

NEWS + NOTES

February 14, 2012, will be the centennial date for Arizona statehood. The Postal History Foundation has been active in several ways with regard to the Centennial Commission. You have read of the museum presentation that has been installed at the old State Capitol building in Phoenix. The Arizona Memory Project, an online presentation made by the State Library, has several digital exhibits from the Postal History Foundation about Arizona history. Since June, we've had almost 2000 online visitors to our digital exhibits.

The Postal History Foundation has been approved by the Arizona State Employees Charitable Campaign and the Pima County Employees Charitable Campaign committees to be publicized to those employee groups for possible payroll charitable deductions. That's the first time we've been selected, and the PHF is happy to have had that opportunity presented to us. Thanks to both groups for the recognition!

Ms. Frederica Leonardo-Torres, one of our hardest working clients, has been selected to make a presentation to the Arizona Library Association conference in late November. Frederica, a library associate at the Pima County Public Library, works with residents at the county juvenile hall and members of the Pascua Yaqui tribe, among many others. She received an Education Service Award for Service in the Community from the Youth Education through Stamps program at the PHF in 2011. Her presentation at the ALA meeting will involve the collaboration

Calendar

Nov. 11

Steam Train Visit, Tucson

Nov. 19

Tucson Stamp Club  
Bourse 12-1 pm Auction 1:00 pm

Dec. 6

Tucson Stamp Club  
Bourse 5-7 pm  
Topic: Madonna Stamps with guest speaker Jeanette Frazier

Dec. 17

Tucson Stamp Club  
Bourse 12 noon  
Potluck 2:00 pm

between the YES program and libraries locally. Congratulations to Frederica.

The American Philatelic Society, APS, recognizes many individuals who have contributed time, talents, and energies to benefit both stamp collecting and the APS. One such recognition is the Nicholas G. Carter Volunteer Recognition Award, named to honor the APS President (1936-2008) whose dedication and enthusiasm were legendary. For 2011, there were awards for National Promotion/Service made to John Barwis, a former Arizona Philatelic Ranger board member and to Paul Nelson, of the Postal History Foundation and others. For Local Promotion/Service, an award was made to Sergio Lugo, who is the president of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library in Denver, and a member of the PHF, among others.

NEW MEMBERS!

- Roger Hanson  
Tucson, AZ
- Heidi Harralson  
Tucson, AZ
- Robert Packowski  
Tucson, AZ

The PHF Family Portfolio Officers:

Chairman: Bob Bechtel

Vice Chair: Bob Davis

Secretary: David Bernheim

Treasurer: Ted Maynard

Staff:

Executive Assist: Lena Rogers

Youth Ed: Lisa Dembowski

Librarian: Lisa Hodgkins

Editor: Linda Wynn

The Postal History Foundation's

Stamp Tracks

Whole No. 18

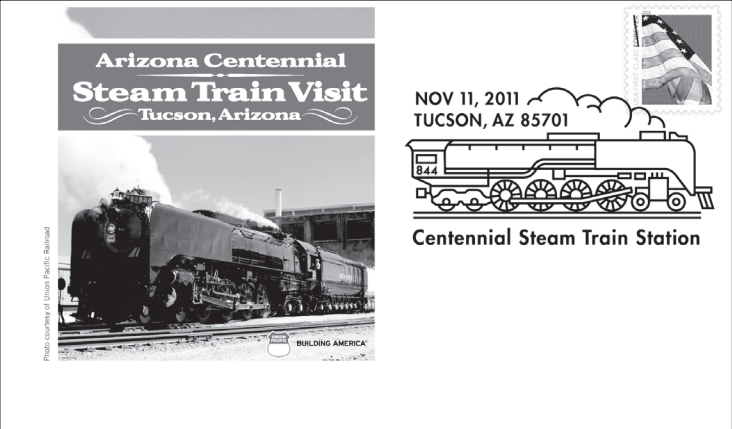
Fall 2011

NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Steam Train Stops in Tucson

The Union Pacific Railroad, in conjunction with the Centennial Commissions of New Mexico (January, 2012) and of Arizona, ran a special steam train trip in November, 2011. The train arrived in Tucson on the afternoon of November 10, and was available for visitors to view all day on the 11th. It left on the morning of the 12th, from the historic depot downtown. The viewing location was near the Cherrybell Post Office, south of 22nd Street. The trip schedule and location details can be viewed at the following: [http://www.up.com/aboutup/special\\_trains/steam/details.htm](http://www.up.com/aboutup/special_trains/steam/details.htm).

The PHF has created cacheted covers, as illustrated here. These are available by mail order, for \$2 and a SASE, from Alex, Postal History Foundation, 920 North First Ave., Tucson 85719.



IBM Employees Lend a Helping Hand

The arrival of ten employees from IBM on the morning of September 28 was a warmly anticipated event at the PHF. On this day, one of the "Days of Caring" sponsored by the United Way of Tucson and Southern Arizona, the ten volunteers, led by board member Niel Balsino, descended on PHF as part of the United Way's community service initiative. Their objective was to complete projects that might not otherwise get done. Three words might best describe the group: energetic, enthusiastic, and productive.

Using the library space as an operational base, the group rotated among tasks which Linda Wynn, Education Assistant, had set up beforehand. No one complained about sorting number stamps or separating the multitude of transportation stamps. Even when pairs were rotated to the depths of the basement, there were no complaints. PHF staff tried to make sure they were not forgotten down there. During this day of spending their workday making a difference, the volunteers made up many sets of stamps to accompany classroom activities.



IBM employees tackle a multitude of tasks

(Continued on page 2)



# Chairman’s Message

We are very fortunate to have Lisa Hodgkins as our librarian. She prepared an exhibit for the coming Arizona Centennial that is shown in the old Capitol building in Phoenix. Charlotte Cushman, the former librarian, began the exhibit and Lisa finished it. Lisa, her husband Richard, Paul Nelson, and I went to Phoenix for the opening on Sept. 20th. There were pictures of rural post offices, and among these were the post offices of Redington and Young. The present postmaster of Young and the daughter of the former postmaster of Redington were present at the display. The stories of how postmasters helped the residents of these towns were so inspiring that we decided we need to write a book about the experiences of postmasters of small Arizona towns. The postmasters became so intimately involved in the lives of the residents that the post offices became the hub of small town activities. The residents came there for advice, marital as well as philatelic, and had questions of dress, child care, and almost anything else you could think of. Thus, the oral news superseded the need for letters or phone calls. When someone wanted to know what was going on, he went to the post office and asked the postmaster. Obviously, this did not work for the larger post offices, but it still works in the smaller ones today.

Another thought that comes to mind immediately is what will happen to the small post office culture if the offices are closed. An obvious conclusion is that a vital part of the town’s life will be wiped out. The people in cities are often unaware of how important the small post office is to the life of the community.

If anyone knows of any postmaster stories of small post offices or knows of any postmaster who can be contacted, please let me know at [bechtel@u.arizona.edu](mailto:bechtel@u.arizona.edu).

Robert Bechtel

## IBM Employees Lend a Helping Hand (Continued)

The most challenging (read “boring”) assigned activity was sorting glassine envelopes which not everyone had an opportunity to do. However, by the end of the day, Niel Balsino had begun to enjoy the activity. But the one activity from which it was almost impossible to pull the volunteers away was stamp soaking. I suspect they did not have a history of stamp soaking like most of the people at PHF. Anyway, the volunteers soaked an extraordinary number of stamps lining them up on the plastic webbing with engineering precision. They were assisted by PHF soaking volunteer Deanna Farley.

At the end of the day, it was easy to evaluate the amount of work accomplished by the “Terrific Ten.” Mountains of stamps had been sorted, packaged, arranged, and soaked. Though many of the

(Cont. next column)

tasks were repetitive and tedious, they were nonetheless necessary to produce the lessons and stamp activities which are provided free to students in classrooms across Arizona and the United States. As a non-profit organization which needs many hands to accomplish its tasks, we were fortunate to have the following IBM employees answer the call for the Days of Caring: Niel Balsino, Susan Dimka, Carlos Lujan, Sandy MacSwain, Don Scholinski, Frances Tsingine, Jayson Tsingine, Kat Wahl, Richard Wahl, and Marsha Wiley. Kudos to IBM and these ten for their participation!



Niel Balsino enjoys sorting glassines



Happiness is soaking stamps

# Library Corner: Slusser Library Awarded Grant for Digitization Project

The Arizona Historical Records and Archives Board recently awarded the Postal History Foundation a grant to digitize a collection of postcards dating from the State’s territorial period and to the 1920s.

The postcards are a visual demonstration of how Arizona

has changed since the end of the 19th century and many of the cards show buildings, people, and ways of life which no longer exist. Messages on the reverse of these postcards comment on the experiences of inhabitants and visitors. Postmarks show post offices and in some cases towns which have disappeared,

and demonstrate modes of postal delivery (such as railway post) which were key to the development of transportation throughout the western United States. As part of the grant, the digital images will be uploaded and fully searchable through the [Arizona Memory Project](http://www.lib.az.us/museum) website in early 2012.

## PHF Assists With Capitol Exhibit of State History

The Arizona Capitol Museum in Phoenix is currently running an exhibit celebrating Arizona’s postal history entitled **WORDS FROM THE WEST: ARIZONA STORIES AND STAMPS**. This exhibit was a collaboration between the Postal History Foundation and the Arizona State Library, Archives and Public Records division. It illustrates Arizona’s colorful history using stamps, mementos and artifacts and shows how the postal service in Arizona contributed to the development of the State.

Representatives from the Postal History Foundation attended the September 20th opening along with members of the Phoenix and Mesa stamp clubs. Ken Bennett, the Arizona Secretary of State, spoke at the gathering, and stressed the important role stamps and postal history play in stimulating an interest in Arizona’s past.

The exhibit will continue through the upcoming Centennial year.

More information can be found on the Arizona Capitol Museum website: <http://www.lib.az.us/museum>.

**Arizona Capitol Museum**  
1700 W. Washington Street  
Phoenix, AZ 85007  
Open: **Mon. – Fri. 9:00am – 4:00pm**  
**FREE**



Enlarged stamps and postcards are used to help define Arizona’s history



Representatives from the PHF pose in front of an enlarged copy of the centennial stamp. L to R: Stephen Hackney, Bob Bechtel, Lisa Hodgkins, Paul Nelson



# Notes From Lisa

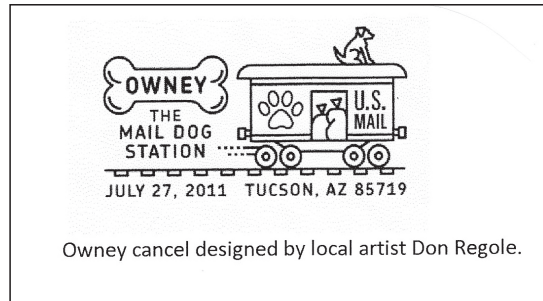
## News From Youth Education Thru Stamps



Education Director - Lisa Dembowski  
[phfeducation@comcast.net](mailto:phfeducation@comcast.net)  
 Or 520-623-6652 x 102

## Fall Is Here and Stamps Are in Demand!

Stamps and lessons created by the Postal History Foundation are again making their way across the country and the world by mail as school has started everywhere. Whether it is Moscow, Toronto, or Locust Grove, Virginia, we deliver! We have already supplied 150,000 stamps to students. Some kids write us letters requesting stamps, others learn with them in the classroom. Over all it is a most enjoyable way to learn. What could be better than beautiful stamps that students can pick up, hold in their hands, look at, and learn from? We are well on our way again to reaching and teaching over 10,000 students across the country.



*Owney cancel designed by local artist Don Regole*



*Ed Dembowski, storyteller extraordinaire!*

Late July we had a very special story time and cachet made for Owney the Railway Mail Service dog. Our Slusser Library was overflowing as kids of all ages listened to our guest storyteller from the Pima County Library System read stories about Owney and other postal stories relating to animals. Our Owney cancel is still the rage across the country as orders continue to come in at the PHF.

On August 19 there was standing room only as we unveiled our annual Tucson Birthday Stamp Design winner. This is our fourth year of celebrating Tucson's birth on August 20, 1775. Every year students enter designs and the grand winner is printed as real stamps to use in the mail. This year over 156 students entered designs and the ceremony was attended by students, family, community members and the press! Ten year old Ryan Bridges from a local Tucson school is our grand winner. Congratulations Ryan!



*2011 Winning Design*



*Ryan Bridges displays his design and purple ribbon*



## Tournament Results

September 10 we hosted the Michael Cusanovich Memorial Golf Tournament. Participants had a great time in beautiful weather, golfing at Randolph North Golf Course here in Tucson. There were plenty of prizes to give away as the turnout was less than expected due to the downturn of the economy. Unfortunately, we didn't raise as much money as we had hoped, but we will continue to raise funds for the education department in the future. Thank you to all the Rangers for their donations and the local business sponsors for sponsoring holes. Marilyn Halonen, Mike Cusanovich's widow, had a great time with her friends and family.



*Marilyn Halonen at left, A. Longman, F. Bailey, J. Hoit*



*Winning team of L. Sokolau, L. Dembowski, E. Dembowski, and M. Drake*

## Stamps Needed!

We are out of many stamps that are important to the curriculums taught across the country. Please consider donating your collection or extra stamps for this great educational cause and take a TAX DEDUCTION! We are especially low on stamps connected with the state of Arizona. For example: statehood, flag, petrified wood, state bird and flower, copper, blue paloverde, native cactus, etc.

Thank you for your help. Let's give every student the opportunity learn with and love stamps!



**Please check our website for a complete list of stamps desperately needed. It is a mixed list of 60 different stamps ranging from Scott number 572 through 4136. We also need foreign stamps to replenish our topical files. Especially needed are topicals on space, sports, nature, and transportation.**