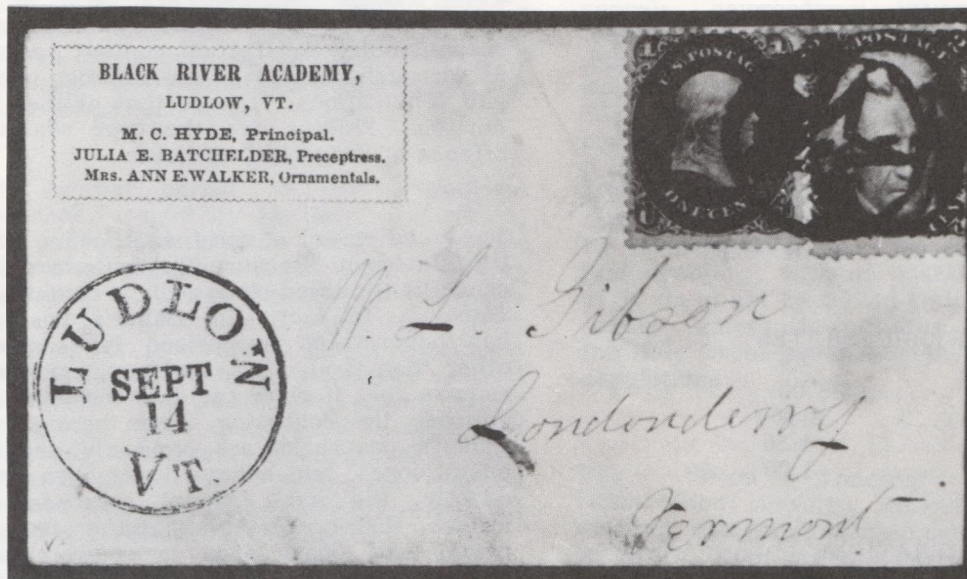


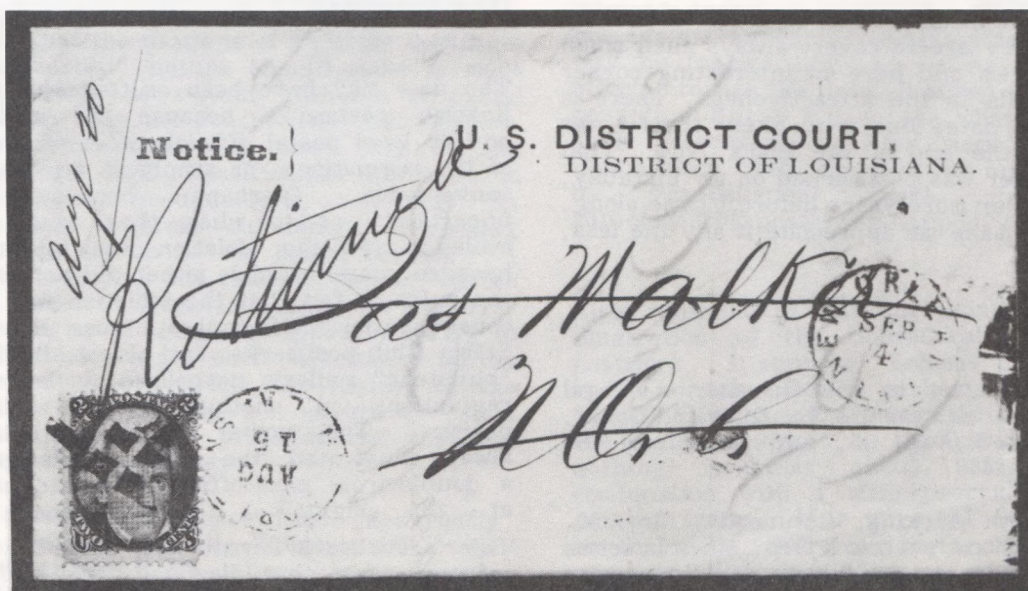


Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 12 - NO. 16 WHOLE NO. 143 MAY 1977



FIRST CLASS LETTER FROM LUDLOW, VT.



A DROP LETTER IN NEW ORLEANS

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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COVER ILLUSTRATIONS

First Class Letter from Ludlow, Vt. - the stamps well-struck by a fine Open Star in Circle cancel, Herst-Sampson #1008.

Fancy Cancels, well-struck, especially when they are on cover, always elicit much enthusiasm and here an interesting corner card adds to the attractiveness. There is no year date, but it is likely that it was toward the end of the 1860's, #114. That this letter was postmarked on my birthday, some 44 or more years before I came along, doesn't make me appreciate it any the less, either!

A Drop Letter in New Orleans, - a legal notice, from the U.S. District Court, postmarked Aug. 15, and date from the contents 1868.

Manuscript marking "Returned", Aug. 20, and a second postmark Sep. 4th. It seems a bit strange to have a manuscript postmarking from a city as large and as busy as New Orleans, but perhaps the clerk working these was across the office from the rack of handstamps, and in the heat and humidity of a New Orleans summer day, it was just too much trouble to go and get the desired stamp.

FOOTNOTE ON KOKOMOMAILER ARTICLE

by Henry W. Beecher

I have some comments on the article in the January News by George H. Phillips on the Kokomo Stamp Club Pictorial Cancels.

Even though "opinions are those of the contributor", any editor shares some responsibility for factual content, as well as for such matters as coordination of text and illustrations. I hope that neither you nor Mr. Phillips are the type who take offense at "negative" criticism.

The pure error, of some significance, is in the statement "Because the mailer's permit cancel is for third class mail, it contains no date..." In fact, the mailer's postmark has never been authorized for any mail other than first class, and the regulations require that it show the date of mailing. I suppose the confusion arises because the mailer's postmarks are commonly used on postal cards, which have never been given exactly the same postal treatment as letters. Misconceptions about the status of postal and post cards is common even among people who rank high in knowledge in philately and postal history; e.g., a man who undeniably is one of the three foremost experts on U.S. postal cards once asked me when postal cards were first officially put in the category of first class mail. (They have been first class from their inception).

The date may have been omitted from the Kokomo postmarks because the mailers and/or local postal officials were ignorant of the regulations, or simply as a printing convenience (perhaps because of uncertainty as to when they would be mailed); and the violation was tolerated because postal officials either did not know the rules or felt that the violation was inconsequential. Of course, these Kokomo Stamp Club postmarks, and almost all other "philatelic" mailer's postmarks, violate the regulations in another respect: their design. The postal regulations have always illustrated "the authorized design"; a doublecircle post office/state/date mark at the right, a square enclosing Mailer's/Postmark/Permit 000, joined to a rectangle enclosing diagonal lines "sufficient to thoroughly deface the stamp." No ink color is specified, but by analogy with regulations with post office-applied postmarks, which regulations since the 1860's have required to be in black, one may reasonably infer that black is understood.

The current regulations are in the Postal Manual (which anyone has a right to consult at any post office), sections 143.3, 143.41, 143.21, and 143.423. The first section says only that mailer's postmarks may be used on stamped envelopes mailed at the first-class rate of postage, but the section was dropped after all domestic postal cards were issued "as if" precanceled, presumably on the assumption that normal use of mailer's postmarks would be on large mailings of printed message cards, which are no longer required to be postmarked. However, the mailer's postmark may be used on cards with written messages, mailed even one at a time, and the regulations still require that these be postmarked).

The normal permit to use a mailer's postmark, issued by the local post office, has never authorized use to cancel adhesive stamps, but only stamps imprinted by the government on envelopes and cards. (Whether it could legitimately be used on government postal stationery bearing adhesive stamps necessary to meet the current first class rate is a nice "legal" question). Of course, a number of "philatelic connivers" have got away with using it on adhesives, but this violation has not been so widely tolerated as has the violation of the design rules.

However, just in the past few years a provision for authorization of use of a mailer's precancel postmark on adhesives has been added. I have seen no mention of this in philatelic literature, perhaps because it is not subject to "philatelic" exploitation, although I should think the fact that the usage is of a purely legitimate "commercial" nature should make it more interesting to serious students of postal history than the concoctions of hobbyists. This authorization is made only by the Manager, Mail Classification Division, in Washington headquarters, and only "in instances wherein substantial processing savings accrue to the Postal Service." I have seen only one example, in red, on the 10¢ Jefferson Memorial stamp, by Kiplinger Washington Editors. I suppose a query to the Division might elicit information on the number, and possibly the names, of the mailers who have received such authorization, but probably not anything about the actual usage.

A parenthetical observation, apparently not relevant to the Kokomo case, but applying to many others: many people have the idea that a mailer's postmark permit is an entity by itself, so that if only one permit authorizing the use has been issued by a given post office, it will necessarily be Permit No. 1. Actually, the mailer's postmark authorization is but an optional addendum to a general precancel permit, and all precanceled

permits are supposed to be numbered in the order of their issuance, so the first mailer's postmark permit may be Permit No. 239. Anyone having a mailer's postmark permit has a permit to mail with precanceled (by the postal service) adhesive stamps; but the converse is not true.

The omission of some illustrations referred to in the text makes it hard to evaluate some statements. E.g., "Not all of the cancels have been mailer's permits, however, as the illustrations show." The only illustration which may not include the mailer's postmark legend is the Holy Cross one, and it is reproduced so poorly one cannot be sure of its' nature. Conceivably it might even be a properly authorized post office cancel. However, the implication of the context is that it was made and applied by the Kokomo Club. In that case, it is just doodling, with no postal significance, as it could not be mailed (other than under cover), unless through the connivance of the Holy Cross postmaster in violating regulations.

The "Moon Landing" "postmark" (illustration missing) obviously is in the doodling category; it is no more a postmark or cancel than my name written across a stamp is a manuscript cancel. (Although there are circumstances in which the latter could be a legitimate cancel required or at least authorized by postal regulations. If you are interested, I might some time write a piece on that and on the case in which a manuscript postmark/cancel is required by current postal regulations). There is no law against anyone defacing a stamp in any way he fancies, so long as he does not attempt to use the defaced stamp to prepay postage. But I fail to see what interest such defacement has for members of a Cancellation Club, assuming we understand by "cancellation" some obliteration authorized by postal regulations.

Also referred to but not printed is the illustration of the Confederate Memorial postmark. I suppose "Kokomo precancel" is (in normal philatelic parlance) short for "an adhesive stamp precanceled Kokomo by the postal service." In that case, there is nothing irregular about using it in combination with a mailerprecanceled imprinted stamp. If it were the only stamp on the piece, there is, so far as I know, no regulation forbidding a second precancelation by the mailer (or perhaps any other defacement which leaves it clear that it is a valid precanceled stamp), but it would certainly be redundant. (Were there a date in the mailer's postmark, its' application would make sense, for the mailer has a right to have a dated postmark

I am dubious about the legitimacy of the two flag cancels shown (assuming that the Holy Cross one was not officially applied). I do not have documentation, but I believe it is against Federal law to make imitations of official postmarks (even if not identical with any existing postmark copying the general format is a violation, I think).

From all of this you may conclude I am something of a "purist." Yes, in the sense I think there are benefits in adhering to some definitions and classifications meaningful to the endeavor. I take it that, as a division of postal history understood as a branch of philately, the collection and study of "cancellations" (or "postal markings" more generally) is concerned with markings applied by or prescribed by the postal service. Other markings may have interest in other contexts, but they are not philatelic. (For instance, my "recycled stationery" handstamp on this cover might be considered to have some sociocultural significance, but it is in no way a postal marking. However, if I had endorsed it "Special Delivery" or "Do Not Bend," those would be postal markings, albeit not in the same category as such endorsements applied by postal personnel). There is nothing "wrong" about collecting or studying anything one finds interesting; but let's be clear about what we are doing. A stamp collector might well also collect a porcelain plate bearing a reproduction of a stamp; but the plate is not part of his stamp collection, and a report of his findings from research into its' manufacture, sale, and use are not part of philatelic literature.

I feel that in all branches of philately it is helpful to make explicit a classification of the material along what might be called a "legitimacy" axis. At the top (an of prime interest) would be material produced by or according to specifications set by the headquarters administration of the postal service, and used throughout the territory it serves. Then would come material similarly made or specified, but used in a restricted area. Then would come material made to specifications of a lower-level authority, but authorized by the central administration. Still lower comes material made or used by lower-level authorities, not authorized by the central administration, but tolerated by it; then material privately made and used, by lower-levels in violation of central regulations; and lowest, that made and used privately under illegitimate local authorization, with no authorization, or in violation or regulations. (Of course, that scheme is rough and incomplete; it might be rearranged or added to).

Most collectors and philatelic writers (and catalog compilers) make some such distinctions implicitly, but I think

advantages to formulating and applying them more explicitly. For instance, it would seem to me more important to identify all postmarking/ cancelling devices supplied by the POD than to find all the exotic cork carvings made to pass the time by some postmaster in a one house village. At least, those dealing with the fancy cancels should make their status clear: makeshifts for use in offices which the POD did not have funds enabling supply of standard devices, and to which the POD was indifferent; unauthorized ones used instead of available official ones, but of regulations which headquarters tried to enforce... Similarly for colored cancels, a flat violation of law from at least as far back as the early 1860's. Of course, it is relevant to study the incidence of all violations, and efforts toward their suppression, and to realize that any law may be considered "dead" when violations reach some high level, especially if enforcement efforts are minimal.

YEAGER WINS CERTIFICATE

Harry T. Yeager won a silver with felicitations, and was awarded the U.S. Cancellation Club Certificate for his exhibit of "Philadelphia, Pa." The exhibit was selected pages of Phila., Pa. calendar cancels tying the 3 cent 1851-57 issue.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The following from Arthur H. Bond (#505):

Regarding the Martindale cancel shown in the September 1974 NEWS (p. 40), it is my belief that the "08" year-date shown in this tracing is in error. I have a photograph that I received from a former owner of a third-class cover with exactly the same marking, except that this shows only the "AUG" and a clear "98" below instead of "08".

W. B. Martindale, then of Rochester, Ind., was assignee of Patent #615,031, granted 29 Nov. 1898 to Ernst Malmberg and is said to have produced an experimental machine in that year. This may have been the same machine that produced the 1903 marking shown by Dr. Karlen (#1034) in the Nov. 1973 NEWS. Note that the "03" postmark is from a different die, although printed in the same unusual position; also that the "03" killer has no die space.

Both Malmberg and Martindale were granted later patents between 1905 and 1908, all of which were assigned to the TimeMarking Machine Co. TimeMarking machines with the postmark in a vertical position and horizontal bar killers were in regular use at Chicago as early as 1905, which makes a 1908 date for this experimental cancel very suspect.

AN UNUSUAL MASONIC STAMP
KILLER ON COVER

by Harry L. Fine

While my prime interests are Montana and Fort Laramie postal history and covers postmarked during their territorial period, I do have an interest in most 19th century covers postmarked from the far west. Infrequently, a cover is acquired which has a double interest and a most unusual and interesting cover came my way several years ago.

When I purchased the cover from a dealer, it was sold to me on the basis of it being a Denver, Colorado territorial item. Denver territorial covers during the later period are not rare, since, by 1876 Denver was a sizeable city and a busy distribution point. Hence, so many late Denver territorials are considered quite common. It was not the fact that the cover was a Denver, Colorado territorial that was of interest to me, but the stamp killer seemed to ring a bell. I felt it had some masonic meaning. I had been active in Masonic work during my prime years and have been a 50 year mason for three years.

In order to verify my thinking, I checked with a wellknown dealer who specializes in Masonic marking on stamps and covers. His reply was to the effect that I had a very fine and unusual Masonic item.

The negative "M" inside a square with a negative border represents an apron worn by masons at many of their functions. The killer is especially clear and ties the cover to the stamp.

It would be interesting to hear from other collectors who might have an example of this marking on stamps or a cover. I have only seen one other such cover: it is postmarked Denver, Colorado for the same period, but the other examples does not carry the notation "April 1875".

I want to add that on the photograph the Denver, Colo. is rather light, so I traced here with ink. For obvious reasons, I want it known that my collection is kept in a bank vault, with photocopies at home for my pleasure.

FLORIDA WANTED

Seminole Agency oval, Tampa rimless circle, county and P.M.
Cash or trade.

H. P. McNeal
520 Lakemont Av. South
Winter Park, FL 32792

U. S. COVERS

I STOCK ALL AREAS, ISSUES, USAGES, CANCELS EXCEPT MODERN FDC. WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE? SELECTIONS SENT ON APPROVAL TO USCC MEMBERS ON REQUEST.

HENRY M. SPELMAN III
P. O. Box 645
San Anselmo, Calif. 94960

WANTED

ANVILLE or ANNVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA
COVERS OR PC'S. WRITE
FRANK E. PREISLER, 500 E. QUEEN ST.
ANNVILLE, PA 17003

WANTED

Michigan flags wanted from the following towns, Bridgman, Chassell, Crystal Falls, Grand Rapids 1901, Houghton (1), Lansing () 1896, L'Anse, Laurium, Negaunee, Newberry, Niles A 14 (1), Norway, George I. Stickels, 11161 Haller Ave. Livonia, MI 48150.

TEXAS COVERS WANTED

Anything from stampless to 1920's.
Charles Deaton, Box 12814, Austin,
TX 78711

* WANTED *

20th CENTURY U.S. FANCY CANCELS

ON COVER.

ALSO PICTORIAL (SHOW) CANCELS.
WILL BUY, SWAP, OR SELL MY
DUPLICATES.

BILL WALKER - 102 ELIZABETH ST.
CLEARFIELD, PA. 16830

OLD U. S. COVERS - EARLY AMERICANA

Write for Free Special Lists
E. N. SAMPSON
P. O. Box 6488, CLEARWATER, FLA. 33518

WANTED

LOUISIANA postal history material - stampless to modern. Also information on unusual cancels.

Erin R. Gunter
8865 Syble Dr.
Baton Rouge, LA. 70814

S. HORWITZ DIES

S. M. Horwitz (known to his friends as Cy), of Tannersville, N.Y., proprietor of the Collectors' Corner, died in Las Vegas in early January, according to word just received from Herman Herst, Jr. Mr. Horwitz was a dealer, handling U.S. Proofs, essays, and the B.I.A., as well as the U.S.C.C.

He is survived by his wife and two daughters. According to Mrs. Horwitz, the business will not be continued. (From Herman Herst, Jr.)

CIAPEX SHOW

The CIAPEX 77 show May 7-8 was very successful. There were over 900 who registered and many who did not wish to register. The USCC Certificate was won by Miss Mary Fullbright, 2400 E. 12th Street, Des Moines, Iowa 50316 for her "Iowa 19th Century cancels."

Miss Fullbright also won 3rd in the Postal History Classification. Miss Ruth Grissman won 2nd in that classification with "The Milwaukee Railroad in Iowa." Miss Grissman also received the Mabel Phillips travel trophy for the best exhibit by a member of the Iowa Women's Philatelic Society, and the Nellie Snyder Yost Certificate for the best display of American History and Legend. Classified judging is preferred to open judging at local exhibits in order to encourage competition.

QUESTION CORNER

I have recently acquired the two volume set Dictionary of Disasters at Sea during the Age of Steam 1824-1962 by Hocking.

Ship cover collectors are welcome to submit the name of the ship with a S.A.S.E. PLEASE! and I will be most happy to tell them whether or not their ship hit bottom.

Gretchen H. Mitchell
2269 Fink Street
Los Angeles, California 90068

FLAG CANCELS

The following comprise a complete collection of the hard-to-find flag cancels of Alaska:

Fairbanks, Alaska, type H-14, vf strike on card, lightly overstruck by a handstamp circle which barely detracts.	\$30.00
Fairbanks, Alaska, A-14, on a commercial cover	15.00
Juneau, Alaska A-14, vf on post card	15.00
Nome, Alaska, H-14, vf strike on post card	30.00
Nome, Alaska, A-14, vf strike on a Santa Claus philatelic (?) cover	10.00

SEND ME YOUR WANT LIST FOR OTHER "BACK OF THE BOOK" FLAG CANCELS:

(stamps and coins not kept at residence)

Martin Toly
4159 Chariot Lane
Liverpool, N.Y. 13088

HISTORIES OF TOWN NAMES

by Mrs. Leonard Liebenau

This is the second installment in a series on the origins of town names.

Zigzag, Oregon P. O.
Established Feb. 25, 1933
Discontinued July 19, 1974

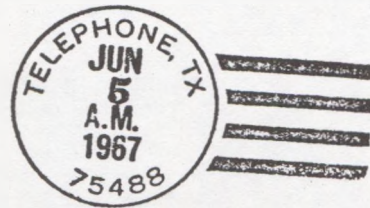
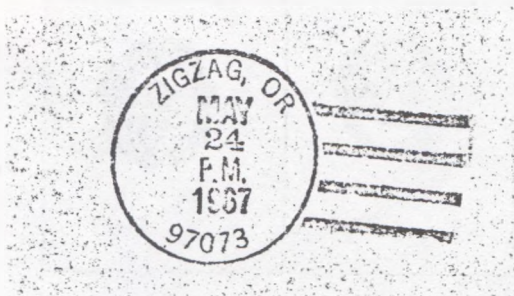
Here, in the beginning, a Ranger Station derived its name from the erratic terrain. The mountains zigzagged, the river zigzagged to follow the contour of the mountains, and naturally the path to the lookout station had to zigzag up the hills.

Telephone Tx. P. O.
Established 1920

The name "Telephone" was indicative of the time the first permanent settlers came to the region. Everyone was talking about the marvelous new invention. However, it was a long time before the settlement became eligible for a post office.

Cut and Shoot, Tx. P. O.
Established Aug. 15, 1958
Conroe Rural Branch

One small church served as a house of worship for all religious denominations during the early days of this settlement. All was well until the Baptists and the Pentecosts tried to have revival meetings at the same time. The resultant feud which developed ended by the Pentecosts going across the road from the church to hold their services. An observer, watching the proceedings from a safe distance, turned to a companion and queried, "What do you suppose happened at the Cut and Shoot?", thereafter--that name.



BURGLARLY LOSS MARCH 16, 1977
PARTIAL LISTING

Colorado Postal History Collection, consisting of approximately 700 Territorial and Early Statehood cancellations, mounted in 7 albums, including the following:

EXPRESS COVERS:

Central Overland & California & Pikes Peak to John M. Railey, Weston, Mich. August 21, 1860. Hinckley & Co. Express Mail to R. W. Clark & Co., Eureka Gulch, C. T. Denver & Rio Grande Express, Denver Cancel Denver & Rio Grande Express, Unused.

COLORADO CANCELLATIONS:

Anaconda, 1903
Ashcroft, 1881
Atchee, 1918
Badito, 187-
Beaver, 1909 P.C.
Beulah, 1881 Manuscript
Big Thompson, 1872, Double Circle
Big Thompson, 1863
2 Black Hawk Point, 1866, 1865
2 Black Hawk, 1885, 187-
Bland, 1909 P.C.
Booneville, 1883 Manuscript
Boulder, 187-
2 Breckenridge, 1883, 1884
2 Buffalo Springs, 1900, 1911 P.C.
3 Buford, 1908 P.C., 1902, 1904
Bunell, 192-
Burlington, 187-
Butte Valley, 1873 Manuscript
Capitol City, 1884
2 Castle Rock, 1884, 1888
Cedar, 1907
3 Central City, 1889 Adv., 187-, 188-
Cheesman, 1901
Clifford, 1908 P.C.
Conejos, 1876 Registry, Face

Following are more of the Illinois Cancels
from the collection of Mr. Russell

- | | |
|---|---|
| #I078 - BLACK, HOOPESTON, #210. | #I086 - BLACK, JEFFERSON, #114. |
| #I079 - BLACK, HOPEDALE, #114. | #I087 - BLACK, JEFFERSON, #114. |
| #I080 - BLACK, HUMBOLDT PARK, #158. | #I088 - BLACK, JERSEYVILLE, #158. |
| #I081 - BLUE, HYDE PARK, #207. | #I089 - BLUE, JOLIET, STAMPLESS. |
| #I082 - BLACK, HYDE PARK, #207. | #I090 - BLACK, JOLIET, #213, (SEE CANCEL #140) |
| #I083 - BLUE, HYDE PARK, #207. | #I091 - BLACK, KANKAKEE, #207. |
| #I084 - BLACK, HYDE PARK, #210. | #I092 - BLACK, LINCOLN, #114, (SEE CANCEL #686) |
| #I085 - BLUE-BLACK, JACKSONVILLE, #158. | #I093 - BLACK, MENDOTA, #206; #UII3. |

