



Stamps

by Larry McInnis

Z-Grill Stamp Brings 300% Profit To Owner

There's an old saying that money makes money. That was certainly the case for Jerry Buss of Los Angeles, who sold one stamp — that's right, a single stamp — for nearly half a million dollars in early November.

Buss put the stamp in an auction conducted by the Superior Stamp & Coin Co. Inc. of Beverly Hills, Calif. He had bought the stamp in 1977 for \$90,000. When the

hammer fell in 1986, it went for \$390,000, a profit of more than 300 per cent!

To make that more understandable to poor folks like us, to achieve the same return Buss would have had to deposit that \$90,000 in a bank in 1977 at an annual interest rate between 18 and 19 per cent each and every year, leaving the interest to compound till now.

My calculator blew up

when I tried to figure a more exact rate, but it doesn't matter, we all know what banks and trust companies have been paying for the past half-dozen years.

That's the financial success story for Jerry Buss. It's a phenomenal success story for the philatelic market. It's a rare case that a stamp sold today brings in anywhere near the price of a decade ago.

There's something else interesting in this sale, too: no one knew who owned the stamp until it was sold.

First, the stamp. It's a 1-cent blue known as a "Z" grill.

Grills were the patented idea of one Charles F. Steel

designed to make life difficult for counterfeiters and those who would remove postmarks to re-use stamps. After the stamps were printed, they were processed like waffles, with a design pressed into them. The paper fibres were thus broken.

A collector named William Stevenson set out to catalogue the grills on U.S. stamps, assigning a letter according to the size of the indentations, beginning with "A", of course.

As a rule, grills have the paper broken vertically. Stevenson was puzzled when he came across one broken horizontally. He arbitrarily called it a "Z" grill.

There are other "Z" grill

stamps. The 1-cent, the most valuable, is listed in the Scott catalogue as number 85A. There are several other values with the "Z" grill, but they are comparatively worth much, much less.

That's because there are only two known copies of the 1-cent "Z" grill. One is owned by the New York City public library, and so is not for sale. However, its statement of assets took a tremendous leap upward with the sale of the other copy.

Now, the seller, Jerry Buss is a real estate magnate

in California. Not many Canadians may know it, but he's the owner of the Los Angeles Kings in the National Hockey League. He

also owns various other sport enterprises.

Buss's interests are not only sports and business. He has been a dedicated stamp collector since his teens.

On May 25, 1977 in New York, Sotheby Parke Bernet had the only available copy of the 1-cent "Z" grill on the block. The Superior Stamp & Coin Co. Inc. picked it up for an unknown collector for \$90,000. It was the highest price ever paid for a U.S. stamp.

As we know, the unnamed buyer was Jerry Buss.

When Buss decided to sell — he had been considering it for some time — he turned to Superior

SHOP OUR YELLOW PAGE FIRST!

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| <p>ADVERTISING</p> <p>To Participate In Our Yellow Page, call today 877-2201</p> | <p>AIR CONDITIONING</p> <p>M.A.R.C.H.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sales Service Central Air Conditioning Heat Pumps Electronic Air Cleaners Electrical & Gas Furnaces Humidifiers <p>785 Main St. E. Milton 876-1138</p> | <p>APPLIANCES</p> <p>M.A.R.C.H.</p> <p>785 MAIN ST. EAST, MILTON 876-1138</p> <p>PARTS • SALES • SERVICE ALL MAKES & MODELS</p> <p>Washers • Dryers • Ranges • Freezers Microwaves • Refrigerators Dishwashers • Air Conditioners</p> | | |
| <p>APPLIANCES REPAIRS</p> <p>J.J. Electronics</p> <p>Repairs all model T.V. in your home T.V.'s, STEREO'S, VCR, MICROWAVES</p> <p>Free Estimates Free Home Calls</p> <p>873-1820</p> | <p>AUTO-BODY</p> <p>If You "Meet by Accident!" CALL US, WE'LL GET THE JOB DONE RIGHT</p> <p>UPTOWN COLLISION</p> <p>873-1607 53 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. NORTH GEORGETOWN</p> | <p>AUTO CARE</p> <p>CLASSIC AUTO CARE</p> <p>1500 Armstrong Ave., Unit 8, Georgetown</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete Car Cleaning Quality Oil Changes Auto Accessories Auto Care Products Free Estimates <p>877-6384</p> | <p>AUTO GLASS</p> <p>Georgetown AUTO-GLASS 877-7433</p> <p>Windshield Replacement Insurance Claims Welcome Sunroofs Vinyl Tops</p> <p>Auto Upholstery</p> <p>315 Armstrong Ave., Georgetown Ontario</p> | <p>BOOKKEEPING</p> <p>3B BOOKKEEPING</p> <p>"CONFIDENTIAL" AFFORDABLE RATES</p> <p>CALL 853-3888</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> COMMERCIAL RETAIL RENTALS |
| <p>CARPENTRY</p> <p>Kevin Blair Carpentry</p> <p>519-833-9955</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RENOVATIONS ADDITIONS DECKS SHINGLING | <p>CARPENTRY</p> <p>V.A. CONSTRUCTION</p> <p>General Carpentry</p> <p>Call: 877-3940</p> | <p>CATERING</p> <p>ACTON CATERING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Office Parties Dances Receptions & Weddings <p>GOOD QUALITY FOOD AT REASONABLE PRICES</p> <p>853-3778</p> | <p>CHIMNEY SWEEPS</p> <p>JACKSONS CHIMNEY CLEANING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consultants expert cleaning repairs, relining chimney screens, caps guaranteed service free inspections <p>873-0673</p> <p>"Save 25% with this ad"</p> | <p>DRIVEWAY SEALERS</p> <p>GOLDEN TOUCH DRIVEWAY SEALERS</p> <p>Residential-Commercial-Farm PROTECTIVE ASPHALT SEALING • LINE PAINTING AND PATCHWORK</p> <p>Call Gary Toussaint</p> <p>Halton Hills: 873-0847 Oakville: 825-1394</p> |
| <p>DRIVEWAY SEALERS</p> <p>THE LIFE OF YOUR DRIVEWAY IS IN OUR HANDS.</p> <p>Asphalt Sealing - Hot Patch Repair</p> <p>EXTENDS LIFE, PROTECTS, INCREASES THE LIFE OF YOUR DRIVEWAY</p> <p>Call: (416) 453-0819 Anytime</p> | <p>ELECTRICAL</p> <p>HALTON HILLS ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING LTD.</p> <p>23 1/2 HRS. SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Industrial Commercial Residential Rural <p>PROP. LYLE PRUETER 853-2572</p> | <p>EXCAVATING</p> <p>DEBRUI EXCAVATING</p> <p>Backhoe specially Free Estimates No job too small</p> <p>Call: 873-1513 after 6 p.m.</p> | <p>FLOOR RE-FINISHING</p> <p>HARDWOOD FLOOR RE-FINISHING</p> <p>Quality Workmanship Call for free estimate</p> <p>853-4004 or 877-0688</p> | <p>FURNACE & FIREPLACE CLEANING</p> <p>RESIDENTIAL CHIMNEY and GAS</p> <p>Gas Furnace & Fireplace Cleaning 25⁰⁰ EACH</p> <p>OFFER VALID TO JULY 31st</p> <p>Call (416) 846-7288</p> |
| <p>GLASS</p> <p>APPLE Auto Glass</p> <p>WINDSHIELD REPAIRS</p> <p>WE HANDLE ALL INSURANCE CLAIMS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AUTO UPHOLSTERY SUNROOFS VINYL TOPS <p>NO EXTRA CHARGE MONDAY SERVICE</p> <p>873-1655</p> <p>300 QUELPH ST. UNIT 7 GEORGETOWN</p> | <p>LAWN EQUIPMENT</p> <p>Lawnmowers Chainsaws</p> <p>Georgetown Lawn & Garden Equipment</p> <p>5 Armstrong Avenue, Georgetown 877-6686</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Real Mower Grinding Service All Makes | <p>LAUNDROMAT</p> <p>MOUNTAINVIEW COIN LAUNDRY</p> <p>Mountainview & John St. (Near Mountainview Plaza)</p> <p>The only giant capacity washers in town, sleeping bags, carpets, king size comforters, drapes</p> <p>SAVE MONEY! 873-1525</p> | <p>MASONRY</p> <p>HENDERSON MASONRY</p> <p>Brick, Block & Stone</p> <p>Fireplaces, chimneys and repairs</p> <p>Call Brian 853-122</p> | <p>PAINTING</p> <p>Fence Painting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> stains - paints all preparation incl. 14 yrs. experience FREE ESTIMATES discount for seniors <p>Call: Rob 877-4572 leave message</p> |
| <p>PUMP SERVICE</p> <p>DEEPWELL ELECTRIC MOTOR & PUMP SERVICE LTD.</p> <p>PUMP TROUBLESHOOTERS?</p> <p>Installation & Repairs to all makes of pumps & electric motors.</p> <p>24 hours a day 7 days a week</p> <p>878-4484 925 Main St. Unit 9, Milton</p> | <p>RENTALS</p> <p>GEORGETOWN RENT-ALL</p> <p>55 Sinclair Ave. 877-0157</p> <p>CALL FOR LISTING: FENCE REPAIRS</p> <p>BAC</p> | <p>ROOFING</p> <p>NORTH HALTON ROOFING</p> <p>Specializing in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RESHINGLING NEW ROOF SHINGLE REMOVAL AND REPLACING REPAIRS <p>FREE ESTIMATES ALL WORK GUARANTEED 853-3931</p> | <p>ROOFING</p> <p>T & G ROOFING</p> <p>15 Yrs. Experience Free Estimates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Residential Re-Roofing Barn Roof Re-Roofing Antenna Service Eavestrutting Snow Plowing Satellite <p>All Work Guaranteed 853-0832</p> | <p>ROOFING</p> <p>"25 YEARS ROOFING EXPERIENCE"</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free Estimates Guarantee <p>Lic. Building Renovator CUSTOM BUILT REPLACEMENT WINDOWS & PATIO DOORS</p> <p>MEL TAYLOR ALUMINUM LTD. 877-6772</p> <p>ALCAN AUTHORIZED DEALER</p> |
| <p>SEPTIC SERVICE</p> <p>McISAAC SEPTIC TANK PUMPING SERVICE</p> <p>— Emergency Service</p> <p>MAC McISAAC 519-853-2790</p> <p>"Don't Delay Pump Today"</p> | <p>TV REPAIRS</p> <p>SALES & SERVICE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> TV VCR STEREO REPAIRS <p>All Work Guaranteed for 90 DAYS WE SERVICE EVERYTHING WE SELL!</p> <p>BRAMPTON COLOUR & SOUND 453-4455</p> | <p>WELDING</p> <p>THE WELDING SHOP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arc Welding Gas Welding Portable Unit <p>48 QUELPH ST. GEORGETOWN 877-5953</p> | <p>WINDOWS</p> <p>Custom Replacement of windows & doors</p> <p>THERMAL GLASS entrance system - patio doors building renovator & repairs metro license 4896</p> <p>Planning assistance available Call village: 846-1956 Quality service & products</p> | <p>WINDOWS</p> <p>Window & Door Repair Service</p> <p>Glass, screens, Lock etc. 30 years experience Prompt Service Call Joe: 853-3827 for free estimates</p> |