



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 12

No. 18

Whole No. 145

September 1977

Two covers from the "Black Jack" collection of Paul Wolf:

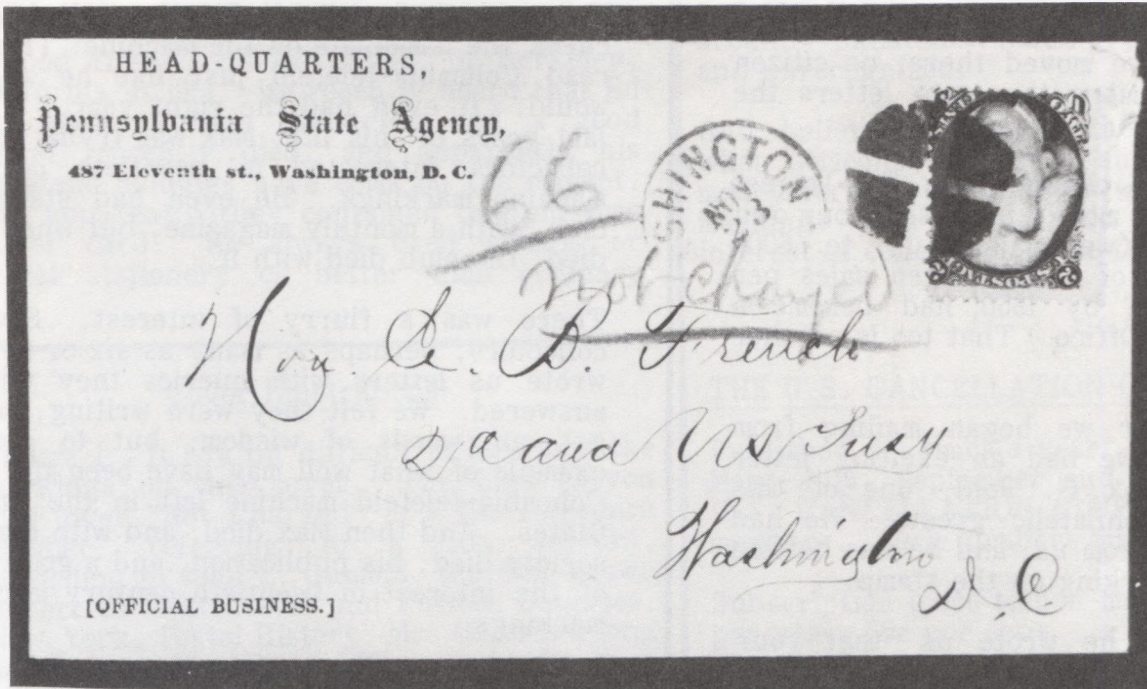


Figure 1:



Figure 2:

SHRUB OAK'S COLUMBIA-IELEFELD MACHINE

by Herman Herst, Jr.

The time was 1946. With the war over, and gasoline rationing ended, we were able to accomplish the dream, we set for ourselves in the days of peace in the 1930s. . . a house in the country, fresh air to breathe, and mosquitoes to swat.

How we chose Shrub Oak is another story, but it had its advantages, being both rural and an hour from Times Square. And it was a historic post office, founded back in the 1830s; and until we moved there, no citizen had ever mailed more than two letters the same day.

That was soon to change. As the largest mail user in town, mostly because of our own auction service (we mailed up to 6000 catalogs for each of a half dozen sales per year) Shrub Oak by 1950 had become a second class Post Office. That too is another story.

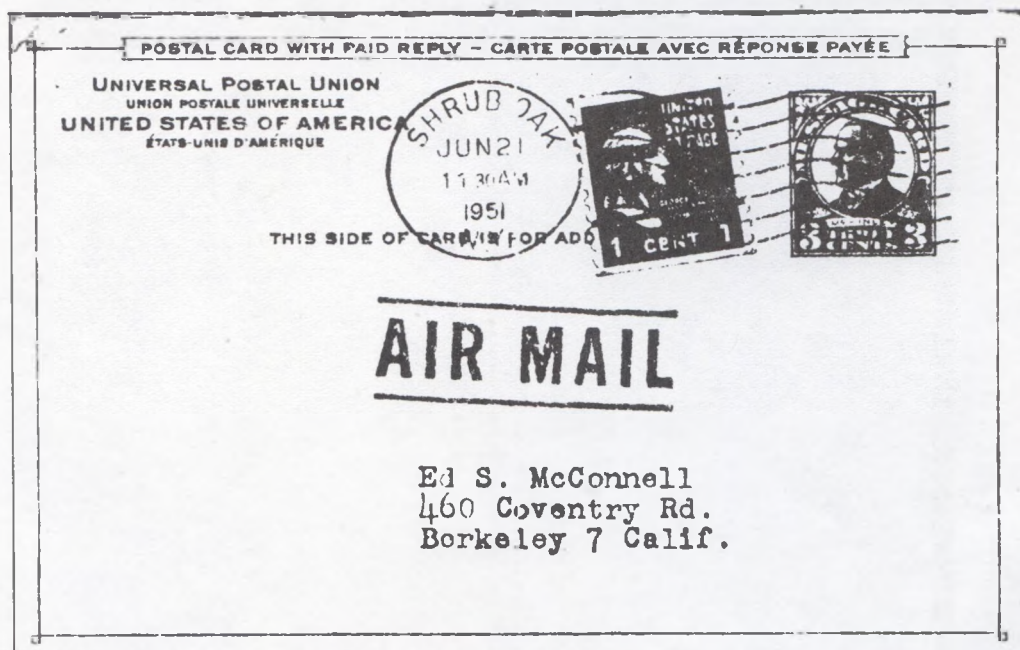
It was soon after we began mailing from Shrub Oak that we had an exciting letter from the late Max G. Johl, one of this country's great philatelic greats. He had received a letter from us, and he was baffled by the machine marking on the stamp.

"Did you know", he wrote us "that your

letter was cancelled on a Columbia-Ielefeld machine?" We did not. Max went on. "Back in 1915 or so, the Post Office Department ordered a handful of these machines, and put them in a few small offices on a trial basis. They were not pleased with the results. They never ordered more, and they were pulled out of most. I was sure that not one was left in the entire country . . . But Shrub Oak is still using it."

We could not get excited. Max asked us to check the nameplate on the machine. True, it read Columbia-Ielefeld just like he said it would. It even had the right year. In the last years of his life, Max was trying to get collectors interested in twentieth century machine markings. He even had started a club, with a monthly magazine, but when Max died, the club died with it.

There was a flurry of interest. Several collectors, perhaps as many as six or seven, wrote us letters with queries they wanted answered. We felt they were writing, not to get our words of wisdom, but to get an example of what well may have been the only Columbia-Ielefeld machine left in the United States. And then Max died, and with him his society died, his publication, and a good deal of the interest in twentieth century machine markings.



We do not even know when the Columbia-Ielefeld in Shrub Oak gave up its ghost, but we like to think that it joined Max Johl in heaven. Anyway, sometime in the 1960s Shrub Oak got another machine, which it is still using today. Nothing unusual about it. We do not even know what happened to the Columbia-Ielefeld. It would be nice were it to have gone to the Smithsonian, or to some philatelic museum, but it undoubtedly was tossed out on a junkpile. There are many in Shrub Oak.

We thought no more about this until just the other day. David Pollard, a member of the U.S.C.C. came upon a postal card we sent to a good friend, Ed McConnell, of Berkeley, California in 1951. We recently heard that Ed McConnell, a fine philatelist and a good friend, recently died, and apparently his philatelic holdings have come on the market. And apparently they contained this old time postal card. We always used stamps or postal stationery of better than ordinary

philatelic value whenever we could.

David Pollard is studying twentieth century markings, and he was unable to determine what sort of machine produced this 1951 postmark. No wonder. Who knows about Columbia-Ielefeld machines today? We were glad to tell Mr. Pollard that he has a rare item. Rare, but not necessarily valuable.

There must be thousands of collectors in this country who received philatelic mail from us between 1946 and the late 1950s or early 1960s. There must be thousands, maybe even tens of thousands, examples of the "rare" Columbia-Ielefeld machine lurking around philatelic holdings, unappreciated and unrecognized.

And believe it or not, the day may come when someone will pay a substantial sum of money for a card or cover with this machine marking. Who knows what will engage the interest of collectors in the future?

Cover Illustrations

Figure 1: It is a bit difficult to interpret the markings on this cover. The blue crayon "66" over "Not Charged" is a file reference number, referring to a box account, according to John L. Gemmill, the well-known expert on Westchester and Furnam Counties, New York, Postal History. Mr. Gemmill's long service in the Post Office and his deep knowledge of postal history have often proved very helpful in interpreting unusual markings.

This cover has a very interesting corner card, and there is the further notation "Official Business." Since this was a State, not a Federal agency, postage had to be paid. No franking privilege was involved.

Figure 2: Letter from New Orleans to Greensboro, Alabama. Carried out of the mail, and postmarked at Greensboro franked with a single Black Jack. Fortunately, there is a dim mailer's handstamp in red, "F. L. Johnson, New Orleans, Dec. 29, 1865."

Rated "Due 2" in manuscript for First Class, including 1¢ penalty. Rerated "Due 3" by Handstamp probably for transportation by river boat, again with the 1¢ penalty.

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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SPECIAL LETTER TO THE EDITOR

From: Gretchen Heather Mitchell

A Review of UP AND DOWN CALIFORNIA

by William H. Brewer

I read this book and was so excited about the postal history in it that I banged at my typewriter immediately upon completing the reading. And I recalled that you were having trouble filling the U.S.C.C. journal, which I think is damn sinful. I know those members are sitting on all sorts of juicy knowledge I would love to know...

They may be selfish, who knows. Me, I'm a blabbermouth, the minute I read something interesting about a cancellation I force it on anyone within three feet. I'm like a child at Christmas...

Editor: Thanks. We agree from reading the review. Would that all members have the interest in making the U.S.C.C. run better. Unfortunately, your editor is only as good as the U.S.C.C. members.

Reviewing a book that was first published in 1930 would normally raise a few eyebrows, but it shouldn't in the world of cancellation collectors. For it is in the musty, dusty caverns of libraries that we find a story behind our postmarks and cancels.

Cancellation handbooks tell us the bare facts. Suffice to say, with a very naked offering of a date and a rarity factor, they seduce us into wanting to know more. I suppose we don't even fully realize just what it is that we want to know, but assuredly it is more than a number and a cash value.

Crazed with this fever to add a story to some California covers, I checked out of the local library, an old volume called, UP AND DOWN CALIFORNIA IN 1860-1864, the journal of William H. Brewer, Professor of Agriculture. I must admit I didn't open it with much enthusiasm. Brewer was an agricultural chemist trekking up and down California doing geological research for the state. I expected a dull account and was really only hunting some clues about old mining towns. I found more, so much more. Brewer told me so much about the mail that I ceased taking notes after the first twenty pages and resolved to reread the book entirely and even try to attain a copy of this delicious

volume.

The book is an accumulation of Brewer's letters from California, rich with descriptions of life in this primitive place and sprinkled seductively with references to the mails.

(San Juan, July 2)

"My last letter was sent three days ago, but I fear for its safety; while the secession troubles last in Missouri the Overland may be troubled. I shall send the next by Wells & Fargo's Express. Way mails in this state are so uncertain that all important are carried by private express in government envelopes. The company sends three-cent letters for ten-cents..."

Upon hearing about the attack on Fort Sumter, Brewer in a patriotic outburst writes, "...their only safety is in the Union. Without protection, without the mails, what would California be?"

The cancellation student might not care to dawdle over Brewer's detailed descriptions of interesting rocks and fearful sightings of grizzly droppings, but there is a banquet of postal information in this book to be savored.

"We are now over sixty miles from San Luis Obispo. Here is a post office, the only one between the latter place and San Juan, a distance of about two hundred miles. We found the "office" at the ranch; not one person could speak a word of English, so we searched out our letters from a handful that lay on the mantel, the whole stock on hand."

The sheer wildness of old California comes alive in descriptions of drunken brawls in Weaver, horse-stealing in Los Angeles and trouble with the Indians in Chico. Brewer has a story to tell about each town and tells it well. For the times, he was exceptionally literate and I think you will find him very entertaining. His accuracy has been checked and found flawless. What Brewer's book offers the cancellation collector is perspective, and quite frankly, a new respect for that ragged cover postmarked, Lassen. "He (Lassen) was murdered about two years ago by the Indians," Brewer tells us.

Cancellation collectors cannot live by catalog alone. We need the likes of a Brewer to give those ink blobs meaning. Postal history books go for an arm and a leg, while the cost of your local library is merely hidden in your

taxes. So before you hock your youngest child to pay for the most recent philatelic book, try the miser's solution and drop in at the library. Brewer is there and many other gentlemen who tell a good story.

NEW LIBRARY SITE

For some time I have been receiving inquiries from members in regard to the U.S.C.C. library and its use. Unfortunately I was unable to provide information as its site was in the process of being moved.

The library is now in the hands of William H. Bauer, Box 721, Wheaton, Illinois 60187. Mr. Bauer is presently in the process of sorting out and cataloguing all of the material in the library. As soon as he has completed the work, we will print an exact record of what is available for distribution in a forthcoming issue.

In regard to the members who have written to me about borrowing material, I would suggest that they might now write directly to Mr. Bauer. I am sure that if he can put his hands on the material that you would like to receive that it will be forwarded to you. At the same time I hope that members will bear with Mr. Bauer in the event that the material is not readily available immediately.

The U.S.C.C. Board of Governors gratefully acknowledges Mr. Bauer's willingness to take on this task and make it once again a viable activity of the organization.

New Members

- 1210 Joseph J. Kocsis, 1507 West Main Street, Medford, ORE 97501
- 1211 James Ronnerud, 1032 Keep St., Box 195, Darlington, WI 53530
- 1212 C. Kilbourne Bump, 78 North Road, Hampden, MA 01036
- 1213 Michael J. Schnur, 281 Garth Road, Building B, Apt. 3G, Scarsdale, NY 10583
- 1214 Susan J. Pojer, 42 Fowler Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701
- 1215 John P. Hayden, P. O. Box 649, Newburyport, MA 01950
- 1216 David Hanschen, 5534 Merrimac, Dallas, TX 75206

SALES CIRCUITS MATERIAL NEEDED

We are now running the sales circuits at peak activity insofar as I can determine over the past few years. Many circuits are now receiving second circuits in the mail before the return of the circuit presently revolving through their group substantially increasing the amount of the material that the average member will see.

However, to keep this quantity of material moving, it is also necessary to receive books. Many members have responded to our quest, probably doubling the amount of members regularly or irregularly submitting covers or stamps. In the past few months we have received covers or stamps from Messrs. William Barlow (almost 50 books), R. S. Boyd, William F. Brockman, Richard Cross, Allen Fracchia, Vernon Grosse, Elwyn Doubleday (almost 40 books), James Hale, Robert Hedges, Herman Herst (over 100 in circulation), William James (some 40 in circulation), James Kesterson, John Koontz, Theodore Mills, Charles Molnar (almost 40 books), G. A. McIntyre (over 100 books in circulation), Richard Nunge, N. Leonard Persson, George H. Phillips (over 50 in circulation), Frank E. Preisler, Charles Reiling, Walter Stabenau, Martin Toly (over 40 in circulation), R. A. Van Delft, Arthur Van Vilissingen, William Walker (almost 70 books), Jon M. Wilson.

HOW ABOUT THE REST OF THE MEMBERS? We need your help to make the sales circuits successful.

- 1217 Richard D. Warren, Box 276, Philomont, VA 22131
- 1218 Charles H. Lang, 18-01 150th St., Whitestone, NY 11357
- 1219 James Inverarity, 1311 N. Orange Dr. -#5, Hollywood, Calif 94305
- 1220 Dennis H. Pack, 1031 9th Avenue, Brookings, SD 57006
- 1221 Ralph H. Smith, 2054 Sharon Road, Charlotte, NC 28207
- 1222 Richard L. Carver, 3408 Somme Avenue, Norfolk, VA 23509
- 1223 Carey Brown, 22 Pearl Street, Oyster Bay, NY 11771

AN UPDATE ON THE "DOANE CANCELLATIONS"

by Edith Doane

Back in the mid-1950s, one of my correspondents was Edwin Payne of Salem, Oregon, and he was very much interested in Postal History. He had read some of my material about the R.F.D. cancellations with a route numeral in the bars and queried me as to whether or not there was any association between them and those that also had a route number in the bars but had a basic circular section for the postmark, whereas the R.F.D. ones were in straight line formats. I replied that I knew of none but was interested in them. At that time I was a member of the Iowa Postal History Society and submitted an article to the Editor about them. Ed Payne was complimentary to me about them and it was he who dubbed them originally "Doane Cancels." I used it for my first article in the Iowa P.H.S. Bulletin dated "May through November 1968" so I know that any one now using that term had originally seen them described in that Bulletin and subsequent ones through January-March 1970. Incidentally when Herschel Rankin became Editor, he ran a review of Types and illustrative data on page 2 of the December 1974 issue. This was the only series in which I boldly used the term "Doane Cancels." It was not because of a relative out there in Salem -- but because I had given Ed Payne the basic facts about the

A MASONIC CANCEL?

by Bob Summerell

This example of the Jefferson postal card of the issue of 1894 was posted on January 23, 1896 at Potter, Nebraska. After previewing my available information concerning the identification of the killer portion of the cancel, a black triad of oblique lines (8 mm in length) oriented at 45 degrees to the left and within two horizontal lines (15 mm in length) I am still uncertain as to its significance. Is this killer simply a geometric type of unusual design, or is it a fraternal symbol -- especially of Masonic character? If the latter, does anyone wish to offer an interpretation of the fraternal (Masonic?) symbolism itself, as this information is necessary for a fuller explanation of this small community's (population of 121 in 1900) postal history. Is there a specialist in Nebraska postal history who has seen/studied a similar cancellation

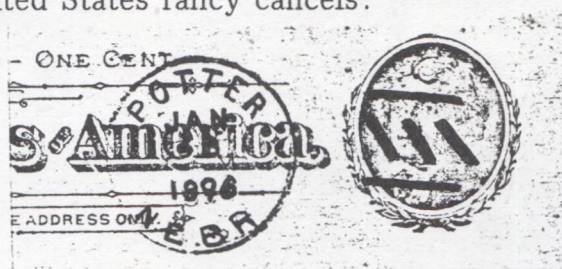
markings, and he named them in that way.

My next series was in the U.S. Cancellation Club News under a more truly descriptive name, "U.S. 20th Century Numeral Cancellations" and you should find these issues were from September 1970 almost continuously through the November 1971 issue. You should have a file of these somewhere, perhaps in the "Library".

My third article on this topic was in "The Vermont Philatelist" between May 1970 and May 1971 and its title continued as "Vermont's 20th Century Numeral Cancellations". In the meanwhile I have a very sizeable reference collection of them and keep hearing from other postal historians but I always know if reference is made to the "Doane Cancels" that the writer first learned about them from the Iowa series.

The best modern article about these markings is by Richard Helbeck, editor of the Postal History Journal, in its May 1976 issue. The cover reproduces many examples of these Alaska markings and he quotes me and credits me for the basic information and data that he shows and he calls them once again "Doane Cancellations". This is "LAPOSTA", the research journal of the Mountain and Desert West P.H.R.S. Vol. 7, No. 2

within Cheyenne County, where Potter is located? I would especially appreciate any guidelines from the readership regarding obvious distinctions within the somewhat vague generic term of "Masonic" cancel that would permit more precision in identifying the specific fraternal symbolized in any given cancel. For example, what distinguishes cancels of strict Masonic intent and Odd Fellow types? Any help would, I feel, contribute to a fascinating, yet I'm finding, considerably nebulous area in the study of United States fancy cancels.



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REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

At the annual meeting of the U.S.C.C. on October 7, 1977, in Chicago, the Nominating Committee presented its list of candidates for officers and the Board of Governors for the next two years. Chairman William Bauer announced that the names of the new officers were:

President.....Paul Wolf
 1st Vice President.....William Rapp
 2nd Vice President.....William H. Bauer
 Secretary-Treasurer.....James E. Challenger
 Governor at Large.....Herman Herst, Jr.
 Director.....Hubert C. Skinner

The Cancellation Club News congratulates the new officers. We hope that the next two years will be a period of success and accomplishment for both these individuals and for the U.S.C.C. itself. We also express our gratitude to the Nominating Committee and to Chairman Bauer for the hours of hard work and thought they put into their task.

AIRPEX II AWARD WINNERS

At the recent stamp exhibition, AIRPEX II, the U.S.C.C. award was won by Harry Kennedy for "Kansas Ghost Town's - D.P.O.'s". Other winners included a Third in the Ohio Postal History Exhibits for Charles Hall, for "Ohio Fairs and Expositions".

ORCOPEX '77 AWARD WINNERS

Marie Henline, awards chairman, announces that Orcopex '77 was a great success. The "Gold" award winners include: William F. Rapp, "Nebraska Postal History 1854-1899", and Marie Henline, "100 years of U.S. Postal Cards". A "Vermeil" award was won by D. L. Kelley, "U.S. 19th Century Fancy Cancels". Mr. Kelley also won the Novice Trophy and the U.S. Cancellation Certificate.



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DILATORY SALES CIRCUIT MEMBERS

The Board of Governors has recently approved the instigation of a policy to determine if we can get our sales circuits to move faster. It is based on the following procedures.

Members have been required under the sales circuit rules to send circuits on to the next member within ten days of receipt. If a circuit has been held for 30 days, the secretary is required to provide notice to the member by mail. If held for 60, to the president.

Under the new procedure the computer will keep a record of those members who fail to send circuits on with dispatch. If the member is notified once, it will be considered a warning. If a second notice on that circuit

or any other circuit is sent to the member, then it will be grounds for dropping the member from the circuit (unusual circumstances obviously controlling).

Personally I am sorry to find it necessary to adopt such a drastic procedure. However, in the year and almost one half in which I have been in this position, it has been the same six to eight members who continually hold up the circuits for the other members. It does not seem fair that the same 350 who are circuit recipients should be penalized by the action of about a half dozen plus members.

If there is disagreement or other suggestions, please write to me or directly to the board in this regard.

QUESTION CORNER

FROM: Theodore O. Mills:

I have a problem maybe the membership can answer for me.

Recently I requested information from the Civil Archives in Washington, D. C. about West Point, Mississippi.

Within a short time they informed me that West Point, Mississippi was established on Jan. 21, 1876 with Frank S. Pate their first Postmaster.

After reading this I remembered I had an off cover copy of Scott #94 with a Fancy Cancel (H-S. 1733) on it supposedly from West Point, Mississippi. So I checked my library and this is what I found:

HERST-ZARESKI lists it as #437 on a Scott #65

HERST-SAMPSON lists it as #1733 on a Scott #65

BILLIG's HANDBOOK Vol. 33 lists it as #1733 on a Scott #26

My copy which is enclosed is on a Scott #94.



My problem is: would such a Cancel be used for 19 years before there was a Post Office or would the #65's and #94's be still in use and the #26 was just made up for a philatelist as a favor or are the records in Washington wrong?

FROM: Paul M. Johnson

I am wondering if there is come publication available that would give a beginner some sort of general information. I recently purchased the new U. P. S. S. book on Leavitt cancellations, have picked up a little information on machine cancels but find I just haven't enough information. For example, I have a Scott UX 7 with a Philadelphia post mark like so:



Does the "G" stand for a Sub Station or a cancellation clerk?

Editor: Messrs. McGee/Koontz; Can you help?

WANT ADS

19th Century GEORGIA covers Stampless, Stamped, and Confederate

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ARTICLES NEEDED FOR NEWSLETTER

Do you have a pet project, a brainstorm, an exciting discovery, or a tantalizing tidbit? Share it with other member of the U.S.C.C. We cannot produce an informative and interesting Cancellation Club News without a pool of resources from which to draw. We need the contributions of all our members to make the News the publication that it should be. There must be a closet writer out there, secretly waiting to see his or her name in print. Here is your chance. Manuscripts on all topics are welcomed and eagerly awaited. We cannot serve the interests and demands of Club members unless everyone pitches in to make the News an up-to-date and information-filled publication. Please submit manuscripts to U.S.C.C., Box 83, Winnetka, Illinois 60093.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sir:

I would like to wish you and the committee all the best for the future and present re-organization of the USCC.

Regarding the attraction of contributors to the sales packet, I wonder if six month circuits, 2 day viewing periods and interim payments might twist the arms of those with material to circulate in your circuits. The foregoing seems to be the trend over here although local societies have a 3 day viewing period. The sales charges vary from 7 1/2% to 10%.

If you have any stampless material for sale in a personal basis I shall look forward to hearing from you. Regarding condition, prefer fine to very fine.

I like the format of the News as it has been published since I became a member in 1967 or 1968. Perhaps one could attract more advertisers (dealers) and at the same time create a classified column of for sale, wants, etc. for members. The content of the News must be dependent on members.

Suzanne Nicholson

Editor's Reply: Dealers - Anyone interested in this stampless query? Re classified - do not believe it is necessary as regular ads are only \$1.00 per inch.

MACHINE CANCEL CIRCUITS

To date two mailings have been made on the machine cancel circuit. It seems to have been an enormous success as I have received reports from members that most of the material was gone by the time it reached them. We will therefore split up the circuit into two separate circuits for future mailings. We also have almost enough members to support a third circuit and perhaps it will also be instituted by the time that the next circuit is ready to send out.

Problem: The amount of purchases and requests was not anticipated. We have been kept in material primarily by Messrs. Barlow, McGee, Phillips and Toly. We are almost out.

Can anyone else furnish us with the needed books to keep these circuits going? How about all of the members that asked to be in the circuits?

MACHINE CANCEL ARTICLE REPRINTS

I have very carefully assessed the past issues on hand of the Newsletters. In some cases we have well over 100 copies in stock. In others none.

Why? Machine cancels. While I am knowledgeable in this area, there seems to be a great demand for the material and information. (e.g. the demand for the machine cancel circuits and the fact that the U.S.C.C. machine cancel books are out of print (except the International Book with ten copies left with monthly requests; soon to deplete). Thus, some months ago I announced that I would attempt to reprint articles from old issues. My announcement met with a deep thud with practically no pro or contra response. However, someone must want the machine cancel data which is not available as our Newsletters are gone. Thus I will begin on an irregular basis (dependent on space) printing the articles from previous Newsletters. If there are any requests for those wanted first, please let me know.

COLORADO POSTMARKS BOOK PUBLISHED

A new book entitled Colorado Territorial and Preterritorial Postmarks by David L. Jarrett has just been published by the Chicago Collectors Club.

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Armstrong, U.S. Definitives 1922-1938	10.00
Armstrong, Washington-Franklins 1903-1921	10.00
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Ashbrook, U.S. 10¢ Issue of 1855-57, Regular \$1.50, autographed	22.50
Baker, The Postal History of Indiana, 2 vols.	75.00
Barrett, U.S. 3¢ War & Victory	10.00
Blake-Davis, Boston Postmarks to 1890, Quarterman Reprint	30.00
Boggs, Early America Perforating Machines 1857-1867	5.00
Boggs, Robert Morris, Postmaster of New York	35.00
Brazer, Price List of Essays & Proofs, #21, 1956	5.00
Brazer, Essays & Proofs of the 1847 Issue	8.00
Brazer, Essays & Proofs of the Trans-Mississippi Issue	8.00
Brazer, Essays for U.S. Postage Stamps, Quarterman Reprint	25.00
Brookman, 19th Century U.S. Postage Stamps, 3 vols.	125.00
Chase, U.S. 3¢ 1851-57 Issue, Quarterman Reprint	30.00
Cole, Michigan Postal Markings	15.00
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