used postal stationery, U.S. naval covers esp. hospital ships, Japan, U.N., and U.S.