



# San Jose Stamp Club

## Newsletter



Whole number 205

May 2014



### 9 - 11—WE WILL NEVER FORGET

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Visit our website at:

[filatelicefiesta.org](http://filatelicefiesta.org)

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

##### Annual dues:

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

APS chapter # 0264-025791

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### Memorial Day

For many, Memorial Day brings to mind images of parades and picnics, of barbecues and baseball games. What's sometimes forgotten are the reasons for the holiday: The sacrifices made by American military in times of conflict.

As the United States' death toll passes 2,300 in Afghanistan, Memorial Day takes on an especially poignant meaning. Here's a brief look at how the holiday got its start, and how people are searching for ways to honor the brave men and women who have lost their lives.

Originally, the holiday was known as "Decoration Day." It was started by a Civil War general named Gen. John Logan, who was the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic. General Logan sought a way to help the country come back together after the horrors and divide of the Civil War.

The holiday was first observed on May 30, 1868, and Gen. Logan chose that date for two very important reasons: First, the day did not mark the anniversary of a Civil War battle, and second "flowers would likely be in bloom all over the United States." Indeed, many took flowers to Arlington National Cemetery, an activity that continues to this day.

General John A. Logan has a tremendous legacy that goes well beyond his efforts to honor fallen soldiers. According to a museum dedicated to his memory, Gen. Logan led an inspired life and enjoyed a tremendous career. At different points, he was a United States congressman, a senator, and a candidate for the vice presidency. He and his running mate, James G. Blane, lost their bid, but "Logan's popularity with veterans contributed to the narrowness of the defeat."

This may come as a bit of a surprise, but Memorial Day, despite having been around for over 100 years in one form or another, didn't become an official federal holiday until 1971, when Congress finally passed the National Holiday Act. This created a three-day weekend at the end of May. Prior to this, different states observed the holiday on different days.

Also worth noting — the "national moment of remembrance." This moment takes place at 3 p.m. local time on Memorial Day and lasts one minute. According to Remember.gov, "the Moment does not replace traditional Memorial Day events; rather it is an act of national unity in which all Americans, alone or with family and friends, honor those who died for our freedom. It will help to reclaim Memorial Day as the sacred and noble holiday it was meant to be. In this shared remembrance, we connect as Americans."—hopefully.-ed.

### Clarification

I am not moving in December. Since I announced in last month's newsletter that December would be my last as editor of this missive, and while I do intend to move north sometime in the not to distant future, no date has been set. I've not found a place to move to, and no plans have yet to be made; I'm just tired of doing the newsletter. This is how rumors get started—by the time it got to the 10th person I'm surprised I wasn't pronounced dead or missing.

The December issue will mark 18 years since my first issue—that's enough! I may never move—I don't know. I want to leave the Bay Area and will do so if a proper arrangement can be found. In the meantime you're stuck with me. *Jim Sauer*



# pot-pourrie

## Northern California Trivia

Q In 1975 what became the Doobie Brothers' first number one hit single?

A "Black Water"

Q What flamboyant San Francisco attorney once represented topless waitresses in a lawsuit?

A Melvin Belli

From Northern California Trivia by Ernie & Jill Couch

September 1752						
S	M	Tu	W	Th	F	S
		1	2	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

In case you haven't noticed, 11 days are simply missing from the month. Here's the explanation: This was the month during which England shifted from the Roman Julian Calendar to the Gregorian year. A Julian year was 11 days longer than a Gregorian year. So, the King of England ordered 11 days to be wiped off the face of that particular month. So, the workers worked for 11 days less that month, but got paid for the whole month. That's how the concept of "paid leave" was born. Hail the King!!!

In the Roman Julian Calendar, April used to be the first month of the year; but the Gregorian Calendar observed January as the first month. Even after shifting to the Gregorian Calendar, many people refused to give up old traditions and continued celebrating April 1st as the New Year's Day.

When simple orders didn't work, the King finally issued a royal dictum; which stated that those who celebrated April 1st as the new year's day would be labeled as fools.

From then on, April 1st became April Fool's Day.

(If you think I'm joking, you may search it on Google and see it for yourself.) History is really interesting, isn't it?

The song Pretty Woman, written by William Dees and Roy Orbison, was originally written as a slow, crooner, song. It was more likely that someone like Frank Sinatra, Andy Williams, or Tony Bennett would have recorded it. The authors could not find anyone to record the song. One night, while driving down the highway, it started to rain, so Orbison turned his windshield wipers on. (This was in the days where windshield wipers only had two speeds—off and on.) As he was singing the words of Pretty Woman to himself, he somehow managed to sing it at the pace of the wipers. Zing! A hit song is born! The next time you are driving your vehicle down the road, and the song Pretty Woman comes on the radio, turn the windshield wipers on. You will find the pace of the song matches the rhythm of the wipers.

## International Post Office???

From 1864 to 1909, there was a unique joint post office built over the border between Canada (Quebec) and the United States (Vermont)?



Postcard picturing the International Post Office.

The Beebe Plain-Beebe Border Crossing connects the town of Stanstead, Quebec with Beebe Plain, Vermont. This crossing is best known for being bisected by Canusa Street (Canada-USA?) which runs along the Canada - United States border for almost a half-mile, before emerging between the US and Canadian border stations. Residents on the south side of Canusa Road live in the US, and their neighbors across the street from them live in Canada. They are prohibited by law from visiting one-another without first reporting to border inspectors.

For many years, this crossing was also the site of the world's only international post office, with one postmaster and two doors, one for American customers and one for Canadian Customers. That building, built in the 1820s, still stands. The historic elements of the US border crossing station were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 2014.

## Did you know?

Who would have guessed that the idea for M&M'S® Plain Chocolate Candies was hatched against the backdrop of the Spanish Civil War? Legend has it that, while on a trip to Spain, Forrest Mars Sr. encountered soldiers who were eating pellets of chocolate encased in a hard sugary coating. This prevented it from melting. Inspired by this idea, Mr. Mars went back to his kitchen and invented the recipe for M&M'S® Plain Chocolate Candies. M&M'S® Chocolate Candies were first sold in 1941, and soon became a favorite of the American GIs serving in World War II. Packaged in cardboard tubes, they were sold to the military as a convenient snack that traveled well in any climate. By the late 1940s, they were widely available to the public, who gave them an excellent reception. In 1948, their packaging changed from a tube form to the characteristic brown pouch we know today.

Shrapnel was invented by Lieutenant Henry Shrapnel in 1784. It contained 200-300 heavy metal bullets. When it exploded over the target, usually infantry, it scattered the flesh-fragmenting bullets at high velocity. Shrapnel shells were usually fired by field guns, with ranges of up to 10,000 yards. Shrapnel was deadly if one was caught out in the open or if it exploded over a trench. Prior to the canon ball being filled with bullets, it only did damage in a limited perimeter. Shrapnel greatly increased the range of damage. Depending in which side you were on, this was either good or bad!

## Hilltop Manor Bench

Several months ago the San José Stamp Club and the San José Post Card Club contributed the money to purchase a bench to be placed on a promontory with a view of Santa Clara Valley.

The bench has since then been purchased and the place for it's location was prepared and the bench installed along with another purchased by Hilltop Manor.

The membership further contributed to a plaque to be placed on one of the benches designating it as a gift from the two clubs. This was in appreciation for the two clubs meeting in Hilltop's dining room all these years without payment of any kind.



The bench fully installed with the plaque riveted to the top band across the back. The second bench is to the left at a 90° angle. The view is great.



A close-up of the plaque.



The view looking at downtown San José from the south. The view to the west is just as nice-both from *our* bench. Everyone is invited to visit the site to check it out and appreciate the view. It's a nice quiet place where one can hear themselves think and contemplate your next presentation to the club during a meeting in the very near future. Now if they would only cut the weeds...

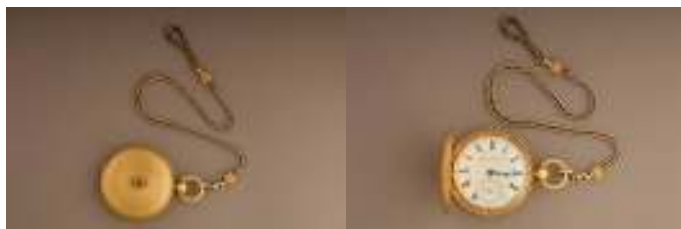
As most are aware, we pay no rent for our meeting place due to the previous administrator's generosity. As a result the present administrator has gotten some heat from a few of the residents as we were grandfathered in and continue to meet rent free. Hopefully the bench will help stifle some of the *dog-in-the-manger* criticism.-ed.

## The Secret in Abraham Lincoln's Pocket Watch

President Lincoln never knew the hidden message he carried with him every day.  
By Chris Wild

In the 1850s Abraham Lincoln, then a successful lawyer, purchased a fine pocket watch from George Chatterton, a jeweler in Springfield, Illinois. The mechanism itself was manufactured in Liverpool, England, but the 18-carat case was of the best quality manufactured in America.

Aside from its make, there was nothing special about this particular watch ... until later on, when someone else got his hands on it.



The reverse of the case of Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch. The open case, face and chain of Abraham Lincoln's pocket watch.

In November 1860 Lincoln was elected the 16th president of the United States. In January 1861, South Carolina seceded from the Union, followed by six more states before Lincoln's inauguration. On April 12, 1861, the American Civil War began with shots fired at Fort Sumter.

At that time Lincoln's watch was at M.W. Galt and Co. in Washington, D.C., for repair. In the heat of the moment, watchmaker Jonathan Dillon unscrewed the dial from Lincoln's watch and engraved a message with a sharp tool. In 1906 at the age of 84, he recalled the message to the New York Times:

The first gun is fired/Slavery is dead/Thank God we have a President/who at least will try.

Dillon then signed and dated the inscription and closed the dial.

In 2009 Jonathan Dillon's great-great-grandson contacted the Smithsonian museum, which holds the watch, with the story. They agreed to open the watch. Inside they found the following inscription:

Jonathan Dillon/April 13-1861/Fort Sumpter was attacked/by the rebels on the above date/J Dillon/Washington/thank God we have a government/Jonth Dillon



The interior of Lincoln's pocket watch. Lincoln shown wearing the watch.

First, Fort Sumter was misspelled as "Sumpter." Then in 1864 a second watchmaker, L. E. Gross, had signed his name. Also, at some point someone had etched "Jeff Davis," either as a joke or a statement of support for the Confederacy. It was common practice for watch repairers to engrave or mark the inside of watches with their details, albeit more discreetly than Dillon.

Lincoln never knew of the message he carried in his pocket.

From RETRONAUT, which is an exceptional site—try it.-ed.

## The Girl With the Tattooed Face

The story of Olive Oatman's famous capture by Chris Wild



Olive Oatman

Image: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Olive Oatman was born in Illinois in 1837. In 1850, when she was 14, her family (parents Royce and Mary Oatman and their seven children) joined a wagon train to travel from Utah to California.

Various disagreements along the way meant the Oatman family eventually travelled alone.

On the fourth day, the Oatman family was attacked by a group of Native Americans (described by Olive as Apaches, but possibly a branch of the Yavapai people). Only three of the Oatmans survived the attack. Olive's parents and four children were killed; Olive's brother Lorenzo was clubbed and left for dead. Lorenzo eventually reached a settlement and rejoined the original wagon train. He found and was able to bury the bodies of his family.

Olive and her sister Mary Ann, then seven years old, were abducted.

Their captors used Olive and Mary as slaves. After a year the girls were traded to a group of Mohave, who were thought to have treated them better. The Mohave leader and his wife may have adopted the girls.

The Mohave tattooed both Olive's and her sister's chins. Though Olive later claimed the tattoos marked them as slaves, experts believe tattoos were fairly standard in the Mohave tribe, a tradition that led to a good afterlife.

Around 1855, when Olive was 19, there was a severe drought. Mary Ann died of starvation, along with many Mohaves.

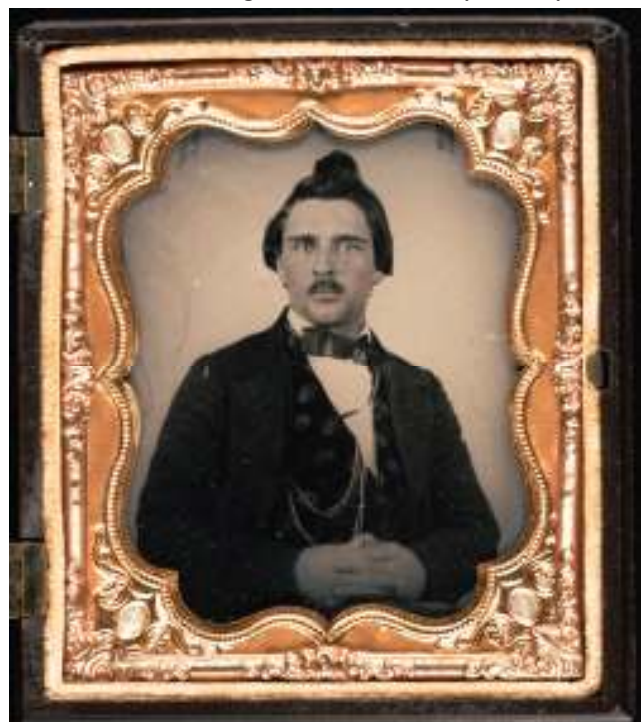
At this time rumors began to surface in European communities of a white woman living with the Mohaves. A messenger arrived at the village asking for Olive's return, and, after very intense negotiations, which Olive was a party to in the later stages, it was agreed she should travel to Fort Yuma.

When she arrived, Olive had to ask for Western style clothing as she was dressed in traditional Mohave attire, which meant

she wore nothing above the waist. After several days she discovered that her brother Lorenzo had been searching for her.



"The Death of Mary Ann at the Indian Camp." Olive is shown kneeling on the left. From Royal B. Stratton's "Life Among the Indians: Being an interesting narrative of the captivity of the Oatman girls, among the Apache and Mohave Indians." Image: The Bancroft Library, Berkeley



Lorenzo Oatman, Olive's brother.

Image: Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Olive became an instant celebrity. In 1857, Royal B. Stratton wrote the book *Life Among the Indians* about Olive and Mary Ann. It became a bestseller and paid for her and Lorenzo's education. Olive went on lecture tours to promote the book.

In 1865 Olive married John B. Fairchild, a cattleman. They adopted a baby girl. Fairchild burned all the copies of Stratton's book and stopped her lecture tours.

Later in her life she reportedly went to New York to talk with a Mohave leader about "old times." She always kept a jar of hazelnuts, a Mohave staple, as a reminder of her experience. She died in 1903, aged 65.

From the internet.-ed.

## Images of Olive Oatman



Image: Arizona Historical Society



Image: National Portrait Gallery, Smithsonian



Image: Arizona Historical Society

## Postman's Incredible DIY Castle

The French palace, Le Palais Idéal ("The Ideal Palace"), in Hauterives was built by a mail carrier out of the rocks he collected on his route over a 30-year period. Now, the landmark is a major tourist attraction, drawing about 150,000 visitors a year.

19th century postal carrier Ferdinand Cheval would walk 18 miles each day to deliver the mail in the southeastern French village. One day, he came upon an interesting-looking rock and decided to build a castle.



A living inspiration to Do-it-Yourselfers everywhere: France's Le Palais Idéal

So starting in 1879 and continuing over the next 33 years, he began collecting more rocks while walking his route. He was picking up so many, he eventually started bringing a wheelbarrow with him to work.



According to the palace's official website, it features "giants, fairies, mythological figures" from all over the world.

At night, Cheval would work by an oil lamp to mix the stones he'd found during the day with lime and concrete. What made his project even more amazing is that Cheval had no training in carpentry, masonry or architecture (and as YouTube wouldn't be invented for another 125 years, he had no instructional videos to help him either).



The palace now draws about 150,000 visitors a year.

## An Expanding U.S. Postal Service Is Very Possible

by Ralph Nader, consumer advocate, lawyer and author

The ongoing, preventable plight of the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) is an important issue for those of us who have observed its steady decline over the last several years due to unimaginative management, huge prepayment obligations imposed by Congress, and a deck stacked to favor corporate rivals such as FedEx and UPS. The historic institution, created by Benjamin Franklin, has cut thousands of jobs: There are 220,000 fewer postal workers now than there were just over a decade ago. In addition, postal rates have been raised, and services have been cut or scaled back.

The USPS reported a \$5.5-billion loss in 2014, out of \$67.8 billion in revenues. Some critics argue that the postal service has become antiquated in the modern age of instantaneous email, and that its services should be corporatized. Despite setbacks and unnecessary fiscal burdens, however, the USPS still reliably delivers over 150 billion pieces of mail a year, at uniform rates, regardless of whether or not the area is deemed profitable for deliveries. The corporate mailers cannot make the same claim. The USPS has impressively not taken any taxpayer money since 1971, a feat not achieved by many subsidized or bailed-out big corporations.

The postal service has suffered from a severe lack of broad thinking and imaginative leadership. Recently retired Postmaster General Patrick Donahoe sought to fix the USPS's declining business by proposing shutting down rural post offices, reducing hours, slashing an additional 150,000 jobs, ending Saturday delivery and door-to-door delivery, and extending delivery times into the evening. Through these actions, Donahoe aided the postal service's spiral of decline by slashing away once-steady and reliable services and fair costs instead of seeking bold, transformative new strategies to bring in new revenue and maintain the postal service's vital utility and relevance for future generations.

**Subtracting the prefunding requirements from the USPS, it would have been in the black by \$1.9 billion in 2014—the second year in a row of revenue growth.**

Mr. Donahoe's replacement, Megan Brennan, will be the first woman to serve as Postmaster General. Here are a few questions and concerns for the new postmaster general to consider as she begins her historic tenure:

- Where does she stand on the congressional mandate that required USPS to pay out \$103.7 billion by 2016 to cover future health benefits of postal retirees for the next 75 years? No other government or private corporation has to meet such an absurd financial burden. It is the primary reason for much of the USPS's financial woes.
- How does she feel about reinstating the successful Postal Savings System (which bank lobbyists forced into cessation in 1968) for simple savings accounts? There are tens of millions of unbanked Americans, whom the banks do not want, who could use postal banking.
- What about other sources of revenue? Establishing an honest notary service, cashing most checks, selling fishing and hunting licenses, wrapping holiday gifts, and accepting wine or beer for delivery are just a few congressionally prohibited proposals that have been put forward by postal activists and watchdogs.
- What of improving the USPS's use of the Internet, even so far as providing affordable broadband and email services?

Recently 64 organizations, led by the American Postal Workers Union (APWU), came together in what is being called the Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service. (Check out this video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5o6vJw9mkzU>) featuring actor Danny Glover, who comes from a family of postal workers, discussing the new alliance to save and expand the postal service.)

The alliance is advocating for increased services, including the aforementioned postal banking service.

"Building the grand alliance is the only way we will ensure that a vibrant, public Postal Service exists for many years to come," said APWU President Mark Dimondstein.

Far too many members of Congress lack understanding and appreciation of the USPS as a vital public service. Privatization advocates in Washington, D.C.—most of whom don't use the USPS—obscure our postal system's defining mission: "to bind the nation together" with universal service.

There are numerous compelling reasons to save the postal service from further degradation. It's one of the largest employers of veterans and minorities in the United States while also offering fair wages and benefits. Having a letter carrier walk all neighborhoods each day can be both a deterrent to crime and also an important safety protocol; there are many examples of elderly or infirm people in trouble being discovered and aided by their letter carrier. And the USPS is never going to redline your neighborhood or threaten to move overseas.

For more information on the Grand Alliance to Save Our Public Postal Service, and for information on how you can get involved, visit [agrandalliance.org](http://agrandalliance.org).

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### James Madison

By Michael Baadke

America's fourth president, James Madison, was born March 16, 1751, in the Virginia Colony, at Port Conway. He attended the College of New Jersey (now known as Princeton) and served in the Continental Congress.

Madison is generally identified as the father of the *Constitution* and the *Bill of Rights*. In 1788, with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, he wrote *The Federalist Papers*, a collection of essays that promoted the adoption of the Constitution.



He was appointed Secretary of State by Thomas Jefferson, and succeeded Jefferson as president in 1809.

Growing conflicts with the British led to the War of 1812, and when British troops advanced on Washington, the diminutive president led the militia while his wife, Dolley, collected valuable artifacts from the White House, including Gilbert Stuart's portrait of George Washington, before the British set fire to the president's home.

Though Madison endured numerous health concerns, his two vice presidents fared worse: both died in office. George Clinton died of a heart attack in 1812; Elbridge Gerry, elected with Madison later that same year, took ill and died in November 1814.

Madison lived until 1836, reaching the age of 85.

The first U.S. stamp to picture Madison is the \$2 blue stamp (Scott 262) from the 1894 issue, the first series printed by the U.S. Bureau of Engraving and Printing. The portrait was engraved by G.F.C. Smillie.

The stamp design was used again 100 years later, on a souvenir sheet of four \$2 stamps commemorating the centennial of BEP postage stamp production (Scott 2875).

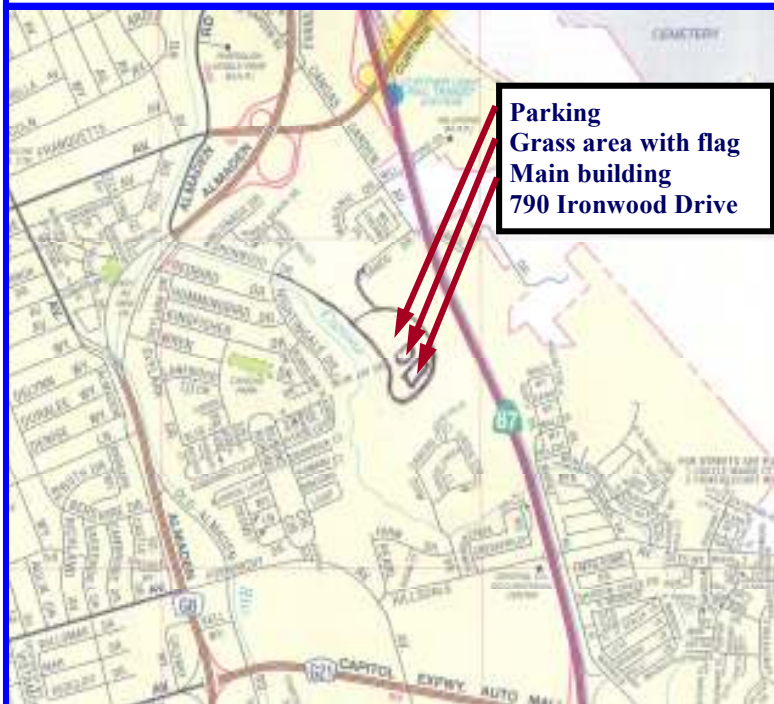
*Covers, Cards, Stamps, etc.*

Last month we were mailing kids, this month it's matches. In the 1950s it was somewhat common to mail match books as a form of advertising. Our selection for this month is an oversized book of matches (about 3⅜ X 4¼ folded) advertising the Wagon Wheel Saloon and Gambling Hall located at Stateline, Nevada, which is near Lake Tahoe. Both were sent to the same Motel located in Stateline, however from different locations; one being Stateline and the other Salt Lake City, Utah, each being franked at a different rate—rate change??? It's interesting that one has very explicit instructions while the other simply says "CONTENTS SAFETY BOOK MATCHES" with no other instructions. Identical matchbooks were in each cover.



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

**MAY MEETINGS ARE ON THE 6TH & 20TH**  
**JUNE MEETINGS ARE ON THE 3RD & 17TH**



## Show Calendar

**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**

**June 13 - 14**  
**Coalpex**  
**Civic Park Community Center**  
**1375 Civic Drive, Walnut Creek**  
**Sat 10 - 5, Sun 10 - 4**  
**Free Entry - 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](http://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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 Published by Stanley Gibbons ..... 5.00

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Fr. Polynesia 490 MNH Cat 5.25 - 4.00

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Fr. Polynesia 593 MNH Cat 6.00 - 4.50

Fr. Polynesia 648a. - d. MNH Cat 8.00 - 6.00

Fr. Polynesia 657 MNH Cat 4.25 - 3.00

Fr. Polynesia 665 MNH Cat 8.00 - 6.00

Fr. Polynesia 667 MNH Cat 8.50 - 6.50

Fr. Polynesia 706b. MNH Cat 65.00 - 55.00

Fr. Polynesia 712a. - 718a. MNH Cat 180.00 - 150.00

Fr. Polynesia C136a. MNH Cat 90.00 - 72.50

**PLEASE NOTE - ALL USED SELF ADHESIVES HAVE ALL GUM REMOVED**

All prices plus actual shipping or mailing costs if applicable.

I have many thousands of stamps/sets at 20 to 60% off Scott. Send me your want list or call me. Will e-mail scans.

**Jim Sauer 408.445.2694 ~ [hjamesauer@yahoo.com](mailto:hjamesauer@yahoo.com)**

**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](mailto: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.**