

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 50 - Issue No. 3 w317

July - September 2019

## 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

Refreshments are served and visitors are always welcome.

More info at:

[www.penpex.org/ssc](http://www.penpex.org/ssc)



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## President's Message:

These months have gone by so quickly since my last message. We are saddened and shocked by the demise of our friend and member, Ed Bierman. He will be missed. You can read the obituary for Ed under the "Closed Album" feature on page 5 of this issue.

Thank you, John Corwin, for taking on the *Stamp Chatter* newsletter. For now, people like John and Ed are few and far between. The only thing that stays the same is constant change. The club remains vital, and meetings are well attended.

Thanks to all of you who have helped keep the club vibrant. There are still many exciting club events and activities to look forward to this year.



Jim Southward

## 2019 Sequoia Stamp Club & Stamp Show Schedule

- ♦ **July 9:** Presentations by Sequoia High School Scholarship winners; Silent Auction
- ♦ **July 10:** Mini-meeting, 10 AM, Community Activities Building
- ♦ **July 23:** 6:00 PM SSC Board meeting (all welcome). Philatelic "Mini-Clinics"; Silent Auction
- ♦ **August 7:** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ **August 13:** Swap Meet (Members Sales Tables)
- ♦ **August 27:** Members Live Auction (Wally Jolliff auctioneer)
- ♦ **September 4:** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ **September 7 & 8:** **Great American Stamp Expo, Napredak Hall, San Jose**
- ♦ **September 10:** Other Hobby Night - Show & Tell; Silent Auction
- ♦ **September 24:** APS video: Stamps of the Trans-Mississippi issue of 1898; Silent Auction

The complete schedule can be found online at [www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar](http://www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar).

## Photo Gallery



Left: In the foreground, Jim Southward and Joan Doherty with Miriam Thurston and Angie Chiappa just behind.

Below: The whole crew eating with Preston Chiappa and Jim Giacomazzi at the end of the table.



## Summer Picnic, June 4, 2019



Joan Doherty, Jim Giacomazzi, and Eduardo Martino chatting.

Kristin Patterson giving her talk about revealing cancellation marks on old stamps.



**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jim Southward; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin.

The *Stamp Chatter* is published quarterly by the Sequoia Stamp Club. Visit our website at: [www.penpex.org/SSC](http://www.penpex.org/SSC) or email us at [sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com](mailto:sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com).



## Golden Spike 150th Anniversary Stamps

By John Corwin

On May 10, the United States Postal Service issued some of the most beautiful stamps in recent years. The three stamps honor the driving of the Golden Spike at Promontory Summit, Utah, in 1869 to complete the first transcontinental railroad line. The stamps are probably available at your local post office in sheets of 18 stamps. The post office clerk might remind you that the middle mostly gold stamps are really first-class stamps, not just labels or colorful selvage. The picture below does not do justice to the brilliant gold printing on the stamps.



The USPS also issued a commemorative box set which included a book describing the history of the railroad as well as the sheet of stamps plus six authentic proofs from the printing process. The box set is available online at [store.usps.com](https://store.usps.com).

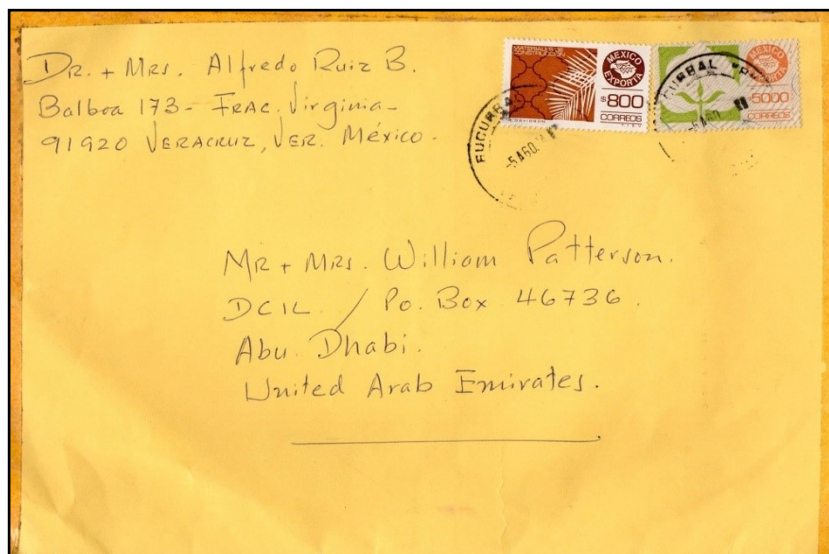
## A Favorite Cover

By Jim Giacomazzi

The Exporta Definitive series is a very attractive and well designed issue that highlights the products Mexico produces and exports. Mexico experienced a period of inflation during the years of the Exportas so postal rates changed 21 times in 25 years. Mexico sent mail to all the continents, yet finding covers to Africa or Asia is quite difficult.

The illustrated cover was sent from Veracruz, Mexico, to my sister and brother-in-law who at the time were living in Abu Dhabi. It contained a wedding announcement for their son and future daughter-in-law. Tom Droege collects Exportas pretty seriously. (Tom runs the Stamp Auction Network website, <https://stampauctionnetwork.com>.)

I think that he would be very interested in this cover. In his data base I could not find any other Exporta cover to United Arab Emirates.



## Why Should Stamp Collectors Collect Post Cards?

By Shav La Vigne

The quickest and most reasonable answer to this question is; WHY NOT!

Nearly every category of collecting has several points of interest that are constant:

1. The collector enjoys what he or she collects;
2. They find their collection interesting and educational to look at;
3. There is a historical tie to their collection that needs protection;
4. There is a beauty factor in objects collected that are also worthy of protection;
5. They enjoy studying all aspects of what they collect;
6. They learn about a place of origin, country, state, city or region that has a meaning to them or to their families;
7. They enjoy being with and sharing their findings with others who have similar interests or to whom they are teaching.

Add all of these things up and you have a typical stamp / post card collector.

The point is that both of our hobbies mirror each other in so many ways that perhaps collecting and being involved in both can strengthen and enhance our overall experience.

At the Sequoia Stamp Club meeting of Tuesday May the 28<sup>th</sup>, I stated that I was a post card collector; true enough, but I have been a stamp collector for many years also. I enjoy both of my collections but have found that post card collecting, and writing on that subject, has given me more of a creative outlet over the past several years.

Little did I know, less than two years ago, that there was a well-established post card club right in my back yard, here in San Jose. I joined the club and found myself welcomed in the presence of people who simply enjoy the hobby for what it is, like me, and people who have studied post cards for years and who are able to answer nearly every technical question a person can ask.

Why not consider expanding your collecting horizons by joining us at the San Jose Post Card Club meetings? We would love to have you. Please contact me with any questions or for details; [shavlavigne@yahoo.com](mailto:shavlavigne@yahoo.com).

This is a post card created by San Jose Post Card Club for National Post Card Week, May 6 - 12, 2019. Produced and published by Jim Sauer, photo by Shav La Vigne.



### The Incinerator

Some of us can remember when nearly all trash was burned, whether in open pits or large incinerators which were mostly used by commercial firms. The photo is an incinerator presently located on the grounds of Economy Lumber Company where it was last used. It started life with the Larson Ladder Company in the 1920's. In the late 40s or early 50s it was sold to Campbell Lumber which became Economy Lumber Company in the early 1950's. Campbell Lumber was a branch of Dougherty Saw Mills in Boulder Creek and the Lumber Company of San Jose. One may surmise it was used primarily to dispose of wood by-products which today would be processed into many other uses thereby eliminating the fouling of the air. Incinerator use was banned in 1962 in Santa Clara County. Beautiful but ugly at the same time.

San Jose Post Card Club  
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## Closed Album – In Memory of Ed Bierman



Ed Bierman, 1964 - 2019

the position of editor of the club's *Stamp Chatter* newsletter.

Ed Bierman passed away on May 31, 2019; he was 55 years old. Ed was a longtime active member of the Sequoia Stamp Club, joining in 2000 as member #580. He collected old post cards, specializing in those related to San Francisco Cliff House, Sutro Baths, and Redwood City. Ed presented many times at club meetings, and won several awards for exhibiting at both PENPEX and SEAPEX. He had recently taken on



San Francisco Cliff House Post Card

He had many other interests including scuba diving and underwater photography. Ever since his certification in 1992, Ed has loved diving, especially in the ocean waters at Monterey Bay. Another area of expertise was technology, and he worked as the webmaster for Sutter Health for many years. He maintained the website for SCC and PENPEX, and was our go to guy for any technology issues. For PENPEX, he produced the show program and had just assumed the duties as Exhibits Chair having completed his first year in 2018.



Scuba diving



Ed and Margaret



Ed receiving Life Membership award from SSC president Craig Butterworth

Ed was married to his wife Margaret for almost 33 years, and they have two adult children, Andrew and Holly. He received a Bachelor's degree in Humanities at Concordia University and a Master's degree in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. In 2016 he was awarded Life Membership in the SSC.

He went too young and will be missed by all who knew him.



## Star Trek

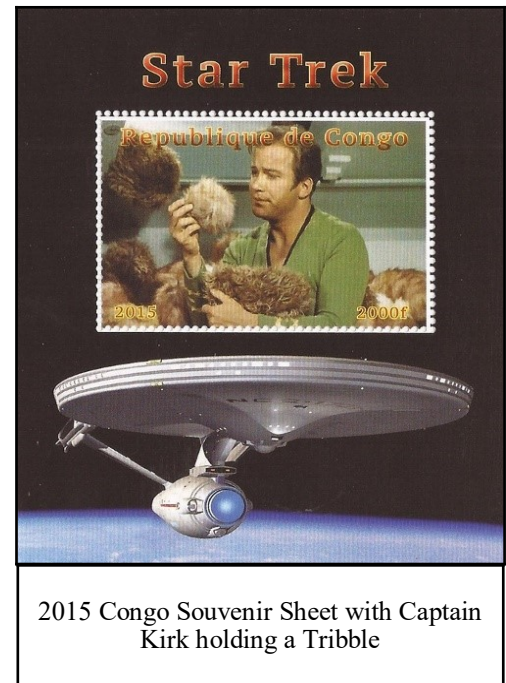
By Marsha Brandsdorfer

The infamous science-fiction classic television show Star Trek which initially ran on the air from 1966 to 1969, is memorialized on dozens of United States and International postage stamps. While in Dallas at a comic book convention in January 2017, I met with author David Gerrold. His book, The Trouble With Tribbles tells the story of this favorite fan episode, bearing the same name, as Gerrold wrote the script.

As a young aspiring writer, Gerrold obtained an agent. Gerrold had an idea about small creatures called fuzzies, which would breed and take over the starship Enterprise, for the science fiction TV show, Star Trek. Gerrold felt that his fuzzy alien would not have to be ugly to still be a dangerous menace. Producer Gene Coon – Gene Roddenberry was executive producer – liked the story idea, but his biggest worry was cost. The Enterprise was the only set on Star Trek that was standard. Other sets would have to be built. By the second season, each show was budgeted to spend no more than \$185,000 per episode. Bearing this in mind, Gerrold went ahead and wrote a script outline, trying to make it so that the story would also hold down costs.

Gerrold had the opportunity to hang around the set, to talk with the actors and to watch the dailies to get a better feel for the TV series. After Gerrold's story premises/script outline was bought, he worked on a full script using his outline, hoping his script would be bought too. He didn't particularly wish to leave it to another writer. He wrote a draft and discussed it with Coon. Coon wanted Gerrold to change the name of the creatures. Because of a 1962 Hugo awarded science fiction novel entitled Little Fuzzy by H. Bean Piper, Coon stated that although Gerrold's aliens were quite different, as a precaution, the legal department wanted the name of the creatures changed to protect the show from any liability.

So Gerrold went home and thought of a list of made-up nonsense words and in reviewing them, decided that he liked the name "Tribbles" best. He passed on his suggestion to Coon, who agreed that he liked the name too. Coon then paid \$2,000 for Gerrold's first draft script. However, the script would go through a transformation of changes by Gerrold with discussions also with Coon to make it closer to the feel and spirit of Star Trek. Since Star Trek was a TV series, the script had to fit into that series, so rewrites made it necessary to help with the consistency of the TV show. There was also some self-censorship on the script so as to meet the Broadcast Standards and Practices to be sure not to offend viewers. Gerrold cut his script to fit the length of episode, and the plot around the little creatures revolved and tightened. The episode, The Trouble With Tribbles initially aired on December 29, 1967, and has since become one of the most popular episodes of Star Trek.



## Read the Small Print

by Ken Perkins

The Scott catalogues offer a wealth of information about our stamps. Well known for their illustrations, pricing, and numbering system, they're an essential resource for any collector. A recent exercise in identifying some stamps included in a miscellaneous lot I picked up at a club silent auction a couple of years ago introduced me to the value of what Scott's calls 'Footnotes'. These 'Footnotes' are the lines of tiny type located just below the main body of information about many stamps. They cover a variety of topics such as the reason for the stamp issue, overprints and surcharges used on the stamp, and warnings of reprints and forgeries. They can even help identify stamps that aren't in the catalogue!

Here are a few examples of the value of reading the small print:



The underlying stamp here is the 2 Cent. vermillion Nicaragua #122 of 1900, the stamp which allegedly influenced the location of what is now the Panama Canal. The footnote for #121-133 refers to surcharges creating

#144-151. And the overprints do indeed make these look like #144-147, over in the next column on the same catalogue page, but the 1 Cent. value and the 1902 and 1904 dates are wrong. Footnotes to the rescue – the footnote under #144-151 tells us that “...No. 122 was surcharged “1 Cent.” and “1901”, “1902” or “1904.” All of these surcharges were made to fill a dealer's order and none of the stamps was regularly issues or used.”



These could easily be identified as Netherlands #216, 218, 219, and 220, issued from 1940-47. But those are listed as being perforated, while these are imperforate. Again, the tiny print footnote identifies them: “*Imperf examples of Nos. 216, 218-220 were released through*

*philatelic channels during the German occupation, but were never issued at any post office.*”



Here we have what look like 19<sup>th</sup> century U.S. local stamps from the Metropolitan Errand and Carrier Express Company of New York City, issued in 1855. But the catalogue tells us that the 10 and 20 Cent originals were both red-orange...these are blue. Again, the footnote, in italics yet, clears things up with “...*extensively reprinted in brown and blue on paper much thicker than the originals.*” So instead of stamps with a 2017 catalogue value of \$300 and \$325, I've got a pair of interesting Cinderellas.

Continued on page 8 . . .

## Read the Small Print ~ continued from page 7



We're told 'The exception proves the rule', and here's one where the footnotes let me down. Under the overprint is Hungary #122 of 1916-20. The footnote for that stamp provides a very long list of surcharges and overprints applied to the stamp, but unfortunately none of them match this stamp. In paging further through the Hungary listings in my 2015 Classic Scott catalogue in search of a match, I stumbled upon stamps issued for 'Western Hungary' in 1921, and there was my stamp: Western Hungary #7. Why the footnote under the original Hungarian stamp didn't mention this issue is a mystery.

Even if the footnotes did fail me in the last example, I did learn that when I was in the town of Rust, Austria half a century ago (50 years ago...impossible!), looking at the Iron Curtain between Austria and Hungary – barbed wire fences, mine fields, machine gun towers – I was only a few kilometers from the place for which this stamp was issued.

So reading the small print doesn't apply only to legal and medical documents...do it when using the Scott catalogues too. You don't even need a lawyer.

# PENPEX CABOOSE

In less than 6 months, PENPEX will be here, so save the date of December 7 & 8, 2019. Also, be sure to TELL your family and friends, as the more people that know about the show, the more will attend.

Here is an update on our progress. The Community Activities Building has been reserved. Dealer contracts have been mailed out with about 5 having been returned with payment. We're working on a theme(s) for the show cachets and cancels.

PENPEX is always looking for people to join the PENPEX team. We can use your help before, during, and after the show. Please talk with Kristin Patterson 408-267-6643 about where you can help.

