

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 51 - Issue No. 1 w319

January - March, 2020

## 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



Dear members and friends,

Happy New Year! ..... Wow 2020!

In the second grade, I wondered if I would see the end of the twentieth century. Now 20% of the twenty first century is in the past.

How have we progressed in 70 years! Hmm, there are many more of us humans.

I remember watching the coronation of Queen Elizabeth. I was looking forward to seeing this young woman crowned with great pomp and circumstance. I imagined all the gifts she would receive and the accumulated wealth the royal family owned which was now hers. I imagined a blissful life in front of her. Then, as I watched, I saw a frightened girl being pushed this way and that way, by pompous old men, each seeking some of the glory of her occasion. I felt sorry for the new queen.

Since that time, I have watched the news media change from purveyors of news information that helps us understand the world around us, to one that sensationalizes what we see and read, and tears down personalities so we may gloat, that they are worse people than we are.

We now look forward to celebrating Martin Luther King Day and Presidents Day.

The news media now focuses on stories that tear away at the recollection of the great accomplishments performed by great people and replace it with demeaning information about their frailties. We who study history knew about most of the problems these individuals faced in their lives, but the GREAT things they did far overshadowed their sins. Why tarnish their images? In the great words from an unlikely source Rodney King "Why can't we just get along?"

Where are our heroes? Certainly not in the sensationalist media. However, we can remember their accomplishments through our collections. Happy New Year.

Jim Southward

## 2020 Sequoia Stamp Club & Stamp Show Schedule

- ♦ **January 4 & 5:** Great American Stamp Expo, Napedak Hall, San Jose
- ♦ **January 8:** Mini-meeting, 10 AM, Community Activities Building (CAB)
- ♦ **January 14:** Inauguration of Officers, Past Presidents Present; Silent Auction
- ♦ **January 28:** 6:00 PM SSC Board meeting (all welcome). Group Photo. Members Live Auction (Wally Jolliff auctioneer)
- ♦ **February 5:** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ **February 11:** Philatelic Quiz (John Corwin); Silent Auction
- ♦ **February 25:** New Freaks Never Seen Before by Peter Adams; Silent Auction
- ♦ **March 4:** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB
- ♦ **March 10:** Fancy Cancels on U.S. Postal Cards (APS video); Silent Auction
- ♦ **March 24:** Live Auction Larke material (Jim Giacomazzi auctioneer)

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

## Picture Gallery



Holiday Party, December 10th

Above: Jim Southward drawing the winning ticket. Robert Brilliant and his grand prize, a nice \$2 Trans Mississippi, Scott #293

Below: (right to left) Kristin Patterson giving Pavlo and his father Audriy Tkach their winning PENPEX raffle prizes.



Auction Preview, October 20th

Right: Jim Mosso, Ted Hogan, and Jim Giacomazzi looking over the auction items for the Don Larke material.



Pizza Party, October 29th

Above: John Corwin, Miriam Thurston, Chris Thompson, Eduardo Martino, and Franz Kemper hungrily waiting for pizza.

Kiloware Night, October 8th

Right: Gerry Fields, Jim Giacomazzi, Kevin Kraemer, Gerrit Verschuur, and Ken Lewetzow looking over the items offered at bargain prices.



All photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.

**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jim Southward; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; *PENPEX Caboose*: Kristin Patterson; 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).



## Postcard Corner:

### USS *CHICAGO*, Last of the Navy's Sailing Ships

by Shav La Vigne

In my last article about the USS *Chicago* (*Stamp Chatter*, April-June, 2019), I mentioned, in passing, that she was a dual powered ship. The *Chicago* was a protected cruiser in the USS *Atlanta* class which also included USS *Boston*, *Yorktown*, *Bennington*, and *Dolphin*. All of these ships were commissioned by the Navy in the 1880's and were powered by both steam power and/or by sail.

For many years, ships of this type, and size, were constructed of wood and their form of power was strictly by sail. But the Navy was going through many changes in the 1890's as more of their main-line, fighting ships were being constructed of steel.

USS *Atlanta* was the first ship of the "New Navy Movement." The added steel gave her greater protection but increased her weight to a point where marine engineers designed and recommended steam engine power. Since the Civil War, many of the Navy's smaller ships had been designed, and built, to run by steam engines alone. They had proven themselves as dependable additions to the Navy's force, but concerns existed as to where fuel (coal) for these large ships could be obtained on the world market. As a result, each of these ships were designed with full rigging, where old fashioned sails could be raised to augment or replace steam power, if it became necessary.

As the U.S. Navy entered the twentieth century, the idea of needing sails as a backup faded away. Our "Great White Fleet" made their round-the-world trip with some concerns, but no delays!

Here are a few examples, on postcards, of these ships showing their sail rigging:

First is a view of USS *Boston* on an unused early card published by The Rotograph Co. of New York City.



Continued on page 6 . . .



# PENPEX CABOOSE

This year's PENPEX Stamp Show was a great success even though it rained the entire weekend. We had 29 volunteers who chipped in to make PENPEX run smoothly, as many hands make light work. All volunteers are invited to the Wrap-up meeting and Appreciation Brunch on January 28, 2018 at 10 am at Sizzler, 1011 Veterans Blvd., Redwood City.



At left:  
Eduardo Martino on ladder hanging sign with Chris Thompson and Franz Kemper.

At right: Michael O'Brien setting out chairs so attendees have a place to sit and buy stamps.



Above: Dealer Doug Gary moving in on Friday.



Gerrit Verschuur mounting his Silver Award-winning exhibit.



Jim Mosso and Richard Griffone moving in auction lots.

All photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.



# DURING THE PENPEX SHOW

The show attendance was great once again. For the second time, there was a SSC Flea Market with material that had been donated. For the first time, PENPEX had a free photo booth where anyone could have a set of 3 pictures taken that was then printed on a postcard that they could mail. Here are more photos taken during the show.



At left: SSC Pres. Jim Southward pointing at his three-page exhibit.

At right: Liam Butterworth getting his picture taken at the photo booth.



At right: The auction room filled with active bidders looking over the 533 lots.

Below: Chef Joe Coleman making sandwiches.



At left: Patrick Ford buying a PENPEX show cachet from artist Miriam Thurston.

All photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.

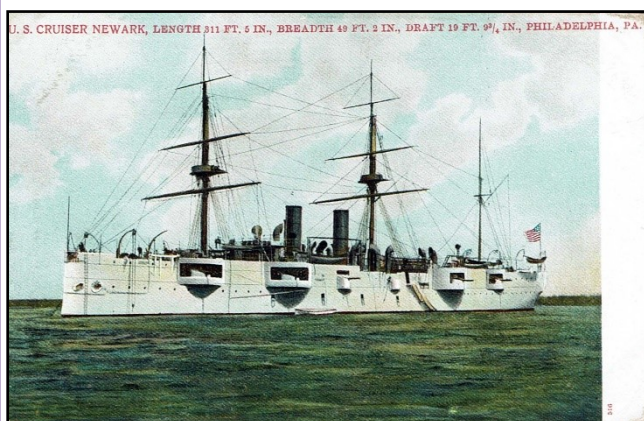


## New Photo Booth at PENPEX 2019

In 2019, PENPEX was looking for something new and the Board approved having PhotoFox Photo Booth take pictures for 3 hours on Saturday afternoon. The pictures were offered free and were printed on postcards, so they could be mailed immediately. Here are some samples.



## USS *Chicago* ~ continued from page 3



Second, is a color image of USS *Newark*. She was built after the original group with more features and power. This card is unused and was published by A.C. Bosselman & Co., New York. The card was made in Germany and shows details of the *Newark*'s design, printed on the front of the card.

Third, is an image of USS *Topeka*. The *Topeka* was a German-made gun boat that was purchased by the US Navy in 1898 in preparation for a likely war with Spain. She was built around the same time as our ships but sat idle up to the time that she was purchased. This card is unused and was published by The Rotograph Co. of New York City.

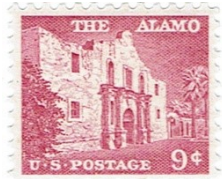




# The Fight for Texas Independence

by Marsha Brandsdorfer

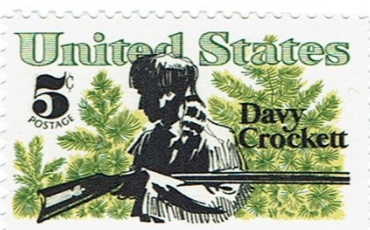
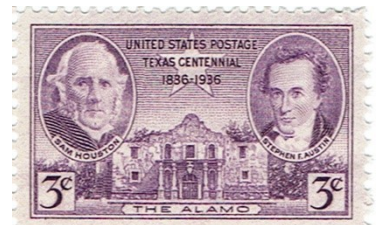
Memorialized on United States and international postage stamps, the thirteen day siege described in Lon Tinkle's book, "The Alamo," started on February 23, 1836, when General Santa Anna of the Mexican army arrived outside the Alamo fort in San Antonio de Bèxas (now San Antonio) to fight the Texans, who were Anglo-American English speaking settlers, for the land of Texas.



Santa Anna lacked the heavy artillery that he would need to demolish the fort's walls so his objective was to bide his time so his men could surround the Alamo. In the evenings, Santa Anna's troops blasted grenades and cannons, and had his band concert battle music to exhaust the Texans with sleepless nights. The Texans had to fire over the outer walls, exposing their heads and shoulders to enemy fire. Fortunately, the strong marksmanship of the Texans had killed several Mexicans. By the morning of March 2nd, thirty-two men from Gonzales arrived to help at the Alamo, making the total at the fort still less than 200 men. But with the reality that no further reinforcements would arrive, General William B. Travis informed his men that their destiny was "certain doom," but that

they should fight until the end and not surrender. Up to now, the Texans had not suffered a single loss, but death was certainly inevitable.

The Mexicans finally had made a hole in one of the Alamo's outer walls by use of their cannons. They planned to enter through the hole, and they also had ladders to climb over the walls. When they finally attacked on the early morning of March 6th, the Texans were warned of their approach by the sound of bugles, and the sounds of thousands of men hitting the ground running. The Texans tried to prevent them from coming into the



fort, by firing at those trying to climb over the walls with ladders. Many Mexicans were killed but due to their huge numbers, countless did make it over the walls. Now the Mexicans and Texans fought face-to-face. Mexicans used their bayonets. The Texans used bowie knives, which were fighting knives that derived its name and reputation from James Bowie, who was at the Alamo. They also used their rifles as clubs. Their goal was to kill as many of their enemies as they could. Travis and Bowie did die, as did the legendary

Davy Crockett, who was also at the Alamo. General Santa Anna survived as he did not personally partake in the battle, but stayed in a small adobe house south of the fort. By the time the battle was over just 90 minutes later, the only survivors were a few women and their children who had hid in the fort for protection. About five men were also found, hiding under mattresses in one of the far barracks rooms, but they were then killed by the Mexicans repeatedly stabbing them with their bayonets.



The news of the Alamo spread over Texas. The Texans were seen as brave heroes. Six weeks later, shouts of "Remember the Alamo!" were heard by the Texans as they battled Santa Anna's army, this time in an 18 minute defeat at San Jacinto. The Texans captured Santa Anna and he agreed to give up his fight for Texas in exchange for his life, and a promise that he would return to Mexico. Texans finally won their independent Republic.





## Cover of the Month

by Jim Giacomazzi

This interesting registered air mail cover was sent from the Armenian Convent in the town of Bethlehem on July 25, 1951. The cover is franked with three 1950 Jordanian air mail stamps (C2, C4, and C5). In the lower left portion of the cover there is an occupation stamp for use in Palestine (N11) and three postal tax stamps (two RA 7's and one RA 8). According to the Scott Catalogue they were issued in 1947 to help the Welfare Fund for Arabs in Palestine, and were required on foreign-bound letters to the amount of half the regular postage.

Back stamps on the envelope indicate that it arrived in New York on July 31 and was then forwarded to the main post office in San Francisco where it was received on August 1. The addressee was George Mardikian, who was an Armenian-American chef, restaurateur, author and philanthropist who opened Omar Khayyam's restaurant in San Francisco in 1938. According to the Federal Register of October 17, 1950, the address 262 O'Farrell Street was the office of The American National Committee to Aid Homeless Armenians (ANCHA).

Bethlehem had been administered by the British Mandate from 1920 to 1948. In 1947, a UN resolution to partition Palestine was passed and Bethlehem was included in the international enclave of Jerusalem to be administered by the United Nations. Jordan captured the city during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Many refugees from areas captured by Israeli forces in 1947-48 fled to the Bethlehem area, primarily settling in refugee camps. The influx of refugees significantly transformed Bethlehem's Christian majority into a Muslim one. Jordan retained control of the city until the Six-Day War in 1967, when Bethlehem was captured by Israel, along with the rest of the West Bank. Following the Six-Day War, Israel took control of the city. On December 21, 1995, Israeli troops withdrew from Bethlehem, and three days later the city came under the administration of the Palestine National Authority in accordance with the Interim Agreement on the West Bank. (This info provided by Ken Perkins from Wikipedia).



George Mardikian was born on November 7, 1903, in Bayburt, in what was then the Ottoman Empire. In 1920 he joined the fight for Armenian freedom and was captured and imprisoned by the Turks. He eventually gained his freedom and decided to immigrate to the United States. He arrived in the US on July 24, 1922. He established his first restaurant in Fresno, and then moved to San Francisco, where his Omar Khayyam restaurant earned praise from critics and locals alike. In 1951, Mardikian was awarded the Medal of Freedom by President Harry Truman for his work as a consultant to the Quartermaster General of the United States Army. He would go on to write and contribute to entrepreneurial and philanthropic causes, including ANCHA. In 1956, he published his memoirs, *Song of America*. Mardikian died on October 23, 1977. (Wikipedia)