

LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

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COVER: An anonymous Japanese photographer snapped our background cover picture as the first troops advanced into Manila on January 2nd, 1942. Manila had been declared an "Open City" by the US Army the day after Christmas as American and Philippine military and government units withdrew leaving some 3,000 American and Western civilians behind to face internment by the Japanese at the Santo Tomas Camp.

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Keeping the Colors

This is the third successive issue of *La Posta* to feature a bright, full-color image highlighting an article featured in that issue. So many readers wrote and e-mailed us with positive comments after we published our 200th whole number with a colorful collage of Lewis & Clark Exposition envelopes on the cover that we decided to run a one-year trial to see if we could increase revenues sufficiently to continue publishing *La Posta* covers in color.

Color covers add approximately \$2,100 per year to the printing costs for our journal. Since have been operating at what is essentially a break even point financially for the past few years, the challenge becomes finding a source of new revenue sufficient to offset the cost of color covers. We thought and discussed several possible options including asking readers to sponsor an individual cover, creating a new form of subscription whereby subscribers could volunteer to underwrite the cost of color; launching a campaign to increase the number of subscribers sufficiently to offset the color cover cost; and increasing the basic subscription rate by \$5 per year.

After a good deal of soul-searching and weighing the pros and cons of each option, we have decided to undertake the following course of action:

- 1) Cath and I will personally finance a demonstration project consisting of six consecutive issues with full-color covers. This is the third issue of the six and three more will follow regardless of readership response.
- 2) The cover price of each issue will immediately be increased to \$5 and *La Posta* will now be shipped to selected magazine distributors for over-the-counter sales at a few retail outlets around the nation.
- 3) The basic subscription rate will be increased to \$25 per year for domestic subscribers beginning in January 2004.
- 4) We will continue our expanded attempt to attract new subscribers by mailing sample copies with invitations to subscribe.
- 5) We will attempt to attract an advertiser who is interested in buying a full-color ad space on our back cover that will run unaltered for at least two issues in a row.

If we find that this combination of revenue raising activities appears to be succeeding in producing enough new income to offset the increased cost of color covers, they will remain a constant feature of *La Posta* into the future. We realize that

this is somewhat of a gamble. Cath and I are betting that there are enough of you—our readers—who will be willing to support this innovation to the tune of \$5 a year that we will be able to continue bringing you these beautiful, laminated full-color covers. We look forward to hearing your response.

Our plea in the July issue for new authors to join our ranks has had some preliminary positive responses. Already in the hopper for our November issue is an outstanding postal history of the US Marines in Haiti between 1915 and 1934, and an intensive examination of the postal history of a Maryland community. Other subjects have been mentioned in preliminary discussions and we are very optimistic.

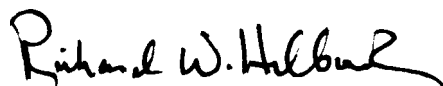
Optimistic yes, but not overwhelmed with volunteers. We still want more new ideas from you hundreds of talented readers with postal history interests so varied that they make our 34-year combined subject index pale in comparison. I'd like to quote you one of my favorite comments received in recognition of our 200th anniversary issue:

Congratulations on the publication of number 200. Extraordinary accomplishment, especially when I think how diverse your subscribers' interests are—philately by and large, and postal history especially, involve so many specialties, and so many self-proclaimed experts doing their own things—among other awards you should get is one for mastering the art of herding cats.

That captures the core issue of our postal history hobby doesn't it? We all, in effect, become experts in our own narrow areas of interest. All I am asking you to do is to share your hard-won expertise with our readers and, in so doing, save it for posterity. We can only hope and believe that others will come after us



to follow this peculiar, meandering pathway through the history of letter communications. Let's do what we can to leave them useful trail markers.



New Nebraska E-Book

Nebraska Post Offices and Postmasters by Alton L. Craft and Russ Czaplewski has been released in e-book format. The CD-ROM contains three major sections: the master listing of 3,076 post offices and over 16 thousand postmasters covering 822 pages; a selection of 80 Nebraska cover illustrations including many beautiful territorials; and a collection of over 30 maps depicting changes in Nebraska county boundaries from 1854-1925.

Users of the disc are provided a variety of formats including Adobe Acrobat®, Microsoft Works® and Microsoft Word/Wordpad®. A copy of Adobe Acrobat Reader® is also provided on the CD.

This new e-book illustrates quite well the way that a massive, life-long research project can be made available to the public at a fraction of the cost of traditional publishing. Contact Alton L. Kraft, 2708 W. John St., Grand Island, NE 68803-5709 for additional information.

The Prexie Era Goes Digital

Editor Steve Roth has announced that the popular newsletter devoted to postal history of the 1938 Presidential Series will now be available by subscription in both print and digital (e-mail) versions. Subscribers choosing to receive the digital version will be sent a CD-ROM containing the complete 26 issue run to date for an initial charge of \$10.

Subscription to the paper edition will be \$10 for the four annual issues and the digital edition will cost \$5.00 per year and arrive via e-mail. Readers interested in either the print or digital versions of The Prexie Era should contact John Grabowski, PO Box 536, Willernie, MN 55090-0536.

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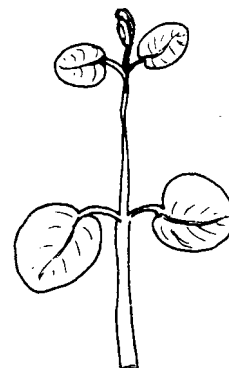
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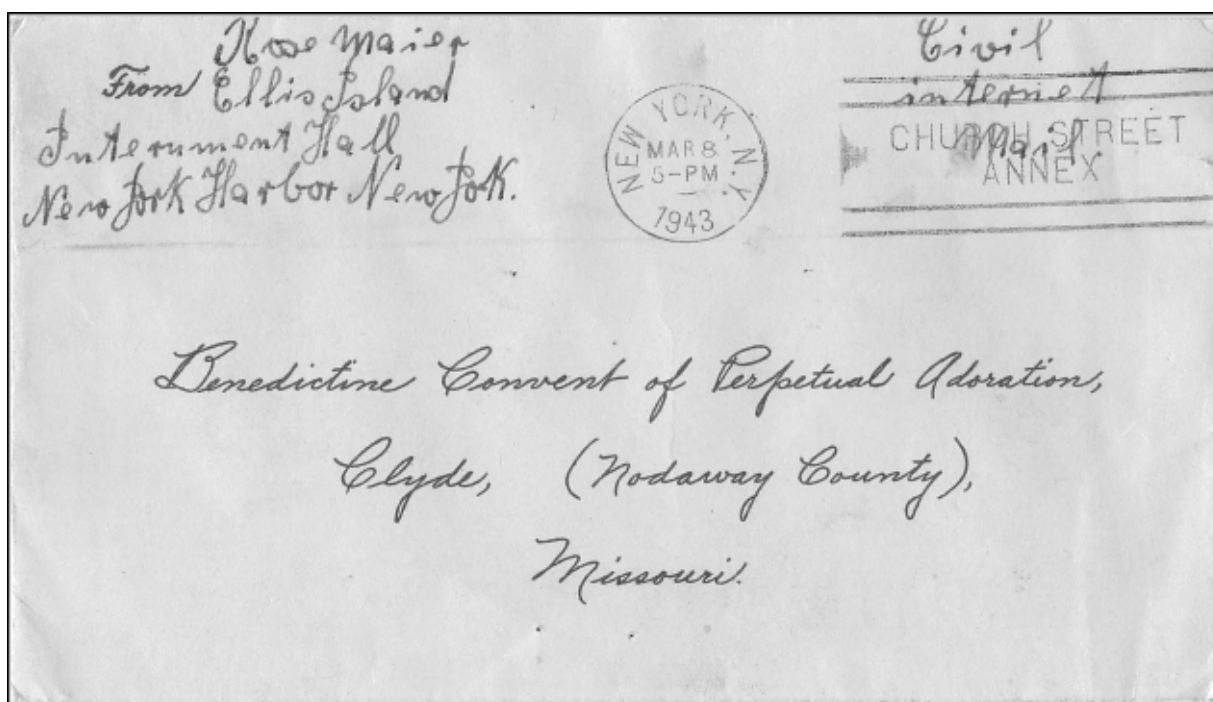


Figure 1 This cover was mailed in March 1943 by Rose Maier, a German national being held at the Ellis Island Internment Hall as an enemy alien by the INS. As such she was allowed free franking privileges on surface mail under terms of the Geneva Convention of 1929.

World War II Mail to & from the Camps

Part 3: Other Civilian Internees in the US and US Civilians Detained Abroad

By Richard W. Helbock

Previous installments have discussed mail from Nisei soldiers serving with various US Army units and mail from Japanese-American civilians interned at the ten major relocation centers scattered around the western and central United States. While the vast majority of civilians interned in the United States during World War II were of Japanese ancestry—and most of them were housed in the ten relocation centers—there were also some civilians of other nationalities interned as well as a number of smaller internment facilities that held both Japanese-Americans and others. These smaller facilities were operated either by the Department of Justice through its Immigration and Naturalization Service (U.S.I. & N.S., herein abbreviated INS) or the US Army. Official records con-

cerning some of these facilities are sketchy, but those that have been documented will be discussed in this article.

Most American civilians—both government employees and private citizens—managed to evacuate areas of potential conflict in Europe and Asia prior to initiation of hostilities, but there were some who were trapped in areas controlled by hostile forces. A fairly large-scale capture of American civilians occurred in the Philippines after the surprise attack by Japan on December 8, 1941. This article will also consider mail to and from American civilians held in Europe and Asia during the war. It will not consider mail services to and from military prisoners of war—either American service men and women held abroad or foreign combatants held in the United States—although some of the same facilities that housed civilian internees within the US were also used to hold captured foreign military personnel.

Detention of Enemy Aliens

Surveillance of selected alien residents was undertaken by the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) as early as January 1941. Following the US declaration

The author is indebted to Louis Fiset of Seattle, Washington, for his invaluable assistance in both providing certain critical factual details and allowing us to publish several illustrations from his award winning collections.

of war against Japan, Germany and Italy on December 8, 1941, and by prior arrangement between the Justice Department and the War Department, enemy aliens perceived as national security risks were arrested by the FBI and turned over to the INS for temporary detention. During this period each individual, whether Japanese, German, or Italian, was to be heard before a loyalty hearing board to determine whether he [and in a few cases, she] should be released or interned. Those ordered interned were to be turned over to the Army for permanent internment.

About 4,000 civilians living in the United States were detained by the FBI as “enemy aliens.” About half of these people were Japanese immigrants, or Issei, many of whom had resided in the US for years but were still citizens of Japan. The remainder were people of German and Italian nationality.

Initially, these enemy aliens were sent to temporary detention stations operated by the INS where they were extensively interrogated at hearings held to determine their future disposition. Most of the aliens considered a threat to the US were then sent to internment camps operated by the U. S. Army. This plan changed with the influx of POWs from the North Africa campaign. The Army, in February 1943, asked to be relieved from its obligation, and the INS was all too happy to regain control over its original charges. The return of internees of war to INS custody was completed by June 1943.

All internees fell under the guidelines of the Geneva Convention of 1929 and were thus guaranteed letter writing privileges. However, unlike Japanese Americans in the assembly centers and relocation centers, quotas were placed on outgoing mail, and 100% of the mail, both outgoing and incoming, was censored. Free franking privileges were provided for surface mail. German, Italian, and Japanese language censors were hired by the INS and stationed at their camps, thus facilitating the movement of mail. Local Army censors could only read English language mail and had to send all other mail to New York (POW Unit), thus delaying the transmission of the mail and subjecting it to different standards of censorship.

The most widely used temporary detention center was Ellis Island in New York Bay, but other centers such as Sharp Park south of San Francisco were also used.

Ellis Island is, of course, an American icon. Between 1892 and 1941 the Immigration Center was the primary point of entry into the United States for hundreds of thousands of immigrants—mostly from Europe—seeking a better life in the New World. The role of the center changed with the outbreak of war, and by late December 1941 the detention center held 279 Japanese, 248 Germans, and 81 Italians all from the East Coast. Hundreds of new detainees were brought to Ellis Island with each passing month of the war. Most of these were Germans and Italians, and most were either transferred or released after only a few months. A few, however, were held at Ellis Island for as long as two years (*figure 1*).

Department of Justice Camps

Internment camps operated by the Department of Justice, unlike the relocation centers run by the War Relocation Authority, were cloaked in wartime security. Even today, there is little detailed information available about the numbers of people interned, their nationalities, or the length of their internment. The very existence of the number and location of some of these camps is open to question. Michi Nishiura Weglyn in her pioneering book *Years of Infamy*, identified a list of Justice Department camps that held Japanese Americans based upon the distribution of Japanese relief goods carried on the *M/V Gripsholm*, a Swedish ship used as an intermediary by the Japanese and American governments to exchange prisoners.



Map 1 The INS operated seven major internment camps

The first of these camps were initiated prior to US entry into the war when the INS secured long term leases of facilities at Fort Missoula, Montana, Fort Lincoln, North Dakota, and Fort Stanton, New Mexico in Spring 1941. The service had been assigned the task of housing some one thousand Italian and 700 German merchant seamen during 1940 when their vessels had been surrendered or sunk in neutral waters after their countries entered the war. The 1,000 Italian seamen were sent Fort Missoula, and the German seamen were divided with 450 confined at Fort Stanton and 250 sent to Fort Lincoln.

Seven major Department of Justice camps are rather well documented and those will be considered individually herein (*map 1*). Unlike the relocation and assembly centers that were guarded by military police, these camps were policed by Border Patrol Agents.

CRYSTAL CITY, TEXAS

A 290-acre site adjacent to the town of Crystal City that had originally been a Farm Security Administration migrant labor camp was upgraded beginning in late 1942 to house 3,500 people in a fenced compound watched over by armed guards in towers. Although originally intended as a family camp for Japanese nationals, the first arrivals were Germans and the camp was eventually divided into a Japanese section and a German-Italian section. The peak population was about 4,000, and some two-thirds of those were of Japanese ancestry. Of that number, some 600 were brought in from Hawaii and 660 were transported from Peru (*figure 2*).

The Peruvian government under the leadership of President Manuel Prado was very enthusiastic about the US State Department's invitation in late 1941 to "impound, with the option of handing over to American authorities for care and custody, persons who might be considered potentially dangerous to hemispheric security, with special emphasis on the Japanese." (Weglyn, p.57) The State Department was desirous of increasing the number of Japanese citizens held in the US in order to have greater leverage in bartering for American civilians captured by the Japanese in China, the Philippines and elsewhere. More on this subject later in the article.

LETTER

TO: *Kiyoko Matsuzawa D-21-A*

FROM: *Crystal City Internment Camp*

ADDRESS: *USA*

ADRESSE: *Am. Uruguay #189*

INDIRIZZO: *Lima Peru*

BY: *11935 U.S. CENSOR*

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!

REPLY

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!

RETURN

DO NOT WRITE HERE!
NICHT HIER SCHREIBEN!
NON SCRIVETE QUI!

MY ADDRESS IS: *Kiyoko Matsuzawa D-21-A*

MEINE ADRESSE IST WIE FOLGT: *Crystal City Internment Camp*

IL MIO INDIRIZZO E': *Crystal City Texas U.S.A.*

W. D. P. M. G. Form No. 4-1
November 1, 1942

Figure 2 Internee of War lettersheet from Crystal City to Lima, Peru. Censored at New York Censorship station.

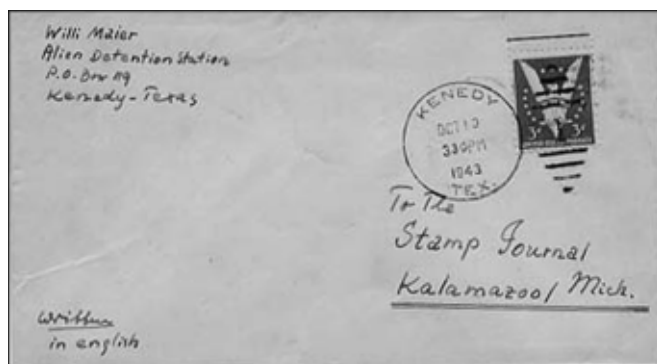


Figure 3 This cover was mailed by a German national interned at the Kenedy Detention Station in April 1943.

KENEDY, TEXAS

The Kenedy Internment Camp had formerly been a Civilian Conservation Corp facility and the townsfolk reportedly lobbied vigorously to convert the abandoned 22-acre site into an internment camp. The first internees arrived in April 1942 and included 464 German, 156 Japanese and 14 Italian citizens who had been living in Latin American countries.

Population of the camp increased to about 2,000 in 1943 and included some 700 Japanese nationals (*figure 3*). In September 1944, the Kenedy camp was converted to a POW facility to house German prisoners and after July 1945 the camp also housed several hundred Japanese POWs.

SEAGOVILLE, TEXAS

The Seagoville Internment Camp was located near Dallas. It had originally been built as a federal prison for women, but in 1942 the Justice Department redesignated it as an internment camp. It initially housed a group of 50 female Japanese language teachers removed from the West Coast. Female internees of German nationality were also interned at Seagoville (*figure 4*).

The facility consisted of two-story brick buildings including six dormitories of 40 to 68 rooms each. Initially there was no fence around the grounds, but, as the population was expanded to include families of Japanese nationals from Latin American countries, the facility was enclosed by a high fence and 50 small plywood huts were built as family quarters.

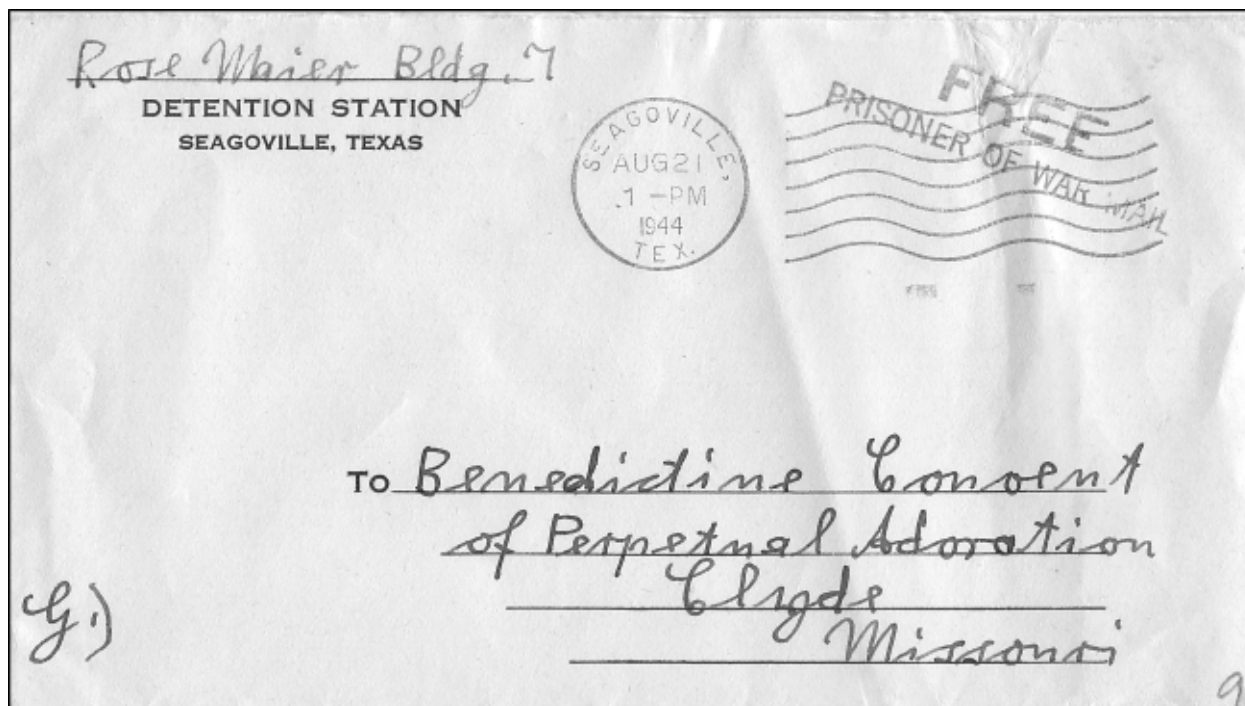


Figure 4 This cover was mailed by the same German national that sent the letter from Ellis Island shown in *figure 1*. Here we see that she had been transferred to the Seagoville Detention Station in Texas. Note the use of the incorrectly worded handstamp marking to indicate free franking. Rose Maier was not a Prisoner of War, but an interned enemy alien.

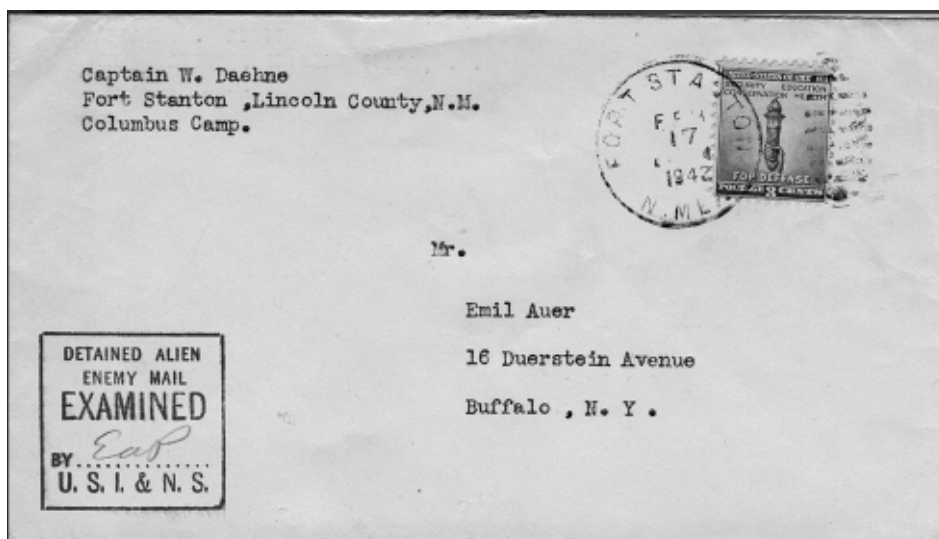


Figure 5 This cover was mailed by Captain Wilhelm Daehne of the German luxury liner SS Columbus while he was interned at the Fort Stanton detention Station in February 1942. It displays the boxed censor marking used by INS on Detained Enemy Alien Mail. [Courtesy of Louis Fiset Collection, hereafter identified as "LFC"]

FORT STANTON, NEW MEXICO

This facility, located about 20 miles north of Ruidoso in south central New Mexico, occupied buildings and grounds that had once been part of the US Army's Fort Stanton reservation in the last half of the 19th century. In 1890s the fort was transferred to the US Public Health Service to be used as a tuberculosis sanatorium, and during the 1930s the CCC added barracks to the complex.

The first internees were German nationals who had been the crew of the luxury liner *Columbus* that was scuttled 450 miles off Cape May, New Jersey, on orders from Berlin on December 19, 1939. The crew was rescued by an American ship and taken to Ellis Island. Numerous attempts

were made to repatriate them, but all proved unsuccessful and in the Spring of 1941 they were assigned temporary housing in the deserted CCC barracks. Entry of the US into war with Germany meant that the Columbus crew were now enemy aliens (figure 5). The INS brought in border guards and erected at barbed wire fence. Later, other German civilians were taken to Fort Stanton from the Los Angeles area.

SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

The Department of Justice acquired an 80-acre site from the New Mexico State Penitentiary in February

1942 that included a CCC barracks built to house 450 men. Work was begun immediately to expand the facility and by March the Santa Fe Detention Station was able to accommodate 1,400 men in wood and tarpaper barracks.

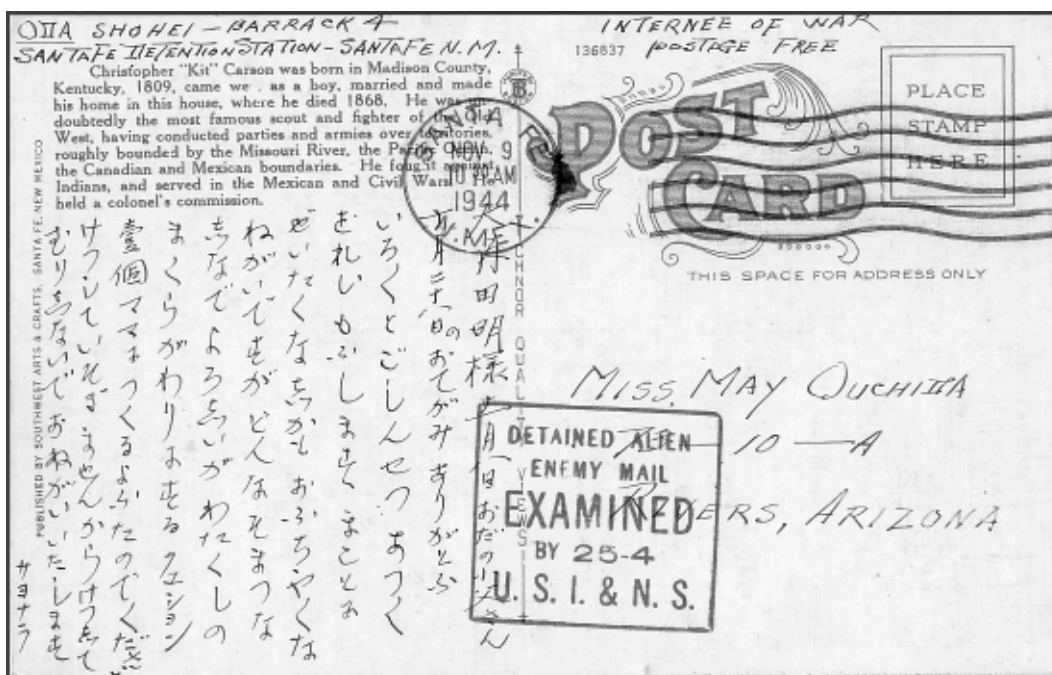


Figure 6 This post card was mailed by an enemy alien of Japanese ancestry from the Santa Fe Detention Center to an interned Japanese-American at the Gila River Relocation Center in Arizona.

An initial population of 826 Japanese-American men were brought to the Santa Fe Detention Station from California in March 1942. These individuals were quickly processed and over 500 of them were transferred to relocation centers. The remainder were sent on to camps run by the US Army. All had left Santa Fe by the end of September 1942. The camp was deactivated at that time, but it reopened in February 1943 when plans were made to transfer all civilian internees back to the Justice Department. This caused the Santa Fe camp to be expanded, and it eventually reached a peak population of 2,100 in July 1945. A large number of the new arrivals were older Japanese-Americans from the Tule Lake Segregation Center in California who had elected to renounce their US citizenship (*figure 6*).

FORT MISSOULA, MONTANA

The Army post at Fort Missoula dates from 1877 when it was established just four miles from the town of Missoula to control local Indian problems. In the

1930s the post became a regional headquarters of the CCC, and in 1941 it was acquired by the Justice Department and used to house 1,000 Italian seamen who had surrendered their vessels in neutral ports after Italy entered the war. With America's entry into war, the Italian seamen became enemy aliens. The compound was fenced and guard towers were added.

A group of Issei from various locations along the West coast were brought to Fort Missoula by train on December 18, 1941, and by the end of the year there were 633 Issei interned at the camp. Many more civilians were brought in during the early months of 1942 and by April there were over 2,000 male internees roughly half Japanese American and half Italian seamen. The average age of the Issei detainees was 60, and most were quickly given custody hearings and either paroled or handed over to the Army. Only 29 Issei remained by the end of 1942.



Figure 7 This cover carried a message from an Italian detainee at the Fort Missoula Detention Camp. It was apparently sent on via courier to the New York Censor Station for translation and postmarked there October 19, 1943. Since the Italians surrendered in early September 1943, the interned Italians were technically no longer “enemy aliens.” Treatment of the detainee’s mail did not, however, immediately change with the signing of an armistice.

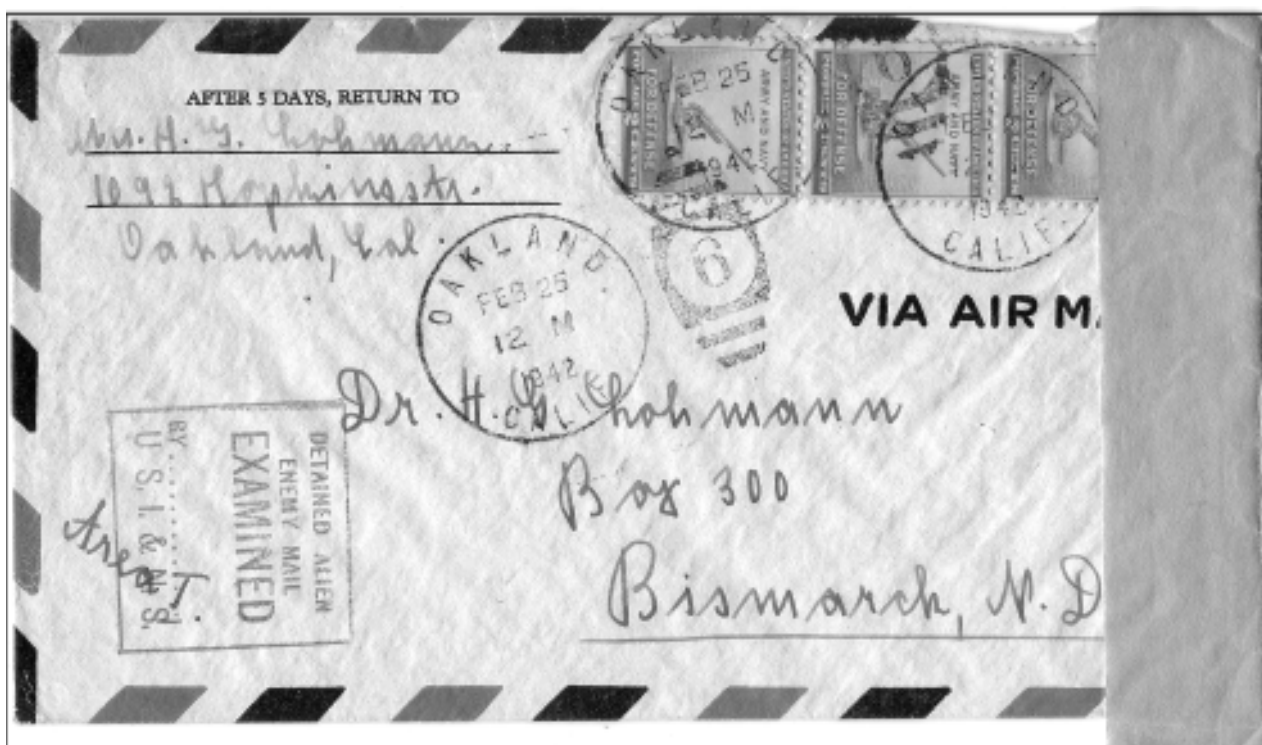


Figure 8 This cover was mailed from Oakland, California, in February 1942 to a German doctor being held as an enemy alien at Fort Lincoln Detention Center. Note the use of the same INS boxed censor handstamp as seen on outgoing mail in figures 5 and 6.

The Italian seamen population rose to over 1,200 and included an opera company that had been touring the US when war broke out and 75 workers from the Italy Pavilion at the New York World's fair who were stranded after the fair closed in October 1940. Some Italian internees worked on local farms, helped fight forest fires and at jobs in Missoula until they were released following the surrender of Italy in 1943 (figure 7). In March 1944, a group of 258 Japanese nationals were temporarily held at Fort Missoula before being transferred to Santa Fe, New Mexico. The Fort Missoula internment camp was closed in July 1944.

KOOSKIA, IDAHO

Kooskia was a sub-camp of Fort Missoula. Overall administration of the facility was conducted from Fort Missoula, and out-going mail written in Japanese was taken by courier to Fort Missoula for censorship. At one time the site had been a CCC camp, but in May 1943 it became home to 256 Japanese aliens—most of whom had been residents of various western states—and the 28 civilian employees of the Justice Department who managed the camp. All of the internees were male and most were employed in road building on the Lewis and Clark Highway along the

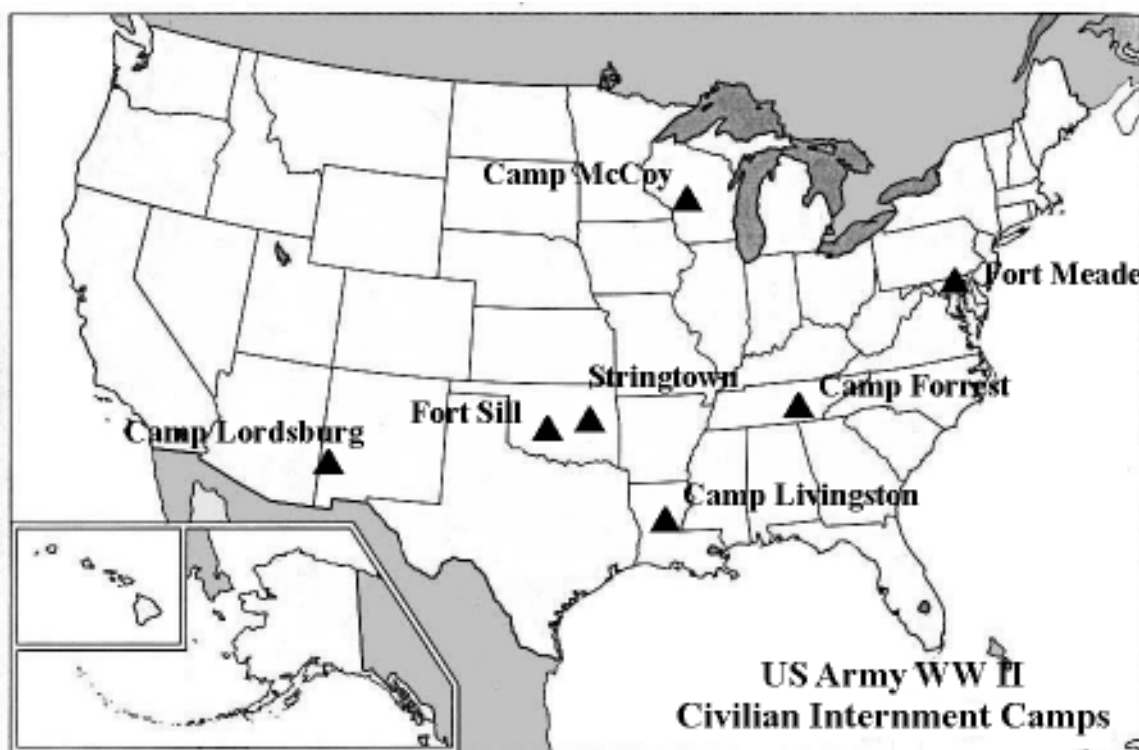
Lochsa River between Lewiston, Idaho, and Lolo Pass on the Montana border. The Kooskia camp was closed in May 1945.

FORT LINCOLN, NORTH DAKOTA

Fort Lincoln Internment Camp occupied an old US Army facility that had served as the state headquarters for the CCC in the 1930s. Situated about five miles south of Bismarck, the site featured two brick army barracks built in 1903 and a scattering of wooden prefabricated building left by the CCC.

The first internees at Fort Lincoln were German commercial seamen who had been onboard ships in American waters when the war broke out. A group of Japanese American were brought to Fort Lincoln in 1942, but they were swiftly paroled and moved on to camps operated by the US Army. Throughout most of the war, the internee population was composed almost completely of German nationals (figure 8).

In February 1945 a group of 650 Japanese Nisei were brought to Fort Lincoln. Most of these were Japanese-Americans who had been classified as "recalcitrants" from Tule Lake. They had renounced their



Map 2 Enemy alien civilians including Japanese, German and Italian nationals were interned at selected US Army installations during the first 18 months of the war. This map shows the location of some of these facilities.

American citizenship and were to be sent to Japan at the end of the war. There were also some Japanese nationals who were to be repatriated to Japan.

U. S. Army Facilities

The US Army interned civilians at several locations around the nation during the early years of the war, but early in 1943 a decision was reached whereby the Army would house only military prisoners at its facilities and civilian internees were transferred to the Justice Department (*map 2*). Most of the civilians interned by the Army were accommodated on existing military bases, but there were two exceptions: Camp Lordsburg, New Mexico and Stringtown, Oklahoma.

CAMP LORDSBURG, NEW MEXICO

The camp was located about three miles east of Lordsburg in far southeastern New Mexico, not far from the Arizona border. Intended specifically to

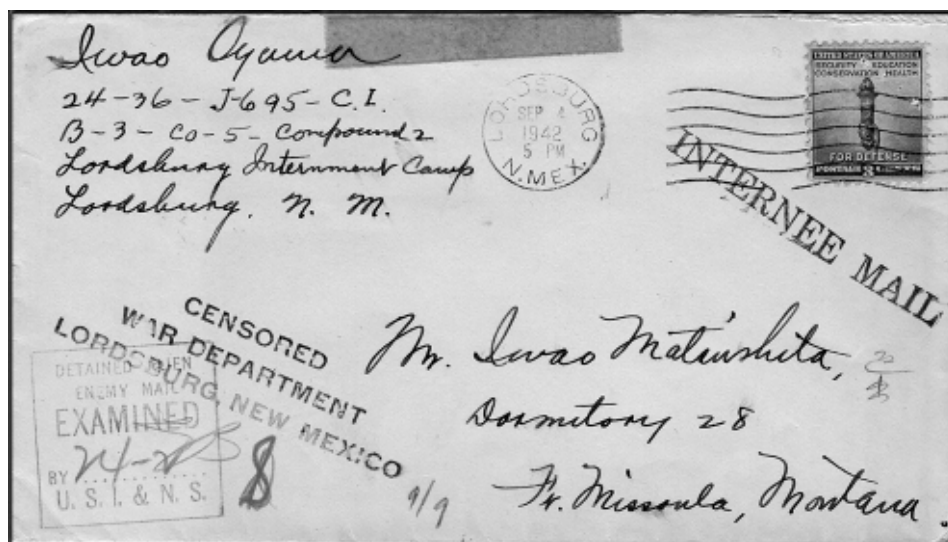


Figure 9 This cover was mailed by an internee at the US Army's Lordsburg Camp to another internee in the Fort Missoula INS camp. Note the straight-line War Department censor marking from Lordsburg and the boxed INS censor marking applied at Fort Missoula. [LFC]

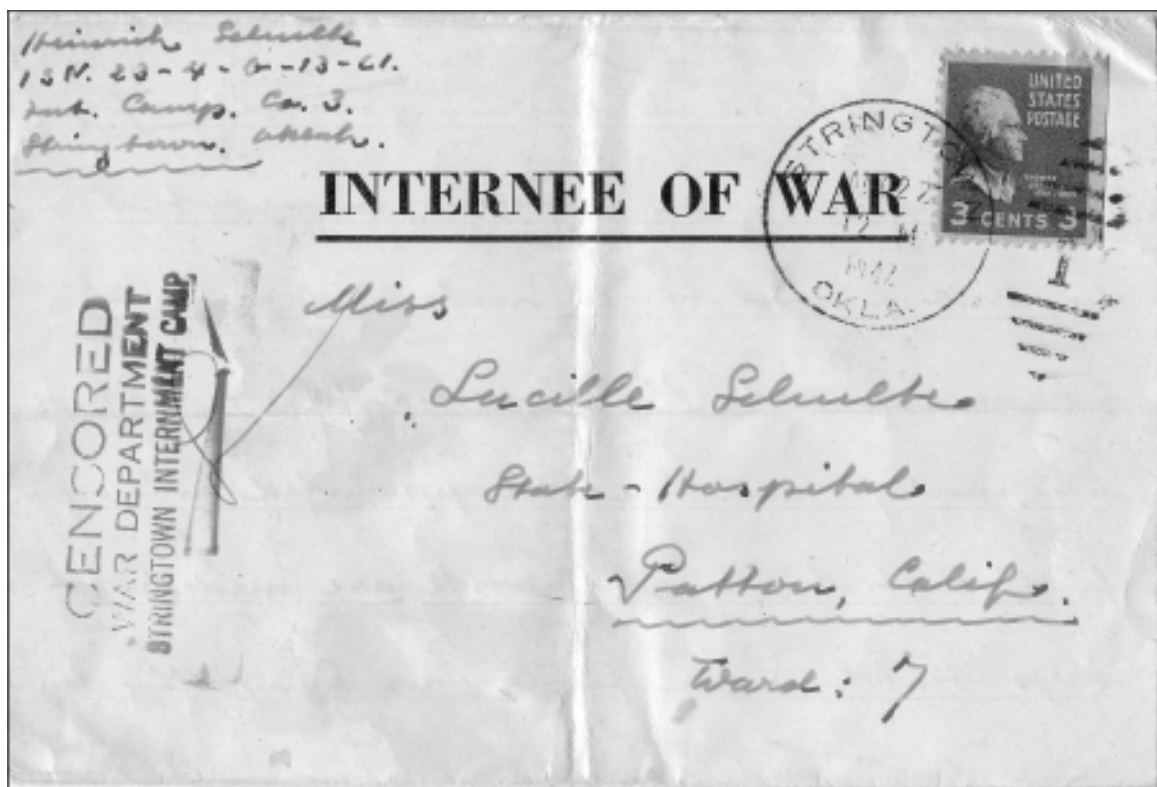


Figure 10 An *Internee of War* lettersheet mailed by an interned German national at the US Army's Stringtown Internment Camp in August 1942. The letter was written in English and censored at Stringtown Camp.

house Japanese-Americans, construction began in February 1942 and in July of that year a group of 613 Issei were transferred to the Lordsburg camp from the Justice Department's Fort Lincoln center near Bismarck, North Dakota.

The internee population of Camp Lordsburg increased gradually to a peak of about 1,500 Japanese, but these men were all dispersed to Justice Department camps in early 1943 and the Lordsburg facility was converted to a POW camp for Italian military prisoners (*figure 9*). Between 1943 and 1945 Camp Lordsburg housed as many as 4,000 POWs.

STRINGTOWN, OKLAHOMA

In 1933 a prison facility was established on 8,000 acres of land north of Stringtown in east-central Oklahoma. The purpose was to relieve overcrowding at the Oklahoma State Penitentiary and initially 350 inmates were housed in tents and temporary barracks. In 1937 the Stringtown facility was converted to the Oklahoma State Technical Institute with a goal of training inmates to become skilled workers. The Army

acquired use of the Stringtown facility in 1942 and converted it to an internment camp for enemy aliens (*figure 10*).

After the Army transferred all civilian internees to the Justice department, Stringtown was used to house German naval POWs. In 1945 the Army declared that it no longer needed the facility and it was returned to the Oklahoma State prison system.

FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA

In 1942 some 350 Japanese American Issei were temporarily held at Fort Sill near Lawton, an immense military reservation that is currently home to the Army's Field Artillery branch. No details concerning the composition of the internees, the location of the holding facility, nor their length of detention at Fort Sill are available.

CAMP MCCOY, WISCONSIN

Camp McCoy, a former CCC camp located nine miles west of Tomah, Wisconsin, was the temporary home of 170 Issei who were transferred there in February 1942 from Sand Island Internment Camp in Honolulu. The internees were soon dispersed to other camps



Figure 11 This cover was mailed by a Nisei PFC in the 100th Infantry—the famed Hawaiian National Guard unit—stationed at Camp Shelby, Mississippi, to his cousin who was interned by the US Army at Camp Livingston. An arrival marking of the Internment Camp post office indicates that the letter took two days to reach the camp, but a second time clock marking suggests that it was held up 10 days by censorship.

and—ironically—Camp McCoy became the training camp of the 100th Infantry Battalion, the all Nisei National Guard unit from Hawaii. Later in the war Japanese POWs were held at Camp McCoy.

CAMP FORREST, TENNESSEE

Some of the Hawaiian Issei transferred from Camp McCoy were moved to Camp Forrest near Chattanooga, Tennessee. Accommodations were limited to hastily built 5-man huts.

FACILITY	LOCATION	NOTES
Cascade Inn	Hot Springs, VA	All Japanese diplomats
Greenbriar Hotel	White Sulphur Springs, WV	All other diplomats of enemy nations
Ingleside Hotel	Staunton, VA	
Shenvalee Hotel	New Market, VA	
Bedford Springs Hotel	Bedford, PA	
Grove Park Inn	Asheville, NC	To about October 1942
Assembly Inn	Montreat, NC	After October 1942

Table 1 Facilities used by the US State Department to hold diplomatic staff of enemy nations during World War II. (Source: INS History, Genealogy, and Education (<http://www.immigration.gov/graphics/aboutus/history/eados.htm>))

CAMP LIVINGSTON, LOUISIANA

Over 800 persons of Japanese ancestry were held at Camp Livingston near Alexandria, Louisiana (*figure 11*). About half of these were from the West Coast, 354 were from Hawaii and 160 were from Panama and Costa Rica. They were dispersed to Justice Department camps in early 1943.

FORT SAM HOUSTON, TEXAS

A number of Hawaiian Issei and about 40 other Issei who had been held at Fort Missoula were transferred to Fort Sam Houston and held with about 300 Alaskan Issei. This was a very temporary arrangement and after nine days the group was transferred to Camp Lordsburg, New Mexico.

FORT MEADE, MARYLAND

This installation held German enemy aliens, but no other details have been found.

Additional US Sites of Detention of Civilians

The US State Department also maintained separate facilities for detaining enemy aliens, but these were far above the standards of accommodation to which most interned civilians were subjected. With an eye toward the treatment expected for captured American diplomats in hostile nations, the State Department arranged for Japanese, German and Italian diplomats to be housed in a series of resort hotels scattered throughout the Appalachian Mountains from Pennsylvania to Georgia. Security was provided by the INS,

but in all other respects these pampered foreigners were treated as “guests” of the US Government. A listing of facilities used by the Department of State to hold foreign diplomats is shown in *table 1*.

One of the more unusual and least known internments of civilians during the war was the forced relocation of Aleuts from the Aleutian and Pribilof Islands to southeast Alaska. Some 160 were evacuated from villages in the Aleutians and another 477 were removed from the Pribilofs in mid-1942 to be housed at a series of relocation camps for the duration of the war. Louis Fiset presented a detailed discussion of this relocation in his “Relocation of Aleuts to Southeast Alaska in World War II,” in *La Posta* (Dec 1990-Jan 1991, Whole No. 126).

American Civilians Interned Overseas

Statistics vary widely, but it has been estimated by the Center for Internee Rights that 4,749 U.S. civilians were held by the Germans and 13,996 American civilians were interned by Japan.¹ The problem of determining accurate numbers of civilian internees is complicated by the definition of terms. For example, Dr. Charles Stenger in his 2000 report prepared for the Department of Veterans Affairs, claims 7,300 American civilians were interned by Japan. He also cites an additional 13,000 Amerasians holding American citizenship who hid during this period, but who were never interned.²

A distinction is also drawn between American civilians living in Europe and Asia who had been warned several times by the US State Department to leave

Europe and Asia, and those American citizens in the Philippines and vicinity who were not warned. Others might suggest a distinction should be made based upon the reasons why American civilians found themselves in harms way in the first place. Some of the civilians interned by Germany and Japan were representatives of the United States government ranging from high-ranking diplomats to low-level functionaries in various overseas agencies including War, Navy, and Merchant Marine personnel. Other interned American civilians were overseas for purely private reasons. These included missionaries, representatives of commercial enterprises, travelers and even retirees.

When compared to the amount of surviving mail to and from Japanese-Americans and enemy aliens interned in the United States, mail to and from American civilians interned by Japan and Germany is not common. Why, we might ask, should that be the case?

First of all, the numbers of civilians interned by each side were vastly different. Over 110,000 Japanese-Americans were sent to camps in the US along with thousands more enemy aliens from Germany and Italy. This compares with less than 20,000 American civilians interned by Germany and Japan according to even the most generous estimates.

Secondly, the nature of internment differed considerably. Camps in the United States, although Spartan, provided internees with the basic requirements of civilization, including the ability to communicate with the outside world. Despite the fact that there were some restrictions placed on the amount of correspondence by internees at some camps—particularly non-English language correspondence—both Japanese-Americans and enemy aliens were permitted access to the post. Americans interned in Japan and Germany faced considerably different circumstances. Japanese authorities severely restricted mail to and from American internees at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila as they did at their other camps for interned westerners throughout southeast Asia. German authorities, although somewhat less restrictive, also maintained tight control over the flow of mail.

SANTO TOMAS INTERNMENT CAMP

Manila was declared an open city on December 26, 1941. The local government and United States Army Forces publicized their retirement from the city in the hopes that the Japanese Army would not shoot their way in causing wide scale death and destruc-

tion. Meanwhile, the American Emergency Committee of the Red Cross obtained permission from Santo Tomas University authorities to use the buildings and grounds as an internment camp in case the incoming Japanese forces decided to imprison civilians of the Allied Nations.

On New Years Day the local newspaper declared that the Japanese were on the verge of entering the city and advised residents to remain in their homes. American and other Western civilians began packing toilet articles and a change of clothing. On January 2nd in mid-afternoon the first units of the Japanese Army began entering Manila. They set up card tables at important intersections throughout the city and began making announcements ordering all enemy aliens (American and British nationals) to remain at home until they could be registered and investigated.

The following morning, all Americans and British were ordered to report to the campus of Santo Tomas University. On January 4 the first internees arrived at Santo Tomas numbering approximately 300, all of whom were from the South Malate District of Manila. While Americans and British were most numerous, the prisoners were of many nationalities. The men, women, and children included American, British, Australian, Canadian, Swedish, Polish, Norwegian, French, Egyptian, Slovakian, Swiss, Chinese, and Mexican passport holders. The camp population eventually grew to some 3,800 as additional foreign nationals were added from all over the Philippines.

Figures 12-15 illustrate four pieces from a correspondence addressed to an American woman interned at the Santo Tomas camp. The *figure 12* cover contains a typed one-page letter dated lined March 16, 1943. It begins:

Dearest Louise,

We were so happy to be informed today that we might communicate with you, though briefly.

The letter then went on to report various family activities to the recipient suggesting that the internee was a knowledgeable and close relative; perhaps a sister. The San Bernardino postmark is dated the same day and the envelope is addressed via New York. It is possible that this cover was transported on to Japanese authorities on board the second voyage of *M/V Gripsholm*.

The letter contained in the *figure 13* cover is written in manuscript and covers two sides of a single piece of paper. The content is strictly concerned with fam-

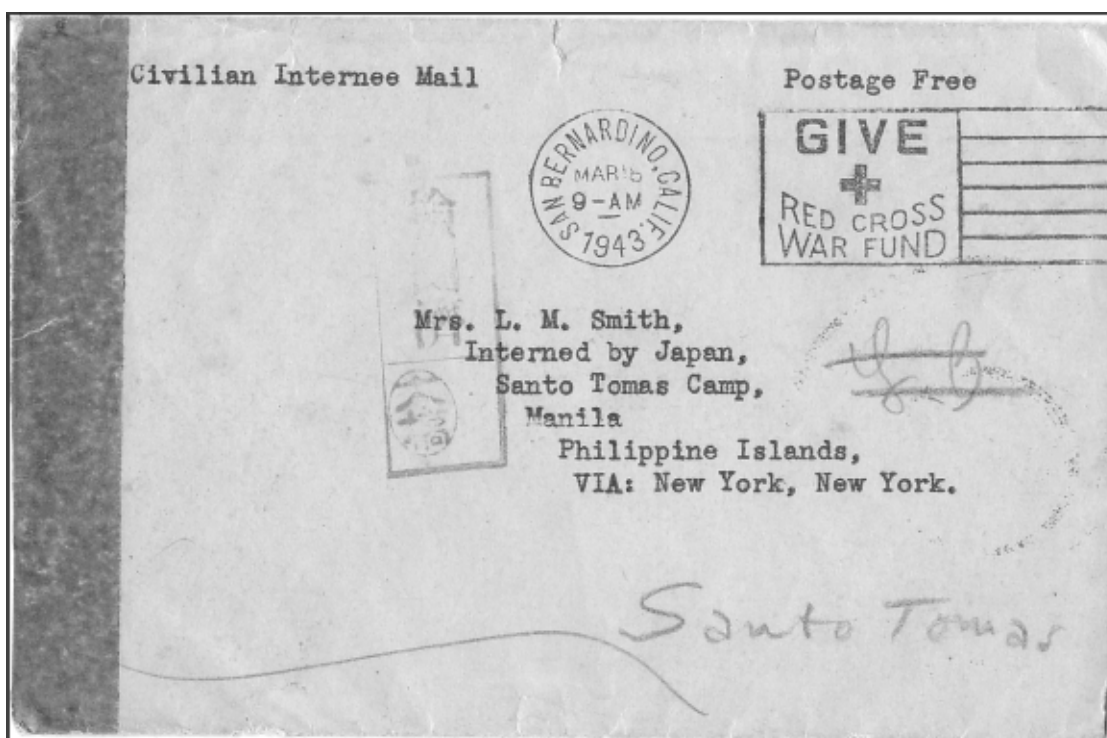


Figure 12 This cover carried a letter from San Bernardino, California, dated March 16, 1943, to an American internee at the Santo Tomas Internment Camp in Manila. The Japanese chop indicates that the cover was received and is probably an indication of censorship.

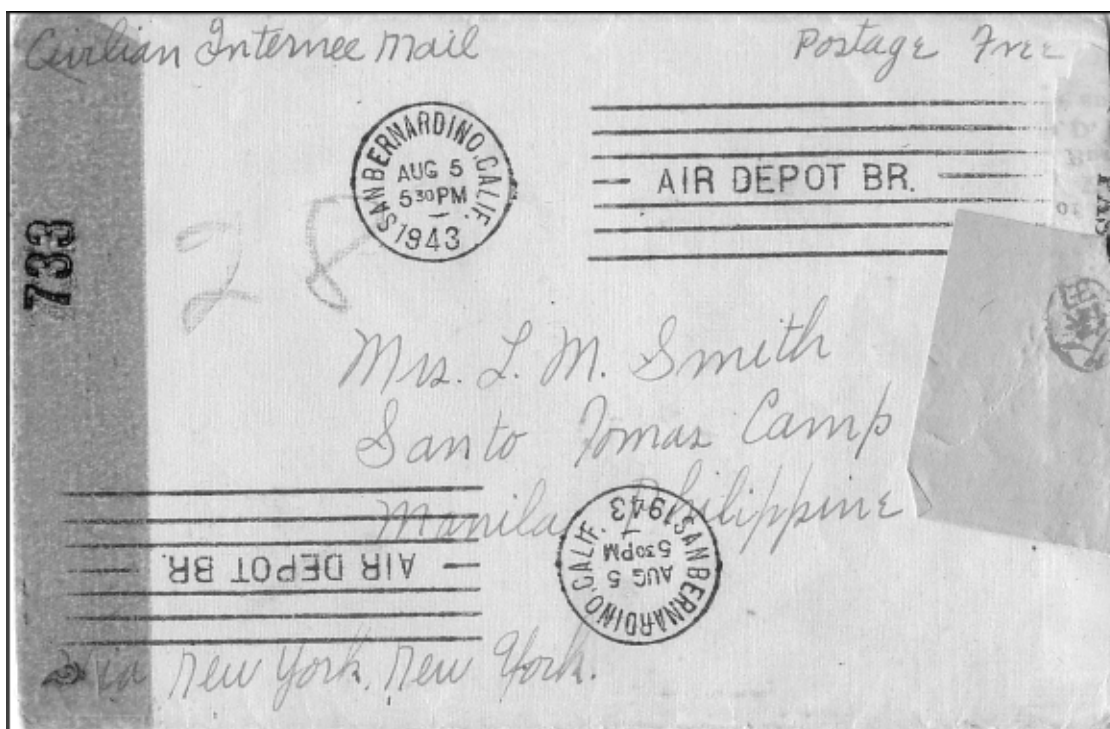


Figure 13 This cover from the same correspondence was mailed five months later. Note the use of a paper tape bearing Japanese chop to reseal the envelope along the right edge.

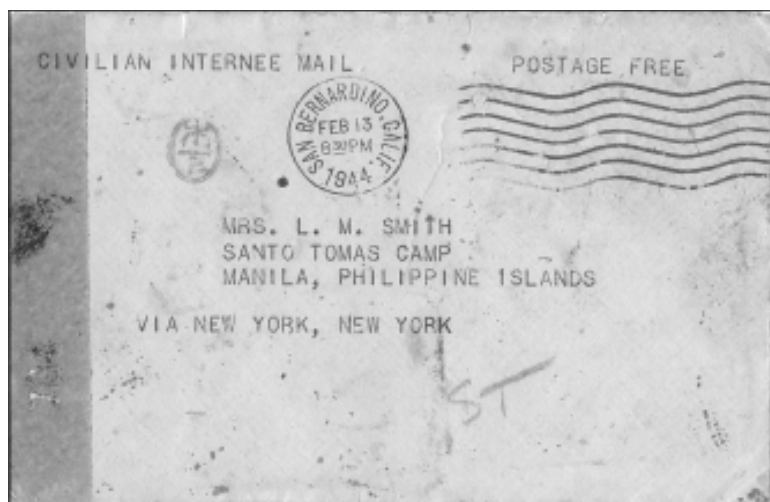


Figure 14 Postmarked February 14, 1944, the cover carried a simple 3x5-inch card with 17 word message.

ily business, but the writer begins with an indication that this is the fourth letter she has written since April 21st and has yet to hear “if you are getting them.”

The third available cover from this correspondence is postmarked February 13, 1944 (*figure 14*). The only contents is a 3x5-inch card that reads:

Dearest Louise,

Our loving thoughts are with you always. Everyone well here. Please write when possible.

FLORENCE

The message is type in capital block letters of the same style used to address the envelope. It is quite evident that severe restrictions had been imposed between August 1943 and February 1944 on both the length of acceptable messages and the form in which they were delivered.

The fourth and final message available in the correspondence is a Postage Free Post Card issued by the US Government and identified as Form 2277 of June 1944 (*figure 15*). According to the notation at upper left on the address side, it was apparently provided to

those wishing to correspond with either Prisoners of war or Civilian Internees (Cross out one).

The January 23, 1945, message—like the address—is written in block capitals as directed at the bottom of the card, and apparently the writer said something that the US censor found objectionable for a portion of the message has been both scratched out and heavily inked over.

Santo Tomas Internment Camp was liberated by allied forces on February 3, 1945, so it is very likely that Mrs. L. M. Smith received the card shown in *figure 15* after she was freed from interment. It may be noted that there is no indication of Japanese censorship on the card.

Figure 15 Form 2277 replaced letters enclosed in envelopes in late 1944 as the preferred (only permissible?) means of corresponding with Santo Tomas internees.

AMERICAN CIVILIANS HELD BY GERMANY

Only about one-third as many American civilians were held by Germany as those held by Japan. The expansion of Nazi Germany throughout Europe had been underway for over two years, and to most Americans the clear and present danger represented by the regime provided strong incentives for seeking safety before the US became involved in hostilities. Nevertheless, a few thousand American civilians were apparently interned by Germany, but the author is unaware of any large scale civilian internment camp in the nature of the Santo Tomas camp in Manila.

There is evidence, however, that not all American internees were dealt with on equal basis by the Nazi Government. According to an article by Peter Ephross titled "U.S. Holocaust Survivors Scheduled to Receive German Reparation Funds" in *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, June 22, 1999:

The first instance of internee compensation began with the Hugo Princz decision. Hugo Princz was an American citizen living with his family in Slovakia. When the United States declared war against Germany, Princz and the seven members of his family were turned over to the Nazis. He spent 3 years in Auschwitz and was the only member of his immediate family to survive.

After the war, he waged a 40-year battle through the courts and Congress for reparations from Germany. Finally, in 1995, Princz and 10 other American survivors shared in a \$2.1 million settlement from Germany. Subsequently, an agreement between the U.S. government and that of Germany resulted in the establishment of the Holocaust Claims Program.

In 1997, the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission ruled that only those Americans who suffered in a concentration camp or sub camp, or were made to participate in a forced labor march, were eligible for the Holocaust Claims Program. As a result of an agreement between the United States and Germany which is part of the Holocaust Claims Program, the U.S. Treasury received \$18.5 million from Germany, which, reportedly, it will pay out to 235 eligible survivors in lump sum payments of \$30,000 to \$250,000. According to an article from the *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, until the 1995 Hugo Princz decision, no individuals imprisoned in Nazi camps who were U.S. citizens at the time of the war had been compensated by Germany.³

On the other hand, American diplomats as well as certain other prominent Americans received much more favorable treatment at the hands of Germany. Consider this account of Thomas Kernan, prominent American journalist and author:

Thomas Kernan was educated at Georgetown University, receiving his B.A. in 1922, and his M.A. in 1923. In 1925, he joined the staff of Conde Nast Publications in New York City. He was general manager of the staff and later circulation manager of *Vogue*, *Vanity Fair*, and *House and Garden* magazines.

In 1937, Kernan became the publisher of the French edition of *Vogue* in Paris. When Nazi Germany invaded France in June 1940, he remained in the country assisting with the evacuation of French and American friends and the preservation of their property.

Kernan returned to the U.S. in 1941, and resigned from Conde Nast the following year. He became a freelance journalist for some time until August 1942, when he returned to France with the American Red Cross to further assist in the evacuation of American civilians and diplomats.

In November 1942, Kernan was interned with the American diplomatic corps at Lourdes. Early in 1943, he was moved to Baden Baden, Germany, where he would be detained for another thirteen months. Here, he wrote his novel, *Now with the Morning Star*, perhaps the first to be written in an internment camp.

After his release, Kernan entered the U.S. Intelligence Service and served in England and Germany with the Office of War Information from 1944 through the end of the war.⁴

Carl Forkel, Jr. was an diplomat assigned to the American Embassy of the Vichy French government in October 1941 (*figure 16*). When the US declared war on



Figure 16 This cover was mailed to Carl Forkel while he was serving with the American Embassy in Vichy, France.

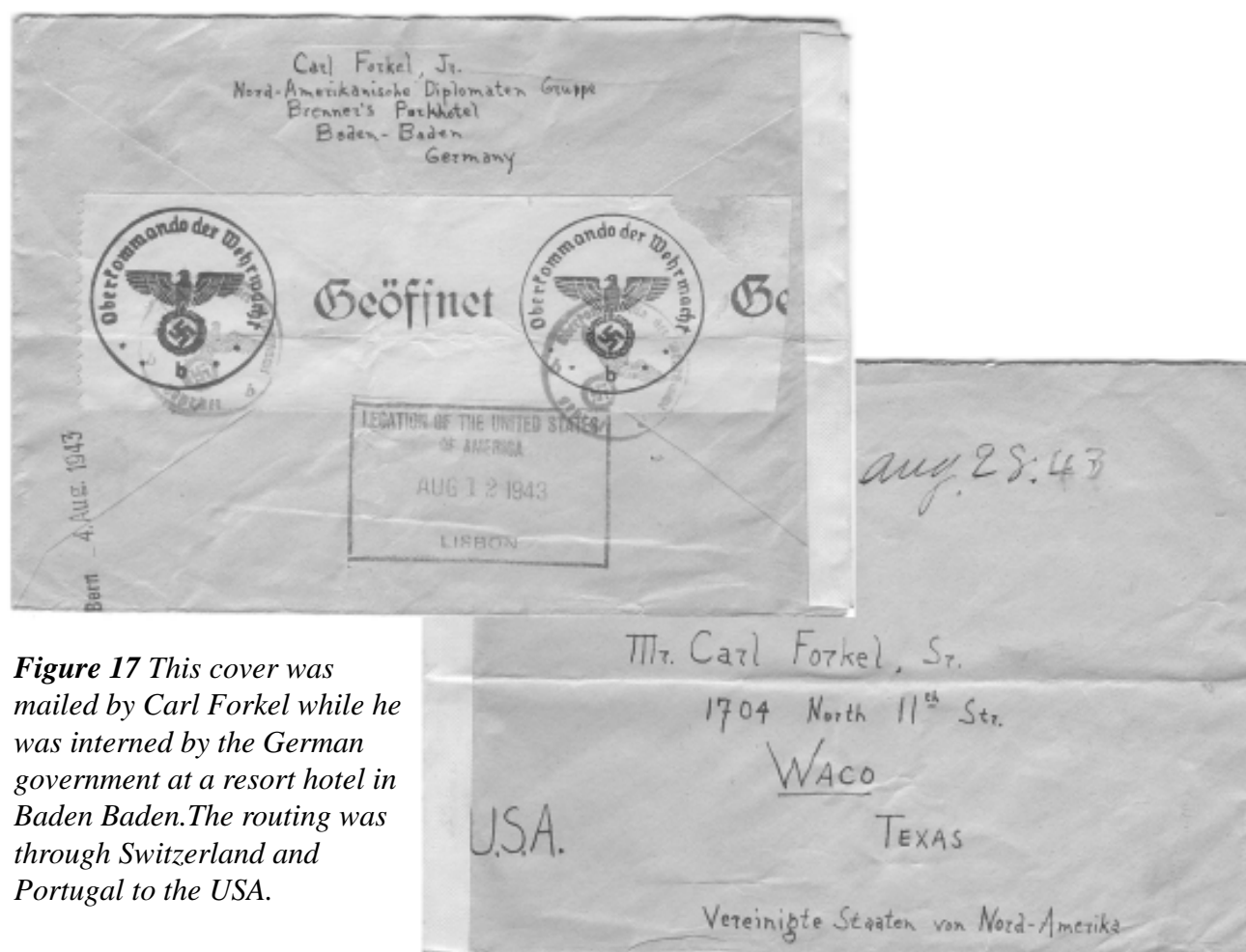


Figure 17 This cover was mailed by Carl Forkel while he was interned by the German government at a resort hotel in Baden Baden. The routing was through Switzerland and Portugal to the USA.

Germany, he became an enemy alien in the eyes of the German government and was interned. But, as with the case with German diplomats in the US, Forkel was sent to the mountain resort of Baden Baden. Figure 17 illustrated a cover mailed by Forkel probably in July 1943 to his father in Texas. The routing of the cover may be traced in its backstamps. It passed through Bern, Switzerland, on August 4th, and reached the American legation in Lisbon, Portugal on August 12th. A handwritten notation on the front of the cover suggests that it reached its destination on August 28, 1943.

Figure 18 carried a reply from Forkel's father in Texas. After being censored in the US, it reached the American Legation at Lisbon on December 11, 1943, and went on to Germany where it was censored by the Nazis.

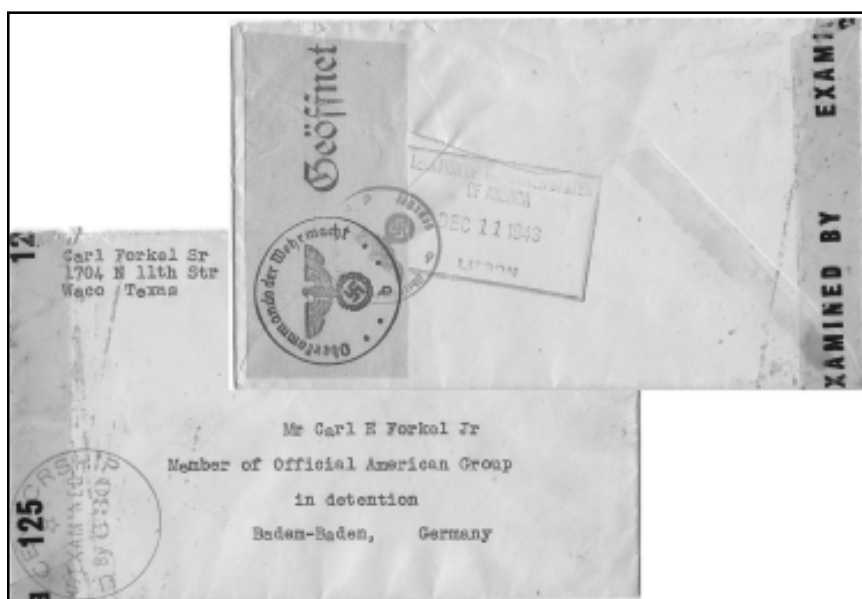


Figure 18 This cover was mailed from Waco, Texas, in late 1943 to Carl Forkel, an American diplomat interned at a resort in Baden Baden, Germany. It traveled from New York through the American Legation in Lisbon.

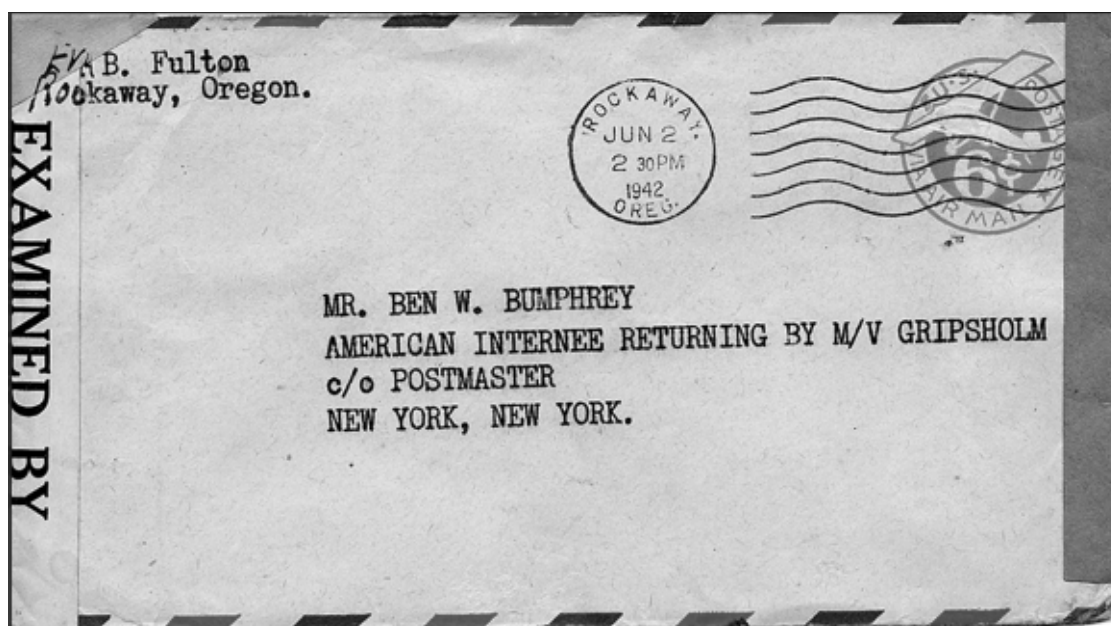


Figure 19 Letter carried to Portuguese East Africa on the Gripsholm. Airmail to the exchange office at New York and from there by ship. Six cents underpays the 8 cent rate. Postmarked June 2, 1942, in time to reach New York prior to the departure of the Gripsholm on June 18, 1942. Censored at New York; then forwarded to U.S. Customs at New York where a U.S. Customs officer examined and passed it on June 6th (brown sealing tape.) Letter was delivered to the addressee after the repatriate boarded the Gripsholm at Lourenço Marques, on July 28th. [LFC]

US-JAPAN PRISONER EXCHANGES VIA *M/V GRIPSHOLM*

The Swedish registered *M/V Gripsholm* was employed by the United States and Japan as an intermediary through which to exchange captured civilians and mail. The vessel made two such exchange trips early in the war. On the first trip the Gripsholm departed New York City on June 18, 1942. She rendezvoused with the *M/V Asama Maru*, which sailed from Yokohama on June 25th, at Lorenço Marques, Portuguese Mozambique.

The second voyage of the Gripsholm from the United States departed New York on September 2, 1943. This time, the exchange took place at Marmagao, Goa, Portuguese India. The Japanese used *M/V Teia Maru* which sailed from Yokohama on September 14th, and the exchange took place between October 15th and 22nd.⁵

The degree to which these prisoner exchanges and the internment of Japanese nationals in US camps is related becomes clear when considering the letter written by Secretary of State Cordell Hull to President Roosevelt on August 27, 1942. Hull writes:

There are in China 3,300 American citizens who desire to return to the United States. Many of them are substantial persons who have represented important American business and commercial interests and

a large number of missionaries. They are scattered all through that part of China occupied by the Japanese. Some of them are at liberty, some of them are in concentration camps, and some of them have limited liberty, but all of them subject to momentary cruel and harsh treatment by their oppressors. Under our agreement with Japan which is still operating, we will be able to remove these people. It will take two more trips of the Gripsholm to do so. In exchange for them we will need to send out Japanese in the same quantity....

In addition, there are 3,000 non-resident American citizens in the Philippines. We have no agreement for their exchange but it has been intimated that Japan might consider an exchange of them. It would be very gratifying if we could obtain those people from Japanese control and return them to the United States. But to do so we would have to exchange Japanese for them. That would take two more round trips of the *Gripsholm*.

Still, in addition, there are 700 civilians interned in Japan proper captured at Guam and Wake. It is probable that we might arrange for their return. But in order to obtain them we would have to release Japanese....

With the foregoing as predicate, I propose the following course of action:

...Continue our exchange agreement with the Japanese until the Americans are out of China, Japan and the Philippines—so far as possible...

Front Side (Left):

Comité International de la Croix-Rouge
Bureau du Conseil Général, GENEVE (Suisse)
Form 1016
82085

AMERICAN RED CROSS
Washington, D. C.
Civilian Message Form
By 102
SENDER — ENVOYER
MATSUSHITA 6059
RECEIVED JUN 11 1942

Name — Nom: MATSUSHITA
Christian name — Prénoms: IWA0
Street — Rue: FORT MISSOULA
City — Localité: MISSOULA
State — Province: MONTANA

Message to be transmitted — Message à transmettre —
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.) (25 mots ou maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)

SAFE AND SOUND IN CAMP. TREATED
KINDLY. MEALS OTHER ACCOMMODATIONS
Good. WIFE MOVING TO NEW
LOCATION.
REGARDS TO RELATIVES FRIENDS.
TAKE GOOD CARE ESPECIALLY MOTHER.

Chapter: Missoula County Date: 4/30/42

CITIZENSHIP — DESTINATAIRE
Name: MATSUSHITA
Christian name: SEKIO
Street: 40 KWANSEI TAKUIN
Locality: NISHINO KOBEMITAYA
Province: HYOGO-KEN Country: JAPAN

BIRTH — NAISSANCE
Place and Date: MIKE, JAPAN
FEB. 22, 1940
Citizen of: JAPAN
Name of father: MATSUSHITA, ISAO
Relationship to inquirer: BROTHER

Reply on the reverse side
Write very legibly

Reverse Side (Right):

REPLY — REPONSE
Message to be sent to inquirer — Message à renvoyer au demandeur
(not more than 25 words, family news of strictly personal character.) (25 mots ou maximum, nouvelles de caractère strictement personnel et familial.)

手紙見た。高橋氏よりも聞いた。此方は金
銀。花兄様に宜敷く。健康を新る。影ひ。
且つ望め

RECEIVED JUN 11 1942
EXAMINED
CENSORED
EXAMINED
BY 150
Date — Date:
Signature:

Please write very legibly
Écrire très lisiblement

AMERICAN RED CROSS
DEC 14 1943
INQUIRY UNIT
LA CROIX-ROUGE INTERNATIONALE
TOKYO

Figure 20 Red Cross Message U.S. TO JAPAN. Fort Missoula internment camp to Japan. Written April 30, 1942. Censored at Fort Missoula and the New York POW Unit. Processed by the American Red Cross June 11, 1942 and carried aboard the Gripsholm to Lourenço Marques, which sailed from New York on June 18th. Transferred to the Asama Maru on July 22nd and carried to Japan. Reply, on reverse side, was processed by the Tokyo Red Cross on September 3, 1943 and carried to Mormugao, Goa by the Teia Maru. There it was transferred to the Gripsholm and taken to New York on the return leg of its second voyage.[LFC]

Continue our efforts to remove all the Japanese from these American Republic countries for internment in the United States.

Continue our efforts to remove from South and Central America all the dangerous Germans and Italians still there, together with their families...⁶

The *Gripsholm* never made a third voyage to exchange American civilians for Japanese as Secretary Hull suggested in his letter to Roosevelt. After completing her second voyage in November 1943, she was used to exchange people in the European theatre and never returned to East Africa or Asia.⁷

Figures 19 through 24 illustrate postal items carried by the *M/V Gripsholm* on her two voyages of civilian prisoner exchange between the United States and Japan. Such postal history artifacts are not commonly seen and are highly prized by specialists in this area.

Endnotes

1 See statistics on WWII POWs and internees from the Center for Internee Rights, Inc an advocacy group, at its Web site [<http://www.expows.com>].

2 Stenger, Charles A. *American Prisoners of War in WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia, and Kosovo*. Statistical Data Concerning Numbers Captured, Repatriated, and Still Alive as of January 1, 2000. Prepared for the DVA Advisory Com-

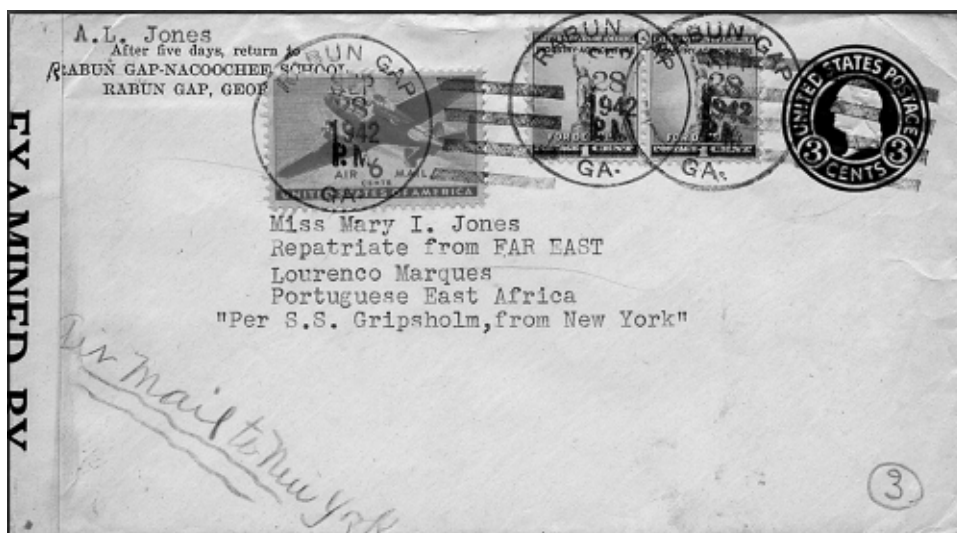


Figure 21 Postmarked Sep 28, 1942. Georgia to New York City. Held in New York. Eleven cents overpays the 8 cent domestic airmail/ international surface rate. New York censorship. Negotiations for a second diplomatic exchange continued for a year. The exchange site was not revealed until a week before the Gripsholm sailed for Portuguese India (Goa) on September 2, 1943. Thus, held mail bears the address of the original exchange site. 40,000 pieces of held mail accompanied this second voyage.[LFC]

Figure 22 Kitchener, Ontario, to a Canadian repatriate, c/o the Canadian Legation at Rio de Janeiro. 72 cents short pays the 75 cent airmail rate to Brazil. Postmarked October 26, 1943. Canada censorship. The Gripsholm reached port on November 14, 1943. [LFC]



Figure 23 Nishinomiya, Japan, to writer's brother, an enemy alien interned at the INS internment camp at Fort Missoula, Montana. Postmarked August 31, 1943. "This letter is being sent by the exchange ship." The postal card was carried on the Teia Maru, which left nearby Kobe on September 16th. Japan and New York POW Unit censorship. Note "CIVIAN" misspelling on the hand stamp applied by Japanese censors.[LFC]



mittee on Former Prisoners of War, Mental Health Strategic Group, VHA, DVA, American Ex-Prisoners of War Association.

3 Ephross, Peter. U.S. Holocaust Survivors Scheduled to Receive German Reparation Funds. *Jewish Telegraphic Agency*, June 22, 1999 [Online]. Available: NEXIS Library: NEWS File: CURNWS.

4 <http://www.library.georgetown.edu/dept/speccoll/cl181.htm>

5 Ruggiero, Michael "M/V GRIPSHOLM Revisited," in *Military Postal History Society Bulletin*, Vol. 40, No. 2 (Spring 2001), p.11.

6 Letter, Cordell Hull to Roosevelt, August 27, 1942, OF 20, FDR Library as quoted in Weglyn 1976, p.62-63.

7 Ruggiero *op.cit.*

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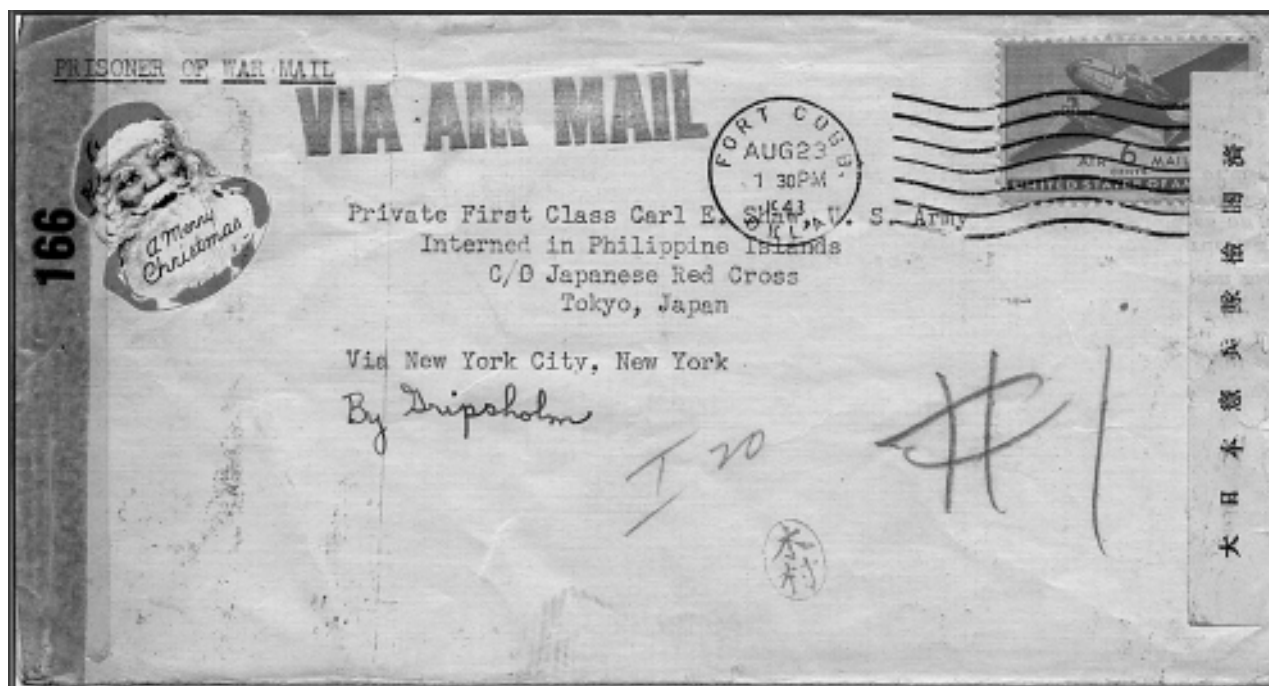


Figure 24 Fort Cobb, Oklahoma to a serviceman held at Cabanatuan Prison Camp #1 in the Philippine Islands. Postmarked August 23, 1943, in time to reach New York prior to the sailing of the Gripsholm on September 2nd. New York POW Unit censorship (166). Red oval is the validating mark of the Japanese censor. "I 20" is a routing number within the prison camp. August 1, 1944 manuscript docketing.[LFC]

THE POSTMASTERS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

IX. John Milton Niles, 1840-1841

by Daniel Y. Meschter

Except for his education and holding public office, John Milton Niles' career was similar in many ways to that of Amos Kendall, his predecessor in office.

John Niles was born in Windsor, Connecticut in 1787. Receiving only fair instruction in the common schools of the day, but ambitious and determined to rise above his modest origins, he engaged in a course of self-education and read law privately. He was thirty before he was admitted to the bar and began practice in Hartford in 1817¹.

Realizing that making his fortune in law would be slow and laborious, he cast about for something more promising. A gifted writer himself, he founded the *Hartford Times*, surrounding himself with talented editors and able business managers who within ten years made the *Times* a power in New England politics as a Democratic organ in a traditionally Federalist constituency. Meanwhile, Niles wrote the first of a number of books, served eight years as a county judge, was elected to the Connecticut legislature in 1826, and was an unsuccessful candidate for U.S. senator in 1827.

The *Times*' wasn't influential enough to win any New England states for Jackson in 1828, but made enough inroads in the popular vote to swing Maine and New Hampshire to Jackson in the 1832 election and give Van Buren all except Massachusetts and Vermont in 1836. However, it was *Times*' editor B. H. Norton whom Jackson rewarded with the Hartford postmaster appointment.

Not to be unfairly denied, Niles gathered up his credentials as the *Times*' publisher and Democratic activist and headed for Washington to meet with Jackson personally. Jackson was so favorably impressed he dismissed Norton virtually on the spot and named Niles to the Hartford post office in his place. He assuaged Norton with appointment to the Boston customs house while Niles obtained a reputation as an administration loyalist.

In 1835 Niles was appointed to fill a vacancy in the U.S. Senate where he was a trustworthy supporter of first Jackson and then Van Buren on the senate floor. His appointment as Postmaster General in May 1840, vice Amos Kendall, was neither controversial nor beneficial². As a longtime pub-

lisher/editor and former legislator, his qualifications were above question and he would be in a position to assist Kendall put out the *Extra Globe* in support of Van Buren's campaign for reelection; but he couldn't deliver Connecticut to Van Buren a second time.

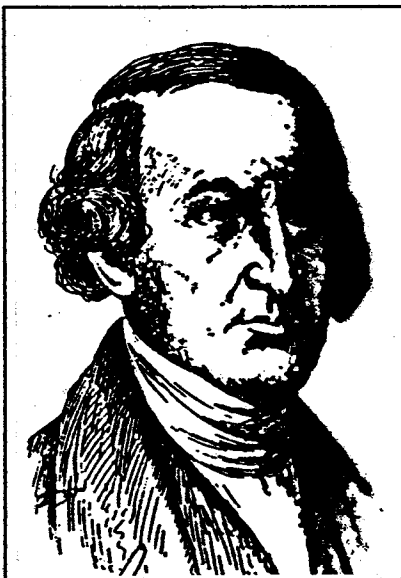
His ten months as Postmaster General did not give Niles much time to improve on Kendall's achievements or to develop a legislative program. His only annual report shows a businessman's grasp of the issues current in the Post Office, and a journalist's facility with words³.

The outstanding event during his tenure was the return of Kendall's special agent, George Plitt, in August from his fourteen-

month survey of several European postal systems, including England, Belgium, France, Austria, and the German States. It is difficult to understate the importance of Plitt's recommendations attached to Niles' 1840 report⁴.

Plitt suggested six areas for improvement in postal management. One urging the employment of guards to escort "mail of importance" was not adopted in the form he suggested, but may have been a basis for the system of registration adopted in 1855 modeled on the British system.

Another suggestion was for the employment of "special agents" to visit every post office from time to time, instruct postmasters in their duties, advise the department on the establishment and discontinuance of post offices, recommend the removal of unworthy incumbents, check on the performance of contractors, and generally oversee the operations of the department in the field. What was new in this was assigning agents to stations outside of Washington. Plitt himself was a "special



John Milton Niles

agent" of some years experience in the Washington office so that it can be assumed the Postmaster General had the prerogative to implement this recommendation. In fact, Postmaster General Charles Wickliffe (1841-45) issued a Letter of Instruction addressed to "Special Agents" in November 1841 implementing Plitt's recommendation with an intriguing allusion to "the agents or travelling postmasters on railroad routes⁵." These special agents can be recognized as the precursors of the postal inspectors of a later age.

Plitt's other four suggestions related to rates. First, he urged the abolition of the franking privilege as a costly burden on the Post Office and subject to abuse. His most serious charge was against Congress itself that, he learned, had posted more than 4,300,000 pieces of mail under free franks during the first session of the 26th Congress (1839-40) at a cost easily approaching a half million dollars in lost revenue.

Next, he opened the issue of newspapers that had been a matter of contention ever since George Washington himself championed the role of the Post Office in the diffusion of knowledge of the laws and the proceedings of the government in 1791⁶. Congress considered the distribution of newspapers so vital it set the postal rate on them at one-cent up to 100 miles and one and a half cents over 100 miles, regardless of size or weight, a fraction of the rate on letter mail, and exchanges between publishers free. Plitt recommended that newspapers be charged by weight, say one cent per ounce, *payable in advance*. To lessen the gross weight burden on the postal system and reduce losses, he even suggested contractors might be allowed to carry newspaper outside of the mails by private arrangements with publishers.

Finally, Plitt considered rating letters by weight "so obviously just," in contrast to the current practice of rating letters by number of sheets and distance carried, that comment upon it "is scarcely necessary."

Having abolished the franking privilege and corrected the problems relating to newspapers, Plitt at last broached the most controversial of his proposals, which was to establish a postal rate of five cents per half ounce up to 500 miles and ten cents over 500 miles when prepaid and double when sent collect. He was convinced by the British experience that these rates could be adopted without loss of revenue through increased volume of mail and reducing the number of letters carried outside of the mail, especially between New York and Boston, in violation of law, which would

become a major issue during Wickliffe's incumbency. Plitt also argued that prepayment would materially reduce the expense of carrying and processing dead letters.

Niles, however, was not entirely comfortable with Plitt's recommendations. He recalled when the House asked Kendall for his opinion of the effect of a schedule of suggested rates during the Second Session of the Twenty-fifth Congress (1837-1838)⁷:

Up to 80 miles	5 cents
80 to 200 miles	10 cents
200 to 400 miles	15 cents
Over 400 miles	20 cents

Niles "supposed" it was in connection with this request that Kendall sent Plitt on his tour of Europe in the first place. Niles agreed that the reforms and improvements Plitt suggested were worthy of consideration, but he was apprehensive that reducing letter rates to five cents per half ounce, etc., would reduce gross revenues to such an extent as to throw the department on the Treasury for support. He said he was unofficially informed that revenues in England had already fallen off more than 50% within the first year of penny postage.

In support of his position he reported a study Kendall had performed that showed the whole weight of the mails entered in the post offices in New York, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, and Richmond during one week in June 1838 was approximately 55,250 pounds of which 44,500 pounds was newspapers, 8,800 pounds periodicals and pamphlets—"more than five-eighths of which being public documents, or other free packets, deposited in the office at Washington City"—and 1,900 pounds of letter mail, both paid and free. From this he concluded that printed matter constituted ninety-five percent of the weight of the mail while yielding only about twelve percent of the gross revenue while letter mail comprising less than 4% of the mail paid more than eighty-five percent of the revenue. This disproportion, in his opinion, could not be abated and still keep up the extent of the mail service with the improvements and additions the future will require, without change in the system.

It appears that while Niles seemed to favor Plitt's proposals, as a practical businessman he understood the difficulties in equalizing postage on printed material and the political obstructions—Congress agreeing to abolish its franking privileges, for one—and the years he expected it would take to realize the benefits of postal reform.

It would be interesting to have seen how Niles might have dealt with the public pressure gathering for postal reform. His annual report shows he clearly understood the issues and the consequences involved, but he was denied the opportunity. Harrison had already defeated Van Buren in the 1840 election. The next March he was the first Postmaster General to willingly step aside to allow a new President to nominate his own choice for the office, so that implementing Plitt's recommendations would fall to others.

John Niles was elected to another full term in the Senate in 1842, serving from March 1843 to March 1849, but he suffered a serious illness during this time from which he recovered only enough to be able to complete his term. Politically he was a strict constructionist, favoring restriction of the activities and power of the federal government. In the few years left to him he pursued an interest in horticulture and visited Europe during the winter of 1851. Upon his death

in Hartford on May 31, 1856, he bequeathed his considerable library to the Connecticut Historical Society.

Portrait of John Milton Niles from *The Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1896, v. 6, p. 436.

¹ See *Biographical Directory of the American Congress*, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C., 1961; Vexler, Robert I., *The Vice-Presidents and Cabinet Members*, Dobbs Ferry, NY, 1975; and *The National Cyclopedia of American Biography*, 1896, v. 6, p. 436 for biographical sketches of John M. Niles

² Niven, John. *Martin Van Buren, The Romantic Age of American Politics*, New York, N.Y., 1983, p. 468.

³ *Report from the Postmaster General*, December 5, 1840. Senate Executive Doc. No. 1, Serial 375, p. 475.

⁴ *Ibid.*, pp. 491-530.

⁵ *Report of the Postmaster*, December 2, 1841, Senate Ex. Doc. No. 2, Serial 401, p. 437, Appendix C, p. 445.

⁶ See Part II, Thomas Pickering.

⁷ 1840 *Report*, op. cit., p. 482.

TOMORROW'S POSTAL HISTORY IS HAPPENING TODAY!

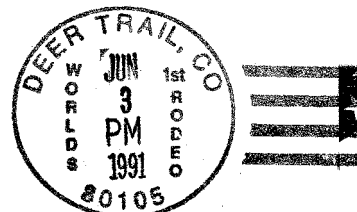
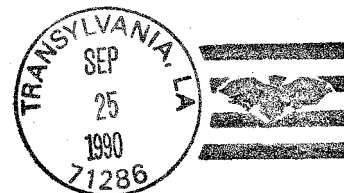
Strange but true, it is easier to find what U.S. post offices existed in 1902 than to find out what U.S. post offices are operating in 2002.

The only official source, *USPS' National 5-Digit Zip Code & Post Office Directory*, leaves out literally thousands of stations and branches, lists closed offices, and is riddled with other errors.

Finally, a complete list is here! *The Post Mark Collectors Club's Directory of Post Offices*, as noted in *Linn's Stamp News* and the *American Philatelist*, is as accurate as 10 years of research and 20 volunteers can make it. The postal rarities of tomorrow are listed here, and only here.

Available in handsome notebook format for \$50, or two computer disks for \$15.80. Payment (payable to PMCC) to Andrew Mitchell, P.O. Box 5, Tariffville, CT 06081-0005. Individual state lists also available – see order form at <http://www.postmarks.org>

Questions or requests for a free sample to above address or by e-mail to: ajmitchell2@attbi.com



Recent Texas Discontinued Post Offices

By Michael M. Ludeman

Continued from La Posta, Vol. 34, No. 3 (July 2003)

By Michael M. Ludeman

Postal historians with an interest in Texas are fortunate to have at their disposal not one but two detailed studies which provide information about the operational periods of the independent post offices in Texas from the Spanish period (beginning in 1779) up to the present time. The first of these studies was prepared by John J. Germann and Myron R. Janzen, who published their project on a subscription, county-by-county basis between 1986 and 2000.¹ The second was prepared by Walter G. Schmidt, who published his alphabetical sequence of Texas post offices in 1993.²

Both of these comprehensive studies were developed using USPOD and USPS source documents, and are in agreement for most of the post offices and their operating dates. The few variations can be attributed to different interpretation of the data in those instances where multiple sources provided dates. Germann's work was published over a 15-year period, and some post office status changes for counties published early in the project were distributed to subscribers, but many other changes from the same period were not provided. Schmidt's work was published in 1993, and the author is not aware of any effort to bring it up to date.

The USPS has created a website which includes a page titled "Postmaster Finder," which includes an option to view a partial list of post offices by state, as well as additional information about postmasters appointed after 1986. These lists (for Texas anyway) are not very complete, and are missing many of the establishment and discontinuance dates for current and recently closed post offices.³

This article will identify all of the status changes which occurred for Texas post offices between January 1, 1982 and the present, and will revise a few dates published in the noted references where additional information has been located and confirmed by the author.

Methodology

The first step was to identify those post offices which had undergone some type of status change. Most of the activity since 1982 was in the form of a post office being closed, but several instances were identified where a new post office was opened, or the name of a present post office was modified. For completeness, these changes were also recorded and are reported as part of the present article.

Most status changes for post offices are published in the *Postal Bulletin*, which is published by the USPS on a bi-weekly schedule. Issues for the previous 20 years were examined, and many status changes recorded. However, to help ensure that *all* status changes were identified, a second approach was used as a cross-check. This involved the use of two other publications available to the author. The first was a second publication by Germann that was very similar to Schmidt's book, but which was published in 1989.⁴ This list was developed as the basis for Germann's county study, and was used in the present exercise rather than Schmidt's list only because the author had earlier converted it to a computer database format, which was an easier format to work with than the printed version. The second publication was prepared by the author for the Post Mark Collectors Club (PMCC), and consisted of a complete list of all active post offices in Texas, including all classified and contract units as of early in 2002.⁵

By comparing these two alphabetical lists of post offices, it was possible to identify all those post offices which had closed or otherwise changed between the publication of the two lists in 1989 and 2002 respectively. The results of this comparison were then matched with the data obtained from the *Postal Bulletins*, and the dates were determined for the close or other status change for each post office. Both John Germann and the author had been accumulating this data regarding these changes over the years, but even with the data from the *Postal Bulletins* and pooling our resources, we still lacked dates for about a dozen post offices. Even the USPS web site was not able to provide some of the missing dates.

At this point, a new resource was discovered quite by accident. While viewing the USPS website pages associated with the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), a web page was found which listed a series of USPS-

Table 2
Characteristics of Texas DPO's

Post Office	Dist	EAS	Pop.	No. Cust	Mail In Out	Xact.	Town (OBSC)	M/P	Discontinue Justifications	Service Alternatives
Afton	FW	NA	100	NA	NA NA	NA	-8--		0	A,(3)
Aiken	FW	C	60	21	122 19	3	-4--	2M	3,7	A,(3)
Alanreed	FW	NA	60	NA	NA NA	NA	-1--		0	Z,(3)
Albert	RG	C	75	38	71 25	NA	-3--		1,2,3	B,G
Antelope	FW	C	65	26	132 19	12	-3--		2,8,11	C,G
Bebe	RG	D	52	10	85 NA	2	0020		1,2	B,G
Bee House	RG	C	40	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1,2	B,C,G
Ben Arnold	RG	C	148	44	62 12	7	-0--		8,11	B,C,G
Best	RG	A	25	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1	B
Birome	RG	C	31	20	66 123	10	-0--	1P	1,2,3	C,F,G
Boston	DA	E	200	55	203 108	18	-2--	1P	3,7	C,E,F,G
Boys Ranch	FW	11	435	87	1007 120	20	-6--		1,3,7	A,(3)
Bula	FW	C	105	54	165 24	4	-7--		3	A,(3*)
Carey	FW	C	60	11	37 4	5	0101		1,2	C,G
Chalk	FW	NA	45	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		0	Z,(4)
Cheapside	RG	A	31	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1,2	B,F
Clay	HO	NA	61(I)	NA	NA NA	NA	-2--		0	Z
Cone	FW	C	110	33	51 16	2	-2--		1,2,3	B,F
Dermott	FW	E	5	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1,2	B,G
Dryden	RG	E	13	71	149 76	17	-2--		2,3,4,7,9,10	A,B,G,(3)
Duffau	FW	A	76	4	4 NA	NA	-0--		1,2	C,G
Dumont	FW	A	85	8	NA NA	NA	-3--		2,3,8	C,D,(1),(4)
Elbert	FW	C	150	59	163 34	10	0202		8	C,F,G
Eliasville	FW	11	116	105	NA NA	NA	1402		2,8,(2)	B,F,G
Fashing	RG	A	50	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1*,2,3	B,D,G
Fieldton	FW	C	126	NA	NA NA	NA	-5--		1*	A,(3)
Fife	RG	C	32	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1,2	C,G
Flomot	FW	E	181	88	NA NA	NA	-1--		1,3,7	A,B,C,F,(3)
Geneva	DA	E	100	74	126 36	24	-1--		3	A,D,(3)
Goodland	FW	NA	25	NA	NA NA	NA	-1--		0	Z,(3*)
Hasse	FW	C	43	59	NA NA	NA	0101		4	C,G
Justiceburg	FW	C	76	38	151 12	NA	0301		2,6,11	B,F,G
Katemcy	RG	A	90	37	154 23	2	-3--		2,8	B,G
Kirkland	FW	B	102	18	NA NA	NA	-4--		1,2	C,G
Kirvin	DA	E	112(I)	85	NA NA	NA	-3--		3,8,12	A,(3)
Leaday	RG	A	55	NA	NA NA	NA	-0--		1,2	B,G
Lelia Lake	FW	11	125	NA	NA NA	NA	-5--		0	A,(3*)
Leon Junction	RG	C	25	27	52 12	13	0100		2,3,4,11	C,F
Long Mott	RG	C	76	12	78 52	10	-1--		2,3,8,11	A,D,(3*)
Magnolia Springs	DA	11	80	50	18 3	1	0001		2,3,6	B,F,G
Maysfield	RG	C	140	32	NA NA	NA	0101		4	C,F,G
McCoy	RG	A	25	0(5)	1 NA	1	1200	1M	4	C,G
Minden	DA	E	350	NA	NA NA	NA	-1--		1,2,8	A,(3)
Monroe City	HO	C	90	10	152 18	15	-0--		1,2	B,G
Newgulf	HO	13	963	96	501 207	10	1210	2M	5	D

Table 2 (Part 2)
Characteristics of Texas DPO's

Post Office	Dist	EAS	Pop.	No.		Mail		Xact.	Town (OBSC)	M/P	Discontinue Justifications	Service Alternatives
				Cust	In	Out						
Newport	FW	C	70	28	32	65		9	-1--		3	C,F,G
Northfield	FW	A	15	NA	NA	NA		NA	-0--		1,2	B,G
Ode11	FW	C	131	55	137	23		3	-4--		1,3	A,(3*)
Otto	RG	11	85	103	126	17		9	0100		4	C,F
Peacock	FW	C	125	54	128	67		30	-4--		1*,2	C,F,G
Pear Valley	RG	A	37	NA	NA	NA		NA	-1--		0	Z,(4)
Perry	RG	C	96	54	113	111		11	0402	1P	2,4,11	C,F
Red Springs	FW	C	81	34	97	NA		20	-2--		2,6	C,G
Redford	RG	11	107	NA	NA	NA		NA	1011		0	Z,(3),(4)
Ridge	HO	NA	76	NA	NA	NA		NA	-0--		0	Z
Rockland	DA	C	105	54	130	49		15	-1--		1,3,7	B,F,G
Royalty	FW	C	196	47	NA	NA		8	0101	1P	1*,2,3	D
Samnorwood	FW	D	110	NA	NA	NA		NA	-2--		1,2	A,(3)
Sandy	RG	C	25	29	NA	NA		NA	0100		1,2	C,G
Saspamco	RG	11	443	NA	NA	NA		NA	-1--		1,2	C,G
Salt Flat	RG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	-3--		0	Z
Shafter	RG	A	31	17	53	16		2	0201		2,8	B,F
Speaks	RG	B	60	22	44	10		3	0130		4	C,G
Texon	RG	A	35	14	NA	NA		NA	-2--		2	B,F,G
Turnersville	PG	C	155	NA	NA	NA		NA	-0--		1,2,8	C,F
Tokio	FW	11	60	NA	NA	NA		NA	-4--		0	A,(3)
Twitty	FW	C	60	NA	NA	NA		NA	-5--		0	Z,(3)
Vera	FW	C	276	57	NA	NA		NA	1002		4	B,G,H
Voss	RG	B	20	40	154	37		1	-0--		1,2,4	B,F,G
Waka	FW	C	145	50	212	51		7	0301		3,7	A,(3)
Wetmore	RG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA		NA	-2--		0	Z,(3*)
Whon	RG	B	15	4	NA	NA		NA	-0--		1,2	B,F,G
Winchester	RG	C	50	53	110	34		9	0504		2,3,11	C,G,(3)

Notes:

- (1) Some data for Dumont was provided by the Postmaster at Turkey, Texas, who was responsible for closing the Dumont post office.
- (2) The building adjacent to the post office at Eliasville burned, and the post office suffered smoke and water damage.
- (3) A CPO was established as the service alternative for this post office.
- (3*) A CPO was established as the service alternative for this post office, but the CPO was later closed.
- (4) This post office still in the Emergency Suspension status condition; most of this data was not in the PODTS report yet.
- (5) This post office had no delivery customers.

managed computer database systems from which an individual could request records using the FOIA. One of these databases was called the Post Office Discontinuance Tracking System (PODTS), and was described to contain data about post office closings. An FOIA request was submitted for the records for Texas, and after the requisite wait, the response to the request was received. Because the materials from this

resource are not well known, and may potentially be of interest to postal historians interested in other states, the materials which were provided will be discussed at some length in the following section.

The Post Office Discontinuance Tracking System

The PODTS database was established about 1994 according to the information provided in the letter which accompanied these materials. It is maintained at the USPS Headquarters in Washington, DC, and is not available to personnel in the various Area or District offices at the present time. The information which is put into this database is received from the District offices on various standard forms, and then entered into the computer at Headquarters. In spite of the claim that this database was established in 1994, the Texas portion of this database was relatively complete for records going back to about 1985, and also included a few records from earlier closings.

The records maintained in this database track two categories of post offices in the closing process of their life cycle. The first consists of post offices which have had their operation suspended by the USPS for some reason, but the post office has not yet been officially closed. The second category represents those post offices which have been officially closed, and the close duly reported in the *Postal Bulletin*.

The records provided by the USPS consisted of two summary reports, one for each of the two categories noted in the previous paragraph, and detailed reports for each post office. These summary reports included the name of the post office, state, ZIP Code and the suspension date, and for the closed offices, the effective or official closed date. These lists included information for all but three of the Texas post offices which had been identified earlier as having closed during the period of study.

The detailed reports were very interesting. There were actually two different formats provided. The first was titled "Discontinued Proposal Fact Sheet," and consisted of a wide variety of information compiled by the USPS during the evaluation process made by the District office prior to the final decision to close the office, including a number of financial facts about the post office prior to its close. The second report was titled the "Emergency Suspension Fact Sheet," and contained a subset of the data included in the first report. The letter that accompanied these reports noted that the field evaluators were not required to complete every data field in these reports, so that some

Table 3
Definitions of the Justification Codes used in the PODTS

Code	Count	Description
0	12	No reason provided
1	26	Lease terminated, post office evicted (Usually because the postmaster, who owned the building, retired.)
1*	4	Same as 1, but postmaster died.
2	38	No suitable quarters for a new post office.
3	22	Low workload, or declining workload.
4	10	Lack of appropriate personnel to operate post office.
5	1	Company town closed by company, post office evicted.
6	3	Closed by Postal Inspection Service recommendation.
7	7	As good or better service provided by other methods.
8	10	Safety hazard, unsuitable health service conditions present.
9	1	Safety hazard, no rest rooms.
10	1	Facility not handicapped accessible.
11	7	Unsuitable current postal facility.
12	1	Enhance area operational efficiency.

reports would be less complete than others, and that this was a feature of the process and not an indication that the missing data was omitted by accident. It simply was not required as part of the decision process.

Even though a number of these records did not have complete data, there was sufficient data present to expand the original scope of the present article to provide an additional section which will present and analyze some of this newly discovered data in an effort to provide some insight into the process the USPS utilized during the close of these post offices. Reports were provided for a total of 80 post offices. Nine of these were from the early 1970s, and were subsequently ignored for the purposes of this study. One was a duplicate entry, leaving 70 good entries to use in the study.

The Post Office Changes

As the records from the PODTS were examined, it was determined that the earliest record for a post office not found as listed as closed in Germann's alphabetical list of 1989 was the entry for Hasse, in Comanche county, which had been closed on July 6, 1982. As a result, it was decided to use 1982 as the starting point for presenting the results of this study. In this way, all of the post offices which closed from the beginning of 1982 up to the present, including those which may have been previously reported in the Germann and Schmidt publications, could be listed in a complete date-order sequence.

During the period covered by this study, two post offices were identified as having been opened. The first was at Santa Fe, in Galveston county, which had been established on Jan. 1, 1983. Santa Fe was a new post office that resulted from the consolidation of two other post offices, Alta Loma and Arcadia, both of which

Table 4
Definition of Replacement Postal Service Alternatives Codes
used in the PODTS

Code	Count	Description
A	16	Community Post Office to be established.
B	24	Establish Highway Contract Route (HCR).
C	26	Establish Rural Route (RR).
D	7	PO Box or General Delivery at another post office.
E	1	City Delivery.
F	21	Install Cluster Box Units (NDCBUs).
G	37	Install Roadside Boxes
H	1	Establish Non-Personnel Unit.
Z	9	No alternative provided in PODTS report.
Total		142

were closed on Dec. 31, 1982. The second new post office was the opening (re-establishment) of the post office at Prairie View, in Waller county, on March 31, 1984. The previous post office at Prairie View had closed on Dec. 31, 1938.

Also, during this period, two other post offices were identified as having had an official name change. The post office at De Soto, in Dallas county, changed the spelling of that post office to one word, Desoto, on Sept. 1, 1999. Then on Feb. 22, 2002, the post office at Little River, in Bell county, changed that name to Little River Academy, to reflect the consolidation of the two communities, Little River and Academy, which had actually occurred back in the early 1980s.

The majority of the status changes, however, involved the close of post offices. A total of 74 post offices had been identified as having closed since the appearance of Germann's list in 1989, and another 14 post offices were added to the list to fill in all post offices that had closed beginning on Jan. 1, 1982.

Table 1 presents a summary by year of all post offices which were closed between 1982 and 2002. The following information is presented in the columns for this table:

- The post office name.
- The county where the post office was located.
- The ZIP code for the post office at the time of close. Many of these towns retained their community identity within the postal system as either a Community Post Office (CPO) or a place name, but in some instances, the ZIP code was changed after the independent post office closed, usually to the ZIP code of the new administrative or parent office. The original ZIP Code is shown in this table.
- The USPS District in which the post office was

located.

e) The date that the post office was placed in the "Emergency Suspension" status.

f) The official close date of the post office, as published in the *Postal Bulletin*.

g) The "actual" close date, which is strictly the author's personal opinion as to when the post office should be considered closed. This is usually one of the two previous dates unless a third, specific close date, was provided in the

PODTS. It was the author's intention for this date to reflect the actual date when a postal patron could no longer obtain services at that post office.

h) Notes. This field contains the author's comments for the post office or dates.

Particular attention should be paid to the description of column "g)". In many instances throughout the 1980s and 1990s, there was a considerable delay between the time that postal service was discontinued at an office, and the official close date which was reported in the *Postal Bulletin*. The reader should keep this in mind whenever dealing with the similar "official" close dates reported in the *Postal Bulletin* for other states.

In addition to the presentation in table 1, a county map of Texas identifies the counties where the closed post offices were located. All Texas post offices are administered out of one of the four USPS districts. The Dallas district is responsible for the northeast section of the state. The Fort Worth district is responsible for the northwest section. The Houston district is responsible for the southeast section, and the Rio Grande district, located in San Antonio, is responsible for the southwest and far west section of the state. While these regions appear to vary significantly in geographic size, they each contain between 200 and 400 post offices, and provide a convenient way to present trends in post office activity. These four USPS districts are designated by the bold lines separating the counties on the map in figure 1.

As can be readily observed from the map, the vast majority of these closed post offices were located in the central and western regions of the state. In fact, over half (45 of 88) were located in the Fort Worth district, which encompasses the Panhandle, South Plains, and North Central regions of Texas. All of

these were in counties characterized by large tracts of land used for farming and ranching, and which have generally low populations.

Analysis

As of January 1, 1982, there were 1,485 independent post offices operating in Texas. During the period of this study, two new post offices were established, and 88 were closed, leaving a total of 1,399 post offices in operation as of December 31, 2002. This is a decrease of 5.9% in the count of post offices for the 21 year period. By way of comparison, the number of operating post offices changed from 1,700 on January 1, 1960 to only 1,485 at the beginning of the present study. This previous 21 year period shows an overall decline of 215 post offices, or 12.5%—over double the rate from the most recent 21 year period.

It should be noted that the author worked closely with John J. Germann in identifying these DPOs and establishing their actual close dates. John has given me permission to state as part of this article that he also believes that the dates presented here represent the best information available and are appropriate to be used in updating the post office listings in his two publications.

Characteristics of the Discontinued Post Offices

The data which was provided in the various PODTS reports was carefully reviewed to determine what sort of empirical conclusions could be drawn from the manner in which the USPS approached the closing of these post offices.

Two general scenarios were observed that seemed to represent nearly all of the discontinued post offices (DPOs) for which data was available. The first would occur when the USPS decided on its own initiative to look at closing a post office, usually for financial reasons. It also appeared to occur when the USPS was provided with advance notice that the postmaster was planning to retire. In this scenario, there was generally time to review the alternatives, and make a smooth transition to an alternative form of postal service for the community. When this scenario was present, the

Table 5
Population Distribution for Texas DPO's

Population Range	All Closed Post Offices		All Active Post Offices		Total Post Offices	Percent Closed
1 - 25	9	9	11		20	45
26 - 50	11	11	27		38	29
51 - 75	12	12	50		62	19
76 - 100	14	14	41		55	25
101 - 125	10		-----This data not created-----			
126 - 150	6		for post offices with			
151 - 175	1		populations greater			
176 - 200	3		than 100 persons.			
201 - 300	1					
301 - 500	3					
501 +	1					
NA	2					
Totals	73	46	129		165	28

post office appeared to actually close on (or about) the official close date published in the *Postal Bulletin*.

In the second scenario, some sudden event forced the USPS to physically close the post office and suspend service without any advance warning. Specific situations observed in the PODTS included the death or sudden retirement of the postmaster, a building fire, and an unsatisfactory report from the Postal Inspection Service following a visit. The USPS would then place the post office in "Emergency Suspension" status, and then initiate the review process and make a determination whether to keep the post office open, or to close it and provide an alternative form of postal service to the community. There was often considerable resistance by the local population when confronted with the possible close of their post office, and on March 15, 1998, the USPS initiated a moratorium on the close of all post offices until they could decide how to address this issue. For the next four years, no additional post offices were closed, and were only placed in the "Emergency Suspension" status. However, on April 5, 2002, this moratorium was lifted by Postmaster General John Potter, and the closing process started again. For Texas, this was reflected by the close on Sept. 28, 2002, of seven of these post offices in the "Emergency Suspension" status. One of these post offices had been in this suspended state for nearly 20 years. Many of these closings were reported in *Postal Bulletin* 22087, and additional ones reported in PB 22093.

Table 6
Replacement Postal Service Alternatives by Population

Population Range	Replacement Postal Service Alternatives				
	CPO	NDCBUS	NDCBUS with Parcel Locker	Unknown	Total
1 - 25	1	1	2	5	9
26 - 50	0	3	1	7	11
51 - 75	3	1	0	8	12
76 - 100	3	0	4	7	14
101 - 125	5	0	3	2	10
126 - 150	3	0	2	1	6
151 - 175	0	1	0	0	1
176 - 200	1	0	1	1	3
201 - 300	0	0	0	1	1
301 - 500	2	0	0	1	3
501 +	0	0	0	1	1
NA	2	0	0	0	2
Totals	21	6	13	34	73

It further appears that none of those post offices placed in the "Emergency Suspension" status since the 1980s were ever reopened for any significant length of time as an independent post office. All were closed, or reopened for a short period, then re-closed with finality.

The PODTS contained records for 70 post offices which had been suspended or closed between 1982 and 2002. Most of these records had completed or at least partially completed sections with data on the justifications presented for the close, recommendations for providing alternative postal services, statistical data on the business volume at the post office before it closed, and financial data on the revenues and operational costs.

The data for the justification, alternative postal services recommended, and some other statistical data for each post office is presented in *table 2*. The columns in this table are as follows:

- The post office name.
- The USPS district where the post office was located.
- The USPS Executive and Administrative Schedule (EAS) Grade assigned to the post office.
- The population of the community. This data was taken from the *Texas Almanac*, 1994-1995, which contained primarily estimates of the populations from local sources. Only two communities were incorporated, and had an official population figure from the 1990 Census. These two entries are designated by (I)

following the population figure.

e) **No. Cust.** This is the number of postal customers served by the post office, as probably reported by the postmaster. It includes both boxholders and local customers on rural routes and highway contract routes.

f) **Mail In/Mail Out.** An estimate of the daily mail volume in and out of the post office. Probably an estimate by the postmaster for the final year of operation.

g) **Xact.** The number of window transactions in a day.

h) **Town/(OBSC).** A coded entry which identifies the number of Organizations (O) present in the community, Businesses (B), Schools (S), and Churches (C); all are entities which might influence mail

volume. This entry was not present for many of the records, so a second source was used to fill in part of the missing data. The entries in the format "0201" were taken from the PODTS reports. The entries in the format "-2—" were taken from the *Texas Almanac*, 1994-1995, which included a count of the number of businesses in each community that it listed.

i) **M/P.** This entry is the number of postage meters (M) or mailer permits (P) associated with the post office. The presence of either of these two elements would likely indicate some business activity and consequently a greater mail volume than might otherwise be expected. The entry "1M" indicates there was one postage meter; the entry "1P" would indicate there was one mailer permit issued.

j) A coded entry to describe the different justifications presented by the USPS for the close of the post office. A complete explanation of these codes, their descriptions, and a count of the number of times that each justification was observed is provided in *table 3*.

k) A coded entry to describe the recommended replacement alternatives for postal service to the customers served by the post office. A complete description of these alternatives, with a count of the number of times each was observed is provided in *table 4*.

A Short Tutorial

Before looking at more of this data in detail, however, it seems appropriate to introduce some terminology so that everyone starts with the same back-

Table 7
Executive and Administrative Schedule
for Postmaster Salaries
(Effective Dec. 28, 2002)

EAS Grade	Hours	Minimum	Maximum
(A - E)		\$ 10.81/hr	\$ 15.22/hr
A	12	558/mo	785/mo
B	18	838	1178
C	24	1116	1570
D	30	1394	1963
E	36	1676	2366
1	40	1740	2209
2	40	1796	2282
....			
11	40	2528	3551
13	40	2773	3895
....			
26	40	5199	7894

ground and understanding. A collection of data such as that found in the PODTS reports is typically called a "dataset." A dataset typically consists of a series of "records," where in our case, a record is associated with a single post office. These records are made up of a collection of data elements, where each element is a single piece of information about the post office, such as the county where it is located, the ZIP code, the number of customers, date suspended, and so forth.

But data is not the same thing as information. Information is extracted from data, or otherwise obtained by organizing and analyzing the data, so that it "tells a story." There are a number of ways to organize data

and extract information; some very simple, and others very complex. For the present study, we will stick to relatively simple techniques.

One of the most common ways to make sense out of data is to organize it into some logical sequence. In *table 1*, the basic information about these DPOs was placed into the table in date order by the author's determined actual close data. This allowed the reader to view this list of post offices in a historical perspective, and observe, for example, that there were several years (1985, 1988 and 1989) with quite a bit of closing activity, and other years with very little (1996-2001). Such an interpretation would not have been near as easy to make if the post offices had been sequenced in simple alphabetical order, as was done in *table 2*. On the other hand, determining if a particular

Table 9
Frequency of PODTS Recommended Service Alternatives
by EAS Grade

Recommended Service Alternatives Codes	EAS Grades							Total	Percent
	A	B	C	D	E	11	13		
A			6	1	5	3		16	12.0
B	7	3	9	1	2	2		24	18.0
C	3	2	17		2	2		26	19.5
D	2		2		1	1	1	7	5.3
E					1			1	0.8
F	3	2	11		2	3		21	15.8
G	6	5	20	1	2	3		37	27.8
H			1					1	0.8
Totals	21	12	66	3	15	14	1	133	100.0

Note: See Table 4 for definitions of the Recommended Service Alternatives Codes.

Table 8
Frequency of PODTS Justification Codes by EAS Grade

Justification Codes	EAS Grades							Total	Percent
	A	B	C	D	E	11	13		
1	5	3	12	2	2	2		26	19.6
1*	1		3					4	3.0
2	9	9	19	2	2	3		38	28.7
3	2		13		5	2		22	16.7
4	1	2	5		1	1		10	7.6
5							1	1	0.8
6			2			1		3	2.3
7			3		3	1		7	5.3
8	3		5		2	1		11	8.3
9					1			1	0.8
10					1			1	0.8
11			7					7	5.3
12					1			1	0.8
Totals	21	8	69	4	18	11	1	132	100.0

Note: See Table 3 for definitions of the Justification Codes.

post office, e.g. *Masterson*, was in the close list in *table 1* would not be nearly as easy as by looking in *table 2*.

Another useful way to organize data is to group it by some common feature or characteristic. *Table 3* and *table 4* illustrate this approach by providing a count of the number of times each of the various Justification types and Service Alternative options were found in the PODTS reports. This same information is provided in *table 2*, and serves to report what was contained in each individual record, but it is not easy to gain a sense of which justification or service alternative was the most common.

A more powerful way to look at data is to look at two characteristics at the same time and try to determine if they are related or not. The technical term for this type of re-

Table 10
Replacement Postal Service Alternatives by EAS Grade

EAS Grade	Replacement Postal Service Alternative				
	CPO	NDCBUS	NDCBUS with Parcel Locker	Unknown	Total
A	0	1	1	10	12
B	0	1	1	2	4
C	8	4	7	13	32
D	1	0	0	1	2
E	5	0	1	0	6
11	4	0	3	1	8
13	0	0	0	1	1
NA	3	0	0	4	7
Totals	21	6	13	32	72

relationship between characteristics is “correlation,” and there are statistical techniques that allow one to compute precisely how close the relationship is. A more visual, and simpler to present, way to look at this type of data is by creating a correlation matrix (or table), which is often called a “Scatter Diagram” in less technical writings. In a scatter diagram, the data is presented in a way that shows how often the two data characteristics are observed for each possible value of these characteristics. *Tables 8 and 9* are examples of this type of presentation.

When the data in a scatter diagram is “scattered” all over the diagram, and contains no obvious regions where the data is concentrated, this is generally interpreted as an indication that there is no significant relationship between the two characteristics. In the other extreme, when data is grouped around a narrow range

of points, or along a line or band, this is an indication that there is a significant relationship between the two characteristics, or that they are “correlated.” In certain situations, the knowledge of a correlation of this type can be used to make predictions or estimates of what is likely to happen in similar situations.

The following sections will look at some of the data from the PODTS in more detail.

Justification Codes

Perhaps the category which is of most interest to postal historians is the “why” a

post office was closed, which in the PODTS is provided in the “Justification” section. From *table 3*, it can be seen that the USPS had identified 12 somewhat ‘Standard’ reasons which they used in evaluating the post office. (Note: the number of the codes was the author’s shorthand notation to identify them.) Three of these codes dominated this category. The most frequently observed justification was that there was no suitable quarters available to use in replacing the post office’s physical facility. If one looks ahead to the population figures presented in *table 5*, it can be readily seen that the 1990 population for most of these communities was less than 200 persons. Since these are rural, unincorporated communities, these estimates probably include both the community and much of the surrounding area as well. Many of these communities have only one or two businesses, probably no modern, contemporary structures in town, and certainly no cost justification to construct a new facility for use as a post office.

The second most common justification was that the post office lease was being terminated, and the USPS was being evicted. This was typically *not* the result of a disagreement between the landlord and the USPS, but a much simpler situation. Because of the lack of a suitable building in many of these communities, very often the postmaster also owned the building which housed the present post office. This might be a separate structure, but in some instances was the postmaster’s primary business or even his residence. When the postmaster finally did decide to retire, or as noted in several instances, died, it was simply not possible or practical to continue to use the previous building.

Table 11
Number of Post Offices in Each EAS Grade by Population

Population Range	EAS Grades								Total
	A	B	C	D	E	11	13	NA	
1 - 25	3	2	2		1			1	9
26 - 50	5		5					1	11
51 - 75	1	1	6	1		1		2	12
76 - 100	3		6		1	2		2	14
101 - 125		1	3	1	1	3			9
126 - 150			6						6
151 - 175			1						1
176 - 200			1		2				3
201 - 300			1						1
301 - 500					1	2			3
500 +							1		1
NA			1					1	2
Totals	12	4	32	2	6	8	1	7	72

Table 12
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade A

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
Best	NA	NA	NA	6,450	NA	6,450	NA	
Cheapside	NA	NA	NA	7,221	NA	7,221	NA	
Duffau	806	1,303	1,443	7,739	0	7,739	NA	
Dumont	Emergency Suspension Status, No data in PODTS Report							
Fashing	NA	NA	NA	7,358	NA	7,358	NA	
Katemcy	2,085	2,213	1,975	7,937	1,737	6,200	NA	
Leaday	NA	NA	NA	5,950	NA	5,950	NA	
McCoy	16,528	9,887	6,997	9,187	0	9,187	NA	(1)
Northfield	NA	NA	NA	7,478	2,371	5,107	NA	
Pear Valley	Emergency Suspension Status, No data in PODTS Report							
Shafter	1,600	NA	NA	8,538	622	7,916	500	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Texon	NA	NA	NA	7,270	1,252	6,018	607	NDCBUS
Averages	\$ 5,255			\$ 7,513	\$ 1,496	\$ 6,018	\$ 554	
Number DPOs	4			10	4	10	2	

Notes: (1) McCoy, No replacement costs as it had no delivery customers.

The third most common justification was that the local workload was low, or declining. A look at the mail volume figures for these post offices in table 2 certainly reflects this in most instances.

The remaining justifications are relatively self-explanatory, and occurred with much less frequency than the three discussed. Some post offices had as many as six separate justifications listed in their report, so that there were a total of 132 justifications provided for the 70 different post offices, or slightly less than two per post office.

Recommended Replacement Postal Service Alternatives

For all but two of the DPOs, the replacement of the postal service provided by the post offices to be closed was of great importance to the local residents. These two exceptions were McCoy, which had no local delivery or post office box customers, as all their customers were located on rural routes, and Newgulf, which was essentially a company-owned town. When the owner, the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company, built the town in 1928, they retained ownership of all the houses and buildings that housed the businesses, including the post office. The company began closing the town in the 1960s, and sold the houses to be moved. By the time the post office was closed there were few residents left, and they also moved, so there was no town and no postal customers left.

It appears that the USPS often recommended several alternatives to replace

the postal service, and then tried to select the one which would provide the best service at the lowest cost, and satisfy the local customers. The most frequently recommended alternative was the installation of roadside boxes, which is the USPS designation for the mailbox located on the road or street in front of the customers house, and

which is used in conjunction with a rural route (RR) or a highway contract route (HCR).

The second most frequent recommendation was the installation of a centralized Non-Personnel Detached Cluster Box Unit (NDCBU), which was a group of locked mail boxes where local customers would have to travel to a central location to pick up their mail. Some of these also had parcel lockers, where the route carrier could also leave parcels, then place a key in the customer's personal box.

The next most frequent recommendation was the establishment of a Community Post Office (CPO) to replace the closed independent post office. A CPO is a special type of contract postal facility which since 1973 can only be created and established to replace a closed post office. A CPO is allowed to retain the original ZIP code and use the town or post office in the bottom line of the address. A historical overview of the CPO in Texas can be found in the author's article, "The Development of Community Post Offices in Texas," *TPHS Journal*, February 2003.⁶

From the local residents' point of view, a CPO is the most desirable alternative, since this would provide essentially the same services. Operationally, the primary change is the conversion of the postmaster from

Table 13
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade B

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
Kirkland	NA	NA	NA	8,538	1,393	7,145	NA	
Speaks	2,206	2,217	2,443	8,297	4,000	4,297	NA	CPO
Voss	2,238	NA	NA	11,751	1,962	9,789	784	NDCBUS/Parcel
Whon	1,137	2,647	3,537	7,740	500	7,240	200	NDCBUS
Averages	\$ 1,894			\$ 9,082	\$ 1,964	\$ 7,118	\$ 492	
Number DPOs	3			4	4	4	4	

Table 14
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade C

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Aiken	5,974	6,864	7,692	16,592	7,500	9,092	NA	CPO
Antelope	1,887	2,356	2,133	15,392	2,805	12,587	NA	
Bee House	NA	NA	NA	14,440	NA	14,440	607	NDCBUS
Ben Arnold	2,072	2,087	1,908	15,477	2,812	12,665	NA	
Birome	4,389	4,991	3,871	15,290	250	15,040	200	NDCBUS
Bula	5,700	6,354	7,415	16,232	8,688	7,544	NA	CPO
Carey	1,471	NA	NA	7,852(1)	2,133	5,744	NA	
Cone	6,097	5,732	5,357	15,752	637	15,115	NA	
Dermott	NA	NA	NA	12,897	2,090	10,807	NA	
Elbert	5,337	4,935	5,969	16,325	1,502	14,823	1,125	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Fieldton	NA	NA	NA	14,955	8,500	6,455	NA	CPO
Fife	NA	NA	NA	12,897	1,523	11,274	NA	
Hasse	NA	NA	NA	16,104	1,785	14,319	NA	
Justiceburg	3,096	3,970	3,311	15,198	2,300	12,898	1,798	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Leon Junction	2,764	3,375	NA	7,338(1)	214	7,124	300	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Long Mott	13,044	13,103	13,306	15,007	10,500	4,507	NA	CPO
Maysfield	9,607	8,950	NA	15,192	3,118	12,074	1,000	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Monroe City	NA	NA	NA	13,065	1,517	11,548	NA	
Newport	6,122	5,330	5,381	16,412	1,600	14,812	500	NDCBUS
Odell	4,211	3,954	3,480	15,992	7,000	8,992	NA	CPO
Peacock	3,703	3,434	3,642	15,477	4,365	11,112	1,350	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Perry	6,419	7,055	NA	15,578	5,763	9,815	1,250	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Red Springs	3,021	5,023	4,704	15,392	2,037	13,355	NA	
Rockland	3,792	4,218	4,600	15,332	1,000	14,332	1,500	NDCBUS/Parcel Locker
Royalty	3,872	NA	NA	16,478	0	16,478		{3}
Sandy	NA	NA	NA	14,915	439	14,476	NA	
Turnersville	NA	NA	NA	7,392(1)	NA	7,392	NA	NDCBUS
Twitty	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Vera	6,651	6,006	5,835	17,339	2,748	14,591	300	Roadside Mailboxes
Waka	6,038	5,580	6,257	16,577	9,000	7,577		CPO
Winchester	8,796	6,979	6,207	15,032	4,200	10,822		CPO
Averages	\$ 5,185			\$ 14,502	\$ 3,723	\$ 11,393	\$ 903	
Number DPOs	22			30	27	30	11	

Notes: (1) These three post office have Operating Costs that are not comparable to the other post offices with an EAS Grade C. Their characteristics are much closer to those with an EAS Grade of A. They were included here although the author believes they belong in another group.

being a USPS employee to one who is a contractor. In some instances, the CPO continued to use the same facility that had housed the post office. While the costs for a CPO would be less than encountered for the independent post office, they would also be much greater than those associated with the previously discussed alternatives. In the present group of DPOs, a CPO was recommended in the PODTS for 15 post offices, and in each instance, a CPO was eventually established in the community. In six other instances, a CPO was eventually established in the community even though it had not been one of the original alternatives listed in the PODTS reports.

Except for the CPOs, it was not directly possible to determine which alternative or combination of alternatives was actually placed in to operation. Based on the recommended alternatives, there could have been as many as thirteen post offices where the NDCBUS with parcel lockers were installed, and five more with only the NDCBUS.

Population

It should be obvious that the size of the local population served by a post office would be one of the most important considerations in the decision process. Using the population data from *table 2*, a distribution

Table 15
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade D

	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Bebe	2,303	2,154	2,449	9,259	293	8,966	NA	
Samnorwood	NA	NA	NA	14,558	6,900	7,658	NA	CPO
Averages	2,203			\$ 11,909	\$ 3,597	\$ 8,312		
Number DPOs	1			2	2	2		

Table 16
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade E

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Boston	15,292	20,165	16,471	22,307	500	21,807	1,000	NDCBUs/Parcel Locker
Dryden	4,771	NA	NA	24,374	7,500	16,774	NA	CPO
Flomot	NA	NA	NA	21,632	10,000	11,632	NA	CPO
Geneva	6,816	6,429	5,781	26,802	8,000	18,802	5,359	CPO (1)
Kirvin	NA	NA	NA	21,452	7,500	13,952	NA	CPO
Minden	NA	NA	NA	21,518	12,000	9,518	NA	CPO
Averages	\$ 8,930			\$ 23,014	\$ 7,583	\$ 15,414	\$ 3,180	
Number DPOs	3			6	6	6	2	

Notes: (1) One Time cost to cancel existing building lease.

Table 17
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade 11

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Boys Ranch	13,811	20,415	23,773	33,791	12,000	21,791	NA	CPO
Eliasville	7,674	7,877	7,071	38,544	2,591	35,953	2,218	NDCBUs/Parcel Locker
Lelia Lake	NA	NA	NA	22,058	9,840	12,218	NA	CPO
Magnolia Springs	5,898	11,154	9,814	15,853	750	15,103	2,500	NDCBUs/Parcel Locker
Otto	4,105	4,436	NA	23,337	2,069	21,268	300	NDCBUs/Parcel Locker
Redford	Emergency Suspension Station, No data in PODTS Report							
Saspmco	NA	NA	NA	32,372	580	31,292	NA	
Tokio	NA	NA	NA	NA	6,000	NA	NA	CPO
Averages	\$ 7,872			\$ 27,659	\$ 4,833	\$ 22,938	\$ 1,673	
Number DPOs	4			6	7	6	3	

Table 18
Financial Summary: DPOs with EAS Grade 13

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Newgulf	25,203	24,454	31,018	46,608	NA	46,608	NA	(1)

Notes (1) Company town closed by company and all residents relocated.

Table 19
Financial Summary: DPOs with Unknown EAS Grade

Post Office	Operating Revenues			Operating Costs				Notes
	Last Yr	LastYr-1	LastYr-2	Current	Replac'm't	Savings	One Time	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Afton	NA	NA	NA	21,098	8,060	13,038	NA	CPO
Albert	1,228	NA	NA	14,625	500	14,125	NA	
Alanreed	No entry in PODTS System, No data available							
Chalk	Emergency Suspension Status, No data in PODTS Report							
Clay	NA	NA	NA	6,245	NA	6,245	NA	
Goodland	No entry in PODTS System, No data available							
Ridge	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
Salt Flat	No entry in PODTS System, No data available							
Wetmore	NA	NA	NA	32,372	580	32,792	NA	

Table 20
Relationship Between Operating Revenue and EAS Grade

Operating Revenue (\$1000)	EAS Grade						NA	Totals
	A	B	C	D	E	11	13	
0.0 - 2.5	3	3	3	1				10
2.5 - 5.0			8		1	1		10
5.0 - 7.5			8		1	1		10
7.5 -10.0			2			1		3
10.0 -12.5								0
12.5 -15.0			1			1		2
15.0 -17.5	1				1			2
17.5 -20.0								0
20.0+							1	1
NA	8	1	10	1	3	4	0	34
Totals	12	4	32	2	6	8	1	72

was created for the population of the communities in which a post office had been closed. This information is presented in *table 5*. As part of another study, the author had earlier created a distribution for all Texas towns which had both a post office and a population of 100 persons or less. There were 129 post offices in this second category, in addition to the 88 post offices in the present study which had been closed. This additional data was also grouped by population and is included in *table 5*. These two distributions allow us to compute the number of post offices which had been located in these small communities, and also to determine the percentage of post offices in the four smallest population groups which were closed during the period under study. As can be seen, the nine post offices closed from communities which reported populations of 25 persons or less represented 45% of the total number of post offices which operated in these very small communities. While smaller percentages were recorded for the remainder of the communities with populations under 100 persons, we

still find that overall, 28% of these small post offices were closed during this 20 year period. This is a significant number of post offices, and probably does not bode well for the future of small town post offices.

Seven of these small post offices (population under 100 persons) were replaced by CPOs, but the balance were simply served by the installation of NDCBUs and the creation or expansion of rural routes or highway contract routes.

Table 6 summarizes the number of

post offices in each population group which were probably replaced by these various service alternatives.

Unfortunately, it was not practical to compile a similar distribution for the number of post offices in communities for the larger population groups.

Post Office Size

In the process of looking at the individual data elements in these PODTS reports, it became apparent that it would be interesting if there was some way to correlate some of the data with a standard measure that described the post office size. For many years, the USPOD, and later the USPS, classified post offices as either 1st Class (the largest) to 4th class (the smallest), a classification which was based primarily on the revenue generated at these post offices. This classification scheme was later changed to one using "Cost Ascertainment Group" or CAG, in which CAG "A" through CAG "G" became a finer resolution of

Table 21
Replacement Costs Summary

EAS Grade	Post Offices Not Replaced by CPO				Post Office Replaced by CPO			
	No. DPOs	Minimum	Maximum	Average	No. DPOs	Minimum	Maximum	Average
		\$	\$	\$		\$	\$	\$
A	4	622	2,371	1,486	0	None replaced by a CPO		
B	3	500	1,962	1,285	1	4,000	4,000	4,000
C	20	214	5,763	1,981	7	4,200	10,500	7,912
D	1	500	500	500	1	6,900	6,900	6,900
E	1	500	500	500	6	7,500	12,000	8,843
11	4	580	580	580	3	6,000	12,000	9,280
13	1	NA	NA	NA	0	None replaced by a CPO		

Table 22
Elapsed Time Spent in "Emergency Suspension" Status

Years	Replaced by CPO	Not Replaced By CPO	Total
0 - 1	2	3	5
1 - 2	1	7	8
2 - 3	2	8	10
3 - 4	1	4	5
4 - 5	1	2	3
5 - 10	0	5	5
10 - 15	0	5	5
15 +	1	1	2
Totals	8	35	43
Average (years)	3.97	4.14	4.02

the 1st class post offices. CAG "H" and CAG "J" were equivalent to the 2nd class post offices. CAG "K" was equivalent to 3rd class offices, and CAG "L" is the 4th class offices. These CAG classifications were still based on postal revenues.

Unfortunately, these CAG classifications were not present in the PODTS reports, but a similar data element was. Nearly all of these individual reports included the Executive and Administration Schedule (EAS) grade for the postmaster assigned to each post office. While no information was found in the USPS literature which implied a direct relationship between the CAG classification and the EAS grade assigned to the postmaster, it seemed reasonable to assume that such a relationship does exist. In the absence of a more definitive measuring baseline, it was decided to take a look at the relationship between some of the other data and the provided EAS grade. (See Appendix A.)

Some additional information about these EAS grades is probably of interest to the reader at this point. The EAS pay schedule has two separate components, one for hourly pay scales, and a second for monthly based salaries. The hourly pay grades, designated as "A" through "E," are used at the smaller post offices, most of which do not operate a full 40 hours each week. Earlier correspondence with an ex-postmaster at one of these smaller post offices indicated that there was a relationship between the EAS grade and the number of hours of operation that a post office would serve

its community, and this was found to be generally accurate. This is discussed in more detail in the later section titled "Window Operation."

The EAS grades "1" through "26" were used to define different ranges for monthly salary schedules. To add some perspective on how this worked, *table 7* presents the most recent salary ranges associated with a few of the EAS grades, with emphasis on those associated with the post offices in this study.⁷ The salary schedules shown in *table 7* were effective as of Dec. 28, 2002, and it should be kept in mind that those in use during the period of this study would have been lower. However, one would expect that the relative differences between an EAS grade of "A" and "11" would be somewhat in the same proportion.

To help the readers compare the hourly pay schedule with the monthly salary schedule, the hourly rates for EAS grades "A" through "E" have been converted into the equivalent monthly salaries using the reduced operational hours associated with post offices which were assigned these grades. It should be repeated that these are only estimates, and likely did vary with different post offices.

Now that we have a standard measure of sorts to work with, we can look for the presence of other relationships in the data. One question that could be asked is "Is there any indication that some justifications are found to be used more frequently with different size post offices when the USPS is reviewing them for closure?" In *table 8*, we can look at the frequency with which each of the different Justification Codes, first defined in *table 3*, were found to occur for the different sizes of post offices. Since most of the Justification Codes represent objective reasons rather than subjective ones, it would not be expected to find much correlation between these two factors, and the rather wide dispersion of the points in this scatter diagram tend to bear out this expectation.

A second question might be "Is there any correlation between the size of the post office and the proposed postal service alternative recommended by the USPS?" By looking at *table 9*, we can observe that Alternative "A", the creation of a Community Post Office (CPO) occurs only with the larger post offices, while for the smaller offices, the more common approach is a combination of Roadside Boxes and ei-

Table 23
Window Operation Hours

Post Office	EAS Grade	Total	Monday-Friday	Saturday
Shafter	A	5	8:30 - 9:30	None
McCoy	A	12	9:00 - 11:00	9:00 - 11:00
Pear Valley	A	12	10:00 - 12:00	10:00 - 12:00
Kirkland	B	18	7:00 - 10:00	7:00 - 10:00
Speaks	B	18	9:00 - 12:00	9:00 - 12:00
Voss	B	18	8:15 - 11:15	8:15 - 11:15
Whon	B	18	NA	NA
Carey	C	12	8:00 - 10:00	8:00 - 10:00
Haase	C	24	7:00 - 11:00	7:00 - 11:00
Justiceburg	C	24	7:30 - 11:30	7:30 - 11:30
Leon Junction	C	24	8:00 - 12:00	8:00 - 12:00
Maysfield	C	24	8:00 - 12:00	8:00 - 12:00
Newport	C	14	10:00 - 12:00	9:00 - 1:00
Ode11	C	24	8:00 - 12:00	8:00 - 12:00
Peacock	C	24	7:00 - 11:00	7:00 - 11:00
Perry	C	24	7:15-12:30	8:00 - 11:45
Royalty	C	24	8:30-12:30	8:00 - 12:00
Sandy	C	24	8:00 - 12:00	8:00 - 12:00
Vera	C	24	8:00 - 12:00	8:00 - 12:00
Waka	C	24	NA	NA
Winchester	C	24	NA	NA
Bebe	D	30	7:15 - 12:30	8:00 - 11:45
Kirvin	E	36	NA	NA
Boston	E	36	NA	NA
Magnolia Springs	11	40	8:00 - 4:00	Lobby only
Otto	11	40	8:00 - 12:00 & 1:00 - 4:00	8:00 - 1:00
Newgulf	13	44	8:15 - 1:00 & 1:30 - 4:45	8:15 - 12:15

Table 11 next shows the relationship between the population for those smaller post offices which were closed and their EAS grade. Again, as expected, one can observe a tendency for the data to group somewhat along the diagonal of the scatter diagram, with the smaller post offices grouping with the post offices with the smaller EAS grades, and the larger populations being a little more randomly dispersed. Since it is not known how often the USPS might adjust these EAS grades as post offices grow or contract their service functions, this disparity might well be an indication that a post office has become overclassified in terms of the customer base that it serves, a fact which might also influence the final decision by the USPS to close that post office.

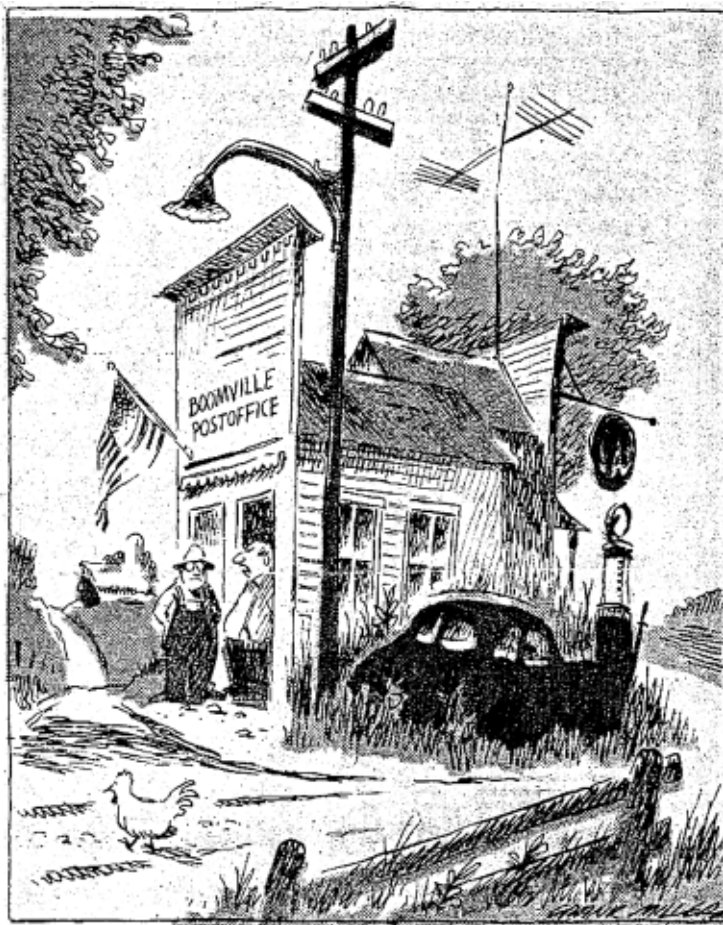
Financial Data

ther rural routes or highway contract routes, or possibly the NDCBU. These observations should not be a great surprise, but it is nice to be able to verify such an observation from the data provided.

We also had earlier looked at the relationship between the population and the types of alternative postal service recommended by the USPS. In *table 10*, we can now look at the number of post offices whose service was replaced by either a CPO, or an NDCBU, either with or without the parcel locker. As we did with *table 6*, we still have to assume that these NDCBUs and parcel lockers were installed when recommended. As one might expect, these alternatives were only used twice for the 12 post offices in EAS grade "A", but were used 37 times for those of EAS grade "C" and above.

A large portion of the individual PODTS reports included some or all of the financial data that could be entered into the PODTS system. As noted earlier, the USPS did not require that all data fields be completed when creating these reports, so we are fortunate to have what data was provided. One of the first things that stands out with this financial data is that very few of these post offices generated a level of revenue that was anywhere close to the operational cost to keep the post office open. Given the general size of these communities, this is not a big surprise. The bulk of the data was in three areas of interest: the operating revenues, the operating expenses, and projected costs and cost savings to close the post office and provide the alternative service to the customer base.

This data was summarized in a series of tables which were grouped by EAS grade of these post offices. Each of these tables (*tables 12 through 19*) contains the following column entries:



'They close this post office and it'll be the end of this town.'

Figure 2 Source: Des Moines Register, Des Moines, IA, ca. 1982.

- a) The post office name.
- b) The Operating Revenue for the last full year of operation, and when present, for the two prior years.
- c) The Current Operating Cost for the last full year of operation.
- d) The Projected Operating Cost for the recommended Replacement Postal Service alternative.
- e) The Projected Cost Savings.
- f) An estimate of any One-Time Costs associated with the Replacement alternative.
- g) Notes.

Most of the data presented in these tables is self-explanatory. The notation "NA" was used to indicate that the individual data element was not present in the original PODTS reports. In the Replacement Operating Costs column, these individual reports occa-

sionally contained an entry of \$0, and this was reflected in the tables. In addition, when no estimate was provided in the Replacement column, the Cost Savings was then computed as though this was a \$0 Replacement cost. In addition to the individual entries, an average cost of all post offices in each EAS grade was computed, and because each column typically contained a different number of valid entries, the Number of DPOs used to compute this average was also provided.

In looking at the EAS grade "A" post offices which were closed, the first thing that stands out is that the Operating Revenues for the post office at McCoy are significantly higher than the others available from the PODTS reports. In fact, only Newgulf, an EAS grade "13" post office had a higher Operating Revenue. While there is nothing obvious in the history of McCoy to explain this anomaly, it is the author's belief that there was at least one large business with a significant mail order operation located nearby, which accounted for a large volume purchase of stamps or other postage. The presence of a postage meter permit customer in McCoy (table 2) tends to confirm this thought. McCoy was also interesting from the viewpoint that it had no delivery customers, or local boxholders who received mail at this post office. All

customer deliveries were made through rural routes or highway contract routes.

While the Operating Revenues for these post offices tended to vary greatly within each grade, and across the various grades, the Operating Expenses were generally very comparable. There were several significant exceptions to this observation in table 14, for EAS grade "C", where there were three post offices with very low revenue relative to the others in this grade (Carey, Leon Junction, and Turnersville). The author tends to believe that these three post offices were mis-classified in the PODTS reports, and these were probably actually an EAS grade "A" post office. However, they were included in the table with the other EAS grade "C" post offices since that was how the USPS reported them.

Table A-1
Relationship between EAS Grades and CAG Classifications
Fort Worth District (Dec. 31, 2002)

EAS Grade	CAG Classifications											Total
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	J	K	L	
E										13	16	29
D											1	1
C										3	12	15
B												0
A											1	1
11										76	7	83
13									33	41		74
15						1	5	43	30			80
18						1	43	17	1			52
20					7	19	5					31
21			1	1	8	1						11
22			4		1							5
24			4									4
25	1	1										2
Total	1	1	9	1	16	22	53	60	64	144	37	408
Revenue Units	950 +							190 - 950		36- 190	1- 36	
	1st class							2nd class		3rd	4th	
Totals	103							124		144	37	408

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A Decade of Change - 1850s Philadelphia

by Tom Clarke

It's been awhile since Philadelphia postal markings were discussed in *La Posta*, so at the end of a summer while no one is paying attention, we'll slip this one in.

The 1850s were a bustling time in America. New-found California gold was continuing to knock the socks off just about everyone, and not just in this hemisphere. It was one of those, "things will never be the same ever again" occurrences. Asians, Australians and Europeans joined the flock of redoubtable easterners and headed for the Pacific coast. Those who wistfully felt that America was destined to shine light on the world took deep satisfaction.

Families were changing too, becoming more modern in their approach to their children and the family as an institution with mutual responsibilities, no longer quite so male dominated. Women had, after all, just held their first women's convention New York State where they republished the Constitution with added feminine pronouns and sentiment, demanded the vote, etc.

Slavery, of course, was still bedeviling North and South, particularly after 1852. That is when "the little woman who started this big war" (as Lincoln is supposed to have said as he greeted her a few years later) published *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

In a similar vein, musical traveling shows called minstrels, complete with blackfaced white males (they also played the female roles) entertained southern and northern audiences alike with light hearted, black dialect songs and patter. They paved the way for people like Stephen Foster with their ever-present rumblings of racial bias.

Pianos came into many homes after 20-30 years of trial and experimentation. To accompany them, or guitars as second best, sheet music led the way. It contained the newest and sweetest contributions from the finest music halls here and in Europe, and found a ready place in the parlor when visitors called or family sing-songs on cold winter nights.

The huzzahs that followed the construction of the 1820s and 1830s barge canals in the North, South, and especially the Midwest had barely begun when the iron horse overtook them with tracks that stretched the length and breadth of the country, tying it together

in ways unforeseen just a dozen years before. Astounding speeds of 55 miles per hour were reached on a straightaway. Travel increased accordingly.

The world no longer seemed quite as perplexing and large. Though it is said the majority of Americans still by 1920 hadn't moved much beyond a 20-mile radius of their homes, birth to death, in the 1850's for early train and stagecoach enthusiasts that was no longer true.

Whether a "mover and shaker" or stay-at-home, it was an exciting event in this wondrous age to so easily and cheaply receive news from near and far from the innkeeper or postman. At the beginning of the '50s, postage rates decreased another 40% to three cents, now very close to the famed English cry of universal "penny postage." When only six years before a large percentage of a day's wage went to pay for an 18-3/4, 25 or 37-1/2 cent postage due letter, a mere three cents was a dream come true.

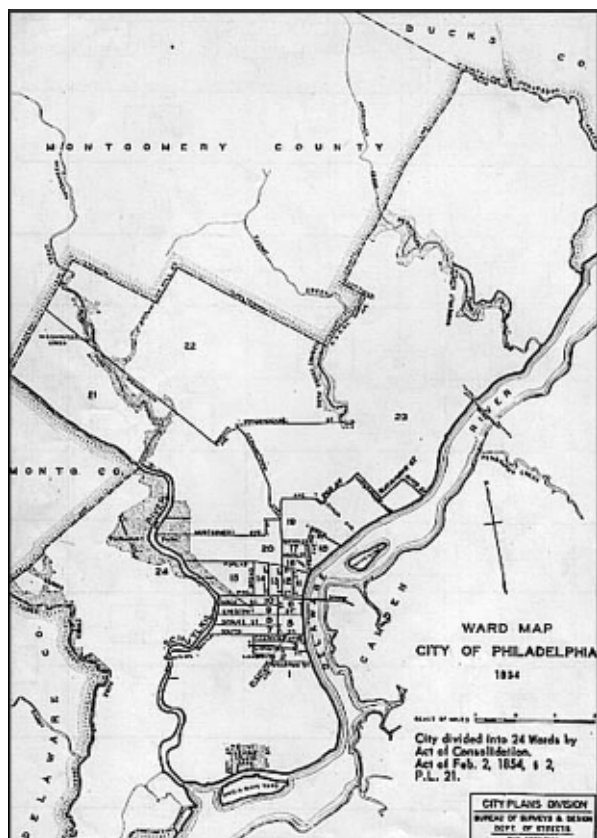
Postage stamps at five cents each had proven a winner in 1847. Shocking in it's liberality, the conservative good business sense of the program showed that to do so, additional citizens would avail themselves of the postal service with the result that postal revenues would climb. And they did.

Philadelphia, per se

Philadelphia too was hankering for change to suit its own teeming masses. Though these numbered 121,000 in 1850, they grew an astounding 360% by 1860 to 525,000. It was a popular city with traditions galore, in spite of it's famed bell that had developed a crack in it 16 years before. Most of the phenomenal growth was due to neither immigration nor gestation, but to the Act of Consolidation, February 1854.

With it, the City of Philadelphia expanded to coincide with Philadelphia County limits. City and county had become one and the proud, established hamlets of Germantown and Frankford and the original "suburbs" of Kensington, Northern Liberties, Penn Township, etc., already filled with overflow from William Penn's initial eight square mile town, were now subdivisions within the city proper.

Postal authorities were no doubt equipped to handle the reorientation bureaucratically. However, practically speaking, each town continued, surely pressured



Map 1: The City of Philadelphia was 9 blocks north-south and 24 blocks east and west in 1853 (the small rectangular portion river to river, lower center) and after Consolidation expanded full county to 135 square miles. All boroughs, townships, villages, settlements and districts were dissolved in favor of the Philadelphia city government. The Post Office being Federal was not immediately affected.

the Main Post Office, to maintain its individually through its town-name cancelers for another nine to 13 years, i.e., some issues are not worth the fight.

Little is known about the working of the “County” post offices under the new city-wide postmastership. Instructions and collection schedules had to be uniform. Much is conjecture, as are the dates of use of the “county” markings. By comparison, Philadelphia with its 90 people per square mile, with its large government mail service, and the several local mail carrier services, provides many times more data for us to draw a more complete picture.

The marking types

Despite all the changes coming to pass across city, state and country, hundreds and thousands of postal clerks continued to do stamp with ink and hand device. The general availability of postage stamps be-

ginning in July 1847 brought forth distinctive postal markers that they would have to get used to. It is obvious that most were unsure at first how to process the new type of mail.

Should town name devices be used to “kill” the stamp? But this may make the city of origin mark and the date difficult to make out.

Or, should a second device be used on the postage itself, allowing the town name dial to be freed to be placed to the side safe and sound? But this would surely slow processing time by half. Would this require doubling the number of clerks, or require cracking the whip to get more and faster work out of the same number of staff?

After some trial and error using town name dials, existing “PAID” markers, numeral postage due marks and plain pen strokes, grid marking cancelers came to the fore as the accepted second marking. Standard town dial mark from pre-stamp days, for the most part, continued in use.

By January 1850, Philadelphia too was successfully double-stamping its letters. There were six different dial marker types in use for standard mail on July 1, 1847. By January 1850, four of these had been retired and two new types adopted for a total of four town markers to start off the 1850’s. These four markers are (keyed by their catalog numbers):

- a) #61 **PHILAD^A./Pa.** Blue, CD32
- b) #67a **PH—A P^A./3cts/PAID** (flat 3), Blue, CD32
- c) #73 **PHILAD^A. Pa./5 cts** Blue, CD 31+
- d) #81a **PHILAD^A. Pa./10** (it) CD32+, Blue

The Great Complication

However, over the next five years, *many* additional marker styles will be used –during those first five years, that is. Several reasons mandated this large number: one was an experimental canceler, and the rest were specific-rate markers, while others were color changes dictated by several factors.

During the early 1850s the idea persisted that there should be a device for each distinct rate or usage. Were they attempting to save their clerk’s time? Most will be the “integral” type with a value contained within the dial. They require only a single stamping rather than the 1840’s double effort. These devices

will not used at one time, only five or so at a given moment, changing every year or two. Why the apparent pandemonium over handstamp types?

Remember that prepaid postage was not needed until April 1, 1855. The age-old custom, postage payable by the recipient, had been the norm for centuries. So prepayment of postage was still a relatively new concept in the first five years of the 1850's. To end confusion over the interpretation of other post office's markings, clerks had to make their intentions very explicit and obvious. Post office people had to shout out through their markings when money was NOT to be collected from the addressee.

There was a government supplied series of paid markers common to many large towns, not just Philadelphia, during these five years. The values represented the circular rate, "1 PAID", four different types of "3 PAID", standard mail rate, seven types of 5 cent rate identifiers for those who failed to prepay, a six and nine stamped for multiple paid standard rates, and four ten cent devices for double non pre-paid mail. Including color coding changes, the total of collectible cancel types across the decade of the 1850's in Philadelphia, discounting spuriously reported types, is 28 (!).

Color, as mentioned, was another reason for the varieties of cancelers in many towns in the early 1850's. Blue and red were used at the beginning of the decade, for no particular reason it seems. A hundred years before red and black were codes for incoming and outgoing mail, but no longer. Perhaps it was purely aesthetic.

The 26 new, briefly used cancel types are

- a) #62 - **PH—A/PA.** CD32+, blue
- b) #63a - **PH—A/P^A.** CD31+, blue
- c) #63b - same, black
- d) #63A - **PH—A./PA.** CD34, black
- e) #64a - **PH—A.P^A./1 PAID** (sl) CD31+, blue
- f) #64b - same, no date = circular use
- g) #65a - **PH—A/2 (huge)** CD31+, black
- h) #65b - same, red – exists? (ASCC)
- i) #66 - **PH—A/PAID/3/Cents/Pa.** CD30, blue
- j) #67b - same, red
- k) #67c - same, red, blank center circular use

- l) #68 - **PH—A PA./3Cts/PAID.** CD31+, red
- m) #69a - **PH—A/PA./PAID 3 Cts.** CD31, red
- n) #69b - same, blue
- o) #75a - **PH—A.P^A./5cts** CD32, blue
- p) #75b - same, black –exists? (ASCC)
- q) #76a - **PH—A P^A./5** "plain 5" CD32+, black
- r) #76b - same, blue
- s) #77 - **PH—A P^A./6PAID** (sl) CD31+, red
- t) #78 - **PH—A P^A./9PAID** (sl) CD31+, red
- u) #80 - **PH—A P^A./10 (bold)** CD32, blue
- v) #81b - **PHILAD^A. Pa./10** (it) CD32+, red
- w) #81c - same, black (=deep blue?)
- x) #82 - **PHILADA.[^] Pa./10cts** CD32, blue
- y) #83 - **PH—A PA.[^]/PAID** CD31 red
- z) #100 - **PH—A/Pa** Oct30, black

Some of these are still questioned after 150 years. Two of the above are from the pages of the eminent *American Stampless Cover Catalog*, and may have been listed in earlier days before letter content dating and better chronologies had been worked out. Maybe it was garbled notes. What's more, some collectors still conceive of "postal history" only from the standpoint of the stamp, i.e., "Sc. #11 on cover (1851-57)...", and the markings found thereon are given the same dates.

Another residual problem with properly identifying and dating cancels: without knowing that subtleties exist among similar cancels, earlier collectors might be quick to assume that one basic cancel was the equal of another, same dates of usage, etc., when a detailed examination and appreciation of ideas like those presented in this article would have proven otherwise.

Then there is always the interpretation of colors (very dependant on a room's lighting quality): is it black ink, a transitional blue-black mixture, "deep blue", etc. There is no end to source material for such arguments.

The Great Simplification

Is ink color a determining factor in calling a specific cancel a "type"? You might argue that #81b in red was merely an error, not a separate type, since the blue version had lasted 33 months and had another three to go. The red seemingly lasted only a few days

				3 cent rate																									
Cat#	legend	col	dial	1850					1851					1852					1853					1854					
				J	F	M	A	M	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A
61	PHILADA./Pa.	Blu	CD32																										
62	PH--A/PA.	Blu	CD32+																										
63a	PH--A/PA^.	Blu	CD31+																										
b	same	B	CD31+																										
63A	PH--A./PA.	B	CD34																										
64a	PH--A./PA.	Blu	CD31+																										
b	same	Blu	CD31+																										
65a	PH--A/2 (huge)	B	CD31+																										
66	PH--A/PAID/3/Cents/Pa.	Blu	CD30																										
67a	PH--A PA./3 cts/PAID.	Blu	CD33+																										
b	same	R	CD33+																										
c	same	R	CD33+																										
68	PH--A PA./3 Cts/PAID	Blu	CD31+																										
69a	PH--A/PA./PAID 3 Cts.	R	CD31																										
b	same	Blu	CD31																										
73	PHILADA. Pa./5 cts	Blu	CD31+																										
75a	PH--A.PA./5cts	Blu	CD32																										
76a	PH--A PA./5 "plain 5"	B	CD32+																										
b	same	Blu	CD32+																										
77	PH--A PA./6PAID (sl)	R	CD31+																										
78	PH--A PA./9PAID (sl)	R	CD31+																										
80	PH--A PA./10	Blu	CD32																										
81a	PHILADA. Pa./10 (lt)	Blu	CD32+																										
b	same	R	CD32+																										
82	PHILADA.^ Pa./10cts	Blu	CD32																										
83	PH--A PA./PAID	R	CD32																										
100	PH--A/Pa Oct30	B	Oct30																										
				1850					1851					1852					1853					1854					
				J	F	M	A	M	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A

Notes:

64b - without date, circ use

65a - Unpaid circ rate

67a - 3c circ rate

67b - triple circ. rate & FC rate

67c - blank center

83 - limited use, mainly ship

Notes:

- 64b - without date, circ use 67b - triple circ. rate & FC rate
 65a - Unpaid circ rate 67c - blank center
 67a - 3c circ rate 83 - limited use, mainly ship

within that period. Whereas, with #67a, b, and c, their color helps identify the usage: in blue it denoted the 3c circular rate pre-1851; in red a triple circular rate (or standard letter rate) post-1851; and of course, without the date slugs, the circular rate again. Thus, color could be a paid/not paid code as well as a usage and rating code to postal workers.

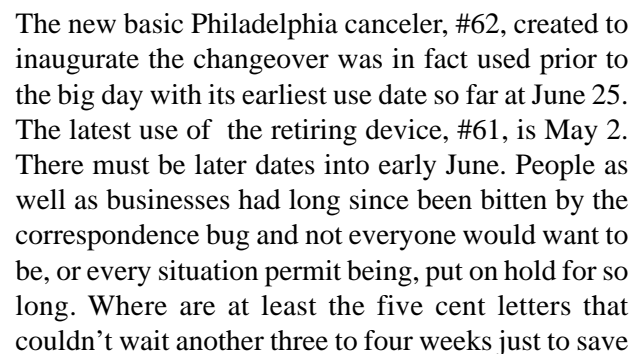
In January 1854, black ink was mandated (but we don't precisely know why except for the obvious desire to prevent reuse of stamps). All blue inked cancellation immediately ceased. The cancel type may have lived on in another color (see especially #63a and b), but blue was gone forever, well, except for its brief rebirth—for unknown reasons—in late 1868/early 1869 and the summer of 1872.

Red *does* continued in use, for an eminently sensible reason, via two markers throughout 1854 and 1855. This may seem odd, given the crusade to pre-

vent stamp reuse. But that's just the point, the red markers were *not* used on stamped mail at all, only *unstamped* letters—prepaid in cash, of course. Red was allowed in order to scream attention to the fact that the letter was legal and permitted.

In January 1856, nine months after the shift to full prepayment, red also gives way to basic black. It appears that the Post Office Department had given the public the nine to fully digest the fact that even *pre-paid* stampless would no longer to be tolerated. Time was on the march.

That same January of 1856 witnessed the most remarkable example of streamlined postal efficiency to date in Philadelphia. At the beginning of 1850 there were those four markers in use, already mentioned. In January 1851 and 1852, there were five—not necessarily the same ones the year before, either. Cancel types were in a continuous flux. In January 1853 there



two cents? Here, and for other marker types, question marks are added where unreported markings would seem to reasonably exist.

Another interesting image drawn from the chart is the dramatic beginnings for other devices besides the blue #62. Numbers 67b and c changed colors from blue to red and another 3 cent PAID, #69a, came on line briefly to meet the expected crush of business. However, the #69a was apparently not needed. It changed from red ink to blue in less than 2 months, and even then will be used for only five months more. There's no apparent reason for the color switch in August 1851: both were used on stampless letter mail. The brevity of use makes them both very scarce, as well as a puzzle.

Have it whose way?

Why was there a need to introduce new five cent devices in post-July 1851? Because those who followed tradition and expected the recipient to pay the postage now had a penalty imposed. But *they* wouldn't have to pay it, the addressee would. What chutzpah! Two added cents, a total of five, was the price for the ignominious privilege of accepting another's unpaid letter. This sounds surprisingly like today's phone company who touts in their TV ads the joy of calling free, "...dial 1-800-CALL-AT..." You can call anyone in the country and receive a wonderfully low rate – except that the person on the other end will pay the bill.

Thus, the blue "5 cts", #75a (and b, if it exists), came into being in August 1851. Its lifetime will extend a full 25 months. Did it take that long for Philadelphian consciences to conclude that imposed postage on another wasn't fair? Actually, it took even longer, because still another blue five cent device, the "plain 5" (#76a) was required. There must have been large quantities of due mail because these two five cent devices overlapped for half a year and then the "plain 5" took sole possession of the task for another 18 months. The "plain 5" will disappeared abruptly in March 1855 with the implementation of the *Postal Act of 1855*.

A companion blue "plain 10" (#80), a very elusive marking meant for double weight postage due mail, was used for a brief while, approximately July through October 1853, though the year is mere conjecture. Frugal Philadelphians must not have written (out of consideration?) lengthy due letters! There are no red Philadelphia 10's known to the writer, either.

There was a double rate red PAID six cent device (#77) that made an appearance late in the period, from July 1854 through September 1855. Accompanying it is a triple rate red PAID 9's (#78) from approximately July 1855. Both are very scarce.

A giant among cancelers

A canceler (#63 and b) with a grand future, though none suspected it at the time, came into being in October 1853. It was born blue and existed that way for 14 months. A directive from Washington required black ink instead of blue. Apparently, unscrupulous postage thieves had figured out how to wash the blue ink and the General Post Office was striking back. As a black cancel beginning in January 1854, its life was effectively tripled. It would go on to faithfully serve another full four years and four months, until June 1858. Its total of six and a half years makes it the longest lived device of its day.

Sometime during #63b's tenure, an experimental type, #63A, was tried, and tried apparently very little as it is unique to date. It is overly large at 34mm, prophetic of the "balloon" (33mm) Civil War era devices to come. Its color black would appropriately fit any year 1854-8, but it is conservatively suggested to be 1855.

Despite this odd exception, and especially after January 1856, #63b was to be the lone Philadelphia canceler. It would have to bear the full canceling responsibility previously carried by those 20-something other intermittent rate-specific devices that had populated postal clerks' desks only a few years before. One may rightly wonder if all the other clerks were given their walking papers in favor of one single, overworked, triple-timing employee?

The answer is no, because the black #63b is known in at least six sub-types. This means that at least six clerks marked up mail with the "same" device, though each actually had an almost exact copy of their own. This concept makes sense, since we began by saying that throughout the first half of the decade, so rate-conscious, there were about five different, varying devices in use at any given time, doubtless one per clerk.

Those five clerks were kept busy throughout the early 1850's and would be needed no less now. The city's population was growing rapidly. The newly consolidated Philadelphia citizenry was half a million plus, but many sent mail through their local "county" stations, which continued to use their locally-named



Figure 2. 62 The first known day of use, Jun 25, 1851, in the week prior to the reduced 3 cent rate. Someone had to get a message through despite the inopportune timing. It is rare to see a full rim!

Figure 3. 62 Eight short months later, Feb 21, 1852, #62 looks battered and bruised. Nevertheless, it will continue in use for another 17 months.

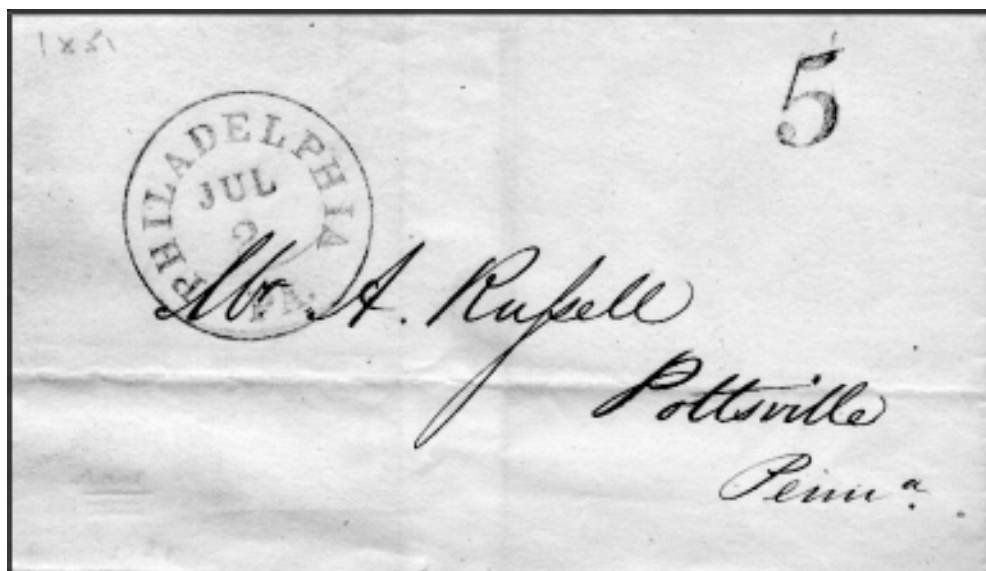


Figure 4

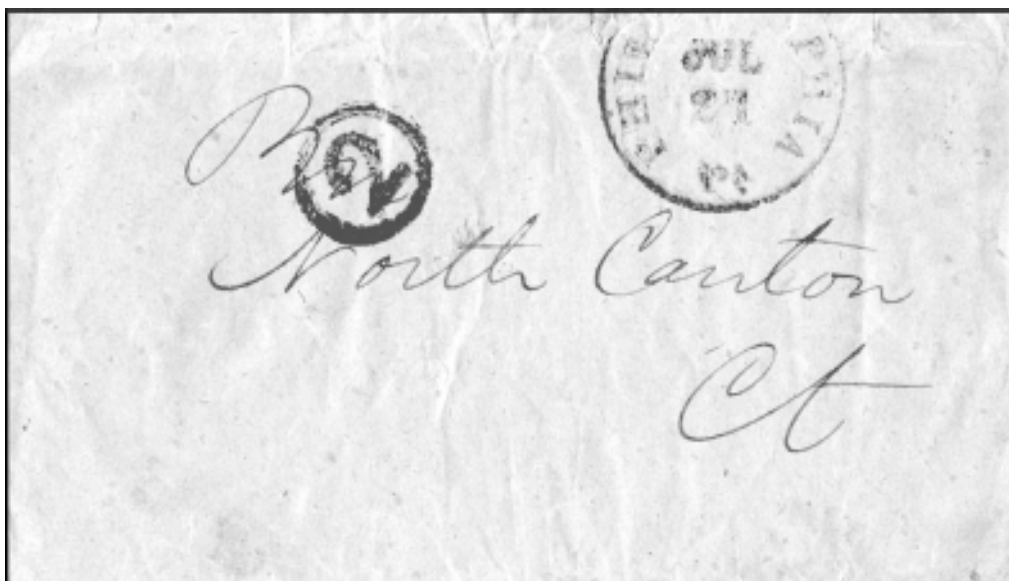


Figure 5

Figure 4. 62 A very pretty, sharp 5 cents collect penalty rate to Pottsville PA. The rims are holding after one week. July 2, 1851 is the second day of the rate.

Figure 5. 63a First seeing the blue version of this cancel caused a double-take, since we are so used to seeing the very many later examples in black. Used with a circle 2 drop letter rate to

Connecticut. It was a precursor to the integral rate markers that blossomed during the first five years of the 1850's. This cancel was used about 9 months after issue, Jul 21, 1853.

Figure 6. 63b An October 9, 1855 black strike on a startling bright orange brown (sadly damaged) #10. This diameter of #63b is 31mm; the next il-

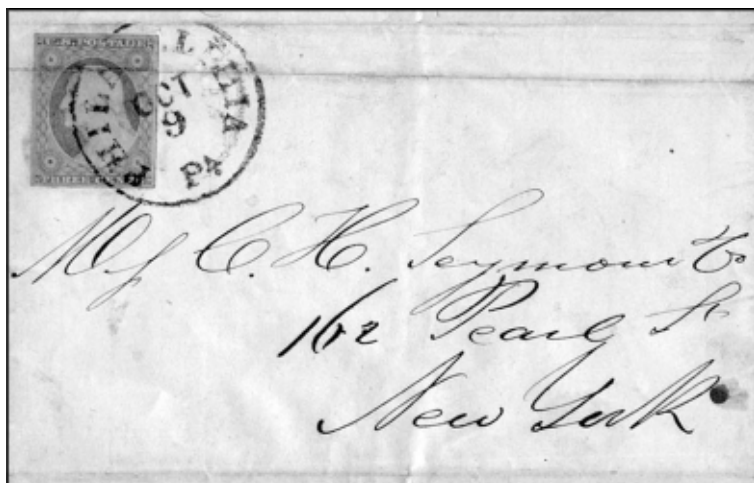


Figure 6
(reduced).

Figure 8. 64b, a These very clear markings indicate a rule change. The lower (#64a) is a circular rate with date (contents dated Feb 10, 1852. The upper (#64b) shows the date removed (but docketed March 1853). The ruling requiring dateless circular cancels must have been issued between their known usages, some time in July 1852 (see chart).

illustration shows a different subtype of 30mm.

Figure 7
(reduced).

Figure 7. 63b A Sc. 26 of Jan 4, 1858. By process of elimination, it must be 1858 as the EKU of the stamp is the previous September, and the cancel ceased use in June. Besides, the grid itself is the EKU, and last used in July.

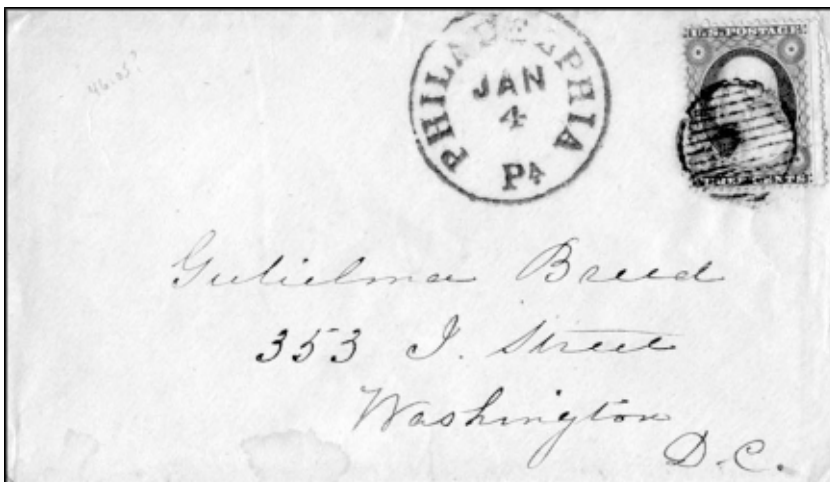


Figure 8 (reduced).

Figure 9. 65a The eye popping "large 2" circular/drop marking parallels the shock upon first seeing a 2c Black Jack. Contents dated March 31, 1855. (This particular cover was a gift between distinguished Philadelphia collectors: to Joseph Carson from Horace Barr for speaking at a Rotary meeting in Reading PA in 1948.)

Figure 10. 67b One of several red 3 cent paid handstamps used on paid, stampless covers. This one dated Jul 24, 1854. The red ink shouted the fact that no money was due. Nine months later, all mail would have to be paid in advance, stamps or no stamps, no more 5 cent penalty rates.

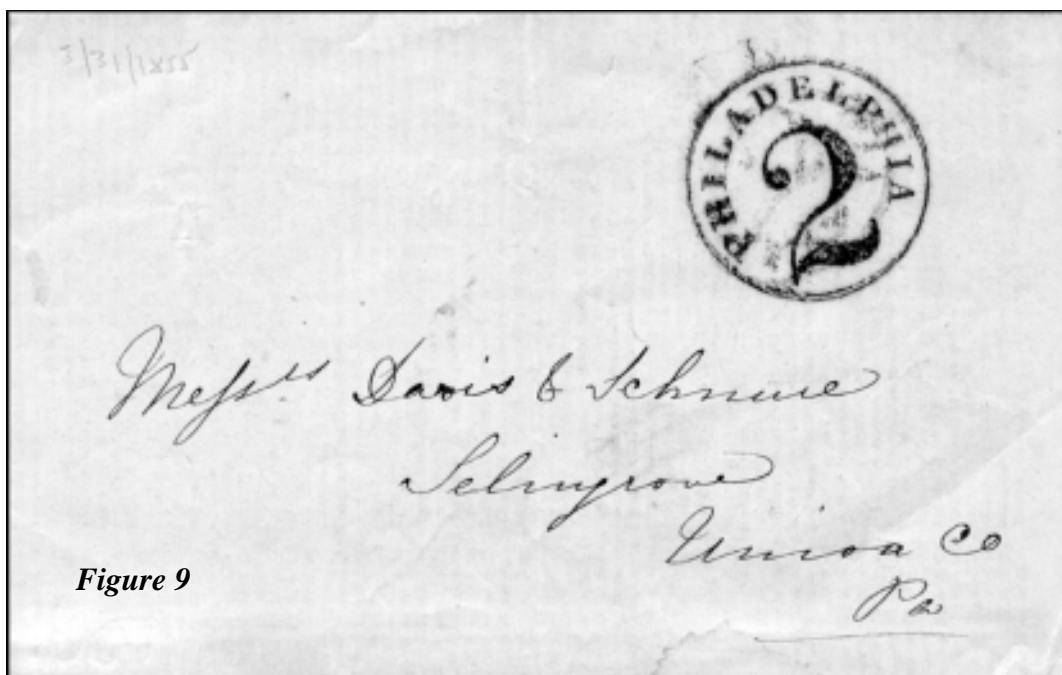


Figure 9

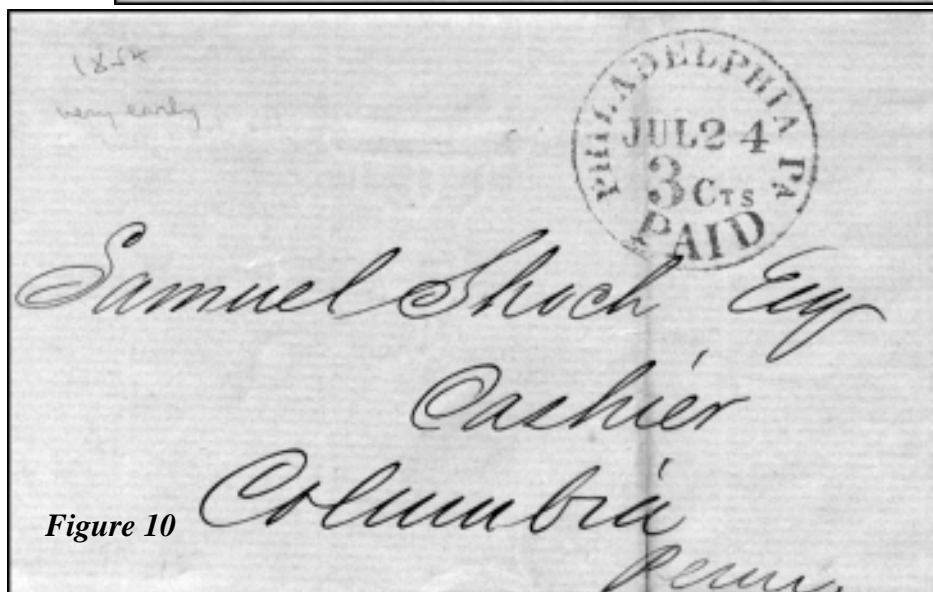


Figure 10

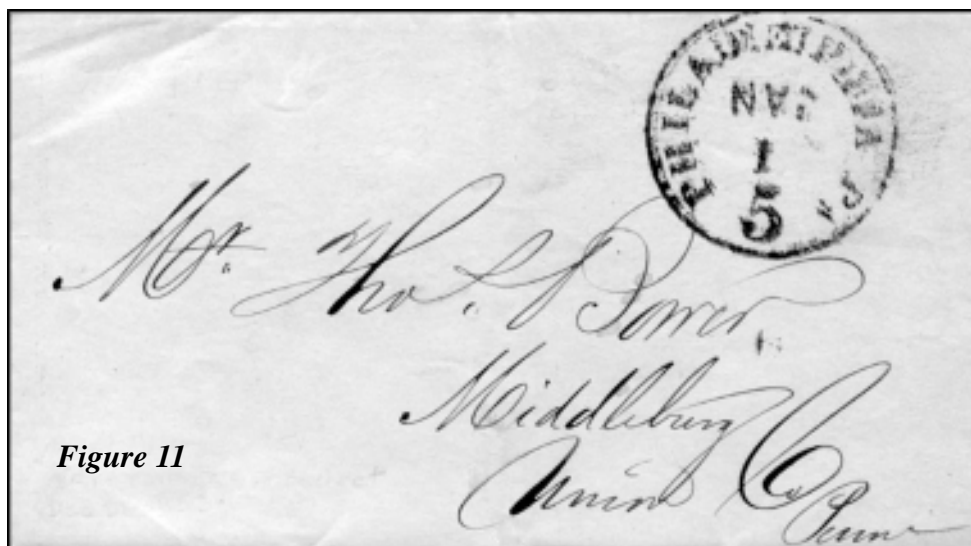


Figure 11

Figure 11. **76a** This is a first day cancel for the color, and a first day for the color itself. Number 76a was forced to change from blue to black with the New Year, 1854, due to the anti-stamp washing crusade being fought from Washington. That the month is inverted suggests that partying in 1853-4 was little different than today.

Figure 12. **76b** An interesting albino cc cover of the "plain 5" cancel, January 17, which, from the condition of the marker is more 1854 than 1855, the only two Januaries when it was used. Note that the stamp was originally attached by a wafer seal! Was it one of the washed stamps that the Government was hotly combating?

Figure 13. **77** The multiple rate red 6 and 9 are uncommon, and small treasures in any condition. This 6PAID is wrin-



Figure 12

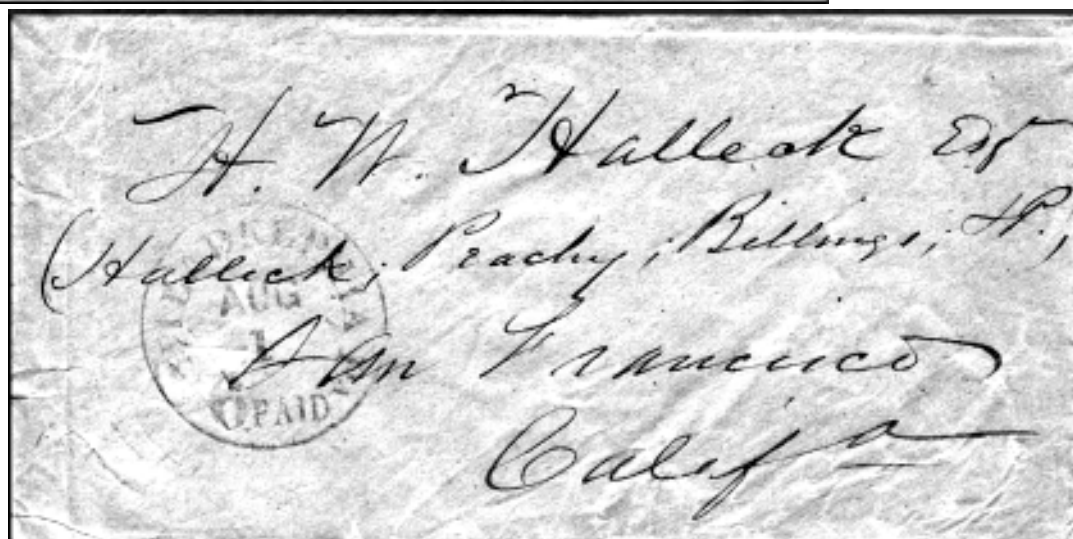


Figure 13

kly and contained a bulky enclosure to San Francisco, probably dated August 1854.

Figure 14. 78 This 9PAID, despite imperfections, is a gorgeous full strike of a triple rate standard letter that could be January 1855, though 1854 fits the color scheme better.

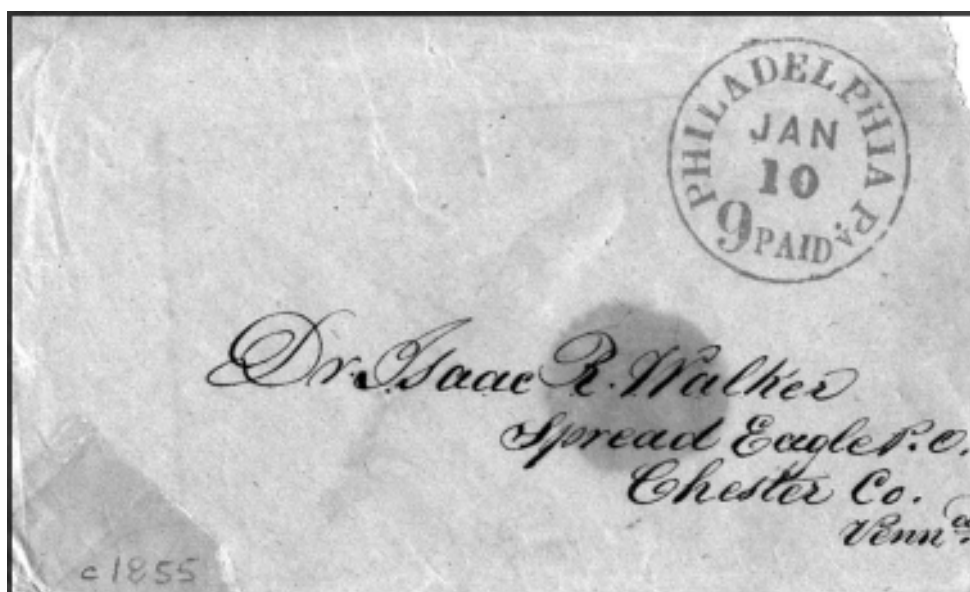


Figure 14

15. **80** The “bold 10” is a rare cancel, so far of unknown year; 1853 is the current guess, and in style it does match with the “plain 5” cancel which was used in blue in late 1853.

16. **100** The large octagon, though distinctive, rarely makes a decent impression. Perhaps it was a batch of poor quality ink pads or low quality ink? This early example five or six weeks after introduction shows some fresh details, but overall looks as if it were in use for a year or two. Or, perhaps there was too much work to do to be careful?

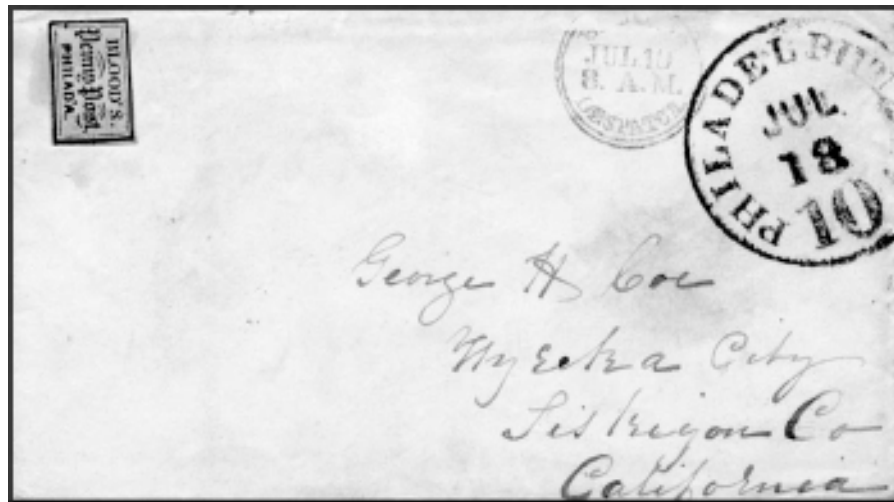


Figure 15

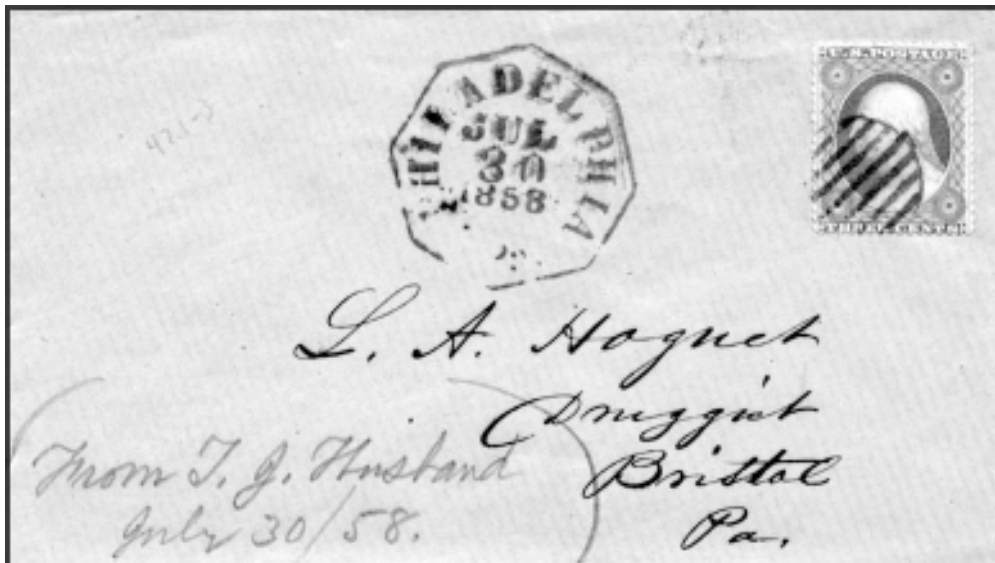
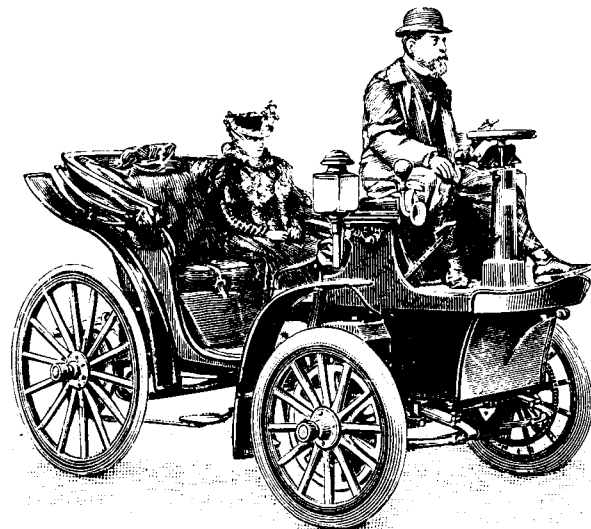


Figure 16

Let a La Posta Classified ad send your message to over 1,100 of North America's most energetic and interested postal history enthusiasts. As simple as 1, 2, 3!!!

- 1) Write down your ad on a slip of paper;
- 2) Count words excluding ZIP code and check the rate card on page 77 to find the cost & number of insertions, and
- 3) Send your ad along with a check to La Posta, 33470 Chinook Plaza, #216, Scappoose, OR 97056 and we'll do the rest.



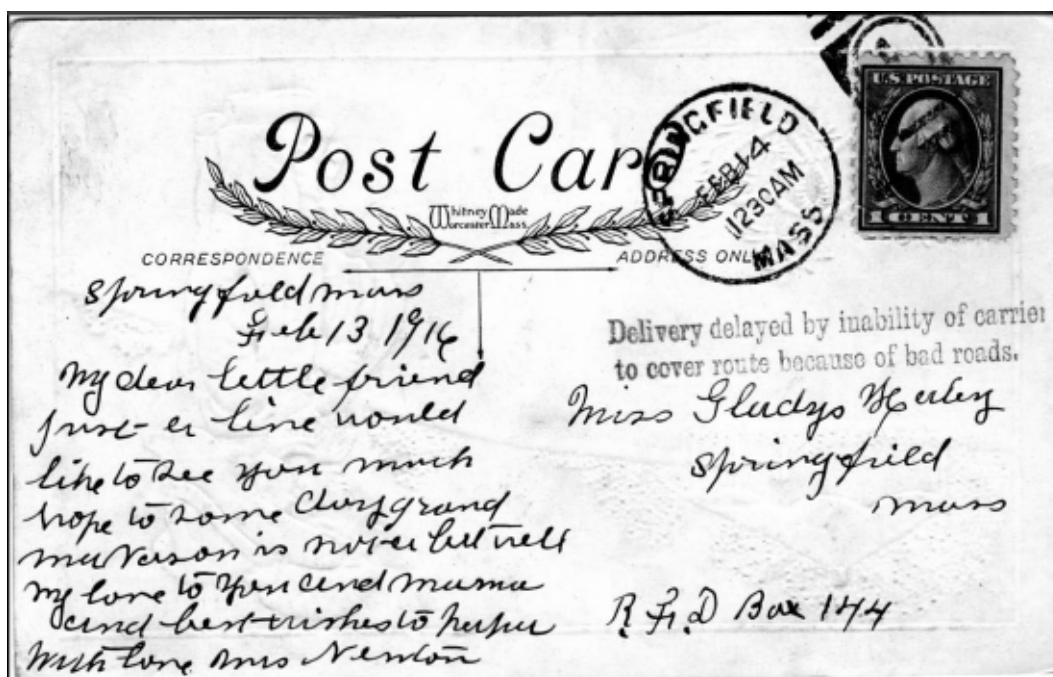


Figure 1 So you think you've got pot holes? The auxiliary message on this card takes us back to a time when even the Post Office Department complained about the condition of roads.

Auxiliary Markings - The Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 & the RFD System

By Randy Stehle

The impetus to write this article was the discovery of the Valentine post card shown in *figure 1*. It was mailed on February 14, 1916, from Springfield, Mass. It was addressed to someone living on a Springfield RFD route. (It is interesting to note that the route number is not given. Springfield had two RFD routes at this time). The post card received an auxiliary marking that reads "Delivery delayed by inability of carrier/to cover route because of bad roads." I had never seen such a marking before, and to this day have never seen another one. I wanted to know more about how the RFD routes were maintained. As it turned out, the card was mailed just before the first big federal road aid bill was passed.

During the last quarter of the nineteenth century, the roads in the United States were not in good shape. There was no centralized system of road management.

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Most of the personnel who built and maintained the roads were untrained. It was during this time that a movement towards improving our roads was begun. Ultimately, it led to the passage of the first comprehensive federal road aid bill in 1916. This article will detail this process and how the RFD system fit into the plan.

The events that led to the eventual passage of this bill began in the late 1870s, when the bicycle craze first reached our shores. They were initially considered to be a public nuisance, as they scared horses. This led to a ban on bicycles from public highways. The League of American Wheelmen was formed in 1880 from a number of pre-existing bicycle clubs to fight this ban and promote the pastime. They were also very interested in improving the conditions of the roads they used. In 1888, the League's agenda grew to include a national campaign for road improvement. They joined other groups with a rural focus, such as the national Grange. In 1892, these organizations formed the National League for Good Roads. Their work resulted in a \$10,000 appropriation to the

Department of Agriculture in 1893 that created the Office of Road Inquiry (ORI). Their primary task was to provide information on road improvement.

The ORI helped draft model legislation for the formation of state highway departments. A few states had already formed such departments - New Jersey in 1891 and Massachusetts in 1892. With the help of ORI, other states (Connecticut, California, Maryland, New York and Vermont) began to also plan for state highway departments.

The other major force behind improving the roads was brought about by the creation of the RFD system in 1896. By 1899, the RFD "experiment" had become very successful, with many miles of routes established throughout the country. In this year, the Post Office Department (POD) declared that no RFD routes would be established where the roads were not passable the year round. By 1904, the nation had 2,151,000 miles of roads, but only 151,664 had been improved with gravel, tar or some other substance. The other two million miles were dirt road that were often not passable at times. The total annual expenditure of the states for road building amounted to only \$2,000,000. By 1912, this amount had risen to \$43,000,000.

Until 1912, no federal money had been set aside for actual road improvements. The reason was based on the theory that federal aid to the states was unconstitutional. Fortunately, the RFD system provided a loophole around this. The constitution gave Congress the power to establish post offices and post roads. Since every RFD route was a post road, the Congress had the right and obligation to construct and maintain these roads.

Post Road Improvement Under The Act Of August 24, 1912

The Post Office appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1913 (which was passed on August 24, 1912) included \$500,000 for the improvement of conditions on RFD routes. The only catch was that the states had to furnish double the amount of money. The Postmaster General and the Secretary of Agriculture adopted an agreement as of October 31, 1912, that spelled out the procedures to accomplish this. The governor of each state was to designate 50 miles of road over which RFD had been established and was a good candidate to conduct improvements. Each state would receive approximately \$10,000, which was based on an equal appropriation among the then 48 states. It

was expected that the designated roads would be largely improved, with an average expenditure of about \$600 per mile. When the states added their required \$20,000 to the federal money, it was hoped that \$30,000 would provide for continuous maintenance of the designated roads during a one or possibly two-year period.

The replies from the governors of the states to the federal road aid offer were not what the drafters of the bill had hoped for. The Joint Report of the Progress of Post Road Improvement actually called the plan a "failure". The following states did not even reply to the October 31, 1912, agreement: California, Indiana, Kansas, Pennsylvania and Utah. Six states refused to participate: Delaware, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, South Dakota and Wisconsin. Twenty-eight states could not raise the necessary funds to participate in the program. Three states (Maine, Connecticut and Vermont) raised the required funds, but only after special state legislative action. Ohio was expected to also enact legislation. Minnesota, Maryland and Iowa had certain supervisory authority over the work to be done, because their state laws required it. A few states (Arizona, Colorado and Washington) were unable to designate a road on which RFD service had been, or was to have been, established. Only two states (Alabama and Oregon) accepted the allotment as originally proposed in the agreement.

The Agreement of April 21, 1913

Due to the failure of the agreement made in 1912, it was withdrawn (except for those few states that had met the requirements), and a new agreement for \$500,000 was entered into on April 21, 1913. The language given in section two spelled out the new requirements:

That there be selected from four to eight locations in as many sections of the country, where different topographic, soil, and climatic conditions are found; that the balance of the appropriation be divided into as many parts; that the Postmaster General and the Secretary of Agriculture proceed to select political subdivisions which will cooperate on the basis of furnishing twice the amount of money which shall be furnished by the Government, and where there is to be found at least 30 miles of road suitable for conducting the experiments contemplated.

The locations selected were in groups of states as follows: Eastern, Middle, Southern Atlantic, Southern Gulf, Central, Middle Western and Western. The governors were requested to select one RFD route for the project. One of the requirements was a route "...where relative savings to the Government in the operation of Rural Delivery Service and to the local inhabitants in the transportation of their products, by reason of the proposed improvement, could be ascertained for the information of Congress." Many states replied favorably to this agreement.

By August of 1913, the Office of Public Roads had made 26 inspections of designated post routes in 18 different states. The inspections covered 1,143 miles, of which 359 miles were accepted. Of these, 290 miles were traversed by RFD carriers, or 81% of the total designated roads. Many inspections were made that did not result in agreements to improve the roads. Delay was largely due to the fact that there were not local funds available for the project to proceed.

Four designated post roads were studied in detail: Lauderdale County, Alabama; Leflore and Carroll Counties, Mississippi; Boone and Story Counties, Iowa; and Cumberland and Sagadahoc Counties, Maine. The Joint Report goes on to state, "The investigation on these designated post roads includes a study of location of the counties with respect to existing transportation facilities, population served by proposed road, traffic area tributary to the roads, degrees of existing improvement, the present cost of transportation, and the annual volume of traffic reduced to ton-miles, county finances and road administration, present value of cultivated and uncultivated land, also school, church, and general social conditions...Particular attention is paid to the total ton-miles of traffic sustained by the proposed post road and the present cost of hauling per ton-mile, with the view of accurately determining the total savings to the community when the roads are improved."

The types of construction used on the roads were varied: Alabama and Ohio got dirt; Georgia, Mississippi and Minnesota got gravel; Ohio got a first class brick road; Maryland and Kentucky got limestone macadam; and Virginia got sand-clay top soil or gravel. Even though many projects were underway at the time of the Joint Report (August 23, 1913), operations had not advanced enough to help Congress devise a general plan of national aid for the improvement of the post roads. One major fact was learned from this "experiment": there was too much red tape in dealing

with all the state, county and local governments. The Joint Report wanted a way to make the various concerned parties act in better harmony, but was not sure how to accomplish this. The final recommendation in the Joint Report urged the continuation of the work, with a doubling of the appropriation to one million dollars for fiscal 1915.

The Federal Aid Road Act of July 11, 1916

The purpose of the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916 was to promote construction of rural roads by granting aid to the various states. The total amount appropriated was \$85,000,000. Of this amount, \$75,000,000 was to be expended on the rural post roads during the five-year period ending June 30, 1921. The other \$10,000,000 was to be spent on national forest roads. The handling of the special roads funds allocated in 1912 and 1913 were largely responsible for the larger provision made in the Federal Aid Road Act of 1916. By studying these roads, it was possible to calculate that it cost 23 cents to haul a ton a mile on an unimproved road, versus 13 cents a mile on an improved one.

The leading features of the rural post roads section of the Act are as follows:

1. It authorized the Secretary of Agriculture to cooperate with the states through their respective state highway departments in the construction of rural post roads. The number of states with highway commissions went from 29 in 1912 to 39 in 1916.
2. No money appropriated by the Act could be expended in any state until the legislature of the state assented to the provisions of the Act.
3. Federal money may be expended only for the construction of post roads. If the Secretary of Agriculture found that any road constructed in any state was not being properly maintained within a given period, notice was given. If within four months of receiving notice the road was not repaired properly, no further aid would be extended to the state or civil subdivision.
4. The \$75,000,000 was allocated as follows: for 1917 \$5,000,000; 1918 \$10,000,000; 1919 \$15,000,000; 1920 \$20,000,000; and 1921 \$25,000,000.
5. The contribution of the federal government for the construction of any road was limited to 50 per cent of the cost. The cost per mile of road construction was not to exceed \$10,000.

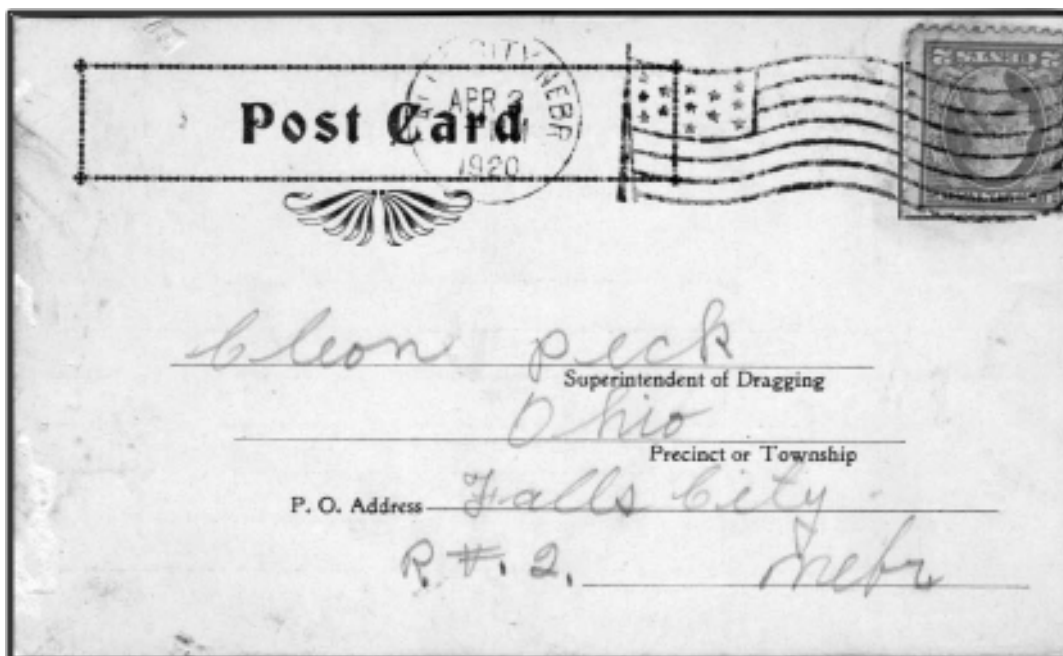


Figure 2

6. The funds were apportioned to the states on the basis of three factors: population, area and mileage of RFD and star routes. Each factor was given an equal weight of one third. For instance, in 1917, Texas was allocated the most aid at \$291,928. Delaware got the least at \$8,184, while California was right in the middle at \$151,064.

left hand portion of the post card lays out the rate of pay. The \$0.65 rate he charged is not listed. It reads "FOR EACH MILE DRAGGED BOTH WAYS THE CHARGE SHALL NOT EXCEED: For 4 horses with 8-foot drag, or larger, per mile \$0.75. For 2 or 3 horses with 7-foot drag, per mile .60." It was signed by Roy Bauer, R. 4. It was approved April 8, 1920 by Cleon Peck, F[alls] C[ity], Superintendent of Dragging.

I was lucky enough to find a post card related to the maintenance of rural roads. It is a fill-in-the blanks post card, which served as an invoice from Roy Bauer, who performed road maintenance. *Figure 2* shows the post card, which was mailed in April 1920 from Fall City, Nebr. It is overpaid with a two-cent stamp, as the rate was one cent then. It is addressed to Cleon Peck, Superintendent of Dragging, Ohio Township, Route #2, Falls City, Nebr. The back of the card is shown in *figure 3*. It reads "March 31, 1920. I have dragged District No. 1 during the month of Feb and Mar 1920, according to your directions, on the following dates: 1 miles with 2 horse[s] 8 ft. drag Feb 17 1920 @ .65 per mile, \$.65 [followed by three more dates] And have charged therefor, \$3.80." The lower

march 31 1920. I have dragged District No. 1 during the
 month of Feb and Mar 1920, according to your directions, on the following dates:
 1 miles with 2 horse 8 ft. drag Feb 17 1920 @ .65 per mile, \$.65
 1 miles with 2 horse 8 ft. drag Feb 21 1920 @ .65 per mile, \$.65
 1 miles with 2 horse 8 ft. drag Feb 26 1920 @ .65 per mile, \$.65
 2 1/2 miles with 4 horse 8 ft. drag mar 27 1920 @ .75 per mile, \$1.85
 miles with horse ft. drag 1920 @ per mile, \$
 FOR EACH MILE DRAGGED BOTH WAYS THE CHARGE SHALL NOT EXCEED:
 For 4 horses with 8-foot drag, or larger, per mile \$.75
 For 2 or 3 horses with 7-foot drag, per mile \$.60
 And have charged therefor, \$3.80
 Signature Roy Bauer R. 4
 Approved this 8 day of Apr 1920, Cleon Peck F.C. Superintendent of Dragging

Figure 3

William Carey Brown's Letters from Fort Klamath, Oregon, 1878-1880

Part 5: Letters to Lt. Brown

Transcribed by Cath Clark

When we last looked in on Lt. Brown in October, 1880 he had written to his father of his visit to the lava beds where the Modoc Wars had occurred, complete with battlefield sketches. While Brown was posted at the Fort through at least September of 1881, there are no more letters written by him in his remaining months there. However, his mother continued to write him from Denver, which gives us further insights into her life as well as William's as he transitioned into a new phase of his military career.

One of Mrs. Brown's letters describes in detail the city-wide memorial services held in Denver for President Garfield, the nation's 20th president and the fourth to die in office. He had been shot only four months after his inauguration, and died two months later from the wound. His Vice President, Chester A. Arthur, assumed the office. What is interesting about the letter is that it portrays how deeply the event impacted an ordinary citizen and her community. Virtually the entire city of Denver turned out for the funeral procession, business was suspended for the day, and all of the shops and many homes were draped in mourning.

We also have two letters written by Robert L. Cavitt, who was a contract guide and route explorer for Lt. Brown.

Denver, Col.

May 14th, 1880 [*unaccompanied letter*]

My Dear Son

I will write a few lines as your Father is writing. I have been cleaning house this week and am tired. I am glad that you have changed your mind and think it is best for the girls not to remain in Phil. through the month of June. We are sending them a check today which is the last until they . . .

Your Father is some better than when I wrote you. I wrote to Helen suggesting flowers for the Plaque she was to paint for you but she has not told me what she was painting. The weather is delightful, the trees have donned their summer [veil] of green full two weeks in advance of last year. I will write more next time.

Yours lovingly,
Mother

Denver, Col.

May 16th 80 [*unaccompanied letter*]

My Dear Son

Yours of the 5th is before me and contents noted. I think the girls enjoyed their N.Y. visit very much indeed. Our friend Mrs Bailey tells me that they are very well acquainted with Mr Sherman of N.Y. and that he is a very nice man. The girls will leave Phil. one week from today. We received a letter yesterday from Mrs Hanna saying that she will be glad to have the girls visit her on their return. They will therefore stay a day or two in Pittsburg (sic).

As you said nothing in your letter about having received the painting from Helen I infer that you did not get it in time for the wedding. It is too bad. I do not even know what she thought of sending. I suggested flowers but she has not said anything about it, although I have asked her repeatedly what she was painting. Why didn't you go to the wedding? By the way I don't believe I ever answered your questions as to whether C.H. Murray signed that receipt for the registered package you sent him. I think he did but there was no letter with it simply the receipt showing that the package had been delivered. I should think he would write to you acknowledging it.

We are having very warm weather but no mosquitoes. I send you by this mail the St. Peter Tribune and Denver Tribune. Your photo received, I will give it to Mrs Roeschlaub and let Harry have the one in the album as you suggest. Last Thursday eve. Roeschlaubs gave a neighborhood party which was very pleasant. Capt. Shepard told your Father on Saturday that he would give the girls half fare rates on the D.&R.G. & A.T. to Santa Fe . . . so I suppose they will visit Mrs Hamm on their return. Capt. Yance of Fort Leavenworth sent Helen a very handsome Easter card, but I did not send it on to her as she will be home so soon.

Mrs. Deane told me the other day that they were going to send all the family photos to you. She goes East in four weeks and Mrs. Deane in Oct. to attend the celebration of the battle of Yorktown. The "World's Fair" scheme at N.Y. has failed and I fear with it my hopes of a trip East. Your Father has not yet got the deed to those "lots" from Mr Cook, but will send it soon. The lots which have been sold since have gone much higher than those your Father brought, and I think they will be worth something some day. Your Father I think is improving slowly.

Write as often as you can to your loving
Mother

Denver, Col.

March 6th 1881

[cover to Fort Klamath, postmarked Denver, March 7, 1881]

My Dear Son

Yours of the 3rd is received. We are glad to know that so far you have had a pleasant journey. How did your lunch hold out? I forgot all about the fruitcake which I had kept so carefully for you and I only wish you had it, for it will take us a long time to eat it.

We received letters from the girls yesterday. Grace has had an attack of Billious Fever but was very much better when she wrote. She says that Mrs. Carey was very kind indeed doing everything in her power for her comfort. I cannot tell you how much I miss you since you [left]. The house seems very lonely without you and I try to be hopeful and look forward to the return of the girls and to our next visit. It commenced to snow last night about 9 p.m. and is still snowing. I think it is the deepest snow we have had this winter. Consequently when it melts we will have the deepest mud, which is not pleasant to contemplate. On Friday morning after you left the man who bought Mrs. Platt's lot adjoining ours commissioned to build. The house is to be a story & a half brick and just one foot from our fence. Delightful isn't it?

Harrison's letter was received on Friday and would have sent if .. had thought that it would still reach Klamath as soon as you would and did not think it best so sent it to San Francisco as you might not get it.

Shall I invest? I think I (should). Hoping you are well and that you will write us very often I am sure.

Your loving
Mother

Denver, Col.

March 9th 1881

[cover to Fort Klamath, postmarked Mar 10, 1881.]

My Dear Son,

Yours of the 4th came to hand yesterday and I hasten to reply so that you may have letters from home soon after your arrival at Klamath. It is just one week today since you left us and it seems like a month to me. I hope the weeks won't grow longer. If they do I don't know how I shall get along the next two years. Your Pa and myself spent Monday evening with Mrs. Platt, the Roeschlaub's and Mrs. Deane were there. We had a very pleasant evening.

There was a frightful accident on Larimer St. yesterday, caused by the falling of the wall of a building in [the] course of construction. Two men were killed and four more wounded. Will send you the paper.

Received a letter from Helen yesterday. Grace has had an attack of Billious Fever but is now about well. She says that Mrs. Cary was very kind indeed doing everything in her power for her she says. I don't know what we would have done had we been out at Darby when Grace was sick. Helen says the next time that her Uncle comes in to the city that they will set a day to go to Dr Thompson and have Grace's eye operated on. I have not yet mailed your papers but will try to get them off tomorrow. Your Pa took them down to the Office and they were over weight so he had to bring them back. I have made two packages of them, the Assaying book I had quite a hunt for and was about to write you that it was not here. But I at last found it among your Father's books in the desk. Will mail the three packages together. No news except that the streets are exceedingly muddy, if that is news!

Hoping you have reached your Post in safety and are well. I am as ever,

Your loving Mother

Denver, Col. March 21st, 1881

[cover to Fort Klamath, postmarked Mar 22]

My Dear Son

Yours of the 13th is at hand and contents noted. The roads must be about as bad in Oregon as in Denver. They have been almost impassable since you left. Our snow drying up so that in some parts of town they are comparatively good. Your friends in this neighborhood and elsewhere make a great many inquiries about you, and you are no longer a stranger here, but one of our family. Am I authorized to present kind regards to all such enquiries? Especially among the neighbors. By the way your Father and myself were invited over to Mrs. Todd's for tea on Saturday eve. Mr & Mrs Deane, Mrs Platt, and the Roeschlaub's were invited. Your Father did not go. We had a very pleasant evening, so you see the suspicions of Mesdames Platt & Deane in regard to Mrs Todd were without foundation. I do not remember whether I wrote you that Grace had the operation performed in her eye. It was entirely successful. Helen says that it also improves her looks very much. Her eye is still too weak to read, or practice. The operation was very painful, much more so than they thought it would be, but Helen says she stood it like a martyr. The Dr said she was the "pluckiest" girl he ever saw. I feel very much relieved that it's over as I felt somewhat nervous about it. It seems like an age since you left home, and now I congratulate myself that it lacks three weeks of being two years till you come again. I

notice what you say in regard to the Arctic Expedition. I am still of the opinion that it would be a very foolish undertaking as well as exposing your life and health unnecessarily. We are forwarding you papers as fast as we receive them. I suppose Farrow's letter was already at Klamath when you arrived. I received a Postal from Dr Calhoun (Aunt Almira's son-in-law) yesterday saying that Frank Hawkins is very low with Typhoid fever.

Harry Roeschlaub has just been in to invite us over to spend the evening, but as I am not very well I shall not go, and Pa is very busy. I wish you were here to go, he enquires about you. I would send Helen's letter but I suppose she has written you. Hoping you are well and rested from your tiresome journey, I am as ever,

Your loving

Mother

[ps] Your ministers in Oregon must be fast men.

Denver, Colorado

March 28th, 1881

[cover to Ft. Klamath postmarked March 29th]

My Dear Son

Yours of March is at hand announcing your safe arrival at your post. We hope that ... you are nicely rested from your long and fatiguing journey. I cannot tell you how much I miss you, now that the weather is warmer and your Father is out so much of the time. It is quite lonely. I received a letter from the girls on Friday which I will enclose as I do not feel like writing. Now in regard to advice about investing in land I do not feel that I am competent to give advice, but I think I would invest in the forty acres but I don't know about the other. Your Father says to keep the check from Farrow and try your luck in the forty acres but thinks he would not at present invest any more in wild lands as his experience in that line in Minn. proved very disastrous to him financially. Therefore his advice is "to go slow." But do as you think best about it.

I feel so thankful that Grace's eyes are likely to be entirely well and stronger than they have ever been. What do you think of the girls leaving Phil. in May? They have both been sick and I am fearful that when the weather is warmer they will not feel so well as of course the city will not be as healthy as in cold weather.

Aunt Hawkins has buried another son with Frank who also died with Typhoid fever. Uncle was first able to sit up and Neva not yet out of danger when I heard from them. Frank I think died about the 12th of this month. He was the youngest of the family.

The neighbors are all well and make many inquiries about you. Well, I must stop writing for tonight. Write soon and often to your loving

Mother

[ps] Mrs. Reigart is very ill. Mr R. suffers dreadfully with his limb.

Denver, Col., [ca June 16, 1881]

[Cover to Fort Klamath postmarked Denver, June 17, 1881]

From Mrs G.A. Brown, 32 South 13th Street

My Dear Son,

Yours of May 25th is at hand and contents noted. Received a letter from the girls last Friday. They were in East Palestine and had visited in Willsville. They expected to arrive in Kansas City on Saturday of this week (June 17th) and will reach home the last of next week, about the 18th. Your Uncle Will Wills (sic) was very kind to the girls and wanted them to stay with him there for four weeks which they could not do of course. He gave them nearly all of your Aunt Mary's things, and also gave them her watch and chain for me, as long as I wanted it, and then it is to go to Grace and never to go out of the family.

Your Uncle John Brown died on the 28th day of May. Nev. Chamberlain took the girls to the funeral on Monday the 30th as they were then visiting in East Palestine. I received a letter on Saturday from Charlie Ellis. He says that J.R. Gardners little boy Bertie is very low with Spinal Meningitis and the Dr. says if he lives he will be an idiot. Terrible isn't it! Thomas Pettijohn hopes to get \$15,000 (fifteen thousand) dollars back pay. Jenny Tyler (ne Pettijohn) is quite well again. You remember she was insane for a time. Charlie spoke very kindly of you and the girls. He says all my old friends send love to me and would like to see "my bright smiling face once again". Isn't Charlie complimentary? You wouldn't beat that yourself. There was a terrible double murder committed in the Parsonage of our church last week which has caused a great excitement in Denver. The Parsonage is not occupied by our Pastor but rented to a family who keeps boarders. I will send you the papers. I sent those "engraving" pens last week. I am sorry you were disappointed about going to Vancouver, but try again. You are going to try for Leavenworth aren't you? It would be so nice to have you there. Then we could see you once in a while. You will doubtless remember the subject of this newspaper paragraph enclosed.

The weather is warm and very pleasant but little dust. All well as usual. I must stop writing and get dinner. Wish you were here to help us eat strawber-

ries. I have not succeeded yet in getting any photos for you from Roeschlaubs. Hoping you are well I am as ever your loving
Mother

Roseburg, Douglas Co Oregon

Aug 15, 1881

From Robert L. Cavitt

[cover to Ft. Klamath, postmarked Roseburg]

Lieutenant Brown

Dear Sir I have the honor of addressing you as I promised. I came home by Williamson's river then northwest near the head of Sand creek than I climbed the mountain to the north of Mount Scott owing to my saddle (sic) mule becoming verry (sic) lame in one hind foot. I had to change from my intended route north of Crater Lake and west of both red buttes then to fish lake creek gap.

I came northwest from Mount Scott and came in to Indian creek. It took three days for me to get to Skoochum Prarie. I expected to get to Fish lake in two when I left the fort. Being nearly out of rations I had to go on to Snow Bird and went from Skoochem to Snow Bird. I had to walk. I got there at night. I did not examine from the gap to mudlake owing to being on the road a day longer than I expected. As soon as I get my work done ... I will take a short trip perhaps about the 20 of the month. I will try at Roseburg to get help. If I do I will try the point or ridge west of Bear Meadows. It looks favorable though it may not prove so good. If I succeed in getting to the South Umpqua without its being too steep then I will blaze up to Fish lake creek gap, but if I go through by myself then I will start in at mud lake and go to the gap.

Northeast of Skootchem I [was] stopped a few hours by rain. I got a good view. I think the best route for road or trail is to come through fish lake creek gap, cross both forks of Rogue River higher up. Just below the willow marshes their (sic) follow the old wagon road four or five miles East then turn South-East leave both red Buttes to the East then come in west of Crater, cross the canyons west of Crater higher up.

This I believe is the easiest and fewer obstacles (sic) in the way. I believe that there would be three prongs of Saugues river to cross. To go the way that we went we had to go too far South to get a round the big mountains and then the canyons was large and deep. . . .

I have been verry (sic) busy since I got home and not had time to go to Roseburg. I will go this morning. I think of going to fish lake gap this week Friday and Saturday was rainy so could not work at hay.

You must excuse poor penmanship. I have worked so hard my fingers are stiffened up. I remain yours respectfully,
R.L. Cavitt

Roseburg, Douglas Co Oregon

Sept 18, 1881

From Robert L. Cavitt

[unaccompanied letter]

Lieutenant Brown

Dear Sir

I take the present time to write you. I worked pretty hard after I got home and got wet a few times so I was under the weather a few days. It was cloudy some time so I thought it best not to start but I went out to mud lake. I went from mud lake to fish lake creek gap on the eleventh 11 of Sep. In my other letter I told you the reason I did not examine this route for a trail. My mule being lame and short of rations no person went with me when I said I would examine this route. I was determined to do so from mud lake to the creek heading by black rock Butte is big timber. Some brush not bad going no bad gulches to cross when I came to the creek. It proved to be a wall rock canyon. I went down six hundred yards got below the canyon good crossing no steep banks no trouble from this back to mud lake.

From this creek for two miles South towards the gap it is verry (sic) brushy mostly pine and poison laurel. Some chinquapin brush, timber fir, sugar pine, some mountain cedar. After this I turned more South East in the direction of the gap. It is timber and brush not very bad going some steep places of bare rocks but no place as I seen but could be avoided the ground is not rock in many places. Kept near the gap. Upon the whole the route is a practicable one brush being the worrst (sic) trouble.

At present it is raining here has been two days past. I have not been from home since I got back. I was thankful for the letter that I received from you. I am satisfied most any way as to my pay though would be glad to get it as soon as possible so as to help lay in my supplies. I went out to mud lake and back did not stay long, flies was bad. I killed a few deer on the trip.

I forgot to say that I crossed Black Rock creek or the creek I speak of over two miles down from the Butte. I remain yours respectfully

Robert L. Cavitt

Denver, Col.

Sept 27, 1881

[cover to Brown postmarked Denver Sep 28.]

Addressed to Ft. Klamath, but crossed out and sent to Ashland, Ore]

My Dear Son,

Yours of the 20th just received. Glad to learn that you are relieved for a trip to Portland Vancouver and hope you will enjoy the visit and the target shooting. We received a letter from Mr Adams last week in regard to the Leavenworth school. He says they had received word from there that they were at work on the buildings intended for the use of the "Military school". So perhaps they may begin the school about the Holidays and have one long term as two short ones in the year. We hope so at least. Grace started today to the Commercial College today. She thinks she will like it very much but will not take Book keeping, only Penmanship. She pays \$5.00 for twenty lessons one hour each day. The course in Book keeping is six months from 9 a.m. to 1 o'clock p.m. daily tuition \$25.00 and we thought we could hardly afford it at present.

We have just built on a shed 12 x 13 at the back of the kitchen to be used as a store room and in case of necessity for a bedroom. It is well built and finished except the plastering so you see we will at least have a place to put our trunks.

Yesterday at 2 p.m. we attended the funeral services of the President which were held out between Stout and Welton Sts and between 23rd & 24th. It seemed as though the whole city turned out en masse. We went down on Larimer and 17th to see the procession. It took fifty-five minutes for it to pass. From there we went out to hear the speaking, but were unable to get near enough the speaker's stand to hear much. All business was suspended for the day, and all nationalities united in doing honor to the illustrious dead. The whole city is in mourning. All business houses a great many private residences & all public conveyances are draped in mourning. The bands (there were four) played "Nearer my god to Thee", with very fine effect. The Choir sang "Asleep in Jesus", and the [Main] choir sang "Rest for the Weary". There were memorial services in all the churches either on Sunday or Monday. Our Pastor preached a very impressive sermon on Sabbath, dwelling on the high moral ... and Christian character of the President and exhorting all especially the young men to stand firm in the truth and right. The Rev. Mr. Heilton summed up all in a few words saying that he was a "man of God" and that was why he had such a hold on the hearts of the people." Truly this is a time for tears and each one seems to feel that

they have lost a personal friend. The "blue & the gray" have formed hands over the bier of our dead Chieftan and God grant that all sectional strife and political jarring and discord may cease and out of this great national calamity may come the highest good to one nation. I am sure that President Arthur will have the prayers of all Christians that he may have wisdom to fulfill the duties of the high station to which he is called.

Helen has finished your porcelains and will send them in a day or two. I hope you will pardon the mistakes I have made in writing. I have been interrupted so that I could scarcely write and you know how nervous I am about interruptions when I want to write. Pa and the girls join me in much love.

Yours lovingly
Mother

[second letter inserted with the above]

Your Father is about as usual, not very well. Don't you want to make your Father a present of an overcoat? His old one is too light for him, in his state of health he requires the warmest clothing, and he has built us a shed for a store-room and has so much in sheep that finances are low, and as we both need coats for winter I fear that he will feel as though he could not afford a good warm, heavy one for himself. I think he would appreciate a present of that kind from you, but do not mention that we requested you to send the money. I think it will require \$25 dollars to buy a good heavy coat.

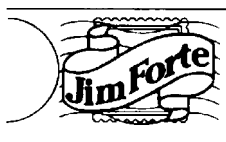
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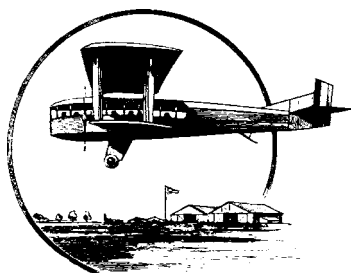
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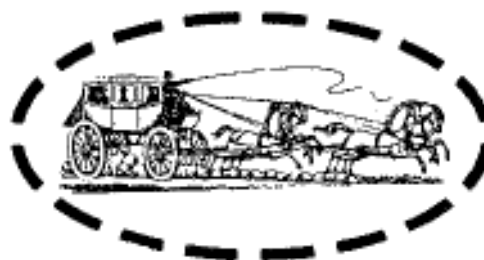
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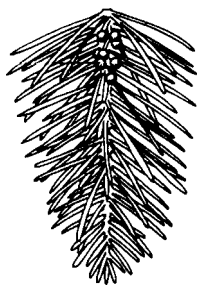
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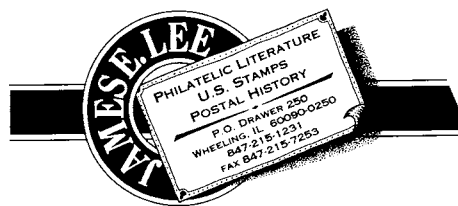
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Backnumbers of *La Posta* may be purchased from **Sherry Straley, 2214 Arden Way #199, Sacramento, CA 95825**. An index of all backnumbers through Volume 28 has been completed by Daniel Y. Meschter and is available on the *La Posta* website at www.la-posta.com.

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LITERATURE: FOR SALE

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THE AWARD-WINNING 240-page book of Wisconsin postal history - *Going For the Mail, A History of Door County Post Offices* -- is now at a special price: \$13.00 postpaid from the author. Jim Hale, 5401 Raymond Road, Madison, WI 53711. [34-4]

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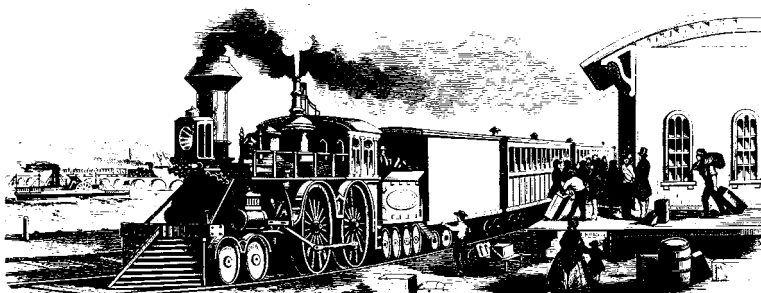
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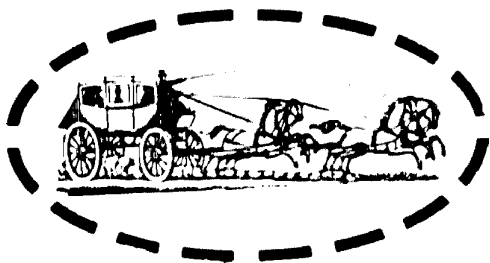
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email: helbock@la-posta.com

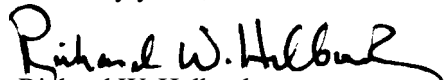
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Sincerely yours,



Richard W. Helbock,

Publisher

La Posta Publications
33470 Chinook Plaza, #216
Scappoose, OR 97056

Hello Richard:

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La Posta, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056

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