

Scribblings



---from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

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2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO, 80224
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November-December 1999
E-Mail - rmpl@uswest.net

Joseph B. Weinman February 19, 1922 - October 2, 1999

We are sad to report the death of Joe Weinman, a board member and enthusiastic supporter of the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library. He was 77.

Joe was a significant and positive force for stamp collectors and stamp collecting. As an avid RMPL supporter from the beginning, he contributed hundreds of hours of his time and was always willing to take on any task. But he was at his best when he was quietly sitting with people, one-on-one, talking about stamps and sharing his considerable philatelic knowledge. His expertise was vast, particularly in the German area and the United States.

Joe took early retirement from a sales job in the building materials industry and turned his stamp hobby into his work. Anyone who ever did stamp business with him will tell you it never looked like he was "working." He was just enjoying one of the things he did best and his customers were just his friends whom he was helping out the best he could. If anyone was trying to find a certain item, no matter how significant or insignificant, he was always willing to go out of his way to find it.

He gave back to the stamp collecting community in many ways. He was a past chairman of ROMPEX and an active member of the American Philatelic Society, the Germany Philatelic Society, the Denver Germany Stamp Club, Collector's Club of Denver, and the Aurora Stamp Club.

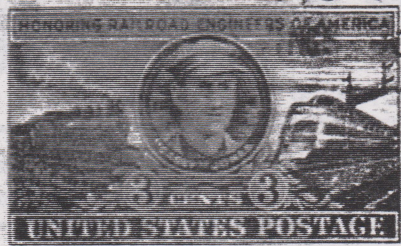
Joe had a quiet but very effective way of getting things done. He could often be found at the library at the back table, sorting and cataloging stamps that had been donated or chatting with friends. We will miss his smile and counsel.

Our good thoughts and love go out to his wife, Vi, his children, grandchildren, and the rest of his family.

The family has suggested memorial gifts be given to the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library.

Two Legends of the Rails - Casey Jones and Jesus Garcia

By Peter Laux, RMPL Member



Casey Jones and who? Well, maybe if you were from Mexico, you would ask ¿Jesus Garcia y quiEn? Each is famous in his own country, a hero and a legend among great national figures. Perhaps railroad buffs are familiar with both of them, and sing their ballads. Maybe also railroad topical stamp enthusiasts. If not, here are their stories.

John Luther Jones was born on March 14, 1863 in Southeast Missouri, and as a young child moved with his family to the town of Cayce, Kentucky. At the age of 15 he got his first railroad job - a cub operator with the Mobile & Ohio Railway, and acquired the nickname "Casey" after his hometown. The name stuck as he progressed up the railroad ladder as brakeman then fireman on the M & O line between Jackson, Tennessee and Mobile, Alabama. A friendly, tall, handsome man, Casey was well liked by all. He married Jane Brady and they settled in Jackson, where they had three children.

In 1888, Casey hired on as fireman with the larger Illinois Central Railroad. He was soon promoted to engineer and worked local freight and passenger routes. He became well known for his skill with the locomotive whistle, and even developed a special call of his own. He realized his dream in early 1900 when he became an engineer on the Memphis to Canton, Mississippi stretch of the ICRR deluxe passenger service from Chicago to New Orleans, the "Cannonball Express."

About 10 PM on the night of April 29, 1900, Casey and his fireman, Sim Webb, rolled into Memphis at the north end of their scheduled run from Canton. However, the engineer for the next southbound Cannonball Express was sick so Casey and Sim volunteered to take it down to Canton. They left Memphis 95 minutes late in their Engine No. 382, a powerful Rogers ten-wheeler with six large drivers, and Casey surely was determined to make up time.

But at Vaughn, just 15 miles north of Canton, Fate had prepared a trap for Casey Jones and Engine No. 382. Possibly hampered by stormy weather, Casey missed a flagman waving a warning flag to slow down because the track ahead was blocked by the end of a freight train. When Engine No. 382 hit the warning torpedoes on the track, Casey probably knew he could not stop his speeding train in time. He hit the brakes, sounded the whistle, and told Sim to jump for his life. At 3:52 AM on April 30, 1900, Engine No. 382 slammed into the caboose and last few cars of the freight train. Engine No. 382 came to rest on its right side, facing back northward. The only fatality was Casey Jones. Although assigned sole blame for the wreck, Casey undoubtedly saved many other lives by manning his brakes and whistle to the very end.

A scant seven years later, another popular, young railroad engineer, Jesus grace, was killed on the job while trying to save lives and avert a major catastrophe. His heroic act took place at Nacozari in the Mexican state of Sonora. Nacozari lies in northeastern Sonora, actually closer to the U. S. border at Arizona than to the state capital, Hermosillo. Around 1660, Spaniards combing New Spain for its mineral riches discovered large copper deposits in the area, but these ores were not developed until the late 1800s when copper came into great demand for wire and electrical machinery.

Moctezuma Copper Company, a subsidiary of Phelps Dodge, operated a large copper mine near Nacozari. Ore was moved from the mine to the concentrator in Nacozari on a six-mile, narrow gauge railway. The narrow-gauge line was steep as the mine lay some two thousand feet higher than town. The main rail line from Arizona came to town and ended at the concentrator. Large amounts of dynamite were imported from Arizona for blasting the ore out of the hard-rock mine, and the most convenient location for the dynamite storage was near the concentrator where the rail lines were close together. Also nearby were maintenance shops, several warehouses, a power plant with gas storage tanks, and the town of Nacozari with about 5,000 residents.

The narrow gauge line had two Porter thirty-ton 0-6-0s to haul ore to town and return with supplies for the mine. One of the locomotives, Engine No. 2, was meticulously maintained and efficiently operated by Jesus grace. Hardworking, at the age 24 he was in line to be chief engineer for the company railroad. Born in Hermosillo on November 13, 1883, he had arrived with his mother and seven older siblings in Nacozari in

1898. Handsome, courteous and energetic, Jesus grace was well liked by all. He was not married but he did have a serious romance going with a young lady in Nacozari.

On November 7, 1907, Jesus went to work as usual. But major incidents sometime result from an unfavorable combination of minor events. Jesus grace noticed that the smokestack was not smothering all the ashes, so he told the fireman he would report it at the end of the shift. Also, the conductor was sick and did not come to work that day. In the early afternoon, Jesus grace was instructed to take a five-car train containing two railcars loaded with dynamite to the mine. If the conductor, responsible for proper operations and safety of the train, had been there perhaps the cars laden with dynamite would have been placed at the rear rather than at the front of the train. Moreover, when the loading was finished and Jesus grace returned from lunch, the fire in the boiler had burned low and the engine did not have full steam pressure for the arduous climb to the mine. Maybe that distracted Jesus from noticing that the dynamite was right behind the engine.

Just after two that afternoon, the train pulled away, slowly building full power for the uphill run. As fate would have it, the smoke was blown back over the train. Live ashes must have landed on the first two cars because before long smoke was noticed coming from the boxes of dynamite. At first, Jesus grace slowed the train while a brakeman tried to pry loose a smoldering box and toss it off. However, when it was raised a bit, flames shot out and quickly spread. Jesus grace ordered the crew to jump and gave full throttle to Engine No. 2, trying to reach open ground beyond town. Two tons of dynamite exploding so close to town, and near the large dynamite magazine and gas storage tanks, would certainly have been a disaster for Nacozari.

The train was rushing away from town, passing through a curved, shallow cut in a hillside, not quite to the upper rail yard, when, at 2:20 PM, it blew! Jesus grace, four men and a boy at the upper rail yard, and seven women and children in nearby section houses were killed instantly. Many were injured. Other than a few broken windows, however, the town of Nacozari was spared. The young engineer gave his life to save many others, and he is recognized as the railroad hero of Mexico. Now you know the stories of two great railroad legends who died unselfishly trying to save others.

NEWS FROM THE RMPL...

RMPL HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE

All members and friends of the RMPL are cordially invited to attend the RMPL Holiday Open House on Saturday, December 18th from 1-4. Many of us feel that philately should have a social side and what better opportunity is there for a social get-together than the Holiday Season. The RMPL will be decorated for the holidays. Please join us for light refreshments and bring along a philatelic friend.

RMPL HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

As is shown in the listing of RMPL Activities, the RMPL will be closed on November 11 for Veterans Day - on November 25th for Thanksgiving - on December 24th and 25th for Christmas - and on December 31st and January 1st for New Years. We will be open for business and ready to go on Monday, January 3, 2000 at 10:00 AM.

The Board of Directors of the RMPL and all of our Volunteers hope that each of you has a Most Joyful Holiday Season and a Prosperous and Happy New Year.

WEATHER WARNING!!

As this is being written, the weather this fall has been rather uneventful - but - the recent

snowfall reminded me that the winter weather is coming and there will be bad days. The RMPL phone number is 303-759-9921. When weather conditions appear to be making traveling conditions dangerous we will close the library. We feel that the safety of our Volunteers is most important and the chances of someone wanting to use the library in such conditions would be most slim. Remember that it can be nice on one side of town and be terrible on the other. Before you start out, if the weather looks questionable, call the RMPL to see if it will be closed. CALL 303-759-9921!!!

SECOND SATURDAY AT THE RMPL

Attendance at recent Second Saturday programs has been most encouraging. These special programs are beginning to get the attention of interested philatelists. Why don't you attend one of the following events and bring along a philatelic friend. The coffee pot is always on and most of the time the "donut fairy" makes a delivery.

On November 13th the Second Saturday at the RMPL program starts at 9:00 AM and will be given by Peter Laux on the subject of "Stade - A Town in Germany".

The December 11th program starting at 9:00 AM will be given by Lewis Bussey on the subject of "RF Overprints".

Try to make an effort to attend both of these interesting presentations.

We are looking for persons to give the Second Saturday programs on future dates. If you are interested, or if you want to suggest a program, please call Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED !!!

At this time of the year, each year, we lose several of our regular Volunteers for at least 4 months, so we need to have replacements. We ask that you consider taking a 3 hour shift each week on a regular basis. Currently we need volunteers for the following times: Monday afternoons 1-4 (starting 1/1/2000); Wednesday mornings 10-1; Thursday afternoons 2-5; Friday mornings 10-1; Friday afternoons 1-4; Saturday mornings 10-1; and Saturday afternoons 1-4. We try to have two Volunteers on duty when we are open. Sometimes there is library work to be done and on other occasions you would be free to work on your own projects. If you would be willing to work any of these shifts on a regularly scheduled basis, please call Don Beuthel at 303-755-9328. A training session will be held early in January.

IT'S TIME TO THINK ABOUT TAXES

Yes, it is time to think about taxes! Now, many of you will say, "I don't worry about that until April," and that is the wrong time. If you are in need of some deductions in April, now is the time to make donations to charitable organizations. The RMPL is considered a Public Charity since we hold a 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS. Donations of material or money may be used as a deduction if you don't take the standard deduction on your tax form. We encourage you to consider making a donation of material or contribution of money to the RMPL before January 1st. The RMPL will send you a letter acknowledging receipt of your donation or contribution. Help to support your library rather than paying more taxes.

DONATIONS AND CONTRIBUTIONS CONTINUE

We continue to be amazed at the support philatelists from all over the world give to the RMPL through their donations of philatelic material and philatelic literature as well as monetary contributions. We thank you most sincerely.

During the past two months we have received donations from the following people: Fran Anderson, Charlene Gail, Howard & Elaine Hosek, Jerry Eggleston, Bill Braukman, Don Beuthel, Joe Crosby, David Kent, Brian Birch, Geri Daulton,

Bruce Ray, Dasa Metzler, Ben & Mary Meyer, Dr. James Crum, Jim Davenport, Bob Brown, Ruth Willett, Andy Baer, Hector R. Mena, Theodore G. Anthony, Mary Komich, Nick Bede, Bill Schaefer, Phil Beutel, Myron Hill, Jim Peterson, Colin Spong, Fred Campbell, Jerry Miller, Peter Bergh, Lewis Dunlap, Dr. Gary McIntyre, Lewis Bussey, Norm Ritchie, Vi Weinman, Terry Hines, Robley Rhine, and Martha Michel.

In addition to these regular donations we have received contributions in memory of Joe Weinman from the following : Laurence K. Lays, Norvell & Kathryn Brason, Mathew Zieringer, Donald & Ellengail Beuthel, Joe Crosby, Ed Schenck, George Wright, Bill & Sue Dunn, Ralph & Betty Walther, Thomas Crawford, National Conference of State Legislatures, James Moorman, Mrs. Joe Weinman, William & Lois Hale, Russell and Linda Francisco, Vera & Russell Francisco, Winnie K. Watts and Bob Blatherwick. The RMPL thanks you very much. The Board of Directors will be meeting soon and will determine a suitable use for these memorial funds.

It always amazes us to find that someone has left some material on the table or even at the front door without any identification as to the source of the donation. We like to give credit whenever possible, but to all of those anonymous donors, we thank you very much.

We try to acknowledge the receipt of donations with a letter. The fair market value of the donation may be deductible from your taxes since we do have a Public Charity 501 (c)(3) status with the IRS. If you have made donations and did not receive a letter please contact our RMPL Secretary, Bill Dunn, at 303-321-8746.

ADULT BEGINNING CLASS COMPLETED

October 9th was the last Saturday afternoon class for the Adult Beginning Stamp Collecting group. Those who completed the class included : Paul Bailey, Bob Baumgardner, Nick Bede, Mary Butler, Richard "Duke" Earle, Tom Schomburg, and Jennifer Suggs. Each of them received a certificate and stamp tongs.

We have already had inquiries regarding the next class. Final dates and details will be announced later. If you know of someone who might be interested in taking the 4 session class, about 2 1/2 hours per session, have them call the library and indicate their interest. We will notify them when details are finalized.

KID'S STAMP CLUB

At the Kid's Day on October 23rd several parents asked about forming a Kid's Stamp Club at the RMPL. It was discussed briefly and it appeared that the 3rd Saturday of each month might be the best time for the library - either

morning or afternoon. If you know of children who would be interested in participating in such a group please call Felice Vainer at 303-751-7657. If there are any adults who would be interested in helping supervise such a group please call Felice, also. If there is enough interest, this would start in January.

NEW RMPL MEMBERS

As is usual, we send out membership items with each Scribblings. Some of you will be receiving a first, second, or third renewal notice. After the third notice members are moved to the inactive list and will no longer receive mailings or other membership benefits. We hope that each who receives the renewal notice responds quickly and generously. New members or members who have renewed in the past two months should receive a new membership card with this mailing.

New members during the past two months include the following:

Michael A. Bass JoAnne Curran
Roger Doherty Richard Jaeger
S.A. Khorunzhy Judith Lamb
Frank Leitz Tom Schomburg
Penelope Schwind Eric Smith

We need to increase the membership in the RMPL. One of the best ways to do this is to bring a non-member philatelic friend out to visit the library. Almost always, when they see what is being done, they will want to be a part of it by becoming a member. All you have to do is get them here. Come for the Second Saturday Program or attend the Holiday Open House with the non-member and see what happens. Let's all work on getting some new members and getting them active and involved. Think of the effect if even half of us could get one new member.

A holiday gift suggestion - Give a philatelic friend a membership to the RMPL. For as little as \$15 some of your holiday shopping can be finished.

NEW MATERIALS ON THE SHELVES

With the receipt of several good-sized donations many new books have been processed. A small sample of the new titles follows:

"Union of South Africa Stamps" - Kaplan, Legator, and Sheffield - Vols. 1 & 2, 1952

"The Pneumatic Post of Paris" - J.D. Hayhurst, 1954

"Ink on Paper" - Edmund C. Arnold, 1963

"Canal Zone Stamps" - Plass, Brewster, and Salz, 1986

"The Dr. Joseph Agris Gold Medal Collections of United States Coil Issues" - Shreve Philatelic Galleries, September 5, 1997

"Postage Stamps of the Cape of Good Hope" - Sotheby Auction of Sir Maxwell Joseph Collection, October 1982

"Prisoners' Mail from the American Civil War" - Galen D. Harrison, 1977

"The Wyer Collection of Railroad Covers and Inland Waterways", 1977

"The Teeter and Wobble" - Tales of Toledo and Western Railway - Sill and Findlay, 1993

"Soapy Smith - King of the Frontier Con Men" - Robertson and Harris, 1961

"Ghost towns of the Colorado Rockies" - Robert L. Brown, 1968

"Picture Maker of the Old West" - William H. Jackson and Clarence S. Johnson, 1947

"Guide to Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps" - Perry Eberhart, 1959

"Precancelled Envelopes of the United States" - United Postal Stationery Society, 1976

"A Guide to Places on the Colorado Prairie" - Ray Shaffer, 1978

"Pharmaceutical Philately" - George Griffenhagen, 1990

"Birds of Prey" - deJong, Becher, and Horan, 998

"Christmas Stamps of the World" - Ev Foster, 1991

"Listing of Computer Related stamps" - D.L. Becjer, 1997

"Stamps on Stamps" - ATA Handbook 122

"New World Archeology on Stamps" - Vol 1/North America - Chris Moser

"Catalog of Monogolian stamps" - Philatelica Hungarica

HELP !!!!

The RMPL receives many donations of material including periodicals. We keep two copies of each issue and we hate to throw away the surplus copies. We are running out of storage space and there are several boxes of these surplus periodicals that we need to move out. Each issue is just 5 cents!! How's that for a price?? There are literally hundreds and hundreds of these periodicals: Airpost Journal,

American Philatelist, German Postal Specialist, Philatelic Literature Review, Postal History International, SPA Journal, and Topical Time. There are nearly 250 different issues of Topical Time all by itself.

Let us know if you have specific issues you need to fill in a run, or send us \$5 or \$10, include which titles you would like to have, and we'll send you a bunch!

WHAT'S HAPPENING at the RMPL "come and enjoy the activities"

NOVEMBER 1999

Mondays: November 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: November 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: November 3, 10, 17, 24 Open 10-4
Thursdays: November 4, 18 Open 2-8
Fridays: November 5, 12, 19, 26 Open 10-4
Saturdays: November 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
November 3 - Aurora Stamp Club 6:30 Trading
7:30 Meeting and Program
November 4 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
RMPL Board of Directors
November 6 - Meeting 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
November 10 - Meeting - 7:00 PM
Denver Germany Stamp Club
November 11 - CLOSED - Veterans Day
November 11 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
Topical Philatelists In Colorado
November 13 - Second Saturday at the RMPL
9:00 AM Program by Peter Laux
"Stade - A Town in Germany"
November 13 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Club -
USS Colorado Chapter
November 20 - Meeting - 1:00 PM
Colorado Postal History Society
November 23 - Meeting - 7:30 PM
ROMPEX Committee
November 25 - RMPL CLOSED - Thanksgiving
November 27 - Meeting -
2:00 PM - China Stamp Society

DECEMBER 1999

Mondays: December 6, 13, 20, 27 Open 10-4
Tuesdays: December 7, 14, 21, 28 Open 10-4
Wednesdays: December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29
Open 10-4
Thursdays: December 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Open 2-8
Fridays: December 3, 10, 17 Open 10-4
Saturdays: December 4, 11, 18 Open 10-4
December 4 - Meeting - 10:00 AM
Scandinavian Collector's Club
December 11 - Second Saturday at the RMPL -
9:00 AM - Program by Lewis Bussey
"RF Overprints"
December 11 - Meeting - 11:00 AM
Rocky Mountain Aero Philatelists
December 11 - Meeting - 2:00 PM
Universal Ship Cancellation Society
USS Colorado Chapter
December 18 - HOLIDAY OPEN HOUSE
at the RMPL - 1-4
December 24 - RMPL CLOSED
December 25 - RMPL CLOSED
December 31 - RMPL CLOSED
January 3 - OPEN 10-4

Scribblings is published bi-monthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, 2038 So. Pontiac Way, Denver, CO, 80224.

Donald G. Beuthel
Editor

The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado Non-profit corporation. Membership subscriptions over that for the annual regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic library materials are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes. The RMPL in an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

President Donald G. Beuthel

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