



San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter



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June 2014



9 - 11—WE WILL NEVER FORGET

2015 Club Officers

- President**
 Brian Jones 408.927.6861
 bfj39@yahoo.com
- Vice President**
 David Occhipinti 408.723.0122
- Secretary**
 David Gilman 408.264.1953
 sanjosegilmans@gmail.com
- Treasurer**
 Richard Clever 408.238.0893
 richard@asiaphilatelics.com
- Newsletter Editor**
 James Sauer 408.445.2694
 hjamesauer@yahoo.com
- Filatelice Fiesta General Chairman**
 Steve Schumann 510.785.4794
 sdsch@earthlink.net
- Exhibits Chairman**
 Dr. Edward Laveroni . . 408.356.7561
- Bourse Chairman**
 Wayne Menz 408.265.5539

Visit our website at:
filatelicefiesta.org

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
 Correspondence to:
 P O Box 730993, San Jose, CA 95173

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Ron Yamagami

It was great to see Ron at the meeting of May 6. He looked really very well, however, carries a mask to wear if anyone has a cold—seems his immune system is in a susceptible state.

An interesting point, kidney transplant may be a misnomer in many cases as doctors usually just implant the new kidney if the existing one is not infected in any way—I was not aware of that. In any event implant/transplant procedures are truly amazing events.

Ron will have to deal with side affects and report to the hospital from time-to-time for the rest of his life, however that sure beats the alternative.

Ron, we are all pleased to see your return to the club meetings and wish you many more years of stamp collecting.-ed.

Socorico

I do a lot of searching on the web and at times find sites that are vastly superior to most. Socorico, the site for Costa Rica stamp collecting is one such site. From free album pages to their own catalog, which is without prices so it's always relevant and with updates on CDs; plus an outstanding journal which is packed with detailed info on CR stamps. I don't collect CR stamps but the site is so good it makes it tempting to do so. I believe that half the pleasure in collecting any area is knowledge of it. This society takes that approach to heart and helps the CR collector know and understand Costa Rican philately thoroughly.

And, last but not least, check out their home page and the links to *Collecting Costa Rica* and *Auctions*.

The fact that Costa Rica is so American friendly and have, in my opinion, the best coffee in the world, all in addition to how the coffee is grown (shade and ecologically) and a very beautiful country overall, makes the country very appealing.

Longtime SJSC members may recall several articles on Costa Rican stamps and the countries coffee in past issues of this newsletter.

A stamps on coffee topical would be a very interesting endeavor, with terrific possibilities for exhibiting.-ed.

Goings On...

It was good to see Dave Gilman at the meeting of May 20th, looking none the worse for wear after his health ordeal causing, among other things, some 15 days in hospital. Welcome back Dave and don't do that anymore...

Our slideshow Guru extraordinaire, James Steinwinder, is presently undergoing chemo for cancer—sad and disturbing news Jim. We offer prayers and hope for the very best of outcomes. Today's procedures have come a long ways and we can expect success, however, it is a long and difficult ordeal for the subject. In the meantime thoughts of cheer, hope and encouragement may be appreciated. All that being said, Jim is upbeat about it and continues to work when he feels up to it.

Richard Clever returned from nearly three weeks on the road doing shows in Oregon and Denver, during which time he fell ill—not to fear though as all is well now, however, one must begin to think of our mortality at our age Richard.

On a brighter note, Kristin Patterson will give a presentation on "The Story of the U. S. Playing Card Company Through Their Tax Stamps" at our June 3rd meeting. Kristin is always thorough in her knowledge and presentation, which makes for an enjoyable program, plus she speaks right up and is easily heard. So you don't collect revenues—be there and soak up a little knowledge.-ed.

World Stamp Show

NY 2016

- Over 200 Dealers
- 60,000 Exhibit Pages
- 50 Convening Societies
- 8 Amazing Days

May 28-June 4, 2016
 Javits Center

GRAND RAPIDS

STAMP SHOW

August 20- 23, 2015
 DeVos Place Convention Center

pot-pourrie

Northern California Trivia

Q Where was Clint Eastwood born?

A San Francisco

Q What Oakland made film on explorers was the first movie Released by Hollywood?

A *Big Game Hunting in Africa.*

From *Northern California Trivia* by Ernie & Jill Couch

Are We At War???

This should bother every American. That the Muslims have brought about women-only classes and swimming times at taxpayer-funded universities and public pools; that Christians, Jews, and Hindus have been banned from serving on juries where Muslim defendants are being judged, Piggy banks and Porky Pig tissue dispensers have been banned from workplaces because they offend Islamist sensibilities. Ice cream has been discontinued at certain Burger King locations because the picture on the wrapper looks similar to the Arabic script for Allah, public schools are pulling pork from their menus, on and on in the news papers....

It's death by a thousand cuts, or inch-by-inch as some refer to it, and most Americans have no idea that this battle is being waged every day across America. By not fighting back, by allowing groups to obfuscate what is really happening, and not insisting that the Islamists adapt to our own culture, the United States is cutting its own throat with a politically correct knife, and helping to further the Islamists agenda. Sadly, it appears that today's America would rather be politically correct than right or victorious.

Any doubts, just Google Thomas Jefferson vs the Muslim World.

I did just that and the site at <http://realworldnewsorg.blogspot.com/2010/08/thomas-jefferson-and-ground-zero-mosque.html>. This is a volatile issue today with all that's going on in the Middle East, and this site offers some insight not found on your evening news.-ed.

Independent Postal System of America

Thomas M. Murray (1927–2003) founded the Independent Postal System of America (IPSA) in 1968, as a nation-wide commercial carrier of Third and Fourth Class Mail, in direct competition with the United States Post Office (USPO), now the United States Postal Service (USPS). But in 1971, when the company entered the First Class delivery business, they endured a number of lawsuits brought against them, which finally led to the company's collapse in the mid-1970s. The company issued a number of stamps during the years of its operation, including commemoratives for Lyndon B. Johnson, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Charles Lindbergh before the USPS did.

"The multiplication of public offices, increase of expense beyond income, growth and entailment of a public debt, are indications soliciting the employment of the pruning knife."

—Thomas Jefferson, letter to Spencer Roane, 1821

The Prez Sez

President's Message

"Insanity: Doing the same thing over and over and expecting a different result."—Albert Einstein

I've always liked this quote and tried to keep it in mind when things don't go the way I want. You're probably wondering why I opened my column with this and what does this have to do with stamp collecting. Good question. Let me explain.

I spent 4 days up at the WESTPEX Stamp Show and I heard the same comment from a chorus of people. To paraphrase: "People just not interested in stamp collecting anymore because of [video games, TV, Internet]." However, in my experience of working in the youth room and with Scout families is that people are interested; they just didn't realize all the good reasons to collect, nor how to get started. Too many potential collectors have never had the opportunity to collect or been given any guidance.

The BIG problem is that stamp organizations sit at stamp shows and expect potential collectors to find them. HEY, WAKE UP PEOPLE!!! If new collectors aren't coming to stamp shows, let's do something different like taking stamps to the people. What does that mean? It means let's take introductory materials to where people are—like senior centers, and culture fairs. Let's stop sitting in our club meetings and shows complaining about the lack of interest and go out drum up some interest. Will everyone come? No, of course not. But, with some effort, I'm willing to bet we can create some new interest in collecting stamps.

How will we do this? That is the discussion this club needs to figure out. The talk I've had about this so far is that people will try collecting for a variety of reasons—the trick is to help people discover how collecting stamps will enhance their interests in their heritage, family ancestry, or special interest (a love of art, dogs, cars, etc.).

I'm excited about trying something new. We could generate a lot of excitement about stamps. If we don't, we can learn from our experience and try new techniques at another event. I expect EVERYONE to contribute to this project and there will be plenty of ways to help.

—Brian

WESTPEX

Westpex Stamp Collecting Merit Badge Program

Another successful Boy Scout stamp collecting merit badge program was held at WESTPEX this year. Twenty-eight boys completed their merit badge on Sunday. The event opened with a lecture that covered many of the badge requirements to learn the different types of stamps, postal history, and language of the hobby. The boys then got a tour of the show to see the breadth and scope of philately. The afternoon is spent working with the tools of the hobby and building a collection. Topical collecting continues to be the most popular choice.

A big thank-you to the WESTPEX committee for giving this program the valuable meeting space all day on Sunday. There is a tremendous demand for meeting space throughout the run of the show and being given a large conference room all day is a very big deal. We were also given a PC projector on loan for the whole year to use at other Scouting events.

Another big THANK-YOU to the members of the SJSC for helping out by donating stamps and building the starter kits.

Continued on page 7

Before The NSA, There Was The USPS

By Nicandro Iannacci October 31, 2014

Imagine opening your mailbox to find a note that reads, “Show all mail to [supervisor] for copying prior to going out on the street.” Last year, one man did just that, leading to the discovery of secret surveillance programs for U.S. snail mail.

That man, Leslie James Pickering, is a bookstore owner in Buffalo. More than a decade ago, however, Pickering was formerly a spokesman for the Earth Liberation Front, an environmental group deemed “eco-terrorists” by the FBI—and the presumed cause of his surveillance.

Pickering’s story was first reported by the New York Times last July by Washington correspondent Ron Nixon. This week, Nixon is back with a fuller accounting of the surveillance programs carried out by the U.S. Postal Service.

The “mail covers” program, under which Pickering was targeted, dates back more than a century. Law enforcement officials send requests to postal workers, who then record any visible information on the outside of envelopes or packages addressed to the surveillance target. That includes any names, addresses, return addresses and postmarks—the original “metadata.”

The Mail Isolation Control and Tracking Program began in late 2001 after government officials were targeted with anthrax. It permits law enforcement to retrace the path of a particular piece of mail. This program was used in an investigation of ricin-laced letters sent to President Obama and New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg last year.

Mail Imaging, a program by which computers take pictures of all mail items, was established by the Postal Service simply to help process deliveries. Now, law enforcement officials can request the stored images of mail sent or received by a surveillance target. There is no specified length of time for which those photos can be stored.

According to an internal audit, posted with redactions earlier this year and first reported by Politico, these programs resulted in nearly 50,000 requests last year alone. Documents obtained by the New York Times through a FOIA request revealed 100,000 requests over the last decade, but that number excludes requests related to national security or requests by the Postal Inspection Service, the law enforcement arm of the USPS.

What’s raising more eyebrows, however, is the audit’s account of internal privacy safeguards.

According to the USPS Office of Inspector General, 20 percent of law enforcement requests were not properly approved, and 13 percent were unjustified or not properly documented. Those statistics are compounded by the fact that the requests are not subject to judicial review.

The audit also found that the USPS has not been conducting annual reviews as required by federal law, and that more than 900 mail covers are still “active” even though the orders for them expired.

“Insufficient controls could hinder the Postal Inspection Service’s ability to conduct effective investigations, lead to public concerns over privacy of mail and harm the Postal Service’s brand,” the report concluded.

Paul Krenn, a spokesman for the Inspection Service, defended his agency. “You can’t just get a mail cover to go on a fishing expedition,” he told the New York Times. “There has to be a legitimate law enforcement reason, and the mail cover can’t be the sole tool. It’s just mail.

But Theodore Simon, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, is not so sure. “It appears that there

has been widespread disregard of the few protections that were supposed to be in place,” he said.

There are indeed stories of deliberate abuse. Mary Rose Wilcox, a Maricopa County supervisor in Arizona, was targeted in 2011 by her county’s famous immigration opponent, Sheriff Joe Arpaio. The sheriff’s office used mail covers to justify warrants for raids on her business.

Cynthia Orr, a defense lawyer in Texas, was targeted in the early 2000s while working on a pornography case. Her communications with colleagues and clients were monitored using mail covers.

And in 1973, a high school student in New Jersey was targeted for sending a letter to the Socialist Workers Party. The FBI was using mail covers to investigate the party.

In a commentary for Lawfare, Benjamin Wittes isn’t sure anyone will ultimately care.

“The reason, I suspect, that this program will not excite the same sorts of passions as does the NSA’s program is that it involves old technology—paper—and it’s been going on for a long time,” he writes. “And we all have a certain comfort level with the idea that the Postal Service looks at the outside of our mail to deliver it and we thus don’t feel a special expectation of privacy in the information on the outside of the envelope.”

“In other words, it’s just mail. Most of it is junk anyway. So we shrug.”

Nicandro Iannacci is a web strategist at the National Constitution Center.

Mr. Iannacci sounds as though this is a bad thing. This service has been ongoing for a long time now and has helped put away a lot of bad guys, all without opening the mail. In light of the post office deficits I just hope they charge for all the extra service.-ed.

Cinchona

Cinchona [singkO’nu] or chinchona [chingkO’nu], name for species of the genus Cinchona, evergreen trees of the madder family native to the Andean highlands from Bolivia to Colombia and also to some mountainous regions of Panama and Costa Rica. The trees are now cultivated elsewhere for the “Peruvian bark,” the source of quinine. Quinine is still the drug of last resort in the treatment of malaria, but its commercial importance was greatly reduced after the development of synthetic analogs in the 1950s. Several species yield quinine and several other antimalarial alkaloids.

The trees were named in honor of the countess of Chinchón who, legend says, was cured of a fever in 1638 by a preparation of the bark. At her instigation the bark was collected for malaria sufferers and later exported to Spain. Native peoples, however, had long used it for medicinal purposes. It is sometimes called Jesuits’ bark because of the part the Jesuits played in its dispersal.

So successful were the Dutch and English in transplanting cinchona to Java and India that until World War II these countries, especially Java, grew practically the entire commercial supply. The bark of the uprooted tree is beaten loose, peeled by hand, and dried quickly to prevent the loss of alkaloids. Final extraction is conducted in factories, chiefly in the United States or Europe.

Cinchona is classified in the division Magnoliophyta, class division Magnoliopsida, order Rubiales, family Rubiaceae.

Terrific reading on the history of this malaria treatment can be found in M. L. Duran-Reynals’, *The Fever Bark Tree* (1946); P. E. Thompson and L. M. Werbel, *Antimalarial Agents* (1972); F. Rocco, *The Miraculous Fever-Tree* (2003). I’ve read *The Fever Bark Tree* and *The Miraculous Fever-Tree*, and recommend them for not only the development of quinine but of the high adventure involved in the procurement of the trees and the development of their medicinal qualities.-ed.

No Man has a good enough memory to be a successful liar.—Abraham Lincoln

Hutt River

The Principality of Hutt River, previously known as the Hutt River Province, is the oldest micronation in Australia. The principality claims to be an independent sovereign state and to have achieved legal status on 21 April 1970, although it remains unrecognised by Australia and other nations. The principality is located 517 km (354 mi) north of Perth, near the town of Northampton in the state of Western Australia. If considered independent, it is an enclave of Australia. It is a regional tourist attraction. The principality was founded on 21 April 1970 by Leonard George Casley, who styles himself as "Prince Leonard", when he and his associates proclaimed their secession from Western Australia. His wife Shirley, styled as "Princess Shirley", died on 7 July 2013.

History

The Principality of Hutt River was declared an independent province in 1970 by Leonard Casley, in response to a dispute with the government of Western Australia over what the Casley family considered draconian wheat production quotas. The Casley farm had around 4,000 hectares (9,900 acres) of wheat ready to harvest when the quotas were issued, which allowed Casley to sell only 1,647 bushels or approximately 40 hectares (99 acres). Initially, the five families who owned farms at Hutt River banded together to fight the quota, and Casley lodged a protest with the Governor of Western Australia, Sir Douglas Kendrew. The Governor replied "no rectification of our Quota would be allowed". Casley reasoned that as the Governor acts as the Queen's representative, this made Her Majesty liable, in tort, for applying an unlawful imposition as the quota had not yet been passed into law. Casley lodged a claim under the Law of Tort for A\$52 million in the belief the claim would force a revision of the quota. Casley also resorted to the law of unjust enrichment and successfully seized government land surrounding his farm which he hoped would increase his quota. Two weeks later, the government introduced a bill into Parliament to "resume" their lands under compulsory acquisition. After approaches to the government to reconsider the acquisition bill failed, Casley and his associates resorted to International Law, which they felt allowed them to secede and declare their independence from the Commonwealth of Australia. Casley has said that he nonetheless remains loyal to Queen Elizabeth II.

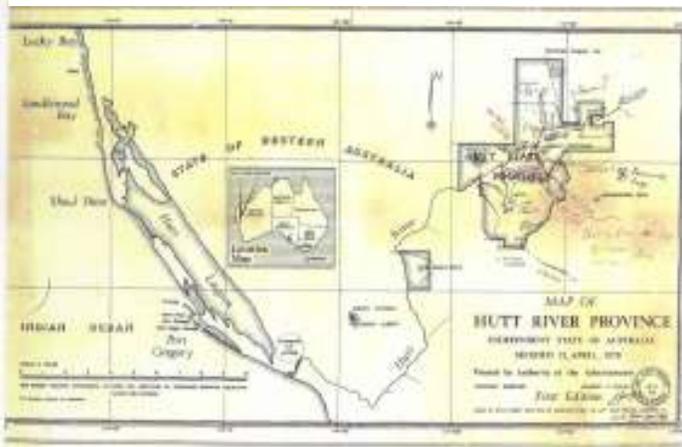
of the Hutt River Province" which was claimed (via Royal Perogative as the Queen's representative) to be a legally binding recognition.



Map of the Principality of Hutt River

After Prime Minister William McMahon threatened him with prosecution for "infringement of territory," Casley styled himself "His Majesty Prince Leonard I of Hutt" to take advantage of the British Treason Act 1495 in which a self-proclaimed monarch could not be guilty of any offence against the rightful ruler and that anyone who interfered with that monarch's duties could be charged with treason. The government's recognition of Casley as "Administrator of Hutt River" had inadvertently made the Treason Act applicable and Casley continued to sell his wheat in open defiance of the quota. Although the law in this matter has since changed, the Australian Constitution prevented its retrospectivity and the Australian government has not taken any action against Hutt River since the declaration. Under Australian law, the federal government had two years to respond to Casley's declaration; Casley says that the failure to respond gave the province de facto autonomy on 21 April 1972. The Western Australian state government can still dispute the secession.

In 1976, Australia Post refused to handle Hutt River mail, forcing mail to be redirected via Canada. Following repeated demands by the Australian Taxation Office (ATO) for the payment of taxes, on 2 December 1977 the province officially declared war on Australia. Leonard Casley notified authorities of the cessation of hostilities several days later. The declaration was simply legal maneuvering, Casley wrote to the Governor-General; "Sovereignty is automatic to a country undefeated in a state of war...and if the state of war is not recognized by the other party, once the notice is given then these conventions apply to their relations." Casley believes that he had effectively set a persuasive precedent for international recognition of Hutt River



The Government of Western Australia determined it could do nothing without the intervention of the Commonwealth. The Governor-General of Australia, Sir Paul Hasluck, later stated that it was unconstitutional for the Commonwealth to intervene in the secession. In correspondence with the Governor-General's office, Casley was inadvertently addressed as the "Administrator

under the Geneva Convention. In 1980, the mail service was restored after a Perth court ruled that Hutt River currency and postage stamps were valid and legal within the principality. In 2013, Casley stated that the ATO sent a new tax demand in 2012 to which he responded with a legal document supporting status as a "foreign national and non-resident of Australia." Hutt River residents are still required to lodge income tax forms but are classed by the ATO as non-residents of Australia for income tax purposes; thus income earned within the province is exempt from Australian taxation. The province displays ATO documents supporting that no tax is paid but the ATO cannot verify the provinces tax status as they cannot by law comment on the affairs of individuals. However, Casley admits to making annual "gifts" to the Shire of Northampton. The province levies its own income tax of 0.5% on financial transactions by foreign companies registered in the province and personal accounts. While the principality maintains it does not pay taxes, the Australian government's current official position is that it is nothing more than a private enterprise operating under a business name. In the early 1980s, the Hutt River Province declared itself to be a kingdom, but soon after reverted to its original status of a principality. The principality proceeded to release a number of its own stamps and coins. In September 2006, Leonard Casley decided to change the name to "Principality of Hutt River" and dropped the word "Province".

Statistics

The Principality of Hutt River is situated 517 km (354 mi) north of Perth, along the Hutt River. It is about 75 square kilometres (29 sq mi; 19,000 acres) in size. Exports include wildflowers, stamps and coins and agricultural produce which is also exported overseas. Tourism is also important to the economy with 40,000 tourists, predominantly from overseas countries, visiting the principality every year.

While the principality has only 23 actual residents, it claims a worldwide citizenry of 14,000. The principality has no standing army, but a number of its citizens have been awarded military commissions. Honorary guardsmen attend Casley on formal occasions and, despite being completely landlocked, naval commissions have been conferred on supporters of the principality.

Since 2 September 2004, Hutt River Province/Principality has accepted company registrations. At least one company experienced in the registration of entities in traditional offshore jurisdictions (British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, etc.) as tax havens has been authorised to act as a registered agent for PHR incorporations. On 29 March 2005 the Hutt River Province International Business Company announced that it would accept registrations of company trusts which have since been promoted worldwide by registered financial agents. Concerned that Hutt River registrations "may be sold as part of a tax avoidance or evasion arrangement", in April 2012 the Australian Taxation Office warned potential purchasers that the registrations have no legal basis and "could be illegal". A variety of licenses are also available. Hutt River also allows car registrations, including issuing license plates to overseas vehicles. The principality's capital, Nain, is named after Nain in Galilee.

When the Principality of Hutt River seceded, a bill of rights, a brief document outlining the rights of "Hutt River" citizens, was drafted. It also provided for an administration board to govern the principality until a permanent form of government could be established. When Casley declared himself "Prince", the administration board clause lost effect and the Hutt River Principality became a benevolent absolute monarchy, with a legislation committee to draft new legislation.

In 1997, the legislation committee presented a proposal for a constitution to Casley and his cabinet. Although he and the cabinet are yet to officially adopt and promulgate the proposal, there is a decree stating that any constitution will be in effect while under consideration, except for any clauses that conflict with the bill of rights, so the proposal has essentially become a provisional constitution.

Casley family

"His Royal Highness Prince Leonard I of Hutt" is the style which has been used by Leonard George Casley since his creation of the Hutt River Principality. Casley was married to Shirley Casley (née Butler) until her death on 7 July 2013. Hutt River went into a period of mourning, closing some of its services. She was styled as "Her Royal Highness Princess Shirley of Hutt, Dame of the Rose of Sharon". They have seven adult children, among them Ian Casley ("Crown Prince Ian", born 1947) who is styled as the prime minister of the principality and has been designated as his father's eventual successor as "heir presumptive". Leonard Casley states that the use of titles is purely practical as they are required for legal purposes.

Ian Casley is involved heavily in wildflower production, with the product not only being exported to Perth, Western Australia but to many cities internationally. Shirley Casley played host to dignitaries and diplomatic representatives visiting the principality each year as well as receiving television crews and magazine journalists. She was the patron and chairman of the board of directors of the Red Cross of Hutt, a parallel organisation to the International Red Cross.

Leonard Casley pursued a number of occupations before purchasing a large wheat farm near the towns of Northampton and Geraldton, Western Australia in the 1960s. He worked for a shipping company based in Perth and, although he left school at 14, describes himself as a mathematician and physicist and claims to have written articles for NASA. He is an adherent of hermeticism, a subject on which he has privately published a number of research papers and books. He is the subject of a permanent exhibit at the National Museum of Australia in Canberra.

Stamps & Coins

Numerous stamps and coins have been issued. No clear images of any Hutt River stamps were found on the internet. There are a few images of coins of which we could care less. If you have an interest in coins you may check them out on the internet.

Status

The Principality of Hutt River argues that it is an independent entity within the Australian legal system and that the Commonwealth has no right to dispute the claimed de facto legality that it was given in error by the Governor-General's office, and its own failure to respond to the claim. To overturn this de facto recognition, Casley says that the West Australian Governor's office would have to submit the secession to arbitration, something which the Hutt River Province claims is not done due to legal uncertainty over the result, related to the fact that he claims Western Australia in its entirety was never officially proclaimed as British Territory. Passports issued by the "Hutt River Province" are not recognised by the Australian Government. Casley claims they have been accepted on a case-by-case basis for overseas travel.

All social security benefits were withdrawn from Hutt River's residents at the time of secession by the Australian Government. Residents do not receive pensions, medical benefits, educational allowances, child endowments or benefits normally paid to war veterans. Despite voting being compulsory by law in Australia,

Leonard Casley has successfully removed the names of Hutt River residents from the Australian electoral roll.

The National Museum of Australia contains an exhibition on the theme of 'Separation' within Australia which includes a Hutt River Province display which states that Casley had "successfully seceded from Australia". According to Judy Lattas, a sociologist at Macquarie University; "many officials in Western Australia, some quite high up, and even nationally in Australia are happy to play out the myth of Hutt River's sovereignty [by] attending [Hutt River] functions, returning correspondence [and] abandoning the claim for tax."

In 2005, the Heritage Council of Western Australia listed the Hutt River Province as having "high historic and social significance as the site of Australia's only independent principality."

The Australian Government on its official website has stated that it does not recognise the secession of Hutt River Province.

The Australian Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates, Jeremy Bruer, upon hearing that an office purporting to represent the "Hutt River Province" was operating in Dubai, allegedly selling travel documents, stated that the Australian Government did not recognise the "Hutt River Province", legally or in any other way. An Iranian with French nationality, identified only as "K", who claimed to be an ambassador representing Hutt River Province, his French companion and a Pakistani man, were subsequently charged over the issuing of travel documents and with selling land in the Hutt River Province to UAE residents under false pretences. Casley stated that the man had no diplomatic standing in the principality and had only made a single visit to the province.

The principality registers universities in its territory, which is illegal within Australia. However, the government authorities have not acted against PHR and several online universities operate and are registered in the principality. While some of these online universities have been exposed as "accreditation mills", St. Linus University, a government accredited online university based in the Philippines, is also registered in the PHR. Similarly, the PHR does not pay taxes to them. The ATO has also stated that Leonard Casley is "a non-resident of Australia for income tax purposes".

The Principality of Hutt River is one of only a small number of micronations to be recognized by Google Maps.

On the whole, Australian Government departments do not interfere with the Principality of Hutt River. While the Australian Taxation Office has issued a warning on its website for overseas investors not to purchase companies from the PHR, it has not otherwise acted against the principality. In 2010, Brendon Grylls, the Western Australian Minister for Regional Development and Lands, was asked if his state had a position on the province. He replied "Only that Prince Leonard is an enigma ... There is nothing currently on my agenda as Minister ...that relates to that."

Treatment by European government departments

The Council of the European Union issued a memorandum in 2008 identifying Hutt River passports among known "fantasy passports ... issued by private organisations and individuals" to which a visa should not be affixed. The memorandum makes no separate recommendation for handling of a diplomatic passport issued by the Principality of Hutt River.

Treatment by Asian countries

Hong Kong, while not recognising Hutt River as a country, recognises it as a place in which a company can be incorporated, though no companies were incorporated in Hutt River on the Hong Kong registry. The Hong Kong Registry, however, were looking at reviewing their list of accredited places for company incorporation after the issue was raised in an adverse manner by Australian media.

It is a Royal Prerogative to recognise a new foreign Government. Under the Principle of Law, when it is under consideration to give such recognition it is specified that the validity of the claim is not relevant; it is the right of the Government to speak for the people it represents that is to be considered. Laws on Royal Prerogative state that no court may inquire into the whys and wherefores of any Royal Prerogative exercised. Precedent cases have ruled that if any recognition is given by a person authorised to do the business of the day who should otherwise have obtained some other authority for the recognition, having failed to do so does not invalidate the recognition so given. The Limitations Act also states that once any recognition is given to a person entitled, then the Statute runs from that fact.

The Weird and True Story of America's Most Popular Social Security Number *By Christine DiGangi*

It's a bad idea to keep your Social Security card in your wallet (despite the fact that the card says you should), but it used to be common practice. In 1938, before identity theft was the problem it is today, a wallet manufacturer wanted to show potential buyers how well their Social Security cards would fit in their wallets, so they put fake ones in the ones they sold (similar to cardboard "credit cards" you may see in wallets today).

The cards in the wallets were fake, but the number on them wasn't. Douglas Patterson, vice president and treasurer of the E.H. Ferree Co., thought it would be "clever" to use his secretary's Social Security number on the cards, according to a post on the Social Security Administration's history page. The secretary, Hilda Schrader Whitcher, eventually had to be issued a new number, because so many people thought the number in their wallets belonged to them.

Thousands of people used Whitcher's number (078-05-1120), despite the fact the display cards were half the size of actual cards, printed in all red and said "specimen" on them. Use of Whitcher's number peaked in 1943 when 5,755 used it as their own, and it was used as late as 1977, the Social Security Administration notes. Overall, more than 40,000 used the number, as the wallets were mass-produced and sold in department stores across the country.

Based on the SSA's post about this number, it doesn't seem Whitcher ran into too much trouble because people used her number, though the FBI apparently showed up at her house once to ask about the situation. She was amazed people took the number in the first place, according to a quote posted to the SSA website:

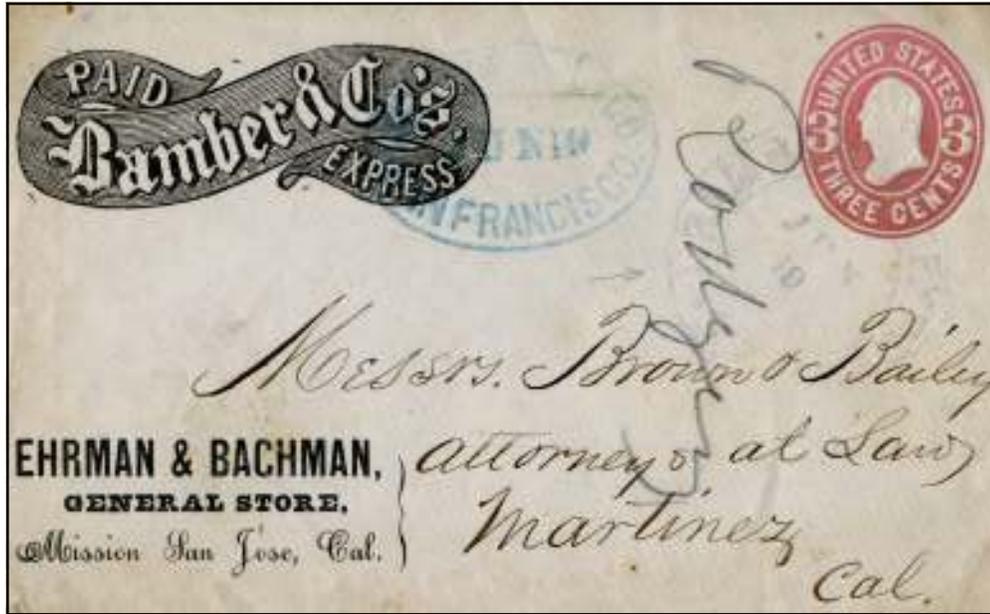
"They started using the number. They thought it was their own. I can't understand how people can be so stupid. I can't understand that."

As entertaining as this story is, someone stealing your Social Security number is something you never want to experience. An identity thief can file for a fraudulent tax return, commit crimes or open a variety of financial accounts in your name, all of which could negatively affect you. It's not just finances, either—you may have to clean up your criminal or Health records after becoming an identity theft victim. It can sometimes be tough to detect identity theft, but one of the easiest ways to spot new-account fraud is to check your credit reports and credit scores. You can get your free annual credit reports from the three major credit reporting agencies, and you can see two of your credit scores for free, with updates every 30 days, on Credit.com.

Identity theft can cost you a lot of time and money, which is why you want to find and stop it as quickly as possible.

Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.

This month's offering is a Bamber & Co's Express cover from Mission San José to Martinez. Bamber mail from areas where they had no offices was sent to San Francisco for cancelling and processing, then, for this cover, via boat to Martinez. The light strike that is nearly impossible to read is a generic Bamber cancel used throughout their operating system which is dated June 19. The envelope (U21) is either U58 or U59, and was first issued in 1864 - 65. This cover used circa 1869 - 1870, are the dates of Ehrman & Bachman ownership of the establishment. This business is still open in Mission San José in a building built by the owners in 1894. It appears there was always a member of the Bachman family as owner or partner in the store.



Continued from page 2

A special personal thank-you to Hubert Jensen for coaching a group of boys in the afternoon. Several dealers had give-aways for the boys including the San Francisco Postcard Club who gave each boy a 100+ year old picture postcard. The International Society of Japanese Philately continued their help to Scouts and especially supported several boys to build a collection of Japanese stamps.

Scout-O-Rama

On Saturday May 9th, I hosted Troop 290's booth at Scout-O-Rama (SOR). This is a fun family event with troops hosting booths that allow youth to try a wide variety of activities including games, building rope bridges, outdoor cooking and firing BB-guns. Our stamp table was busy all day with 6 - 8 kids working on a stamp project at a time. Approximately 75 people completed a project during the day. They had a good time and felt challenged to complete their chosen project. SOR is not just for Cub & Boy Scouts and encourages families to participate. Consequently, we had a lot of young women complete a stamp project.



Most of the stamp projects available are the same ones we offer at Fiesta. A new project was added for this event:

"Champions of Liberty" using the US stamps from 1957-61.

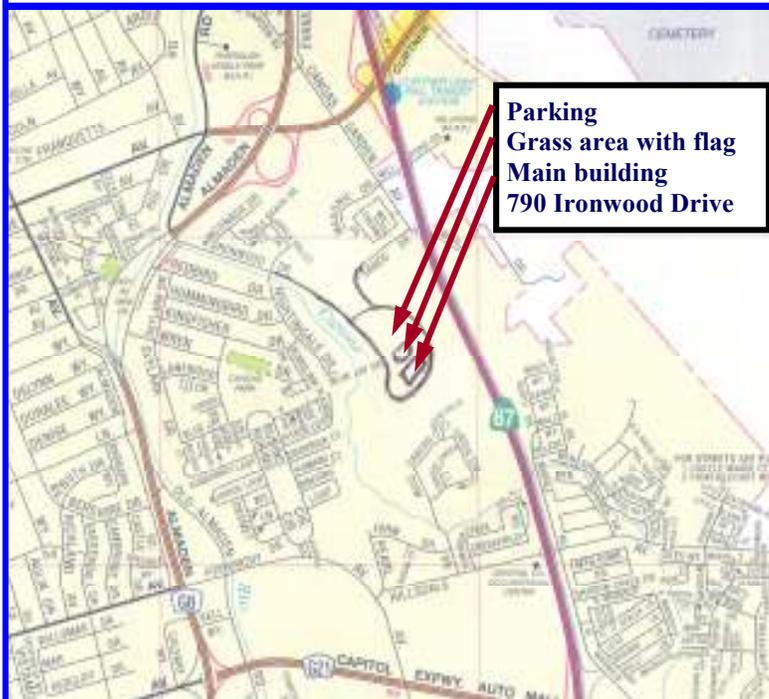
A big thank-you to Kristin Patterson and the Postal History Foundation for donating the stamps that made this possible.



Thanks to a donation by Mystic Stamps, two "Historic Stamps of the United States" albums were raffled off. These albums are a single volume of US stamps which leave out expensive and hard to get stamps. Any young person doing a project got a ticket in the drawing. Both winners were very excited to receive their albums. Winner Dallas Metcalf worked extremely hard on completing his collection of 1938 Prexies. —Brian

JUNE MEETINGS ARE ON THE 3RD & 17TH

JULY MEETINGS ARE ON THE 1ST & 15TH



**Parking
Grass area with flag
Main building
790 Ironwood Drive**

Show Calendar

June 6 - 7

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

June 13 - 14

Coalpex
Civic Park Community Center
1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
Free Admission - Free Parking

June 20 - 21

Sunnyvale 3-Dealer Show
Sheraton Hotel, 1100 N. Mathilda Avenue, Sunnyvale
Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 4
Free Admission - Free Parking

June 26 - 28

Sacramento Gold Rush Paper Show
La Quinta Inn
11131 Folsom Blvd., Rancho Cordova
Fri 1 - 6, Sat 10:15 - 6, Sun 10:15 - 3

**The San Jose Post Card Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of each month (excepting July & August) in the Hilltop Manor dining room at 7 pm.
Visit the SJSC website at: filateliefiesta.org**

Advertisements

Members may place an ad here to run for three months unless sold. Three at a time or as space allows. No politically incorrect, risqué, illegal or offensive material accepted. Editor will edit.

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Fruit, Samoa 600-18 MLH Cat 35.00-20.00

Fish, Slovenia 290A S/S MNH Cat 5.00-3.75

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Phone: (408) 274-3939. E-mail: doug_gary@hotmail.com.

Butterflies, Swaziland 506-18 MNH Cat 17.00-13.00

Dinosaurs, Tanzania 1837 S/S MNH Cat 9.50-7.50

Flowers, Togo 558-62, C52-3 MNH Cat 4.65-3.50

World Cup, Togo 1001-2, C346-9 MNH Imperf pairs 25.00

Birds, Uganda 97-110 MNH Cat 67.75-50.00

Planes, Vanuatu 590-4 MNH Cat 19.90-15.00

Flowers, Venezuela 804-11, C794-803 MNH Cat 28.10-21.00

Fish, Virgin Is. 847-61 MNH Cat 57.00-42.00

PLEASE NOTE - ALL USED SELF ADHESIVES HAVE ALL GUM REMOVED

All prices plus actual shipping or mailing costs if applicable.

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Walt Kransky's website has changed:

Many new postcards and philatelic material added including checklist additions.

Website: <http://www.thepostcard.com/walt/>

E-mail Walt at wrsky@att.net

Please use the word "POSTCARD QUERY" in the subject line of your e-mail message to avoid spam. Thank you.

These advertised items are available to everyone.