

Stamp



Chatter

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July, Aug, Sept, 2017

SEQUOIA STAMP CLUB

APS #687-54588

Club meetings are held every **second and fourth Tuesday** of each month at the Community Activities Bldg., 1400 Roosevelt Ave. Redwood City, at 7:05 pm.

Mailing Address:
P. O. Box 235
San Carlos, CA 94070

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc

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President's Message:

Six months of the 2017 club year now are behind us and summer's warm days provide a great opportunity to reflect on your collecting goals for the rest of the year. The stamp show schedule is light until APS in Richmond in August kicks off the autumn season, but auction houses continue to offer ample material. Now may be a good time to look for bargains online, as many buyers are on holiday and sellers will be motivated to price accordingly. Speaking of online, if internet sales concern you, our members are here to help with selecting reputable dealers and search techniques to find the material you need – just ask at a meeting.



We have had a strong club year thus far. We had a superb Sequoia scholarship winner just a few days ago, a visit by the APS Executive Director, an interesting live program on Russia air support stamps, a flourishing youth program, the contribution of great new circuit books, intake of 2018 Scott catalogs and other books, and one of our recent silent auctions overflowed onto a side table!

I would also like to thank Pete Leffler for supplying two pizzas per meeting, picking them up at the restaurant closest to the CAB, at the end of a lengthy journey from Oakland via San Francisco. Talk about dedication. This welcome upgrade to our social service has been helping 12 to 16 members per meeting have a needed snack, as evidenced by empty boxes at the end of the night! This is especially useful for those officers and members who must arrive straight from distant work locations. Our demographics are evolving, and as we attract more members who are working tough Silicon Valley hours, more quantity and variety for our social time is appropriate.

At our next meeting, please share a stamp story! Our meetings are enriched by hearing of your acquisitions, show or auction experiences, and exhibit plans. Can we serve you better in some way? Please write me: chris_palermo95125@yahoo.com.

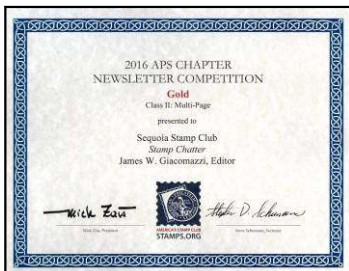
Christopher J. Palermo
Sequoia Stamp Club President

2017 Sequoia Club Programs & Stamp Calendar Schedule

- July 11 – Members Live Auction.
- July 25 – Other Hobby Night: Show and Tell. Silent Auction
Executive Board Meeting (6:15 p.m.) Open to the public.
- Aug. 8 – Video on the Penny Black. Silent Auction
- Aug. 22 – Larke Consignment Live Auction
- Aug. 29: Pizza Party**, Blue Line Pizza 1201 San Carlos Ave. 6:00 pm.
- Sep. 12 – Swap Meet (Tables available for \$1.00 fee)
- Sep. 26 – Intro to Analytical Philately by Chris Palermo. Silent Auction

Chatter Wins Gold

At the club meeting on April 25, Executive Director Scott English presented *Stamp Chatter* editor Jim Giacomazzi with a gold award that was won by the *Stamp Chatter* in the 2016 APS newsletter competition. Fifteen entries were submitted in Class II — Multi-Page Publications category, with only four clubs receiving the Gold award. Jim proudly accepted the award on behalf of everyone on the *Stamp Chatter* staff.

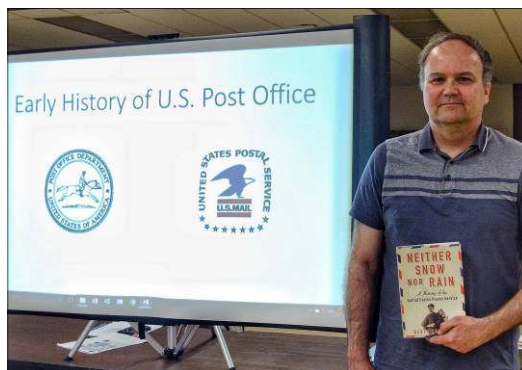


Scott English presenting Gold award for *Stamp Chatter* to editor Jim Giacomazzi.

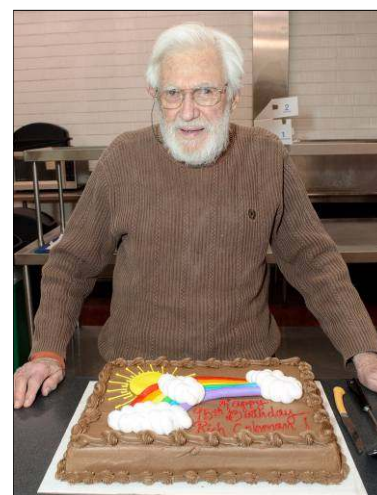
Photos from Recent Club Activities



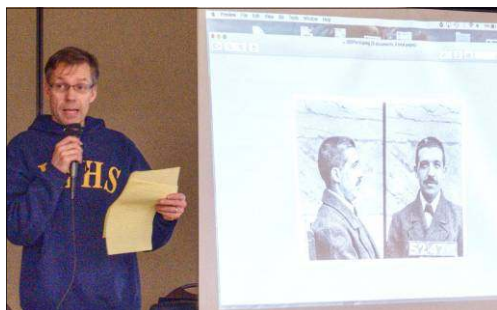
Celebrating Jessica Rodriguez's college graduation.



SSC Vice President, Peter Leffler, gives talk on history of USPS.



Celebrating Richard Coleman's 95th birthday.



Craig Butterworth presenting on Charles Ponzi.



Wally Jolliff at work: Going, going, gone!



Peter presents Kristin Patterson with certificate for her presentation.

Newsletter Staff: Editor: Jim Giacomazzi, President's Message: Chris Palermo, Feature Articles: Marsha Brandsdorfer, Cartoon: Miriam Thurston, Caboose: Kristin Patterson, Youth: Preston Chiappa, Photographer: Ken Perkins, Printing: John Corwin, and Webmaster: Ed Bierman. The **Stamp Chatter** is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: www.penpex.org/SSC or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

APS Executive Director Visits Sequoia

As he was in the area for the WESTPEX Stamp Show, Scott English, the executive director of the American Philatelic Society, was invited by Sequoia Stamp Club President Chris Palermo to attend the meeting of the Sequoia Stamp Club on April 25 and serve as guest speaker for that evening. Because there has been a steady decline in membership in the APS since 1988, one of Scott's main tasks these days is looking for ways to encourage more stamp collectors to join that organization. Many of today's collectors who buy and sell via the internet do not participate in philatelic organizations. Part of Scott's plan is to reach out to these individuals through the increased use of technology. He is already overseeing a restructuring of the APS website to make it more user friendly. Rather than focus primarily on youth, a main target area for recruitment for Scott is the recently retired person. From his point of view, that is the demographic that has the time and financial resources to devote to philatelic endeavors.



Scott English with Sequoia Club President Chris Palermo.



Scott English speaking to Sequoia Stamp Club

Scott makes it a point to try and visit as many local stamp clubs throughout the country as possible, and he was very impressed with our club. The majority of clubs that he visits are struggling, and he believes that Sequoia is an anomaly in that it is a thriving club with large membership and solid finances. This is partly due to our friendly atmosphere and interesting programs. However, it may also be due to our regular silent auctions, frequent live auctions, and swap meets. Scott believes that what contributes most to the success of clubs like Sequoia and another club he recently visited, the Knoxville Philatelic Society, is the many avenues offered for the buying and selling of stamps. That is what he says most collectors are seeking when they join a local club.

While at our meeting Scott took the opportunity to present a Gold award from the APS to Jim Giacomazzi, editor of the Chatter newsletter and to wish a happy 95th birthday to Rich Coleman. We thank Scott for the visit, for reaching out and communicating with local clubs, and for work he is doing on behalf of the members of the APS.

Deyling Alvarado Awarded Collectors Scholarship

Deyling Alvarado was a guest at the Sequoia Stamp Club meeting in Redwood City on Tuesday, June 27, where she was presented with the second annual Collectors Scholarship, a \$500 award given by the club to a graduate of Sequoia High School who has achieved academic success and also demonstrates an interest in a hobby or activity that has enriched their life. Deyling spoke to club members about her collection of rocks which she has gathered from various places, and how each one reminds her of a special time in her life. One of the most interesting was one she called her "doorbell" rock, because she would toss it on the rooftop of her friend's house in Guatemala as a signal to come outside. Sequoia Club member and former Sequoia HS teacher, Jim Giacomazzi, presented Deyling with a topical collection of stamps with images of rocks and minerals that had been donated by members of the club. Deyling plans to attend De Anza Community College in the fall and to transfer after two years to UC Riverside where she will pursue a degree in nursing. Deyling is the first in her family to graduate from high school. We congratulate her on her accomplishments and wish her good luck in all her future endeavors.



PENPEX CABOOSE

In less than 5 months, PENPEX will hold its 44th stamp show on December 2 and 3, 2017 at the Redwood City Community Activities Building. The show sits in the midst of the San Francisco peninsula and is close to East Bay and San Jose. So mark you calendar and plan to attend.



PENPEX will have 16 dealers along with the US Postal Service. The two-day show offers a relaxing atmosphere to hunt for your material, talk with friends, look at others exhibits, and find material in the silent auction. This a great family event as we do have a youth area and a snack bar.

Ed Dimmick of Dimmick Stamps selling topical and country stamps at PENPEX '16.

PENPEX Silent Auction

The PENPEX Silent Auction will be the first weekend in December. We have had great sales in the past with over 500 lots for sale each year. The auction will be here before you know it. Please start setting aside suitable material for the auction – this is the time to identify lots for sale. Asking price starts at \$5 per lot. Be reasonable in what your asking price is and follow the condition guide lines in the Scott catalogue. Remember, the auction is only as good as is material members enter.

You can get entry forms or questions answered from Jim Mosso at Sequoia Stamp Club meetings. Make sure to get him your entries by October 24.

Jim Mosso, PENPEX Silent Auction Chair

Exhibits

PENPEX reserves 66 frames for exhibits. This is your opportunity to show your material and share your knowledge with other collectors. There is no charge to enter. The entry form, prospectus, is posted on the website at <https://www.penpex.org/show/exhibits>.

For Sequoia Stamp Club members, there is also the option to enter 1 to 4 pages. Yes, just an 8½” x 11” piece of paper with your material and some information about it. A great way to start small with big rewards.

Vesma Grinfelds, PENPEX Exhibits Chair

Youth Activities Area

The PENPEX has set aside an entire room for young people to have fun with stamps. We offer many interesting activities; everything from finding stamps to filling in blank spaces. Every kid will walk away with a great memory and stamps to treasure for life.

Please consider volunteering for a couple hours during the show. Pass on your enthusiasm to the next generations. These kids will be the future of the hobby and ultimately your collection.

Preston Chiappa and Richard Coleman, PENPEX Youth Chairs

Cover of the Month by Jim Sauer

This month's cover is of a type we've all seen before—all, or most, of a set of stamps applied to a cover—some being first day of issue and some not. Our example is not a first day of issue. In looking at this one, however, a couple things caught my attention—*Task Force Grapple* and the name *Rear Admiral G. Serpell Patrick*. I had seen both before. A search on the internet brought them to the fore:

Patrick was born Goldsborough Serpell Patrick on Goat Island in San Francisco Bay, California. He was the son of Jane Deakins Serpell of Norfolk, Virginia and Navy Chaplain Capt Bower Reynolds Patrick. He died 21 March 1999 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was, evidently, part of a United States observation group for England's first nuclear bomb trials in the late 1950s.

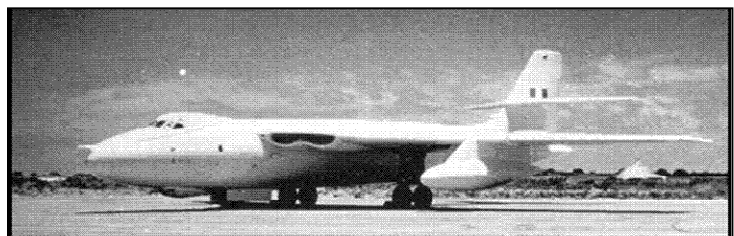
The Pacific programme of British thermonuclear tests, Operation "Grapple", began in 1957, following the earlier atomic trials in Australia. The testing of a large megaton-yield weapon had dictated that a new site be found and Christmas Island, a remote coral atoll 2 deg. north of the Equator, was chosen. The tri-Service and civilian task force for "Grapple" was commanded initially by Air Vice-Marshal W. E. Oulton and later by Air Vice-Marshal (later Marshal of the R.A.F. Sir John) Grandy. The Scientific Director was Mr. (later Sir William) Cook. Although uninhabited, with an economy based on the export of coconut products, the island had been largely neglected since World War II. Preparations had started the previous year to construct the support facilities and a 7,000-ft. runway, 25 miles of roads, a control tower, buildings for weapon assembly and a seawater distillation plant were some of the building works needed. The domestic accommodation was tented but more substantial buildings were provided for recreation purposes. Most of these works were carried out by the Army Task Group which included a detachment of Fijian troops. The dropping point was off Malden Island, an uninhabited atoll some 400 miles south of Christmas Island. By dusk on 14th May the scientists had made the final checks on the apparatus sited on Malden that was designed to measure the air blast, heat and radiation levels. They withdrew and embarked in H.M.S. Narvik, Warrior and Messina.

The hours prior to the release of the bomb were tense and dramatic. Long before dawn the Shackletons of Nos. 204 and 206 Squadrons and Canberras of Nos. 76 and 100 Squadrons had thundered off from Christmas Island on weather reconnaissance and sampling sorties—with the added duty for the Shackletons of searching the danger area to ensure that it was free of shipping. At first light, Hastings of No. 24 Squadron and Dakotas of No. 1325 Flight had left for the target area laden with observers.

The delicate task of loading the weapon into Valiant XD818 had been completed the previous day and now, crewed and ready, the aircraft waited in the grey cool hours of early morning. The signals traffic rose to a peak. "All clear" was received from Malden. Ships were reported in position. "All clear" came from the search flights and a constant stream of weather information came in from dozens of sources. The messages flashed between the task Force Commander on the Scientific Control Ship Narvik and the operations room on Christmas Island, culminating in the order for XD818 to take off. Piloted by W / Cdr. K. G. Hubbard, Officer Commanding No. 49 Squadron, the gleaming white aircraft taxied out on to the runway. For the few who watched it leave, the graceful rise and climb into the morning sky was so nonchalant as to be an anti-climax. On 31st May a second and larger weapon was dropped, witnessed by representatives of the world's press. Testing continued at Christmas Island until November 1958 ("Grapple X, Y and Z") during which time the Valiants of No. 49 Squadron dropped a total of seven thermonuclear weapons.



Franked with Gilbert & Ellice Islands Scott 61-72, it lacks only the 5/ value, Scott 71, for completion, issued August 1, 1956.



The aircraft that dropped Britain's first H-bomb, Vickers Valiant B, 1 XD818 of No. 49 Squadron. It is seen at Christmas Island in November 1958 at the conclusion of the tests, ready for the return flight to England which it made via Honolulu, the U.S.A. and Canada.

Gandhi and Modern India



Political and social scientists study stamp issues for clues to how governments view their history and evolution as societies. United States stamp issues are replete with historical themes and make much of our founders. Benjamin Franklin, because of his role as our first Postmaster, is on nearly a hundred different US stamp designs, and Washington, Jefferson, and other Founding Fathers are not much behind. The values that America was founded on—unity, liberty and justice for all—have always been our national aspiration, even if attaining these goals has been more problematic. Other nations have more difficult relationships with their professed national goals and heroes, and nowhere is this more evident than with India.

The Great Man theory of history—to what extent do individuals influence historical events and to what extent they would have happened anyway—has been roundly debated by historians. Surely, America would have obtained independence from Great Britain had there never been George Washington. But equally clearly, genocide would not have been part of WWII to the same extent had there been no Hitler. India would have become independent of Britain had Mohandas Gandhi gone into his family's business, not politics. But Gandhi attempted to change India in a way that many Indians were very resistant to. Gandhi believed in the equality of men, a concept that we Americans have been taught since childhood. India had no such tradition. The caste system and religious hatred among Hindu, Muslim, and Sikh had made for a system of highly stratified and systematized inequality. Gandhi didn't just seek independence from Great Britain for his country; he wanted to change the basic fabric of Indian society.

How well he succeeded is told by philately. Gandhi was on one of the first sets of stamps issued by India shortly after his death. After that, he received very little philatelic recognition—as if, proud of its founder, modern India has little time for his goals. Certainly, India is not the stratified society that it was a hundred years ago, but certainly there are mixed feelings on Gandhi's message. 40% of students in India's largest state (over 200 million residents) won't eat lunches made at school because the school cafeterias employ untouchables. Caste issues have never been far from the surface in modern India. Gandhi's near invisibility on the stamps of India quickly tell stamp collectors what social scientists study and try to evaluate—the goal of social harmony and equality in India is not a goal to which most Indians subscribe.

(Originally Posted January 17, 2017 in <https://www.apfelbauminc.com/blog/gandhi-modern-india> by John Apfelbaum. Reprinted by permission of the author.)

The Spirit of St. Louis

by Marsha Brandsdorfer

While working as an airmail pilot, 24 year old Charles A. Lindbergh decided to participate in a \$25,000 contest offered by businessman Raymond Orteig to be awarded to the first flight that could fly successfully from New York to Paris. Lindbergh, who loved to fly, wanted to prove the limitless possibilities in aviation, and prove that a nonstop transatlantic flight could be accomplished.



The estimated forty hour flight would need financing. Lindbergh had to find sponsors and convince them that they weren't sending him to his death. When Lindbergh finally had enough financing, he asked the Ryan Airlines Factory in San Diego to build him his plane. To keep the plane light of excess weight, he decided to have it built with just one engine. Deciding that a parachute would be too heavy,

instead, he would bring a ten pound rubber raft, should he need to land in the ocean. He also prepared to take with him a pump for the raft, flares, canteens, and Army rations. 425 gallons of gasoline were needed for the nonstop flight, allowing for excess in case he needed to detour from bad weather. His plane was built with one cockpit, in the rear of the gas tank, and he had only windows on each side of the plane to look out. Lindbergh named his new plane, the "Spirit of St. Louis." Only weeks later after the plane was built, after testing it, he was ready to proceed.

He flew his plane from San Diego for an overnight stay in St. Louis, and then Lindbergh left for New York the following morning. In New York, he waited a few days for bad weather to subside, and then on May 20, 1927, Lindbergh began his journey to Paris. He travelled an average of 100 miles per hour. Sitting in the small cockpit, he would feel cramps in his legs and dull aches in his back and shoulders. Lack of sleep became a huge problem and his struggle with fatigue was difficult.



Lindbergh did not eat his first meal, a packed sandwich, until he was flying over Europe, his second night of flight. His excitement that he was closer to his journey's end rejuvenated him. To his great surprise, when he landed at Le Bourget Airport, after his total journey of 33-1/2 hours, he was greeted by tens of thousands of people breaking down fences and running past guards. Lindbergh's undeniable achievement would help in the advancement of aviation and in the progression of airmail. The 1927 C10 ten cents commemorative airmail stamp was issued on June 18, 1927, as a tribute to Charles A. Lindbergh and his transatlantic

flight, the first U.S. Stamp to honor a living person. Today, the Spirit of St. Louis is displayed at the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum in Washington, D.C.

(Material in this article was researched from Charles A. Lindbergh's detailed 1953 memoir, *The Spirit of St. Louis*.)



PHIL A. TELLICK
AND SNAIL MAIL '4-EVER'
 By Miriam S. Thurston- All Rights Reserved C

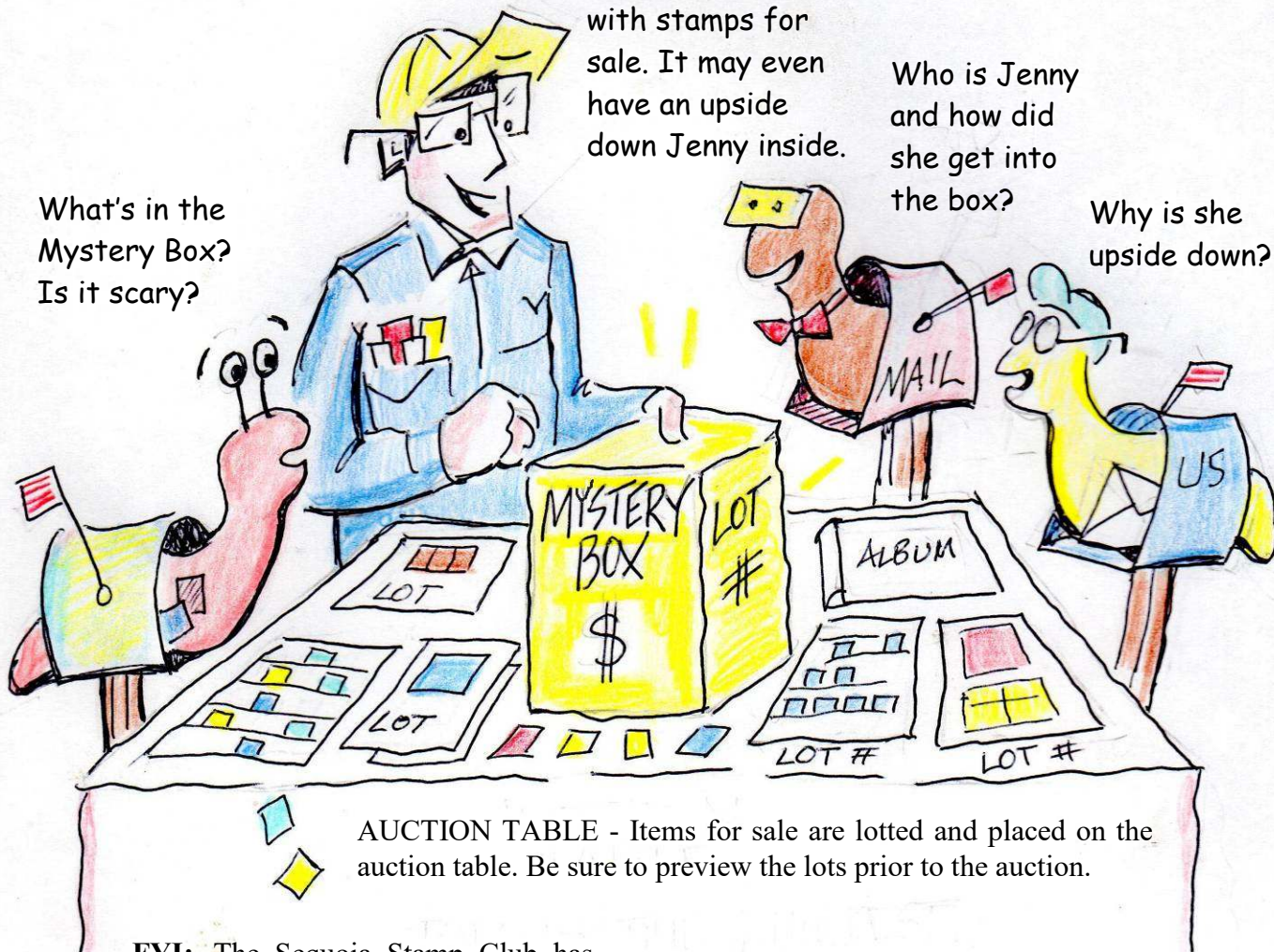
FYI: The rare “Inverted Jenny” stamp featuring an upside down plane sold for over \$1 million at auction in 2016.

Oh. no. It's not scary. It's filled with stamps for sale. It may even have an upside down Jenny inside.

Who is Jenny and how did she get into the box?

Why is she upside down?

What's in the Mystery Box?
 Is it scary?



AUCTION TABLE - Items for sale are lotted and placed on the auction table. Be sure to preview the lots prior to the auction.

FYI: The Sequoia Stamp Club has auctions approximately every 4th meeting. The auctions are limited to 50 lots maximum on a first come first served basis. Only members may enter material in auctions (maximum of 5 items per member), while guests may bid on and buy lots. Each seller can place one bid on their item if they feel that the item is selling below its value. If their bid remains the highest, they will receive the item back at no charge. If the item sells, the club receives 10% of the sale price.



Auctioneer Jim Giacomazzi at work.