



The Philatelic Prospector

A publication of the Sacramento Philatelic Society

P O Box 13284

Sacramento, CA 95813

February 2010

A Note From The President

Greetings,

The old year is behind us and we now begin a new year. Most collectors have a specific area of postage material that they collect. Why not start the new year with a new collecting interest? Several countries were in existence for a few years and therefore not many stamps were issued. This is an area where a collection of an entire country can be completed. Rarely do stamp collectors complete an entire country.

Another area would be a topical theme. What other interests do you have besides stamp collecting? For fun, collect stamps related to that interest and create a personalized album. The 2-cent Easter Seal boxes are a good and inexpensive source of stamps to create an album for "the fun of it".

Ernie Teays
SPS President

February 3rd Silent Bid Sale

The Silent Bid Sale proved to be another successful event with over 20 members listing 187 lots to be sold. There were lots ranging from a minimum bid of 50¢ - \$450. There were 50 members who looked, pondered, passed, or bid.

Of the 187 lots available, 116 sold. The total minimum bid on those lots was \$1053.50 and they sold for a total of \$1316.75.

The total minimum bid for all lots was \$2433.75.

It is never too early to start getting your lots ready for the next Silent Bid Sale (5-4-10). Start gathering up those philatelic items you would like to get out of your way and into someone else's hands. There are always some very nice things that someone picks up at a real bargain. (I think I can tell you where there are already 71 lots waiting to be put into the next sale.)

Elvis Stamp Event

Club members Al Williams, Ernie Teays and Fred Rickert were on hand to help celebrate Elvis Presley's 75th birthday. The Sacramento Post Office issued a special cancellation and our team was busy at work producing 540 covers.

An assembly line was set up with Al Williams licking 540 Elvis stamps (ugh), Fred Rickert adding 540 self stick love stamps (how did he rate), but the star was Ernie Teays who canceled all 540 covers. Ralph Petty (P.O. Relations Rep.) praised Ernie saying he was the best canceller the post office had.



The boys were all smiles when the cameras turned to them... unaware that the attraction was yet another Elvis sighting! Elvis not only appeared for the event but entertained passersby in front of Stage 9 in old Sac where it all took place. A fun time was had by all.



(Kudos to Rob Ely who aided in Elvis' appearance and sang the songs so well several persons thought he was lip synching... but he wasn't. Need Elvis at an event? Call Rob at 209-818-6858)

See a list of other events planned by the Sacramento Post Office in this issue.

New Issues – U.S.A.

The US Postal Service has released some details on the 2010 stamp program. I've summarized these from their press release including release dates where available. This page is part 1, the second half will be in the next newsletter. All images are © 2010 USPS. All Rights Reserved.

Lunar New Year – January 14th



On Jan. 14, the U.S. Postal Service will issue the third of 12 stamps in its Celebrating Lunar New Year series, which began in 2008 with the Year of the Rat. The Year of the Tiger begins on Feb. 14 and ends on

Feb. 2, 2011. The 44-cent stamp will go on sale nationwide Jan. 14 and be dedicated at the El Pueblo Historic Monument in Old Chinatown in Los Angeles. The Lunar New Year is celebrated primarily by people of Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tibetan, and Mongolian heritage in many parts of the world. Parades, parties, and other special events are common. Images associated with some of these widespread customs are depicted in the Celebrating Lunar New Year series.

Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games – January 22nd



With this stamp featuring an illustration of a snowboarder, the Postal Service continues its tradition of honoring the spirit of athleticism and international unity inspired by the Olympic Games. The stamp will be issued Jan. 22 to coincide with the XXI Olympic Winter Games, which will be held Feb. 12-28 in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

Mackinac Bridge – February 3rd



The U.S. Postal Service honors the Mackinac Bridge in Michigan as the subject of its 2010 Priority Mail stamp. The bridge, nicknamed "Mighty Mac," connects the two peninsulas of Michigan. The longest suspension bridge in the Western Hemisphere, the Mackinac extends from Mackinaw

City at the south end to St. Ignace on the north side. Opened in 1957, the Mackinac Bridge cost nearly 100 million dollars and took over three years to complete. The sturdy five-mile bridge is designed to support 38,486 tons and can move up to 35 feet in high winds.

Bixby Creek Bridge – February 3rd



The U.S. Postal Service honors the Bixby Creek Bridge in California as the subject of its 2010 Express Mail stamp, which goes on sale nationwide Feb. 3. This bridge was one of the seven classic concrete-arch bridges that eased the way for recreational and commercial travel in

California along the Big Sur coast by way of the Carmel-San Simeon Highway, now known as State Highway Route 1.

Distinguished Sailors – February



The U.S. Postal Service honors four sailors who served with bravery and distinction during the 20th century: William S. Sims, Arleigh A. Burke, John McCloy, and Doris Miller.



Bill Mauldin – no release date given

With this stamp, the U.S. Postal Service honors Bill Mauldin, one of America's favorite cartoonists. During World War II, military readers got a knowing laugh from Mauldin's

characters Willie and Joe, who gave their civilian audience an idea of what life was like for soldiers. After the war, Mauldin became a popular and influential editorial cartoonist. The stamp goes on sale in March.

Abstract Expressionists – March 11th



With this stamp pane, the U.S. Postal Service honors the artistic innovations and achievements of 10 abstract expressionists, a group of artists who revolutionized art during the 1940s and 1950s and moved the U.S. to the forefront of the international art scene for the first time. Abstract expressionism refers to a large body of work that comprised radically different styles, from still, luminescent fields of color to vigorous, almost violent, slashes of paint.

Katharine Hepburn – May 12th



This issuance in the Legends of Hollywood series honors Katharine Hepburn, one of America's most fascinating and enduring film stars. Over the course of her career, Hepburn made more than 40 motion pictures, including the comedy classic *Bringing up Baby* (1938)—with Hepburn as a leopard-owning heiress and Cary Grant as a stuffy paleontologist—and *The African Queen* (1951), in which she played a prim missionary spinster to Humphrey Bogart's scruffy riverboat captain.

Mother Teresa – August 26th



With this stamp, the U.S. Postal Service recognizes Mother Teresa, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 for her humanitarian work. Noted for her compassion toward the poor and suffering, Mother Teresa, a diminutive Roman Catholic nun and honorary U.S. citizen, served the sick and destitute of India and the world for nearly 50 years. Her humility and compassion, as well as her respect for the innate worth and dignity of humankind, inspired people of all ages and

backgrounds to work on behalf of the world's poorest populations.

Flags of Our Nation (Set 4) – April



In 2010, the U.S. Postal Service continues its Flags of Our Nation series with 10 more stamp designs that feature the Stars and Stripes plus the states of Montana through North Dakota. In addition to the flag art, each stamp design includes artwork that provides a "snapshot view" of the state or other area

represented by a particular flag. In most cases, an everyday scene or activity is shown, but occasionally the view is of something less commonplace—rare wildlife, perhaps, or a stunning vista.

Cowboys of the Silver Screen – April 17th



With the issuance of the "Cowboys of the Silver Screen" stamps, the U.S. Postal Service honors four extraordinary performers who helped make the American Western a popular form of entertainment. Film stars from the silent era through the singing era are featured on the stamps: William S. Hart, Tom Mix, Gene Autry, and Roy Rogers. The stamps go on sale April 17.

Postal Notes & Oddities



In 1914, a four-year-old named May Pierstorff, who lived with her parents in Grangeville, Idaho, was going to visit her grandmother in Lewiston.

Her parents calculated that Parcel Post was cheaper than full fare on the train. At 48.5 lbs., the child came in under the weight requirement of less than 50 lbs. It was then legal, and still is today, to mail chickens, so her parents were charged postage at the chicken rate.

The Pierstorffs pinned the fifty-three cents in postage to her coat and put May in the baggage car, under the care

of the postal clerk.

Though it was customary to leave packages in the post office overnight, when May arrived in Lewiston, the postmaster took her to her grandmother.

By 1920, it was illegal to mail human beings, although not before an angry mother mailed a baby to the husband who had left her.

Sacramento Post Office Events

April 3rd – 150th Anniversary of the Pony Express at Old Sac

April 17th – First Day Sale of the cowboys stamps at Old Sac

August 26th – A very special event is planned for the first day release of the Mother Teresa stamp.

Other events scheduled later this year include baseball, funnies and scouting.

For further information on these and other events and to volunteer (it's fun) contact Al Williams.

Notes From The Web



“New Zealand Stamp Images” by Robert Clark is much more than the title suggests. This website is a great tour of New Zealand stamps from the early “Chalon Heads” through the King George VI definitives. Each set of stamps has its own webpage and is described in detail – including paper types, perforations used, detailed information on

release dates of varieties. There are plenty of images to illustrate each stamp and the detailed points discussed in the text. Robert Clark is also maintains the website of the New Zealand Society of Great Britain.



The Chalon Heads (or full face queens) shown above are discussed in great detail from the London and Richardson prints of 1855-1861 through the provisional papers and perforations of 1862-1864 to the new colors printed in 1871-1873. Additional information on postal history and both the Hausberg and Jolliffe reprints is also included.

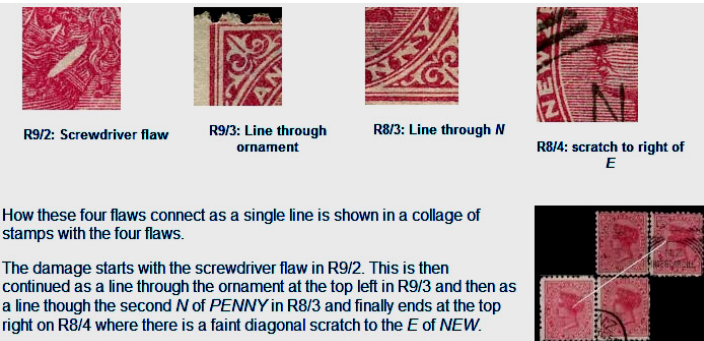


Die 1

Die 2

Die 3

A great example of the detail included on this website are the images of the three dies for the 1d Kiwi stamp issued in 1935 (shown above). These images are the best way to distinguish the dies.



How these four flaws connect as a single line is shown in a collage of stamps with the four flaws.

The damage starts with the screwdriver flaw in R9/2. This is then continued as a line through the ornament at the top left in R9/3 and then as a line through the second N of PENNY in R8/3 and finally ends at the top right on R8/4 where there is a faint diagonal scratch to the E of NEW.

The information on plate flaws contained in this website is invaluable. Above is an example of the detailed plate flaw information, this for the second sideface issue one penny stamp.

There are large sections of the website that deal with both experimental and regular airmail services postal history. Internal as well as international airmail are included. Back of the book issues covered include revenues, life insurance and railway newspaper stamps.

Find this exceptional website at <http://www.nzstamps.org.uk/>.

Haiti - Postal Status



The main post office in Port-au-Prince , Haiti (shown above) was heavily damaged during the January 12th earthquake. Mail service to Haiti remains suspended. From the USPS website (<http://www.usps.com/international/serviceupdates.htm#H17>), here is the current status of mail delivery to Haiti:

“The International Bureau has advised that it is monitoring the situation in Haiti very closely following the tragic earthquake which struck the country on January 12, 2010. Given the extent of the devastation, direct communication with Haiti remains very difficult. However, the International Bureau is doing all it can to establish contact with the postal authorities in the field. As and when information on the state of the postal network becomes available, particularly with regard to procedures to be followed for mail dispatches to and from Haiti, the International Bureau will advise the US Postal Service.

The US Postal Service announced on January 15, 2010 that it has placed a temporary hold on all mail destined for the nation of Haiti. This came in response to the cancellation of normal flight operations by air cargo contractors into and out of the island nation, where emergency relief efforts are continuing. Post Offices will continue to accept letter mail and packages addressed to the nation of Haiti. However, all mail addressed to Haiti will be temporarily held by the US Postal Service until air transport and ground infrastructure issues are resolved and the postal administration of Haiti is able to accept mail.”

National Stamp Shows

| | | |
|----------------|--------------|--|
| FEB | 12-14 | ARIPEX Arizona Fed. Of Stamp Clubs www.aripexonline.com Mesa, AZ |
| FEB | 26-28 | St. Louis Stamp Expo Area Clubs www.stlstampexpo.org St. Louis, MO |
| MAR | 19-21 | Garfield-Perry March Party Garfield-Perry Stamp Club www.garfieldperry.org Cleveland, OH |
| APR | 9-11 | Philadelphia Natl Stamp Exhibition http://home.att.net/~pnse/ Oaks, PA |
| APR | 15-18 | Sprint Postage Stamp Mega-Event American Stamp Dealers Assn. www.asdaonline.com New York, NY |
| APR | 16-18 | TEXPEX Southwest Philatelic Foundation www.texasphilatelic.org/texpex.htm Dallas, TX |
| APR | 24-25 | Plymouth Show West Suburban Stamp Club www.plymouthshow.com Plymouth, MI |
| APR-MAY | 30-2 | Philatelic Show Northeastern Fed. Of Stamp Clubs www.nefed.org Boxborough, MA |
| MAY | 14-16 | Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (ROMPEX) Rocky Mountain Phil. Exhibition, Inc. www.rockymountainstampshow.com Denver, CO |
| MAY | 14-16 | ROPEX Rochester Philatelic Association www.rpastamps.org/ropex.html Rochester, NY |
| MAY | 28-30 | NOJEX North Jersey Fed. Stamp Clubs, Inc. www.nojex.org Secaucus, NJ |
| JUNE | 4-6 | NAPEX Nat'l Philatelic Exhib. of Washington D.C. www.napex.org McLean, VA |
| JUNE | 4-6 | PIPEX Northwest Federation of Stamp Clubs & Inland Empire Philatelic Society www.spokanecollectors.org Spokane, WA |

Only World Series of Philately (WSP) shows are included
For more shows and contact details go to:
http://www.stamps.org/directories/dir_ShowCalendar.htm

Stamp Shows in Our Area

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| FEB | 19-21 | APS AmeriStamp EXPO American Philatelic Society Riverside Convention Center Riverside, CA www.stamps.org |
| MAR | 6-7 | NOVAPEX Redding Stamp Club Senior Citizens Hall Redding, CA www.reddingstampclub.com |
| MAR | 13-14 | FRESPEX 2010 Fresno Philatelic Society Veterans Memorial Building Clovis, CA stars-tamps@thegrid.net |
| APR | 10-11 | Easter Seals Benefit Show Sacramento Philatelic Society Easter Seals Building Sacramento, CA sacramentophilatelicsociety.org |
| APR | 23-25 | WESTPEX Western Philatelic Exhibitions, Inc. San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel Burlingame, CA www.westpex.com |
| MAY | 22-23 | GESSPEX Greater Eastside Stamp Society VFW Hall Redmond, WA http://g-e-s-s.home.comcast.net |
| AUG | 21-22 | Greater Reno Stamp & Cover Show Nevada Stamp Study Society National Bowling Stadium Reno, NV http://home.earthlink.net/~renostamp |

New Members

New members since the last newsletter mention are:

| | |
|------|-----------------------|
| 1926 | Kent Burrow |
| 1929 | Leopold Dippon |
| 1930 | Ellery Kuhn |
| 1931 | Craig Griffin |
| 1932 | Kathy Petersen |
| 1933 | Joe Franco |
| 1934 | Tom Watkins |

Member Presentations

| | | |
|-----|----|--|
| Feb | 17 | Joanne Berkowitz – Dr. Doctor Postcards |
| Mar | 17 | Cynthia Leffler – Stamps of Castellorizo |

Let's try for a member presentation the 3rd Wednesday of every month!!! If you have a topic or area of interest that you would like to give a short presentation on, please contact Fred Rickert.

SACAPEX / STORAGE SPACE NEEDED

For the past several years SPS has been storing the exhibit frames in Keith Loder's garage near the Scottish Rite Center complex. We now need to find a different site for them.

The space needed is about 8' x 15' of floor space with a standing height of about 7'.

If you have this type space available, we would like to talk to you about using it. Access to bring the frames to the SACAPEX show always occurs during the first full weekend in November.

Please contact one of our officers or BOD members if you can help us with this.

SPS Calendar

Regular meetings are held every Wednesday evening from 7 –9PM at the Easter Seal Center, 3205 Hurley Way.

| | | |
|-----|-------|---|
| Feb | 17 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 24 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| Mar | 3 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 10 | Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45) |
| | 17 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 24 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 31 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| Apr | 7 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 10-11 | Easter Seals Benefit Show |
| | 14 | Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45) |
| | 21 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 28 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| May | 5 | Silent Bid Sale, no club circuit |
| | 12 | Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45) |
| | 19 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 26 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| Jun | 2 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 9 | Regular plus BOD meeting (8:45) |
| | 16 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 23 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |
| | 30 | Meeting, 2¢ boxes, club circuit. |

We normally have our club circuit and penny boxes available for your shopping pleasure at each meeting. There are also members who enjoy just talking about their collections or helping you with yours. You might even find a member with a similar interest as you have and you can initiate a stamp swap. Come see us – it's a lot of fun. 'Shoe Boxes' of 2¢ stamps can be taken home to search through during the week.

Call For Articles

If you have a collecting interest that they would like to share with the club and feel more comfortable doing so in written form, please send it to me via email at [nzstampsinca 'at' gmail.com](mailto:nzstampsinca@gmail.com). You can also get a printed version to me at one of the Wednesday meetings – I can scan and/or retype it as necessary. Typical articles will run from ½ to a full page (or two) of text and images.

First Day Cancellation Information

All **first day cancellations** may be received after affixing stamps and sending to:

Customer Affixed Envelopes

Postmaster

_____ (first day city)
_____ - 9991 (5 digit ZIP + 9991)

Up to 50 FDCs may be submitted for cancellation at no cost, additional covers are charged 5¢ each. If you want them returned without addresses, you must enclose a self addressed envelope, with sufficient postage applied, to insure their return. There is no charge for this service.

Officers & Board of Directors

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| President | Ernie Teays |
| Vice President | Ken Hilmer |
| Secretary | Keith Loder |
| Treasurer | John Pavalasky |

Board of Directors

| | |
|-------------------|------------------------------|
| Joanne Berkowitz | (thru 5/2010) (Chair) |
| Katie Pavalasky | (thru 5/2010) |
| Ken Hilmer | (thru 5/2011) |
| Jim Stewart | (thru 5/2011) |
| Dean Carl | (thru 5/2012) |
| Harry Mueggenburg | (thru 5/2012) |

Committee Chairmen

| | |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Easter Seal Show | Katie Pavalasky |
| Library | Ken Hilmer |
| Membership | Debbie Jean Hopkins |
| Programs | Fred Rickert |
| Prospector | Doug Elliott |
| SACAPEX | Dean Carl |
| Website | Dean Carl |

Visit the SPS Website

**Can't find your prospector?
Can't remember what is when?**

Dean Carl continues to amaze those of us who are computer challenged. Updates get done so quickly that we wonder how he does it. The SPS website at sacramentophilatelicsociety.org is where you can keep up with current activities, future events, see copies of the Prospector from the last twelve months, and explore links to other websites of interest.

Current USPS Rates

Domestic:

| |
|--------------------------------------|
| First-Class Mail Letter (1 oz) - 44¢ |
| First-Class Mail Letter (2 oz) – 61¢ |
| Rigid Envelope Surcharge - 20¢ |
| Postcard - 28¢ |
| Large Envelope (2 oz) - \$1.05 |
| Certified Mail - \$2.80 |

International:

| |
|--|
| First-Class Mail Int'l Letter (1 oz) |
| to Canada - 75¢, Mexico - 79¢, other countries - 98¢ |