



San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter



Whole number 204

April 2014



9-11—WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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Founded 1927, Club show since 1928
 Meets 7:00 PM, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
 Hilltop Manor in 3rd floor dining room
 790 Ironwood Drive, San Jose, California
 Driving instructions on the website.
 Annual dues:
Adults/families \$12 ~ Youths \$6
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 APS chapter # 0264-025791
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Easter

Easter, which celebrates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead, is Christianity's most important holiday. It has been called a moveable feast because it doesn't fall on a set date every year, as most holidays do. Instead, Christian churches in the West celebrate Easter on the first Sunday following the full moon after the vernal equinox on March 21. Therefore, Easter is observed anywhere between March 22 and April 25 every year. Orthodox Christians use the Julian calendar to calculate when Easter will occur and typically celebrate the holiday a week or two after the Western churches, which follow the Gregorian calendar.

The exact origins of this religious feast day's name are unknown. Some sources claim the word Easter is derived from Eostre, a Teutonic goddess of spring and fertility. Other accounts trace Easter to the Latin term hebdomada alba, or white week, an ancient reference to Easter week and the white clothing donned by people who were baptized during that time.

Through a translation error, the term later appeared as esostarum in Old High German, which eventually became Easter in English. In Spanish, Easter is known as Pascua; in French, Paques. These words are derived from the Greek and Latin Pascha or Pasch, for Passover. Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection occurred after he went to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover (or Pesach in Hebrew), the Jewish festival commemorating the ancient Israelites' exodus from slavery in Egypt. Pascha eventually came to mean Easter.

Happy Easter. See the internet for more on the origins and history of Easter Sunday.-ed.

Quarterly Notice

Just a reminder that next December's newsletter will be my last. It's time to get serious about someone to edit this missive.

My offer to provide the template and help the new editor until I leave the area still holds. I'll make the transition as smooth as possible.

Just remember, any club without a newsletter will fade and die—so, if you don't care, then do nothing.-ed.

April Fools' or All Fools' Day

Although not a holiday in its own right, is a notable day celebrated in many countries on April 1. The day is marked by the commission of hoaxes and other practical jokes of varying sophistication on friends, family members, enemies, and neighbors, or sending them on fool's errand, the aim of which is to embarrass the gullible. Traditionally, in some countries, the jokes only last until noon. If you play a trick on someone after this time you are the *April Fool*. Elsewhere, for example in Ireland or France, the jokes may last all day.

The origin of April Fool's Day is obscure. One likely theory is that the modern holiday was first celebrated soon after the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar; the term referred to someone still adhering to the Julian Calendar which it replaced. In many pre-Christian cultures May Day (May 1) was celebrated as the first day of summer, and signaled the start of the spring planting season. An April Fool was someone who did this prematurely.

In the eighteenth century the festival was often posited as going back to the times of Noah. An English newspaper article published on April 13th, 1789 said that the day had its origins when he sent the raven off too early, before the waters had receded. He did this on the first day of the Hebrew month that corresponds with April.

A possible reference to April Fools Day can be seen in the Canterbury Tales (ca 1400) in the Nun's Priest's tale, a tale of two fools: Chanticleer and the fox, which took place on March 32nd.

Online there any number of practical jokes, including many in the media; Radio, TV, newspapers, even state governments! Some are really spectacular.

Check it out on-line—some are hilarious.-ed.



pot-pourrie

Northern California Trivia

Q Where was “Incredible Hulk” star Bill Bixby born?

A San Francisco

Q In 1982 the name of what northern California television series became the label for two wines?

A “Falcon Crest”

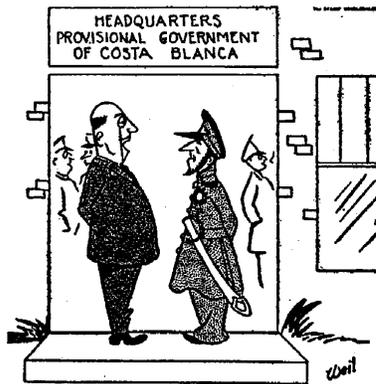
From *Northern California Trivia* by Ernie & Jill Couch

Machins

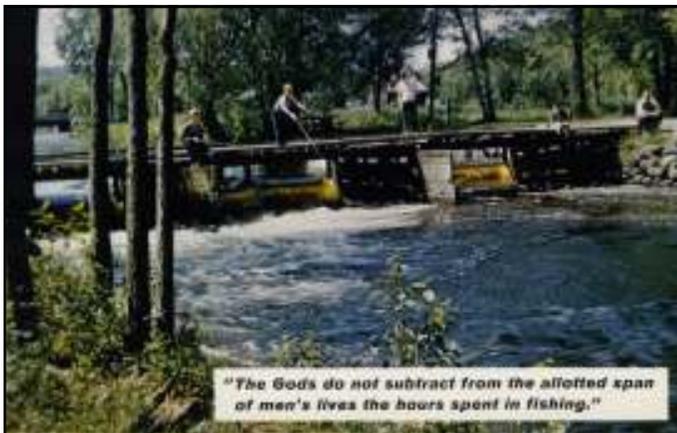
First posted March 19, 2001—this is a oldie but a goodie and worth repeating. It’s a letter published in the March 2000 newsletter of the Machin Collector’s Club.

During a recent after dinner visit a friend of mine took a look at my Machin Album. There he saw, viewing page after page, tiny pictures of Her Majesties left profile in a variety of colors and denominations. Then he said, “How many of these books do you have to completely fill so you can go to the redemption center and get a pop-up toaster?”

From a reader in the United States. (Posted March 19, 2001.)



“As I see it, diplomatic recognition is of secondary importance. The main question is: “Will Scott recognize our stamps?”



I really like the sentiment on this card—words to live by.

The Prez Sez

Local Youth Say “Thank-You!”

It is very satisfying to see a young person get excited about creating their first stamp collection. The January newsletter had a summary of our youth activities in 2014 and the members of the San Jose Stamp Club can be proud of it. Everyone who has helped out at any of these events has heard many young people (and parents) express their appreciation. A few have taken their expression to another tangible level and everyone should see a sample of these.

At Fiesta this past year, Cub Scouts were invited to come and earn the “Collecting Belt Loop”. Belt loops are designed to introduce new activities and skills to grade school age boys. All the groups that attended said thank-you and appreciated the program. Cub Pack 323 from Santa Clara visited with eight Scouts and four siblings. They had a great time building a collection and having a tour of the show. A week later, they sent the nice card shown in Fig 1 & 2. The cut-out design to simulate a stamp and comments on the back are wonderful.

Boy Scouts earning their merit badge have expressed their gratitude many, many times. Since most of these are verbal, they don’t make it easy to put in print. One story is worth sharing here. After talking with the boys about the virtue of collecting a country important to their national heritage, one of the fathers asked if stamps from Iran are available. When told yes, he got rather emotional as he came to America during the days of the Shah and has never been able to return. He was desperately looking for ways to teach his kids about their Iranian heritage. Using stamps had never occurred to him and he was so excited about finding a great way to teach his kids about Iran, he went to the dealer tables and bought nearly every Iranian stamp he could find. Father and son went home very excited about finding a way to learn about their roots.

Several donations to our club youth programs included covers with American history themes. These really didn’t fit our youth activities and didn’t sell at our club sale at Fiesta. Therefore, these covers and some stamps were donated to a 5th grade teacher who uses stamps in classroom to augment their textbooks.

Alex Hertz teaches at Sunset School in San Francisco and annually brings his class to WESTPEX on Friday for the youth program that Marci Jarvis hosts and a tour of the show. His kids have developed a love for stamps and enjoy the time they get to spend working on their collections. Alex had each youngster write us a thank-you note for our club donation.

The letters are appreciative, touching and cute. Here are the letters (no corrections made to letters grammar or spelling):

Thank-you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because we get to trade stamps. I also like stamp club because there are a lot of cool stamps. Amanda

Thank-you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I like to collect items. I really like the sports and animated stamps. Thank-you so much, you are very generous. Casey

Continued on next page

“Freedom in never more than one generation from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected and handed on for them to do the same.” —Ronald Reagan

Thank-you for your generous stamp donation. I really appreciate you donating all these stamps to the class's stamp club. I like stamp club because we get to learn about awesome stamps like the Inverted Jenny. Thanks again for all the stamps! Maya

Thank-you for all the stamps you gave us. They seemed really interesting. What I liked the most was the 50 states first day cover. You were so nice to give us all these stamps for free. Thank you so much!! Lilia

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I learn history through stamps. I love club because it is fun to trade stamps and learn about what mistakes that people make when they make stamps. I have learned a lot of stuff because of stamps. Giovanni

Thank you for the generous stamp donations. I really enjoy stamp club because I enjoy seeing all different types of stamps and trading. My sister and I collect stamps and each trade each other. My favorite stamp I have is a roll of toilet paper that unravels into a chicken. I traded my friend for it. I call it the toilet paper chicken. Also, I like collecting flower stamps and animal stamps. Thank you so much for all the stamps. Jodi

Thank you for all your stamp donations. A few reasons I like stamp club is because I learn about different historical stamps, it's really interesting. I also like trading nature stamps, they're my favorite. Again thank you for your donations. Khulan

Thank you for the stamp donations. I love stamp club because it is a time to be social and trade stamps and cards. My favorite type of stamps are those with cats. What is your favorite subject on a stamp? Stamp club is the same as a "fun lesson". Have a nice day. Sara

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I get to trade stamps. The best stamp I got was a Babe Ruth, the baseball player. I got an Elvis Presley stamp once. I thank you for all the stamps and I hope you do it more. Anson

Thank you for donating so many stamps to our class. I love doing stamp club because you can earn cool stamps and learn more about the history of stamps. Thanks again for donating to our class, you so thoughtful because you have sold them instead. Ryan

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like the stamp club because I got to get new stamps and also I get to talk to my friends. My class appreciates all the stamps you gave us. Thank you. Nathan

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamps because it is fun to trade and learn the history of the stamps. It was very nice and generous of you. I enjoy animal stamps the most. Isabel

Thank you very much for all of the stamp donations. I enjoy stamp club because I think it is very interesting to learn about the history of the stamp. My favorite stamps are animal stamps, especially birds. It was very kind of you to donate all of these stamps. Keira

Thank you for all the stamps. I really like the stamps because they can show a variety of things. I like stamp club because we learn about stamps. Thank you again for all the stamps. Zachary

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I got to learn about the rarest and most expensive stamps. My favorite kind of stamp is famous people. Kolby

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I luraning new things like new stamps. The stamp I like are flowers, trees. Mandy

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because you to see different stamps. Leilani

Thank you for the stamp donations I really love stamps. They have so much history yet pretty. My favorite type of stamps are the birds, plants, flowers and animals. I also take interest in the sport stamps. I like stamp club because I get to trade stamps and get new ones. Thank you again for donating lots of stamps. Thanks! Samantha

Thank you for all the stamp donations. Mr. Hertz and our class really appreciate your big donation. I like the stamps because I think they have interesting pictures such as Indians, states, planets and much more. Mr. Hertz gave out some of stamps to the top 11 drawings people drew in our class. Thanks again for the stamp donation and I hope you have a good day. Jake

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I think its fun to trade and stamps are fun to look at. One of my stamp is a panda and I never trade it because I like pandas. Breanna

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because we get to learn more about them. Stamps are cool because you can fit a picture with a lot of details in small rectangle. I also like triangle stamps. I like them because they are not the same shapes as the others. Allie

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I get free stamps and learn about stamps. I like learning about stamps because Mr. Hertz tells us interesting stories and a lot about valuable stamps. Thanks for donating. Jacob

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because it is a chance to give and receive stamps that I have never seen before. Thank you again. Shana

Thank you for all the stamp donation. I like stamp club because I get to learn about stamps like the inverted Jene. I get to see what the first stamp was, it was really fun. Stanley

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I love stamp club because you learn all about the history and see how it looks. When I see the stamp I say wow or omg it looks great. Also, I wish I had that stamp. Well I wrote a lot so see you in April. Jonnah

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because it is a fun opportunity for every one to have fun with stamps. It is nice to see all the different kinds of stamps. Marissa

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I learn valuable information about our history of stamps. My favorite stamps are ships, planes, soldiers and weapons. I know you are very generous for giving us those stamps and stamp books. Curtis

Thank you for all the stamp donations. I like stamp club because I get to trade stamps with other people who have great stamps. It was really nice of you to donate the stamps. We had a contest and two people won a stamp book. If it weren't for you we would not have gotten the stamp books! Mayal

Thanks for your stamp donations. I like stamp club because I get to trade with other kids in my class. Stamps are fun and are good to trade. Gram

SJSC members, it is hoped these expressions of gratitude will let you know our work is deeply appreciated and to inspire everyone to get even more involved in the club youth activities. There are plenty of places to help.—*Brian*

These letters are great and show that there is, indeed, a future for stamp collecting. I'm certain the teacher, Mr. Hertz, required the kids to write these thank-yous, but the enthusiasm and energy that went into the writing confirms the interest. I'm particularly impressed with Maya's rendition of the inverted Jenny. It's no longer a bi-plane and the fuselage is very streamlined by comparison, however, it is upside-down! Read the letters, they're genuine and you will enjoy them.—ed.

Foreign aid might be defined as a transfer of money from poor people in rich countries to rich people in poor countries!

I had fun stamp collecting
Bryan Albas

I had a lot of fun
and a lot of fun
fun

I had a lot of fun
and a lot of fun
fun

I love stamps!

Thank You!
from
Pack 323




Sunset Elementary School
1920 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94112
January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for all the stamps you gave me. They were really interesting. What I like the most was the 50-cent first day cover. You gave me a nice set of mail with stamps for free. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Luis



Sunset Elementary School
1920 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94112
January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for all the stamps you gave me. They were really interesting. What I like the most was the 50-cent first day cover. You gave me a nice set of mail with stamps for free. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Aranda

STAMPS
ROCK

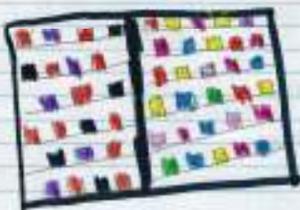
THANKS

Sunset Elementary School
1920 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94112
January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for all the stamps you gave me. They were really interesting. What I like the most was the 50-cent first day cover. You gave me a nice set of mail with stamps for free. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Cathy



Sunset Elementary School
1920 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94112
January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for all the stamps you gave me. They were really interesting. What I like the most was the 50-cent first day cover. You gave me a nice set of mail with stamps for free. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,
Luis



Stamp Collecting As A Hobby

If there is hope for the future of our hobby, it is with groups of kids like this. But they need direction, and our prez, Brian Jones, is a prime example of what is needed throughout the hobby to introduce youngsters to stamps.

Once exposed to postage stamps, those that are inquisitive and bright enough will do the rest. However, we must not stop there—on-going instruction, information and encouragement must be made for them, and it is with people like Brian who can move it all forward. Those of us that are now quite a bit over the speed limit can help, and members of the SJSC are good examples of that. It may seem trivial to put together the binders that Brian gives to the scouts and other kids, but it's essential that we do it—it keeps Brian going and it keeps kids in the hobby. These same kids, of which a few will continue, will stay with it and find the true pleasures of stamp collecting. It's not about filling spaces in an album—it's all about learning.

I was a poor student in school and was bored-to-death with American history—that is until I started to really study the stamps. Take nearly any Stamp, this includes foreign stamps, and start with a search on the internet, and a whole new and fascinating world opens up. If it weren't for books and the internet this newsletter would have ceased long ago. I really believe I do this letter for me, though I'm very pleased to share it through this medium. I just hope the readership gets the same pleasure as I do in writing it. Point is knowledge is prime in encouraging new collectors in staying the course.-ed.

Sunset Elementary School
1920 9th Ave
San Francisco, CA 94112
January 5, 2015

Dear Mr. Jones,

Thank you for your generous stamp donation. I really appreciate you donating these stamps to the club. Stamp Club I like Stamp Club because we get to have about postage stamps. Like the postal stamp. Thanks again for all the stamps!

Sincerely,
Mia



Mail Your Kids???

In 1913 it was legal to mail children. With stamps attached to their clothing, children rode trains to their destinations, accompanied by letter carriers. One newspaper reported it cost 53¢ cents for parents to mail their daughter to her grandparents for a family visit. As news stories and photos popped up around the country, it didn't take long to get a law on the books making it illegal to send children through the mail.



Origins: Although the sending and delivery of packages has long since become a facet of everyday life, with not just the U.S. Postal Service but also private companies such as UPS, FedEx, and OnTrac engaging in that service, it was not until 1913 that the U.S. Post Office introduced a Parcel Post service for the handling of mail too heavy for normal letter post. As of January 1, 1913, Americans could send packages weighing up to eleven pounds through the Post Office, a service that proved a boon to business, as farmers, manufacturers, and retailers could now ship many of their products directly to consumers' homes.

In the early years of Parcel Post service, before the U.S. Post Office implemented more specific regulations, people shipped all sorts of unusual things by mail—including, as suggested above, babies and small children. However, it was neither a regular occurrence nor a routine aspect of the Parcel Post service for people to wrap up children, slap some stamps on them, and ship them cross-country—the few documented examples of children being sent through the mail were nearly all publicity stunts, instances of people who knew the postal workers in their area asking them to carry their babies a relatively short distance along their routes to some nearby relatives, or cases in which children were listed as 'mail' so they could travel on trains without the necessity for purchasing a ticket.

As early as January 17, 1913, just a few weeks after the introduction of the Parcel Post service, the New York Times reported that the Postmaster General was considering (humorously or otherwise) the propriety of sending infants through the mail and noting that postal regulations did not allow for it: The mailing of babies by parcel post is a real infant industry which Postmaster General Hitchcock is asked to foster.

In the circumstances of his bachelorhood Mr. Hitchcock is considering seriously the calling into consultation of experts in the transportation of babies, as a letter which he received to-day presents to him a mail problem with which he is quite unfamiliar. To add to his embarrassment the letter contains a

note of genuine pathos, which appeals strongly to the Postmaster General. This is the letter, identically as it was phrased and punctuated:

Fort McPherson, Ga.

Postmaster General,

Washington, D.C.—Sir: I have been corresponding with a party in Pa about getting a baby to rais (our home being without One.) May I ask you what specifications to use in wrapping so it (baby) would comply with regulations and be allowed shipment by parcel post as the express co are to rough in handling.

The name signed to the letter is withheld at the request of Mr. Hitchcock.

As babies, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, do not fall within the category of bees and bugs—the only live things that may be transported by mail—he is apprehensive that he may not be of assistance to his correspondent.

Nonetheless, two weeks later the Times reported that a mail carrier in Batavia, Ohio, had delivered a baby sent by his parents to a grandmother who lived about a mile away:

Vernon O. Lytle, mail carrier on rural route No. 5, is the first man to accept and deliver under parcel post conditions a live baby. The baby, a boy weighing 10-3/4 pounds, just within the 11 pound weight limit, is the child of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beagle of Glen Este. The boy was well wrapped and ready for "mailing" when the carrier received him to-day. Mr. Lytle delivered the boy safely at the address on the card attached, that of the boy's grandmother, Mrs. Louis Beagle, who lives about a mile distant. The postage was fifteen cents and the parcel was insured for \$50.

And a year later, the Times reported a similar instance of a small boy's being shipped by his grandmother from Stratford, Oklahoma, to an aunt in Wellington, Kansas, via Parcel Post: Mrs. E. H. Staley of this city received her two-year-old nephew by parcel post to-day from his grandmother in Stratford, Okla., where he had been left for a visit three weeks ago.

The boy wore a tag about his neck showing it had cost 18¢ to send him through the mails. He was transported 25 miles by rural route before reaching the railroad. He rode with the mail clerks, shared his lunch with them and arrived here in good condition.

Several other instances of children being transported by Parcel Post were reported in the press over the next few years before the Post Office finally clamped down on such occurrences for good, with the Times reporting that:

Children may not be transported as parcel post, First Assistant Postmaster General Koons has ruled in passing upon two applications received at the Washington City Post Office for the transportation of children through the mails.

Mr. Koons said children did not come within the classification of harmless live animals which do not require food or water while in transit.

One of the applications received by the local Postmaster was from a 9-year-old girl, who entered the main Post Office and asked that she be sent to Kentucky.

Neither of the photographs displayed above has any connection to a real-life case of a child being sent via U.S. mail, however. They're both simply vintage cute posed humor shots taken from a collection of historic Smithsonian Institution (SI) photographs uploaded to Flickr, the image on the right being described by the Smithsonian as by far the most popular photograph from the Institution in that collection. As the author of an SI article about that image wrote in 2009:

Clearly, many were startled and amazed by this photo of a

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Why the U.S. Postal Service Can Win the Battle for the Same-Day Delivery Market

Despite a slow start to its same-day delivery program for e-commerce purchases, the U.S. Postal Service is in a strong position to challenge FedEx, UPS and other competitors in that potentially lucrative market.

USPS began testing same-day delivery, under the brand name of Metro Post, in San Francisco at the beginning of 2013. It promised delivery by 8 p.m. of packages tendered by 2 p.m. on that day. In December, it extended the pilot to New York City.



The San Francisco launch did not generate much excitement. “We found only a dozen or so folks willing to go with it,” said Harry Whitehouse, chief technology officer and co-founder of Endicia, a provider of electronic postage and shipping services through the U.S. postal system.

Whitehouse said success of the new service requires a change in thinking by potential customers and e-tailers. “You have to modify your website and some of your behavior.”

Same-day delivery promises to be a fierce battleground for carriers and online merchants. It is already being offered in the Bay Area and elsewhere by FedEx, UPS, Amazon.com, eBay and Google Shopping Express, among others, however, the demand remains tepid.

Logistical problems—even without Amazon’s promised use of drones—remain to be worked out. Google’s fleet consists of about 50 Priuses. eBay also uses small cars, and recently bought Shufl, a U.K.-based provider of same-day delivery. UPS and FedEx, of course, already have huge numbers of vans on the streets.

But the Postal Service might be in the best position to fulfill the physical requirements of same-day service, according to Whitehouse. “Starting around 4 p.m., it has vehicles largely sitting in parking lots,” he said. Google and eBay, by contrast, have had to invest in cars and staff their fleets with new hires.

In addition to its existing fleet and experience in reaching every residential address, the Postal Service is not tied to any particular seller. “It has the ability to be a player whenever this market opens up,” Whitehouse said.

Metro Post offers an \$8 flat fee for packages up to 25 pounds. USPS begins picking up shipments after 2 p.m., then uses dynamic routing techniques to determine whether to deliver direct to destination, or run the items through a consolidation center.

The service has seen a handful of successes. One of Endicia’s customers, a maker of high-end gloves, features the Metro Post option on the seller’s website. “He’s delighted with it, and so are his customers,” said Whitehouse. Another sells leather

computer cases to visitors in San Francisco hotels, who receive their orders by 8 p.m.

Grocery probably has the strongest potential for tapping into the same-day delivery market. There have been many attempts to launch online grocery services since the days of Webvan and Peapod in the late 1990s. Today, major retail chains such as Safeway have their own van fleets, although delivery charges can be substantial. In addition, Amazon and other e-tailers have jumped into the game, hoping to succeed where previous attempts have failed.

Handling groceries could prove problematic for USPS, which would need specialized equipment to carry perishable items and other sensitive food products. But the experiment appears to be working in a few other countries. Grocery is reportedly the fastest-growing source of business for Posten AB, the postal service of Sweden, which delivers evening meals in special containers. Belgium’s bpost has also embraced the sector.

Same-day delivery could even mean the salvation of USPS, which lost \$5 billion in fiscal 2013. (The silver lining: It lost \$15.9 billion in fiscal 2012.) With its first-class letter business plummeting in the age of e-mail, it is desperate for new sources of revenue. In recent years, it has begun paying more attention to parcels, offering discounts for commercial customers and matching the shipment-tracking capabilities of UPS and FedEx. The Postal Service’s flat-rate box and competitive pricing have helped to cut into the market share of those parcel-handling giants, Whitehouse said. An electronic-postage provider like Endicia can generate a detailed shipping label that eliminates the need for postage meters and visits to the post office.

At a time when USPS is struggling to cut costs and attempting to eliminate Saturday service for letters, the same-day market offers a rare chance for growth. “If this becomes a major paradigm shift,” Whitehouse said, “they’re the ones that will win.”

Received via e-mail, it presents a very interesting and hopefully bright future for our postal service, with the potential for being self sufficient. Of course this would eliminate the need for Congress to make up any deficits in the future and give them that much more money to waste.-ed.

Continued from page 5

postal carrier with a child in his mail bag, and so for some clarification, I spoke to Nancy Pope, historian at the National Postal Museum. She reiterated the information from the Flickr caption for this photograph: first, that this photo was actually a staged piece, and second, that there is little evidence that babies were sent through the mail other than in two known cases in which children were placed on train cars as “freight mail” as this was cheaper than buying them a regular train ticket.

However the services may have been (mis)interpreted during this era, these stories point out that mail service was particularly important during a time when travel was difficult and cost-prohibitive for many Americans. But perhaps more interestingly, they indicate that the mail carrier was considered a crucial part of communities—a touchstone with family and friends far away from each other, a bearer of important news and goods. In some ways, Americans trusted their postmen with their lives (and in the cases mentioned above, with their babies!).

Read more at <http://www.snopes.com/photos/peoplemailingchildren.asp#fHbDYCV27Km5rMUI.99>

These stories and rumors have been going on for years and to finally get a definitive answer as to their authenticity is good—time they were put to rest once and for all.-ed.

Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.

Pan Am Airmail System Test of 1946 by Roy Lingen October 1, 2003

Under the sponsorship of Pan Am Airways, the public is invited to test the airmail system on the first day of a massive rate drop for U.S. airmail to the Western Hemisphere.

Prior to November 1, 1946, airmail rates from the US to points south of Mexico varied from 25c to 40c per 1/2 ounce, depending on the destination country. On November 1, 1946 the US Post Office dropped all airmail rates to points in the Western Hemisphere (except Canada, Mexico and Cuba, which were already lower) to 10c per 1/2 oz. This was an enormous rate drop and was worthy of promotion to the public.

On Oct 23, the USPO issued a press bulletin announcing an opportunity for the public to test the speed and efficiency of the new, cheaper airmail service in cooperation with Pan Am Airways.

On one day only, November 1, 1946, collectors and other interested parties were invited to send covers to the Pan Am offices in 28 Latin American and Caribbean cities at the new 10c rate which took effect that day. Officials in the various Pan Am offices would mark the date the covers were received (generally with a dated handstamp), apply local postage to the front of the cover (at Pan Am's expense), mark the cover "Return to Sender" and hand the cover back to the local post office for airmail transmission back to the sender in the United States.

This was an opportunity for the sender to receive documented proof of the rapid turn-around time for airmail service, and marked a milestone in the rapid development in post-war air transport. Not everybody was happy, though. The philatelic press complained that the Post Office's notice was so short that their readers would find out about the event only after it occurred. I searched the weekly stamp column of the New York Times for the months of October and November 1946 and could find no mention of the event at all.

It's obvious that some were aware of these test flights as I have a great many of these covers in my collection.-ed.

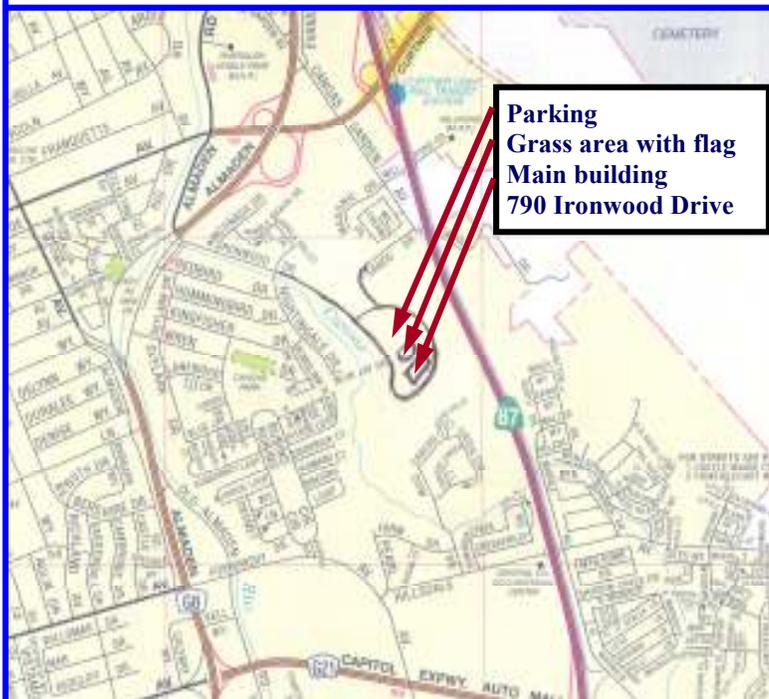


A few examples of the test flight covers. The ones shown are to/from Argentina, Paraguay, Panama, Bolivia and Uruguay. I really don't know if I have all 28 as the "collection" is really an accumulation in a cover binder. Air mail collectors are amazingly unaware of these covers—at least this has been my experience when talking with some of them. At any rate, this was a very popular exercise with collectors, notwithstanding the lack of reporting in the philatelic press. Perhaps more collectors paid attention to the post office's monthly reports at the time.-ed.

"There ought to be one day—just one—when there is open season on Congressmen."—Will Rogers

APRIL MEETINGS ARE ON THE 1ST & 15TH

MAY MEETINGS ARE ON THE 6TH & 20TH



Show Calendar

April 12

Santa Cruz Post Card Show
Hilton Hotel, 6006 La Madrona Drive, Scott's Valley
Doors open at 10:00 AM
Free Admission - Free Parking

April 24 - 26

WESTPEX
San Francisco Airport Marriott Hotel
1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame
Fri, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4

May 15 - 17

Rocky Mountain Stamp Show
Crowne Plaza Hotel
15500 East 40th Avenue, Denver
Fri, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 3

June 6 - 7

Sacramento Stamp Fair
Scottish Rite Center, 6151 H Street, Sacramento
Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4
Free Entry - Free Parking

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