

Stamp



Chatter

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July - September, 2022

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 7:00 PM. Visitors are always welcome.

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

More info at:
www.penpex.org/ssc



President's Message

Hello Sequoia Philatelists,

Welcome to summer stamp collecting time! Yes, go out and get some sun earlier in the day, and after find somewhere nice with air conditioning for a late afternoon break to cool down. Make sure you don't get sunscreen on your stamps and certainly don't let them blow away in the breeze. The nice thing is that some of us have been able to see each other in person. We've been able to have a few silent auctions and that is always fun.



Coming up Tuesday, July 19th, gathering at 5 PM and eating by 6 PM, we will have the annual Sequoia Stamp Club picnic. Miriam Thurston reminded the team that we were missing this event so thank you, Miriam, for keeping everyone on their toes. The theme will be "Taco Tuesday" served by the Mestizo food truck.

While researching postal vehicles, I found this listing about postal vehicles that caught fire. For some reason it strikes me as odd, but then the more I read about it the information became more and more interesting. Especially since there is so much controversy and delays for the new LLVs (long life vehicles) that have been delayed. Here's another section of postal history for you:

<https://postaltimes.com/postal-vehicle-fires/>

On Wednesday, June 22, Antiques Roadshow was filming in Woodside, CA: specifically, at the Filoli Estate. I was selected to go, and it was great fun. Unfortunately, the list of things we were told to not bring included "stamps." Well, so much for that!

Antiques Roadshow may be missing out on stamps. Don't you. The USPS is issuing a new stamp commemorating mariachi, #mariachistamps. And on August 25 at the Great American Stamp Show in Sacramento, the USPS is issuing the Pony Car stamps shown in the left column.

Stay well,

Patrick Ford, President, Sequoia Stamp Club

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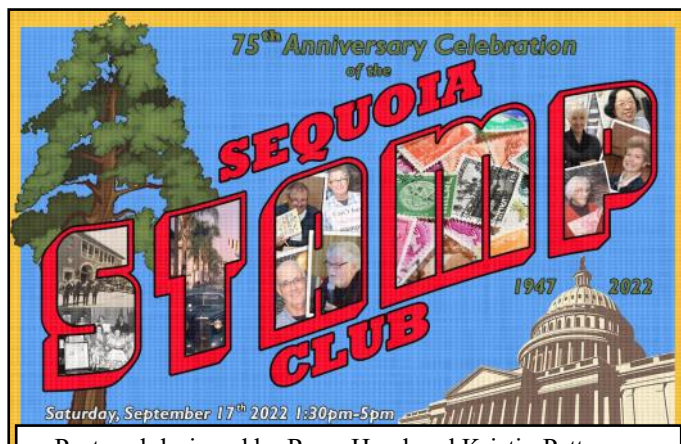
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Calendar: Club Meetings (in black), Stamp Show (in red), & Other Event (in green)

- ♦ Jul 12: Scholarship Winner Presents. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Jul 19: **Summer Picnic**, 5 PM, CAB picnic area. Mestizo food truck.
- ♦ Jul 26: "British Antarctic Expedition of Shackleton 1907-1909" by Tom Hayes. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Aug 9: 6 PM SSC Board Meeting (all welcome). 7 PM Swap Meet.
- ♦ Aug 20: **Western Philatelic Library Silent Auction**, 9 AM - 11 AM.
- ♦ Aug 23: Members Live Auction.
- ♦ Aug 25-28: **Great American Stamp Show**, Sacramento.
- ♦ Sep 13: TBD. Silent Auction.
- ♦ Sep 17: **SSC 75th Anniversary Celebration**, 1:30 PM - 5:00 PM, CAB.
- ♦ Sep 27: TBD. Silent Auction.

The complete schedule can be found online at www.penpex.org/ssc/calendar.

Picture Gallery



Postcard designed by Ryan Hood and Kristin Patterson to advertise the club's 75th Anniversary. Ryan is Ron Guaraldi's nephew. The postcard was prominently shown in the May 23, 2022, issue of *Linn's Stamp News* magazine.



Jim Giacomazzi receiving Chaloner Award from Kristin Patterson. Kristin is president of Council of Northern California Philatelic Societies (CNCPS), which presents the Chaloner Award to philatelists who have made a significant positive contribution to philately in the Council area over a significant time.

Photo courtesy of Peter Adams



WESTPEX, April 2022

Several club members helped out at the WESTPEX stamp show. At left, Peter Adams and Kristin Patterson running the souvenir booth; at right, Jim Sauer and Jim Giacomazzi manning the CNCPS booth. Others include WESTPEX board members, Nestor Nunez serving as Treasurer and Vesma Grinfelds as Vice Chairman, Eduardo Martino helping with setup and teardown, and John Corwin proofreading the program.

Photos courtesy of Tom Hayes



WPL Open House, May 21, 2022

The Western Philatelic Library in Redwood City held an open house that included a silent auction and a book sale. Good bargains were found. Several club members helped with at the open house, notably Wally Joliff who organized the auction items, Richard Clever who handled the book sale, and Dave Moore who did the computer work.

Photo by John Corwin



Newsletter Staff: Co-Editors: John Corwin and Jim Giacomazzi; President's Message: Patrick Ford; 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.

Walt Disney

By Marsha Brandsdorfer

Walter Elias Disney, born on December 5, 1901, first showed artistic talent as a little boy drawing pictures of the animals on his father's farm in Marceline, Missouri. In 1911, his father Elias, moved the family to Kansas City, Missouri, and bought a newspaper franchise, and put Walt and his brother Roy to work delivering newspapers in the mornings before their schooling, but did not pay them. Years later, when Roy joined the army, Walt wanted to as well, but at 16, he was too young, and instead volunteered to help with the Red Cross, and was stationed at a small town in France where he passed the time smoking cigarettes and drawing.



US #1355

When he returned to Kansas City, Walt worked as an apprentice illustrator for advertising agencies, and he then started his own production company, Laugh-O-Gram Films, Inc., making advertisement films for clients. But it did not do well financially, so he moved to California for a new start and to be closer to Roy, who was recovering from tuberculosis at a veteran's hospital in Los Angeles.



Djibouti #906d

Walt negotiated a contract with a New York distributor to make a series of short animation films entitled "Alice Comedies," wherein a live child actress would engage in adventures with animated characters. This enabled him and Roy to get an apartment together and Walt opened a new studio. After Roy married his girlfriend Edna and Walt married Lillian (Lilly) Bounds, Walt named his studio, Walt Disney Studios, and moved it to a new Los Angeles location. Walt then did a new series of cartoon shorts on a new comic character Oswald, the Lucky Rabbit, exclusively for his New York distributor and Universal Pictures. But, when it came time to negotiate a new contract, he discovered that he did not own the rights to Oswald. So instead, he found a new distributor and with his illustrator friend, Ubbe Iwwerks, developed a cartoon series of short films starring protagonist, Mickey Mouse, which did quite well in movie theaters. He hired new animators to work in his studio and encouraged them to create original cartoon characters for different short films. Walt also put out his first full-length animated feature film based on the story of "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." Walt urged his animators to make characters come more alive on the screen by moving like real people and real animals.

When profits from "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs" rolled in, Walt Disney Studios moved to a new location in Burbank, California in 1940. With the success of this movie, Walt slowly phased out short films, concentrated on making other feature films, and in later years started a TV series and created a new amusement park, Disneyland, in Anaheim, California, which opened in July 1955. Now that he was successful, he was able to purchase a huge amount of land near Orlando, Florida, where he decided he wanted to have four amusement theme parks built, and he would make these parks much bigger than Disneyland. But then he found out he had lung cancer. He would die on the morning of December 15, 1966. His brother Roy, who had assisted Walt throughout his career, continued to work on Walt's dream. In October 1971, Walt Disney World opened in Florida with three of the parks. The final park, Epcot Center, would open in 1982, eleven years after Roy's death in December 1971. Walt Disney is known throughout the world through his parks, movies, TV shows, merchandise, and of course, he is memorialized on postage stamps. My research is from "Disney's World" by Leonard Mosley.

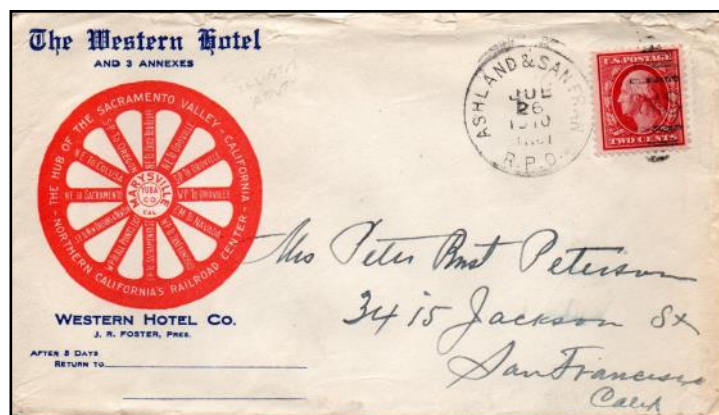


Portugal #2246a-i

Cover of the Month

By Jim Giacomazzi

There are two things about this cover that caught my attention. The first was the striking advertisement for the Western Hotel featuring a red wagon wheel with 12 spokes and a white hub. The writing on the hub indicates that the hotel is located in the city of Marysville in Yuba County, California. The inscription on the outer wheel states that the site is "The hub of the Sacramento Valley – California" and "Northern California's railroad center." The spokes of the wheel show all the destinations to which the various railroad companies traveled.



The Western Hotel was built of wood about 1852 on the corner of D and Second Streets, and it was destroyed by fire in May, 1854. Upon the site of the old hotel, R. J. Murphy, at a cost of \$30,000, erected a brick building, opening in November, 1854. At the time that this cover was mailed, the hotel was owned by the Western Hotel Company, organized by Captain J. R. Foster. He remodeled and enlarged the hotel, and served as president until his death in 1921. The postcard at left shows the hotel as it appeared in 1910.

The second thing about this cover that attracted my attention was the R.P.O. cancellation. The R.P.O. cancel on this cover is Ashland & San Fran(cisco) dated July 26, 1910. This is part of a Southern Pacific route between San Francisco and Portland, OR, known as the Shasta Route. At this time, Marysville was one of the significant cities on this route.

The United States Post office created the Railway Mail Service in 1865, which combined simply transporting the mail with actually processing and sorting the mail as it was in transit. When the train arrived at either a connection or termination station, the mail was already organized in pouches without the need for further sorting. This era marked the beginning of the use of the 'R.P.O.' cancellations. The late 1800s were the heyday of mail moving by train and is represented by well over 10,000 different RPO cancels. RPO mail trains continued in operation until 1977 when the last run, between Washington and New York was completed.²



Sorting mail in an RPO car.
(<https://www.american-rails.com/rpo.html>)

The history of RPO's, as well as their postal marking, is a popular collecting specialty among philatelists. The 'Mobile Post Office Society' (APS chapter) offers additional information for collectors interested in this part of US postal history. See <http://tinyurl.com/mobileposociety>.

¹<http://files.usgwarchives.net/ca/yuba/history/1924/historyo/chapter1327gms.txt>

²<https://stampsarter.org/Learning/HPOHome.html>

War Time Shipwreck Cachet and the PS Portsdown

By Dave Moore

At 0400 on the morning of 20th September 1941, the PS Portsdown sailed from the Southern Railway Portsmouth Harbour Station for the early morning mail run across the Solent to the Isle of Wight.

In the Swashway channel near Spit Sand Fort, an explosion tore the vessel in half just forward of amidships. The bow section turned turtle and sank. The stern sank but stayed on an even keel on a sand bank with part of the deck above water. Eight of the crew of eleven, twelve of the twenty-nine service personnel, and three of eight civilian passengers were killed. Wartime restrictions limited travel to residents and service personnel that were stationed on the island.

The mail was recovered from the stern section. Both items have been stamped with the two-line cachet in purple (Stanley Gibbons Collect British Postmarks 14/227).

DAMAGED AS A RESULT OF ENEMY ACTION



The first envelope sent from Reading to Ryde with SG463 and SG466 stamps. It has been roughly opened, and is water stained. During wartime it was common to reuse envelopes. This is likely the case as the new address has been written on a piece of paper glued to the envelope with part of the previous address "Surrey" showing. The second item is a front only with a washed off stamp that was sent from Edgeware to Shanklin but with a better-quality cachet.

PS Portsdown Launched 24th March 1928 - Sunk 20th September 1941

The PS (Paddle Steamer) Portsdown a passenger vessel was built by Caledon Shipbuilding of Dundee for the Southern Railway and was launched on 24th March 1928. She was used year-round for the passenger service from Portsmouth Harbour Station to Ryde on the Isle of Wight. At the start of World War II, she was retained on this service although several of her larger sister ships were converted to minesweepers.

Early on the morning of 30th May 1940 along with her sister ship the "PS Whippingham" and the car ferries "MV Wotton" and "MV Fishbourne", she left for Dunkirk as a part of "Operation Dynamo" to retrieve trapped British Expeditionary Force service personnel. The ships were given naval crews. The Portsdown was captained by Sub-Lt Richard Hepworth Church, RNR and sailed with only a dummy gun made of wood and canvas. Bombed and shelled passing Dunkirk Harbour and with no usable lifeboats, she was beached to allow troops to climb aboard over the bow. With a defective compass she flagged the cruiser "HMS Calcutta" for directions to Ramsgate. She returned with 618 passengers aboard. The "Whippingham" rated for 1000 passenger returned overloaded with 2500.

The Portsdown returned to its usual Portsmouth-to-Ryde passenger service until sunk in September 1941. The "Whippingham" was requisitioned and converted initially to a minesweeper and then to an anti-aircraft vessel. She later took part in the D-Day Normandy landings, before returning to passenger service after the war.



Finnish Oddities

By Ken Perkins

One of Finland's best kept secrets must be the sense of humor its citizens have developed. With cities located from around 60 to about 69 degrees North, Finns experience large variations in the number of daylight hours over the course of a year. Even in the capital, Helsinki, which is almost the southernmost city in the country at 60 degrees North, residents see about 19 hours of daylight in June, but only about 5 hours in mid-winter.

The further north you go, the longer those mid-winter nights become. Finns must have spent some of those long nights devising the strange sports illustrated in the "Finnish Oddities" miniature sheet of stamps released in May of 2013.

According to the Finnish postal service corporation, Itella Posti Oy, the Finnish "hypnorealism" artist Bruno Maximus has depicted the Finnish sports of wife carrying, boot throwing, air guitar, old-geezer carting, anthill sitting, and swamp soccer. Should you think these weird activities are just from Bruno's fertile imagination,

here's a recent photo of an annual wife-carrying event which has been held at Sonkajärvi since 1992. As with any major sport, there are RULES to this one too. Among them are: the track is 253.5 meters long



Finland #1431a-f

- | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| a. Man carrying wife | b. Boot throwing |
| c. Air guitar | d. Old-geezer carting |
| e. Anthill sitting | f. Swamp soccer |



Photograph copyright Pekka Honkakoski 2015, <https://theculturetrip.com>

(831.7 feet) and must have two dry obstacles and one water obstacle at least 1 meter (3.3ft) deep. You are allowed to carry your own wife, or you can borrow somebody else's, but if she weighs less than 49 kilograms (108 lbs), she gets to wear a rucksack adding enough weight to get her up to the required 49 kg. And the rules are very strict - *"All participants must enjoy themselves."* I suppose the winner's prize at Sonkajärvi is designed to add to the joy - the winners get the wife's weight in beer.

The Rarest of All U.S. Coil issues: The Famed “Orangeburg Coil”

By Robert Brilliant

One of the more intriguing 20th century U.S. stamps is the 3-cent deep violet coil stamp of 1911, vertically perforated 12, Scott #389, popularly known as the “Orangeburg Coil.” Unlike inverts or other celebrated rarities, the Orangeburg Coil remains relatively obscure, yet serious collectors of US stamps are aware of its great rarity and its high cost when examples come to market. Indeed, the vast majority of collectors will be left forever staring at the blank space in their albums where #389 would go. What accounts for this stamp’s rarity?

Scott #389, issued on January 11, 1911, was produced by the Post Office Department specifically at the request of Bell & Company, a pharmaceutical manufacturing company in Orangeburg, New York. The 3-cent rate was intended to pay the postage on Bell’s mass mailing of sales literature and product samples to prospective customers, most of them doctors’ offices. As these stamps were used for mass mailings, they were subject to the first-class cancelling machine in Orangeburg, NY, and a traditional wavy-line machine cancel was applied. For this reason, most existing used examples contain faults to some degree, typically creases and tears.

As is the case with unsolicited or junk mail today, the majority of these mailings were quickly read and discarded by their recipients. Along with the mailings went the envelopes, and the stamps too. It seems that very few of the 3-cent coils were soaked off their covers or saved in any way.

It’s also worth noting that there was an aversion to stamps with straight edges by most collectors at the time (as is the case today) and, as a result, coil stamps, with their 2 straight edges, were widely shunned by collectors in the early 20th century. It wasn’t until several decades later that coils were recognized and appreciated for the legitimate varieties they represent.

No one knows exactly how many copies of #389 were produced by the Post Office for Bell & Company. Estimates range from a single coil roll of 500 to 20 rolls equal to 10,000 stamps. What is known is the extremely limited number of copies that exist today. Only 2 unused singles and six unused pairs are known to exist along with 100-200 used singles and several used strips. One mint coil pair contains the unique mint never-hinged example.

There are a very limited number of #389 covers extant. All examples are on Bell & Company envelopes and are canceled in Orangeburg NY with the wavy line cancel in common use at the time.

It wasn’t until several years after its limited use that the collecting community at large was even aware of the existence of this stamp. By that time, of course, there were hardly any copies to go around and the price started climbing accordingly. Today, the Orangeburg Coil has a Scott catalog value of \$110,000 mint, \$10,000 used, and \$25,000 on cover. The mint pair with the unique never hinged copy sold at auction several years ago for \$240,000.

Needless to say, this rarity has been extensively counterfeited, often by trimming copies of Scott #376 to resemble the coil variety. A certificate from a reputable expertizing body (The Philatelic Foundation, PSE, PSAG, or APS) is essential before buying this stamp.

One of my “philatelic phantasies” is finding an Orangeburg coil cover at the bottom of a bargain bin box. Given the extreme rarity of this stamp, the likelihood of that ever happening is probably about zero. But one can always hope, and chance does favor the prepared mind.



A genuine Orangeburg coil cover

New Members

Steve Marchegiani joined the club in April. He collects Confederate States and US revenue stamps and some antiques.

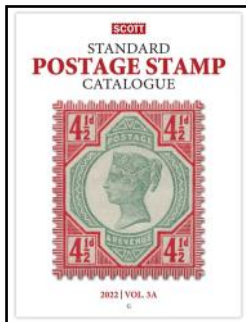
In May, John O'Brien and Arnie Miller joined the club. John collects worldwide before World War II. Arnie learned about the club after purchasing some stamps from Kristin Patterson on eBay; he collects US and worldwide.

Joe Gruber joined the club in June. He collects US, UN, Canada, and Israel.

Welcome Steve, John, Arnie, and Joe! We also welcome back Ballard Cheatham who re-joined the club.

Members' Advertisements

FOR SALE: SHIPS ON STAMPS. Large selection of modern stamps with ships on them available for purchase. I can provide a Scott number list on request. David Abrahams, dmabr1@comcast.net, 925-447-9386



FOR SALE 2022 Scott catalogues including the U.S. specialized. \$350.00. Excellent condition. Volumes 1, 2, and 3 available now. Pick-up at San Jose Stamp Club, Fremont Stamp Club, or Sequoia Stamp Club meetings, local stamp or postcard shows; or I can mail at \$6.50 a volume.

Jim Sauer, 408.445.2694, hjamessauer@yahoo.com

Fellow club member Denis Norrington salutes Sequoia Stamp Club on its 75th anniversary. Celebrating my 65 years as a professional philatelist, I offer ALL m.n.h. USA, U.N., Israel, Vatican City, Austria, France, Germany, and Luxembourg after 1945 @ 50% off Scott 2022 prices.

denis@arrowstamp.com, 415-425-6683



100 Lot Silent Auction at the WPL

3004 Spring Street Redwood City, CA 94063. Saturday, Aug. 20, 2022
9:00am to 11:00am. Must be present at end of auction to pay for and pick up
winning lots. Cash, Check and Credit Card accepted. For more info call
650-306-9150 or visit their website at: <https://www.fwpl.org/>.

Sequoia Stamp Club members may submit advertisements for no charge. Full details are available at <https://www.penpex.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Rules-for-Classified-Ads.pdf>