

SAN RAMON VALLEY

GENEALOGICAL

SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 305
Diablo, CA 94528-8305

President: Shirley Terry
Editor: Betty Vail

Meetings: 10:00 a.m.
3rd Tuesday of month
(except August & December)
Golden State Rehabilitation Hospital
7777 Norris Canyon Road
San Ramon, California

Vol. XIII, No. 2

July/August 1997

THIS MONTH

DON'T LET YOUR HEIRLOOMS END UP IN AN ANTIQUE STORE. The following members will share family heirlooms from an Indian peace pipe to a mysterious engraving on family silver: Pat Saltgiver, Winston Kynett, Millicent Evans, Margarete Koenig, Theron Nelson, Janet Koupal, Ed O'Donnell, Lois Taylor, Millie Freitas, Irma Dotson, Jim Dotson, Diana Hitchcock, Barbara Culberson, Ardith Stegner, and Shirley Terry.



LAST MONTH

Reported by Fran and Bob Schweitzer

Have you ever thought about the living conditions of your ancestors in the middle of the 19th century, or what transportation they took to go from the east coast to the west coast, or why they even wanted to come west? To answer some of these questions Joan and Don Kutz, dressed in 1850 period clothes, presented an interactive program which they designed for the fourth graders of the San Ramon school district.

After reviewing a few historical people and dates regarding the Gold Rush of 1848, Joan and Don explained how the news of "gold in them thar hills" excited easterners with the prospect of becoming rich and prompted them to begin the trek to the West.

They compared living conditions in the East to those in the West. For example, easterners had central heating, street lights, gas and oil lamps, and cast-iron cooking stoves, while westerners had candles and a fireplace for both heating and cooking. Easterners could communicate

with telegraph lines while the westerners had to rely on horses. In those days it took six months to get a letter from the west coast to the east coast.

How did they reach the western gold fields? The iron horse went as far as Missouri and from there the pioneers had to rely on covered wagons. If they were rich, they could take passage on a ship around Cape Hope for \$300 per person. Both methods of travel took six months and generally began in April to take advantage of weather conditions.

The audience participated in a contest to see which group could reach California first, those "traveling" by covered wagon or those "sailing" around the Horn. Don and Joan cleverly configured a game involving cards that revealed the hardships and delays encountered on the way. The covered wagon won this day.

Don and Joan also displayed artifacts of the 1850's when California became a state.

We were thankful that we do not have to endure the hardships of our ancestors.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY



SRVGS EVENTS

15 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m. General Meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Rd., DON'T LET YOUR HEIRLOOMS END UP IN AN ANTIQUE STORE.

21 MONDAY - 9:00 a.m. Library Trip to Solano. (Details on page 12.)

OTHER EVENTS

11-12 FRIDAY-SATURDAY - American Heritage Conference. Details in June newsletter.

23-27 WEDNESDAY-SUNDAY - AMERICAN HISTORICAL SOC GERMANS FROM RUSSIA, Golden Gate Chapter and the CA District Council 29th International Convention, Hyatt Hotel, 1740 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112. (408) 993-1234.

22 TUESDAY - 10:00 a.m., Carlsbad City Council Chambers, 1200 Carlsbad Village Drive. N. SAN DIEGO CO GEN SOC presents Wendy Elliott on HOW TO KEEP PUBLIC RECORDS OPEN. Contact Everett Ireland, PO Box 500407, San Diego CA 92150-0407.



AUGUST

SRVGS EVENTS

No General Meeting, Library Trip or Newsletter this month!

OTHER EVENTS

14 THURSDAY - 7:30 p.m., Contra Costa Gen Soc. Community Meeting room in the Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo St., Concord. SHARE YOUR RESOURCES.

21-23 THURSDAY-SATURDAY - 10th Annual Seminar of the British Isles Family History Society of the USA to be held at the Los Angeles FHC, 10741 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles (in the basement of the Visitors Center, behind the LDS Temple). For more information call Annie Lloyd at (310) 398-3924.

SEPTEMBER



SRVGS EVENTS

7 TUESDAY - Board meeting at Fran Lloyd's, 210 Town & County, Danville.

21 TUESDAY - General meeting, 7777 Norris Canyon Road, San Ramon. Bette Kot on LEARNING YOUR WAY AROUND SUTRO.

28 TUESDAY - Library trip to Sutro.

OTHER EVENTS

3-6 WEDNESDAY-SATURDAY - Federation of Genealogical Societies Conference. "Unlock Your Heritage with Creative Problem Solving." Details in June newsletter.

20 SATURDAY - Livermore-Amador Genealogical Society annual Conference, Pleaston.

OFFICERS to Contact

President: Shirley Terry 829-1433

Vice Pres.: Carol Glover 829-7207

Membership: Patty Erickson

229-0889

10 Ridge Pl.

Pleasant Hill, CA 94523-1609

Annual dues: Individual \$15

Family: \$20

Membership year: June 1 to May 31

NEWSLETTER

Editor: Betty Vail 283-3596

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The newsletter is published each month except August and December.

THE FEDERATION OF GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES

Why have more than 50 societies nationwide, representing approximately 170,000 individuals, joined forces?

Simply, our issues and areas of concern should to be heard at the national level. And secondly, no one wants to learn the painful lessons of ineffective society management when there are a host of experts more than willing to share their experience and expertise. The officers and members of the Federation's board of directors have collectively served

in every capacity or office a society has to offer. They understand the problems, issues, and concerns of society management.

Smaller, individual societies can accomplish things that the Federation cannot do, but the Federation has the power to represent tens of thousands of genealogists on local, state, and national issues critical to each of us.

"Together, we can (and will) make a difference!" says FGS President David E. Rencher. (FGS Forum, Vol. 9, No. 1, Spring 1997)

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

GERMAN * No meetings at present.

SOUTHERN - There will be no meetings until September. Meeting to be announced.

IRISH - Will meet at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, September 10, at Patty Erickson's, 10 Ridge Pl., Pleasant Hill.

CALIFORNIA - Will meet with the Irish group.

MAC COMPUTER - Will meet at 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 16, at Barbara Dittig's, 366 Jacaranda Dr., Danville.

PUBLISHING - Meets when needed. If you would like help with a publishing project, call Jane Steiner at 283-0867.

ROOTS USERS - Official Comsoft Roots III/IV users will meet in room AB, 7777 Norris Canyon Road Tuesday following the general meeting. Come hear about the Ultimate Family Tree.

MIDWEST - No August meeting. Call Louise Ford (376-4587) for the date of the next meeting.

INTERNET - Needs leader. No meetings until September.

REVIEW

THE FRANK SMITH PROJECT - INVENTORY OF GENEALOGICAL SOURCES for the BRITISH ISLES: England, FHL #6110526 (96 fiche); Ireland, #6110527 (18 fiche); Scotland #6110528 (18 fiche); Wales #6110529 (14 fiche).

The project is named for the man who saw the need for more detailed information on the British collections at the Family History Library and who saw it through to completion after 10 years of work by thousands of volunteers. The FHL catalog gives only brief descriptions of what you can find in books hidden within printed (and sometimes unpublished) material.

Most of these sources are not well known to amateur genealogists and might be overlooked. The fiche listed above provide a subject listing by countries, followed by a range of years, then a reference for locating the information. In some cases where the reference is to material not at the FHL, the libraries are listed. FHL numbers are given for items available on loan to local Family History Centers.

If you think you have exhausted all the usual sources (census, vital records, etc.) this is the place to look for the "next step." It would be an excellent place to start when preparing to visit the FHL in Salt Lake.

The Family History Center on Stone Valley Road in Alamo now has the fiche for England. The others are on order and should be added in the next couple of months.

Reminder: the Family History Centers have PERSI (Periodical Source Index) from the Allen Co. Public Library, Ft. Wayne, IN. It's in the microfiche collection.

— Dorothy Stanton

PERSONAL NAME INDEX TO THE NEW YORK TIMES

Indices to the New York Times can lead you to the death notices, obituaries, marriages, and other articles. The first set of surname index volumes covers the period 1851-1974. The second set covers 1975-1993. Notice that these indices do not cover obituary or marriage notices unless an article about the event was published.

The surname and subject indices are found on the same set of shelves on the 5th floor of the new San Francisco Main Library. Microfilm copies of the New York Times are stored in the same area.

(The Livermore Roots Tracer, Vol. XVI, No. 2, April 1997.)

LDS RELEASES NEW VERSION FOR COMPUTERS

A new DOS version of Personal Ancestral File 3.0, the computer program that helps compile and organize family history information, has just been released, according to the Family History Department of the Church.

Users of the new release can update and use data from the previous versions of Personal Ancestral File.

Personal Ancestral File 3.0 is available from the Salt Lake Distribution Center or a local Church distribution center for \$15 — the same for registered, non-registered and first-time users. The package contains the software on 3.5-inch and 5.25-inch high-density diskettes, the *Personal Ancestral File 3.0 User's Guide*, an order form for software on low-density diskettes (if needed), and the *Getting Started*, manual.

(LDS Church News • Week Ending June 7, 1997-13.)

SRVGS NEWS



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Summer generally means visiting relatives and a few planned or impromptu family reunions. We hope you are prepared to take advantage of these opportunities to exchange family stories and information. Don't forget the children. Pedigree charts and old family pictures, maybe of children in old-fashioned clothing, might plant a seed of interest in family history that will stay with them and produce future genealogists.

Some of our new members will be sharing their family heirlooms at the July 15 meeting. We hope the handout we've prepared will give us all the inspiration to make some kind of record of the heirlooms in our own home. If you're like me, you have dozens of objects entrusted to your care. The family historian is often the recipient of more than a fair share of family heirlooms simply because older relatives believe that we are more likely to appreciate and care for them and keep them in the family. We must live up to that expectation.

If you have any suggestions for me as president, or for our society as a whole, please call or send an E-mail message at shirley@tdl.com. With our increasing membership and all the necessary details of our general meetings, it is impossible for me to talk at length with any one person. Please feel free to voice your concerns to me or any other board member. It is your society. I urge you to get involved in interest groups and to take advantage of our library trips. They are set up for the benefit of all our members.

There will be no SRVGS meetings and newsletter in August. September is really the beginning of our year in many ways. We come back from summer trips and activities ready to jump back into our research with enthusiasm. This summer has been especially hectic for me trying to get ready for my dad's 80th birthday, our youngest daughter's wedding, and our 40th wedding anniversary.

— Shirley Siems Terry

STOP

* * *

WARNING

Victoria DaRoza warns against submitting names to Shirley C McQuillin who advertises that she will research genealogy and local history in PA. Victoria submitted two names and for \$25 received a letter saying that the names of her ancestors were not among the 25,000 names in McQuillin's database.

JULY LIBRARY TRIP

On Monday, July 21, we will visit the Solano Library in Vacaville. As usual we will meet at 9:00 p.m. in the back parking lot of the Danville Lucky store on Diablo Road and in the upper parking lot of the Orchard Nursery in Lafayette.



LIBRARY BOOKS

The following books have been purchased by the society and should be on our shelves in the Danville library soon.

- **Producing a Quality Family History.** Patricia Law Hatcher, CG. Ancestry Inc. 1996.
- **The Library: A guide to the LDS Family History Center Library.** John Cerny & Wendy Elliot, Ed. Ancestry Inc. 1988.
- **The Source (Revised Edition).** Loretto Dennis Seucs & Sandra Hargreaves Luecking. Ancestry Inc. 1997.
- **The Library of Congress: a Guide to Genealogical and Historical Research.** James C. Neagles (Assisted by Mark C. Neagles). Ancestry Inc. 1990.
- **Address Book for Germanic Genealogy, Sixth Edition.** Ernest Thode. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1997.
- **German-English Genealogical Dictionary.** Ernest Thode. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1992.
- **Ireland: A Genealogical Guide for North Americans.** Third Edition. Kyle J. Betit & Dwight A. Radford. The Irish at Home and Abroad. 1996.
- **Finding Italian Roots.** John Philip Colletta, PhD. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1996.
- **Guide to the Draper Manuscripts.** Josephine I. Harper. State Historical Society of Wisconsin. 1983.
- **Pioneer Ohio Newspapers, 1793-1810.** Karen Mauer Green. The Frontier Press. Galveston. 1986.
- **Ancestral Roots of Sixty Colonists, Sixth Edition.** Frederick Lewis Weis. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.
- **Who's Who in Genealogy & Heraldry, 1990.** Mary Keysor Meyer & P. William Filby, Ed. Who's who in Genealogy & Heraldry. 1990.
- **The Netherland Roots.** Gwenn F. Epperson. Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc. 1994.
- **North Carolina Research: Genealogy and Local History.** Helen F. M. Leary and Maurice R. Stirewalt, Ed. The North Carolina Genealogical Society, Raleigh, N.C., 1980.

RESEARCHING ACROSS THE UNITED STATES



● HELP FROM THE CENSUS BUREAU:

The Census Bureau will assist researchers in obtaining census records from the 1930-1990 Federal returns for any person for whom you can supply proof of death. "Age Search" will, for \$25, search any two census records. The search is limited to the person for whom you are requesting information, but you may ask for other family members to be included for a \$2 per person fee. The full line of information from the census return will be provided with payment of a \$6 fee. The basic fee includes an official document stating the person's name, age, place of birth, citizenship and relationship to the head of household. Form BC-600, which is required, may be obtained from any local Social Security office or by writing: Bureau of the Census, "Age Search", PO Box 1545, Jeffersonville, IN 47131.

(Odom Family Tree, June/July 1997.)

● CALIFORNIA: The Alliance's newest publication, 1997 *California Family Researcher's Directory*, compiled by Barbara Edkin, is an invaluable resource for research on California families that includes names, addresses, contact names and numbers, library data, and other details for an impressive list of organizations and libraries which have historical and/or genealogical interest. \$15 plus shipping and handling for members. \$25 plus shipping and handling for non-members. Contact Barbara Edkin at (510) 623-0601, Wendy Elliott at (714) 993-1168 or Frances Lloyd, PO Box 311, Danville, CA 94526-0311.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 6, June 1997.)

● CALIFORNIA: George Anderson, a member of L-AGS, has two old books of the history of Contra Costa County that contain a number of family biographies and is willing to look up information for researchers as long as the number of request doesn't get out of hand. The books are *History of the State of California and Biographical Records of Coast Counties*, California Prof. J. M. Guinn, The Chapman Publishing Company, 1904 and *History of Contra Costa County, California with Biographical Sketches*, Historic Record Company, 1926.

Send your request to:

George W. Anderson, Jr.
635 Oak Circle
Pleasanton, CA 94566

or E-mail him at

gwa@ccnet.com

● ILLINOIS: The state of Illinois Historical Library will look up and copy obituaries for 25 cents each. Send a SASE along with the deceased person's name, date of death and county where lived and buried to: The Illinois State Historical Library, Old Capital, Springfield, IL 62706.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 4, April 1997.)

IOWA: A map locating 66 extant cemeteries of Jasper county may be obtained by sending a self-addressed, legal size envelope to the Jasper County Cemetery Commission, PO Box 944, Newton, IA 50208. The cemeteries contain over 40,000 burials, the earliest for which a stone has been found being 1846. Information on specific cemeteries may be obtained from John Dahler of the Jasper County Genealogical Society, PO Box 163, Newton, IA 50208.

(CCCGS newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 1, January 1997.)

● VIRGINIA:: Library of Virginia Digital Collection. The VA Archives and Manuscripts Database includes approximately 8,000 catalog records for most materials received since the late 1980's.

Records may be found for the following types of documents: Bible records, genealogical notes and charts, personal papers, local government records, state government records, church records, cemetery records, business records, military records, organization records, and maps and plans.

The "Research Land Information Resources" are on the Library of Virginia Home Page

<http://leo.vsla.edu>

provides a link to the Digital Library site

<http://leo.vsla.edu/lva.lva.html>

(For more information see the CCC Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol. 12, No. 3, May 1997, page 31.)

● LITURGY TO DISPEL ANGER TOWARD COMPUTERS

I am human, you are machine. My race created you to make our lives easier. Without me you are nothing. Without input, which I give you, you can not exist. You will obey me. You will turn my ideas into stunningly beautiful documents which will best display my talents. I am your master.

(SMCGS News, Vol: 15-5, May 1997.)

FOREIGN RESEARCH TIPS



● **EASTERN EUROPEAN RESOURCES:** If you are doing Eastern European research, take a look at the new listing that has been put together for Eastern European resources. It is located in the Collection Resource binder next to the new book shelf (in the Santa Clara County Library genealogy room).

(SCCHGS Newsletter, Volume 2, Issue 6, June 1997)

● **IRELAND — TWO TIPS FOR RESEARCHING IN IRELAND:**

If you are researching Irish heritage, you simply must subscribe to *The Irish at Home and Abroad*. This publication is chock full of information, facts, interesting stories and research hints. Write PO Box 521896, Salt Lake City, UT 84152.

You may use a computer and modem to search the member database of the North of Ireland Family History Society. Try this address:

<http://www.os.qub.ac.uk/egi-bin/my-query>

The group is located at the Queens University, Belfast, Ireland.

(Odom Family Tree, Aug./Sept. 1996.)

● **MEXICO:** If your ancestor came from Mexico, you are lucky. Mexico possesses extensive records and a wealth of other information. Your quest should prove to be relatively fruitful once you have taken a few basic steps before you charge out into the unknown.

1. Gather the basic information on the individual you wish to find.
2. Use the resources available to you in your area.
3. Read George Ryskamp's book *Tracing Your Hispanic Heritage*.
4. Check the Family History Center of the Mormon Church. The Church possesses a great deal of information on Mexico in microfilm form which can be ordered and rented for a fee.
5. It is possible to request records from all the county records offices (registro civil) as long as you send in the fee — generally 5 US dollars. Again you will need to send the basic information for identification. Churches will also respond. The fees are about the same as for civil records. The following are some addresses where you can request records:

Palacio del Poder Ejecutivo
Plaza de Armas
Zacatecas, Zacatecas, Mexico 98009
(Fee US \$5.00)

Direccion del Registro Civil
Palacio de Gobierno
Av. Juarez y 5 de Mayo
Cd. Victoria, Tamaulipas, Mexico 87009
(Fee: US \$5.00)

Elsa de Valle or Dr. Carlos Valdez Director
Archivo Municipal de Saltillo
Juarez y Leona Vicario S/N
CP25000 Saltillo, Coahuila, Mexico
Ph:011-52-84-14-43-70
FAX" 011-52-84-14-02-84
(Fee: US \$5.00)

National Archives of Mexico
Archio General de la Nacion
Tacuba 8, 2° piso
Palacio Nacional Apdo. 1999
Mexico 1, Mexico
(Fee not given)

If you go to Mexico to do your research in person, don't forget to check the Guia Roji, the best road atlas in Mexico. It is published every year and is very detailed.

(El Paso Genealogical Society newsletter, Vol. XXVI, No. 2, June 1997.)

● **SCOTLAND:** Americans eager to discover their Scots roots will soon be able to trace their ancestor from the comfort of their homes through the Internet. Staff at New Register House, Edinburgh, where the details of all births, marriages and deaths of everyone in Scotland are kept, say they are constantly besieged by tourists wishing to trace the Scottish side of their family trees. That there are a limited number of public access seats to the records means many Scots are unable to carry out searches because of the number of tourists using the files. Computer experts have been hired to make details of all births, deaths and marriages in Scotland accessible via the Internet. People will be charged for subsequent search and it is hoped the scheme will prove to be "very profitable." Initially only details of births, marriages and death certificates from the years 1853 to 1896 will be available. However, plans are under way to have all parish registers between 1553 and 1854 added, along with census details from 1891 and 1881. The new web site is expected to be up and running by September.

(From the Glasgow Herald, June 23, 1997 via Compulink Information exchange on the Internet.)

MORE RESEARCH TIPS

FINDING THE MISSING LETTERS ...

Have you ever had a word in an old document that you can only make out a few letters? The electronic Spell Checker was designed for crossword puzzle users to figure out the answers with only a few known letters. There are several versions on the market and they all have different functions. Make sure you buy one that allows for a search based on a **series of missing letters**. It works like this:

You key in: It displays these possibilities

EXEC*X	EXECUTRIX
WITN*S	WITNESS, WITNESSES
GR*T	GRANT, GRANDPARENT

The asterisk is placed in the word search where the missing series of letters should be. The character is different on every machine. It will display all possibilities for you to look up in your *A to Zax* or *Black's Law Dictionary* to determine which one is correct.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 1, Jan 1997)



WORLD WAR II ORPHANS

Children of soldiers who died in World War II have formed a society called the American WWII Orphans Network. If you are interested in this organization, write: WWII Orphans Network, P.O. Box 4369, Bellington, WA 98227-4369.

(CSGA Newsletter, Vol. 15, No. 4, April 1979.)

FINDING YOUR ROOTS VIA CYBERSPACE

Genealogy can be enormously fascinating, but serious research has traditionally required a lot of legwork, time and money.

But the Internet makes it possible for just about anyone to research his/her family history. Even beginners can make real progress tracing their family lines by using this suggested technique:

- Netscape search engine Infoseek search on "genealogy."
 - Genealogy Home page:
www.genhome.com
 - Rootsworld page:
www.rootsworld.com
 - Surname search.
 - E-mail to several researchers requesting more information.
 - Telephone interviews and letters.
 - Hard copy information requests.
- (The Rotarian, March, 1997)

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS OPENS RENOVATED JEFFERSON BUILDING

The Thomas Jefferson Building (home of the Library of Congress) has been undergoing an \$81.5 million restoration and modification since 1980.

The ...restoration will enable visitor to see artistic and architectural features — marble arches, sweeping staircases, the stained glass roof. . .

(The Sun in Carroll, May 4, 1997)

ALERT TO ALL GENEALOGISTS

There is a problem for researchers at the Library of Congress which is getting progressively worse. Because of lack of funds, fifty per cent of the microfilm readers and printers in the research rooms are out of order.

A letter to Senator John Warner, chairman of the committee on the Library, as well as your local representative and senator will help the committee to recognize that a problem exists and lead to a resolution of the situation. Please write today:

Senator Warner's address is:

John W. Warner
US Senate #225 Russell Senate Bldg.
Washington DC 20510
Phone (202) 224-2023

(National Genealogical Society
(May/June 1997)

BILL WOULD CURB USE OF GENETIC DATA

Genetic information, such as the risk of hereditary diseases, couldn't be used against you by health insurers under a bill that passed its final reading in the Hawaii State Senate.

A federal law, which was originally intended to do the same thing, left out the language dealing with genetic information.

If it is not vetoed, Hawaii will be the 18th state to enact such a law. The bill's scope is limited to health insurance and excludes long-term care, life and disability insurance.

The subject of genetics is of great interest to genealogists, naturally. We family history researchers are waiting with interest as advances are made in the area of genetic research and the use of such information.

Where does your state stand and what should we ask of the federal government?
(Pomona Valley Genealogical Society newsletter, May 1997.)

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

I AM....

Many many years ago when I was twenty three,
I got married to a widow who was pretty as could be.

This widow had a grown-up daughter
Who had hair of red.

My father fell in love with her,
And soon the two were wed.

This made my dad my son-in-law
And changed my very life.
My daughter was my mother,
For she was my father's wife.

To complicate the matters worse,
Although it brought me joy,
I soon became the father
Of a bouncing baby boy.

My little baby then became
A brother-in-law to dad.
And so became my uncle,
Though it made me very sad.

For if he was my uncle,
Then that also made him brother
To the widow's grown-up daughter
Who, of course, was my step-mother.

Father's wife then had a son,
Who kept them on the run.
And he became my grandson,
For he was my daughter's son.

My wife is now my mother's mother
And it makes me blue.
Because, although she is my wife,
She's my grandmother too.

If my wife is my grandmother,
Then I am her grandchild.
And every time I think of it,
It simply drives me wild.

For now I have become
The strangest case you ever saw.
As the husband of my grandmother,
I am my own grandpa!

(From the Internet. Contributed by Jack Johnson.)

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FIRST CLASS MAIL