



The Postal History Foundation's



# Stamp Tracks

Whole No. 21

Winter 2013

*NEWS AND INFORMATION FOR PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES*

## Event to Feature Sesquicentennial of Arizona Territory

February 24, 1863, President Lincoln signed the Arizona Organic Act. This was the law that established the Arizona Territory by separating the former New Mexico Territory into two territories along the current boundary between New Mexico and Arizona.

In introducing and passing this act, Congress was driven by the desire to ensure that Arizona would not be a pro-slavery territory, as was New Mexico. The provisional government established by the bill abolished slavery in the new Arizona Territory but did not abolish it in the portion that remained the New Mexico Territory.

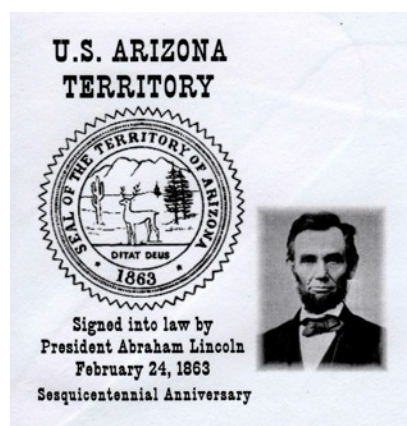
Nevertheless, for a brief time during the Civil War, Arizona became part of the Confederacy and invading Confederate troops brought an unknown number of enslaved African Americans into the territory. The Confederate loss at the Battle of Glorieta Pass in northern

New Mexico, fought from March 26 to 28 in 1862, forced a Confederate

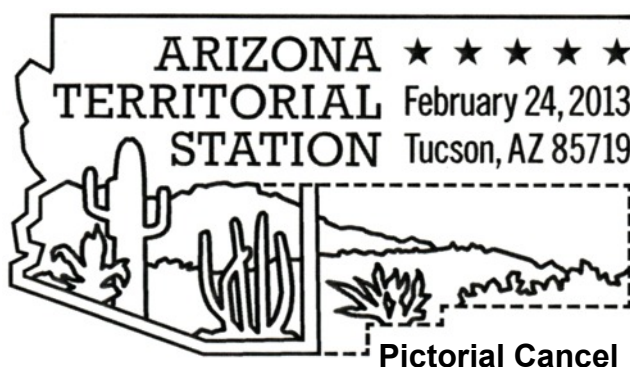
retreat from the territory. That was the decisive battle of the New Mexico Campaign during the American Civil War.

The following month, in April, a small Confederate picket troop north of Tucson fought with an equally small Union cavalry patrol from California in the so-called "Battle of Picacho Pass." A Union cavalry patrol of 13 men skirmished with 10 Confederate scouts from Texas. This was the westernmost battle of the Civil War and resulted in Tucson's return to the Union later, on May 20, 1862.

On Sunday, February 24, 2013, The 150th Anniversary of the Organic Act will be commemorated in Tucson at the Postal History Foundation. Event hours are 10 a.m. to 12 noon.



**One of Two Cachets**



There will be two commemorative covers, each with a different illustrative cachet. The US Postal Service has approved a special cancellation, and the two latest Civil War commemorative stamps will be placed on the covers for cancellation and sale. The covers will cost \$5 for the pair; each will have one stamp in place. Contact the Postal History Foundation for information. If you want to order by mail add \$1 for first class postage back to you. Send your order in care of Alex Lutgendorf at the Postal History Foundation, 920 North First Avenue, Tucson Az 85719.

920 North First Avenue, Tucson, AZ 85719 • [www.postalhistoryfoundation.org](http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org)  
Phone: 520-623-6652 • Hours: M-F 8 a.m. - 3 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

## Chairman's Message

The PHF Volunteer Luncheon was held on Saturday, February 16th at The Hacienda Del Sol Guest Ranch. Over 50 volunteers and staff attended. Special recognition was given to volunteers Dr. Bill Kohl and Ted Maynard, our financial wizards, who keep the records, watch our investments, balance the books and meet all the requirements of the IRS.

Our volunteers continue to work assiduously on the many tasks involved in sorting and distributing the stamps donated. Visitors continue to remark on how busy the place is and wonder how we can recruit such conscientious workers.

ARIPEX 2013 will be held in Mesa April 19-21. This is the 55th annual show. Phoenix is the planned location of ARIPEX through 2016.

Tucson attorney Ronald Newman is our newest PHF Board Member. A retired Army Colonel, Ron has been practicing law and serving as a business consultant in Tucson for 40 years. He has many years of judicial and government experience, and has served on the board of directors of the Pima Air and Space Museum and the Pima County Traffic Survival School. And yes, he is a stamp collector.

Member contributions are strong (Thank You), yet some members still need to renew. A greater number of members and increased financial participation from all contributors are a requisite to maintaining and growing our commitment to philately.

The Annual Meeting of Members will take place on Saturday, April 13 at Westward Look Resort in Tucson. The meeting will begin at noon followed by the luncheon. All members are invited. **See insert flyer.** We hope to see you there.

Yours in philately,  
*Bob Bechtel*, Chairman

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## Member in Good Standing for 2013?

Membership dues for 2013 are past due (December 31, 2012). If you misplaced our October letter and have not renewed, please go to "How to Help" on our website to join online or complete the printable membership form. *Thank You.*

[www.postalhistoryfoundation.org](http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org)

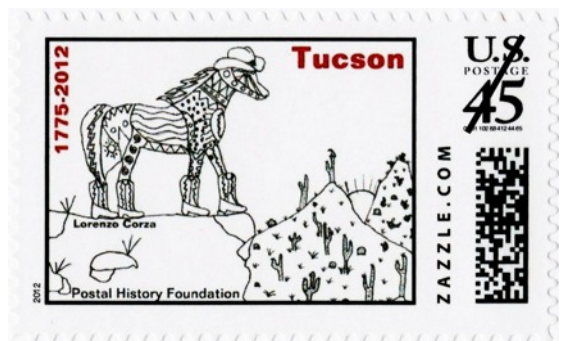
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## Annual Tucson Birthday Stamp Winner

2012 Grand Prize Winning  
Stamp Design by  
**Lorenzo Corza**  
Age 11, Drexel Elementary

In case you missed it on the web, the custom stamp to the right is the Grand Winning Design of 2012. The **2013 Annual Contest** is now open to local

students. Information and entry forms can be accessed on the PHF web site under the Education tab. Entries are due August 1, 2013.



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## Constant Need for Stamps and Philatelic Supplies

As you are aware, we supply stamps and lessons to students and teachers across the United States and the world. We always need stamps and the tools of the hobby. If you have any extra stamp tongs, magnifying glasses, perforation gauges, stock sheets, and the like, please send them to the PHF in care of Lisa Dembowski, YES Education Program. Take a tax deduction for your donation and remember, shipping costs for your package are also part of your deduction.

# Annual Volunteer Luncheon

The annual luncheon gives the staff of the PHF a chance to thank all the volunteers for their long hours, hard work, and dedication to our programs and the children across the world that we serve.



New volunteers were recognized, delicious food was enjoyed, and all had fun competing in a philatelic quiz bowl. Our financial team was honored and will be featured on the web site in the volunteer spotlight section.

Special guests included local artist Don Regole, designer of many of our special cachets and pictorial cancels, and David Leighton, local journalist who has written several articles about the PHF.

Our volunteers collectively spend more than 12,000 hours every year processing donations, sorting, filing, preparing stamp sets for students, and preparing stamps for the sales department.



**Board Members:**  
Bill Kohl, Bob Davis, and Bob Bechtel

## Notable Contribution

We especially thank our Chairman, Bob Bechtel, for his substantial contribution of \$30,000. The funds are gratefully welcomed and will be prudently utilized. The Foundation encourages other members to consider and make noteworthy contributions.

*Thank you Bob Bechtel*

## Beyond Membership

Please help us continue to positively influence the future of our hobby. Let us achieve growth through the Youth Education thru Stamps (YES) program and historical remembrance in the Library.

Contributions above the Basic Member level are critical in allowing us to maintain our programs, buildings, and operations, now and in the future.

Visit our website – “How to Help” – to view the opportunities for (tax deductible) unrestricted and special contributions to PHF.

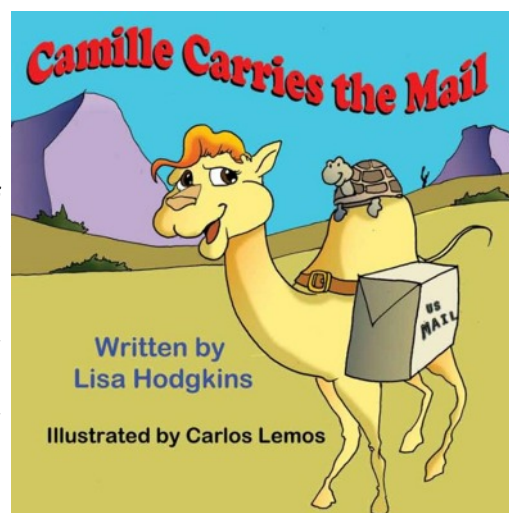
[www.postalhistoryfoundation.org](http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org)

## Book Launch in June

Join us on June 18<sup>th</sup> for the launch of a new children's book set in 1850s Arizona and inspired by the U.S. Army's camel experiment.

***Camille Carries the Mail*** tells the story of a camel who is entrusted to carry an important letter as part of "Uncle Sam's Camel Corps". Her daydreaming lands her in trouble, but she meets a couple of desert animal friends who help her find a way to deliver the mail.

The book was written by PHF Librarian Lisa Hodgkins to benefit the Slusser Library. The event will include book signing and sales, storytime, a commemorative cachet, and fun events for children. The book is priced at \$9.99 and is available from the PHF, Amazon.com, and Barnesandnoble.com.





# Library Corner

Librarian - Lisa Hodgkins library@phftucson.org or 520-623-6652 x 107

## New Books at the Slusser

*The Butterfield Trail and Overland Mail Company in Arizona 1858-1861* (2011) by Gerald T. Ahnert  
*Confederate States of America: Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History* (2012) by Patricia A. Kaufmann, Francis J. Crown, Jr., Jerry S. Palazolo

*The G.H. Kaestlin Collection of Imperial Russian and Zemstvo Stamps* (2012) by Thomas Lera and Leon Finik

*Hellas Stamp Catalogue and Postal History* (2012) A. Karamitsos

*LZ-129 Hindenburg Zeppelin Crash Mail* (2012) by Dieter Leder

*El Papel Sellado en Columbia 1640-1981* (2012) by Manuel Arango Echeverri

*Sassone Catalogo Specializzato dei Francobolli d'Italia dei paesi Italiani* (2013)

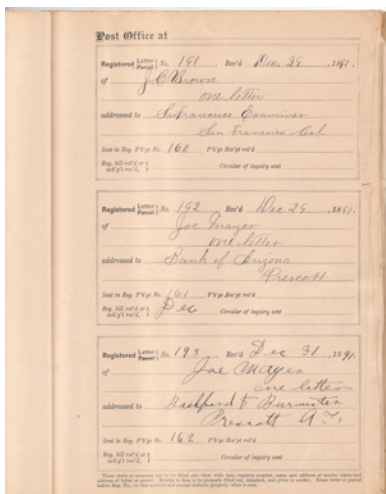
The Slusser Library has recently been fortunate to receive a large collection of books on the subject of Arizona history from Robert B. Bechtel. Thank you, Bob!

## Treasures from the Archives



The Slusser Library has a wonderful collection of archival documents and photographs documenting the postal history of the Southwest United States. One collection worth noting relates to the postal history of the town of Mayer, Arizona. Mayer was founded in Yavapai County by Joe and Sarah Belle Mayer in 1882. Joe had

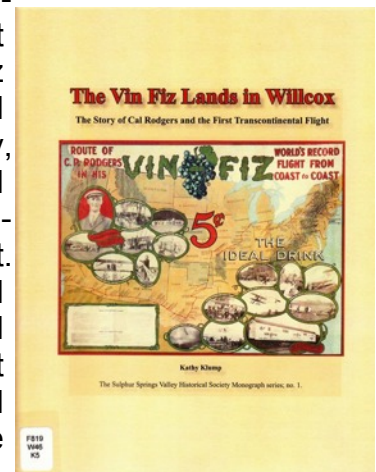
purchased the Big Bug Stage and built a station, saloon, and store which also served as their home. The town rapidly became a trading center for nearby agricultural and mining communities, and in 1903, Wells Fargo began to use the station. A post



office was established in 1884 with Sarah as the postmaster, and she held this post until her daughter Mamie took over as p.m. in 1915. In our Mayer Collection we have photographs, an original ledger in Sarah's hand, as well as covers and postal documents dating from 1891 to 1912.

## Postal History Snippets

Did you know that the first United States transcontinental flight stopped in Arizona? A new book in the Slusser Library by Kathy Klump entitled *The Vin Fiz Lands in Willcox* describes how Cal Rodgers, inspired by a reward of \$50,000 from William Randolph Hearst, flew his Wright Model EX airplane across the country in the autumn of 1911. The plane was named "Vin Fiz" after the grape soft drink produced by Armour and Co., the flight sponsor. The Vin Fiz carried a mailbag, and at stops along the way, Cal's wife Mabel sold 25 cent postcards commemorating the flight. The cards were carried by Cal on the plane and if the mail had a 1 cent stamp, the item would then be posted into the U.S. mail system.



Cal landed in Willcox on the afternoon of October 31, 1911. Throngs of people flocked to the landing area, school was cancelled while the aviator was in town, and the entire town was ushered over to Harry Parks' Confectionary where they were given a taste of Vin Fiz. A Halloween party and hayrides were given in Rodgers' honor. The next day, Rodgers flew to Tucson, and left after lunch in the city. He took to the air again, but due to technical difficulties had to make an emergency landing in Maricopa. The next day he proceeded to Phoenix. A little more than six months later, Rodgers died during a flight in California when his plane hit a flock of birds and crash landed in the Pacific Ocean. In 2006, Shreves Auctions sold 4 original Vin Covers – each for between \$47,500 and \$70,000.

**New Slusser Library Exhibit, Spring 2013**  
*Stamp Collecting and its Tools (from the collections of Richard King)*



# Education Notes



**Education Director** - Lisa Dembowski  
phfeducation@comcast.net 520-623-6652 x 102

## Learning + Fun = Stamps!

At the Postal History Foundation we grow the hobby of stamp collecting by supporting over 12,000 kids and adults a year. That translates to 45 students and adults per weekday, or 35 per day every day of the year.

That is why we always need your help with stamp and monetary donations. Spreading 500,000+ stamps across this wonderful nation and world takes a lot of hard dedicated work from employees and volunteers alike. Sorting and preparing packets of stamps for each individual student to go with one of our lessons takes time and



energy.

A typical field trip, for example, from a local class takes a minimum of three staff members plus parent/teacher chaperones to make it run smoothly. Included in each field trip is a talk about the reason we have stamps, postal service, and a story time depending upon the age group. Every student designs his own postcard and then mails it in our post office. After the postcards, the students tour our old Naco Post Office from the 1890's, soak and sort stamps, and rotate through a variety of activities designed to reinforce language arts, geography, and the



love of learning. The kids love it because they are learning and having fun while finding out that stamps are **"awesome."** The teachers love it because the students are actually learning, and happily participating throughout the whole field trip.

How can anyone go wrong with using stamps as an educational tool when every stamp has a story behind it? Every stamp can be

used to learn something important about history, nature, science, art, sports, health, cultures, responsibilities, caring, environment, and more.

We at the PHF have been building our beloved hobby for 53 years now and over 40 of those have been directly working with children and adults in classrooms, museums, community events, senior groups, scouts, home schools, people with disabilities, and libraries. Mornings, nights, and weekends we are spreading the love of our beloved hobby across the country and world.



## In Memoriam

### **Betty Bernheim**

Board Member, Ranger  
Sierra Vista, AZ  
Died: August 2012

As an educator, she spread the love of stamp collecting in the classroom to the children of Sierra Vista.

### **John Harting**

Member  
Tucson, AZ  
Died: October 2012  
Life member of the Tucson Stamp Club

### **Gene Hastings**

Member, Ranger  
Fullerton, CA  
Died: 2012

### **Richard "Buck" Jordan**

Member  
Cambria, CA  
Died: September 2012

### **Phil McCarty**

Member, Ranger  
Apple Valley, MN  
Died: January 2012

### **Gerhard S. Wolff**

Ranger  
Kensington, MD  
Died: April 2012  
Zeppelins

## Sales

## Department

The sales department has over 7,000 mint U.S. Plate blocks for sale. Scott numbers available are #650 and higher. The price is approximately 50% of Scott value, but not less than 25 cents.

Contact Bill Kohl at  
520-623-6652 x 103 or  
phftucson@comcast.net

## Tucson Stamp Club

First Tuesdays - 5 pm bourse  
Third Saturdays - 12 pm bourse

**March 5 - Tuesday**  
80 Covers From  
Around the World  
by Tony Benz

**March 16 - Saturday**  
Spring Auction

**April 2 - Tuesday**  
Presidential Topicals  
Bring your material to  
share with the group.

## *Spring Yard Sale*

Our spring fundraiser will be on Saturday, April 6th from 8 am - 12 noon. Please donate all of your gently used treasures. Help make this yard sale a success! Call Lena at 520-623-6652.

## **PHF Family Portfolio**

### **Officers:**

Chairman: Bob Bechtel  
Vice Chair: Bob Davis  
Secretary: David Bernheim  
Treasurer: Ted Maynard

### **Staff:**

Executive Assistant:  
Lena Rogers  
Youth Education Director:  
Lisa Dembowski  
Librarian: Lisa Hodgkins  
Editor and Youth Assistant:  
Linda Wynn

See Stamp Tracks in color at  
[www.postalhistoryfoundation.org](http://www.postalhistoryfoundation.org)

## PHF Calendar

### **February 24**

150th Anniversary AZ Territory  
Cover Sale 10 am

### **April 6**

PHF Spring Yard Sale  
Fundraiser

### **April 13**

Annual Member Meeting  
and Luncheon  
at Westward Look 12 pm

### **April 19-21**

Aripex 2013 in Mesa, AZ

### **June 10-14**

Stamp Camp

### **June 18**

Camel Book Event for Kids

## New Members!

Brian Bateman  
*Tucson, AZ*

John L. Clymer  
*Tucson, AZ*

Bob Crossman  
*Conway, AR*

Larry Dembowski, CPA  
*Tucson, AZ*

Ken Dubrau  
*Suprise, AZ*

Emilio G. Dutari  
*Tucson, AZ*

Daniel Fischer  
*Tucson, AZ*

John Koshel  
*Tucson, AZ*

Frank Patania  
*Tucson, AZ*

Philip Van Wyck  
*Tucson, AZ*