



LA POSTA: A JOURNAL OF AMERICAN POSTAL HISTORY

Website: www.la-posta.com

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COVER: Our cover illustrates three envelopes mailed from and to the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition held in Chicago, Illinois, against a backdrop of the fair's great Ferris wheel. The image is intended to introduce readers to the first-part of Kenneth Wukasch's three-part series on the history and postal markings of the World's Fair Station Post Office.

La Posta: A Journal of American Postal History is published six times a year with issues mailed on or about the 20th of February, April, June, August, October and December. Persons desiring information on manuscript submittals or subscription should e-mail or write La Posta c/o All About Mail, 33470 Chinook Plaza, Suite 216, Scappoose, OR 97056

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

U. S. A.	- \$25.00 per annum (6 issues)
CANADA	- \$33(US) per annum
OVERSEAS	- \$37.00 per annum surface
	- \$60.00 per annum airmail

**February - March 2006
Volume 37, Number 1
Whole Number 217**

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Publisher's Page

Volume 37

First off, despite what it says in the bullet on our cover page, "Pioneer Mail Routes of the Pacific Northwest Inland Empire" does not appear in this issue. This article—actually a set of articles—will headline our April-May issue. Please accept my apologies for the false advertising of the cover. When designing a cover layout three months ahead of publication, I find it more than a little tricky to always get it precisely right as to what will be appearing in that issue. I'm well aware of the star attractions, of course, but the supporting actors are a bit iffy, and sometimes a supporting actor can develop into a star attraction. That's what happened in this case thanks to some help from Mark Metkin and Robert Keatts.

We do, however, have a wonderful bill-of-fare to launch our 37th *La Posta* volume. Ken Wukasch returns to share with us some of his seminal research into the operations of the 1893 Columbian World's Fair Post Office in the first of a three-part series. And, just when you may have thought that writers had exhausted every possible aspect of postal history associated with the 1938 Presidential Series, along comes Gordon Katz with his fresh new look at the 5th Bureaus in "Prexies on Postcards-the Missing Chapter." It's likely that Gordon's work will send you scurrying back to your cover/card boxes—just as it did me—to see what you might have previously overlooked as "just another low-denomination Prexie on a post card."

Bob Schultz shares a rather unique piece of Midwest postal history with his "Dogtown, U.S.A." in which we learn what traits are really important when it comes to ordering a coon dog through the mail.

Michael Dattolico donned his postal history detective cap to track down whatever happened to the Licking County, Ohio, ghost town once called Little Clay Lick. Here, in Michael's own words, is a brief account of his adventures:

The [Little Clay Lick, Ohio] ... piece is on the ghost town post office, and it was quite a big one. This article was a departure from the usual style that I use. Since the post office was open for only five years, and very few instances of mail from the place have been recorded, I had to use some unconventional methods of ferreting out the story. I began working on the "project" in early June, so it took me over four months to finish.

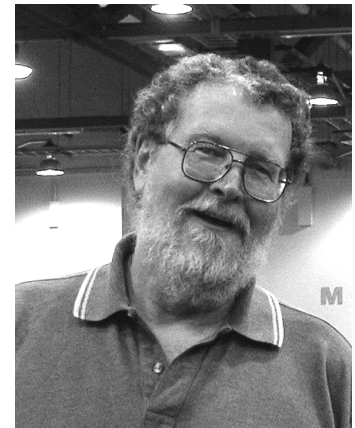
I had very few official records from which to gain information, since the Licking County courthouse in Newark suffered two devastating fires—May, 1875 and another one in the late 1890s. Those calamities destroyed pictures, maps and most other county records of the ghost town, Little Claylick, Ohio. The only records available to me were local township records, gravestone entries in the hamlet's cemetery and some amazing remembrances from descendents of the people who once lived there.

What has evolved in the last four months is a tentative (at first) and then open, friendly relationship with an entire nearby town—Brownsville, Ohio. That town itself is nearly deserted, but it is full of people who helped me find out about Little Claylick. I, and by extension, *La Posta*, now has a host of friends there. If it hadn't been for a few influential townspeople, I would never have gained access to the township's records. And that's where I got the post office's/postmaster's story. The president of the Hopewell Township trustees, Gary Higgins, made records going back to the 1840s available to me. He even accompanied me and other Brownsville folks to the ghost town's cemetery to find information about the people.

Another fellow who actually lives on the ghost town's site took me to the remains of one of the fire-brick kilns that operated 150 years ago. It's just across the road from where he's lived nearly 70 years. The people there really opened their hearts to me. In response, I've joined a group of Brownsville and nearby Clay Lick folks who are trying to restore the Little Clay Lick cemetery, which hasn't been touched in over 60 years.

We are pleased to present the second and final part of Robert Rennick's history of the post offices of Jackson County, Kentucky.

Tom Clarke has been paying close attention to the mail showing up in his mailbox in recent months and has done some sleuthing of his own. He presents his findings in an historical context entitled, "Death of the Dial Postmark." Following in the same modern postal history vein, we reprint an article by Joel Mathis that appeared in the Lawrence (KS) *Journal-World* in late December. Entitled "Retiree Claims Privacy Invasion," it tells the story of retired Kansas University professor Grant Goodman and how he recently received a letter from his long-time correspondent in the Philippines that arrived with a bright green censor tape along its bottom edge. The tape was marked with the emblem of



the Department of Homeland Security and the censorship was conducted by the Border Control & Customs Agency. Personally, I find this a very disturbing story and, to my knowledge, the first recorded instance of U.S. censorship of civilian mails since World War II. Naturally, readers' comments and contributions to this story will be welcome on our pages.

Richard W. Helbock

LETTERS TO *La Posta*

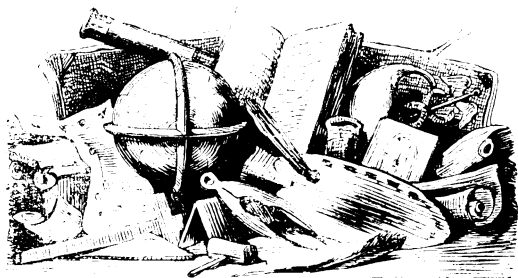
Don Glickstein writes:

The article with the South Dakota GI's WWII letters was interesting, but I wanted to correct one small factual error in a caption just for the record of future readers:

Georgetown in 1942 was not a "suburb" of Seattle. It had been annexed by Seattle in 1910. The neighborhood is now best known for being located just north of King County International Airport, better known as Boeing Field. One of the fraternal lodges in Georgetown is also the home for a regular stamp bourse. It's a relatively low-income neighborhood with businesses, small industries, and homes intermingled. It's also the location for a Seattle landmark, the Hat & Boots, a kitschy former gas station, now part of a park, in the form of yes, a cowboy hat and cowboy boots.

Bob Rawlins writes:

Manila Bay Mail correction: Reference *La Posta* August-September 2005, "Mail Before the Fall, Part II." The cover illustrated in PH 08 was provided by Larry Sherman; Kurt Stauffer provided information about PFC McVay. The correct page number in *The United States Post Office WWII* by Larry Sherman should have been 100, not 106. The errors are the authors' and are regretted.



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POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETIES (Listed by request)

(For a Listing of ALL U.S. State Postal History Societies see the Empire State Postal History Society) — <http://www.esphs.org/usphs.html>
 Mobile Post Office Society — <http://www.eskimo.com/~rkunz/mposhome.html>



Figure 4 Postal clerks sorting “dumped mail” collected on the fairgrounds.

Processing the Mail

The World’s Fair Station Post Office was divided into two mail sections. The first was the mailing division where outgoing mail was handled. The second was the City Division that was responsible for incoming mail. The mailing division occupied the north half of the post office while the City Division occupied the south end. Mail collected by carriers on the fairgrounds was brought through doors on the west side and then dumped onto the pickup table in the north end of the mailing division. *Figure 4* shows postal clerks arranging “dumped” mail. Here, it was sorted for size and inserted into electric canceling machines.

After being postmarked, it was roughly separated by States in a case just south of the pickup table. Six clerks working three double distributing cases for routes south of the State case then made up the mail for routes before placing it aboard the “Benjamin Harrison”, shown in *Figure 5*. On board, two R.P.O. clerks completed the routes, “. . . placed in pouches

and sent forth for distribution, wagons delivering and receiving the mailbags direct from incoming and outgoing trains”.⁴

All incoming mail had to go through the City Division. This incoming mail was delivered to the post office by rapid mail wagon after its pickup from the Illinois Central Railroad terminal. Following an approximate 15 minute trip, the mail was unloaded and dumped onto the opening table in the south end of the post office where it was back stamped with the time of receipt. The mail was now ready to be made up into delivery routes on the fairgrounds. *Figure 6*

shows a morning lineup of World’s Fair Station letter carriers.

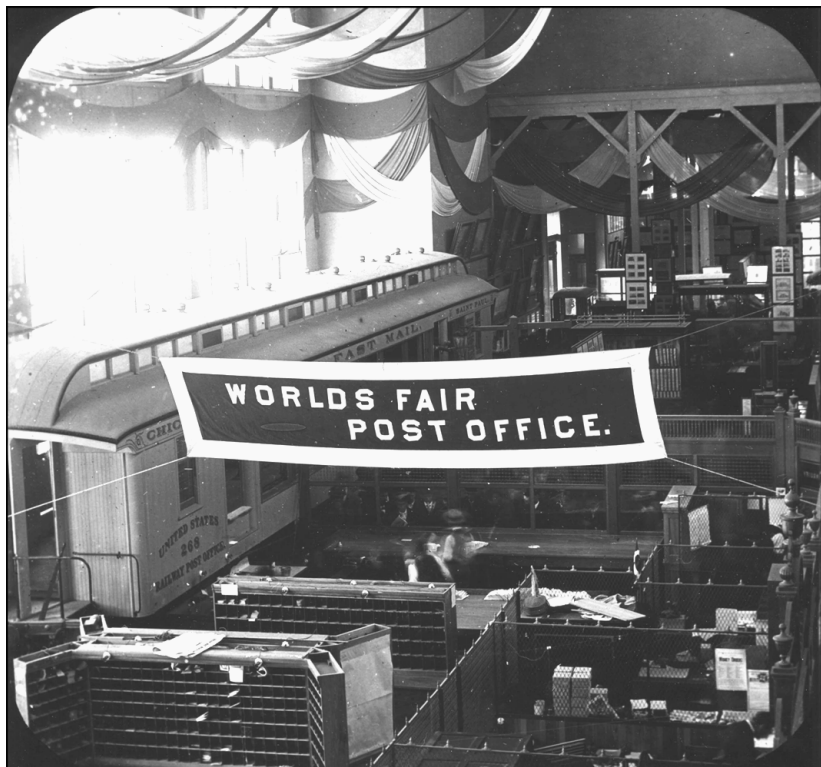


Figure 5 Photo taken from the gallery of the World’s Fair Station Post Office and mail car, “Benjamin Harrison”.



Figure 6 Morning lineup of mail carriers.

Moving the Mail

On September 10, 1892, the United States Post Office Department contracted with the Illinois Central Railroad and established Route 135113, which connected the Randolph Street Station to Harvey, Illinois, a distance of 19.62 miles.⁵ On March 3, 1893, Postal Bulletin 3963, established the number of daily lines that would collect and deliver the mail during the existence of the World's Fair Station Post Office, February 6 – December 31, 1893.⁶

The Illinois Central Railroad established the 60th Street Station as the mail terminal and named it, The World's Fair Station.⁷ The station was very convenient for both passengers and mail service since it provided a very large seating area and covered platform. Mail addressed to individuals on the fairgrounds was transferred onto special R.P.O service

cars at Harvey, Illinois; where after a 30 minute trip arrived at the World's Fair Station Railroad terminal.

The incoming mail pouches were quickly unloaded into a regulation mail wagon that proceeded east along 60th Street and then north on Stony Island Avenue before entering the fairgrounds at the 59th Street entrance. *Figure 7* illustrates this route. Upon crossing the bridge over the lagoon, shown in *Figure 8*, the wagon passed the Fisheries Building. After positioning the wagon, the driver aligned himself and ordered the horse to backup to the three opened double doors of the World's Fair Station Post Office.

Here the pouches were quickly and efficiently unloaded, carried and placed onto the opening table in the south end of the post office to be back stamped. Out-going mail pouches were then loaded into the mail wagon for the 15 minute return journey to the World's Fair Station Railroad terminal. These collections and deliveries were made ten times per day or every 1-1/2 hours. "The first train goes

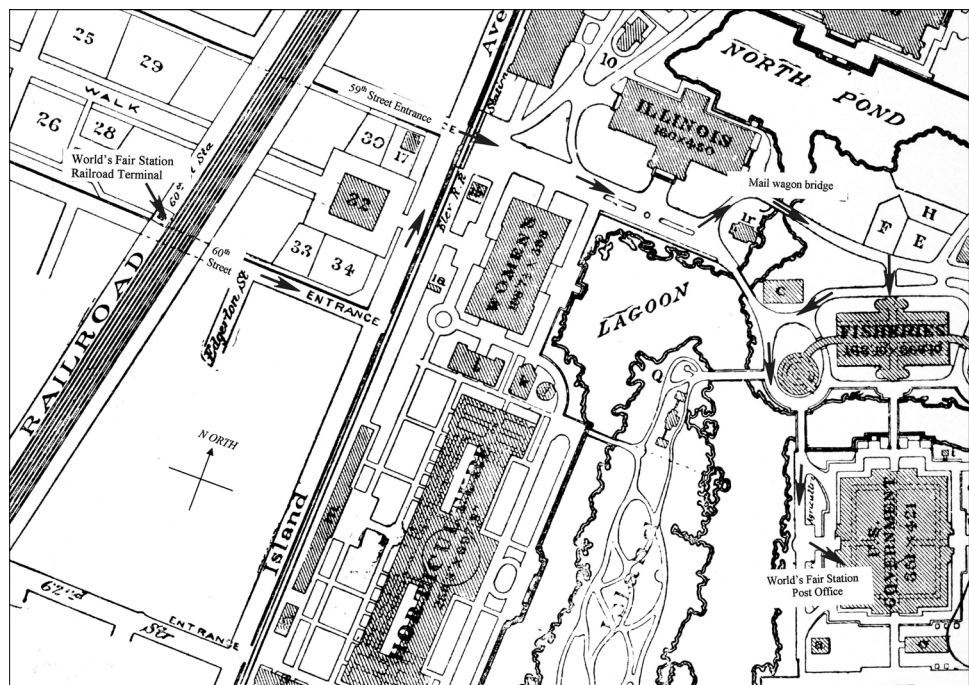


Figure 7 Map of the fairgrounds, illustrating the route used by the regulation mail wagons between the World's Fair Station Railroad Terminal and the World's Fair Station Post Office.



Figure 8 Special bridge built over lagoon that could safely accommodate both visitors and mail wagons on busy days (left). The image below illustrates an enlargement of the view of the bridge.

at 7:00 a.m.; the last one when the fair is closed for the night.”⁸ *Figure 9* shows a regulation mail wagon as it passes the Illinois Building.

The Regulation Mail Wagons

The rapid mail wagons, illustrated in *Figure 10*, used by the post office to deliver and collect mail on the fairgrounds were considered the “Cadillac’s” of the urban mail fleet. Built by well-known companies like the Abbot & Downing Company of Concord, New Hampshire; George Lengert and Sons of Philadelphia; and Fulton and Walker of Philadelphia, they were built with intricate woodwork and featured fabric panels.⁹

The carriers assigned to the horse and mail wagon servicewere referred to as “mounted” and for this the government paid an extra \$300 per year. Among Chicago postal employees there was some envy towards these “mounted” carriers since they had “a comparative easy time of it”.¹⁰ However, they were often given the challenging responsibility of delivering large packages and newspapers to the individual buildings on the fairgrounds; “. . . and for the more



Figure 9 Regulation mail wagon transporting mail from the World's Fair Station Post Office to the World's Fair Station Railroad Terminal at 60th Street outside the fairgrounds (above). (left) Enlargement of regulation mail wagon on the fairgrounds.



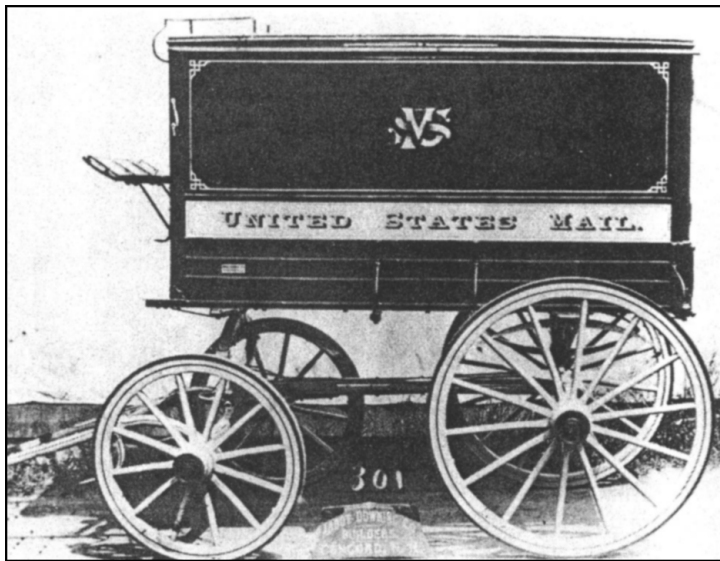


Figure 10 The regulation mail wagon was well known for its versatility in crowded areas. The front wheels could turn completely under the body of the wagon.

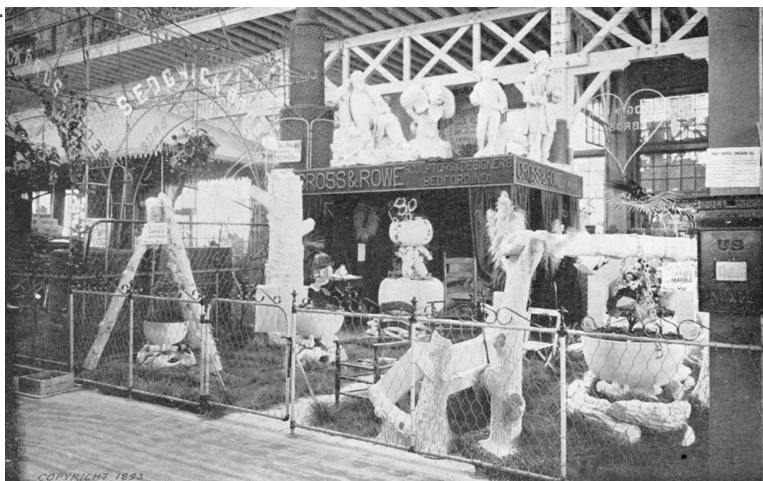
convenient distribution of newspapers from the various states to the various State and government buildings mail wagons were employed continuously.”¹¹

The regulation mail wagon service was one of the proudest features of the post office department at the World’s Fair. “Rapidity of service is



Figure 11 Mail drop box mounted on post in front of the South Dakota Building. Inset shows enlargement of this mail drop box.

Figure 12 Photo of mail box mounted on wooden pillar in the Horticultural Building. Displayed on front of box are the ten daily collection times. Enlargement of mail box mounted in the Horticultural Building at far right.



one of the features in the fair post office and it is said that letters have been delivered on the grounds within half an hour of the time when they were mailed. Of course, it is hardly possible to walk from one end of the Midway to the south end of the fair grounds in half an hour, but this time is made by the rapid mail wagon service, which makes a tour of collection ten times a day while the carriers go on the rounds four times a day with their deliveries.”¹² Figure 11 shows a conveniently placed mail drop box in front of the South Dakota Building. To expedite mail collections, “one hundred and fifty, letter boxes have been placed around the grounds and in the Plaisance, each State and government building having a box.”¹³ Mail chutes were installed in all of the principal buildings. Figure 12 shows a mounted mail box in the Horticultural Building. This way, mail could be quickly gathered and moved to a central location where the mail wagons could collect it.



Hand Delivering the Mail

While each mail wagon could only move on the main streets and boulevards the letter carriers worked the rest of the fairgrounds. Hand delivering the mail was perhaps the most daunting task facing the postal service at the World's Columbian Exposition. Approximately 30,000 were employed in the exhibits and by various concessionaires during this six month period. Many visitors had registered with their respective State Building "post office" for the convenience of receiving mail while on the fairgrounds. Postal carriers faced unique obstacles:

There is a peculiarity about the mail delivery on the fairgrounds which letter carriers in a city do not meet. That is the fact that there are no street numbers to guide the man with the mail. Letters are addressed to the exhibitors in all of the large buildings and the carriers in assorting their mail must rely on their memories as to what part of the buildings the various booths are to be found. Often the letters are merely addressed to the 'White City' or the 'Fairy City' and the sender expects the carrier to do the rest.¹⁴

In May 1893, Postmaster-General Bissell had tried to deal with these problems by issuing the following order: "Mail matter intended for delivery on the Exposition grounds should be plainly addressed, 'World's Fair Station, Chicago, Ill.', giving, if possible, also the pre-

cise locality in the grounds to which the matter is to be delivered, so that carrier delivery can be easily effected."¹⁵

Figure 13 illustrates a souvenir postal card specifically addressed to locate a person on the fairgrounds.

Not only were addresses difficult to locate but the carriers had to deal with "characters" from every quarter of the globe. The two men assigned to deliver mail to the Midway Plaisance, for instance, had an especially challenging task. "Superintendent Hastings says the Midway Plaisance which is the longest of any one route in the Fair grounds is the pleasantest run in service, although the mail is more varied and comes from every quarter of the globe. Two men are assigned to the Midway who are characters among the postal service. One is James Levin, a Chicago man who speaks, reads and writes seven languages. His partner wears a combination of two illustrious names – John Lawrence Corbett."¹⁶

In spite of these and other difficulties, a total of 15,178,313 pieces of mail matter were handled by the World's Fair Station Post Office during the six months of the Exposition.¹⁷ In September alone, 344,509 pieces of mail, including letters and postal cards were delivered, while 1,287,597 letters were collected and mailed from the fairgrounds."¹⁸

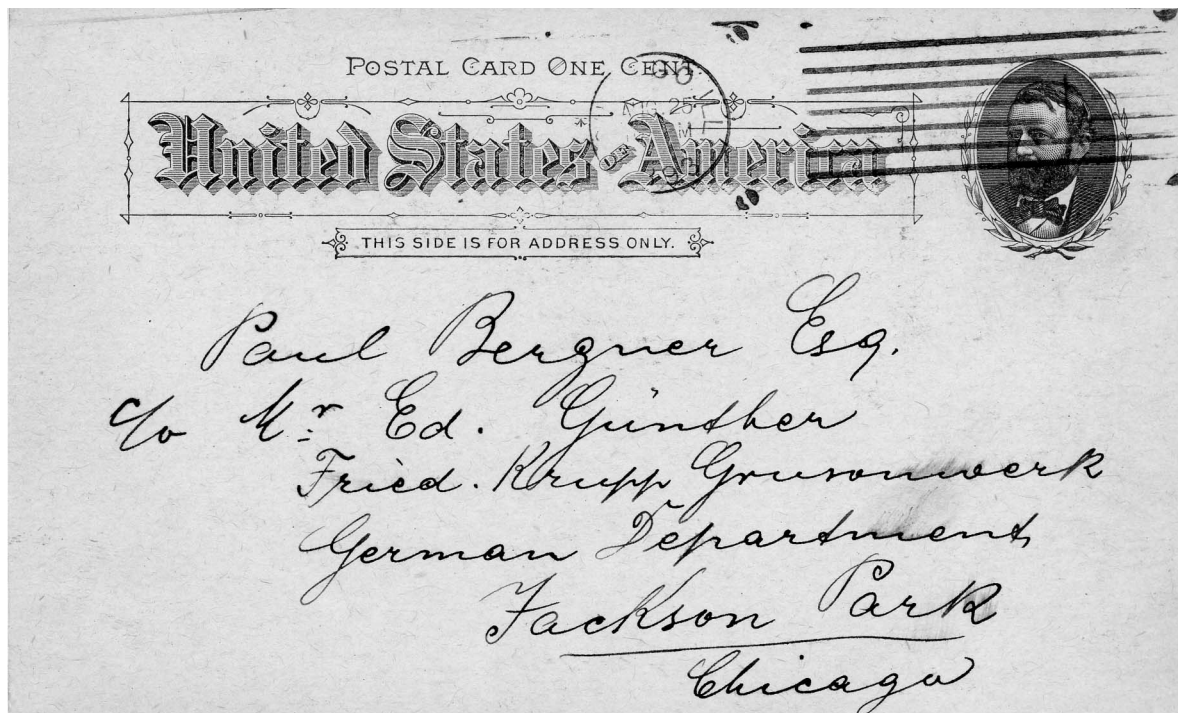


Figure 13 Goldsmith souvenir postal card, EX20, Set 2(UPSS), addressed to "Paul Bergner, Esq., Fried. Krupp Government, German Department, Jackson Park, Chicago.

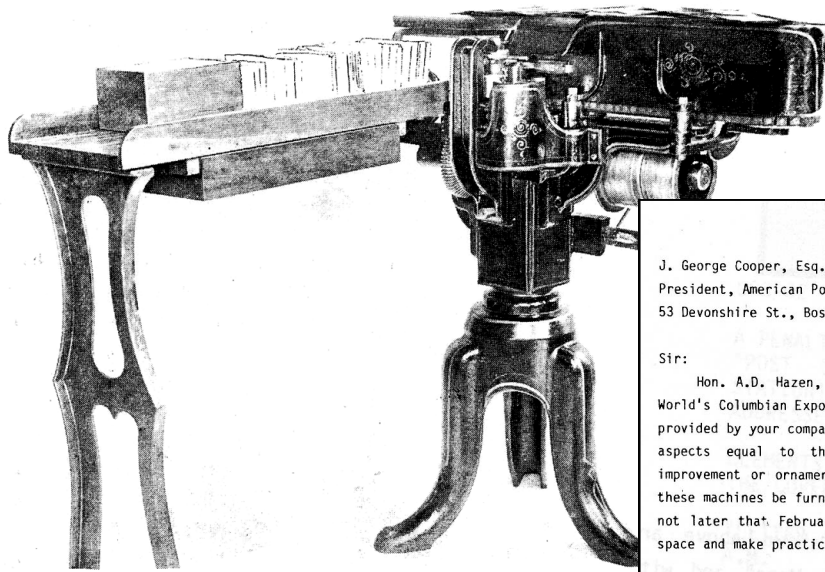


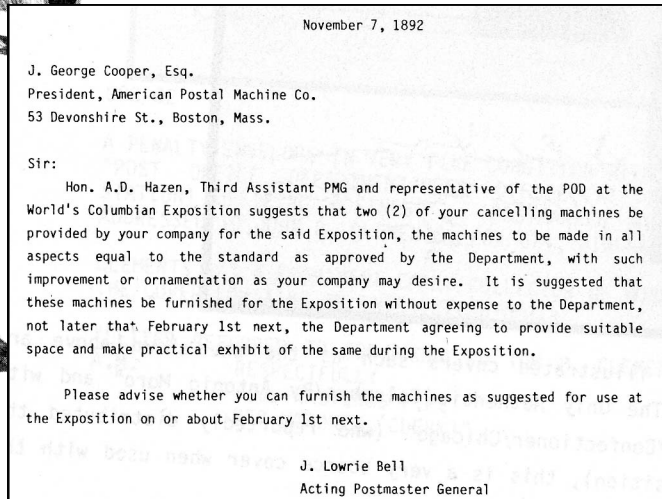
Figure 14 (left) Illustration of the six-bar American canceling machine used at the World's Fair Station Post Office. (right) Letter from J. Lorrie Bell to J. Geo. Cooper requesting two American machine cancellers to use at the Fair.

Canceling the Mail: The American and International Machines

Since the World's Fair Station Post Office was an exhibit unto itself demonstrating the latest in postal technology, it was important to have on display the best and most efficient canceling machines. The United States Post Office Department had rented seventeen of these machines from the American Postal Machine Company in 1893,¹⁹ and had installed two, electrically operated in the World's Fair Station Post Office to handle the huge volume of mail.²⁰ *Figure 14* shows one of the six-bar canceling machines and letter of request from J. Lowrie Bell.

In addition, two new and "improved" electric machines were supplied to postal officials by the International Postal Supply Company of New York. The machine, invented and patented by "Messrs. Hay and Dolphin of Temple Court . . . was made for the purpose of exhibit at the world's fair." It was placed in the Post Office yesterday so that it might be thoroughly tested and examined by the postal authorities of New York before being sent to Chicago."²¹ *Figure 15* illustrates the seven-bar International canceller.

Tested in the New York City Post Office in April 1893, the International canceller was found to be "far superior to the old style ones. The new machine postmarks and cancels the stamps on 40,000 letters and cards an



hour, only requiring one man to operate it."²² A New York news reporter was permitted to inspect and watch the operation of the new machine:

It had just been put in position on the ground floor of the Post Office, and occupied about six square feet of space, standing about five feet high. About 1,000 letters were placed in position, the motor was started, the man in charge started the line of letters into the feeder, and in a few minutes, they dropped, one by one, faster than the eye could follow, into the receiver, perfectly postmarked, and all the stamps, canceled as though done by hand.²³



Figure 15 Photo of the seven-bar Hey-Dolphin International machine canceller in operation.

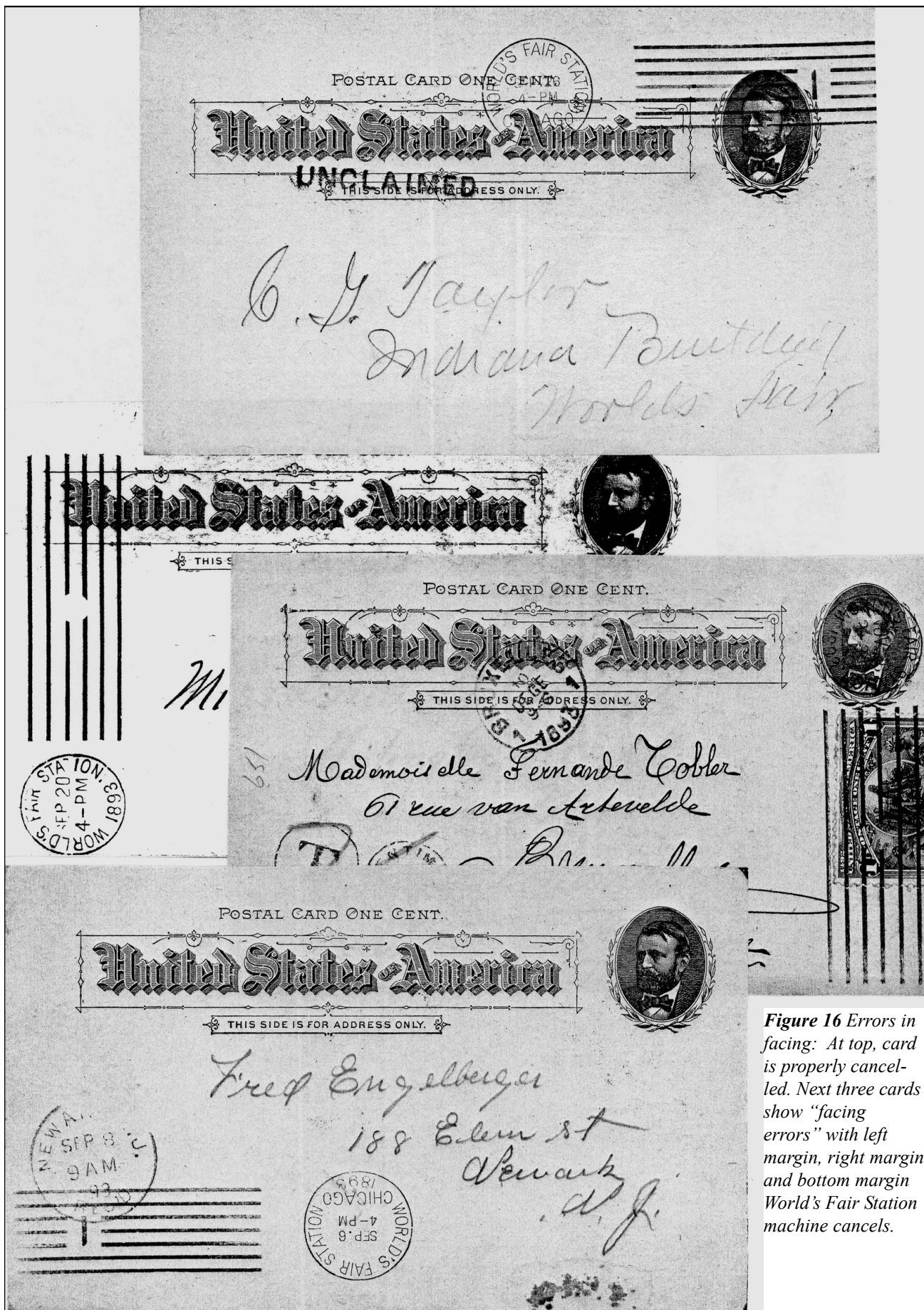


Figure 16 Errors in facing: At top, card is properly canceled. Next three cards show "facing errors" with left margin, right margin and bottom margin World's Fair Station machine cancels.

Later, due to an ever increasing volume of mail, two more International machines were requested by the World's Fair Station Superintendent, and installed in the south end of the post office to be used to back stamp incoming mail.²⁴

The postal clerks indeed had their hands full. The amount of mail collected on the grounds from visitors amounted to 1,287,597 letters, with 28,407 going to foreign countries.²⁵

Before putting envelopes and cards into a postmarking machine, a postal clerk had to 'face' the mail, that is, put all the address sides face up. Ordinarily, that resulted in all the stamps being in the upper right corner so that the cancellation would hit the stamps as the envelopes and cards went through the machine. Errors in facing and stamps in irregular positions usually resulted in stamps remaining uncanceled. If detected, the piece would be run through the machine again or be canceled by hand stamping.²⁶

Figure 16 shows three examples of errors in "facing" postal cards.

After the mail was fed into the machine, the canceling devices had to be reset every 30 minutes even though, on rare occasions a postal clerk might make a error.

After surveying over 300 World's Fair Station cancels, both hand stamped and machine, it appears that cancels exist from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. for any given day. Since the Fair did not open until 10:00 a.m., World's Fair Station cancels from 7 – 9:00 a.m. are scarce while those from 10:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m. are common since this was the peak for mail volume. This survey also indicates that International machine cancels appear almost twice as often as American machine cancels.

In October, serious problems developed with the American machine dial. *Figure 17* shows the rapid deterioration of the dial from October 10th - 19th - 30th - November 28, 1893. According to R.F. Hanmer, "problems with inking mechanisms and feeding mechanisms produced the majority of imperfect impressions."²⁷ However, this appears to be more than an "imperfect impression". Rather, it appears to be a major break in the rim of the dial itself. There was probably little incentive for postal authorities to replace the dial since the Fair was scheduled to close on October 30th.

In Part II: **Identifying Machine and Handstamp World's Fair Station Cancels on Mail.**

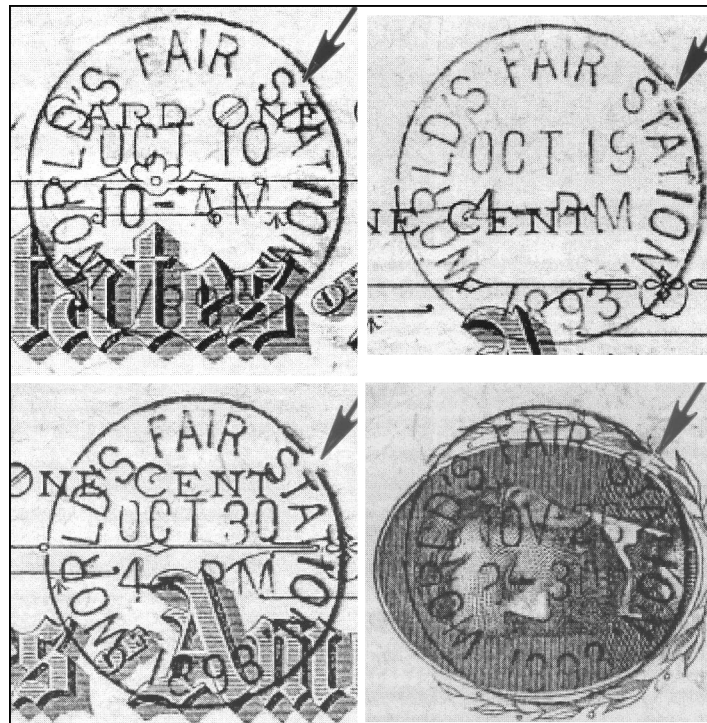
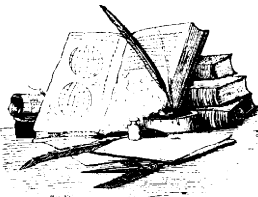


Figure 17 Deterioration of American machine World's Fair Station dial from October to November 1893. "OCT 10" - no break in dial rim (top left). "OCT 19" - 1 mm break in dial rim (top right). "OCT 30" - 2 mm break in dial rim (bottom left). Canceled on "OCTOBER 30, 1893", last day of the Fair. "NOV 28" - Large break of 3 mm in dial rim (bottom right).

Endnotes

- 1 *The Postal Bulletin*, Vol. XIV, February 8, 1893, No. 3944 (Published by the Post Office Department).
- 2 *The Official Directory of the World's Columbian Exposition*, (Chicago: W.B. Conkey, 1893), p. 151.
- 3 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", *Chicago Sunday Tribune*, October 22, 1893, p. 35.
- 4 Hubert Howe Bancroft, *The Book of the Fair*, Vol. I, (The Bancroft Company, Publishers, Chicago – San Francisco, 1893), p. 113.
- 5 *The Postal Bulletin*, Vol. XIII, September 10, 1892, No. 3822, (Published by the Post Office Department).
- 6 *Ibid*, March 3, 1893, No. 3963.
- 7 "Great Capacity of the Illinois Central's Fair System", *The Chicago Tribune*, Wednesday, May 3, 1893, p. 8.
- 8 *Ibid*.
- 9 James H. Bruns, *Mail on the Move*, p. 35.
- 10 "Carry Chicago Mail", *The Chicago Tribune*, June 11, 1893, p. 10.
- 11 *1893 Report of the Postmaster General*, W.S. Bissell, Postmaster-General, p. XLI.
- 12 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", op. cit., p. 35.
- 13 *Official Directory of the World's Columbian Exposition*, op. cit., p. 150.
- 14 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", op. cit., p. 35.
- 15 James B. Campbell, *The World's Columbian Exposition Illustrated, May 1893*, (Published by Campbell Publishing Company, 159 Adams Street, Chicago, Illinois), p. 89.
- 16 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", op. cit., p. 35.
- 17 *1893 Report of the Postmaster-General*, op. cit., p. XLII.
- 18 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", op. cit., p. 35.
- 19 James H. Bruns, "Marking America's Mail", *Postal Stationery, January – February 1987*, Vol. 29, No. 1, (United Postal Stationery Society, Redlands, Ca.), p. 6.
- 20 William J. Bomar, *Postal Markings of United States Expositions*, 1986. (Letter from J. Lowrie Bell, Acting Postmaster – General to J. George Cooper, President of the American Postal Machine Company), p. 45.
- 21 "A Great Machine", *The Post Office*, June 1893, p. 37.
- 22 *Ibid*.
- 23 *Ibid*, pages 37 and 38.
- 24 *The Official Directory of the World's Columbian Exposition*, op. cit., p. 150.
- 25 "Delivering Letters at the Fair", op. cit., p. 35.
- 26 R.F. Hanmer, *U.S. Machine Postmarks, 1871-1925*, 2nd Edition 1984, p. iv.
- 27 *Ibid*, p. v.

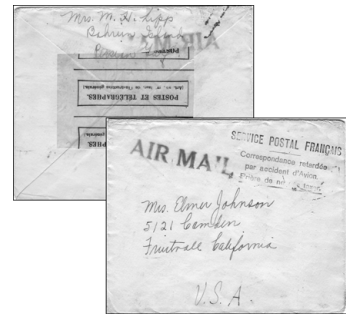


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POSTMASTERS GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES

XXA. Montgomery Blair and the War of the Rebellion

by Daniel Y. Meschter

(Continued) Neither Horatio King nor Montgomery Blair regarded the secession of the southern states as lawful acts unless, as in King's view, those states viewed themselves as foreign states. In his answer of January 28, 1861 to a inquiry from a member of Congress from South Carolina whether he continued to have the right to frank mail subsequent to South Carolina's act of secession (December 20, 1860) King wrote¹:

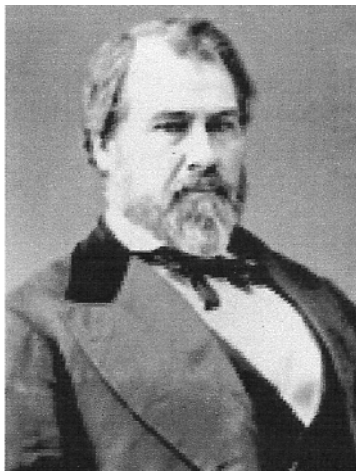
I have the honor to state that the theory of the [Buchanan] administration is that the relations of South Carolina to the general Government have been in nothing changed by her recent act of secession; and this being so, you are of course entitled to the franking privilege . . . If, however, as I learn is the case, you sincerely and decidedly entertain the conviction that by that act South Carolina ceased to be a member of the confederacy, and is now a foreign State, it will be for you to determine how far you can conscientiously avail yourself of a privilege the exercise of which assumes that your own conviction is erroneous, and plainly declares that South Carolina is still in the Union, and that you are still a member of the Congress of the United States.

In the meantime, Congress, in apprehension of insurrection ensuing from the secession of South Carolina and several other states, authorized the Postmaster General to discontinue postal service on any route whenever he finds service cannot be safely continued, revenues collected, or the postal laws maintained. "by reason of any cause whatsoever²." It was careful not to identify any region or state by name or to cite a cause for its action.

Blair got his answer whether the seceded states viewed themselves as "foreign states" in pretty short order when the first six seceded states met in February 1861 to form the Provisional Congress of the Confederate States of America and established a Post Office Department of its own on the 21st. Provisional President Jefferson Davis appointed former U.S. Congressman John H. Reagan Postmaster General on March 6th. Reagan at once instructed southern postmasters to continue sending their accounts to the United States as before until the Confederate postal system could be organized and the U.S. postal system continued in operation for the

time being. In the meantime, he sent job offers to southern sympathizers in the Post Office Department, many of whom accepted, bringing their working documents and expertise with them. Reagan finally issued a proclamation that he would take control of the Confederate Post Office Department on June 1, 1861 in response to which Blair ordered postal service on routes in the seceded States discontinued, in effect terminating service to some 8,700 post offices in the "disloyal" states, as he called them³. In a letter of July 12th to the House of Representatives, Blair took the opportunity to explain his hesitation in allowing service to continue in the

South (especially after the bombardment of Fort Sumter on April 12th), by observing "that the mails alone afforded the means of diffusing any correct information among the people of the South," etc.⁴. He clearly understood the value of the mails as a medium of public information. He also stated that he attempted to re-establish the principal post offices in the South for this purpose without success.



John Henninger Reagan

John Henninger Reagan, the Confederacy's Postmaster General, was born in Sevier County, Tennessee in October 1818 to a tanner and small farmer⁵. He was educated in common

schools and several nearby private academies when he could afford them, before seeking his fortune in Nacogdoches, Texas when he was 20. There he served in the Texas army in campaigns against the Cherokee Indians, worked as a deputy surveyor, was elected justice of the peace and captain of the militia, and studied law, all before obtaining a license to practice law in 1846. His political career began with Texas Statehood when he was elected to the first of a succession of public offices leading up to his election to Congress in 1856. He campaigned for reelection in 1858 on a middle-of-the-road, pro-Union platform and won an impressive victory; but John Brown's attack on the federal arsenal at Harper's Ferry destroyed all hope of preserving the Union in the South as far as he was concerned. He resigned his House seat on January 15, 1861 and returned to Texas to join the Confederacy. Although an able administrator, the stringent measures Reagan introduced to make the Confederate States Post Office self-sufficient could not overcome the disruption of transporta-

tion facilities and frequent interruption of mail service by Union skirmishers. The public discovered that entrusting letters to travelers and soldiers on furlough more reliable than the postal service. Much to the gratification of collectors, he did succeed in replacing the demonetized United States stamp issues with Confederate stamps that comprise one of the most challenging areas of American philately.

With the collapse of the Confederacy in April 1865, Jefferson Davis and his cabinet, including Reagan, fled south only to be captured in Georgia and imprisoned in Fort Warren in Boston Harbor. Realizing the reality of the Confederacy's defeat and the depth of northern animosity toward the South in such newspapers and journals as were made available to him, he wrote an open letter to the people of Texas urging them to recognize the authority of the United States and to renounce both secession and slavery. He was pardoned after twenty-two weeks and allowed to return to his family and farm near Palestine, Texas in December 1865. Although at first most Texans disinherited him on account of this letter, it had a moderating effect on the state constitutional conventions that convened during the next decade and eventually rehabilitated his reputation and influence. Because he was willing to sacrifice his popularity and political position for the greater good, he was dubbed "Old Roman" after a Roman statesman (Cincinnatus) who was just then well-regarded as a model of simplicity, ability, and virtue. Granted amnesty and his citizenship restored in 1874, he was elected to the next six Congresses (1875-1887) and only resigned from the seventh to accept a seat in the Senate (1887-1891). He then resigned to accept the chairmanship of the newly formed and soon to become powerful Texas Railroad Commission to regulate commerce on the state level. He served until 1903 when he retired to Palestine to complete his *Memoirs* before he died in 1905.

But while Blair was defeated in his attempt to use the mails to spread Union views in the South, he could use his authority to exclude twelve of what he viewed as disloyal or called "treasonable" publications from the mails, neatly skirting any First Amendment restrictions by quoting Supreme Court Justice Joseph Story (1811-45) to the effect that freedom of the press is restrained by the requirement its exercise "does not thereby disturb the public peace, or attempt to subvert the government (1861 Report, pp. 583-4)".

Another matter of concern to Blair was the loss of Post Office Department property in the post offices seized by the Confederacy, especially mail bags, and large stocks of postage stamps still valid for use. New mail bags with their locks and keys could, of course, be purchased and a considerable supply was salvaged from forgotten storage during the next year, but Blair viewed the loss of stamps as money out-of-pocket. To prevent their misuse, he ordered new issues in fresh designs and colors that began to appear in mid August 1861 and recalled the earlier issues for destruction. Their replacement was nearly completed in September and October and fully completed in remote areas by the end of the year.

The outbreak of the Civil War imposed a financial burden on the government that at two million dollars a day and growing was unforeseen. It became clear by the end of 1861 there was not enough gold and silver in circulation for the banks to continue redeeming their outstanding currency in coin (specie payments) and to satisfy the Treasury Department's demands for loans at the same time. During the closing days of December both the money-center banks and the Treasury suspended specie payments which inflated the value of these monetary metals so that they fled to Canada to take advantage of a favorable exchange rate. Meanwhile, especially small coins became scarce. Blair, of course, had nothing to do with it when private entrepreneurs began "encasing" postage stamps, first in apothecary envelopes (in which they couldn't be seen without opening the envelopes) and then, when the envelopes became susceptible to fraud, in metal cases with a mica lid containing stamps of various denominations as a substitute for small change. Congress ratified the payment of debts up to five dollars in postage stamps in the Act of July 17, 1862⁶. Blair noted that sales of stamps in the "principal" post offices more than doubled in the third quarter of 1862 over the previous year, observing that their use for currency defaced them and made them unusable for the payment of postage⁷. The use of encased postage stamps as currency did not last long, perhaps only through 1862 and perhaps into 1863 when Congress authorized the Treasury to issue fractional notes that largely displaced encased postage stamps as currency (1862 Report, pp. 131-2). Also, predominantly in the South where the scarcity of coins was most critical, as well as in the North, merchants began issuing private notes or script, usually redeemable in goods and services, widely known as "shinplasters" that typically circulated only locally.



Montgomery Blair (standing far right) at first reading of the Emancipation Proclamation before the Cabinet. Painting by F.B. Carpenter; Engraved by A.H. Ritchie, c. 1866

Finally, Blair had to face a problem no Postmaster General had to deal with since Richard Bache and Ebenezer Hazard in the Revolutionary War; that is, creating an effective military postal system for delivering mail to mobile army units in the field. He had little to say about it in his annual reports except that, after Congress granted soldiers the privilege to send letters without payment of postage, he suggested this right be extended to sailors and marines and that the postal law be amended to allow materials other than those named in the law to be transmitted through the mails⁸. Congress agreed to both suggestions. In the second case it gave the Postmaster General discretion to allow articles of warm and/or waterproof clothing to be sent through the mails to soldiers, which did much to boost morale⁹. Although he did not describe how he organized the postal system to serve the army in his annual reports, his policies were effective. His successor, William Dennison, quoted General Grant's response to an inquiry relative to the Post Office's arrangements for supplying mail to the troops: "The system of receiving and forwarding mails now in operation is entirely satisfactory," and "Our soldiers receive their mail matter with as much regularity and promptness as is possible for armies in the field¹⁰."

As a former Jacksonian Democrat, brilliant trial lawyer, and beneficiary of a politically powerful family with a too often abrasive personality, it was predictable that Blair would not easily fit into Lincoln's cabinet, and he didn't. He offended Secretary of State Steward by urging reinforcement of Fort Sumter, in which Lincoln supported him, and protested the forcible removal of Mason and Slidell from the British ship *Trent* on

legal grounds. He was accused of favoring Democrats in the border states, whom he actually distrusted; but doubted even more the faction that came to be known as Radical Republicans with whom he agreed on only two issues, freedom of the slaves and preservation of the Union.

Radical Republicanism was a political movement crystallized by the 1860 election and supported by some of the most powerful members of Congress. Basically, the movement viewed Lincoln as socially inferior, politically weak, and indecisive on the slavery issue. It criticized his reconstruction plans as too lenient and advocated harsh federal control over the southern states after the end of the war. Its leaders were prepared to advance the candidacy of General J.C. Fremont for president in 1864 in opposition to Lincoln's reelection. Blair initially supported Fremont's appointment as commander of the Western Department of the Army in St. Louis in early 1861, but incurred Fremont's enmity when he urged Lincoln to relieve him of command when he proclaimed the freedom of all slaves belonging to Confederates in Missouri, thereby usurping the President's authority. In May 1864, long enough before the regular Republican convention to allow time for deal-making, a rump convention of Radical Republicans nominated Fremont for the presidency. It was a matter of vital concern because even without Radical opposition, Lincoln and his supporters had reason to doubt whether he could be reelected. The Radicals' price was Blair's removal from the Cabinet. Blair was realistic enough to tender his resignation for the President to accept at his pleasure. Fremont withdrew on September 22, 1864 and the President accepted Blair's resignation the next day. Lincoln won reelection but served only six weeks of his second term. In the interim, Blair aspired to appointment as Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, but Lincoln turned to his former Secretary of the Treasury, Salmon P. Chase, instead.

Blair continued to advise Andrew Johnson after Lincoln's assassination, but Johnson was in vise between moderates like Blair on one side and Radicals on the other led by such powers as Thaddeus Stevens who advocated subdivision of southern plantations among blacks and proposed the impeachment of Andrew Johnson. Differing with Johnson on reconstruction policy, Blair returned to the Democratic Party. He supported Seymour for the Presidency in 1868, Greeley in 1872, and Tilden in 1876. Along with his father and brother he sought a coalition of middle-of-the-road Democrats and moderate Republicans to develop a more

judicious policy toward the defeated South. He advocated repealing the laws that disenfranchised former Confederates and, unfortunately, opposed extending the "elective franchise" to former slaves. Paradoxically, he was defeated in his own campaigns for election to Congress on account of his association with the Republican Party during the Civil War. In 1876 he was Samuel J. Tilden's counsel arguing, unsuccessfully, the case for Tilden's election as President over Rutherford B. Hayes before the Federal Electoral Commission. He was working on a biography of Andrew Jackson when he died in Silver Spring on July 27, 1883 (continued).

Endnotes

Portrait of John H. Reagan courtesy U.S. Senate Historical Office.

Engraving of Cabinet Meeting, July 1862, courtesy Library of Congress.

- 1 King, Horatio. *Turing on the Light*, Philadelphia, 1895, pp. 48-9.
- 2 Act of February 28, 1861, 12 Stat 177.
- 3 Letter of the Postmaster General to the House of Representatives, House Ex. Doc. No. 4, July 12, 1861, Serial 1114; 1861 Report, pp. 568-9.
- 4 *Id*
- 5 See Handbook of Texas Online, University of Texas at Austin for a biographic sketch of John H. Reagan.
- 6 12 Stat 592.
- 7 1862 Report, pp. 131-2.
- 8 Act July 22, 1861, 12 Stat 270.
- 9 Act of Jan 22, 1864, 13 Stat 2.
- 10 *Annual Report of the Postmaster General*, November 2, 1864, Serial 1220, p. 785.

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Prexies on Postcards

The Missing Chapter

By Gordon E. Katz

Introduction

The U.S. Post Office Department introduced a new series of definitive stamps in 1938, technically referred to as the Fifth Bureau Issue, but more commonly known as the “Presidential” series or simply called the “Prexies”. The series featured thirty-two face different designs issued in a variety of colors and formats including sheets, booklets, and coils. The name “Presidential” series refers to the fact that twenty-nine of the thirty-two different images on the stamps are former U.S. presidents, including the first twenty-five presidents in chronological sequence on the 1¢ through 25¢ face values.

Postal history material that includes one or more of the Prexies to pay the required postage is widely collected, in particular rates or combinations of rates paid by a single stamp from the series, as well as unusual combination rate covers. There is a growing body of work that describes and documents this material. However, little attention has been paid to how these stamps were used to pay postal rates specific to postcards, probably because most of these uses are quite common (e.g., the ubiquitous green 1¢ Washington) and thus considered mundane. While this is largely true, there are a sufficient number of exceptions to warrant a closer look.

The purpose of this article is to document how the Prexies were used to pay required postal rates on postcards. The versatility and longevity of this stamp series is clearly demonstrated in the 100 different ways the stamps were used, either alone or in a variety of combinations, to frank postcards. It is expected that much can be added to or updated in the tables and discussion that follows.

Methodology

All of the data presented herein were derived from a census of various collections of postal history on postcards, none of which specifically focus on Prexie postal history. Although the database was sizeable (nearly 45,000 records of which about 4,000 bore one or more Prexies) and included items spanning the entire spectrum of U.S. postal history on postcards, it was not a

statistically valid sample because the items in each collection had been selected for one or more specific attributes and not at random. Moreover, the size of the population being sampled cannot be accurately gauged because it's difficult to quantify the total number of postcards that have passed through the U.S. mails, other than to say it's in the tens of billions. Therefore, because definitive statistics cannot be confirmed from the census data, any conclusions that have been drawn in the following discussion are solely the opinions of the author.

The Postal History

The number of postcards in the database that were franked with Prexie stamps, from the introduction of the series in 1938 to the present, is charted in *figure 1*. As seen in the chart, volume initially grew from 1938 through 1940 as the Presidential series gradually replaced the Fourth Bureau issue stamps of 1922 – 1925.

The number of postcards franked with Prexies drops off noticeably during the early years of World War II, from 1941 to 1943. The decline does not appear to reflect an overall decrease in the number of postcards that were mailed, as might be expected during a time of war. *Figure 2*, also derived from census data, depicts the total volume of postcards mailed to domestic destinations, either paid at the 1¢ postcard rate or mailed by military personnel using the free franking privilege granted on April 1, 1942. This chart suggests that overall volume may actually have increased during World War II from the levels of the 1930s.

The observed increase in overall volume can probably be explained in part by the shift of a large segment of the population from civilian life to the armed forces after the U.S. entered the war. This shift was not only an occupational shift but perhaps equally so a geographical one. Former civilians, many leaving their home towns or farms for the first time, mailed postcards to friends and relatives (and each other) as they were in transit, stationed at domestic bases and camps, enjoying some R&R, or deployed overseas. This large scale relocation, well-documented in the postmarks and messages from distant places, had far-reaching sociological ramifications that are still evident today (an interesting study of its own).

Coupled with the availability of other stamps to pay the 1¢ postcard rate, especially the 1¢ National Defense issue, Scott 899, issued in October 1940, use of the 1¢ Prexie stamp on postcards during the early war years appears to have dropped. Other factors, such as variations in stamp production and senders using stamps with patriotic themes to show their support for the war effort, certainly played a part as well.

After World War II ended, the volume of postcards mailed at the 1¢ rate quickly returned to and surpassed pre-war levels. Overall volume appears to have declined somewhat from the war years, with many military personnel returning to civilian life, and the end of the free franking privilege on December 31, 1947.

Nearly all of the postcards mailed after the war used the 1¢ Washington Prexie. After all, it had little competition: the only other 1¢ stamp released between 1945 and the end of 1951 (after which the postcard rate increased to 2¢) was the Roosevelt memorial commemorative (Scott 930) issued on July 26, 1945.

Use of the Prexies on postcards began to decline in 1955 after the introduction of a new series of definitive stamps in late 1954 known as the “Liberty” series. The Prexies had all but disappeared from use by 1958. Less than thirty examples were found on postcards mailed after that date, and any use after the early 1960s was probably only by stamp or cover collectors. However, all of the stamps from the series remain valid today for the payment of postage.

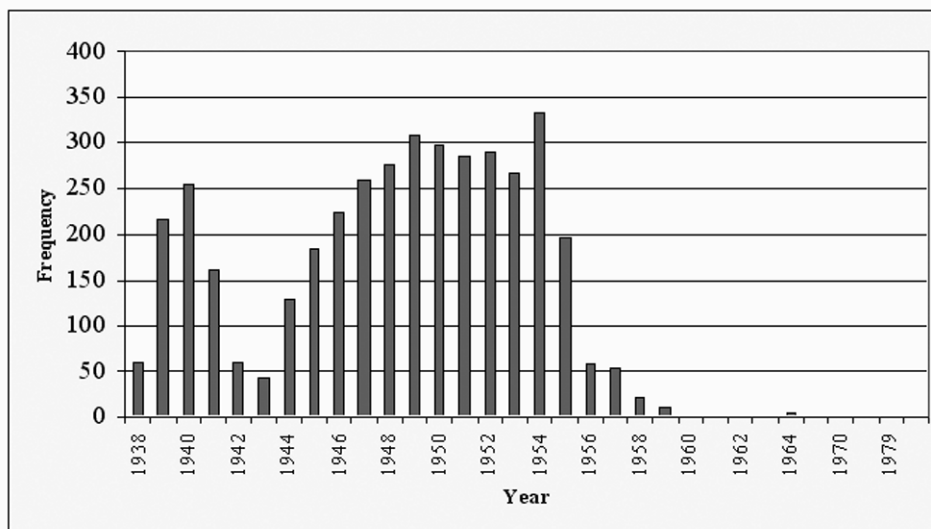


Figure 1 *Frequency of Use of Prexies on Postcards, 1938 to Present*

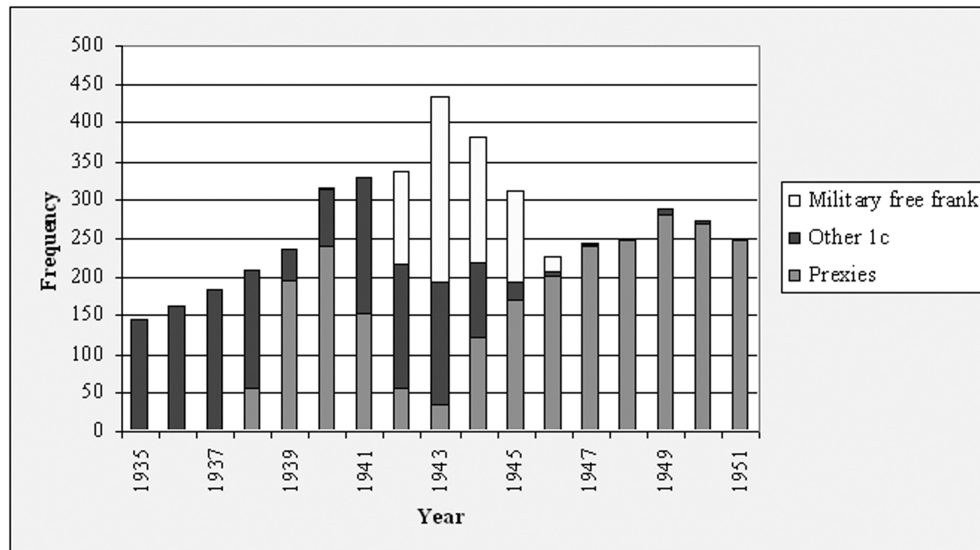


Figure 2 Postcards Sent at 1¢ Rate or Free Franked, 1935 to 1951

The various rates paid in full or in part by Prexies on postcards are presented in seven tables of rates, four for domestic rates and three for international rates. Each table shows how one or more Prexies were used to pay the individual rates listed. The column headings in the tables are defined as follows:

- o Rate description** The specific rate or rate combination that was paid
- o Rate** The total value of the rate paid
- o Begin date** The first date on which the rate was effective
- o End date** The last date on which the rate was effective
- o Scott #** The Scott catalogue number of the stamp(s) used
- o Used as** A description of how the stamp was used: a single (by itself), a multiple (two or more of the same stamp as shown in the “Units” column), or a mixed use (single or multiple with one or more different stamps)
- o Units** The quantity of each Prexie stamp used to pay some or all of the described rate
- o EKU** The earliest use of the stamp for the rate described (in the census)
- o LKU** The latest use of the stamp for the rate described (in the census)

Postcards for which the required rate was either underpaid or overpaid have been omitted from the tables. As discussed later in this article, some of these cards nicely complement a collection of Prexie postal history on postcards, as shown in the examples presented there. However, the primary focus here is on single stamps and stamp combinations that match the required rate exactly.

Nearly 98% of the postcards with Prexies included in the census were mailed domestically, with the others mailed abroad to twenty-four different countries. Of the cards mailed to US destinations, approximately 91% were sent at the postcard surface rate, 2% were sent at the postcard airmail rate, and less than 1% did not meet postcard rate requirements and required the higher letter rate. The remaining 6% represent a variety of uses, mostly under or overpaid rates, along with a handful of other fees.

There were a total of thirty-three unique postal rates paid in 102 unique ways, of which twenty-seven were Prexie singles. The 2¢ postcard rate of 1952 – 1958 showed the highest number of unique combinations with fourteen. The 1¢ Washington, counting all of the formats in which it was issued, was clearly the workhorse of the series: it was used for paying part or all of twenty-one different postcard rates.

Domestic Rates

First class surface rates are presented in Table 1.

FIRST CLASS, POSTCARD

The first class postcard rate was 1¢ when the first of the Prexies debuted on April 25, 1938. Appropriately for the subject of this article, the first stamp issued was the 1¢ stamp picturing George Washington (Scott 804). Nearly 21 billion were printed over a period of twenty years in four different formats, and the 1¢ postcard rate in effect when it was issued remained unchanged for more than thirteen years, through December 31, 1951. Not surprisingly then, it is the stamp from this series most frequently found on postcards. The earliest use found in the census, May 20 1938, is shown in figure 3.

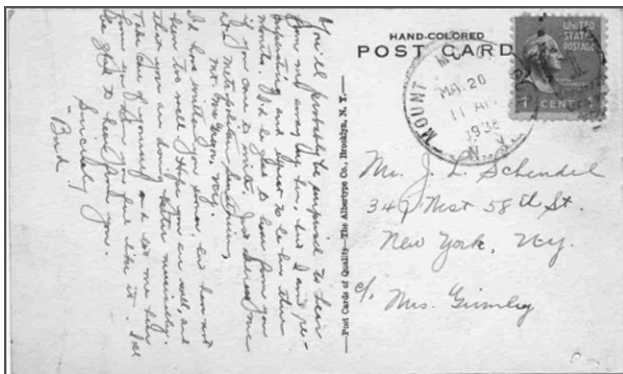


Figure 3 The earliest use of the 1¢ Prexie found in the census. The postcard was mailed May 20 1938 from Mount McGregor NY to New York City, 25 days after the stamp was issued on April 25.

A combination of the ½¢ Prexie stamp (Scott 803) with the ½¢ stamp of the Fourth Bureau issue (Scott 653) making up the 1¢ rate is shown in figure 4. Combinations or multiples of the ½¢ stamp are seen infrequently.

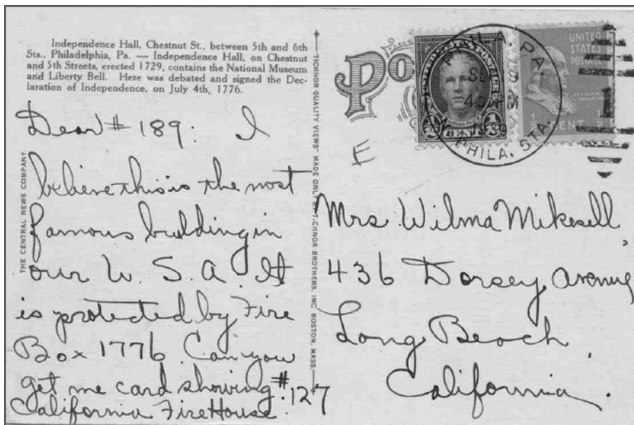


Figure 4 Combination of ½¢ Prexie (Scott 803) plus ½¢ Nathan Hale (Scott 653) paid the 1¢ postcard rate on this card mailed from the North Philadelphia Station of the Philadelphia post office to Long Beach CA on September 19 1939.

The 1¢ coil stamp with horizontal perforations (Scott 848) paying the 1¢ rate is a scarce usage (figure 5).

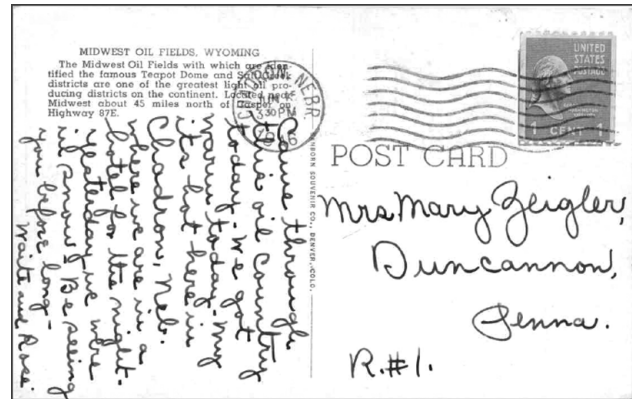


Figure 5 1¢ Prexie coil with horizontal perforations (Scott 848) on a card mailed on June 15 1946 from Chadron NE to Duncannon PA. This is the latest of the four uses found in the census.

The postcard rate increased to 2¢ effective January 1, 1952. This rate was typically paid by the 2¢ Prexie featuring John Adams (Scott 806). However, a surprisingly large number of solo and combination uses can be found. Among these are 4-stamp multiples of Scott 803 (figure 6), which are unusual on non-collector cards, and joint line pairs of Scott 839 (figure 7), which are rela-

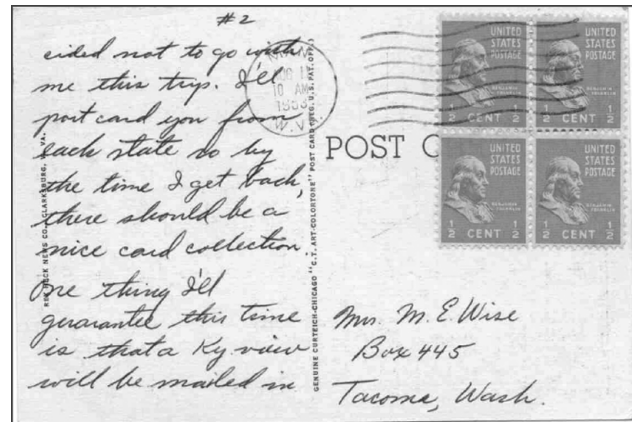


Figure 6 A block of four ½¢ Prexies paid the 2¢ postcard rate on this card mailed from Man WV to Tacoma WA on August 11 1953.



Figure 7 A joint line pair of Prexie coil stamps (Scott 839) paid the 2¢ postcard rate on this advertising card mailed to Athens PA from Philadelphia on February 4 1952.

TABLE 1: FIRST CLASS SURFACE RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.01	1-Jul-1928	31-Dec-1951	803	Multiple	2	20-May-1938	24-Aug-1951
				803	Mixed	1	19-Sep-1939	6-Jul-1949
				804	Single	1	20-May-1938	31-Dec-1951
				804b	Single	1	29-Mar-1940	14-Dec-1951
				839	Single	1	28-Aug-1939	30-Nov-1951
				848	Single	1	19-Aug-1940	15-Jun-1946
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.02	1-Jan-1952	31-Jul-1958	803	Multiple	4	30-Jun-1952	1-Aug-1957
				803 + 804	Mixed	2 + 1	19-Dec-1952	
				803 + 805	Mixed	1 + 1	23-Apr-1953	13-Apr-1954
				803 + other	Mixed	1	9-Apr-1955	25-Feb-1957
				804	Multiple	2	5-Jan-1952	22-Oct-1956
				804 + 839	Mixed	1 + 1	16-Jul-1954	30-Dec-1954
				804 + other	Mixed	1	30-Jan-1952	1-Aug-1956
				804b	Multiple	2	17-Apr-1952	9-May-1958
				806	Single	1	11-Jan-1952	26-Jul-1958
				806b	Single	1	3-Jun-1952	18-Jun-1958
				839	Multiple	2	3-Jan-1952	21-Aug-1957
				839 + other	Mixed	1	4-Mar-1952	24-Nov-1956
				841	Single	1	21-Feb-1952	27-Jul-1956
				850	Single	1	9-May-1955	
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.03	1-Aug-1958	6-Jan-1963	804	Multiple	3	21-Nov-1958	
				804 + 806	Mixed	1 + 2	20-Aug-1958	
				804b	Multiple	3	16-Feb-1959	
				805	Multiple	2	12-Aug-1958	21-Jul-1959
				806 + other	Mixed	1	16-Feb-1959	27-Jul-1960
				807	Single	1	5-Aug-1959	21-Jul-1962
				839	Multiple	3	11-Aug-1958	
				839 + other	Mixed	1	24-Jul-1959	
				842	Single	1	28-Jul-1959	31-Jul-1962
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.04	7-Jan-1963	6-Jan-1968	839 + other	Mixed	1	9-Jul-1964	
				842 + other	Mixed	1	3-Apr-1964	
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.05	7-Jan-1968	15-May-1971	810	Single	1	22-Jul-1970	
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.09	31-Dec-1975	28-May-1978	839 + other	Mixed	1	2-Feb-1977	
<i>First class, postcard</i>	\$0.15	3-Apr-1988	2-Feb-1991	804 + other	Mixed	1	29-Oct-1990	
<i>First class, letter</i>	\$0.03	6-Jul-1932	31-Jul-1958	804 + 804b	Mixed	1 + 2	10-Aug-1952	
				804 + other	Mixed	1	28-Aug-1939	
				804 + other	Mixed	2	21-Mar-1952	
				807	Single	1	8-Oct-1946	26-Mar-1955
				842	Single	1	8-Jan-1945	

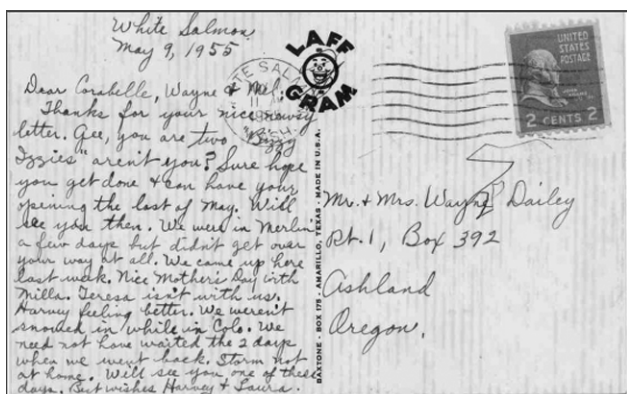


Figure 8 A scarce use of the 2¢ Prexie coil stamp with horizontal perforations (Scott 850) on a postcard mailed from White Salmon WA to Ashland Oregon on May 9 1955.

tively easy to find. One of the scarcest singles of any of the Prexies is the 2¢ coil with horizontal perforations (Scott 850) paying the 2¢ postcard rate (figure 8). Only one example was found in the census.

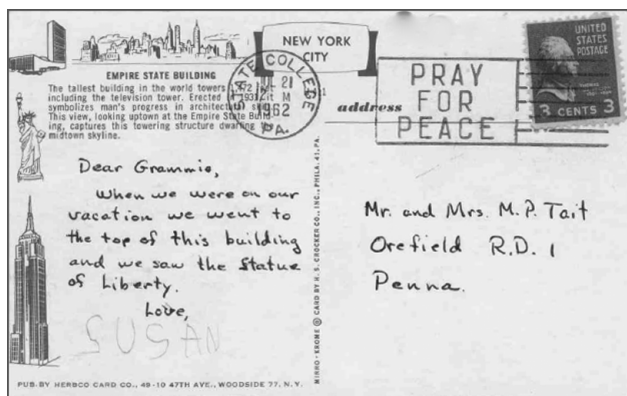


Figure 9 A late use of the 3¢ Prexie (Scott 807) paying the 3¢ postcard rate on this card mailed from State College PA to Orefield PA on July 21 1962.

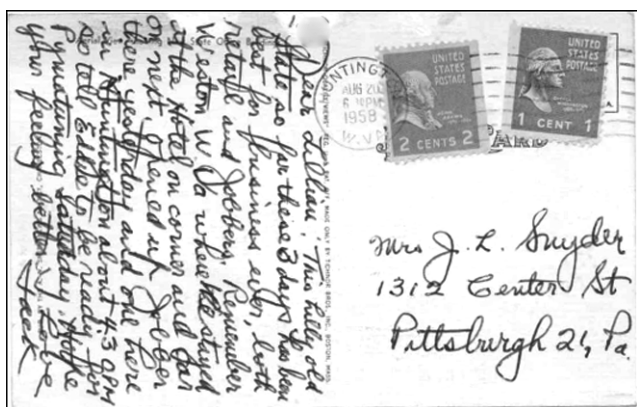


Figure 10 A 1¢ and a 2¢ Prexie booklet stamp were used to pay the new 3¢ postcard rate that was effective August 1 1958. The card was mailed August 20 from Huntington WV to Pittsburgh.

By the time of the next increase in the postcard rate, to 3¢ on August 1, 1958, the Prexies had largely been replaced by stamps of the Liberty series. Although there are a few examples of Prexies used to pay the 3¢ rate

(figures 9 and 10), most occurred only once in the census. Curiously, the least frequent of these is a single of the 3¢ stamp (Scott 807) or the 3¢ vertical coil stamp (Scott 842); various combinations using lower value Prexies are more commonly seen.

Only a handful of uses were found beyond the early 1960s. These were probably created by collectors using up duplicates of common stamps. Among these, one item of note is the latest single use of any Prexie, the 5¢ stamp (Scott 810) paying the postcard rate on a card mailed July 22, 1970 (figure 11).

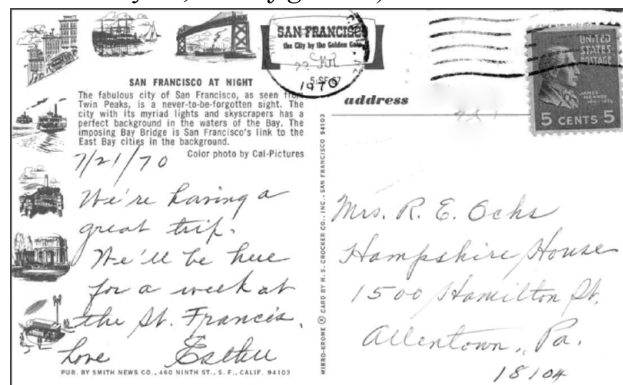


Figure 11 Latest use of a Prexie single. The 5¢ Prexie stamp (Scott 810) paid the postcard rate on this card mailed from San Francisco to Allentown PA on July 22 1970.

FIRST CLASS, LETTER

Postcards that do not conform to postal specifications require payment of the higher first class letter rate. Typical examples include cards that exceed maximum size and/or thickness standards or have an attachment af-

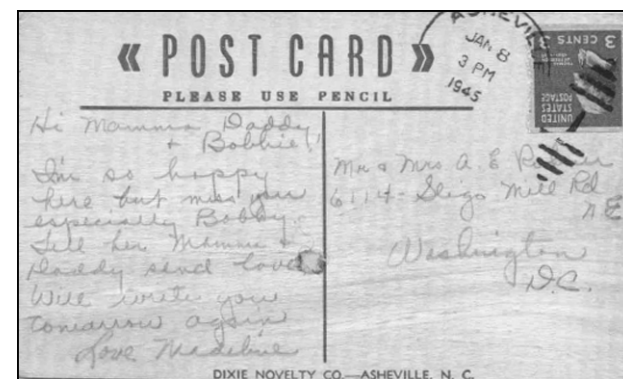


Figure 12 Items not conforming to postal specifications for use of the postcard rate required letter rate postage. This postcard made from wood, mailed on January 8 1945 from Asheville [NC] to Washington DC, has a 3¢ Prexie coil stamp (Scott 842) paying the required letter rate.

fixed. Included in the former category are postcards made from wood (figure 12) or some other non-standard material, and prior to January 3, 1963, postcards that were larger than 3 9/16" x 5 9/16" (figure 13).



Figure 13 This postcard measures approx. 5½" x 9", much larger than the maximum size permitted at the time for mailing at the postcard rate. The letter rate was properly paid with a 3¢ Prexie booklet single (Scott 807b). The card was postmarked on the Chicago, West Liberty and Omaha RPO en route to Mott ND on March 26, 1955.

Attachments found on postcards range from bags holding salt crystals from the Great Salt Lake in Utah to bags containing copper ore, beach sand, or even a cot-



Figure 14 Because this postcard had a bag of copper ore from a mine in Bingham UT attached, it required the first class letter rate for mailing. The 3¢ rate was paid with 3 1¢ Prexie booklet singles, and mailed from Salt Lake City to Painesville OH on August 10, 1952.

ton boll. These came into vogue in the mid-1950s and thus mostly missed the Prexie era. One example mailed using a Prexie stamp is shown in figure 14.

First class airmail rates are presented in Table 2.

FIRST CLASS, LETTER, AIRMAIL

Postcards sent via airmail prior to January 1, 1949 required payment of the airmail letter rate. It seems that most senders were unwilling to pay the higher rates for airmail service, and as a result any examples of airmail rates on postcards mailed prior to 1949 are not easy to find. Examples bearing Prexies are even less common.

The airmail letter rate was 6¢ in 1938 when the first Prexies were issued. A pair of 3¢ Prexies (Scott 807) was used to pay the 6¢ airmail rate on the postcard



Figure 15 Postcards sent via airmail prior to January 1, 1949 required airmail letter rate postage. The 6¢ airmail letter rate on this card, mailed on March 5, 1940 from New Orleans to Washington DC, was paid by a pair of 3¢ Prexies (Scott 807).

shown in figure 15. The rate was increased to 8¢ on March 26, 1944 but subsequently reduced to 5¢ on October 1, 1946. The latest use found of Prexies paying the 5¢ rate is pictured in figure 16.

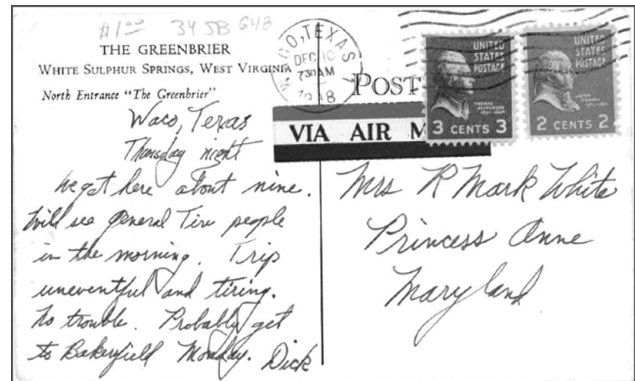


Figure 16 A 3¢ and 2¢ Prexie pay the 5¢ airmail letter rate on this postcard mailed on December 10, 1948 from Waco TX to Princess Anne MD. A separate airmail rate for postcards was implemented January 1, 1949.

A special airmail rate of 6¢ was implemented on December 25, 1941 for letters (and by extension, postcards) to or from members of the armed services. The rate was later extended to civilians using the military postal system. This rate was not used often for mailing postcards (about a dozen examples in the entire database) and was usually paid with the 6¢ airmail stamp of the Transport series (Scott C25). The 6¢ stamp (Scott 811) franked the sole example of a Prexie usage for this rate (figure 17).

FIRST CLASS, POSTCARD, AIRMAIL

A separate, lower rate for airmail service for postcards was instituted on January 1, 1949. The new rate of 4¢ represented a discount of 2¢ from the corresponding airmail letter rate. Because there was no airmail stamp

TABLE 2: FIRST CLASS AIRMAIL RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
<i>First class, letter, airmail</i>	\$0.06	1-Jul-1934	25-Mar-1944	807	Multiple	2	5-Mar-1940	27-May-1941
				810 + other	Mixed	1	5-Aug-1940	
				842	Multiple	2	8-Aug-1942	
<i>First class, letter, airmail, special servicemen's rate</i>	\$0.06	25-Dec-1941	30-Sep-1946	811	Single	1	1-Aug-1944	
<i>First class, letter, airmail</i>	\$0.08	26-Mar-1944	30-Sep-1946	806 + 810 + other	Mixed	1 + 1	4-Apr-1944	
<i>First class, letter, airmail</i>	\$0.05	1-Oct-1946	31-Dec-1948	804 + 807	Mixed	2 + 1	25-Apr-1948	
<i>First class, postcard, airmail</i>	\$0.04	1-Jan-1949	31-Jul-1958	807 + 839	Mixed	1 + 1	5-Nov-1954	
				808	Single	1	6-Aug-1949	20-Oct-1955
				839 + 842	Mixed	1 + 1	7-Sep-1950	24-Jun-1954
				839 + other	Mixed	1	18-Oct-1952	
				841	Multiple	2	24-May-1954	19-May-1958
				841 + other	Mixed	1	31-May-1955	16-Apr-1956
<i>First class, postcard, airmail</i>	\$0.05	1-Aug-1958	6-Jan-1963	804 + other	Mixed	1	12-Feb-1959	
				810	Single	1	30-Mar-1959	
				839 + other	Mixed	2	27-Mar-1959	24-Sep-1960
<i>First class, postcard, airmail</i>	\$0.06	7-Jan-1963	6-Jan-1968	806 + 839 + other	Mixed	1 + 1	30-Sep-1965	
				811	Single	1	18-Dec-1963	4-May-1964



Figure 17 A 6¢ Prexie stamp (Scott 811) paid the servicemen's airmail letter rate, an uncommon use on a postcard. The message is datelined New Guinea, July 30 1944 and postmarked on August 1 from APO 565. The message was passed by the Army censor prior to continuing on to the recipient in Aurora IL.

with a face value of 4¢ when the rate went into effect, other stamps or stamp combinations had to be used. The most commonly used stamp for this rate was the 4¢ Prexie (Scott 808) shown in figure 18. Other combinations of Prexie stamps were also found, as seen in the example in figure 19.

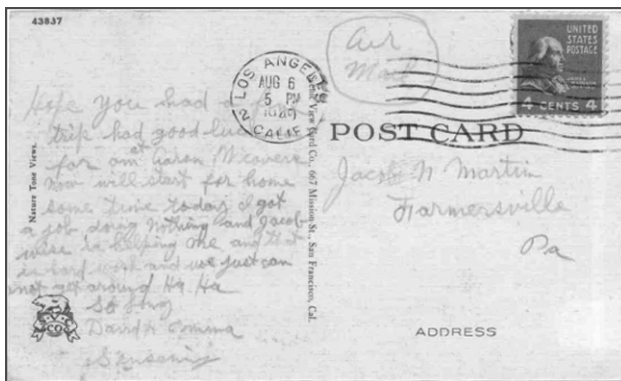


Figure 18 Prior to the issuance of a 4¢ airmail stamp in 1954, the airmail postcard rate was typically paid with a 4¢ Prexie (Scott 808). The postcard pictured here was mailed on August 6 1949 from Los Angeles to Farmersville PA.

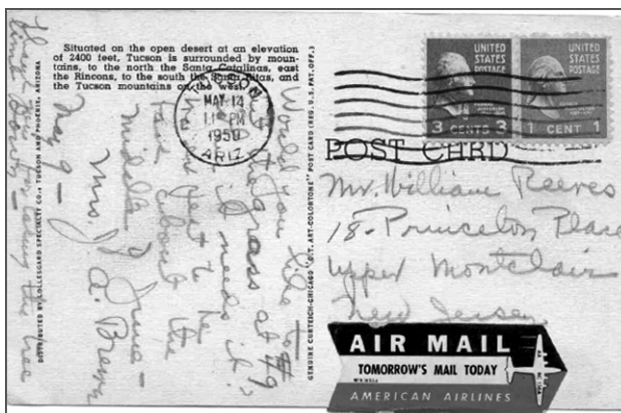


Figure 19 A 3¢ Prexie (Scott 807) and a 1¢ Prexie (Scott 804) paid the airmail postcard rate for this card mailed from Tucson AZ to Upper Montclair NJ on May 14 1950.

Although the new airmail postcard rate was lower than the airmail letter rate, it still did not see widespread use. The use of Prexies to pay the rate dropped off sharply after the issuance of a 4¢ airmail stamp (Scott C48) on September 3, 1954.

The postcard airmail rate increased to 5¢ effective August 1 1958 and again to 6¢ effective January 7, 1963. Prexies were seldom used for either of these rates. Figures 20 and 21 show a 5¢ single (Scott 810) and a 6¢ single (Scott 811), respectively, paying these rates.

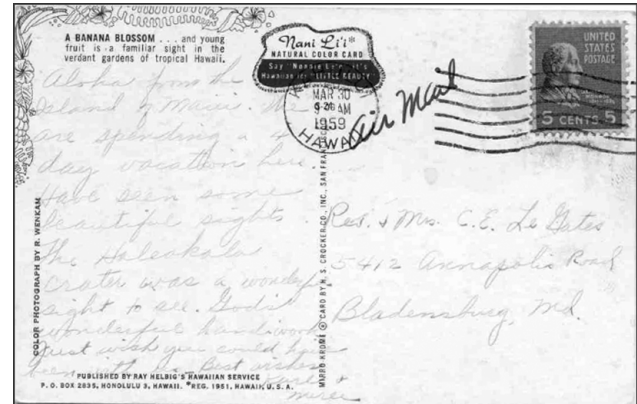


Figure 20 A 5¢ Prexie (Scott 810) was used to pay the airmail postcard rate on this card mailed on March 30 1959 from Kahului HI to Bladensburg MD, an uncommon usage.

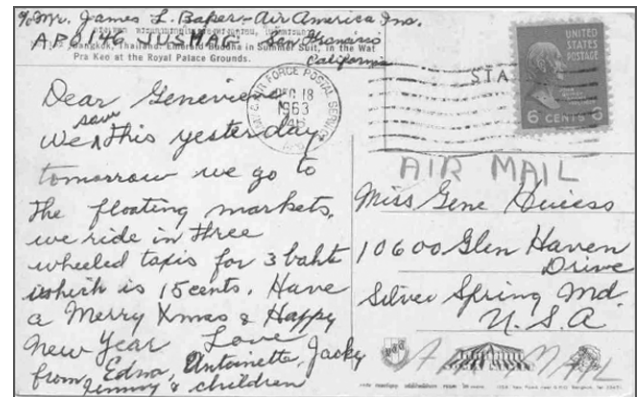


Figure 21 A late use of the 6¢ Prexie, paying the airmail postcard rate. The card was mailed on December 18 1963 from APO 146 in Bangkok, Thailand to Silver Spring MD

Combination rates and other fees are presented in Tables 3 and 4.

COMBINATION RATES AND OTHER FEES

In addition to standard surface and airmail rates, Prexies were also used, alone or with other stamps, to make up combination rates and to pay other postal fees. A combination rate is where the sender paid for an additional service above the basic postage rate. All three examples found were for special delivery fees in addition to the

TABLE 3: COMBINATION RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
First class, postcard plus Special Delivery	\$0.11	1-Jul-1928	31-Oct-1944	804 + other	Mixed	1		13-Aug-1944
First class, letter, airmail plus Special Delivery	\$0.18	1-Oct-1946	31-Dec-1948	807 + 815 + other	Mixed	1 + 1		5-Aug-1947

TABLE 4: OTHER FEES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
Postage due, shortpaid from Canada	\$0.02	1-Sep-1931	31-Jul-1958	804	Multiple	2		1948
Late fee	\$0.01	Unknown	Unknown	804	Single	1		13-Jun-1941

postcard or letter rate (see figure 22). Postcards for which special delivery service was requested are scarce from any period.

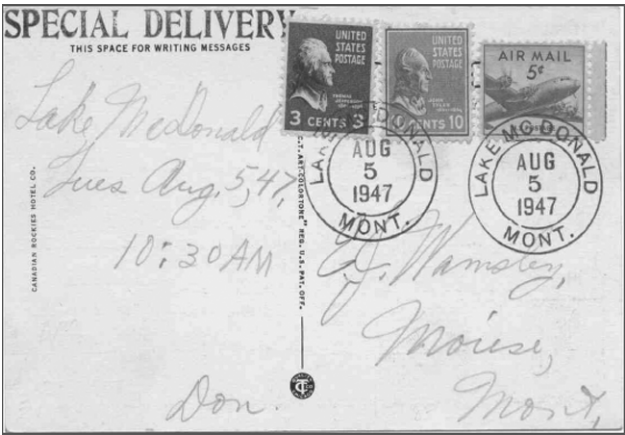


Figure 22 Special delivery postcard mailed from Lake McDonald MT to Moiese MT on August 5 1947. The airmail stamp (Scott C33) paid the airmail letter rate of 5¢, and the 3¢ and 10¢ Prexies (Scott 807 and 815) paid the special delivery fee of 13¢.

Equally scarce are examples of Prexies used to pay other types of postal fees. Again, only two examples were found, one paying postage due on a short paid card from

Canada and the other paying a late fee. The latter example is pictured in figure 23. It is the only postcard in the entire database where this particular fee was assessed.

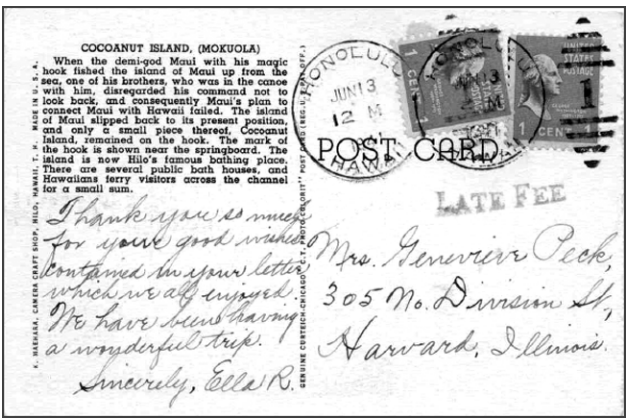


Figure 23 The only example seen where this particular fee was assessed. The postcard was sent by a tourist from Honolulu HI on June 13 1941 to Harvard IL. It is franked with a pair of 1¢ Prexies, one paying the postcard rate and the second paying a late fee. The card was apparently presented late for mailing and thus assessed a fee equal to the postage paid. No additional information is available about the postal regulations requiring such a fee.

ODDS AND ENDS

There are other uses of Prexies on postcards for domestic rates that do not fit neatly into the preceding tables. These include the following among others:

- Stamps sent to release mail that was held at a post office for lack of postage. In *figure 24* the stamp paid the correct postcard rate; however, the postage was supplied by the recipient and not prepaid by the sender.

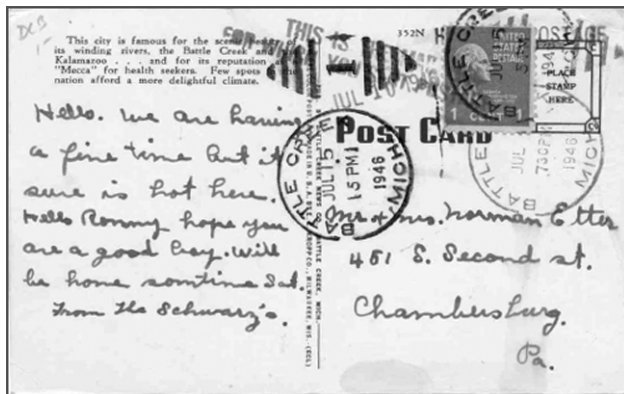


Figure 24 Postcard placed in the mail on July 10, 1946 at Battle Creek MI without postage. The card was held for postage by the Battle Creek post office until the addressee in Chambersburg PA provided the 1¢ Prexie to pay the postcard rate. The card was sent on to its destination on July 15.

- The frequent use of the 1½¢ stamp (Scott 805) during the 1¢ rate period of 1928–1951. The stamp was typically used to pay the 3rd class letter or printed matter rate; however, postcards meeting postal specifications required only 1¢ postage. Why the stamp was used at all on postcards mailed domestically, like the one shown in *figure 25*, rather than the widely available 1¢ stamps is puzzling.

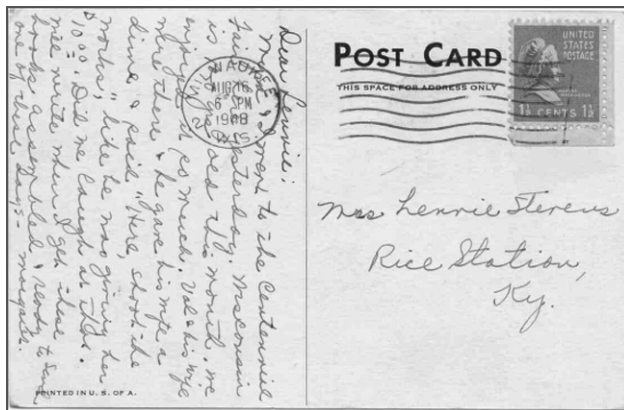


Figure 25 The 1½¢ Prexie (Scott 805) is often found on postcards overpaying the 1¢ postcard rate. The reason for its use, as shown on this card mailed August 16 1948 from Milwaukee to Rice Station KY, is unclear.

One use for the 1½¢ stamp that is not seen regularly is payment of the printed matter rate to mail a postcard folder. Adding a written message raised the required postage to the first class letter rate. While a postcard folder is technically not a postcard, it is a close relative and included here for that reason.

Postcard folders are not widely collected, and most examples that are found were never mailed (and generally in poor condition). Folders actually mailed at the printed matter rate, such as the one pictured in *figure 26*, are uncommon; most were mailed, with or without a message, at the letter rate.



Figure 26 A postcard folder of Chicago IL sent by a soldier en route to (?) from East Portal CO to Brooklyn MD on March 8 1943. Folders could be sent at the 1½¢ printed matter rate if no written message was added (there is none on this example). Most folders that are seen were mailed at the first class letter rate.

- Payment of additional postage to forward a postcard domestically after initial delivery (*figure 27*).

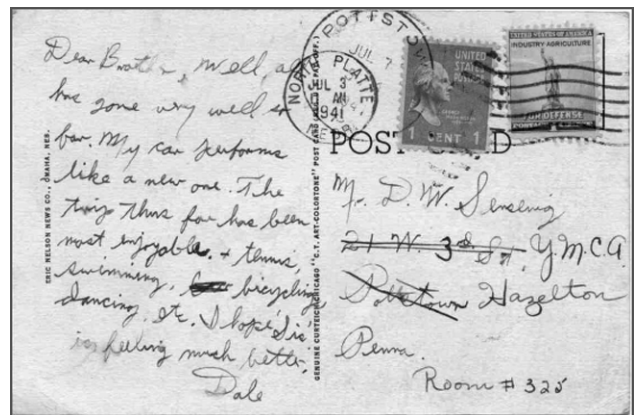


Figure 27 This postcard was originally mailed from North Platte NE to Pottstown PA on July 3 1941. The card was forwarded after delivery to the recipient's new address at the Hazleton PA YMCA on July 7. A 1¢ Prexie was added to pay for forwarding.

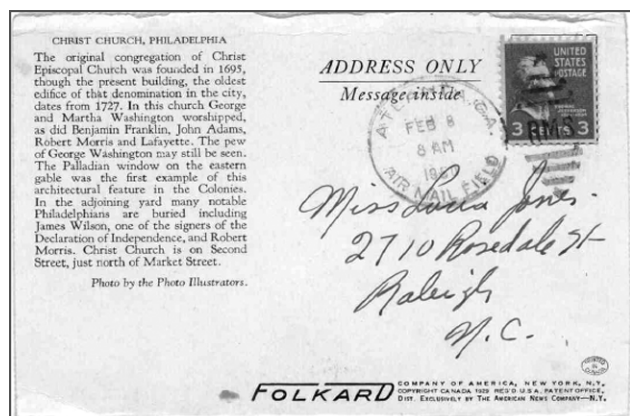


Figure 28 This letter card was mailed on February 8 1950 from the airport in Atlanta GA to Raleigh NC. A 3¢ Prexie paid the letter rate. Almost all of the letter cards seen, like this one, were published by the Folkard Company of America.

- Postage paid to mail so-called “letter cards”. These items resemble postcards with a picture on one side and an address space on the other. However, the cards are folded in the middle, which allows the message to be written on the inside before being sealed and mailed. Postal regulations do not provide specific rates for letter cards; all of the examples in the census were mailed at the first class letter rate, as shown in figure 28.

International Rates

Postcards mailed to foreign destinations using Prexies accounted for approximately 2% of the 4,000 postcards in the census. Over half of these were postcards sent to Canada, with the rest scattered among twenty-three other countries. Less common destinations include Czechoslovakia, Indonesia, Sudan, and surprisingly, Mexico.

International surface rates are presented in Table 5.

INTERNATIONAL, POSTCARD, UPU

The international surface rate for postcards sent to members of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) was 3¢ when the Prexies were introduced in 1938. Special treaty rates also existed for certain countries, as described in the following section. Prexies used to pay the 3¢ UPU rate are usually found in various combinations, such as the one shown in figure 29, but single uses of the 3¢ stamp (Scott 807) can also be found (figure 30).

The UPU rate was raised to 4¢ effective November 1, 1953. Only three examples of Prexies being used to pay this rate were found, none of which are a single, an anomalous finding given that the only available 4¢ stamp at the time the rate was implemented was a Prexie. A combination use paying the 4¢ rate is shown in figure 31.



Figure 29 QSL card mailed from Baltimore MD to Harbel, Liberia on March 10 1947 and received there on April 21. The 3¢ international surface rate was paid by a strip of three 1¢ Prexies.

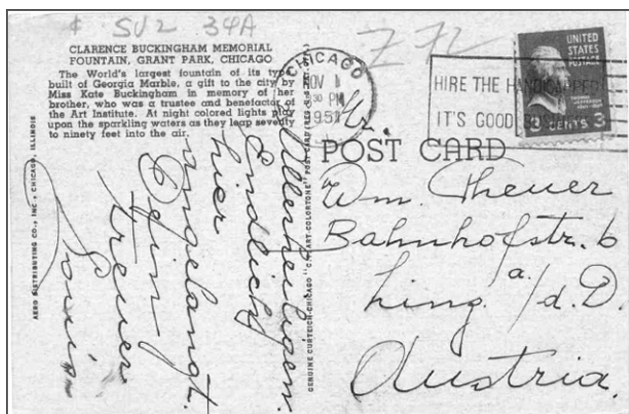


Figure 30 Single 3¢ Prexie (Scott 807) paying international surface rate to Austria on a postcard mailed November 1 1951 from Chicago.

ure 31. No Prexies were found paying the 5¢ rate implemented August 1 1958, or for any other surface rates beyond that.



Figure 31 A 2¢ Prexie (Scott 806) was added to a 2¢ postal card (Scott UX38) to pay the 4¢ international surface rate to Brazil.

TABLE 5: INTERNATIONAL SURFACE RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
<i>International, postcard, UPU</i>	\$0.03	1-Oct-1925	31-Oct-1953	804	Multiple	3		10-Mar-1947
				804 + 806	Mixed	1 + 1		10-Feb-1940
				806 + other	Mixed	1	27-Feb-1939	24-Oct-1951
				807	Single	1	26-Aug-1939	16-Jan-1952
				807b	Single	1		22-Nov-1946
				840	Multiple	2		30-Apr-1951
<i>International, postcard, UPU</i>	\$0.04	1-Nov-1953	31-Jul-1958	806	Multiple	2	31-Mar-1954	18-May-1955
				806 + other	Mixed	1		3-Jan-1955
<i>International, postcard, treaty rate to Argentina</i>	\$0.02	11-May-1934	31-Oct-1953	806	Single	1		6-Sep-1946
<i>International, postcard, treaty rate to Canada</i>	\$0.02	1-Sep-1931	31-Jul-1958	804	Multiple	2	2-May-1939	14-Sep-1954
				804b	Multiple	2		10-Nov-1950
				804 + 839	Mixed	1 + 1		10-Jul-1946
				804 + other	Mixed	1		13-Aug-1940
				806	Single	1	10-Sep-1938	26-Feb-1955
				839	Multiple	2		23-Jan-1946
				841	Single	1		8-May-1957
<i>International, postcard, treaty rate to Costa Rica</i>	\$0.02	1-Apr-1932	31-Oct-1953	804 + other	Mixed	1		20-Jul-1948
<i>International, postcard, treaty rate to Cuba</i>	\$0.02	1-Apr-1932	31-Oct-1953	804	Multiple	2		5-Jul-1951
<i>International, postcard, treaty rate to Mexico</i>	\$0.02	1-Apr-1932	31-Jul-1958	804	Multiple	2		11-Jun-1946
				806	Single	1		22-Jul-1954

INTERNATIONAL, POSTCARD, SPECIAL TREATY RATES

Special treaty rates for postcards sent by surface mail existed for a number of countries, including Canada, Cuba, Mexico, and the countries of Central and South America. These rates were implemented on various dates in the early to mid-1930s at a preferential rate of 2¢ rather than the 3¢ UPU rate. The treaty rates for Canada and Mexico extended through July 31, 1958. For Cuba and Central and South America, the treaty rates ended on October 31, 1953; thereafter, the rate to UPU countries applied.

Postcards mailed at the special treaty rates appear to be somewhat scarce. Outside of Canada, for which examples are plentiful, only four other countries covered under the various treaty rates were found: Argentina, Costa Rica, Cuba, and Mexico. A postcard mailed to Mexico in 1954 at the special treaty rate of 2¢ is displayed in figure 32.

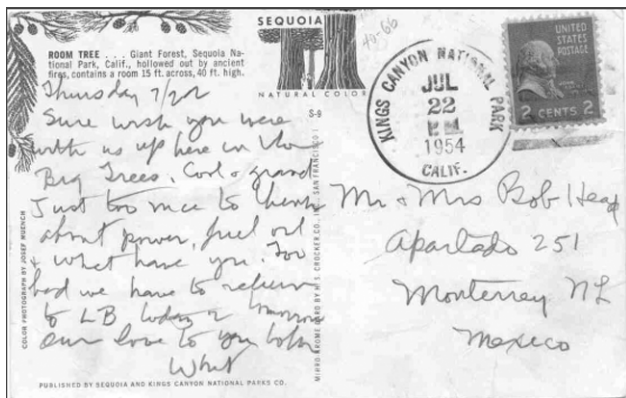


Figure 32 A 2¢ *Prexie* paid the treaty rate to Mexico on this postcard mailed July 22, 1954 from Kings Canyon National Park in California.

International airmail rates are presented in Table 6.

INTERNATIONAL, LETTER, AIRMAIL

Prior to June 1, 1954, postcards sent to foreign destinations via airmail required payment of the applicable international airmail letter rate (with the exception of certain countries that were covered under special treaty rates). These rates varied by destination. Postcards mailed at the international airmail letter rates are rarely seen.

Two examples of *Prexie* singles, one paying the 15¢ rate to Great Britain (Europe rate) and the other paying the 25¢ rate to Indonesia (Asia rate), are presented in figures 33 and 34. Another example of the 25¢ rate can be seen in figure 35. This card, by virtue of the 10¢ *Prexie* added to make up the correct rate, has the largest number of different *Prexies* (three) found on one postcard in the census.



Figure 33 A sailor on board the U.S.S. Colonial mailed this postcard to his aunt in England on June 6 1952, using a 15¢ *Prexie* (Scott 820) to pay the international airmail letter rate. By the time the card reached London, the recipient had apparently relocated to the resort town of Bude in Cornwall. A label with the new address was pasted over the previous one, the AIR MAIL marking was crossed out, and the card was forwarded by surface mail on June 23.

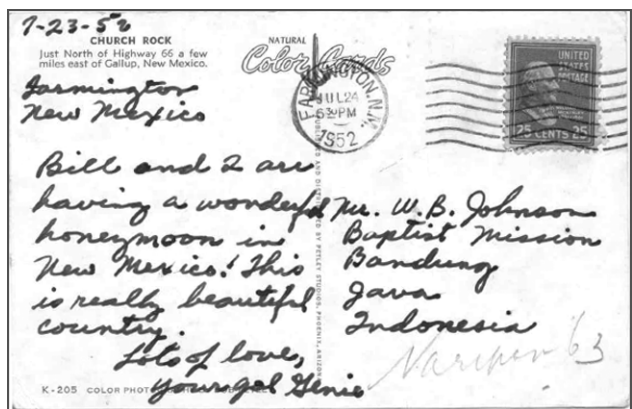


Figure 34 A 25¢ *Prexie* (Scott 825) paid the international airmail letter rate to Indonesia on this postcard mailed on July 24 1952 from Farmington NM. This is the highest face value stamp from the series found in the census.



Figure 35 This card was originally placed in the mail at San Francisco on December 30 1949. The sender used 15¢ postage for airmail service to Australia, paid by the 4¢ airmail postal card (Scott UXC1) plus the 5¢ and 6¢ *Prexies*. However, the airmail letter rate to Australia at that time was 25¢, thus the card was returned for additional postage of 10¢. The sender added a 10¢ *Prexie* to make up the shortfall and the card was remailed on December 31. Probably a unique use of the 10¢ *Prexie* stamp. (Courtesy of Bill Helbock)

TABLE 6: INTERNATIONAL AIRMAIL RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
<i>International, letter, airmail, NCA & SOA</i>	\$0.10	1-Nov-1946	31-May-1954	804 + other	Mixed	2		16-Aug-1949
<i>International, letter, airmail, EUR</i>	\$0.15	1-Nov-1946	31-May-1954	807	Multiple	5		10-Feb-1954
				807 + other	Mixed	1		23-Oct-1952
				810 + other	Mixed	1		16-Mar-1949
				820	Single	1		6-Jun-1952
<i>International, letter, airmail, ASA</i>	\$0.25	1-Nov-1946	31-May-1954	829	Single	1		24-Jul-1952
<i>International, postcard, airmail, UPU</i>	\$0.10	1-Jun-1954	30-Jun-1961	806 + 807	Mixed	2 + 2		13-Jun-1954
				841	Multiple	5		1-Aug-1955
<i>International, postcard, airmail, treaty rate to Canada</i>	\$0.04	1-Jan-1949	31-Jul-1958	804 + 807	Mixed	1 + 1		3-Mar-1955
				806	Multiple	2		24-May-1954

TABLE 7: OTHER INTERNATIONAL RATES

Rate description	Rate	Begin date	End date	Scott #	Used as	Units	EKU	LKU
<i>International, postcard, printed matter, UPU</i>	\$0.015	1-Apr-1932	31-Oct-1953	803 + other	Mixed	1	1939	1947
				805	Single	1		1-Jan-1951

INTERNATIONAL, POSTCARD, AIRMAIL, UPU

A single rate of 10¢ was implemented on June 1, 1954 for postcards mailed to UPU member countries via airmail. It is difficult to find postcards mailed at this rate on which Prexies were used to pay all or part of the rate. One of the two examples found is shown in Figure 36.

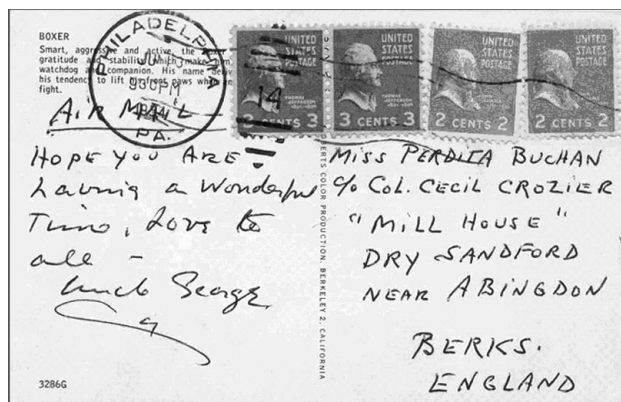


Figure 36 A pair of 3¢ Prexies and a pair of 2¢ Prexies paid the 10¢ international postcard airmail rate on this card mailed from Philadelphia to England on June 13 1954.

INTERNATIONAL, POSTCARD, AIRMAIL, SPECIAL TREATY RATES

When the new domestic postcard airmail rate of 4¢ was implemented on January 1, 1949, the rate was also extended to postcards mailed to Canada and Mexico. Apparently few senders chose to pay for airmail service because only two examples were found, both sent to Canada. One of these is pictured in figure 37.

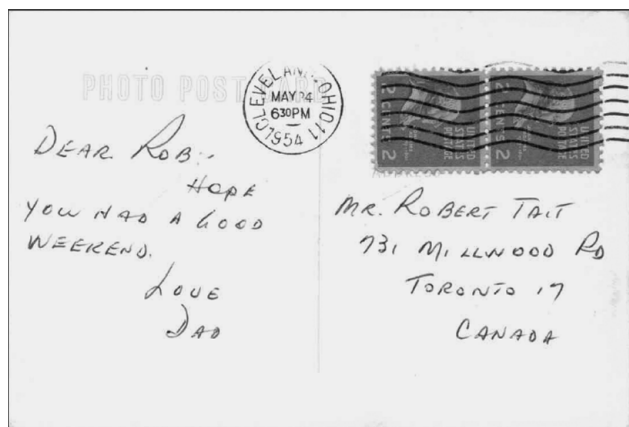


Figure 37 Postcards sent via airmail to Canada qualified for a treaty rate of 4¢ effective January 1, 1949. This card was mailed on May 24 1954 from Cleveland to Toronto.

Other international rates are presented in Table 7.

OTHER INTERNATIONAL RATES

There is only one entry for “other” international rates paid by Prexies: payment of the 1½¢ UPU printed matter rate. By foregoing a handwritten message, the sender paid only half of the standard UPU surface rate of 3¢. This rate remained in effect until October 31, 1953. An example sent in 1947 to Sweden is shown in figure 38.

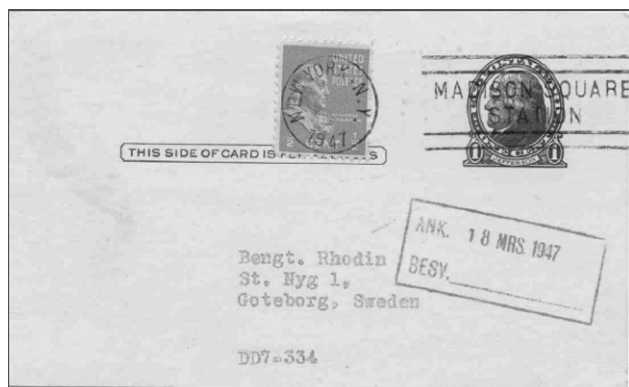


Figure 38 A ½¢ Prexie (Scott 803) was added to the 1¢ postal card (Scott UX27) to pay the international printed matter rate. The card was mailed from New York in February or March 1947 to Goteborg, Sweden. The reverse provides order information for a recently published scientific paper.

Other Uses

There are other uses both within and outside of the tables presented above that complement a collection of Prexie postal history on postcards. These include:

- Prexies attempted as postage from foreign countries;
- Underpaid postcards assessed postage due;
- Unusual combinations of Prexies and other stamps to pay various rates;
- Prexies on postcards with various auxiliary markings;
- Prexies with perforated initials (“perfins”); and
- Precancelled Prexies.

Figures 39 through 44 provide examples of each of these uses. There are certainly many others.

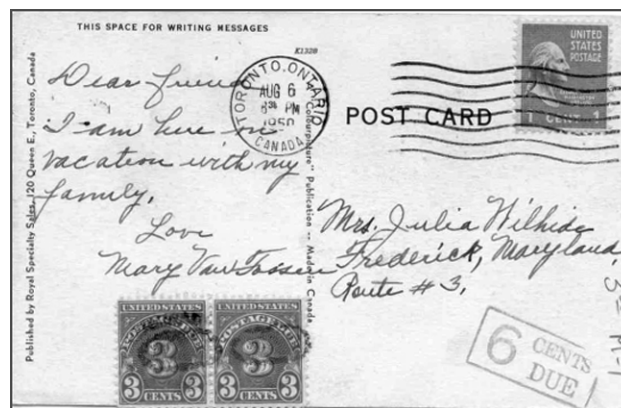


Figure 39 An American tourist mailed a postcard from Toronto, Canada to a friend in Frederick, Maryland on August 6, 1950 using a 1¢ Prexie. The card was marked 6 CENTS DUE by a Canadian postal clerk (double deficiency), and the pair of 3¢ due stamps (Scott J82) were affixed by the Frederick post office as evidence of collection.

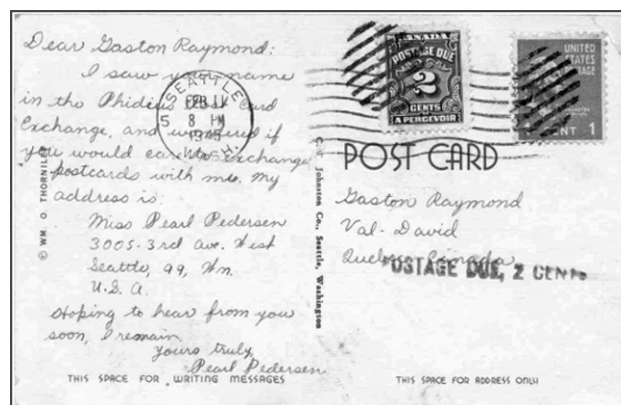


Figure 40 The 1¢ Prexie on this card mailed from Seattle on February 11, 1945 underpaid the treaty rate to Canada by 1¢. The card was stamped POSTAGE DUE, 2 CENTS (double deficiency) in Seattle, and a Canadian postage due stamp (Scott Canada J16) was affixed to show collection of the amount due.

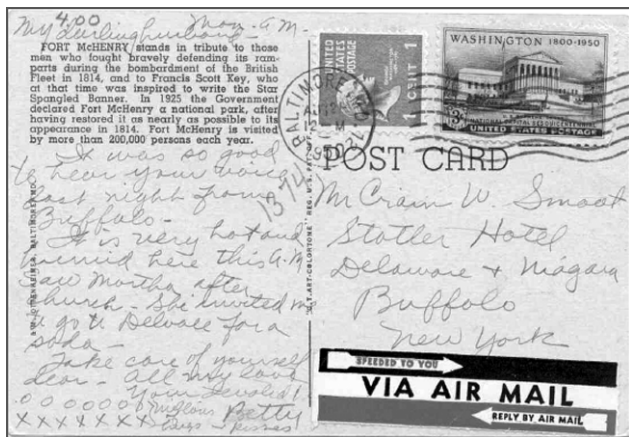


Figure 41 A 1¢ Prexie was paired with the 3¢ Washington DC Sesquicentennial commemorative (Scott 991) to pay the 4¢ airmail postcard rate. The card was mailed August 28, 1950 from Baltimore MD to Buffalo NY.

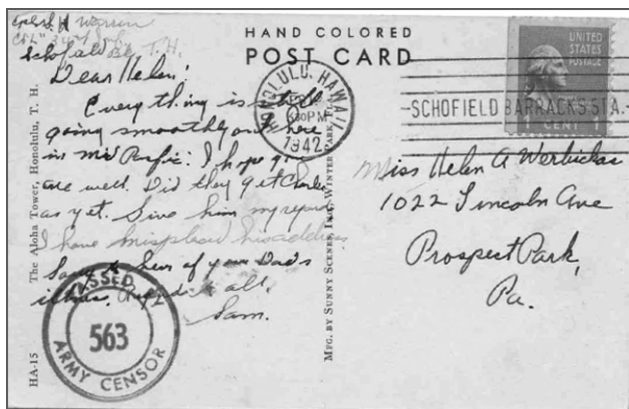


Figure 42 Postcard mailed on February 19, 1942 at the postcard rate by a soldier stationed in Hawaii using a 1¢ Prexie booklet stamp. The card's message was passed by the Army Censor as shown by the hand stamp at lower left.

Summary

Stamps of the Presidential series are key constituents of postal history on postcards. Despite the fact that many of the one hundred different uses documented here are commonplace and the higher values of the series are seldom seen on postcards, there are a diversity of uses that can make assembling a collection of Prexies on postcards an interesting pursuit. The data displayed in the preceding tables and illustrations are by no means comprehensive.

Now that the first draft of this chapter of Prexie postal history has been written, it is hoped that more uses of the stamps of this series on postcards will come to light. The author welcomes any updates, comments, or questions at gekatz@magellanhealth.com.

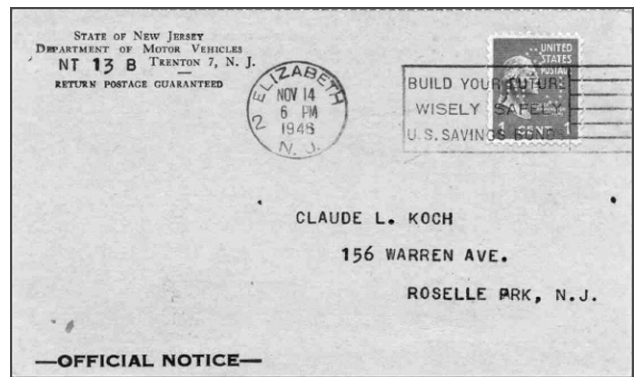


Figure 43 A 1¢ Prexie with the perforated initials S/N J (State of New Jersey) used on a postcard mailed on November 14, 1946 from Elizabeth NJ to Roselle Park. The message on the reverse is a vehicle inspection reminder notice.

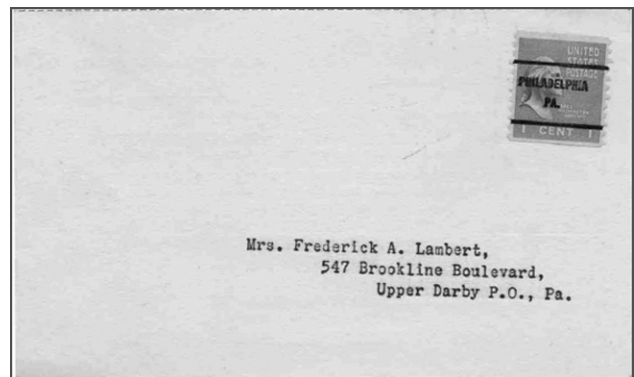


Figure 44 A 1¢ Prexie coil stamp with a precancel reading PHILADELPHIA/PA. mailed to Upper Darby. The reverse of the card bears the printed date of June 18, 1942. It was sent by the Philadelphia Orchestra Association announcing a change of meeting date and place "due to war conditions".

Sources Used

1. Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872 – 1999*, Revised Second Edition, Portland, Oregon: CAMA Publishing Company, ©1999.
2. Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz and Henry W. Beecher, *U.S. International Postal Rates, 1872 – 1996*, Portland, Oregon: CAMA Publishing Company, ©1996.
3. *Scott 2005 Specialized Catalogue of United States Stamps & Covers*, Eighty-third Edition, Scott Publishing Co. ©2004.
4. www.1847usa.com

SPECIAL THANKS TO

Jim Forte, Bill Helbock, Larry McBride, and Jim Mehrer, among others, for providing venues to acquire key pieces of the postal history material presented in this article.

“Dogtown, U. S. A.”

By Bob Schultz

Between the two World Wars, the little town of Herrick, Illinois was the dog capital of the world. The town hosted numerous kennels – Kaskaskia Kennels, Dixie Kennels, Wildwood Kennels, Crescent Hound Kennels, Echo Valley, Okaw Valley, Maplewood and Beck’s Creek. Dogs were shipped not only throughout the United States, but also to Canada, Mexico and other parts of the world.

These kennels were the life-blood of this little town. They advertised extensively, so people were needed to address and stamp mailed materials. Shipping dogs required lumber for constructing shipping cases. In one year, Kaskaskia Kennels mailed over 40,000 pieces of mail. Besides making the crates, they had to be prepared with straw, food and water for the rail shipping. Then there were the needed paperwork, vaccinations and veterinary work. In a record day, over two hundred dogs were shipped by rail. During peak times, over one hundred dogs were shipped daily.

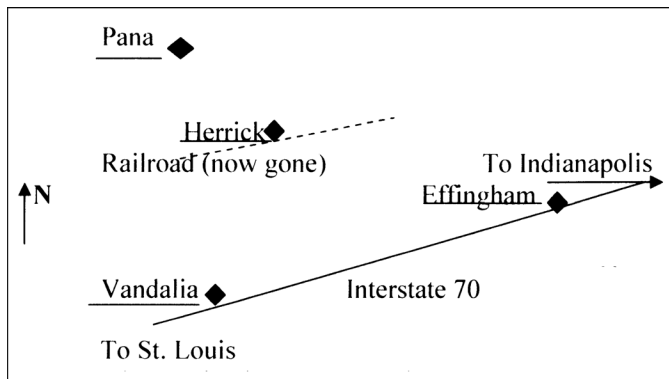
The Dixie Hound Kennels were founded by James W. Sarver (1874-1933) and expanded by his son, Frank M. Sarver (1901-1966). Frank Sarver advertised heavily with many brochures. However, after World War II, railroad service and Railway Express Services declined and

ultimately ended. Air shipping as an alternative was too expensive and the kennels all ultimately went out of business.

Recently, a cache of postal history from the Dixie Hound Kennels appeared. It consisted of letters to and from Herrick about the dogs. Some were orders and some were complaints about the dogs received. There were also guarantees, order forms and other promotional materials. As a Missouri collector, I acquired a number of the Missouri covers.

Among the lots were two matching covers from Augusta, St. Charles County, Missouri. These two letters are a microcosm of the postal history of the Dixie Hound Kennels.

Augusta, Mo., August 25, 1935



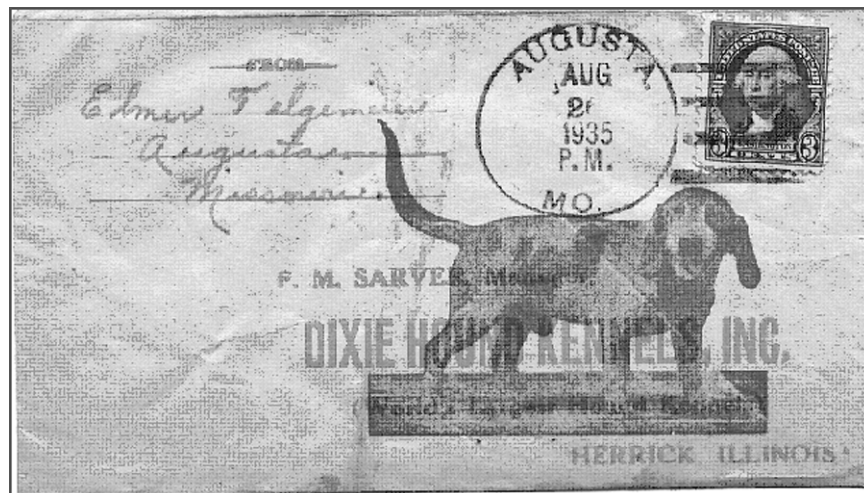
Dear Sir:-

I have received your literature and have decided to buy a dog from you, as I am sure that in getting a dog from you I will be treated right.

I will write you and tell you how much trouble I had in making up my mind to order a dog.


We have a good country to hunt over up here, there are quite a few Raccoons and also lots of Opossums up here, but the fellows have no luck catching them for the simple reason, they have no dogs that are up to the old tricks of a Coon.

When I got your literature I told lots of my friends that I was going to get a dog from you, well, they told me by ordering a dog I would not get a good dog for they knew too many cases where fellows had ordered dogs that were no good at all.



Well, after reading your literature all over several times I saw where you certainly are being fair with me in every way, and also came to this “conclusion” the fellows around here would open their eyes plenty if I would get a good Coon Dog, something that I have been wanting ever since I heard the first tree bark in the woods at night. I love night hunting more than anything else in the world. There used to be some real coon dogs around here, but they got too old and died and for about the last 4 years there hasn’t been as much hunting done around here and just at present I only know of one fair coon dog around here. I think if I succeed in getting a good

Dixie Hound Kennels, Inc.



F. M. Sarver, Manager
HERRICK, ILLINOIS

CAPITAL STOCK
\$50,000.00

REFERENCES:
State Bank, Herrick, Illinois
State Bank, Cowden, Illinois
State Bank, Ramsey, Illinois

dog from you, it will mean sales for you right in this community, because there are quite a few hunters around here that love night hunting as much as I do, but they all think there is nothing in it to order a dog from a Kennel, but I have the faith in you and know you will treat me right.

I showed your literature to a friend of mine tonite and I am almost certain that he is a good prospect as he is very much interested. I am sending you his address – Clarence Fuhr, Augusta, Mo.

Now to get back to the kind of dog I want. I am not particular as to the color, just as he is a good tree dog.

List A Extra fancy choice cooners I would like to have a silent trailer and a fairly good sized dog as to the rest, I will leave you be the judge knowing you will do the right thing with me.

Enclosed find money order for \$5.00 will pay balance C. O. D. Trusting to have this dog real soon, I remain very truly yours,

Elmer Telgemeier, Augusta, Missouri.

But wait! There's more!

There was another letter.

F. M. Sarver, Manager

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you in regards to the dog I received from you awhile back.

Well, I certainly am disgusted with the dog that you sent me.

In the first place, I did not get a written guarantee with the dog, which you said I would get.

I took the dog out almost every nite since I have her and she hasn't even tried once, not even an opossum and as we have plenty of game around here, she surely should have treed an opossum if not a coon.

I wrote you I would like to have a silent trailer and the dog you sent me is very open on the trail she barks too much.

Several times she had a real hot coon track as I saw the fresh coon track in the creek where the coon had just passed and still she did not tree, and "I know the reason" the dog that you sent me does not bark at the tree, but instead runs the game on the tree and then comes back to me.

I realize that the time of trial is over but I always tho't if I'd give her a little more time that she might tree yet, but now I have given up all hopes.

When I received the dog from you I was tickled thinking, now I could enjoy the hunting this winter, but I really deidn't expect to get a dog from you that wouldn't even tree, after reading all the literature you sent me. I felt assured that you would treat me right, but now I will say, it seems as tho you could have given me a little better break.

Yours truly,

Elmer Telgemeier

Augusta, Missouri, St. Charles County.

So there you have the whole story—or at least as much of it as we could find. We have a disappointed customer and we must wonder—did Mr. Telgemeier get his money back? Did he ever find the kind of hunting dog that he wanted? Maybe someday, someone will find out.

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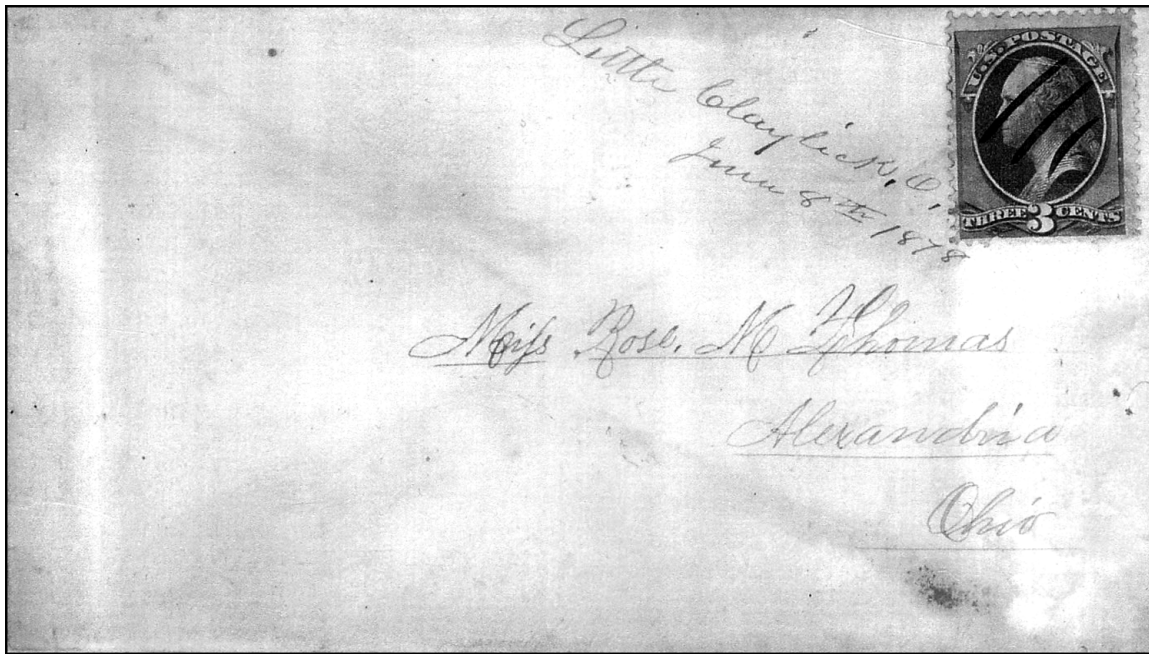


Figure 1 Letter mailed from Little Claylick, Ohio, on Tuesday, June 8, 1878. The post office was established on May 7, 1878, with John Keenan serving as postmaster. Before Keenan received a postmark device, he cancelled mail with a pen.

Mail From A Ghost Town

By Michael Dattolico

Ohio is a state with a rich pioneer heritage. As such, it is prodigiously dotted with the earliest settlers' cemeteries. The burial grounds are often the last remaining vestiges of places where people gathered to begin new lives in the Midwest.

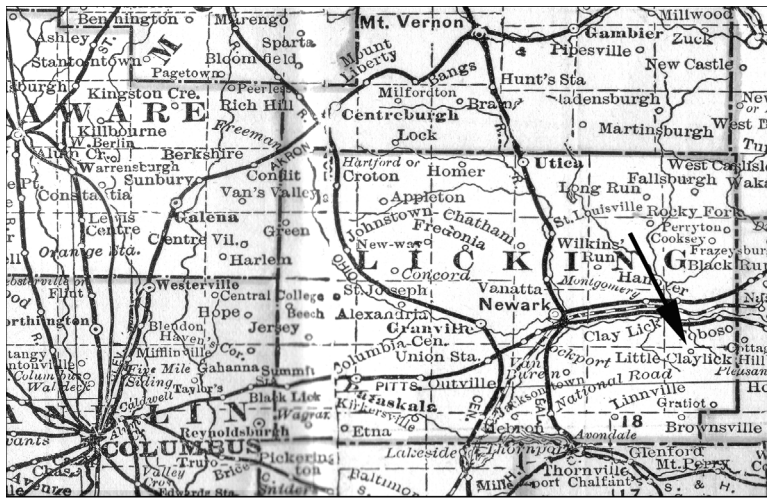
Unfortunately, the ravages of nature and human neglect threaten many pioneer cemeteries with eradication from the landscape. One such cemetery is embedded near the crest of a hill in rural southeastern Licking County. It is a disheveled piece of ground shrouded by thorny vines, and the few surviving headstones are crowded by riotous thickets and encroaching cottonwood, maple and oak trees.

The cemetery bears other scars of nature's indifferent battering. Abrasive winds and coursing rainwater have blurred lovingly inscribed gravestones. Gnarled tree roots have rudely pushed aside massive grave stones while leaving others oddly askew. Twisted treetops hurled earthward by countless storms have shattered delicate tablets, littering the place with stone shards and rotted timber. This particular cemetery has a name—Little Clay Lick. It plays a key role in the saga of Little Claylick, Ohio, and its postal history.

Little Claylick, Ohio, the hamlet that once surrounded the cemetery, no longer exists. There are no markers to announce the site, nor do historic buildings proclaim its former presence. Pictures or detailed maps of the place do not exist, partly the result of two fires that destroyed the county courthouse a century ago. Even a comprehensive history of Licking County written in 1881 did not acknowledge Little Claylick or its short-lived post office. The ruins of a church, meeting place of a long-passed congregation, stands alone. Little Claylick bears a label that is both mysterious and forlorn—"ghost town."

The tiny village struggled to life in the 1840s. Some early citizens had labored on the National Road construction in the 1820s, purchased land and decided to stay. Potters and related craftsmen were attracted to the region by "fire-clay," a unique soil indigenous to the area, from which they produced fire-bricks. Others were miners from western Pennsylvania who worked local mines to extract cannel coal, a type used in locomotive boilers and preferred by blacksmiths.

During its early years, Little Claylick's citizens received their mail at the Clay Lick post office located seven miles away. But the Bradford-Pollock Mining operations had expanded by the 1870s, and the growing population clamored for its own mail services. The government



Map 1 Few maps show the location of Little Claylick. This 1894 Walker's International Atlas Map of Ohio is an exception.



main employer in the area. His mercantile store became the prime outlet for essential goods and a social gathering place for the villagers, making it a logical place for postal business. His marriage to Jane C. Pollack, daughter of Silas Pollack, further enhanced his social position in the community. Keenan opened the Little Claylick post office for business on Tuesday, May 7, 1878. (figure 1).

complied, and a post office was established at Little Claylick in 1878.

The postal history of Little Claylick centers around John Keenan, a local landowner and merchant. Born October 11, 1824, near Brownsville, Ohio, he first appeared on a county roster of men eligible for service in the state militia in 1845. When war commenced with Mexico in 1846, Keenan enlisted in Company E, 1st Ohio Volunteer Infantry regiment. He took part in the Battle of Monterey on September 21, 1846, and the Battle of Cerralvo on March 7, 1847. The young soldier mustered out of federal service at New Orleans on June 13, 1847, and wended his way home.

Keenan married Amanda Ellis in 1848 and purchased land in Hopewell Township south of and adjacent to the Bradford-Pollack mines. In 1850, the first of his four children, Mary, was born, followed by their only son Frank in 1852, and daughters Laura in 1857 and Sarah "Sadie" in 1860.

For the next two decades, the Keenan family prospered. Frank Keenan farmed the family's land, and John established a general store at the settlement. Calamity struck in 1875, however, when Amanda died. Keenan married Jane C. Pollack on August 24, 1876, but she died soon after. He married a third time in 1879.

It was during Keenan's periods of grief that the post office was established at Little Claylick. His selection as postmaster was not a random one. Keenan's lands were bordered on three sides by Bradford-Pollack lands, the

Postal receipts were not large during the few years that the post office was open. Keenan reported revenue amounts of \$9.81 in 1879 and \$4.91 in 1881. Nothing was reported in 1883, the steady downturn in postal business being proof of the town's approaching demise. John Keenan ceased postal operations at Little Claylick on June 15, 1883.

The Bradford-Pollack mining business dwindled to a halt, and the people drifted away. By the 1890s, Little Claylick was virtually deserted. Keenan sold his store and moved to Newark, Ohio, with his third wife, Isabelle. He worked as a tax collector until his death on May 8, 1895 at the age of 70. (figure 2). A local newspaper, the *Granville Times*, printed his obituary on May 9th. It read, "John Keenan, an aged and well known citizen, died last night."

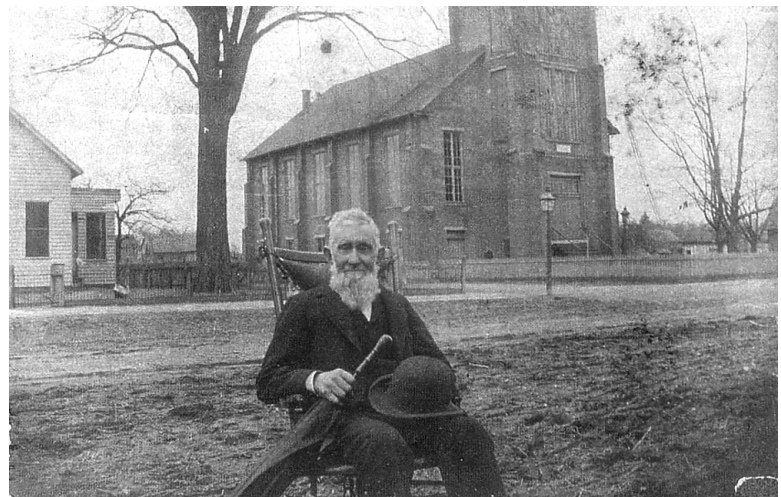


Figure 2 Photo of postmaster John Keenan taken near his death at age 70. He was the only postmaster at Little Claylick, Ohio, during its short five-year operation.

Epologue

Where does one go for information when physical evidence is scarce, official records are negligible, and books contain inaccurate data? You might talk to former residents. But in the case of a 175-year-old “ghost town,” you talk to descendents.

On the slim chance that someone in a nearby town might know about Little Claylick, I stopped at Brownsville, Ohio. Ironically, the first building I noticed was a store that also housed the post office. I had visions of the postmaster being a distinguished gentleman wearing a long-sleeved shirt and vest, much like the famous Norman Rockwell painting. Instead, I was greeted by the young, friendly postmistress who politely listened to my story. She replied, “I’ve never heard of Little Claylick. But as an afterthought she said, “Try the people next door. They’ve lived here a long time.” With a friendly smile, she went back to work. That was my first lesson about the people of Brownsville, Ohio. Everybody is friendly.

The people next door were Walter and Betty Stewart. They were setting up a table for an afternoon garage sale. I introduced myself and stated my business. Walter is a spry, lanky man who is 94 years old. His wife, Betty, is 90. She was bustling about with objects for sale, but they both stopped to talk. Walter and Betty said they had heard of Little Claylick but had no first-hand knowledge of it. Then, looking across the road, Betty said, “There’s someone who can help you. That’s Barbara.” Betty introduced her to me. (figure 3).



Figure 3 Friends of LaPosta. Walter Stewart, Barbara Myers Wiseman and Betty Stewart.



Figure 4 Roy Myers, Jr., age 86, and Barbara Myers Wiseman. As a boy, Roy carried buckets of ‘cannel’ coal mined at Little Claylick for the local blacksmith.

The lady was Barbara Myers Wiseman, and I quickly learned that she knew a lot about Little Claylick. She is a descendent of Major Jacob Myers, a War of 1812 veteran who is buried in Little Clay Lick cemetery. I asked if she knew where the town was. She replied, “Absolutely.” Then I held my breath and asked if she could locate the cemetery. Barbara answered, “I can take you right to it.” Accompanied by her husband Harold, we drove the short distance to the village’s site. I was first shown the old church. Then we hiked to the summit of a steep hill, and on the opposite slope was the cemetery. We entered it and stepped back in time. The natural debris and fallen tombstones was a scene of chaos, but an air of solemnity permeated the place. We surveyed the area, took pictures, and felt humbled as we walked down the hill.

A week later, Barbara introduced me to her father, 86-year-old Roy Myers Jr., a resident of Clay Lick. Roy is a lean, raw-boned man with keen memories of Little Claylick. He recalled going to Little Claylick’s closed mines when he was a young boy to pick up pieces of cannel coal for the local blacksmith. Roy described the vacant cabins in which miners and their families had lived. (figure 4).

I was introduced to other friendly folks who have lived near the ghost town all their lives. Information from them helped fit the pieces together. Harold Wiseman identified the place where John Keenan's store was located. A clump of willow trees now occupy the spot. Barbara's brother-in-law, Junior Walters, showed me the site of a pottery kiln that operated across the road from his home. And Junior, nearing age 70, remembers helping to clean up the cemetery nearly 60 years ago before nature reclaimed it. It was the last time anyone maintained it. (figures 5 through 9).

Ferretting out the story of a short-lived post office when few records exist is a daunting experience. But when friendly folks with historic links become your partners, it makes the quest even more rewarding.

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Figure 5 (left) Exterior view of the only surviving structure at Little Claylick. The Methodist church was built circa 1870. It was also used as a school.

Figure 6 (right) Interior view of the Little Claylick Church.





Figure 7 The hub of Little Claylick. Two views of the State Route 668 - Licking County Route 288, the intersection that was the center of the village. The Bradford-Pollack cannal coal mines were located on the winding road in the bottom photo. The post office was located one mile south of the intersection in John Keenan's store.



Figure 8 Outside view of the Little Clay Lick cemetery. It has not been maintained for over sixty years. Arrow indicates a headstone barely visable through the undergrowth.



Figure 9 Two of the gravestones in the Little Clay Lick cemetery. Many markers have been obscured by soil and foliage

The Post Offices of Jackson County, Kentucky

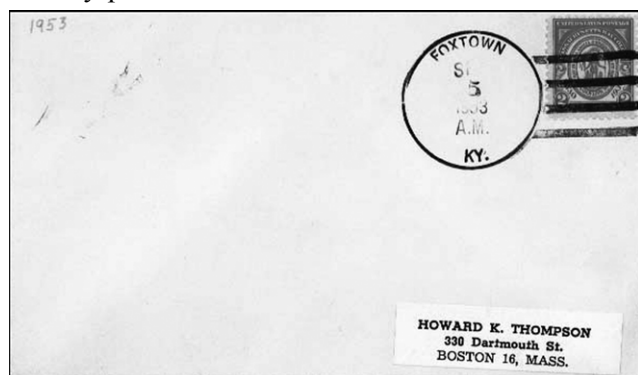
Part 2

By Robert Rennick

Post Offices on KY 89

Ky 89 extends between Winchester (in Clark County) and a point near Lamero (on the Rockcastle River in Rockcastle County). Six post offices operated within its Jackson County limits.

The aptly named *Sand Spring* post office was established on April 17, 1879 at some unknown site, nine miles north of McKee, by the lawyer Henry H. Gabbard, its only postmaster. In 1883 it's known to have been



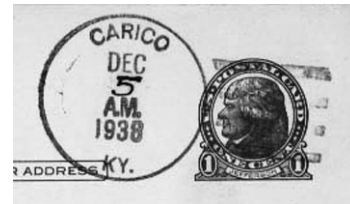
Foxtown, Kentucky, Sep 5, 1953.

serving several stores and mills and a population of some 500 at a site twelve road miles north of McKee.

In February 1886, for reasons unknown, Gabbard had it moved several miles into Estill County where it took the name *Kissie* for a nearby hill, and closed the following year. What's now locally called *Sand Springs* is on Ky 89, ten miles north of McKee. The name has also identified two small branches of Cavanaugh Creek, several miles south of the old post office site.

On June 27, 1890 Sarah Steele established the *Fox Town* post office, named for an area family, perhaps Isaac's and Almerinda's. Its original location is also not known other than that its first Site Location Report placed it six miles north of McKee. By 1895 the name was spelled as one word. By 1926 the office was on Cavanaugh Creek (though that section of the stream was then called *Dry Fork*), where it is crossed by Ky 89, seven miles north of McKee, and where it closed in October 1982.

The inexplicably named *Carico* occupied at least three sites on Middle Fork of Rockcastle and what became Ky 89, between 1901 and 1938. According to first postmaster Robert N. Robinson's Site Location Report it was, first, four miles below the Middle Fork post office. In 1918 it was moved 1 ½ miles up the Fork; and in 1935 it was moved three miles down the Fork to a point two stream miles from the Middle-South Fork confluence and 13.3 miles southwest of McKee. Robinson's first name preference, *Hanna*, has also not been derived.

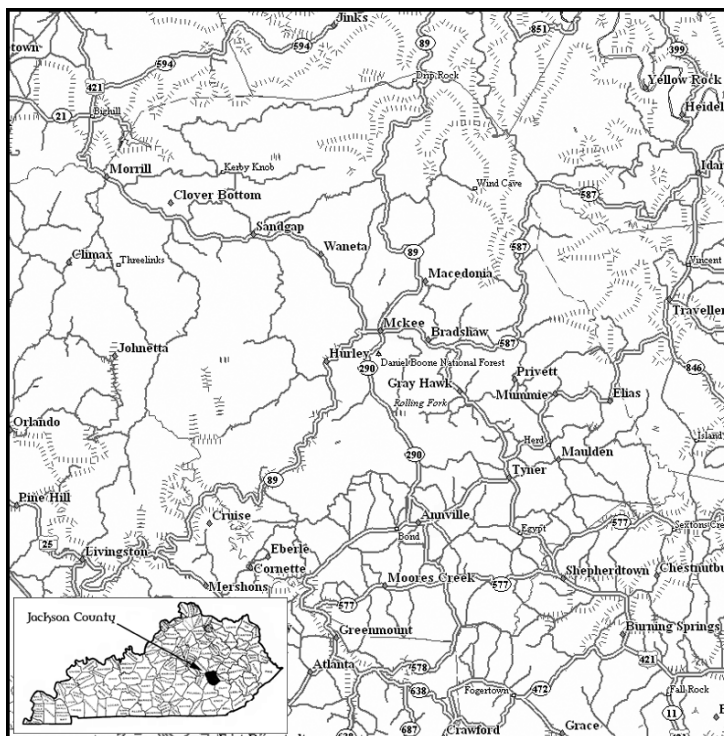


Carico, 1938



Hurley, 1920

William Hurley established the *Hurley* post office on Indian Creek (and the present Ky 89) on September 26, 1902. When it closed in 1935 it was just below the mouth of Outen Branch, 3.8 miles southwest of McKee, and served the *Upper Indian Creek Neighborhood* and school.



Map 1 Jackson County, Kentucky (Source: DeLorme Mapping)

Since John *Holt's* family name was already in use in Breckinridge County, his wife Della opened her Middle Fork post office just below the mouth of Robinson Creek on May 27, 1922 as *Ardery*. Her successor Lucy Summers may have moved it in March 1930 12 miles up the Fork to about where the *Carico* post office ended up two years later. And here it closed in 1933. Though *Ardery* has been a Kentucky family name, its Jackson County significance is unknown.

The *Shop Branch* post office was at the mouth of its one mile long Indian Creek name source, 2.3 miles south of Hurley and six miles south-southwest of McKee. It operated from December 23, 1927 to 1935. Its only postmaster June Cole's first name preference was *Herman*.

Post Offices on RTE 2004

Rte 2004 extends west along the north end of Jackson County from Ky 89, at the Estill County line, then turns south through Kerby Knob, and ends at US 421 and Sand Gap. Four post offices served its twenty mile route.

The first of these, *Alcorn*, named for Jackson and Estill County families, was established on September 6, 1886 in postmaster Albert H. Williams' store probably on what's now 2004, twelve miles north of McKee. By the turn of the century it was serving Ramsey's Mill, some stores, and other businesses, and 350 residents. Several moves later, including one two miles east to Big Hollow, it ended in 1976 back on 2004, 142 miles north of McKee. 12



Alcorn, 1916, late use of a type 2 Doane



Kerby Knob, KY, 1905 a type 2 Doane

A post office called *Shirley* operated at two rural sites in the northwest corner of Jackson between February 13, 1908 and mid April 1917. Rabe Reece, the first of its two postmasters, had first proposed the name *Virgel*. One or the other of its two sites was at the junction of (the present) 2004 and the Croley Mountain Road, just south of the head of Rock



Shirley, 1909

Lick Creek, and 2.6 miles northwest of Kerby Knob. Neither *Shirley* nor *Virgel* have been name derived. Its having been one mile west of the 32 mile long Shirley Branch of Red Lick Creek (which heads ca. 12 miles within Jackson County near the Grassy Springs Church) doesn't help much. The stream's name source is also unknown.



Hisel, 1948

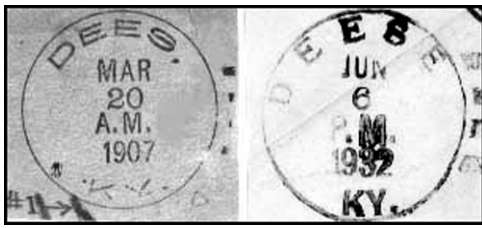
One of the few post offices established after the Second World War, *Hisel*, from 1948 to 1986, was on Ky 2004, at the head of Cane Branch of Rock Lick Creek (in the Station Camp watershed) and one (air) mile from the Estill-Madison-Jackson Counties convergence. With Sherman Hisel (ne ca. 1915, the son of Curtis and Deenie Hisel), its first postmaster, it was named for his large local family and the locality by then known as *Hisel Town*.

Post Offices on RTE. 2003

Rte. 2003 extends for 6 ½ miles between Parrott (at its junction with Rte. 2002) and Ky 290, two miles north of Annville. The crossroads hamlet of *Parrott* was once called *Nichols*, perhaps for Robert (ne 1854) and Elizabeth, and earlier was (and still is) known as *Letter Box* (the name of its recently closed elementary school.) Long before the establishment of the *Parrott* post office on September 7, 1898 by John Lear, postmaster, the postal needs of the neighborhood were served by a letter box tacked to an old hollow tree by the side of the road. Until it closed in March 1990, the *Parrott* post office, named for one or more area families who spelled their name both Parrott and Parrett, occupied several sites of Rte. 2002, just south of its junction with 2003, fourteen miles south-southwest of McKee.



Parrot, 1948



Dees, 1907, type 3 Doane and Deese 1932 4-bar

Thomas Madison Dees (ne June 1873) established a post office he called *Dees* on November 7, 1905 to serve a neighborhood since called *Pine Flat*. This was on the present Rte. 2003, above the head of Pond Lick Branch, five miles east of Parrott, and seven miles due south of McKee. It closed in September 1907 but was re-established a mile west of August 10, 1910 by Martha Baker as *Deese*.¹⁴ Here it closed again in November 1913. It reopened again as *Dees* on July 3, 1920 another mile west, with Lawrence Cornett, postmaster, and closed for good in 1934.

Pine Flat had another post office which Tom King opened on May 18, 1928 as *Dabolt* [da/bohlt].¹⁵ This honored Frederick D. Dabolt, the New



Dabolt, 1950

York born superintendent of Bond-Foley. Sometime before the Second World War, it was moved nearly two miles west to the last *Deese* post office site at Seven Pines where it closed in March 1994.

Post Offices in the Rockcastle River Watershed: The Horse Lick Creek Valleys

The Rockcastle River heads at its Middle and South Fork confluence in the southwest corner of Jackson County and joins the Cumberland River at the Laurel-Pulaski-McCreary Counties convergence. It was first named Lawless River by the famed mid eighteenth century explorer Dr. Thomas Walker for one of his party, but was renamed in 1867 by the Long Hunter Isaac Lindsay for a large overhanging rock, customarily called a "rock castle", somewhere on its bank.

One of its branches, Horse Lick Creek, heads in northwest Jackson County, between Morrill and Threelinks, and extends for 18 ½ miles to a point less than two miles below the Middle-South Forks confluence. On Civil War era maps this stream is identified as Clover Bottom Branch. By 1994 some 17,000 acres in the Horse Lick watershed were owned by the U.S. Forest Service, and

another 1,400 were owned by the Nature Conservancy as a bio-reserve. Seven post offices served this watershed.

The aptly named *Sand Bluff*, operating between December 2, 1872 and mid August 1873, has not been precisely located. But according to its only postmaster Isaac Davis, it was near the Rockcastle County line, two miles west of the main Horse Lick channel, three miles north of Goochland (in Rockcastle County), and four miles south of Morrill.

Somewhere near the future *Pine Grove* neighborhood was the first site of the *Evergreen* post office and, later, the site of *Eglon*. According to the *Evergreen* postmaster Sarah Lunsford's Site Location Report, her office, established on October 19, 1893, was two miles northeast of the main Horse Lick channel and six miles southwest of the Clover Bottom post office. In 1904 a successor Edward Lake had the office moved one mile southwest to a site half a mile from Horse Lick and two miles from Goochland, which was then all but on the Jackson-Rockcastle County line. It closed in June 1912.

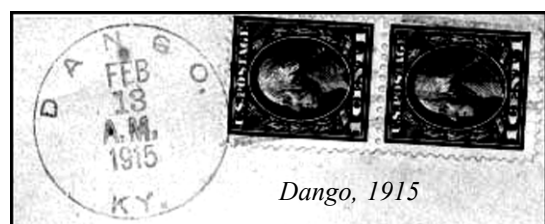
On April 24, 1908 Sarah Lunsford re-established her post office as *Eglon* (though her first name preference was *Clide*). When it closed in 1957 it was still serving the *Pine*



Eglon, 1957

Grove area on Rte. 1955, 3 ¾ miles south of Clover Bottom. Neither *Evergreen* nor *Eglon* have been names derived.

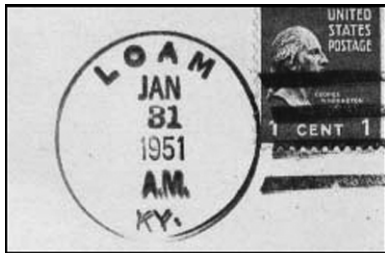
Two more area post offices whose name sources are not known were *Lantana* and *Dango*. *Lantana*, between March 28, 1902 and January 15, 1903, was on the east side of Horse Lick Creek, just below the mouth of Racoon Creek, and served a village of some 200 residents. The first name preference of its only postmaster William Carpenter was *Sidney*, then, as now, in use in Pike County. On January 24, 1906 the office was reopened as *Dango* with William S. Ledbetter, postmaster. It was discontinued in 1928.



Dango, 1915

Aptly named but not precisely located was the *Doublelick* post office established by Frank C. Jones on April 26, 1905. In his Site Location Report he placed it three miles west of Evergreen's second location and three miles south of the Clover Bottom post office. It closed at the end of May 1916.

Half a mile below the mouth of Clover Bottom Creek (of Horse Lick), Elbert Lakes, on May 18, 1906, established the inexplicably named *Loam* post office.¹⁶ Till



Loam, 1951

1951 this office, 12 ½ miles west of McKee, served one of the oldest neighborhoods in the county, midway between Evergreen's second site and Dango. This included the *Bethel*

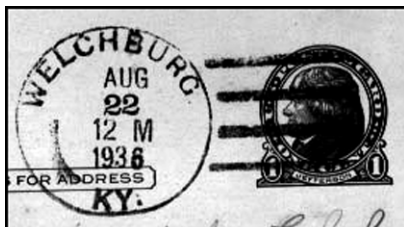
community on lower Clover Bottom, around a church (built in 1934), school, store, sawmill, and other businesses. Most of the area's residents left after the Second World War when the sawmill closed, and little remains.

The short-lived *Collier* post office (July 31, 1907 to mid May 1915) served the lower end of Gravel Lick Creek, a Clover Bottom branch that heads just south of Sand Gap. *Brock*, for its two postmasters William and Sylvania Brockman, was in use in Laurel County, so they named it for another prominent Jackson family.

Post Offices on the South Fork Branches

The South Fork of the Rockcastle River heads just east of Deer Lick in Clay County and extends for about thirty miles (partly along the Laurel-Clay County line) to join the Middle Fork at the Jackson-Laurel County line.

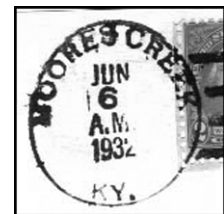
The South Fork's major tributary, Pond Creek, heads just above the old Egypt School, over a mile east of the Egypt post office, and extends for at least fourteen miles to the South Fork near Peoples. In addition to Egypt and the offices on the present Ky 30, it had a post office first called *Pond Fork* and then *Welchburg*. *Pond Fork* was established on March 15, 1875 by Ambrose



Welchburg, 1932

Powell, the local storekeeper, who had acquired some of Francis Clark's Pond Creek land and was an early Jackson County judge and state legislator. The office closed in August 1880, but was re-established on February 19, 1885 with Stephen P. Stamper, postmaster, midway between Chinquapin Rough (Annville) and Egypt, and served mills, stores, and other village businesses. In November 1889 Samuel E. Welch, a local storekeeper since the late 1870s, became postmaster and, on March 10, 1890, the office became *Welchburg*. After several short moves it settled down at the junction of two roads just north of the creek, one mile southeast of Ky 30, 112 miles south-southeast of McKee, and here it closed in 1975.

The 82 mile long Moores Creek, named for local families, joins the South Fork at the Jackson-Laurel County line, 2.4 miles (by Ky 30) south of Peoples. The first of its two post offices on *Moores Creek* occupied at least half a dozen sites on its middle stretch. It was established on March 15, 1875 by Dr. Samuel Johnston, its first postmaster, thirteen miles south of McKee, and was soon serving the southern part of Jackson County. It closed in 1984.



Moores Creek, KY 1932

The creek's other post office *Lite*, established by Alfred Little, operated at two sites between October 29, 1902 and February 1918, roughly two miles west of the Moores Creek post office. The locality it served was once called *Miller*. Why *Miller* or *Lite* (or *Book*, *Will-ing*, and several other names proposed for the office) is not known.

In the spring of 1903 Mrs. Amanda Crawford applied for a post office to be called *Twins* on Buffalo Creek, two miles south of the Moores Creek post office and one mile north of the South Fork's main channel. But it opened, on August 18, 1903, as *Cassia*. In April 1905 Mrs. Crawford's successor Mattie House had it moved one fourth of a mile up Buffalo to the head of that stream and here it closed in mid August 1907. Whence *Twins* or *Cassia* has also not been learned.¹⁷

Another South Fork branch, Terrells Creek heads in Jackson County and extends for nearly six miles, mostly as the Jackson lay County line, to the Fork in Laurel County. Two offices *Datha* and *Royrader* served its residents.

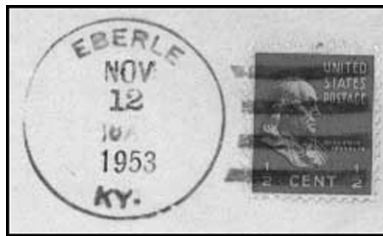


Datha, 1949

Datha [day/thuh], on the Clay County line, near the head of Terrell, fifteen miles south-southeast of McKee, was established on March 15, 1905 by the local storekeeper and sometime teacher William S. Bowling and named for his pupil and future wife Emma Datha Langdon (1880-1952) who was its first postmaster.¹⁸ The office closed in December 1917 but was re-established on August 25, 1932 by Mrs. Lula Cornett, and closed for good in 1954.

Another Bond-Foley executive, its bookkeeper and, later, manager Roy Rader (ne June 1889) was also honored with a post office in his name.¹⁹ *Rayrader* [roi/rayd/uhr] was established on August 30, 1927 with Etta McKee, postmaster, on the south side of Moores Creek, three miles above the Moores Creek post office. By 1939 it had been moved about a mile south to the head of Lewis Branch of Terrell, and in 1948 it was moved another half mile south to serve the *Terrells Creek* community on the present Ky 578, 13 ½ miles west of Datha, and 13 ½ miles south-southeast of McKee, where it closed in 1969.

Thomas Vickars (or Vicars) applied for a post office two thirds of a mile up the Laurel Branch of South Fork, three miles northwest of Peoples. Instead of



Eberle, 1954

Vickars, which he had first proposed, he had it called *Eberle* [eh/bir/lee], a name he's said to have seen on a case of eggs in a local store. The office opened on May 3, 1928 with Alfred May, its first postmaster. When it closed in 1984, it was half a mile west of the branch, just north of the main South Fork channel.

Post Offices on the Middle Fork Branches

The Middle Fork of the Rockcastle River extends for eight miles from its head forks—Indian and Laurel—to join the South Fork at the Laurel County line to form

the main Rockcastle River. According to Lloyd's Civil War map, the entire length of Middle Fork was then identified as Laurel Fork. Ten post offices, including Middle Fork, Waneta, Tyner, Ardery, Carico, and Gray Hawk were in the Middle Fork watershed.

Two offices served the seven mile long Birch Lick Creek, one of Indian Creek's two head forks, which heads one mile southeast of Sand Gap and is paralleled for most of its length by US 421. Some two miles above the first site of Waneta (see above) was John Marcum's short-lived (May 27, 1870 to February 8, 1871) *Birch Lick* post office.

The *Mildred* post office, which may have been named for Mildred Jones, was at several sites on Laurel Fork. Established on May 8, 1902, with Mrs. Maggie Moore, its first



Mildred, 1914

postmaster, it closed at the end of 1964 at the mouth of Grassy Branch of Laurel, 1.7 miles west-northwest of Tyner.

From April 29, 1926 to 1934 Etta Creech maintained the Wilma post office to serve the *Oak Grove* community just above the head of the 22 mile long Flat Lick Creek, another Laurel Fork tributary. This vicinity, 2 ½ miles north of Tyner and nine miles southeast of McKee, is just east of the eighty seven acre Beulah (or Tyner) Lake, the county's main water source, created in 1969. As *Oak Grove* was then in use in Christian county, another name, Anderson, for the local family of Abija and Cora, was first suggested, and then *Wilma* for their daughter.

Somewhere on the 2 ½ mile long Hog Branch of Middle Fork was Lucy Gunagin's *Hogbranch* post office which she ran from October 27, 1914 through September 1915. In her Site Location Report, the first name proposed looks like *Lucky*, but may have been *Lucy*, and the office would serve the neighborhood and school district of *Seven Pines* above the head of the branch (a vicinity later served by the Deese and Dabolt post offices.)

Post Offices in the Kentucky River Watershed: On the Branches of Station Camp Creek

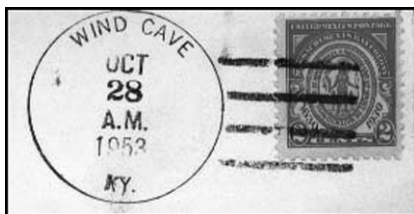
Station Camp Creek heads at its head forks—South Fork and War Fork—one mile south of the Jackson-Estill-Lee Counties convergence on Brushy Mountain, and

joins the Kentucky River opposite Irvine (Estill County's seat). It was named for the site of a Shawnee Indian campground and trading post called Ah wah-nee (deep grassy place). Its main channel and War Fork were part of the route between the Ohio and Tennessee Rivers—the Old Warrior Path—followed by Shawnee traders and called by them Athiamio wee (or path of the armed ones). Along much of its Estill and Jackson Counties route were a number of rock shelters and caves used by the Indians and later by pioneer travelers. Dr. Walker called it the Hunting Creek.

On the branches of Station Camp's 2 1/2 mile long South Fork, which heads just south of Morrill, were the half dozen or so sites of the *Brazil* [bra/zihl] post office. This was established in May 22, 1900 by A.P. Williams, with Eli A. Ball, its first postmaster. According to its first Site Location Report, it was one mile north of the South Fork of the Kerby Knob, 32 miles south of Alcorn. It was established in 1901; its second site was established one mile west, came in 1904; and yet another in 1909, back to its first site. In 1913 it was moved another two miles east. From the 1920s till it closed in 1954 it was on a ridge between Rock Lick Creek and Dry Fork, branches of South Fork, one mile west of South Fork, and 5 1/4 miles east of the Kerby Knob post office. It's not known why it was named for the South American country.



Brazil, 1901



Wind Cave, 1953

The *Wind Cave* post office, established by Godfrey P. Isaacs on April 14, 1902, on the east side of War Fork (just below the mouth of Wind Cave Branch) was named for a nearby limestone cave. A cool breeze coming out of the bottom of its fifty foot high entrance gave it its name.²⁰ By the end of the year Isaacs had moved the office one mile down the Fork (north). In 1908 his successor Samuel Judd moved it three miles southwest to his store 12 miles up the Wind Cave Branch, about nine miles northeast of McKee, where it was suspended in September 1992.

Between June 11, 1902 and early April 1906 Pollyann and Orville Fox maintained the *Laura* post office on the north bank of Cavanaugh Creek, 62 miles north of McKee. Other than its being four miles from the then site of Foxtown, according to its only Site Location Report, nothing else is known of it. (The 82 mile long Cavanaugh Creek joins the Station Camp Creek's South Fork 34 miles from the latter's War Fork confluence.)

His ten year old son *Hugh* was the name source of John A. Park's post office on Owsley Fork of Red Lick Creek (a Station Camp branch in Madison County) barely within the northwest corner of Jackson County, and just north of the new Owsley Fork Reservoir that serves sections of both counties.

The office operated between August 17, 1903 and mid January 1917.

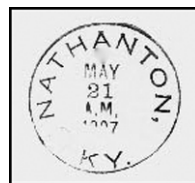


Hugh, 1912, the dial of a type 2 Doane

Post Offices on Sturgeon Creek and its Branches

The thirty five mile long Sturgeon Creek heads 1 1/4 air miles northeast of Egypt and drains the eastern section of Jackson County and the western section of Owsley County before joining the main channel of the Kentucky River opposite Heidelberg in Lee County. Three post offices (Nathanton, Powell, and Lynch-Chadwell) served its Jackson County valleys.

Somewhere just north of the Clay-Owsley-Jackson Counties convergence and east of Wilfreds Fork of Sturgeon, Dr. Nathaniel M. Clark (ne 1849), established the *Nathanton* post office on May 19, 1884.²¹ In May 1894 Elijah McWhorter had it moved 12 miles west to serve several stores and area mills between Sturgeon and the Owsley County line, three miles northeast of Maulden and thirteen miles east of McKee. (This may have been on



Nathanton, 1907, the dial of a type 2 Doane

Edge Lick, a branch of Wilfreds). In July 1923 it was again moved, three fourths of a mile east, to serve the *Union School* neighborhood on Wilfreds, 1 1/2 miles above its Sturgeon Creek confluence, and closed in 1933.

The area where Sturgeon Creek leaves Owsley County had two post offices. The first, the short-lived (May 11, 1900 to January 15, 1901) *Powell* was probably one

fourth of a mile up Travis Creek of Sturgeon. It was named for its only postmaster Cassius M. Powell, whose first name choice was *Travace* (sic).

Several Sturgeon area families, probably descended from pioneers Lewis and Mary Lynch, were honored by the *Lynch* post office, established in 1905 by Leander Taylor, three fourths of a mile up Travis Creek from the earlier Powell office site. When Taylor declined the postmastership, the office opened, on December 18, with Richard Couch in this position. In the winter of 1916 Rachel M. Minter had it moved 1 ½ miles south, probably to the mouth of Grassy Creek of Sturgeon, two miles from the Owsley County line, and 9.3 miles east of McKee. On October 9, 1917 she had the name changed to *Chadwell*, probably for Harrison Chadwell, and it was discontinued in late January 1925.

On June 14, 1904 John D. Spurlock established a post office in his store at the head of Blackwater Creek of Sturgeon, 62 miles southeast of McKee. Instead of *Abner* for his seventy four year old father (disallowed as an Abner post office already served a Nicholas

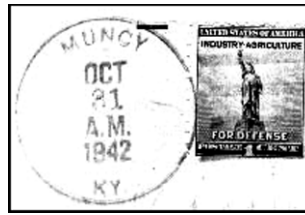


Privett, 1932

County community), he called it *Privett* for a Jackson County family. In 1910 John's son Sherman had it moved 200 yards east to the junction of the present Rtes. 587 and 1071), and it closed in 1934.²²

The six mile long Wild Dog Creek heads a mile and a half within Jackson County, crosses the northwest corner of Owsley County, and joins Sturgeon Creek at the Owsley-Lee County line, just above Earnestville. For some time before the Great Depression, this now all but uninhabited section of the Daniel Boone National Forest was the route of the eighteen mile long Kentucky Rockcastle and Cumberland Railroad that shipped timber from the Turkey Foot Lumber Company's logging operations on War Fork to its sawmill at Cressmont.

When Josephus L. Ward was unable to use *Wild Dog* for his new post office at the head of the creek (eight miles northeast of McKee) he named it *Orpha* [awr/fee] for his wife (nee October 1862), and it opened on August 5, 1905. In 1911 Logan Farmer had the post office moved closer to the Owsley County line where it would serve the *New Zion Ridge Neighborhood* and renamed it *Muncy*, possibly for William (ne ca. 1831) and



Muncy, 1942, the last day of use before the name change to New Zion.

Mary Muncy. After several area moves its name was changed again, in 1942, to *New Zion*, the name of a local church, where, on Ky 587, three fourths of an air mile from Owsley County and twelve miles northeast of McKee, it closed in 1981.

Jackson County's Only Post Office on Sexton Creek

Sexton Creek, which heads one mile within Jackson County, drains much of northeastern Clay County, and joins the South Fork of the Kentucky River in southern Owsley County (see above). *High Knob* was Jackson County's only Sexton Creek post office.

The *High Knob* office was established by Jesse H. McWhorter on October 24, 1876 on the Clay side of the county line, just west of a 1,360+ foot elevation at the head of Huckleberry Branch of Sexton Creek.²³ Here it served a settlement with store, mills, a wagon factory, and other businesses and some 200 residents. In 1897 the office was moved by Margaret McGeorge nearly one mile northwest to the main channel of Sexton, over the Jackson County line, to serve the *Stringtown* village on (the present) Ky 577, 2 ½ miles southeast of Egypt and 14 ½ miles south-southeast of McKee. It closed here in 1939.

Other Jackson County Post Offices

The *Olin* post office was established on March 27, 1907, with Ida King, its first postmaster, on the ridge between the Alum Cave and Devils Den Branches of Laurel Fork. Its first name choice *Earl*, possibly for the infant son of Owen W. and Elizabeth King, was in use in Muhlenberg County as Earles. It may then have been named for Olin Rader, an area



Olin, 1912

resident. After several local moves it closed in 1964, one fourth of a mile up the Blooming Grove Church Road, just east of Ky 290, and 6.7 miles south of McKee.

Somewhere at a site 2 ½ miles south of Red Lick Creek and three miles east of Shirley, west of Alcorn and north of Kerby Knob, the area later served by the *Hisel* post office, was *Lucy*. This office, maintained from February 8, 1911 through the following year, by Jasper N.

Isaacs, would have been called *Clifford* if that name hadn't then been borne by a Lawrence County office. Neither *Clifford* nor *Lucy* have been identified.

Conclusion

Only six (McKee, Annville, Tyner, Gray Hawk, Sand Gap, and Waneta) of Jackson's sixty three post offices are still in operation. The first two serve currently incorporated cities. Nine others were also the foci of settlements with definable boundaries and concentrated populations. The other offices, as elsewhere, served only one or two local stores, one or more mills, a school, a church or two, and the rural families depending on them.

One office, *Ledford*, was established, probably in the Sturgeon Magisterial District, on August 6, 1895 by William E. Farmer whose authorization was rescinded in late October. It may have been named for Robert Ledford (ne April 1867) and his wife Elizabeth who lived in the Sturgeon area.

Local or area persons or families were the sources of twenty seven post office names, while one office was given the name of a non-local person, the U.S. Postmaster-General. Six offices had geographic or descriptive names. Two were named for distant places, while ten were given the names of local or nearby features (six streams, two elevations, a cave, and a church). Two possible derivations each may have accounted for two office names. Two more offices had other name derivations (a mummified human body and a product on a store shelf). Thirteen office names are still underived, while six offices have not yet been precisely located.

Twenty nine offices bore names not originally intended for them, while seventeen served communities, neighborhoods, or rail stations with other names, and eight had name-changes during their existence.

End Notes

1. Preston McGrain and James C. Currens, *Topography of Kentucky*, Kentucky Geological Survey, Series X, 1978, Special Publication 25, Pp. 40-41
2. Fort Malden, a British garrison at Amherstburg on the Detroit River, south of Windsor, Ontario, was built in 1797-9, and was captured by the Americans in 1813.
3. For the record, *Mauldin* is the name of a town in Greenville County, South Carolina, seven miles southeast of Greenville city, with a 2000 population of over 15,000. *Malden*, a Boston, Mass. suburb, was founded in 1649 and named for an English town. Any connections between these places and the Jackson County post office are also unknown.
4. During the 1920s, the section of US 421 passing though Jackson County was identified as Ky 21. Before that it was called the Bosworth Trail.
5. Quite an increase from the 250 recorded in the 1970 Census.
6. In the nineteenth century Clover Bottom Creek was known as Big Clover

to distinguish it from Little Clover, another Horse Lick branch that still bears this name.

7. Was this to honor Calvin) Bascom Slemph who was later to develop large coal holdings in eastern Kentucky and represent his Virginia district in the U.S. Congress? In 1900 he's known to have been teaching math at the Virginia Military Institute.

8. The first name proposed for the *Bradshaw* post office was *Collier* for another Jackson County family.

9. Jess Wilson of Possum Trot, Clay County, Ky., interviewed by the author on July 9, 1977.

10. *Chinkapin* or *Chinquapin* derives from the Algonquian chincomen or checkinquamins and, since colonial times, has identified over a dozen places and features in North Carolina alone. Few of these trees anywhere survived a devastating blight.

11. *Pond Creek* was Isaacs' first name preference for the post office that took his family's name.

12. Williams' first name preference *Bevis* is unexplained.

13. *Nichols* was the first name choice for what became *Parrott*.

14. Apparently other members of Thomas Madison's family spelled their name Deese.

15. *Pine Flats* was the first name proposed for the *Dabolt* post office.

16. Lakes' first proposed name for what became the *Loam* post office was *Mingo*, then in use in Johnson County for the post office that later became Tutor Key.

17. A *Cassia* post office in Lake County, Florida was named for tropical trees or shrubs. Could Jackson's *Cassia* have been named for one or more of several area men named Cassius?

18. Emma Datha Langdon was the daughter of William H. and Hannah Langdon with whom she was living before she married Bowling in January 1909.

19. Though the first name proposed for this office was *Clyde*.

20. Jess Wilson, *op. cit.*

21. Clark's first name choices were *Clarksville* and, possibly, *Nathan*, though the second name shown on his initial Site Location Report looks more like *Noather*.

22. Blackwater Creek joins Sturgeon half a mile above the Lynch-Chadwell post office site.

23. This is not the High Knob, another Clay County elevation which, at 1,387 feet, is two air miles south.

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- DeJong, Betty of Gray Hawk, Ky., in a letter to the author, April 10, 1969
- Farmer, Stephen, Postmaster of Herd, Ky., in a letter to William Gladstone Steel of Medford, Oregon, October 13, 1923

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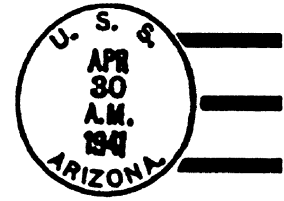
Wilson, Alfred Vernon and Maud, of Peoples, Ky., interviewed by the author, July 9, 1977

Wilson, Jess of Possum Trot, Clay Co., Ky., interviewed by the author, July 9, 1977

York, Delbert of Annville, Ky., interviewed by the author on July 9, 1977

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Death of the Dial Postmark

by Tom Clarke

In 1798 there was reorganization, of sorts, in the Post Office Department. By roughly mid-summer it had called for a switch from the sometimes unintelligible straightline town marks to a standardized, compact, government provided device. The new cancelers were circular dials and bore the town name, state, month and day. They began to arrive in post offices about April 1799. *The American Stampless Cover Catalog* shows that a variety of medium sized towns adopted this classic pattern.

Some cities like New York held out for a clam shell shape, and Philadelphia wanted a distinctive design, presumably since it sheltered the capital for the time being. We can speculate whether anyone cared enough to complain at the loss of the long lived single line style or how many admired the new.

Philadelphia's design was to be a somewhat cryptic PHI, fanned out through about 135 degrees, making it just recognizable as coming from the nation's capital. Red was chosen as the baseline color for the hand stamp, likewise for the hand scripted rate markings.

Though His Excellency George Washington had already retired and returned to Mount Vernon and could not enjoy this new visual creation, the great John Adams and Thomas Jefferson and all the other still-working Founders could. It was an indelible symbol of the nation's capital until 1800, when the capital offices moved to the brand new District of Columbia.

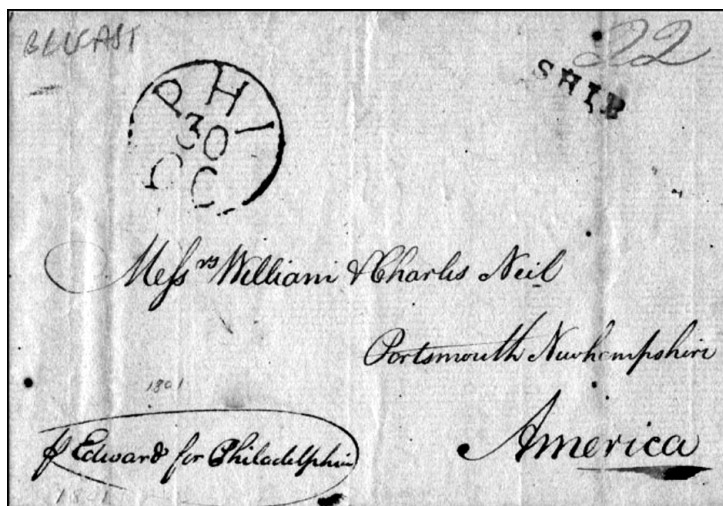


Figure 1 A nice, 1801 transit use of the PHI dial, on an incoming letter from Belfast Ireland, en route to Portsmouth NH.

Skip ahead 206 years, following the horrendous weather of 2005. The United States Postal Service has given the American people a diversion by switching to a new paradigm of postal marking, properly called the AFSC-IJC. It is a two-line ink-jet marking accompanied by six wavy lines or a (pictorial) slogan.

These markings are the fruition of about 17 years of USPS computer assisted machinery experience. They're also the outcome of years of testing earlier styles of computer generated "spray-on" markings.

By late December 2005, the new style postmarks had almost entirely replaced the long-lived Pitney-Bowes Mark II facer/canceler machine marking that had been nearly universal since the 1960s. The USPS would suggest that the real story is in the behind the scenes overhaul that they hope will transform US mail handling.

The experts who belong to The Machine Cancel Society will no doubt relay shortly all the background details of this new device No, just now on opening and flipping through the latest issue of the Machine Cancel Forum, January 2006, page p. 3677ff (!), we find the indefatigable Bart Billings has already given a definitive first look at these new markings. Way to go, Bart.

The Board of Governors speaks

There is a complex 40-year genealogy to these new markings, and jargon and collector terms like "AFSM 100" and "AFCS-IJC", and "spray-ons", MLOC System, bar codes, LMCS System, MUM labels, Transorma, orange line code, etc., to digest. But simply put, their sum total is the fact that the standard machine markings that used good old fashioned hub dies which contained a dial are now gone with the dodo!

In the words of the USPS Board of Governors in 2003, their ultimate money saving goal is to use "inkjet printers and commercial off-the-shelf computer software to apply postmarks with text and graphics. The IJS (ink jet system) will replace today's mechanical "die hub" postmarks that require the labor intensive task of changing dates manually." (USPS Press Release 9/9/03)

Devilishly difficult that manual labor! And people need to be paid too.... The Board awarded \$33,000,000 to Lockheed Martin for 1,086 Upgrade Kits.

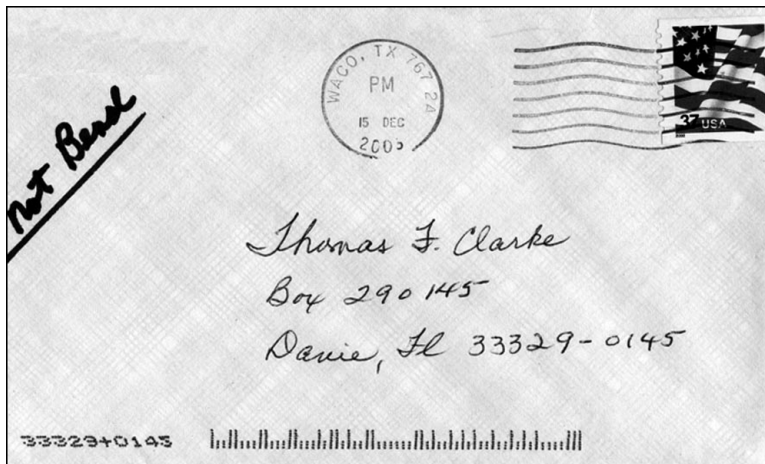


Figure 2 Maintaining a stiff upper lip in the wake of so many towns' conversion to spray-on postmarks is this Waco TX 767 Mark II (?) example from Dec 15. However, Bart Billings' list of changeovers says that Waco will also change identities between Feb 10 and 17, their installation slot for the IJS canceler conversion—they'll get two of them.

The AFCS-IJC

The 1,086 existing AFCS (Advanced Facer Canceler Systems) machines that are in place at the USPS "Processing and Distribution Centers" (P&DC's) across the country have been taking over the job of canceling mail for some time. Purists are loathe to admit that 1) their favorite town either is disappearing from the roster of canceler dials, and 2) that in reality, mail is being canceled at the huge plant outside of town, not in the bowels of their favorite local post office after all.

Nevertheless, the kinetics of the canceling process is interesting. Paraphrasing USPS' words, 'The AFCS [old or new style] is a mail handling system that faces letter mail by locating the stamp, meter, or indicia. The AFCS then cancels the letter mail, sprays an identification (ID) tag, lifts the image [?], and sorts the mail to a set of bins for further processing. Individual mail pieces are picked-off at the feeder of the AFCS at a through-put rate of approximately 36,000 mail pieces per hour.'

That certainly beats the 50 or so a letters minute that hand canceling could achieve in the 19th century. Today, of course, there is (though by 2002, showing a first time decline) a glut of 202 billion pieces of mail from 28,000 post offices. In 1890, there were an astounding 62,000 post offices, but only 4 billion pieces of mail to work up.

According to Linn's, by October 16, 2005, 16 P&DC's were already canceling with IJC's. Bart Billings lists maybe 200 or more centers by state and city where the 'videojet' IJS technology has been or is to be installed between 2005 and 2006. San Diego and Saint Louis were scheduled to be the first to use the imprint on or about June 10, 2005.

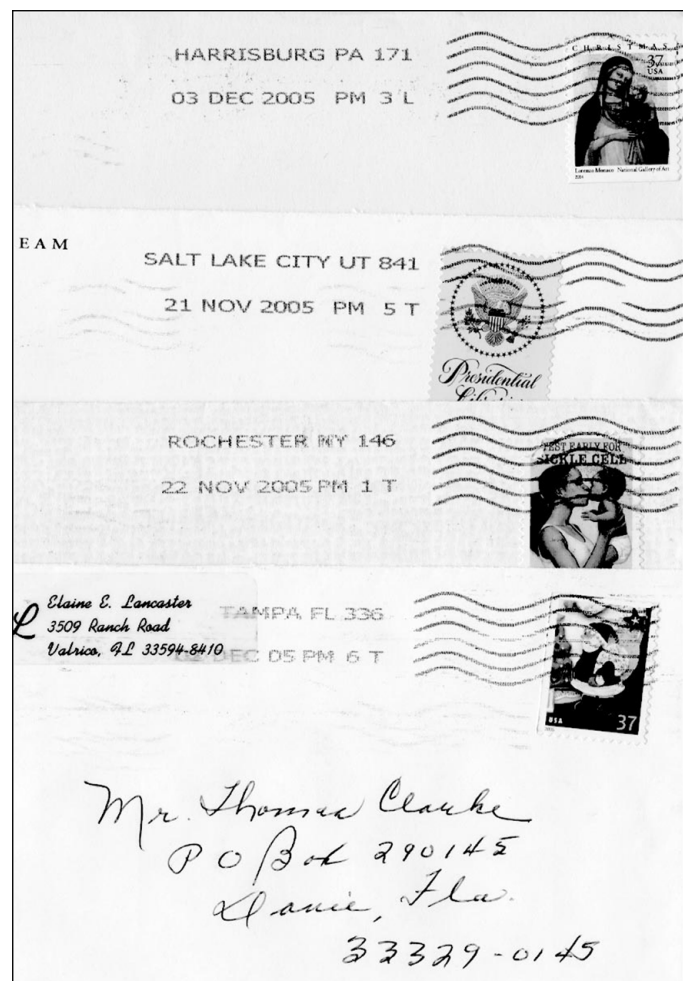


Figure 3 Here are four examples of IJS cancels from all across the nation. Top: Harrisburg PA 171 Dec 3; SECOND: Salt Lake City UT 841, 21 Nov; THIRD: Rochester NY 146, Nov 22; BOTTOM: Tampa FL 336, Dec 2. Note that all are wavy lines, though Salt Lake City appears damaged or clogged, all are marked in the PM. The 3L, 5T, 1T, and 6T may deal with position within the machine during processing.

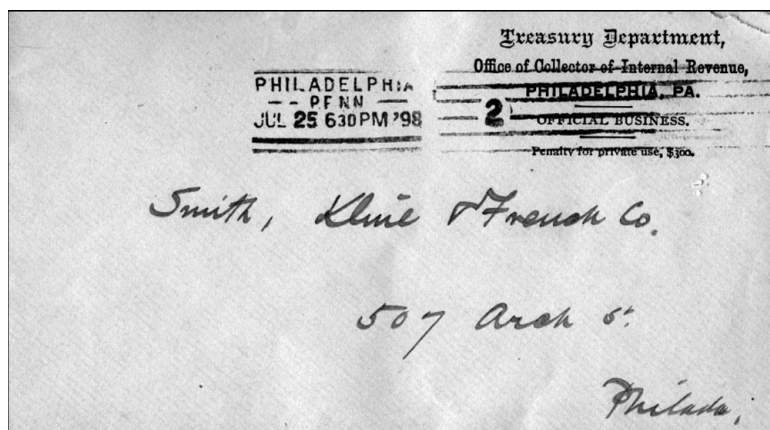
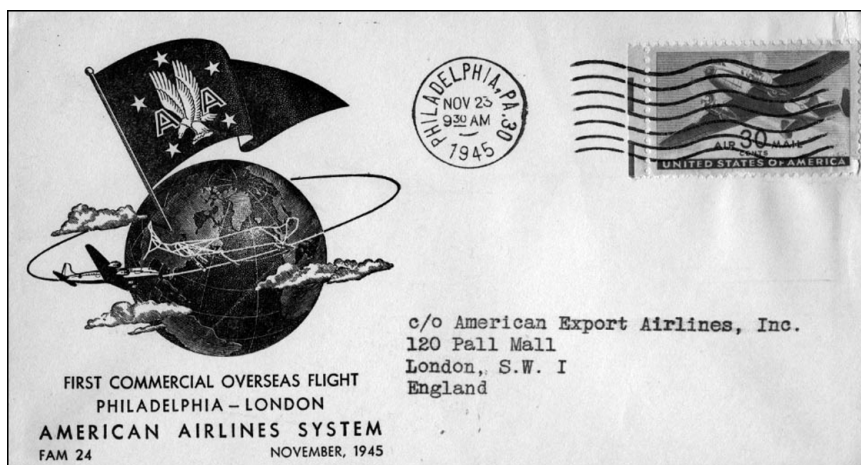


Figure 4 Remember the four year Barry cancel trials a little before 1900 in various parts of the country? The Barry 2 and 3 line markings share a striking brother-sisterhood with these 21st century spray-ons.

Figure 5 The standard Philadelphia wavy line cancel that was its symbol for many decades. Interesting that a variation of it is chosen to institute the new IJS killers.



Beginning of Change

In 1967, President Johnson appointed a commission to “determine whether the postal system as presently organized is capable of meeting the demands of our growing economy and our expanding population.” It found that it definitely wasn’t.

As a result, in 1970, Congress passed the Postal Reorganization Act, to make postal operations self-sufficient and efficient within a new, semi-independent USPS. The end of postmaster patronage was one outcome, a hefty postal worker increase another. The USPS was now free to develop savings strategies as it saw fit.

The end of World War II brought with it an explosion of pent-up enthusiasm for technology and things, from toasters to TV. But the PO had continued to pigeon-hole mail and walk double and more daily deliveries. Indeed, the Post Office had taken steps in the 1950s to mechanize by awarding contracts for technology, which included:

- letter sorters
- facer-cancelers
- automatic address readers
- parcel sorters
- advanced tray conveyors
- flat sorters
- letter mail coding, and
- stamp-tagging techniques.

But, whereas in 1959, the Post Office Department had awarded its first order for 75 Pitney-Bowes Mark II facer-cancelers, by 1984, under the tutelage of the USPS, more than 1,000 Mark II and the newer M-36 facer-cancelers were operating.

MPLSM's to AFCS's, OCR's, and BSR's

The old Department had placed, in November 1965, high-speed OCR machines into service on a limited basis. But by the mid-1970's, it was clear that cheaper, even more efficient methods and equipment were needed if the new Postal Service was to offset inflationary costs.



Figure 6 Three versions of attractive local “daters” used as counter stamps during the Time of IJC Takeover. They come from Berkeley Heights NJ (12/3), North Clarendon VT (date illegible), and Fort Lauderdale FL, (12/23). Notice that this last displays one of the original, early 1990s’ purposes of spray-on markings, to validate meter usage.

Their overall goal was to reduce the number of ‘mailpiece handlings’, as the Postal Service terms it. Thus, in 1978 it introduced the nine-digit, expanded ZIP Code. Its use would allow mail sorting for geographic segments as small as city blocks or a single apartment building or business. But, naturally, this would require still newer and more expensive equipment.

In September 1982, the first barcodes were printed on the bottom faces of envelopes. The destination Post Office would use a less expensive barcode sorter (BCS) to sort the mail after reading the barcode.

By the end of 1984, 252 optical character readers had been installed in 118 major mail processing centers across the country. They processed an average of 6,200 pieces of mail per work hour—a substantial increase compared to the 1,750 pieces per work hour processed by the Pitney-Bowes style MPLSMs (multi-position letter sorting machines).

The Mark series were completely outdated by 1992 and were replaced with advanced facer-canceler systems (AFCS), purchased from ElectroCom. The AFCS machines processed more than 30,000 pieces of mail per hour, twice as fast as the Pitney-Bowes. The AFCS’s could electronically identify and separate pre-barcode mail and handwritten letters and cancel the mail, all automatically. They appear to have used the Pitney-Bowes hub dies, though, same dials and killers.

Spray-on (MLOCR) “postmarks”

From a *Philadelphia Catalog* introduction in 1992, given the knowledge available at that time, it is interesting to read some naïve assumptions (and accurate intuition: “the Ultimate Canceler”, q.v.), and to see how things actually developed over the ensuing 15 years. Under the heading Spray-on (MLOCR) “postmarks”:

Multi Line Optical Character Recognition” is a recent fourth or fifth generation integrated system that has the proven ability to read not only the last line of an address but also the addressee’s name and address. Combining this capability with a nationwide name and address data bank directory, an MLOCR can verify or correct zip codes, and add the final four to the initial five ZIP numbers written by the sender.

According to Robert J. Stets Jr.’s “What’s New in Pennsylvania Postmarks?” (*Pennsylvania Postal Historian*, Sep 1991, p. 22-3), the Pitney-Bowes Mark II Facer/ Canceler

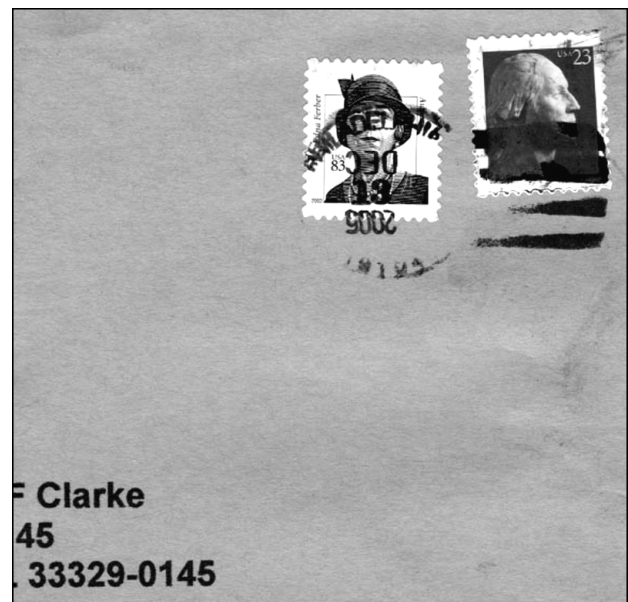


Figure 7 A crudely stamped Philadelphia station desk canceler of Dec 13, 2005. The ZIP almost gone, but possibly is 19020 to match the corner card. Not the upside down DEC and year. These ‘underground’ cancels will probably coexist with the area P&DC spray-ons, as long as the stations remain viable.



Figure 8 Most countries are on the spray-on bandwagon. This example from Cambridge England (with a stuttering or misplaced “Mail Centre” has an overall blurred image, but has the ubiquitous wavy line killer—and a routing code below; dated Dec 6, 2005.

machines are now integrally equipped with the MLOCR which postmarks, barcode sprays, and now also sprays on the “postmark” date formula.

If the outgoing envelope contains a “tagged” postage stamp, the Mark II canceler is activated and the normal postmark and killer is applied. If an outgoing envelope bears metered franking or a pre printed indicium, there is no “tagging” to activate the Mark II canceler, so the envelope just gets the MLOCR spray-on marking.

... Spray-ons are formal “date of mailing” testimonials ostensibly used to combat stale (improperly dated) metered mail. But they seem to be used on a variety of types of stamped and unstamped mail too, not just meter impressions. Perhaps this has been part of the breaking in process, or because of the use of separate canceling and older generation machines, and trips necessary in between them, and the inescapable human error. Problems reading addresses or other sorting errors cause similar results.

Or, perhaps their omnipresence is a harbinger of their ultimate succession to all other types of cancellations: the Ultimate Canceler? Postage meters as we have known them are to be relieved of duty in post offices by 1995/6 in favor of new, one step, counter top label machines. Perhaps all dial-killer machinery will fall to the MLOCR spray-on method. Contrary to this thought, quoting from Wayne Youngblood’s column in *Linn’s*, Dec 10, 1990, p.7:

USPS spokesmen have repeatedly told *Linn’s* that the markings are not meant to replace current postmarks, but are for use detecting improperly dated meters. However, *Linn’s* has seen increasing numbers of covers bearing stamps that have no postmark other than the sprayed one. [How honestly wrong, or disingenuous, spokespersons can be!]

We’ll have to wait and see what develops.

Further Transformation, 2002-08

The USPS sent a Transformation Plan to Congress in April 2002 which contained steps that must be taken to further ensure adequate service in the years to come.

Indirect reference is to markings and there is much on cost-cutting. From an article of 10-20-05 at the *Federal Times* site:

In Phase I of the Transformation Plan, we realized \$5 billion in savings over five years, improved service, . . . In Phase II we aim to take \$1 billion in costs out each year.” according to the USPS.

Postmaster General John Potter emphasized that the Postal Service will focus on its core business “and those strategies that produce results.”

Among the strategies outlined . . . is making mail more ‘intelligent’ by putting more information that might, say, enable tracking on the bar codes . . . and it will continue to introduce technologies to reduce delivery costs. [This surely refers to the new AFCS-IJC markings.]

Arranging mail for the carrier according to the arrangement of his delivery addresses — called delivery point sequencing . . . Some postal experts voiced praise for the Postal Service’s plan and for the reforms made under the first phase of the plan that covered 2002 to 2006 . . .

The Postal Service has done a lot since Phase I was announced in terms of cost reductions, and now it is encouraging to see that they have given a great deal of thought to **generating revenue** [this writer’s emphasis] across all its product lines . . .

“Mailers will especially like that [the USPS] is going to introduce a bar code that will be data-rich and provide a lot more information useful for tracking the mail and identifying the price of the mail. Mailers are very interested in this. That way they will be able to see where the bottlenecks may be and know more precisely when some mail will be arriving so they can gear up for the response.

This phase of the plan shows the Postal Service’s continued dedication to keeping costs down and ways to raise revenue . . .”

There is some mention of new bar codes and other ‘technologies’ but an awful lot more emphasis on raising revenue. Under the old Department, the emphasis was on service, but we’ve entered a new and very competitive new century. Still, remember fondly when the goal was, “Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night . . . ? Ah, well.

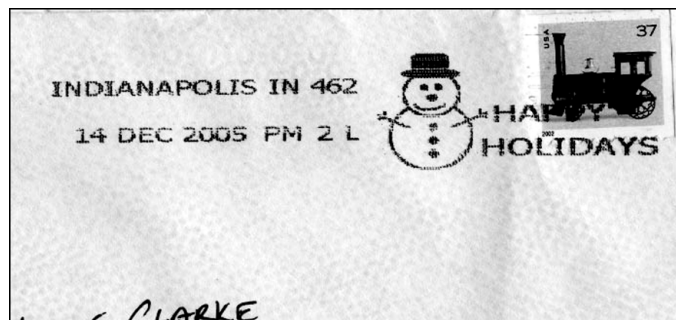


Figure 9 Several pictorial slogans are known, especially appropriate during the winter is this Indianapolis snowman of Dec 14, and HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Meanwhile, Pitney Bowes...

Interestingly, Pitney Bowes is still a mega business which, according to its own recent press release of December 7, 2005, intends to expand far beyond the outdated mail handling machines that we've discussed and that time passed by. The release presages the nature of the information explosion era that is accelerating. Pitney-Bowes hopes to capture and maintain 250 billion dollars of the \$900 billion worldwide 'Mailstream', the "sum total of mail and documents, both physical and electronic, that flow into and out of business, as well as the people and systems that enable this constant stream of information."

They expect to dominate direct marketing, dispatched (meter stamped?) bills and statements, catalogs, parcels, letters, magazines, Netflix DVD rentals, and just about everything sold and purchased through eBay. Sounds like they would compete with the Postal Service were it legal.

Beyond all that, the 'mailstream' they wish to command also includes document creation, delivery and response and "incorporates a wide array of elements, including database management, sorting, printing and distribution..."

With the eclipse of postage stamps no doubt sometime soon in our future (which the USPS Board of Governors will hail as further cost savings), will the Pitney-Bowes' method of 'dispatch' remain as collectible as their Mark II cancellations and extensive meter impressions?

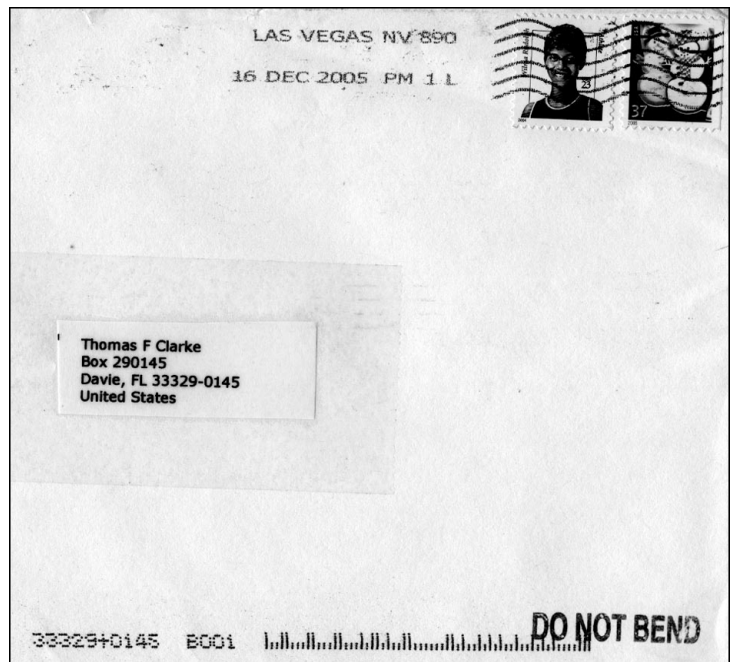


Figure 10 At the bottom of this IJS IJC example from Las Vegas NV 890, is a suspect 4 digit code, one of the new experiments perhaps that will ultimately corral the 30-odd USPS codes into one, someday.

Conclusion

So, it's happened. Dials as we've come to know them, and their killers, are dead. Postal historians have to recognize that true ink cancels have seen their day (save for "dater" desk stamping by clerks—but wasn't that also ruled out sometime last year?). A revolution has occurred, and practically all of it since your last summer's vacation.

While many end their collecting and exhibiting with classic stamps and roughly 1900, others keep the faith

alive and collect into the 20th century, even up to the dawn of the 21st. Will spray-on markings become just another aspect of postal history, cancel recording and collecting, or is the party, plain and simple, over?

But it may not end till the last stamp is issued, or, until the last handwritten letter is posted. Will these inspire kids to study further, or turn them off? Will there be enough interest left in postal history for articles for *La Posta's* January 2106 issue?

Many people have a revived interest in coins, given the 50-state quarters, so maybe these spray-on cancels will attract a following too. They're at the beginning of their lifespan,

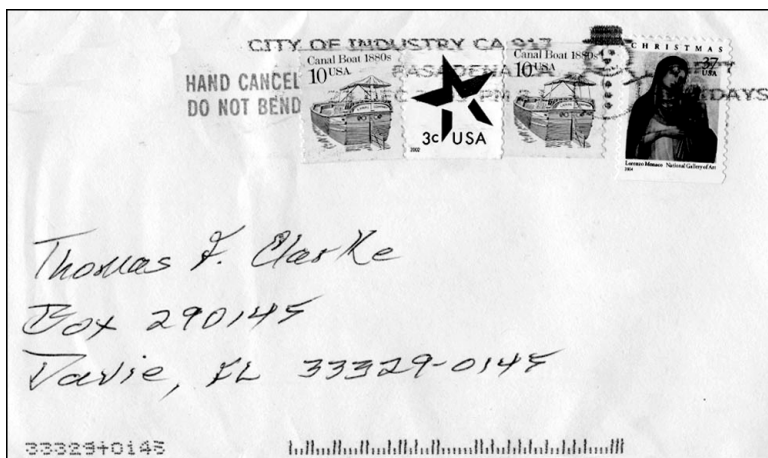


Figure 11 A three line IJC from The City of Industry, Pasadena CA 917; Note also the "Please hand cancel" request that went by the wayside! dated 23 DEC 2005 PM 8L.

and though there is a decade long history of experiment and trial, creativity and varieties will surely alter them, variety, after all, being the spice of life.

Sources

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Davidson, Dan, "USPS pursues more efficiency in 5-year plan", October 20, 2005, www.FederalTimes.com>

Pitney-Bowes news release, December 7, 2005 <http://www.postinsight.pb.com/search.cfm?query=Pitney+Bowes>

"USPS Automation/ Technology", *The Postal Reporter* <<http://www.lunewsviews.com/automation.htm>>

"USPS Spray Markings," *Machine Cancel Forum*, 1998, #15, page 45-46+.

"USPS Transformation" <http://www.usps.com/news/2002/transformation/welcome.htm>

USPS Press Release, 9/9/03.

United States Postal Service, An American History 1775 – 2002: Publication 100, September 2003.

Youngblood, Wayne. *Linn's*, March 29, 1993, page 42.



Retired Kansas professor Grant Goodman holds an envelope mailed by his longtime friend in the Philippines that was opened and censored by the Homeland Security Department. Photo by Nick Krug

Retiree claims privacy invasion

'Border Protection' opened letter to KU professor

By Joel Mathis

Tuesday, December 20, 2005

A retired Kansas University professor says the federal government has been poking into the mail he receives from abroad.

Grant Goodman on Monday showed the *Journal-World* a recent letter he had received from a friend in the Philippines; it apparently had been opened, then re-closed with green tape bearing the seal of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and a message that it had been opened "by Border Protection."

"Very uneasy. And very surprised," Goodman, 81, a KU professor emeritus of history, said of his reaction to the federal snooping. "I never expected to see that."

Goodman's revelation came the same day that President Bush defended his decision to authorize — without permission from Congress or the courts — a secret program to eavesdrop on U.S. citizens suspected of terrorism.

Reprinted from the Lawrence (KS) *Journal-World*, Tuesday, December 20, 2005

In Search of Columbus!!!



**Wanted Any 19th Century Covers
from "COLUMBUS"**
ILL., MICH., MO., N.C., WASH., FL., NV.,
MONT., COLO., N.M., LA., & PA.

Send Priced Scans to JAMESDOOLIN@ATT.NET,
or mail to:
James Doolin
11258 Goodnight Lane, Suite 105
Dallas, TX 75229
Tel. 1-800-886-2653

Member of APS, USPCS, CSA and many others.

Goodman said the news about warrantless wiretaps prompted him to go public about his opened mail. He said he had last seen such intrusions during World War II, when as an Army lieutenant he was required to censor the mail of men under his command.

"I don't know why they would censor this kind of mail," he said. "It's amazing."

Grant Goodman says this letter from a friend in the Philippines was opened by a division of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Goodman, a Kansas University professor emeritus of history, says the government's actions make him "very uneasy."

The U.S. government has been concerned about the Muslim insurgency in the Philippines, but Goodman said his correspondent — a devoutly Catholic Filipino history professor in her 80s — was an unlikely suspect to be connected to such causes. Goodman declined to reveal her name, saying he feared stirring up trouble for her.

"They were very upset it (warrantless wiretaps) was made public," he said of the government. "They might be upset with this."

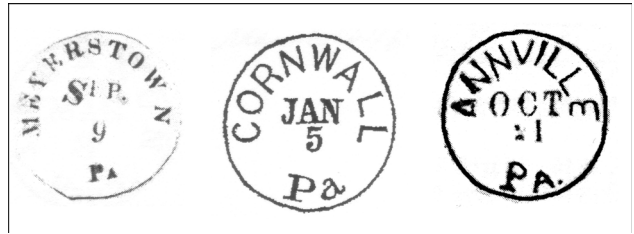
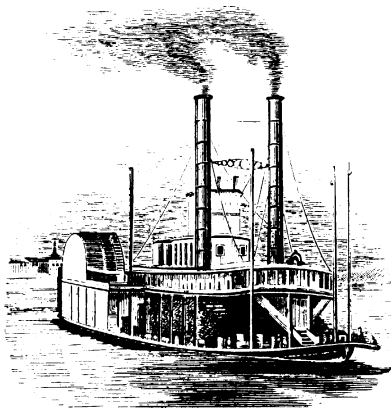
The Web site of U.S. Customs and Border Protection says: "The Postal Service sends all foreign mail shipments to CBP for examination."

A spokesman for the agency, which is under the Homeland Security umbrella, said he couldn't speak specifically about Goodman's case.

John Mohan, the spokesman, said he didn't know how often the agency opened mail from abroad. And he wouldn't discuss the criteria for opening letters.

But he said such searches had helped the government protect American lives.

"Obviously," Mohan said, "it's a security thing."



Stampless Mail Postal Markings of Pennsylvania – Lebanon County

The Pennsylvania Postal History Society (PaPHS) has announced the publication of its third book in a continuing series of stampless mail postal markings of Pennsylvania counties.

Postal Markings on Stampless Mail from Lebanon County, Pennsylvania was compiled by Glenn L. Bauch, Richard A. Colberg, and Thomas C. Mazda. It follows books previously published on Erie County and Warren County.

Lebanon County was formed in 1813, but the earliest recorded postal marking is from Jonestown, dated July 26, 1805, when the area was a part of Dauphin County. The earliest reported marking after Lebanon County was formed is from the town of Lebanon, dated February 16, 1813.

The new 28-page soft-cover book includes 15 towns for which stampless markings are known and lists an additional 13 for which there are no markings reported.

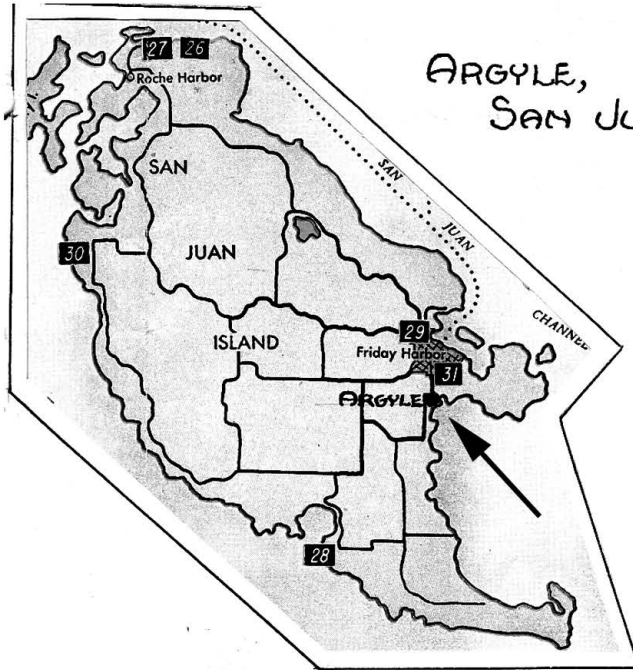
The book's format includes the town name and dates of post office operation; other names under which each post office may have operated; and examples of markings used along with auxiliary and rating marks, with reported dates of use and a rarity factor. Each town has a listing of postmasters with dates of appointments and the revenue reported in the biennial Office of Registration of the United States through 1860. Manuscript postmarks have been broken down and numbered by reference to the probable term of the postmaster.

Those collectors having additional information, particularly for towns from which no markings have been reported, are urged to share their information with the PaPHS.

The new book is available for \$10.00 from the society secretary: Norman Shachat, 382 Tall Meadow Lane, Yardley, PA 19067. Information on the society is also available from the secretary or at <nshachat@msn.com> or the society's website: <www.PaPHS.org>.

Washington Postal History Pages from the Woodard Collection

La Posta has been invited to conduct a public auction featuring many of the most desirable pieces of Washington postal history from a collection assembled over a 40-year period by a life-long resident of the state. The auction will be held in conjunction with PIPEX 2006 in Spokane in May, and between now and then we will share images of some of the pages arranged by Guy Reed Ramsey.

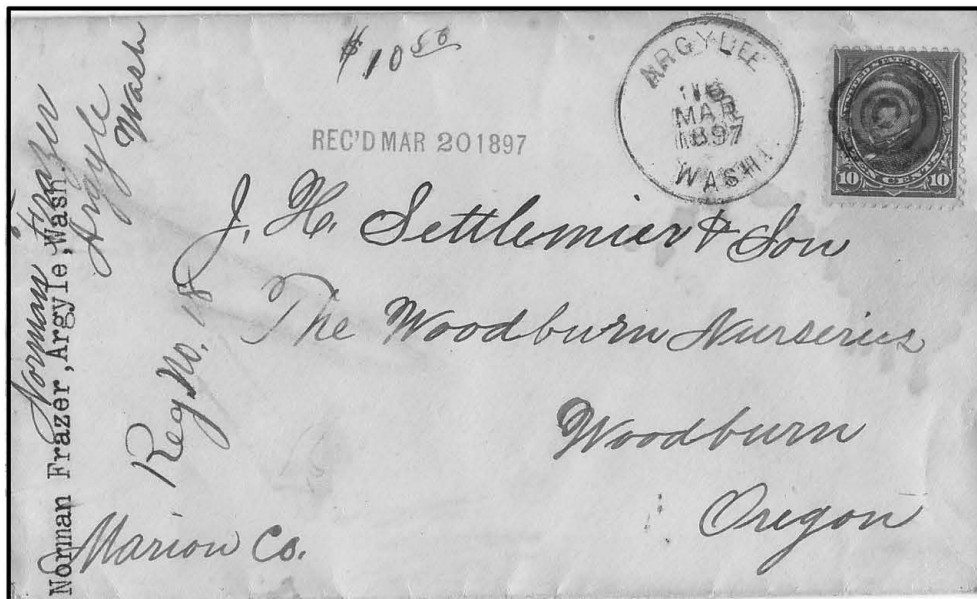


ARGYLE, WASHINGTON
SAN JUAN COUNTY

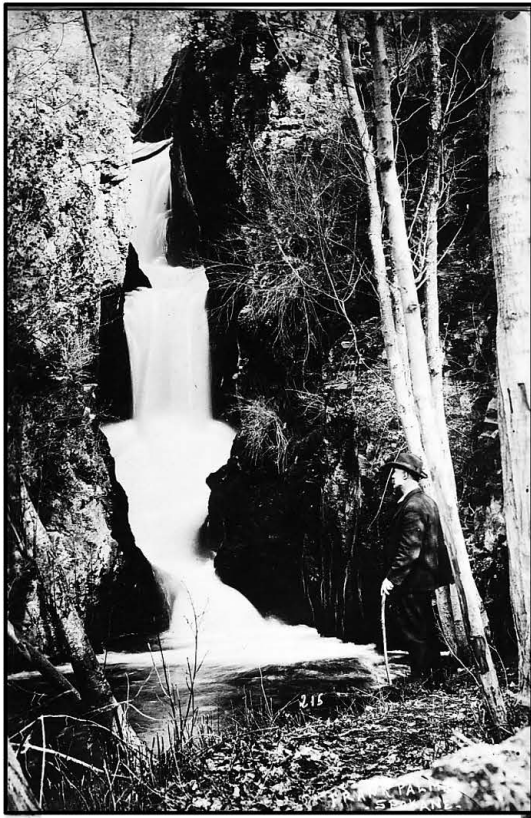


"THE WANDERING HOUSE OF SAN JUAN"

Originally stood at Fort Bellingham, north of presentday Bellingham where it was used as officers' quarters. It was rafted to San Juan-old where it was again officers' quarters. It was floated on a barge across Griffin Bay to Argyle and rebuilt. It was used at Argyle as drugstore, shoeshop, general store, saloon and post office.



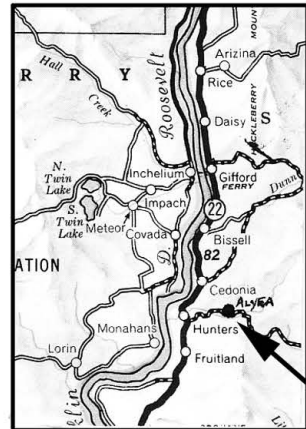
The post office was established as SAN JUAN on June 5, 1873. Its name was changed to ARGYLE on November 13, 1886 and it was discontinued April 30, 1912 with mail sent to Friday Harbor.



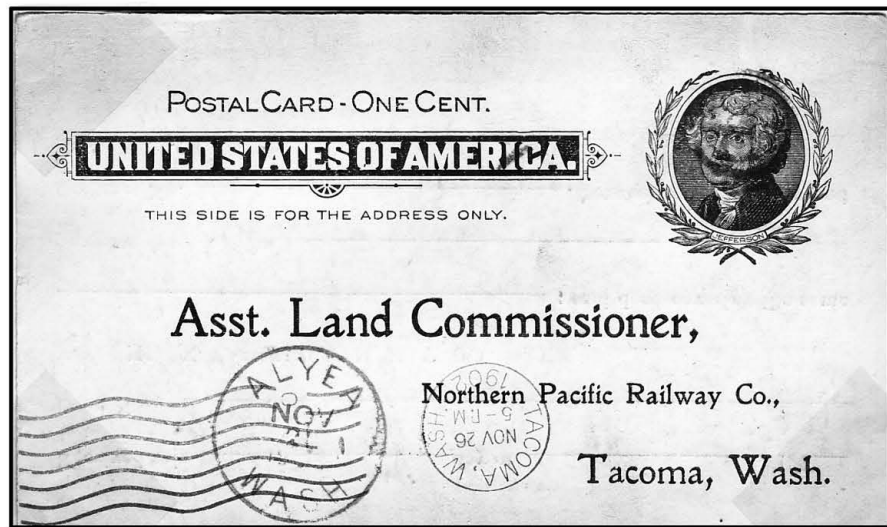
UPPER HUNTER CREEK FALLS - STEVENS CO. WASH.

1912

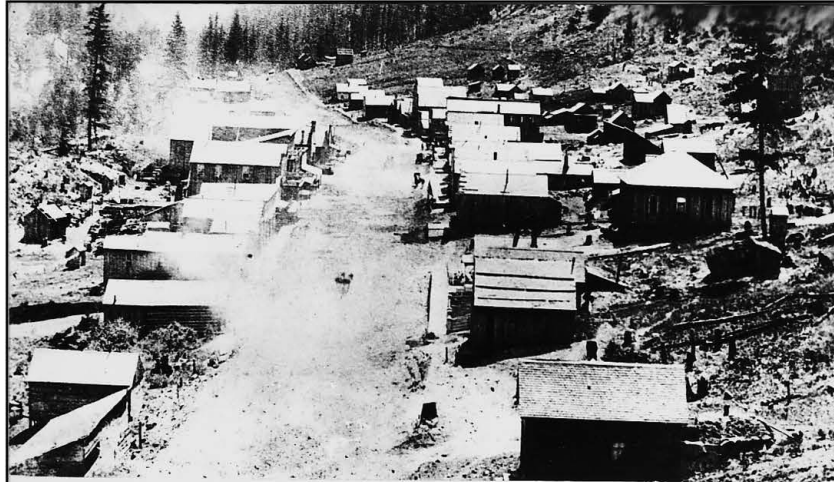
ALYEA, WASHINGTON
STEVENS COUNTY



THE POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED SEPTEMBER 5, 1900
AS WILLS AND RENAME ALYEA DECEMBER 27, 1901.
IT WAS DISCONTINUED ON DECEMBER 31, 1907.

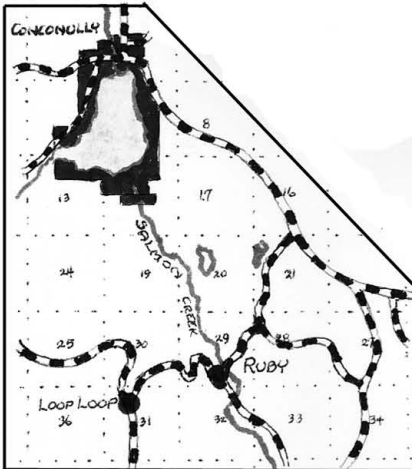


RUBY, WASHINGTON OKANOGAN COUNTY



Silver mining camp of Ruby boomed from 1887 to 1893. Today, the townsite is a deserted canyon.

OKANOGAN COUNTY
HISTORICAL SOCIETY



RUBY POST OFFICE WAS IN OPERATION FROM
MARCH 22, 1888 TO MARCH 13, 1896

When the registered letter or parcel accompanying this card is delivered, the Postmaster will require signature to the receipt on the other side, also on his record of registered deliveries, and mail this card without cover to address below.
A penalty of \$300 is fixed by law for using this card for other than official business.

Post Office Department.
OFFICIAL BUSINESS. Post Office at

RETURN TO:

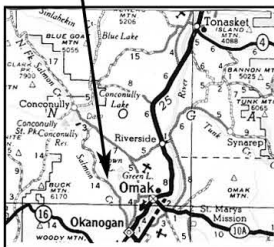
Name of Sender F. M. Barr

Street and Number, }
or Post Office Box. } Condonully, Wash.

Post Office at _____

County of _____ State of _____

Stamp here name of Post Office
WASH 1893
and date of delivery.

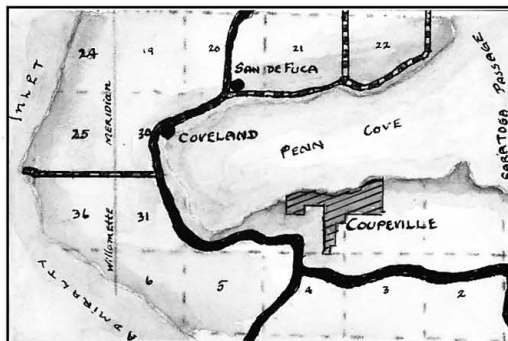


COVELAND, WASHINGTON TERRITORY ISLAND COUNTY

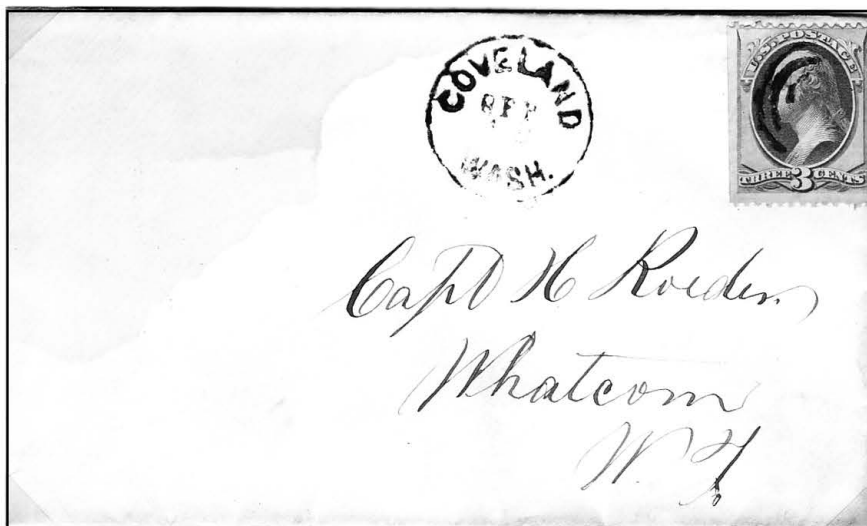


Eby's Cove - Admiralty Inlet - NEAR SITE OF COVELAND

JULY 14 1969



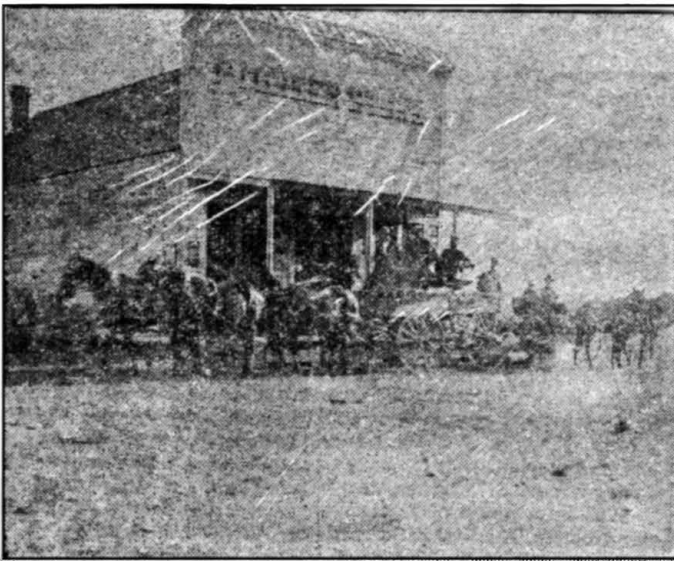
COVELAND POST OFFICE WAS IN SERVICE FROM JUNE 2, 1870 TO JUNE 15, 1881



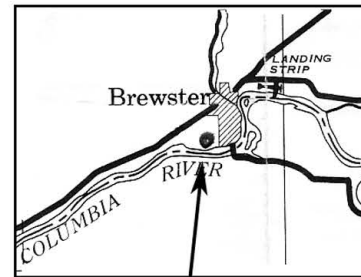
VIRGINIA CITY, WASHINGTON
OKANOGAN COUNTY

REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent <u>8/24</u> , 189 <u>9</u>	
Reg. No. <u>57</u>	from Post Office at <u>Camas Wash</u>
*Reg. Letter } Reg. Parcel }	Addressed to <u>H. Grouse</u> <u>Virginia City Wash</u>
After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.	
RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED { *LETTER. *PARCEL.	
(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE.)	
Sign on dotted lines to the right.	<u>H. Grouse</u>
When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.	
* Erase letter or parcel according to which is sent.	

VIRGINIA CITY POST OFFICE WAS ESTABLISHED ON OCTOBER 3, 1893
AND DISCONTINUED ON NOVEMBER 30, 1899.



THE PIONEER STORE shown above was the first business place to be built at Virginia City by Frank Green in the early 1890's. This picture was taken in 1894 and shows the arrival of the stage coach that had just arrived from Coulee City with passengers and the mail. This store was bought in 1894 by Anton and Christen Andersen and was operated by them until as late as 1938 when Christen died, and his son Elmer, entered the business. The Andersen store was moved to the present site of Brewster in 1896 when that town was platted and was operated as Andersen Brothers Store for 58 continuous years.



Virginia City

Randy Stehle Mail Bid No. 117*16 Iris Court, San Mateo, CA 94401**Phone: (650) 344-3080**Email: RSTEHLE@ix.netcom.com***CALIFORNIA**

- 1 ALCATRAZ, 1948 F DUPLEX ON TONED CACHETED COVER (74-63). \$5
- 2 AETNA SPRINGS, 1925 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (15-45). EST. \$6
- 3 AFTON, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC W/COR OF STAMP GONE (87/23). \$12
- 4 AGER, 1908 VG DOANE ON PPC (88-40). EST. \$6
- 5 ALILA, 1896 VG CDS ON PSE (85/99). EST. \$75
- 6 AMSTERDAM, 1919 F 4-BAR ON PPC (95/25). EST. \$12
- 7 ANTLER, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (08-14). EST. \$20
- 8 ATCHISON, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (03-12). EST. \$25
- 9 BALLENA, 1891 F CDS ON PSE (70-02). EST. \$75
- 10 BANTA, 1911 F 4-BAR ON PPC (70-71). EST. \$4
- 11 BAY CITY, 1907 F DOANE ON PPC (04-14). EST. \$6
- 12 BEATRICE, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (84-55). EST. \$4
- 13 BENICIA (ARSENAL RET ADDRESS), 1944 F 4-BAR ON PPC. EST. \$5
- 14 BERDAN, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PSE (78-16). EST. \$20
- 15 BERKELEY (ORINDA STA), 1942 VG DC ON PPC (27-44). EST. \$6
- 16 BERLIN, 1910 VG DOANE ON PPC (76-34). EST. \$6
- 17 BERROS, 1924 VG 4-BAR ON COVER (01/40). EST. \$6
- 18 BEULAH HEIGHTS, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (07-11). EST. \$20
- 19 BLANCO, 1914 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (73/41). EST. \$6
- 20 BLUE CANYON, 1901 VG CDS ON PC W/COR OF STAMP GONE (67-27) 8
- 21 BOCA, 1913 F 4-BAR ON PPC (72-45). EST. \$6
- 22 BOOTJACK, 1911 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (03-12). EST. \$25
- 23 BORDEN, 1873 F MS ON PSE (73-93). EST. \$80
- 24 BRADLEY, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC. EST. \$4
- 25 BRANDY CITY, 1911 VG 4-BAR REC'D ON GPC (09-26). EST. \$6
- 26 BRAY, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (09-67). EARLY USAGE. EST. \$4
- 27 BROOKLYN, ca1870 VG CDS ON COVER (55-78). EST. \$20
- 28 BUCK MEADOWS, 1917 VG 4-BAR ON GPC (15-25). EST. \$20
- 29 BURNETT, 1909 VG CDS ON PPC (97-29). EST. \$6
- 30 BURROUGH, 1910 VG CDS ON PPC (99-14). EST. \$20
- 31 CALNEVA, 1917 F 4-BAR ON COVER (11/33). EST. \$8
- 32 CAMP ELLIOTT, 1941 F DUPLEX ON COVER (41-44). EST. \$10
- 33 CARMEL, 1909 F DOANE ON GPC W/CREASE. EST. \$4
- 34 CARSONS CAMP, ca1924 (NYD) F 4-BAR ON PPC (24-28). EST. \$20
- 35 CARTERS, 1901 VG DUPLEX ON COVER (88-08). EST. \$35
- 36 CASTROVILLE, 1904 VG EKU MOT-530 ON PPC W/SM TEAR. EST. \$10
- 37 CASTROVILLE, 1933 G+ 4-BAR ON COVER W/CC. EST. \$6
- 38 CENTRAL HOUSE, 1908 G+ CDS ON PPC (59-09). EST. \$25
- 39 CHOWCHILLA, 1896 VG CDS ON REG'D REC W/COR BEND (83-05) \$25
- 40 CLAY, 1911 VG CDS ON PPC (78-54). EST. \$4
- 41 COLEGROVE, 1907 VG DUPLEX ON PPC (88-08). EST. \$6
- 42 COLMA STATION, 1895 G+ CDS ON COVER (88-95). EST. \$12
- 43 COLONY CENTER, 1905 VG DOANE REC'D ON PPC (05-06). EST. \$25
- 44 CONEJO, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC W/COR OF STAMP GONE (98-20). \$12
- 45 CONFIDENCE, 1907 F DOANE ON PPC (99/25). EST. \$12
- 46 CONLEY, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC (81/10). EST. \$20
- 47 COOK, 1910 F 4-BAR A BIT HIGH ON PPC (94-24). EST. \$12
- 48 COOPERSTOWN, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (01-32). EST. \$6
- 49 COPCO, 1916 F 4-BAR ON PPC W/CREASE (14-54). EST. \$5
- 50 CORONA/NAVAL HOSPITAL STA, 1946 F DC ON GPC (46-50). EST. 10
- 51 CORONA/NAVAL HOSPITAL STA, 1957 F DC ON GPC (52-57). EST. 10
- 52 COSUMNE, 1912 VG 4-BAR REC'D ON PPC (52-15). EST. \$20
- 53 CRANMORE, 1906 F CDS ON PPC (86-28). EST. \$12
- 54 CRESSY, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (82/12). EST. \$10
- 55 CUDEBACK, 1912 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (95-14). EST. \$10
- 56 DALY CITY, 1915 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (13-17 PER). EST. \$10
- 57 DANA, 1907 VG CDS ON PPC (88-51). EST. \$4
- 58 DAUNT, 1901 VG CDS ON COVER (86-11). EST. \$12
- 59 DEERPARK, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (00-29). EST. \$6
- 60 DEWITT, 1912 F NONSTD 4-BAR ON PPC (03-27). EST. \$12
- 61 DIXIELAND, 1924 F 4-BAR ON COVER (12-35). EST. \$6
- 62 DOHENY PARK, 1936 F 4-BAR ON COVER (06-47). EST. \$4
- 63 DORLESKA, 1904 F DUPLEX ON SMALL COVER (02-16). EST. \$20
- 64 DOVE, 1913 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (89-15). EST. \$15
- 65 DOYLE, 1921 VG PSEUDO MACHINE ON PPC. EST. \$12
- 66 EAGLENEST, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (08-10). EST. \$12
- 67 EASTON, 1894 VG CDS ON COVER (81-02). EST. \$40
- 68 EASTYARD, 1902 VG CDS ON COVER (01-02). EST. \$80
- 69 EL CENTRO (CAMP SEELEY RET ADDRESS), 1943 F MACH ON PPC. \$8
- 70 ELENA, 1902 F CDS ON COVER (90-06). EST. \$40
- 71 ELLIS, ca1870 F MS ON COVER (70-78). EST. \$75
- 72 ELLISWORTH, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (01/27). EST. \$12
- 73 ESMERALDA, 1890 VG CDS ON COVER (87-02). EST. \$25
- 74 ETHANAC, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (00-25). EST. \$6
- 75 FARALLONE, 1910 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (09-18). EST. \$20
- 76 FAWN LODGE, 1932 F 4-BAR ON COVER (31-37). EST. \$12
- 77 FELIX, 1918 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (96-23). EST. \$12
- 78 FOSTER, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (93-16). EST. \$20
- 79 FOSTERIA, 1909 VG CDS ON PPC (03-18). EST. \$20
- 80 FRESNO/STAA, 1932 F MACH ON GPC (21-40). EST. \$8
- 81 FYFFE, 1908 F DOANE ON PPC (82-13). EST. \$12
- 82 GRAHAM STATION, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (11-18). EST. \$12
- 83 GRAINLAND, ca1890 VG CDS ON COVER (67/02). EST. \$80
- 84 GRAND ISLAND, 1909 VG DOANE ON PPC (54-19). EST. \$20
- 85 GRANDVILLE, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (07-21). EST. \$6
- 86 GRAYSON, 1900 VG DUPLEX ON PSE (74-06). EST. \$35
- 87 GROVES, 1913 F 4-BAR ON REG'D REC (12-14). EST. \$80
- 88 GRUB GULCH, 1890 F MS ON COVER W/TEAR (83-18). EST. \$20
- 89 GWINMINE, 1908 VG CDS ON PPC (70/10). EST. \$20
- 90 HALLECK, 1912 F 4-BAR FORWARDED ON PPC (81-25). EST. \$6
- 91 HARDWICK, 1915 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (95/42). EST. \$6
- 92 HARDY, 1908 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (02/15). EST. \$20
- 93 HAYDENHILL, 1910 F 4-BAR ON PPC (78/17). EST. \$12
- 94 HIGHLAND SPRINGS, 1908 F 4-BAR ON PPC (75/21). EST. \$12
- 95 HOBART MILLS, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (00-38). EST. \$6
- 96 HOLTVILLE (N.A.A.S. RET ADDRESS), 1943 F MACH ON COVER. E. 8

- 97 HONDO, 1928 F 4-BAR ON COVER (18-57). EST. \$4
- 98 HOOKER, 1912 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (85-23). EST. \$12
- 99 HUNTERS, 1922 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (88-30). EST. \$6
- 100 IMPERIAL JUNCTION, 1911 G+ 4-BAR ON PPC (10-13). EST. \$35
- 101 INCLINE, 1909 F 4-BAR ON COVER (07-10). EST. \$20
- 102 INCLINE, 1929 VG 4-BAR ON COVER (24-53). EST. \$4
- 103 INGOMAR, ca1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (90-21). EST. \$12
- 104 INWOOD, 1909 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (87-27). EST. \$6
- 105 IRMA, 1913 VG 4-BAR ON PPC (10-15). EST. \$20
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- 116 QUEEN BEACH, 1909 F 4-BAR ON PPC W/COR CREASE (08-11). E \$75
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- 118 PARDEE, 1909 F CDS ON PPC (03-41). EST. \$6
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- 134 SINE, 1906 F DOANE REC'D ON PPC (05-10). EST. \$35
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- 136 TWEEDIE, 1912 VG 4-BAR SLIGHTLY DOUBLED ON PPC (08-16). \$35

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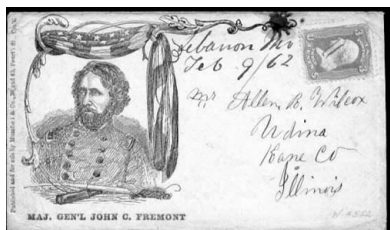
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- 138 FRESNO & VISALIA, 1907 G+ (992.3-C-2) ON PPC. EST. \$8
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- 143 LOS ANG & SAN B'D'NO, 1912 F (964-X-1) ON PPC. EST. \$8
- 144 LOS ANG & SAN B'D'NO KITE, 1910 G+ (993.1-C-3) ON PPC. E \$20
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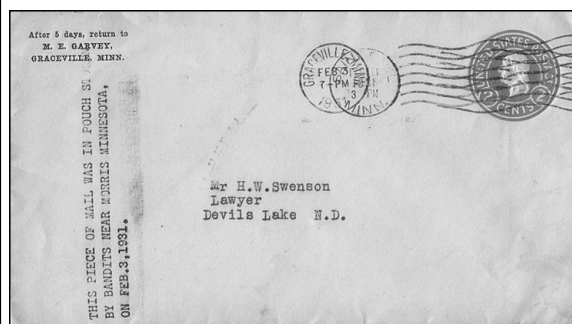
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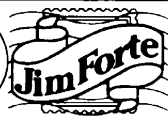
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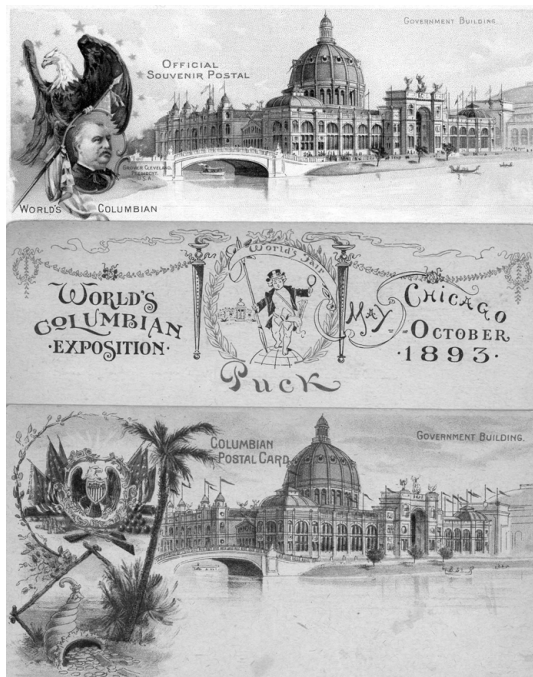


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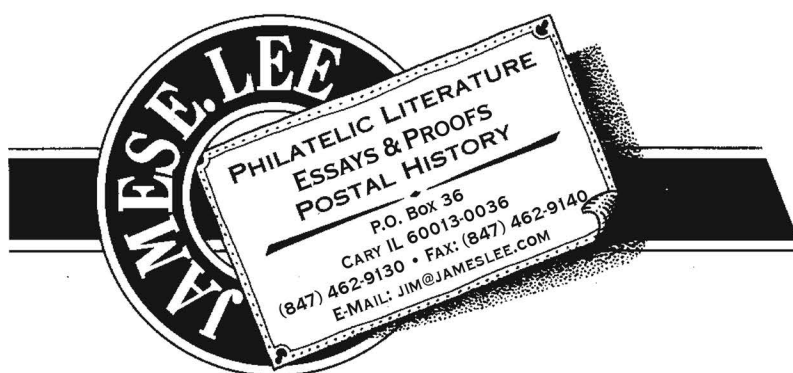
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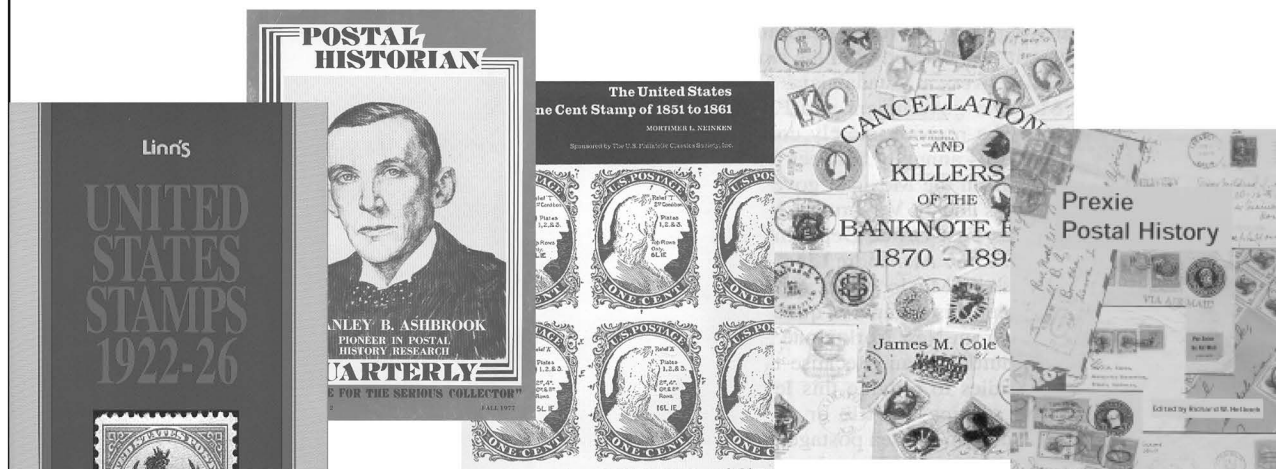
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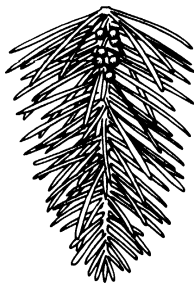


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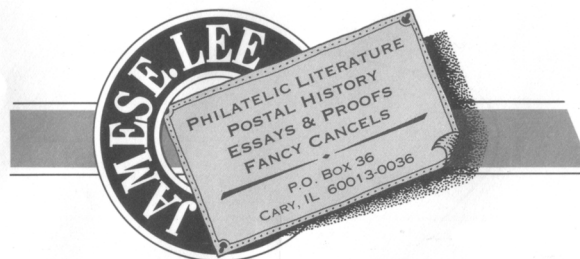
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