



San Jose Stamp Club Newsletter



Whole number 210

October 2015



9-11—WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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Visit our website at:

sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com

Founded 1927, Club show since 1928
Meets 7:00 PM, 1st & 3rd Wednesdays
Hilltop Manor in 3rd floor dining room
790 Ironwood Drive, San José, California
Driving instructions on the website.

Annual dues:

Adults/families \$12 ~ Youths \$6
With hardcopy of newsletter \$20

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Meeting at Wayne Menez's Home

For those that did not attend—you cheated yourself. Wayne's collection is enormous and his knowledge matches it. His insight into postal stationery is inspiring, and there was no end to the many interesting bits of information on the subject.

We have some very advanced collectors in our club and Brian has been talking to some of them with regards to giving a presentation to us. I doubt any more of them will be in the speakers home—Wayne's being an exception due to the enormity of his collection.

When we are fortunate enough to have another speaker from among the club's membership I urge you to attend—you will have an enjoyable time and you might even learn a little.—did I just say that? God forbid we learn anything...

SJSC Website

A word about our new website. Yes, we have a website with thanks due to Jim Steinwinder's efforts and expertise. Jim has done yeoman's duty in creating it and it shows—it looks great. You must check it out as soon as possible, and any info, changes or possible improvements should be forwarded to Jim and our club president Brian Jones for consideration.

The address is: sanjosestampclub.wordpress.com

Take a look and let the club officers know what you think.

One thing Jim wants to add are pictures from Filatelice Fiesta 2014. I have a few that were given me and will forward to him, however, if you have any at all please get them to Jim so he can add them to our site—the more the merrier. Also, if you are aware of any stamp or postcard shows that are not already on our site, please forward the information so they may be added. Information is the energy that any website thrives on, so don't take any chances, if you don't see it on our site and you think it should be then send it.

Also, I take a binder with newsletters from many sources in it. Not many check it out and you should—lots of information there. The WE newsletter has an article regarding Carol Edholm receiving her first Grand—this is exciting for her and a little congrats e-mail would be nice.

Club Donations

We've been very fortunate as a stamp club in the number of donations that have come to us. That being said, we now have to do something with them. President Brian has told me that there are a great many items from these donations yet to be sorted and how to dispose of them, whether to the Scouts, sold directly to club members, sent to auction, or some other method—so, when asked to help at the next work party, please consider giving a couple hours to help sort the material.

We do not have enough attendance to have a viable auction, however, if the material we do have that's deemed more appropriate for adult collectors as opposed to the Scouts or other youngsters, this material, once put up on stock sheets or 102 cards, can be made available to the membership. As you know, the prices would be very reasonable and would add immeasurably to our bank account—and Lord knows we need that. Not only that, we need to reduce the work load for our Prez who has it stored at his home—Ame very likely wants it to go away too...

REMINDER

This is the start of the fourth quarter of the year. I will do just the next three issues of the newsletter. One of you will have to step-up and take over this chore. Remember, clubs, groups, societies, etc. usually begin to die without a newsletter. If you are serious about stamp collecting and the San Jose Stamp Club you may want to consider doing the newsletter. I have the templates and the program to get you started, and will assist until you feel comfortable with the position.-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

POPULAR

Northern California Trivia

Q What Maestro ruled the San Francisco Opera for 25 years?

A Kurt Herbert Adler.

Q Who was one of the most infamous graduates of Santa Clara High School in San Jose?

A Fatty Arbuckle.

From *Northern California Trivia* by Ernie & Jill Couch

Old Kinderhook

Few historians would argue that Martin Van Buren was one of our most unsuccessful presidents, except for one thing. Did you know he was the first president born in the United States? All the rest were born before we became a country and had citizenship. Although he was all-American, his parents spoke Dutch. They held to their Dutch language for 100 years after the British had taken New York.

Martin grew up on a big family estate in upstate New York. He called the estate Old Kinderhook, and it wasn't long before people referred to Martin as Old Kinderhook.

Martin parlayed his personal skills and his private fortune into becoming a power broker in New York State. In those days senators were elected by the State Legislature, so it followed for Martin to be elected to the U.S. Senate in 1821.

Now, Martin was nothing if he wasn't a clever politician, and he could see a star rising from a long way off. Long before Andy Jackson became president, Martin promoted him to his fellow New Yorkers, which helped a lot in getting Jackson elected. As a reward Andrew Jackson appointed Martin his Secretary of State, the most prestigious position in the cabinet.

Four years later, because of Martin's loyal service, Jackson asked him to run as his vice president for his second term and, of course, he was reelected. Then in 1836 Martin was elected in his own right.

By this time he had been in the White House a long time and was known to his friends and foes alike by his nickname, Old Kinderhook. You might guess then that when he became president he didn't sign his name to pieces of legislation or to policy statements he approved. Whenever Martin signed off on something it was Old Kinderhook.

Even though President Martin Van Buren presided over the first American depression and didn't know what to do about it, and even though he angered abolitionists in the North and was defeated reelection by General William Henry Harrison, he had one lasting success, and that was the way he signed his name: Old Kinderhook.

Not well known is that Martin Van Buren is responsible for a word that is used more than any other in the entire world today. When he signed Old Kinderhook, he just used his initials. And getting the official OK on a document started the most universal of all words. Got it? OK.

From *Today's Senior Magazine*

"It is the manners and spirit of a people which preserve a republic in vigor. A degeneracy in these is a canker which soon eats to the heart of its laws and constitution."

—Thomas Jefferson, 1781

The Prez Sez

When you read last month's column, were you surprised by anything? Did you already know about all the different activities? I'm really pleased that we such have an active club. The key to keeping these on-track is full participation of the membership. Being a member of a club should be considered something you contribute to and not as a spectator sport. Our newest members are setting a great standard of being very involved and making contributions.

One of the jobs that is most urgently needed is a new editor for the newsletter. Jim Sauer has published it for us for something crazy like 18 years. We all owe Jim a HUGE THANK-YOU for such dedicated service. Now it is time for someone else to take up this responsibility. If you want to keep it similar, Jim is prepared to give you the templates and a lot of material to get you started. However, you can also feel free to consider changing the format. There are plenty of other club newsletters to look to for inspiration. We can also consider going to publishing it every other month. Also, every club member should expect to contribute at least one article a year. Start planning what you are going write and contribute.

A summary of the other jobs you can contribute to include:

- Website & Social media manager
- Keep the website up to date
- Expand the site content
- Create a club Facebook page and possible other on-line presence
- Create ways to promote the club
- Lead more activities like the recent antique fair
- Lead efforts to attract new members
- Organize club meeting programs

This is important as I believe it is a fundamental function of a stamp club to lead members to better understand philately and grow their own collections.

Every club member should expect to lead a meeting program at least once a year.

- Club "lawyer"—Write the by-laws to keep us on-track, fair to everyone, and consistent
- Get the paperwork done to achieve 501c3 status so we can provide donors an acknowledgement that will stand up to an IRS audit
- Lead efforts to sort and organize the club's inventory of stamps and philatelic materials. Make it available to club members and organize sales to outsiders

I'm excited about the future for the San Jose Stamp Club. When we all pitch-in and contribute, we will have a club that's full of fun and enriches our philatelic knowledge. I've heard stories of some stamp clubs falling apart due to stale membership and a lack of activities. That is NOT who the SJSC is today. What job of those listed above will you help with? With all of us contributing, we'll have a great club. Don't wait for somebody else to do the above jobs. Ask yourself which one is for you.

Do you have goals for the SJSC that are not being addressed? I welcome and encourage hearing your thoughts and input on the future of the club.

—Brian

Battle of Ni'ihau

Since their only link with the outside world was a weekly sampan from Kaua'i, the inhabitants of the island of Ni'ihau had no knowledge of the Pearl Harbor attack until a downed enemy pilot, Shigenori Nishikaichi, brought them the news.

About 2 p.m. on December 7, Airman First Class Shigenori Nishikaichi who had just taken part in the second wave of the Pearl Harbor attack, crash-landed his bullet-damaged plane, an A6M2 Zero "B11-120" from the carrier Hiryu, in a Ni'ihau field near where Hawila Kaleohano (1912-1986), a native Hawaiian resident, was standing. Kaleohano was unaware of the attack at Pearl Harbor, but knew from newspapers that the relationship between the U.S. and Japan was poor due to Japanese expansionism and the U.S. oil embargo on Japan. Recognizing Nishikaichi and his plane as Japanese, Kaleohano thought it prudent to relieve the pilot of his pistol and papers before the dazed airman could react. He and the other Hawaiians who gathered about treated the pilot with courtesy and the traditional Hawaiian hospitality, even throwing a party for him later that Sunday afternoon. However, the Hawaiians could not understand Nishikaichi, who spoke only Japanese with a limited amount of English. They sent for Japanese-born Ishimatsu Shintani, who was married to a native Hawaiian, to translate.

When the pilot told of the Oahu raid, his captors decided to keep him under guard until the Sampan arrived from Kaua'i the next day, then turn him over to authorities on the larger island. But because of the emergency, the boat did not make its weekly run. Finally, after several days of waiting, on Friday, December 12, the islanders built a large fire as a prearranged signal of trouble.

On the same day, the pilot tried to bribe his captors into letting him go. Finally persuading one of the interpreters to help him, the pilot escaped. He and the interpreter searched Kaleohano's home in vain for the airman's papers, then salvaged the machine guns from the wrecked plane and threatened to kill everyone in the village of Pu'uwai if Kaleohano was not produced with the pilot's papers. Some of the villagers were ordered to find Kaleohano and bring him back. By dusk most of the natives had fled the village, but one, Benihakka Kanahale, who tried unsuccessfully to sneak up behind the Japanese and steal their ammunition. He and his wife were captured but Kanahale's later attempts to persuade the interpreter to seize the enemy pilot's gun provoked a struggle in which the pilot shot Kanahale twice.



Shigenori Nishikaichi, the pilot who became the center of the Ni'ihau Incident.



Remains of Nishikaichi's Zero on 17 December 1941.

"This made me mad," the Hawaiian said later, and he grabbed the pilot by the leg and neck and flung him against a stone wall, killing him. The Japanese interpreter, who was struggling with Kanahale's wife, broke free, grabbed a gun and killed himself.

Meanwhile, Kaleohano and four islanders were rowing through rough seas on a 16-hour voyage to seek help on Kaua'i. They returned with soldiers on Saturday, December 13, only to learn that the "battle" was already over. The wounded Kanahale was taken to the hospital on Kaua'i where he recovered. During ceremonies at Fort Shafter in August 1945, he was presented with the *Medal of Merit* and a *Purple Heart*, the last by virtue of a special authorization from Washington to permit its award to a civilian. His fellow islander, Kaneohano, was awarded the Medal of Freedom in May 1946.



Benihakka Kanahale receiving the *Medal of Merit* and a *Purple Heart*—note them pinned to his left breast.

Historian Gordon Prange notes that it was "the rapidity with which the three resident Japanese went over to the pilot's cause" which troubled the Hawaiians. "The more pessimistic among them cited the Ni'ihau incident as proof that no one could trust any Japanese, even if an American citizen, not to go over to Japan if it appeared expedient."

Novelist William Hallstead argues that the Ni'ihau incident had an influence on decisions leading to the Japanese-American internment. According to Hallstead, the behavior of Shintani and the Haradas were included in a Navy report. In the official report, authored by Navy Lieutenant C. B. Baldwin and dated January 26, 1942, Baldwin wrote, "The fact that the two Ni'ihau Japanese who had previously shown no anti-American tendencies went to the aid of the pilot when Japanese domination of the island seemed possible, indicate likelihood that Japanese residents previously believed loyal to the United States may aid Japan if further Japanese attacks appear successful."

As usual, there's much, much more to this fascinating little slice of the Pearl Harbor attack story by the Japanese on December 7, 1941, [online](#).-ed.

Engraver Alters Die of \$1 Revel Stamp

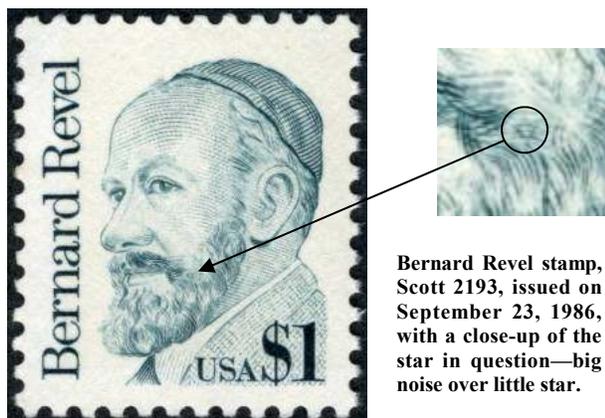
By Clyde H. Farnsworth, Special to the New York Times, August 16, 1987

An unauthorized Star of David, invisible to the naked eye, was etched into the die of a \$1 postage stamp issued last September to mark the 100th anniversary of Yeshiva University.

Officials of the Postal Service and the Bureau of Engraving and Printing said today that a bureau engraver had secretly altered the master die for the stamp, which bears the portrait of Bernard Revel, a longtime president of the New York City University and of the Rabbinical College of America.

Millions of the stamps have been printed, all containing the tiny, six-pointed star buried in the educator's beard, visible with a magnifying glass just below the left side of his mouth.

James Van Loozen, a spokesman for the Postal Service, said there were no plans to call back the issue or re-engrave the master die. With no changes contemplated, philatelic experts said it was unlikely that the Revel stamps would rise in value to collectors.



Bernard Revel stamp, Scott 2193, issued on September 23, 1986, with a close-up of the star in question—big noise over little star.

Peter H. Daly, the Deputy Director of the engraving bureau, said the bureau learned of the irregularity from an anonymous caller about a week ago. The covert star was first disclosed publicly by Linn's Stamp News, a weekly philatelic publication, and was reported today in The Washington Post.

Mr. Daly said the star was etched by an employee named Kenneth Kipperman, who has worked for the bureau about 10 years and, in an incident that appears wholly unrelated to the stamp-tampering, is facing charges in connection with a bomb threat.

Mr. Kipperman, who could not be reached today to comment on the allegation, is one of 16 artisans at the bureau who are classified as bank note engravers. Mr. Daly estimated that there are probably fewer than 100 similarly skilled people in the world.

"It is not an uncommon thing for engravers to somehow personalize their work," said Mr. Daly, pointing out that it is done in a number of countries. "We do not allow it here, however, and we do not condone it," he emphasized. Official calls it a first.

Although there are printing flaws, in which a President, for example, may get extra eyelashes or strands of hair, no previous instances of surreptitious markings on the die have come to light, according to Mr. Daly.

John F. Dunn, the stamp columnist for The New York Times, said it was "very unusual" that the irregularity had not been discovered earlier. "Usually, collectors will look at these stamps very closely when they are originally issued, blowing them up to examine smallest details," he said.

The stamp came out Sept. 23, 1986, on the first day of the Yeshiva anniversary celebration. The stamp, part of the Great Americans series, was designed by Tom Broad of Chevy Chase, Maryland.; Mr. Kipperman's engraving was made in late 1985.

There were no positive indications today of what motive there might have been in altering the die.

Neighbors of Mr. Kipperman in the Washington suburb of Silver Spring, Maryland., who said they knew him were unable to explain what motive he might have had. One neighbor described Mr. Kipperman as adhering to Judaism, and a brass plate bearing the word "shalom," a Hebrew word of greeting, is attached to the front door of the house.

A woman who identified herself as Mrs. Kipperman but who would not give her first name told a reporter: "They took what he did this summer and twisted it. He never threatened anyone."

She said her husband could not comment on any aspect of the affair because of the criminal charges against him.

Mr. Kipperman had been arrested in a bizarre incident June 17 after the police said he threatened to blow up the site of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

He was said to have objected to the demolition of a building, next door to the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, to make room for the museum, and barricaded himself in the partly razed structure for three hours. The case has been turned over to a grand jury.

Since then, Mr. Kipperman has continued to work at the bureau but has been given administrative duties outside the area where stamps and currency are made. Mr. Daly would not comment on what action, if any, might be taken as a result of the etching of the unauthorized Star of David.

It was uncertain whether any laws or regulations of the Postal Service or bureau apply; officials said it appeared to be more the case of an employee overstepping his bounds.

An online search failed to give any more information on the arrest and accusation.

After nearly 30 years this is still an interesting story—particularly with regards to the charges against Kenneth Kipperman the results of which I've been unable to find on the net. Also, did he continue to work at the BEP?—don't know....-ed.

The Big Cheese

There are many ways to show support for your country's troops, but would you ever think of making the world's largest cheese to raise money for hungry soldiers? In the early summer of 1864, a farming family by the name of Steele did just that: They produced a 3,800 pound wheel of cheese to raise money for the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac.

The Steele family of Pescadero was at that time one of the most well-known dairy operations in California. They began in Petaluma and wound up at Rancho Punta del Año Nuevo, or "cow heaven" according to Isaac Steele. The ranch was owned by Loren Coburn, a very wealthy and notoriously greedy man who owned most of the land in Pescadero. Despite his bad reputation, a lease was arranged and the Steeles moved 1,100 cattle to the ranch in 1861. The family earned \$17,000 (nearly half a million today!) on cheese alone within the first year at the ranch.

When the Civil War was declared in April of 1861, Isaac's brother Frederick joined the army and became a general. With a close family member fighting in the war, the Steele family wanted to contribute something special to the United States Sanitary Commission (the Civil War equivalent of the Red Cross). What better way for dairy farmers to show support for their troops than to produce for them the world's largest cheese?

In the early summer of 1864, with this ambitious goal in mind, the Steeles enlisted the help of their neighbors to milk 1500 cows, make curds, and press the curds together to produce a 3,800 pound wheel of cheese. The cheese, worth \$800 then (\$11,900

today), was presented to the Sanitary Commission by Reverend Dr. Bellows. It was met with wonder and amazement and became the central attraction of that year's Industrial Fair of the Mechanics Institute of San Francisco.

Held in San Francisco's Union Square, the Fair's pavilion featured a 108-foot-high dome. The seven foot wide by two foot deep cheese was displayed at the center, hidden inside a Chinese pagoda ringed with potted flowers and called the "floral temple." To see the massive cheese, people paid 25¢ to one of several wounded soldiers who had fought bravely for the Union. The money raised all went to the National Sanitary Fund and after a month on display, the cheese wheel had raised \$1500 (equal to \$22,400 today).

Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain) reported on the great cheese in the Daily Morning Call on September 10, 1864:

"It is the contribution of two whole hearted brothers, and it is worth twenty-five cents to look upon such a monument of kindly Christian charity. After that cheese has gone the rounds of the States and collected a quarter of a million for the Sanitary Fund, it will be cut up in New York and sold by the slice [to benefit the Sanitary Fund]."

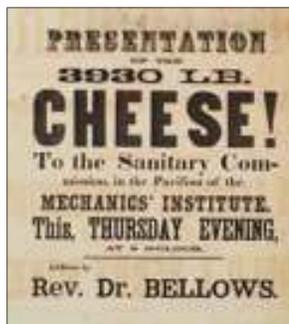
Samuel Clemens wrote several pieces about the monster cheese but he failed to fact check his work and the *Call's* editor-in-chief, George Barnes, let him go in October saying,

"You're out of your element, Clemens. The position requires persistence and a certain attention to detail. I believe you are unsuited to it. Besides, you're obviously capable of greater things in literature."

And indeed he was. Samuel Clemens moved on from reporting on the world's largest cheese to writing some of America's greatest literature under his pen name, Mark Twain.

President Lincoln Gets a Bite of the Big Cheese

The cheese wheel's final destination was meant to be New York so that the soldiers of the Army of the Potomac could enjoy the delicious creation. Sadly, only samples of the cheese made the trip. It was decided that by the end of the journey, planned to be made by steamship, the cheese would no longer be edible and would go to waste. So instead, most of the cheese remained in San Francisco and was sold for 50¢ a pound to anyone interested in trying the world's largest cheese and supporting the Sanitary Fund. Some of the cheese did make it all the way to New York (a special sample box was sent to Reverend Dr. Bellows) and to the White House so that President Lincoln could try a piece. In the end, the massive cheese raised \$2,820 and was enjoyed at the Thanksgiving dinners of many San Franciscans that year.



Notice of an address by Rev. Dr. Bellows upon presentation of cheese to the Sanitary Commission.

More on Postal Buddy—an internet report...

Sidney R. Goodman, a San Diego businessman, had no appointment when he wandered into "the pink palace," as postal workers call their squat, coral-colored headquarters at L'Enfant Plaza, one December day in 1988.

But Goodman had an idea—a vending machine that would print return addresses on self-adhesive labels—and he wanted to install his machines in the nation's 40,000 post offices. "What better place to sell address labels?" Goodman thought.

Goodman wound up in the office of Tom Berry, a top adviser to Postmaster General Anthony M. Frank. The more Goodman talked, the more excited Berry got.

From this meeting evolved what was to become one of the most celebrated postal innovations in decades: a computerized, talking vending machine called "Postal Buddy" that would sell stamps, print mailing labels, sell stationery and postcards and—most important—collect change-of-address information that could be downloaded daily to individual post offices.

It was, postal officials grandly announced at a Washington news conference four years later, an electronic marvel that would solve a \$1.3 billion headache: the problem of forwarding mail to the country's increasingly mobile population.

But what senior postal officials christened with enthusiasm that December day was dead within nine months.

Now Postal Buddy may be a \$1.3 billion migraine for the beleaguered U.S. Postal Service. Goodman has filed a \$1.3 billion contract claim against the Postal Service, the largest ever filed against the agency. The venture has become yet another lesson for embattled Postmaster General Marvin T. Runyon in the difficulties of managing the government's largest civilian agency.

Its demise also underscores the agency's intense bureaucratic rivalries that, in this case, ultimately could raise the cost of a first-class stamp one cent if the Postal Service loses to Goodman.

Postal records and videotapes of key meetings show that Goodman was assured repeatedly by postal officials that Postal Buddy was a sure thing and the prospects for failure were "only one chance in a million."

Publicly, postal spokesmen scoff at Goodman's claim and dismiss his machine as an unqualified failure. "Basically, Postal Buddy turned out to be user unfriendly," spokeswoman Sandra Harding said. "That's what our customers told us."

Initially deployed in Washington and San Diego, Postal Buddy failed to produce enough revenue to justify its use, Harding said. "We just cut our losses before the losses mounted."

But documents supplied by Goodman and interviews with former postal executives involved in the project suggest that there were other reasons. Key among them: Lower-level postal officials who were determined to kill an idea that came from outside and might have cost jobs.

"The thing we did not have any control over was this once-in-a-lifetime event," Goodman said. When the dust settled, Postal Buddy's top supporters were among the 47,000 workers who either retired or were moved elsewhere.

That made Postal Buddy as welcome as "adopting a kid with a disease," Goodman said. "Who wants it?"

Worst of all, Robert Krause, a chain-smoking, dapper-dressing lawyer who was one of Postal Buddy's biggest critics, was named to oversee the project as manager of the agency's address information systems division.

Krause, according to records supplied by Goodman and interviews with former officials, repeatedly tried to undermine the project.

You can't help getting older, but you don't have to get old.—George Burns

At one point, Goodman said Krause demanded that the names of the states not be spelled out on any of Postal Buddy's products, including business cards that were not used in the mail. Instead, he insisted that all products use the Postal Service's two-letter abbreviations, CA for California, VA for Virginia and so on.

When Postal Buddy protested, Krause would not hear their complaint, Goodman said. "I'm the keeper of the keys and it'll be done my way—or it won't be done," Goodman quoted Krause as saying.

Postal Service spokesmen turned down a request for an interview with Krause. Postal lawyers also rejected a Freedom of Information Act request for documents detailing why officials turned against the project. The lawyers said the documents did not have to be disclosed because they were "predecisional" and "deliberative" and may be needed for possible litigation over the contract.

Goodman said that Krause rejected proposals for new Postal Buddy products and developed a competing "mover's guide" that still depended on handwritten change-of-address cards.

Equally serious, Goodman said, were the problems Postal Buddy was having with the new addresses it was collecting.

In his 99-page claim filed with the Postal Service, Goodman accuses it of failing to forward changes of address to major mailers, such as magazine publishers and other postal facilities, or to send confirmation notices to individuals who used the machines to change their addresses. He also says the Postal Service failed to instruct postal clerks about how the system worked.

In Washington, where more than 100 of the machines were deployed, District letter carriers would not forward mail based on the Postal Buddy electronic change of address forms because they did not include a signature.

Internal memos supplied by Goodman suggest that senior postal officials believed they could purchase the key elements of the Postal Buddy system from Goodman and create their own electronic system. The agency has announced plans to have 2,000 of its machines in place in the near future to electronically change addresses.

Goodman's original press releases touted Postal Buddy as a "souped-up ATM," an automated teller machine. Customers could type in new addresses, buy stamps, postal cards and address labels, while the machine talked, guiding them through its functions. Best of all for the Postal Service, the entire project could be funded by private concerns—"other people's money," as contracting officer David Letts put it.

"Postal Buddy is quick, it's convenient, it's easy to use and, as I discovered this morning, it's just plain fun," Ann McK. Robinson, the agency's consumer advocate, told a coming-out party for the red and blue machines at the National Press Club in December 1992. "More amazing, the Postal Service is not spending a cent on Postal Buddy."

Officials hoped to see large revenue from the supplies sold through the machines. But their major benefit would be cutting down on the billions of pieces of mail that the post office classifies as "undeliverable as addressed." The costs of forwarding such mail—\$1.3 billion a year according to a Stanford Graduate School of Business report—had to be borne by the Postal Service.

Frank enthusiastically endorsed Postal Buddy, telling aides that if the machines could cut undeliverable mail by 40 percent, they would save \$400 million a year. "This is the best idea around," Goodman said Frank told him the day he saw a plywood model in action. "We should do our darndest to try to implement it."

As long as Frank was postmaster general, that was the party line at L'Enfant Plaza. "It is a win-win," boasted associate postmaster general Kenneth J. Hunter in 1992 as the agency agreed to let Goodman place 10,000 machines around the country.

But from the first, the project attracted enemies from within the Postal Service's highly insular culture, which was known to kill any project conceived outside the agency or not sponsored by the postal division charged with making it operational.

For example, in the early '90s J.E. Bass, a University of Arkansas engineer, created a device that could easily read the bar codes postal workers use to route envelopes. Officials liked Bass's idea so much they gave the university an award for outstanding technology and pressed Bass for a couple of dozen test models. Then, postal inspectors moved in, accused Bass of profiteering by inflating his bill for the models. Federal prosecutors pursued the inventor until his death in 1992.

Postal Buddy also seems to have fallen victim to the postal bureaucracy. Some employees saw the machines as intruding on their turf. "There was always an undercurrent of people who wanted to sink it—and they finally did," said Frank's adviser Berry, a former AT&T vice president.

From the early days, there were hints that the project was ill-starred. In one of the first prototype tests in 1992, a postal team member typed "Kill This Project" into the blank space where the mover's name was to go. To Goodman's amazement, the worker left a printout with the phrase at the test site.

"This thing could have been killed a number of times," said Berry, who has since retired from the agency. Each time Postal Buddy was threatened, Berry would turn to Frank and the project would survive.

Then, in the spring of 1992, Frank quit and Postal Buddy lost its chief ally. By that point, Goldman Sachs, the Wall Street investment bankers, and EDS, the General Motors data processing subsidiary, had invested \$25.4 million in the Postal Buddy Corp., which had gone deeply into debt to produce its first machines.

Runyon, the new postmaster general, arrived at L'Enfant Plaza and, according to many officials, seemed ready to undo many of Frank's pet projects. More devastating for Postal Buddy, however, was the turmoil Runyon created within the bureaucracy by reorganizing the headquarters staff.

Berry and Goodman note that when Postal Buddy was killed, the project was in the midst of an major advertising campaign that was beginning to boost its revenue. Given the Postal Service's public partnership pledge with Goodman, Berry said the agency had an obligation to help Goodman overcome any start-up problems. As he puts it: "The Postal Service had an obligation to make it work."

Members of the Postal Service Board of Governors, the *presidential appointees* who oversee the agency, were assured the government's potential liability was no more than \$20 million when the contract was canceled. When they were told of the size of Goodman's claim during a closed briefing some were furious.

"Everybody told us, 'It's not going to happen. You're dealing with the largest civilian bureaucracy in the world,'" Goodman recalled. "I'm an entrepreneur. I'm too naive. I've never dealt with any government bureaucracy before," Goodman used to tell his critics.

Is it any wonder the postal service is screwed up. Too many self-important "little men" in positions of a little power—but enough to hi-jack any idea that would improve efficiency and the bottom line. A bottom line which is already the victim of an out of control union and employees that are nearly impossible to fire, plus a retirement agreement that will eventually bankrupt the service unless the fed bails it out. A microcosm of the U.S. government today.-ed.

Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.

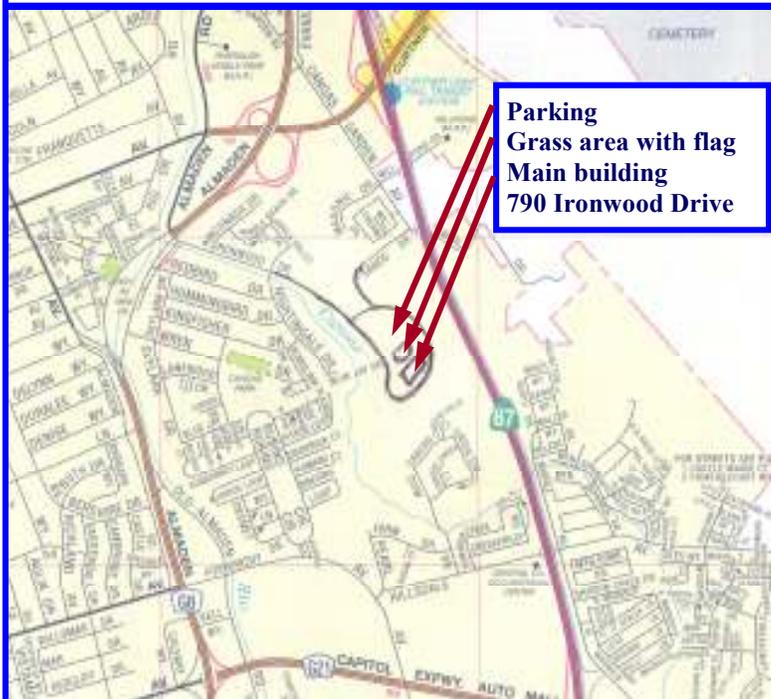
Nigerian scam covers have been featured here in the past. The evolution of these covers went from photocopied stamps with crude perforations and bogus postage meters to genuine postage prior to going online with their appeals. One ongoing method of snail mail prior to going online was the mailing of these scam letters in other countries with genuine postage. These covers are very scarce as nearly all went through the mail system and were delivered as opposed to the many hundreds of thousands that were intercepted in New York and destroyed. Two of these type of scam covers are featured here; one from Rhodesia, and one from Togo. I'm aware of one other that was illustrated in an article in *American Philatelist* from Ghana. An interesting feature of these covers is their similarity. Nearly all were on a buff, or light tan/brown, paper; very similar in size (approximately 4 X 9 inches); hand written addresses, and without any return address. Due to the similarity in the covers they are easy to spot, however, I'm very much surprised at the number of stamp collectors that are completely unaware of their existence. I'm guessing that most collectors are aware of the scam, but became aware of them due to the e-mail varieties. It's my intention to exhibit these covers and am always in the market for them should you have any you will sell.



In order to attain the impossible, one must attempt the absurd.—Miguel de Cervantes

A scan of the Ghana cover featured in the AP article. Note the airmail envelope.

OCTOBER MEETINGS ARE ON THE 7TH & 21ST
NOVEMBER MEETINGS ARE ON THE 4TH & 18TH



Show Calendar

October 3 - 5
Winepex

Marin Center, 10 Avenue of the Flags, San Rafael
Fri & Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 3
Free Admission & Free Parking

October 24 - 25

East Bay Collector's Club
Civic Park Community Center
1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek
Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4
Free Admission - Free Parking

November 7 - 8
SACAPEX

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

November 13 - 15

Filatelie Fiesta
Santa Clara County Fairgrounds
344 Tully Road, San Jose
Fri 10 - 6, Sat 10 - 6, Sun 10 - 3
Free Admission - Free Parking

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

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Pitcairn Is. 301a.b., 306a.b. Booklet MNH Cat 34.00-27.50

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