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100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH - FIRST TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEPHONE CALL

Jan. 25, 1915 - If you collect U.S. postage stamps, you might have noticed one issued in February 1998 to commemorate AT&T's 1914 construction of the first transcontinental telephone line.



**1998 CELEBRATE
THE CENTURY ISSUE**

**CONSTRUCTION OF
THE FIRST
TRANSCONTINENTAL
TELEPHONE LINE**

(Scott #3183e)

AT&T began building the nation's original long distance network in 1885. Starting from New York, the network reached Chicago in 1892. But, because an electrical signal weakens as it travels down a wire, that distance was close to the limit for a line built of thick copper. With the 1899 introduction of loading coils, which slow the rate at which a signal weakens, construction proceeded west. By 1911, the network stretched as far as Denver, but had reached the distance limit for loading coils.

In 1908, AT&T President Theodore Vail had made a transcontinental telephone line a major goal, even though he knew the technology to build one did not exist. The next year, Chief Engineer John J. Carty raised the stakes when he announced in San Francisco that AT&T would open a transcontinental line in time for the city's 1915 exposition to mark the completion of the Panama Canal.

But, without a scientific breakthrough, AT&T couldn't make good on that bet. To improve the company's odds, Carty not only hired physicist Dr. Harold Arnold to study the amplification of electrical signals, he also spread the word in the scientific and electrical-engineering community that AT&T would pay handsomely for an electrical amplifying device.

With the development of vacuum tube amplifiers, it was possible to extend the New York-Denver circuit to San Francisco.

On Oct. 30, 1912, independent inventor Dr. Lee de Forest brought the audion, a three-element vacuum tube, to AT&T's engineering department. De Forest's invention provided a small amount of amplification, and then broke down into a bright blue haze. However, Arnold recognized almost immediately that the blue haze was caused by ionization of residual gasses in the tube. If he increased the vacuum, thereby removing most of the

residual gasses, the audion would become a practical amplifier. So on Arnold's recommendation, AT&T bought the patent rights from de Forest.

By summer 1913, AT&T had tested high-vacuum tubes on the long distance network. And that fall, the company began constructing the line west from Denver and upgrading the line to the east. On June 27, 1914, AT&T completed the line, erecting the last pole at Wendover, Utah.

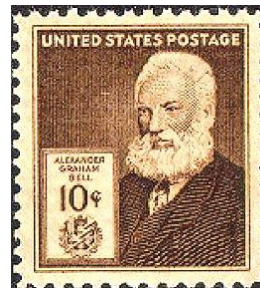
Only one problem remained: AT&T had connected the continent before the Panama-Pacific exposition was ready. So the company waited, and on Jan. 25, 1915, opened the line with great fanfare and celebrations in San Francisco and New York.

25 January 1915: The first transcontinental (coast-to-coast) telephone call (3600 miles), with Thomas Augustus Watson at 333 Grant Avenue in San Francisco receiving a call from Alexander Graham Bell at 15 Dey Street in New York City, facilitated by a newly invented vacuum tube amplifier.



**ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL
MAKING THE CALL FROM
NEW YORK TO SAN
FRANCISCO**

**(no texting, tweeting or
e-mailing here)**



**1940 ALEXANDER
GRAHAM BELL -
FAMOUS AMERICANS
ISSUE (Scott #893)**

Alexander Graham Bell, in New York City, repeated his famous statement "Mr. Watson, come here. I want you," into the telephone, which was heard by his assistant Dr. Watson in San Francisco, for a long distance call of 3,400 miles. Dr. Watson replied, "It will take me five days to get there now!" The Alexander Graham Bell call officially initiated AT&T's transcontinental service. The phone call was merely symbolic.

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WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB - JANUARY, 2015

OFFICERS / ADDRESS / WHEN WE MEET

President: Andy Novotny
(email: novoand@hotmail.com)

Vice-President: Laura Kaczynski
(email: laurakac13@verizon.net)

Secretary: Tom Reiff **Treasurer:** Danielle Weaver

MAILING ADDRESS: Wilkinsburg Stamp Club
P.O. Box 10552
Pittsburgh, PA 15235-0552

We meet on the second and fourth Sunday (except holidays and fourth Sunday in June, July and August) of each month. Meetings are from 12:30 P.M. until close of business, with the business meeting at 2:00 P.M. Meeting at the Churchill Borough Building, 2300 William Penn Hwy, Churchill, PA 15235.

DUES ARE ONLY \$8.00 PER YEAR (JULY-JUNE)

Newsletter Editor: Tom Reiff
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THE EDITOR WRITES...

Wishing everyone a prosperous and healthy New Year. May 2015 find you still enjoying your collecting activities and finding that elusive item.

If at all possible try and come to one of our meetings and of course visit WILKPEX 2015 being held on April 18th and 19th.



**USS XENIA (AKA-51) COMMISSIONED 28-JULY 1945
DECOMMISSIONED 13 MAY 1946 (9 MONTHS LATER)
U.S. NAVY JAN 1, 1946 16016 BR. POSTMARK**

JANUARY, 2015 MEETING DATES

January 11th and January 25th

On January 25th an AUCTION is scheduled after the meeting. Bring your auction lots. You will receive 100% of the price.

******* PLEASE JOIN US *******

This newsletter is published ten times per year. Eight issues are published monthly for the months of January, February, March, April, September, October, November and December. For the months of May through August, two issues are published, one for the months of MAY-JUNE and one for the months of JULY-AUGUST.

****** OUR FISCAL YEAR IS JULY 1 – JUNE 30 ******

CLUB NEWS

ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY HELD: The Club annual Christmas Party was held on December 14, 2014. It was attended by 20+ people including members and their guests. There was plenty of food. Thanks to all who brought in food.

Tom Reiff conducted his annual philatelic trivia contest. This year it was a list of 15 people that have stamps that were issued by the United States stamps where their name we know them by have a different "birth" name. You had to choose the correct one from three choices. We had to go to the tie-breakers and the winner was Dian Bujdos, wife of member Gene Bujdos. Dian had 13 of 15 and both tie breakers correct. **CONGRATULATIONS DIAN!**

After the contest was over, Tom told the group that all of the "wrong" answers were names of students (seniors) from his high school year book.

**PLEASE SEE PHOTOS TAKEN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY ON PAGE 3 OF THIS NEWSLETTER.
(Photos courtesy of Dawn Richards)**

LINN'S STAMP POLL: Linn's Stamp News has announced its 2014 U.S. Stamp Popularity Poll. You can view the current leaders and cast your ballot online at: <http://www.linns.com/poll/default.aspx>
Voting will continue until March 3, 2015.



ANDY NOVOTNY & TOM REIFF GETTING THE TV SET UP FOR THE PITTSBURGH STEELERS GAME

Photos from the Christmas Party, held on Sunday, December 14th

Photos include members and non-members

(SORRY IF SOME THAT ATTENDED ARE NOT SHOWN)

A GREAT TIME WAS ENJOYED BY ALL

Photos courtesy of member Dawn Richards who took many photos. THANK YOU DAWN!



CHRISTMAS PARTY - THE MAIN FOOD BUFFET
Thanks to all who brought food and desserts



CHRISTMAS PARTY – TIME TO CHOW DOWN
David Albert, Danielle Weaver, Laura Kaczynski



CHRISTMAS PARTY – EVERYONE IS PRETTY FULL
Most of the attendees are in this “group shot”



CHRISTMAS PARTY – TRIVIA CONTEST WINNERS
Dian Bujdos (2014) and Marty Cooper (2012 & 2013)

WILKINSBURG STAMP CLUB – JANUARY, 2015

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Upcoming
Stamp, Postcard and Collectible Shows

STAMP SHOW - January 23-24 -
YORK, PA - York County Stamp Show White Rose Philatelic Society of York, York Fairgrounds, Horticulture Hall, 334 Carlisle Avenue.

STAMP SHOW – January 18 – **CRANBERRY, PA**, Four Points Sheraton, Cranberry, PA. 10AM – 4PM FREE

STAMP SHOW – February 15 – **HUDSON, OHIO** - Hudson Stamp Bourse Lincolnway Stamps, Clarion Inn, 6625 Dean Memorial Parkway.

STAMP SHOW – February 21, 2015 - **PITTSBURGH, PA** - K2 Collectibles (Kevin Kellman)– Masonic Temple (Hall), Lower Level, 9521 Saltsburg Road, Plum Boro, PA 15239. *** THIS IS A NEW SHOW IN THE PITTSBURGH AREA ***

STAMP SHOW - March 7-8 - **NORTH CANTON, OHIO** - McKinley Stamp Show McKinley Stamp Club, St. George Serbian Orthodox Social Hall, 4667 Applegrove St., NW

STAMP SHOW – March 19-21 – **CLEVELAND, OHIO** – Garfield Perry March Party – 122nd Annual Stamp Exhibition & Bourse. La Villa Conference and Banquet Center, 11500 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, Ohio 44130.

POSTCARD & PAPER SHOW – April 11 – **PITTSBURGH, PA** - Three Rivers Postcard Club, Fairhaven United Methodist Church, 2415 Saw Mill Run Blvd. (Route 51), Pittsburgh, PA 15234. 9AM – 4PM Admission \$2.00

STAMP SHOW – April 18-19 – **MONROEVILLE, PA** - WILKPEX Wilkinsburg Stamp Club, Gateway Firehall, 4370 Northern Pike, Monroeville, Pennsylvania 15146. Saturday 10AM – 4PM; Sunday 10AM – 3PM Special Cachet, Special Cancel. Admission FREE

STAMP SHOW – May 8-9 – **BUTLER, PA** – BUTLERPEX Butler County Philatelic Society, Tanglewood Senior Center, 10 Austin Avenue, Lyndora, PA. Friday 10AM – 5PM; Saturday 10AM – 4PM Admission FREE

ATTEND A SHOW – FIND A TREASURE

PITTSBURGH AREA STAMP CLUB WEBSITES

Here are some interesting Internet Web Sites. Once you access this URL, you may be able to navigate to other parts of the web site.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY PHILATELIC SOCIETY
<http://www.muleshoepa.com/WCPS/WCPS.HTM>

PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF PITTSBURGH
<http://www.presidentdrive.com>

50 YEARS AGO – JANUARY 1965



1999 ROCK 'N' ROLL



1974 ISLE OF MAN



1969 U.S.A.



1965 CANADA

HISTORICAL FACTS WITH PHILATELIC CONNECTIONS OVER THE YEARS, STAMPS HAVE BEEN ISSUED FOR ROCK 'N ROLL, WINSTON CHURCHILL, FOOTBALL AND THE CANADIAN FLAG

JANUARY 20, 1965 - Albert James "Alan" Freed dies. He became internationally known for promoting the mix of blues, country and rhythm and blues music on the radio in the United States and Europe under the name of rock and roll. (Rock 'n' Roll.)

JANUARY 24, 1965 - Sir Winston Churchill dies at the age of 90 with his wife Lady Clementine Churchill and other members of the family at his bedside.

JANUARY 26, 1965 - Merrill DuAine Hoge is born. A former professional football player, he played eight seasons at running back for the NFL's Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears, retiring after the 1994 season. Since 1996 he has been a football analyst for ESPN television.

JANUARY 28, 1965 - Elizabeth II, Queen of Canada, proclaims the new flag of Canada. It was inaugurated on February 15, 1965 at an official ceremony held on Parliament Hill in Ottawa.