

# Stamp



# Chatter

Volume 51 - Issue No. 2 w320

April - June, 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



As I write this message, the world is in the midst of the coronavirus (COVID-19) crisis. As far as we know, no club members have contracted this serious illness, but like many other organizations, we have been affected. The board of directors briefly considered canceling the March 10th meeting, but we decided to go ahead with it, because it would have been a very last minute cancellation. The attendance was down a little bit that evening, and a few days later, Redwood City mandated that all nonessential gatherings be canceled. So they closed the CAB until April 12 which means our March 24th meeting is canceled. We hope to get things back to normal for the April 14th meeting, but that will depend on circumstances at that time. Also, we have recently heard that WESTPEX has been canceled; see page 6 for other cancellations. In these uncertain times, I urge you to be careful and stay healthy.

This spring period is filled with holidays. They range from the trivial April Fools Day to the important religious holidays of Easter, Passover, and Ramadan. Also, Cinco De Mayo, Mother's Day, and Father's Day are coming up, but I'd like to ask that on Memorial Day you all remember those who sacrificed all for our country and those who sacrificed a lot in terms of years of their lives while serving the country. Our military services are well-represented on the stamps in our collections. On May 25th, take a few minutes, look over those stamps, and think about what they symbolize.

Jim Southward

## Schedule: Club Meetings (in black), Club Events (in blue), & Other Events (in green)

- ♦ April 1: **CANCELED** First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB.
- ♦ April 4 & 5: **CANCELED** Easter Seals Stamp Show, Sacramento
- ♦ April 4: **CANCELED** Western Philatelic Library Open House & Auction
- ♦ April 14: Collectibles Swap Meet
- ♦ April 24 - 26: **CANCELED** WESTPEX, SF Airport Marriott Hotel, Burlingame
- ♦ April 28: 6:00 PM SSC Board meeting (all welcome). Topicals with a Difference, My Life on Stamps (Gerrit Verschuur). Silent Auction.
- ♦ May 4: First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB.
- ♦ May 12: Philatelic Addiction (Miriam Thurston). Silent Auction
- ♦ May 26: San Jose Postcard Club Fundraiser Auction.
- ♦ June 3: First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, CAB.
- ♦ June 9: Putting Together Exhibit Pages (Kristin Patterson). Silent Auction.
- ♦ June 23: Presentation by Sequoia High School Scholarship Winner. Silent Auction.
- ♦ June 30: SSC Annual Picnic, 5 PM, CAB picnic area

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

## Picture Gallery

### Inauguration of Officers, January 14, 2020

Jim Mosso (Director), Craig Butterworth (Director), Jim Southward (President), Patrick Ford (Vice President), Jim Giacomazzi (Director), John Corwin (Secretary). Jay Strauss (Treasurer) was not present.



Phil Holck, David Abrahams, and Brent Campbell working on the quiz.

### Philatelic Quiz, February 11, 2020

33 Questions, most correct answers: Jim Giacomazzi 29, Wally Jolliff 28, Robert Brilliant and Greg Cykman 27, Jim Mosso and Kristin Patterson 26.

Do you want another similar challenge???  
See page 7.



Three of the high scorers. Robert Brilliant, Jim Giacomazzi, and Wally Jolliff select their prizes.



Jim Mosso showing his prize.



Kristin Patterson and her prize.

### New EFO's Never Seen Before, February 25, 2020



Peter Adams accepting his certificate from Jim Southward after having shown a slideshow presentation of errors, freaks, and oddities that he has recently learned about.

All photos courtesy of Ken Perkins.

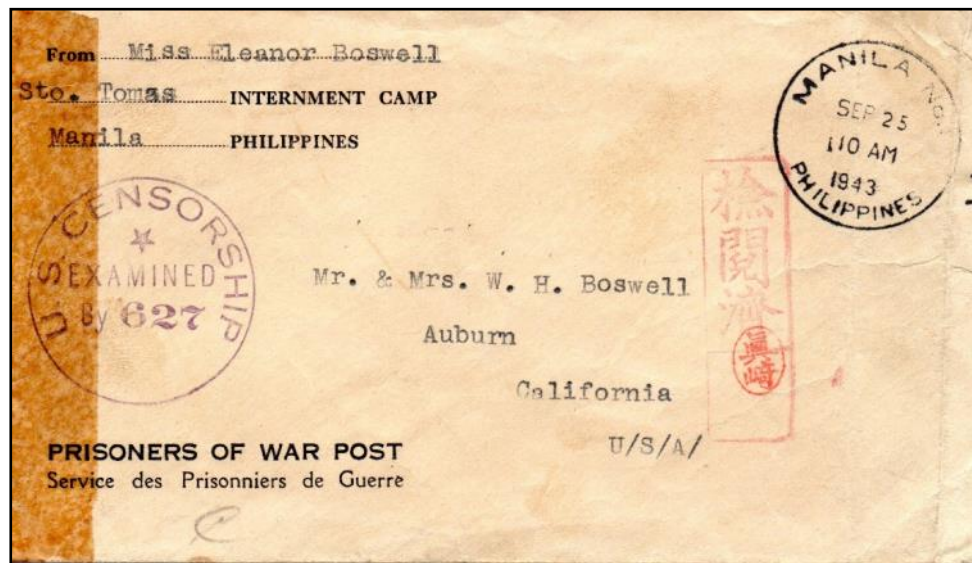
**Newsletter Staff:** Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Jim Southward; Feature Article: Marsha Brandsdorfer; Photographer: Ken Perkins; Printing & Distribution: John Corwin.

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).



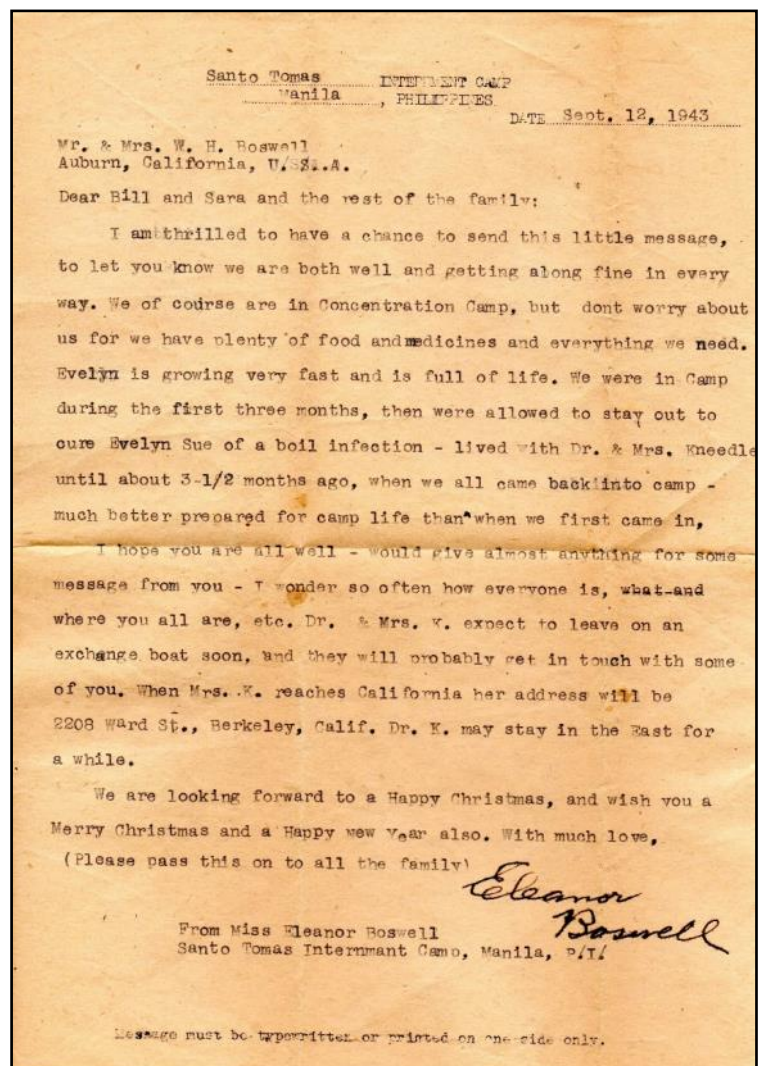
## Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi



The illustrated cover and enclosed letter was sent on September 23, 1943, to my grandparents Mr. & Mrs. William H. Boswell, who at the time were living in Auburn, CA. Prisoners of War Post was a service supported by the International Committee of the Red Cross, and markings on the envelope indicate that the contents of the letter were censored by both Japanese and US officials. The letter was sent by William's sister, Eleanor Boswell, who, along with her daughter Evelyn Sue, was a prisoner at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila in the Philippines. This internment camp (Eleanor refers to it in her letter as a "Concentration Camp"), was the largest of several camps in the Philippines in which the Japanese interned enemy civilians, during World War II. The campus of the University of Santo Tomas in Manila was utilized for the camp, which housed more than 3,000 internees from January 1942 until February 1945.

Continued on page 4 . . .



## Closed Album - In Memory of Richard Coleman



Richard Coleman passed away on January 27, 2020, at age 97. He was a long-time active member of Sequoia Stamp Club after joining in 2002. In 2015, he was selected as a life member of the club.

Richard was born on March 22, 1922 in Calistoga, California. He graduated from University of Illinois in 1948. His career was in public service as a planning director in California at Petaluma, Palm Springs, and Pomona. Later he was Director of Community Development in San Mateo.

He is survived by his beloved wife Lucy, three daughters, a son, two grandsons, and a brother.

Richard's stamp collecting interests were Western Europe, Ireland, British Commonwealth, Mexico, Brazil, and Pacific Islands. He was a vital member of the Sequoia Stamp Club's Youth Group; each month, he diligently mailed out packets of hundreds of stamps to each member.



For several years on his own birthday, he brought in a cake to our club meetings. The photo at right above shows him and Chris Thompson about to cut his 94<sup>th</sup> birthday cake. On one of those birthdays, he said that in addition to stamp collecting, he enjoyed gardening.

The photo on the left shows an artistic "philatelic tree" created by Miriam Thurston to give to Lucy. It symbolizes Lucy and Richard's shared love for gardening as well as Richard's interest in stamps.

He will be missed.



## Cover of the Month ~ continued from page 3

Prior to her internment, Eleanor had been living in Manila for 15 years and was employed as manager of the Bayview Hotel. In her letter, she tells her family back in the US, "We are both well and getting along fine in every way...don't worry about us for we have plenty of food and medicines and everything we need." She says, "We are looking forward to a Happy Christmas..." and asks William to pass the message on to the rest of the family. Conditions for the internees deteriorated and by the time of the liberation of the camp many of the internees were near death from lack of food. The camp was liberated on Feb. 3, 1945, when five American tanks from the US Army's 44th Tank Battalion broke through the fence of the compound. Eleanor and her daughter survived their internment and after the war, they returned to California.

Newspaper article from *Soledad Bee*,  
February, 1945

### ELLA BOSWELL AT SANTO TOMAS

No word has been received as yet of the liberation of Miss Ella Boswell, who had been in the Santo Tomas prison at Manila for three years. Well known here, she was raised in the Mission district and is an aunt of Mrs. James Giacomazzi.

Miss Boswell has been in the Philippine Islands for about fifteen years and was manager of the Bayview Hotel in Manila. She has not communicated relatives directly since the fall of Manila, but the 80-year-old owner of the hotel who was repatriated on the Gripsholm had been incarcerated at Santo Tomas and brought word that Miss Boswell and her 5-year-old adopted daughter, Evelyn Sue, were imprisoned there.



# President Harry Truman

By Marsha Brandsdorfer



On the afternoon of April 12, 1945, Vice President Harry Truman received a call from the White House to come immediately. Upon his arrival, First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt told Truman that Franklin Delano Roosevelt had passed away. Now in the midst of a Second World War, Truman was sworn in as the next President. As the new president, Truman's goal was to try and end the war as quickly as possible. Thirteen days later, he was briefed by Secretary of War, Henry Stinson, about American's development of an atomic bomb. This knowledge was new to him, as despite failing health, Roosevelt, in denial that he might not make it through the full term, did not wish to tell Truman anything that might prepare him for a possible succession, including the development of a new atomic bomb that could help end the war. In July, Truman received reports of the bomb's successful test in the New Mexico desert. Thus, he then ordered that atomic bombs be used on the Japanese. First, a bomb was dropped on Hiroshima on August 6 and another bomb on

Nagasaki on August 9, evidently killing about 150,000 civilians. Defeated, the Japanese surrendered on August 14, 1945, ending World War II.



Truman now had to deal with the transition from war to peace. He had a great deal of pressure to bring the troops home and as quickly as possible. However, he was reluctant to discharge all military as he felt that the Soviets were a serious threat to the United States. He was also getting pressure to assist in founding a Jewish homeland in Palestine for displaced European Jews who had suffered greatly from the Holocaust and so the creation of Israel came about on May 14, 1948. He wanted to try and pass a Civil Rights bill onto Congress to help the Black Americans, but decided not to follow through knowing it would anger southern whites.



When Truman won his presidential election against Thomas E. Dewey in 1948, Communist threats to countries friendly to the United States were of great concern. North Korea was planning to attack South Korea. Truman felt that America needed to get involved to halt further Communist takeover in the world. General Douglas MacArthur, commander of the U.S. military forces in Asia was allowed to deploy U.S. ground troops to South Korea in June, 1950. However, he and Truman did not get along and Truman fired MacArthur on April 10, 1951.



With his presidency over in January 1953, Truman kept busy working on his memoir and the large book was ultimately published in two volumes. He also helped to create a presidential library and museum in Independence, Missouri, the farming community where he had grown up, which opened in 1957. He passed away on December 26, 1972, in Kansas City, Missouri and was survived by his wife, Bess Truman and their daughter, Margaret.

(Material in this article was researched from Robert Dallek's 2008 biography, Harry S. Truman.)



## Serendipity: from Vienna to Heligoland

By Ken Perkins

At PENPEX 2019 while going through Douglas Gary's Austria offerings, I came across a single stamp numbered AB176. But in the 102 card was a German 3rd Reich semi-postal, Scott number B176. Thinking it was in the wrong place, I asked Doug what was going on. He explained that since this particular stamp bore a clear 'Wien' (Vienna) cancel, it fell into a special category of German stamps used in Austria during World War II.

Sure enough, had I paid careful attention to the Scott Classic catalog (yes, I admit I'm the guy who wrote about 'reading the small print' in *Stamp Chatter*, July – September, 2019) I would have noticed the boxed reminder after Austria #389 telling collectors that after the March 1938 Anschluss incorporating Austria into the German Reich, only German stamps were to be used in Austria. From September 30, 1938 until the end of the war, there were no Austrian stamps as such, only the German stamps used in Austria, and these are numbered by adding an 'A' to the Scott Germany number.

In fact, Scott's listing of Austria jumps from #389, issued in 1937, to #390 issued in July 1945, and even that and subsequent numbers were for use only in limited parts of the country. Scott's first post-war Austria stamp for use in the whole country is the semi-postal #B165 of September, 1945. The first standard postage issue is #455 of December, 1945.



And how are these German stamps used in Austria to be identified? The only way is by the presence of a clear Austrian cancel. Here's the one Doug sold me, with a nice, sharp 'Wien' cancel. A 'favor cancel' or post-war forgery? Maybe. But interesting nonetheless.

So where's the serendipity, you ask? Well, at that same PENPEX I won a small collection of stamps. To satisfy my recently-acquired taste for forged and/or otherwise doubtful stamps, the collection I bid on and won is stamps purporting to be from Heligoland. Heligoland may hold the world record for reprinted & forged stamps, with the Papal States of Italy (which I also collect) a close second, leading Scott to recommend that any Heligoland stamps be expertized. Upon taking a closer look at my newly-acquired Austria/German stamp, it turns out to be one commemorating 50 years since Heligoland was ceded to Germany by Great Britain. So thanks to Doug Gary and the PENPEX silent auction, I've made a philatelic journey from Vienna to Heligoland via Germany. Just another day in the philatelic world.



PostScript: Since this was written, our very own Patrick Ford has added to my serendipitous adventure by giving me a second German-used-in-Austria stamp, a Hitler Head definitive with a socked-on-the-nose 1943 cancel. What better way to remind the Austrians that 'Der Führer' was their new leader.

## Cancellations

By John Corwin

As stamp collectors, we all know that cancellations are postmarks on the stamps in our collections. But there is also a more serious meaning of the word in frequent use now, because many philatelic events are being canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic. As Jim Southward mentioned on page 1, our March 24th club meeting has been canceled. Also, the biggest local stamp show of the year, WESTPEX, has been canceled; it was to be held on April 24 - 26. Another cancellation is the first-Wednesday mini-meeting at the CAB on April 1st. And the April 4th open house and auction at the Western Philatelic Library has been postponed; it will be re-scheduled for later this year.

There might well be other events canceled or re-scheduled in the coming weeks. Watch for notices about upcoming meetings and events that might be canceled or changed. But most importantly, be sure to do your best to stay healthy.

# Philatelic Quiz

by John Corwin

For the February 11th meeting, Ken Perkins and I created this year's Philatelic Quiz. It consisted of 33 questions. See the photos on page 2 with pictures of the club members with the high scores..

Between us, Ken and I had created almost 50 questions, and we selected 33 because that's what would fit on the front and back of a standard sheet of paper. However, I didn't want those other unused questions to go to waste. So here is a mini-quiz that includes many of those unused questions. The answers are on page 8, and if you want more details about the answers, [click here](#). Sorry, no prizes this time!

- Which country issues 'Sede Vacante' Stamps upon the death of its leader?  
A. Italy      B. Vatican City      C. San Marino      D. Switzerland
- True or False: Portugal recently issued a stamp depicting a public elevator.  
A. True      B. False
- What stamp-issuing entity traces its founding to the year 1099 and has its headquarters in Rome?  
A. The Sovereign Military Order of Malta      B. San Marino      C. Vatican City      D. Italy
- True or False: The famous 'Scinde Dawks' were the first stamps issued in Asia.  
A. True      B. False
- The early 20th century Belgian stamps had removable labels instructing the post office to:  
A. deliver rapidly      B. not deliver on a Sunday      C. use airmail      D. hold for pickup
- The only one of the "7 Wonders of the Ancient World" to still exist is in what country which has featured them on many of its stamps?  
A. Egypt      B. Greece      C. Israel      D. Turkey
- Which country's stamps showed rulers tracing their lineage back to the House of Solomon of Biblical times?  
A. Israel      B. Jordan      C. Ethiopia      D. Italy
- What does the philatelic phrase "Perce en Arc" mean?  
A. A type of rouletting      B. A type of spoon-shaped stamp tongs  
C. The publisher of a French stamp album      D. A wavy embossed cancellation
- 'Seebecks' were associated with countries in:  
A. Central America      B. Africa      C. financial trouble      D. South America
- What country once denominated stamps in "Candarins"?  
A. Canada      B. Japan      C. China      D. Indonesia
- Tanzania's first four stamps identify the country as:  
A. Tanzania      B. United Republic of Tanganyika & Zanzibar      C. Tanganyika      D. Zanzibar
- From 1869 to 1947, this area's stamps showed only the ruling Raja, who was always a white man from the Brooke family.  
A. Sarawak      B. Borneo      C. India      D. Goa
- Memel is a city in Europe that briefly issued postage stamps. Most of the Memel stamps are overprints of French, German, and Lithuanian stamps. What country now includes Memel?  
A. France      B. Germany      C. Lithuania      D. Poland      E. Russia
- In the popular British Commonwealth 1949 U.P.U. omnibus series, what country uses non-English words instead of "Universal Postal Union" in the stamps with these designs?  
A. Aden      B. Malaya Selangor      C. New Hebrides      D. South Africa      E. Zanzibar





## Postcard Corner: Gone But Not Forgotten

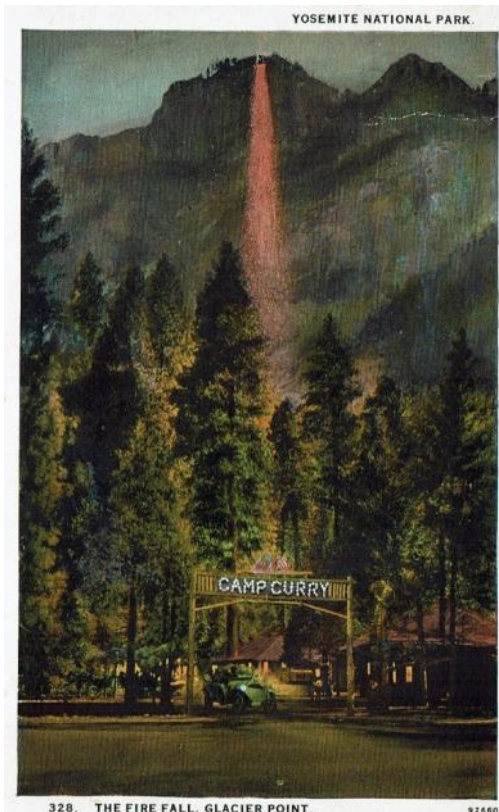
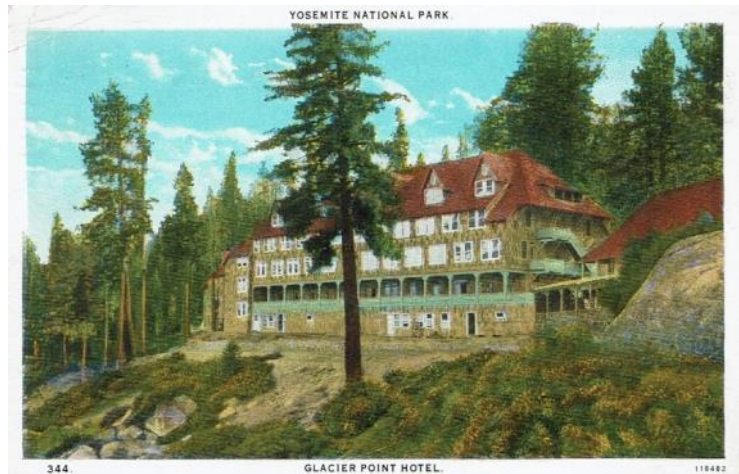
by Shav La Vigne

Postcards preserve the beauty and history of so many places and events that have been lost to history over the years. Without them these places can only live in the memories of the people who visited or who were lucky enough to see them. There are so many examples that it makes it difficult to list them all.

Here are two examples of postcards that bring back very fond memories of places and events that are near and dear to me. My family spent nearly every summer in Yosemite National Park from about 1950 through the 1970's.

While dad remained home to work, my mother would pack up the station wagon with luggage, bikes, and anything else my sister and I would need and start our long drive from Studio City to Yosemite. Anticipation built during the trip for all the fun we would be looking forward to after arriving in, what I think is the most beautiful place on Earth. We would keep busy hiking, biking, meeting, eating and enjoying everything that was offered, visiting and seeing the same familiar places over again like it was our first time!

The two examples I have chosen are the Glacier Point Hotel where we would usually eat after our drive to the top of this magnificent lookout point. From the porch of the old hotel it seemed like you could reach out and touch Half Dome! In addition the views of Nevada Falls, Vernal Falls, and, across the valley, Yosemite Falls were, and still are, spectacular!



The Glacier Point Hotel opened its doors to visitors in 1918 and was run by Yosemite Park & Curry Company from 1924 to 1968 when a severe winter snow storm caused extensive damage to the structure. The end came in 1969 when an electrical fire started on the bottom floor of the unoccupied hotel. Within minutes this wonderful place was gone only to be seen in tourists photographs and postcards.

The second was an event more than a thing, the Yosemite Fire Fall. Beginning in 1872, stacks of waste wood were set ablaze late in the afternoon just a short distance from the Glacier Point Hotel. While the afternoon turned to night at Camp Curry, 3000 feet below, the scheduled entertainment for the evening got underway. I remember seeing famous people of all professions who came to Camp Curry not only to enjoy the park but to entertain at this nightly summer event.

As the entertainment came to an end, one of the entertainers would usually sing the "Indian Love Call" after the traditional "Hello Glacier. Hello Camp Curry, Let the Fire Fall, THE FIRE FALL!" At that point, high above Camp Curry, the embers of that afternoon's fire were raked over the side of the cliff creating a beautiful waterfall effect for those below.

This went on for nearly 100 years until in 1968 George Hertzog, then director of the National Park Service, ordered it stopped. People who were away from Camp Curry were doing a lot of damage to the surrounding meadows and the "un natural" beauty of the Fire Fall was lost forever.