

Stamp



Chatter

Volume 51 - Issue No. 4 w322

October - December, 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



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President's Message

The 4th quarter of the year is upon us. Oh my, I will not be sorry when 2020 is over. Partisan politics have caused people to lose their senses. People are less amiable to each other. On top of that, the novel coronavirus has shut us in. Parents and other caregivers now must assist with schoolwork as well as homework. Two breadwinner households are in stress trying to keep up with jobs, homework, and caregiving. Then the early wildfires damaged us and our neighbors, and air quality has deteriorated. What next???



Jim as Santa!

During much of this year, I have not been able to run the club meetings. Vice President Patrick Ford stepped in and handled all the virtual meetings. He did a great job; I now see the difficulty of keeping control of a virtual meeting. There is no feedback like a live meeting gives the moderator. It is more difficult to measure and control the timing of the virtual meeting allowing all to have their say and to limit the more vociferous and encourage the less vocal members while trying to be fair to all. Thank you all for your patience while we improved the meetings. Thank you, Patrick, for setting the high standard.

Yours in Philately

Jim Southward, President

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

- ♦ **October 2 - 4:** Virtual Stamp Show. WINEPEX, San Rafael.
- ♦ **October 7:** CANCELLED Until Further Notice. First Wednesday mini-meeting, 10 AM, Community Activities Building (CAB).
- ♦ **October 13:** Innovation Stamp First Day Ceremony. Online Auction.
- ♦ **October 20:** CANCELLED. Pizza Party.
- ♦ **October 27:** 6:00 PM SSC Board meeting (all welcome). Program TBD. Online Auction.
- ♦ **November 10:** Nomination of Officers. Larke Online Auction.
- ♦ **November 14 & 15:** CANCELLED. Filatelico Fiesta, San Jose.
- ♦ **November 24:** Election of Officers. Show Your Favorite Philatelic Item. Online Auction.
- ♦ **December 5 & 6:** CANCELLED. PENPEX, CAB.
- ♦ **December 8:** Holiday Party. Members' Raffle Drawing. Online Auction.

All club meetings start at 7 PM Pacific time and are virtual online Zoom meetings until further notice, because the CAB has cancelled all building rentals until at least the end of 2020. The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Picture Gallery



Patrick Ford showing a Wah Ming Chang piece in his collection.



Robert Brilliant collects Hopi and Navajo works of art.



Eduardo Martino's collection of Argentinian teacups.

Other Hobby Night July 28, 2020

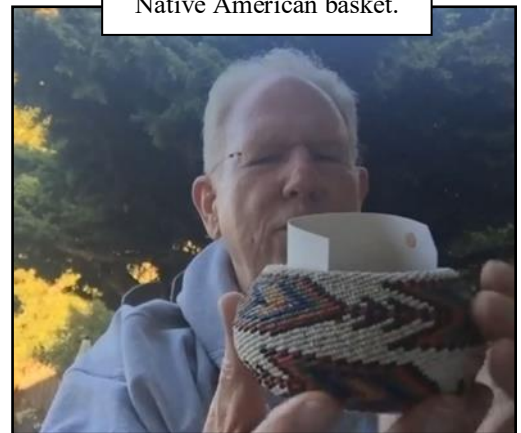


Joe Coleman wears this hat when riding his horse, Luke.



One of Ken Perkins' original acrylic pieces.

Jim Southward shows a Native American basket.



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 or email us at sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com.

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi



This month's cover is the dark blue one cent Franklin 4¼ x 5¼ inch stamped envelope Scott #U295 printed in 1894. It is a local cover with many interesting features.

In the upper left hand corner is the emblem of the Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, which was founded in 1890 by Dr. Arthur Crosby. The school was first located at Fourth and E Streets in San Rafael, but by 1891 moved to its permanent location of Mission and Cottage Avenues. Cavalry was a part of the military training and many of the boys brought their horses to school. The Barracks (shown below), housed the cadets until the 1920s. This building was formerly San Rafael's Tamalpais Hotel. In 1925, Dr. Crosby's widow sold the

school to a local businessman and the school's name was changed to the San Rafael Military Academy. The San Rafael Military Academy continued in the tradition of its predecessor until it closed in 1971. Since 1972, the property has been home to Marin Academy, which has no military association. (<http://contentdm.marinlibrary.org/digital/collection/pssr/id/4>)

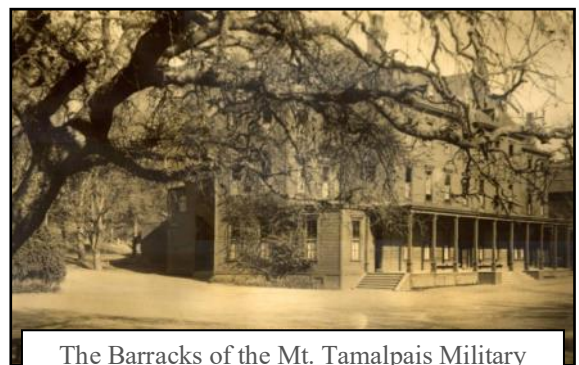


The cover was postmarked in San Rafael on Jan. 2, 1895, at 12:00M (midday). It was addressed to E. McD. Johnstone Esq. San Mateo, Cal. The back stamp shows that the cover arrived in San Mateo at 3PM that same day via San Francisco. Notice that the



San Francisco circular date stamp on the back is upside down, but reads correctly, while the CDS on the front of the envelope is right side up but appears as a mirror image!

Mr. Johnstone died later that same year. The following is an obituary from the San Francisco Call, Volume 78, Number 81, 20 August 1895: "E. McD. Johnstone of the firm of Johnstone & Bryan, publishers of the Traveler, died yesterday about noon at his residence at San Mateo. His illness, congestion of the liver, was of brief duration, having confined him to his bed for the past six days only. Mr. Johnstone first made his reputation through the passenger department of the Southern Pacific Company, with which he was connected for about eight years before branching out for himself in partnership with W. V. Bryan in the establishment of the Traveler. His unique ideas and originality have been strikingly exemplified through that journal for the past two and a half years. He will as well be recognized as the author of those artistic publications entitled "West by South," "By Semitropic Seas" and others of equal merit. He possessed a rare individuality and talent and enjoyed a host of admirers and friends. He leaves a widow and two boys, aged 12 and 14 years." It is possible that the letter was sent to him from one of his sons who may have been at student at the academy.



The Barracks of the Mt. Tamalpais Military Academy in San Rafael, Calif. circa 1902.

The Pony Express

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Jim DeFelice writes in his book, "West Like Lightning," that it took as long as six months for steam ships to travel with the mail from the east to the west coast, and it cost Congress way more to send mail this way than they could ever collect in postage. Therefore, it came as no surprise when Congress allowed William Russell and his partners Alexander Majors and William Waddell to utilize their new mail service, the Pony Express, to help deliver some of the mail. Speed would be its draw as these partners planned to have mail delivered from the east to the west coast in just ten days. From an office they opened in St. Joseph, Missouri, the Pony Express service began on April 3, 1860.

The public was excited about the idea of having express mail delivery service. It was expensive for individuals to take advantage of paying for such a service, but those that could afford it, did. Newspapers, however, could be sent using special mail rates and benefit the public by spreading information fast.

Costs were high to run the Pony Express. About 500 horses were purchased and there was the expense to hire riders, supervisors and set up horse exchange stations. These stations along the route provided overnight free food and board for riders. They were about 15 miles apart and the riders were expected to travel about 15 miles in an hour. Since riders expected the horses to run fast, it was very important to exchange for a refreshed horse at these stations. Many of the riders were short and lightweight so they wouldn't load down the horses. Rooms were sometimes nice at an inn or hotel, but often riders were just given a blanket and slept in an attic or by a haystack. After the rider had some rest and food, he would put a mochila, a small bag with flaps, and fit it right on a new saddled and watered horse to continue on his journey. A few more letters might be added to the mochila at the stations.



Most riders had to carry guns during their travels to protect themselves against possible hostile encounters with Indians. Other obstacles were horse thieves, as well as snow and cold wind in the winter. Disease was a common enemy on the frontier. As there were no antibiotics or vaccines developed yet, measles or bacteria in food or drink could kill.

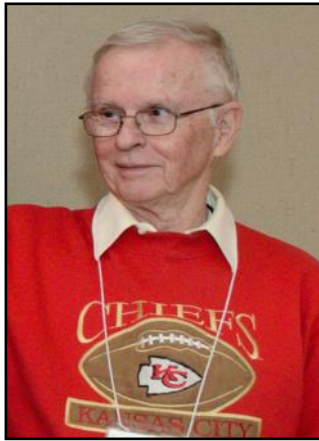
Often during their route, riders passed settlers heading westward traveling in large covered wagons. It was because of the discovery of gold and silver that many journeyed westward for opportunities. But solitude was what most riders of the Pony Express experienced for the long stretches of travel.

On their return, riders would deliver mail back east. But, finally, the telegraph would end the operation of the Pony Express. On October 24, 1861, when the telegraph connection was complete from California to Missouri, the Pony Express service ended abruptly. However, the Pony Express was only intended to have a short-term run since it was an expensive operation and was losing money. After its demise, the Pony Express would inspire many tales – some true, some not, most exaggerated – in movies, television and books for entertainment, and the Pony Express has been memorialized on commemorative stamps.



Editor's note: Marsha has kindly donated the "West Like Lightning" book to the club's library.

John Corwin Granted Life Membership



After recommendation by the Governing Board, the Sequoia Stamp Club unanimously approved John Corwin for Life Membership in the Sequoia Stamp Club. John joined the club in 2012 after learning about the club from a flyer at WESTPEX. He has membership number 694. John collects US, Machins, and Worldwide stamps, and is a frequent bidder in club silent and live auctions.

In 2014, Sequoia club president Kristin Patterson asked John if he would be willing to take over the job of club secretary after Darlene Hickok had to step down following a second bout of cancer. He has held that position ever since, and carried out his duties with utmost competency.

John will never turn down a request to be of service to our club. As secretary, he took over the responsibility of printing the club newsletter.

When the editor of the *Stamp Chatter*, Ed Bierman passed away, John accepted the challenge of overseeing publication of the newsletter. Under his leadership, the *Chatter* continues to receive the highest awards from the APS newsletter competition.

Many of John's contributions to the club go unseen by members. He has written many articles for the *Chatter*, and is always a willing proofreader for other writers. He maintains a spreadsheet for attendance and supervises the Holiday Party raffle. During live auctions, he carries out the important task of keeping a running tab for on-credit bidders. He can be found busily sorting stamps on any work day held by the Youth Group. He is on the Board of Directors for PENPEX and has taken over the job of creating and printing the show program.

Because John is modest, members may not be aware of his many contributions to the club. He is respected by members for his passion for the hobby and is forgiven for his devotion to the Kansas City Chiefs football team. It is through the efforts of members such as John that our club is able to be so successful. Club president Jim Southward presented an engraved plaque to John during our virtual Zoom meeting on July 14. Sincere congratulations to John for this honor.

Happenings at Western Philatelic Library

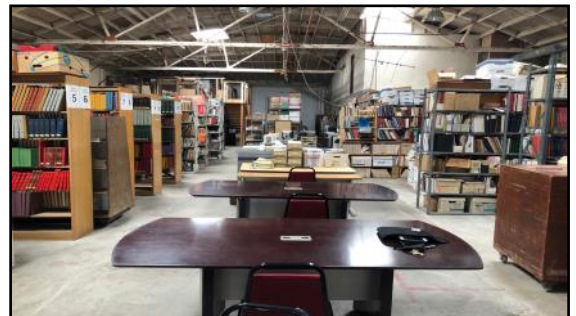
By Kristin Patterson

Our friends at the Western Philatelic Library have been doing a big clean-up job to make the place feel more welcoming and more like a library. The library now has open tables to spread out the books or journals you are looking through along side your material.

The WPL had to cancel its 2020 auction but is now planning a 2021 open house and stamp auction. But with the pandemic going on, a definite date has not been set.

The WPL has been impacted by the pandemic with the loss of its income for the year. It has set up a "go fund me" campaign to collect donations. Here is the gofundme page:

<https://charity.gofundme.com/o/en/campaign/friends-of-western-philatelic-library-inc/>



The library is located at 3004 Spring Street in Redwood City. See their website www.fwpl.org for more info. Please call ahead if you are planning to visit, 650-306-9150.

Postcard Corner: Greetings from Mexico

By Shav La Vigne

This postcard caught my eye not only for the image of the **U.S.S. Maine** shown on the front of the card but also for the message on the back.

Maria was on her way to Mexico in January, 1912. Along the way, she stopped in Havana, Cuba, and visited the Armored Cruiser **U.S.S. Maine** which had been recently raised from the mud of Havana Bay where she had been since being sunk by “an external explosion” on February 15, 1898. 261 members of her 355-man crew were killed in the explosion which acted as a catalyst for the United States to go to war against Spain on April 25, 1898.

U.S.S. Maine was sent to Havana to protect U.S. interests during Cuba’s war of independence against Spain. Journalists of that time fanned the flames of war through “Yellow Journalism” which tended to push public sentiment towards Spain’s involvement in the sinking of the *Maine*. The true cause of her sinking was never officially determined at the time of the disaster but the United States public, through the work of William Randolph Hearst and his newspaper empire, was convinced that Spain was to blame. (Many years later it was determined that a coal fire aboard the ship ignited its ammunition bunker.)

U.S.S. Maine remained sunk in Havana Bay until 1911 when Congress authorized the Army Corps of Engineers to raise the ship. On June 30, 1911, **U.S.S. Maine**’s main deck broke the surface for the first time in 13 years. The forward part of the ship was completely ruined by the explosion that sunk her.

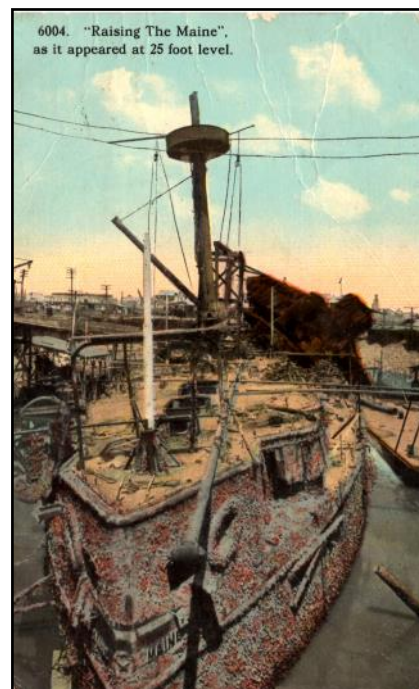
Here is when on January 16, 1912 Maria was able to visit and see for herself the destruction of the *Maine*. Soon after Maria’s stopover visit to Havana on February 13, 1912, **U.S.S. Maine** was

re-floated, thoroughly inspected, and towed out of Havana Bay. **U.S.S. Maine** was moved four miles out to sea and was again sunk while being saluted by sailors aboard **U.S.S. South Carolina** and **U.S.S. Birmingham**.

The bodies of 229 of **U.S.S. Maine**’s crewmen were recovered and transferred aboard **U.S.S. North Carolina** for repatriation. Most of her dead are buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia. Here too is the main mast of the ship standing sentinel above the graves of her crewmen.

Maria mailed her card after arriving in Mexico. I am sure that she was anxious to share the sight and the story of her experience in Cuba with her friends back in Washington, D.C.

This card was published by Harris Brothers Company of Havana, Cuba. The card is marked “Made in U.S.A., R-22508”. The front of the card reads “6004 ‘Raising The Maine’ as it appeared at 25 foot level.” View of the ship is looking forward from the stern. Mast shown is now at Arlington National Cemetery.



New *Stamp Chatter* Feature: Classified Ads

By John Corwin

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Sequoia Stamp Club has been meeting virtually online, and without our usual silent auctions, it has been difficult for members to sell their own items. Similarly, it has been difficult for members to tell others what they are interested in buying. As a partial remedy for this, at the July 28th governing board meeting, the board approved using the last page of each newsletter as a place where members can display advertisements for things they have for sale. This issue is the first with ads on the last page.

As editor, I am trying to determine the best way to present these ads, and the layout that you see on page 8 is my initial attempt. I am open to other ideas.

Here are the rules for submitting advertisements:

1. Submitter must be a member of Sequoia Stamp Club.
2. Submit the ad by email to sequoiastampclub@yahoo.com or by U.S. mail to SSC Classifieds, P.O. Box 235, San Carlos, CA 94070.
3. There is no charge for an ad.
4. Maximum ad size is 7 inches (horizontal) by 2 inches (vertical).
5. If the submitter does not care about the style, the ad will be published in Times New Roman font size 10 or 11 in a horizontal format. The submitter is welcome to specify their own font and style. In either case, the layout will be horizontal across the page; it will NOT be the usual column format seen in newspapers.
6. The ad must be related to stamp collecting.
7. First come, first published. If there are too many ads for an issue, the unpublished ads will NOT automatically carry over to the next issue. They must be re-submitted.
8. Similarly, ads cannot be automatically renewed for future issues. The ad must be submitted for each issue.
9. The ad must contain the submitter's name and contact info (e.g. email, phone number, and/or mailing address). Because not all readers of the newsletter have access to email, please include a phone number and/or mailing address.
10. The ad must clearly state if items are for sale or wanted for purchase (i.e. want ads).
11. Items can be offered for exchange (i.e. via trade) or for purchase in U.S. dollars.
12. The ad will be published "as submitted", but it will be checked for spelling and appropriateness (e.g. is it philatelic related and inoffensive?)
13. Pictures are okay as long as they fit in the 7" x 2" space.
14. The time frame for submitting ads is the first day of the calendar quarter until 15 days before the end of the quarter. For example for the next issue, ads can be submitted from Oct 1 until Dec 16.
15. A member may submit two ads for each issue. One ad for selling; one ad for buying (i.e. a want ad). Do not mix selling and buying in the same ad.
16. The Sequoia Stamp Club does not inspect or guarantee the identification, condition, or grade of items offered for sale.
17. Any questions or conflicts regarding advertised items are to be resolved by the buyer and seller, NOT the *Stamp Chatter* staff or Sequoia Stamp Club officers.

These rules are preliminary and subject to change.

Members' Advertisements

For Sale

Need some staycation reading? All of my *Linn's* since the beginning of the shelter-in-place, plus a couple of *American Philatelists* & a *Kelleher's* too. FREE, with no charge, carbon-free (via my Chevy Bolt EV) curbside delivery to any location in San Mateo County, Coastsides included. Also available: 1 *Scott 1840-1940 Classic Specialized Catalogue*, 2015 edition in good condition, \$5.00. I'll throw in a *Scott Specialized (US)* catalogue too - 2014 or 2017 editions, no charge. Contact Ken Perkins at kenperkins2@comcast.net or 650-593-3406.

The *Self-Published* Book of Postcard Related Articles

By: Shav La Vigne

Email- shavlavigne@yahoo.com

6206 Cahalan Ave., San Jose, CA 95123

A look into the history and excitement that can be found in collecting *Postcards*.

\$20 each with \$5 going to the San Jose Postcard Club



Stamps For Sale

Worldwide and Country Collections, Accumulations, Mystery Boxes, Sets, and Singles. Priced to sell. Send email to jgiacoma2@comcast.net or call Jim Giacomazzi at 650-365-2956 for more info or to make an appointment to view items.

Wanted



Wanted: Printed precancels on First Issue Revenue stamps (R1 to R101). Single stamp or entire collections. Kristin Patterson. kristin_email@yahoo.com or 408-267-6643.



Want to buy China stamps and covers (Imperial, PRC, & ROC), Can meet anywhere in Bay Area. Wenhao Li, email: LTE2005@gmail.com phone: (408) 215-8818

WANTED: New or used blank specialized album for Germany for the years 1945-1960 approximately. Laura Peterhans 650-637-8783 or lpeterhans@yahoo.com

WANTED: US MNH Stamps and Sheets from 2000-2019 in VF or better condition. Commemoratives, Regular, High Value, and Airmail needed. Please contact Dan Aguiar at Aguiar.dj@gmail.com, 650-245-9158

I am seeking the following postage stamps, mint or used. If you have any of these and are willing to sell, please contact me. Shown are Scott Catalog numbers.

Thank you. Gerrit Verschuur (verschuur@aol.com) or 901-389-7095.

Tanzania: 1993, # 1034	Monserat: 1995, # 867-890	Ascension: 1971, # 146
Liechtenstein: 1988, # 880	Hungary: 1962, # C223	Vietnam: 1966, # 429-430
Russia: 1957, # 1992-1993	Russia: 1967, # 3333	DDR: 1957-58, # 370