

63rd WESTPEX Set for April 28-30

The sixty-third annual WESTPEX show will be held April 28-30 at the San Francisco Airport Marriott Waterfront Hotel, 1800 Old Bayshore Highway, Burlingame, CA, just a mile south of the San Francisco International Airport. Show hours are Friday and Saturday, April 28-29, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., and Sunday, April 30, 10 to 4.

The show's bourse will include more than 60 national and international dealers in stamps, postal history and stationery and supplies, filling the bourse with items desired by general collectors, specialists and exhibitors. The show will once again have a large four day auction by Schuyler Rumsey Auctions with a large number of lots ranging from single items to large collections which will be available for pre-auction viewing.

This is a World Series of Philately exhibition with the Grand Award winner eligible at the next Great American Stamp Show, to be held in Cleveland, Ohio, this August. The open exhibition will feature more than 250 frames of exhibits.

Specialty societies, clubs, and study groups holding meetings and seminars during the show include the United States Philatelic Classics Society, Scandinavian Collectors Club, Polonus Polish Philatelic Society and the American Philatelic Society with a Town Hall Meeting.

There is a WESTPEX sponsored Youth Area with free stamps and supplies for young collectors. On Sunday, April 30th, a Boy Scout Merit Badge program is scheduled.

Continuing the tradition of a local show theme, WESTPEX 2023 will be celebrating the 150th Anniversary of the Cable Car. WESTPEX will offer a special Cinderella souvenir sheet as well as cachet covers.

You will not want to miss this 63rd annual WESTPEX Stamp Show. Complete show details, reservations, schedules, and theme story are available at www.westpex.org.

'Climbing Halfway To The Stars'

"If It Pleases Providence To Make A Car Run Up and Down A Slit In The Ground For Many Miles, and If For Two-Pence [Five Cents] I Can Ride In That Car, Why Shall I Seek The Reasons Of The Miracle?"

—Rudyard Kipling



The famous 19th Century British author gave his impression and observation, and his admiration has been echoed for 150 years about the famous, unique, and beloved San Francisco Cable Cars, which in 2023 commemorates its Sesquicentennial.

Using a technology traced to the 1870s and having battled the forces of supposed modern transit means, Cable Cars are enshrined in San Francisco and loved by others, around our entire world. These wooden trams, unchanged in design and function for over a century, daily attract lines of eager tourists and downtown office workers, jumping on, and as Kipling stated, not questioning the miracle.

Traced to a tragic accident of a horse-drawn streetcar, as legend has it, at the corner of Stockton and Jackson, Andrew Smith Hallidie (1835–1900) applied his engineering expertise and his business of steel ropes and cables, creating and inventing the grip, the shank and slit, and

the powerhouse to generate power to move the long cables over San Francisco's famous hills.

The first transit was on Clay Street August 1, 1873, with a descent of three hundred (300') feet. Hallidie took the grip and began the descent with the first cable car overloaded with enthusiasts. It Worked. The Clay Street Hill Railroad Company, long-gone, sparked others, and at the height of the cable car transit, in the 1890s, there were nine cable car lines. Sadly, the 1906 Earthquake and Fire demolished most, along with the misguided claims of progress and its gasoline buses.

Today, thanks to the vigilant and hard-won diligence of a few individuals, initiated by socialite Friedel Klussman (1896-1986), two lines remain: Powell and California Streets. Any attempt to alter or to eliminate these beloved Cable Cars would spark an outcry and a revolution.

For philatelists, the Market Street Line and other Lines had cable car post offices and mail cars, some with unique cancellations, taking mail from the outer neighborhoods to the Ferry Building at the foot of Market Street.

Cable Cars are San Francisco. As others have

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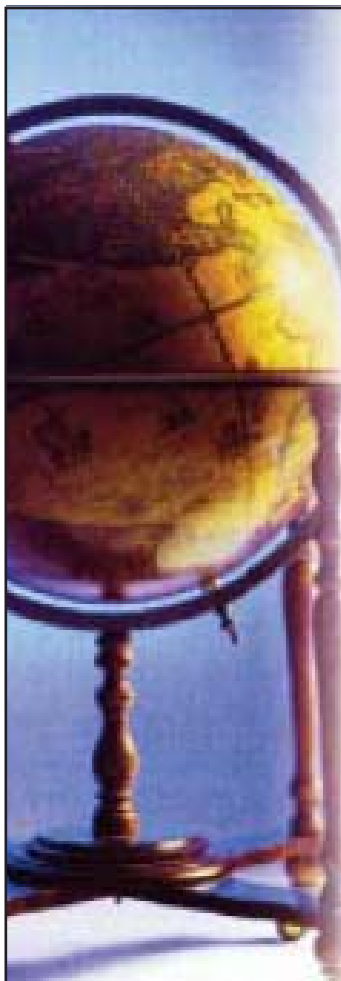
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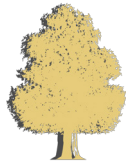


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