

Stamp Tracks

NEWS AND
INFORMATION FOR
PHILATELISTS OF ALL AGES

Mail Delivery in the Boom Days of Mining

"The history of mining in Arizona is, practically, the history of Arizona," wrote James H. McClintock in his *History of Arizona*. We could add to that, so is the history of mail delivery.



"Old Prospector on the Desert" undated postcard.

The many prospectors who didn't "strike it rich" cleverly made their own fortunes by pivoting from prospecting to building businesses that met miners' needs. Camps and towns grew in size and spread out. Mercantile stores, saloons, restaurants, churches, and schools were established as the population grew. The most important of these industries, and on which all the others were dependent, was mail delivery.

The Slusser Library's current exhibit, "Prospectors and Postmen: Mail Delivery in the Boom Days of Mining," presents photographs, contemporaneous mail, and other documents to tell the story of early mail and

freight transportation methods, with particular emphasis on Arizona. The exhibit includes information on Colorado River steamboats, pack animals, wagons, coaches, buckboards, and "pony express" style mail delivery.

It often surprises people that the Colorado River was used as a major thoroughfare to freight mail and supplies between San Francisco and Arizona. George A. Johnson created an empire with a fleet of steamships chugging up and down the Colorado. Johnson had a near-monopoly on the delivery business, in part because he owned or was associated with several ports, which refused other ships, and owned woodyards, providing ready supplies of fuel—but only for Johnson's ships.

The exhibit touches on the indigenous people of this section of the Colorado River, mostly the Pipa Aha Macav or Mohave people. While the steamship freighting industry certainly



Postcard depicting a steamship on the Colorado River at Yuma, postmarked 1910.

Continued on page 6





Postal History Foundation

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www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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Hours:

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Post Office: M-F 8am - 2:30pm

Slusser Library: M-F 9am - 3pm

See past issues of **Stamp Tracks** at
www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

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Chairperson's Message

The Postal History Foundation sales table at ARIPEX was a great success this year. It takes a lot of hard work and preparation, but with the help of volunteers Dan Sherry and Jack Mount, we were able to succeed in helping all the customers that stopped by our tables during the three days of the show.

Dan signed in our many donations and did all the paperwork needed to process the stamps, and also helped with the sales at our table. Jack also helped with selling many of our stamps and covers, and by answering questions from our customers. Thank you, Dan and Jack!

We brought ten boxes of 10 cent covers to the show and returned with only two boxes, which made us extremely happy. Our 10 cent boxes had a constant stream of customers for the whole show. The postcard boxes were also very popular. I estimate we sold about \$500 worth of postcards at 25 cents each. We also sold many of the collections we brought with us and, of course, hundreds of covers from our regular cover boxes.

On another note, I want to remind everyone about our annual meeting and volunteer luncheon coming up on April 14th at the Westward Look. Please put the date on your calendar and join everyone for a really good meal and a SHORT presentation by your officers. As usual, at the end of the luncheon, the education department will host a short quiz bowl. I wonder which table will win this year?

Bob Davis

PHF Membership

*More than
200 of you
have renewed*

Renew or Join

Support the

**PHF, Youth Education thru Stamps (YES), and the
Slusser Library.**

*Thank
you for
renewing!*

Your support is critical to our mission to support the

future of philately.

For additional gifting opportunities visit

"Ways to Help" on our website at

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org

In Memory of Bob Bechtel

Robert Bechtel, previous chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Postal History Foundation (PHF), passed away January 16, 2018.

Robert "Bob" Bechtel's dedication to the PHF started 40 years ago after taking the position of Professor of Psychology at the University of Arizona. Before moving to Tucson, he worked in Iran for the Environmental Research and Development Foundation. Bob was a world-traveler and, with his wife Beverly and daughters Amanda and Carrah, visited Russia, Hong Kong, Estonia, among others. His hobbies included camping in the mountains, bird-watching, and, of course, philately.

Bob enjoyed dropping by the Foundation every week and started sorting through Arizona cancellations and covers (envelopes that have



Bob and Beverly Bechtel at one of many annual PHF luncheons.



Above: Bob Bechtel (middle) with Al and Alphie Kuhm at Munds Park Post Office, south of Flagstaff, AZ. Below Bob and Al at the Lake Montezuma Post Office north of Camp Verde, AZ.



traveled through the mail.) After purchasing his first Arizona covers, he was inspired to hunt for and visit post offices across the state, especially ghost towns and abandoned sites. Bob led Postal History Foundation members and volunteers on Arizona post office field trips. Some trips were day trips; others were over-nighters. A photographic record of their trips, available for viewing in the Slusser Library, have titles such as "Ruby Loop," "Arizona Strip Trip," and "Dragoon Springs Day Trip." Bob accumulated thousands of Arizona covers and related Arizona postal history materials. His collection, much of which is also in the Slusser, was world-renowned. Based on his own and colleague's research, Bob later published the *Arizona Statehood Post Mark Catalogue* in 1989.

By 1987, Dr. Bechtel was serving on Foundation committees, eventually becoming a board member in 1988. In 1992, Bob

Bechtel was elected chairman of the Board of Directors of the PHF and served in that capacity for the next 22 years. Bechtel was invited to be an Arizona Philatelic Ranger in 1980. He is shown at right wearing his Ranger badge during the Slusser Library ground-breaking ceremony on January 12, 1996.



The size of the PHF campus doubled in 1996 with the construction of the much needed philatelic library. The Slusser Library, known for its modern, functional design, houses more than 30,000 titles of philatelic books, journals, and archival material. The board of directors also designated the library for use as a meeting place, which is reflected today by student field trips and various club meetings. Bob had enthusiasm and passion for the education department of the PHF, realizing the priceless learning potential of student education via postage stamps.

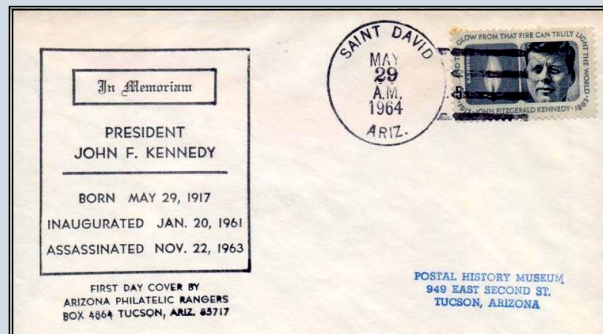
Bob Bechtel was very generous to the Postal History Foundation throughout the years by happily volunteering many hours at events, giving monetary donations, and donating his own collections. He always served with a smile and was interested in everyone and the world around him. As executive assistant Lena Rodgers says, "He was very loving, caring, and most generous." He holds a special place in our hearts and memories.

When the Rangers Ventured into FDC Territory...



Contribution by Wayne Youngblood

As many of us know, when the Arizona Philatelic Rangers organization was founded in 1960, its primary purpose was to be the fundraising arm for the Western Postal History Museum, also established the same year. As most of us also know, the seriousness of the nature of the Rangers' mission has never kept us from having a good time whenever we can, whether it's in the form of friendship, fine dining, art and performance events, or simply digging into stamps and various collecting activities. A recent find reminded me of the latter.



When the 5 cent Kennedy Memorial stamp was released May 29, 1964 (on what would have been Kennedy's 47th birthday), it was announced that the stamp would be an "any-city" issue, meaning a nationwide release that would allow col-

lectors to get their first-day covers canceled anywhere they could go on that day. This approach had been popular with the 4 cent Project Mercury stamp in 1962, which was released without notice across the country. Thus, any cover bearing that stamp and canceled on May 29, 1964, is a first-day cover. Well over 12,000 different post offices are known to have canceled Kennedy stamps that day.

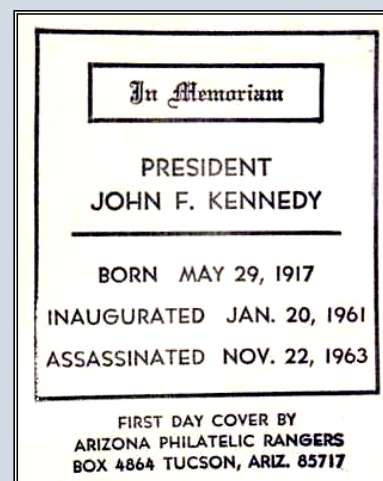


Someone within the Rangers organization apparently decided it would be a fun idea to create a cachet for the event, shown above right. This cachet was created in the form of a rubber-stamping device that could be used on any envelope.

So far, I have seen Ranger cachets for the Kennedy issue canceled right in Tucson, Saint David (about 53 miles south-east), Scottsdale (about 120 miles north-west), Stanfield (about 85 miles north-west), Rincon (an East Tucson station) and Sells (about 65 miles south-west). It has recently been brought to my attention that the Slusser Library archives contain covers from Mt. Lemon and Gila Bend, Arizona.

So someone -- or several collectors -- covered a lot of miles in a single day to create these and possibly others. Who they were still eludes me as John Birkinbine and several others who have been involved for many years do not remember these covers.

If you have information on either the creator of the cachet or other cities, please let us know!



This rubber-stamped cachet was created for the 1964 Kennedy Memorial issue by someone involved with the Rangers.



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PHF Always a Presence at ARIPEX

The Postal History Foundation's participation in ARIPEX (February 16-18 at the Mesa Convention Center) was an all-around success. Our sales table, manned by Bob Davis, Dan Sherry and Jack Mount, buzzed with a steady stream of interested buyers.



Pictured from left to right:
Dan Sherry, Jack Mount, and Bob Davis.

Many people who attend ARIPEX enjoy going through the cover boxes at the PHF table. Of particular interest at the sales table were covers, both personal and commercial, and both domestic and world-wide. One collector told our sales people, "I am so glad you have everyday regular covers!" It was reported that there were so many people looking at covers, some buyers plopped down on the floor in a cluster around the table. "Some people just camped out each day at our table," says Jack.

When people weren't pouring over our inventory, there was plenty else to do at ARIPEX, including attending various meetings and lectures, and viewing the 200 exhibit frames.

During the Arizona and New Mexico Postal History Society meeting it was mentioned that those who research post office locations and history were "very lucky that the PHF's Slusser Library has an almost complete set of post office location and application forms" from Arizona Territory and State history.

Jack Mount had a chance to look at exhibits and thought the *Scouting and Stamps "Classics"* exhibit by Frederick P. Lawrence was particularly interesting, as he himself was a scout master for years. He was impressed by the historical information and presentation. An interesting bit of trivia Jack learned was that Slovakian Sea Scouts delivered the mail during the establishment of the new nation of Czechoslovakia in 1918. Stamps during this period actually had "POSTA CESKYCH SKAUTU" printed on them which means "Czech Scout Post."

Another PHF board member, Sue Sisson, was able to help Marsha Condit run the youth area, as they have done for several years. The PHF annually supplies activities and stamps for the youth area.

Our contributions toward and our participation in, ARIPEX 2018, were well worth the time and effort to transport ourselves and our materials from Tucson to Mesa. And thanks to all of you who attended—and maybe even "camped out" for a day by our sales table.



Many collectors at the PHF tables enjoyed looking through the cover boxes.

Sales Department Specials

Call 520-623-6652 or email sales@phftucson.org

- **US Year Sets**—1972 to recent, discounted prices
- **US Booklets**—Scott #75 to present
- **Foreign Platinum Mines**—\$135—14.8 oz. off paper Scott Values from 50¢ to \$9.99
- **Gold Mines**—\$75 - Lower Values-14.8 oz. off paper
- **Mint Postage**—40% discount, **save on mailing costs**

Also Available:

RPO Covers
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Catalogues
Album Supplements
Stock Books
Stock Sheets
First Flights • Used Albums • Album Binders
First Day Covers & More



Library News

Valerie Kittell library@phftucson.org*Continued from page 1*

advanced the mining and the growth of the area for the American settlers, it did not improve the way of life of the Mohave; in fact, quite the opposite. That the Mohave objected to being forced out of their neighborhoods and homes, and to having their free agency removed, is not a main focus of the exhibit. However, it is worth considering that the development of the mining industry, and along with it, mail delivery systems, contributed to the growth of some groups and the collapse of others.

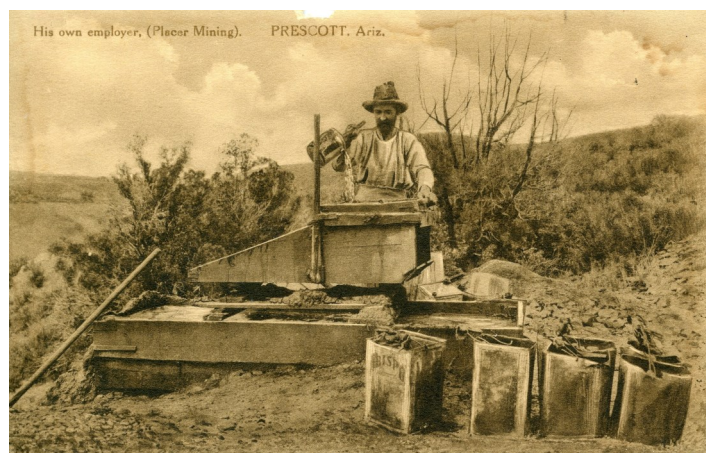


Unused cover from Pedro Aguirre's express company.

highly involved in state and local politics. He was the first to introduce legislation to create a public school system in Arizona. Both Ochoa and his partner Tully have schools that bear their name today. Curly Neal was one of the few prominent African American businessmen in the Tucson area; he also owned a hotel in Oracle. Pedro Aguirre's Buenos Ayres ranch is now the site of the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge. All of them advanced the methods and efficiency of mail delivery through competition and innovation.

"Prospectors and Postmen" educates, provokes thought, and showcases some material never before displayed in the Slusser. The exhibit will be available for viewing through May 2018. Check the website for temporary library closures due to meetings and field trips before visiting, or call 520-623-6652 x 107.

The exhibit shines a light on several local entrepreneurs with diverse backgrounds, such as Esteban Ochoa, Pinckney Tully, Pedro Aguirre, Mariano Samaniego, J.D. Kinnear, and William "Curly" Neal. Each has his own unique story and lasting impact on the community. Esteban Ochoa, for example, was



Postcard showing miner using a "rocker box" to sift ore.

New on the Shelf

The Evolution of British Stamped Postcards and Letter Cards: Their History and Documentation
by H. Dagnall. (1985)

General Lee's Army: From Victory to Collapse by Joseph T. Glatthaar. (2008)

The German Field Post Office in the Channel Islands ... by Michael Wieneke ; edited by Peter Bryans;
drawing by Tony Goodlad. (1981)

Isle of Man: Handbook of Stamps and Postal History by J.T. Whitney. (1981)

Postal History of the Australian Antarctic, 1911-1965 by Roy M. Milner. (1975)

Prisoners of War and Internees in the Pacific Theatre of World War II: Postal History
by H.F. Stich and W. Stich. (1991)

Education Update

Lisa Dembowski education@phftucson.org

Stamps: Connecting with Literacy

Inspiring new collectors is just one of the many goals of the Postal History Foundation's education department, Youth Education thru Stamps (YES). Our education department is invited to community events throughout the year, and we try to attend as many as we can with our limited staff and volunteers.

Why do community organizations and schools include YES? Because we use stamps to help students become more literate. Literacy can be two-fold: the ability to read and write but also competence in a specified subject or field. Once kids and their parents are introduced to stamps at an event, they make connections between stamps and the world and realize the life-long learning that stamps provide. Many times at an event, it becomes very hard for us to close down our table due to enthusiastic crowds. Learning to read with stamps, encouraging letter writing to Santa and then "mailing" the letter, connecting people to postal and world history, learning to sound out words on stamps, geography with stamps on maps: all of these inspire learning and interest in stamp collecting. Families become encouraged to start stamp collecting as a family activity and find their way to the PHF for a visit.

If YOU want to raise awareness about the fantastic world of stamps in your community, decorate a wooden chest or box with used stamps from around the world and fill it with stamps. (YES can supply the stamps.) Take it to book festivals, holiday events, school literacy nights, museum events, and more. The response will be rewarding for you and a positive support to philately and inspired learning.



At left:
Writing letters to Santa at the annual Holiday Express event at the Historic Train Depot.



At right:
A family enjoys stamps at the annual Tucson Festival of Books.

At right:
The annual Ted Walker Days event for students at Old Tucson Studios. Five treasure chests filled with stamps are constantly in use throughout the day.



Stamp Collecting Kits for Youth and Adults



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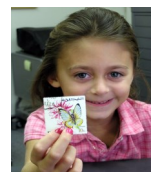


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2. Replace your old amazon.com bookmarks with **smile.amazon.com**. Your Amazon account is unaffected by buying through Amazon Smile.
3. **Shop!**

Library Book Sales

The Slusser Library offers dozens of surplus philatelic books for sale, including postal histories of various U.S. states, military mail, air mail, railway post offices, postmarks, and postage stamps from all over the globe. Please go to our Amazon Marketplace store (link is on our surplus book sales page on our web site.). Money from sales helps the library to acquire new holdings.

Don't forget to visit us on the front page of our website, like us on Facebook, or follow us on Twitter for the latest news, calendar events, and fun with beautiful scanned stamps and covers. The more who visit, like, comment, and share, the greater the audience to spread the word and help us in our mission.



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Tucson Stamp Club

First and third Saturdays at the
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12 pm Bourse • 1 pm Meeting

March 17, 2018

Ireland Topicals
Auction Lots Due

April 7, 2018

Chinese Topicals

April 21, 2018

Spring Auction
Lot viewing 11:30-1:00
Auction begins 1pm

May 5, 2018

Mexican Topicals

May 19, 2018

Turkish Topicals

June 2, 2018

American Indian Topicals

New Members

Edmond Bates
Rockport, TX

David Dechant
Sierra Vista, AZ

Kendall Hayes
Oro Valley, AZ

Charles McEwan
Austin, TX

Guthrie Riley
Sheboygan, WI

In Memoriam

Robert Bechtel
Volunteer, Member & Ranger

PHF Calendar

April 14, 2018

Annual Meeting and Volunteer
Luncheon at
Westward Look Resort
Luncheon at 12 pm

Tucson Postcard Club

Meets every second Sunday at the PHF
from 1- 3pm

Contact **Joyce Kagarise** at
dkagar@dakotacom.net or 520-682-8424

April 8, 2018

May 13, 2018

Civil War Roundtable

Meets every second Friday at the PHF
at 11:30 am, except summer.

Contact **Bob Burdick** at:
bobandglandaburdick@q.com

April 13, 2018

Mc Clellan
Gene Bryan

May 11, 2018

Civil War Personalities at
Green Wood Cemetery
Paul Kalina

June 8, 2018

Lunch at Caruso's



Planning to view the current exhibit or research in the Library?

Please check our website calendar for library closures due to scheduled field trips and other events at:

www.postalhistoryfoundation.org