



Cancellation Club NEWS

Vol. 15 No. 5 Whole No. 163 September, 1980

SPECIAL BULLETIN:

ALYCE EVANS -- NEW EDITOR
OF THE U.S.C.C. NEWSLETTER

For the past five years I have had the sole responsibility for the layout, design, and production of the U.S.C.C. Newsletter, sales circuits and correspondence, (excluding membership, library, and awards).

Two issues ago I wrote an editorial stating the problems, after writing a letter to the Board of Governors detailing these problems as I saw them in the U.S.C.C. The response -- Mr. Bauer wrote indicating perhaps the U.S.C.C. should be dissolved. (See Page 6) A second letter from Mr. Bauer questioned my handling of some of the U.S.C.C. activities. Subsequently an informal meeting took place between Mr. Bauer, Mr. Wolf, and I believe Mr. Skinner (without notice to me). In that meeting, a decision was made to appoint Ms. Alyce Evans as the corresponding secretary for the U.S.C.C. She is now also the new editor of this newsletter.

We certainly hope that this change will be of benefit to the club, and hopefully that Ms. Evans, with her wide friendship in the philatelic world and her depth of expertise and interest will be better able to procure writers for the Newsletter. I appreciate the opportunity that I have had to be of service to the U.S.C.C. for these past five years. I would like to give a special "thank you" to Herman "Pat" Herst, for all of the help that he has given me. He is the only board member who has been continually a help throughout the entire period.

In conclusion, I wish Alyce the very best of luck in her new endeavor, and request that all club members direct all future correspondence (except sales circuits) and data for the newsletter to her at the address printed below.

Sincerely,

The Editor

Correspondence/Newsletter Addresses

Alyce Evans
Corresponding Secretary/Editor
P.O. Box 286
Bonsall, California 92003

Sales Circuits

P.O. Box 83
Winnetka, Illinois 60093



THE GOOD OLD DAYS

by Paul J. Wolf

Today we face ever-increasing charges for postal service, and the mails take ever longer to get through. It is obvious that the present postal service believes that "less is more," when it comes to delivery!

Perhaps one of the best periods for quality of service was around the turn of the Century. There were fast trains that ran on time. The Post Office and its people took pride in what they did, and "Service" meant something. The famous quote from the Greek philosopher that "Neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds" actually meant something. Today we can, all too frequently, ask the question to which we will not get an answer: If none of the above are slowing the mails, what is?

Nowadays, air service between London and New York takes 5 1/2 hours by frequently scheduled jet planes. Then why does airmail so often take 8 days?

Up to about the early 1950's, there were 5-day boats plying the Atlantic, carrying the mails, and one could depend on a

THE GOOD OLD DAYS (cont'd)

letter by sea reaching its addressee on the other side on the 6th day. If you make the mistake of using sea mail today, you will quickly find that things have changed. Now you can figure 8 weeks -- not days -- for your missive to arrive at its destination. If it is to or from a more distant location, such as Cape of Good Hope, up to 12 weeks can be expected.

There are many interesting covers available from the period of good service around the turn of the Century and it is my purpose to show a selection of these, usually with interesting postal markings.

Herewith are two delightful covers, both from the Office of the Western Land Agent, Northern Pacific Railway Co., Tacoma, Washington. Each is franked by a 2¢ Trans-Mississippi stamp cancelled by the Tacoma Involute Flag on December 1, 1898. Both failed to find their addressee and were "Returned to Writer" by differing Pointing Hand handstamps.

The September 14th letter was addressed to Kelso, Washington, which it reached, according to a backstamp, on September 15. Unable to be delivered, it was marked with the Pointing Hand and returned. A second strike of the Tacoma Involute Flag, type B44, is a receiving backstamp and shows the date October 4th. (See figure 1)

The second letter, from Tacoma to Seattle, went out December 1st, reaching Seattle the next morning, December 2nd, as a receiving handstamp on the face shows. Also undeliverable, it was marked for return on December 26th, reached Tacoma on December 27th and received the receiving handstamp of the Northern Pacific Railway Company, Office of Western Land Agent, the same day. (See figure 2)

Nowadays, the postal service will make quite an effort not to datestamp mail, so that it becomes difficult if not impossible for an irate recipient to ascertain when an item entered the mail stream, and postal management is able to retreat behind the facade of "don't know, can't tell from the postmark," when queried.

How different in the Good Old Days!



**NEW WRITERS
NEEDED
SUBMIT YOUR
ARTICLES NOW**

Form L. D. 17-9-98-10M
If not delivered within 20 days to be returned to
**WESTERN LAND AGENT,
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.,
Tacoma, Wash.**

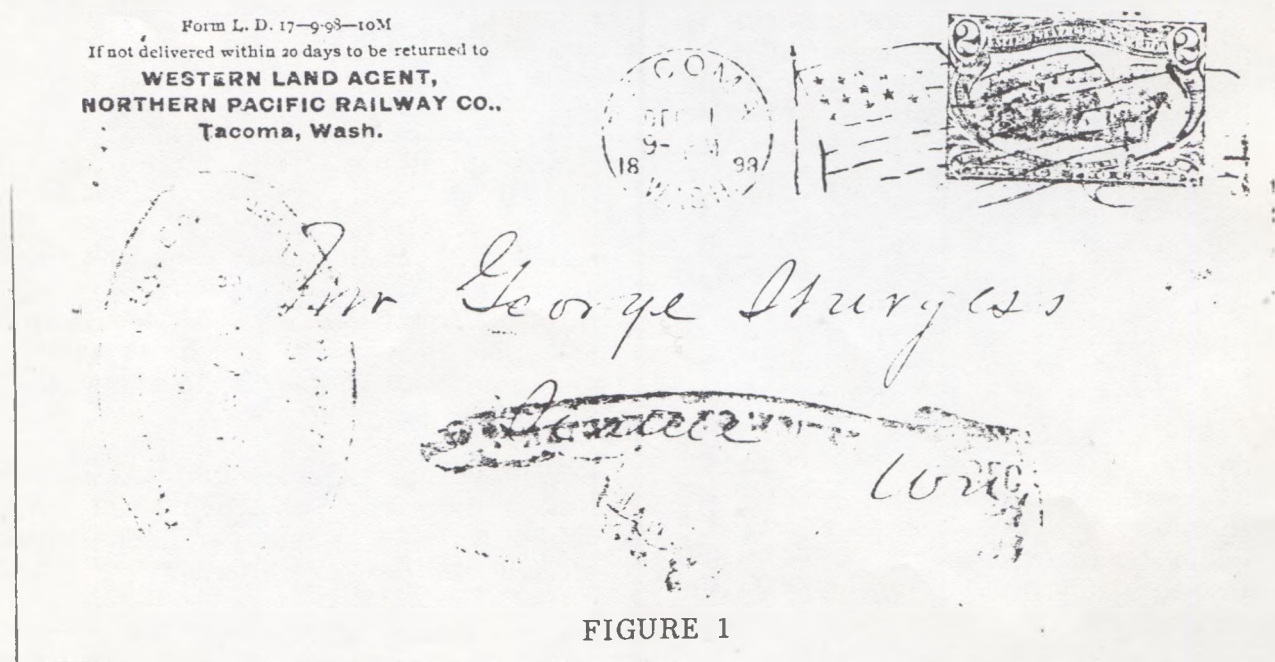
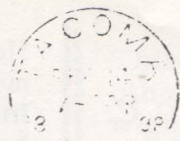


FIGURE 1

Form L. D. 17-493-16M
 If not delivered within 20 days to be returned to
**WESTERN LAND AGENT,
 NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY CO.,
 Tacoma, Wash.**



Truman D. Collins

Kelso

Miss

FIGURE 2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

DEAR EDITOR:

From my viewpoint, "circuit material" is not the answer to an effective U.S.C.C. since, even if I wanted it and got it (which I don't) it would have no durable value such as a good, regular publication would have. If it takes the collective efforts of several groups to make one good publication, so be it. I recall the APA a long while ago "borrowed" space in one or two other publications and had a section for its own members' interests. The Trans-Miss. Society for years had a piece of McKeels. Nothing wrong with this sort of thing. I would recommend that the Board get some discussion going and see what could be worked out. As for circuits, the high mailing cost, lack of selectivity, limitations of mailing size, etc. just about rule this out as a major factor when compared to attendance at a good stamp show bourse.

Sincerely,

R. D. Warren

EDITOR NOTE: Regarding Mr. Warren's comments, I agree with many of them. However, it is quite difficult to get a Board of Governors together for any sensible discussions when they are scattered all over the country. We have never had more than two at any meeting because

residences include homes in Montana, Illinois, Nebraska, Louisiana and Florida. This situation makes a meeting difficult.

With respect to circuits, I would like to take exception to your comments. In my opinion, the circuits do not contain material of the quality that was available five years ago. Nevertheless they provide the member with an opportunity to examine material at his/her leisure -- and undoubtedly avoid impulsive buying decisions sometimes found at a bourse (buy before someone else gets it). Almost all of the circuits sell out over 50% of the material, with the better ones being 80-90% sold out (a difficult task because any circuit returned to the U.S.C.C. with over 50% sold will be retired -- and therefore it must sell out on the individual circuit). The only exceptions are First Day Covers, Stampless Covers, Ship Covers -- and total junk for the most part. I think that this success is an excellent reason to continue the circuits.

U. S. C. C. OFFICERS

Paul Wolf	President
William Rapp	1st Vice President
William H. Bauer	2nd Vice President
Herman Herst, Jr.	Governor at Large
Hubert C. Skinner	Director
Alyce Evans	Corresponding Secretary

Letters..(cont'd)

DEAR EDITOR:

Your review of five years of the U.S.C.C. certainly focuses on a few major problems.

First is the need of more material in more circuits -- a lot more of it. Why don't members put more material into the circuits, or "why don't I put ANY material into the circuits?" In my case it is because the only 19th Century material I own is material I have purchased for my own collection, therefore I have no duplicates to sell. It is possible that most members are in this same situation. This, of course, raises the question -- where do the "same 20 members" get all the material that THEY put into the circuits? There must be some very interesting stories as to how they acquire this material, especially when a circuit of 19th Century covers indicates they all came from the same source. How do they FIND those sources? Where could I and other members like me look in the hope of ferreting out some such material? Is it acquired merely by buying other people's collections? I sure would like to read a few articles by those 20 members explaining HOW they acquire this material.

You state that some members refuse to pay the \$200 insurance. Such members should be removed from all future circuits until they cover those losses themselves. Circuits should be sent ONLY to those members who will abide by the club's rules. This procedure should be implemented immediately!

Next is the problem of 19th Century covers being purchased so rapidly. This would seem to indicate that we could use a few articles by some of the more knowledgeable members as to how to price material. When material moves extremely fast, that should be telling us SOMETHING! (Nuff Said)

Next is your concern about the limited supply of articles to publish. Perhaps there needs to be a bit less emphasis on getting out a Newsletter on time. If enough material isn't received, plan for a later edition. No one should be upset about any such delays.

Has the club ever considered running a mail auction? This could stimulate a lot of interest and possibly even get a lot more better out in the open for sale. Since it would require an awful lot of work to make it run smoothly, and a great deal of expertise to properly describe the material, there would definitely HAVE to be a commission on every sale, and that commission to go to the person running it. Our club has the best man there is to run such an auction, if he could just be persuaded to do it.

There are only two things that would give me more pleasure in my club membership -- more circuits more frequently -- and some real informative articles by the "same 20 members" as to how to go about FINDING material so that I too could contribute to the circuits.

Very truly,

Don Kaelin

EDITOR NOTE: How do people find sources? The principal problem is tied to the reluctance of most people to divulge them. If any member would like to write on fortuitous sources finding, we will be happy to publish the article.

Re the auction. I suggested this activity earlier to the Board of Governors, which rejected it. I now believe that the Board of Governors was probably correct. An auction would result in the decreased availability of the better material in the circuits and would require more work for your editor (or alternatively the enlistment of help from another source). I remain open to the possibility, and would be happy to submit a firm suggestion to the Board (those personally less in favor at this juncture).

Correspondence/Newsletter Addresses

Alyce Evans
Corresponding Secretary/Editor
P.O. Box 286
Bonsall, California 92003

More Letters..

DEAR EDITOR:

I am writing this in response to your article "Five Years of the U.S.C.C."

First, I've been a member of U.S.C.C. off and on for about seven years and I've seen a lot of changes in our society. I will try to be as objective as I can with my comments so possibly they might be of assistance to you and the U.S.C.C.

1. It is my opinion that most people join a group like U.S.C.C. for what it will do for them and not what they can do for it. It is this way with every organization I've ever belonged to, both Philatelic and Non-Philatelic.

If we could come up with a solution to this, we could patent it and become rich selling it.

2. Most people don't feel they have the knowledge or ability to present articles for publication.
3. Most people don't have an abundance of material so that they can sell it.

These seem to me to be the three major problems that our club faces.

If there is a solution to the problem this is the only answer that I can come up with. As most people won't get too involved in anything, the only answer is to increase membership. I think that there is a definite need for the U.S.C.C. and it should be pushed and promoted as much as possible. I don't know if we have a Publicity Director or if it is another one of your jobs but I do think it should be a separate job, so that the person has nothing else to do. The groups that I belong to that are growing the fastest are the ones that you read about in other publications. I think this will increase membership which can only help, because without growth we will die.

Second, with increased membership we should get more people who are willing to contribute articles for the "News". An idea that might help to get other people involved would be to start a "My Favorite Cancel" contest. This could be like the "My Favorite Cover" contest. This was in the APS Journal.

Third, I don't have any answers to this other than an increase in membership might help this too.

These are my comments and I hope they might help. If there is anything that I can do to help you and the U.S.C.C. just ask. I don't want to see our group die because it is too good and needed too much.

Sincerely,

Jim Etherton

Dear Jim:

Enjoyed the U.S.C.C. bulletin. You out-did yourself. Just cannot believe it is 5 years since you took over. The years go by much too quickly.

I did a full page ad for the U.S.C.C. and sent it to Siegel and Kaufmann for the back page of their auction cats. Paul Wolf will process the requests that come in for membership. It ought to be a real shot in the arm.

Good luck and best regards,

Herman (Pat) Herst, Jr.

EDITOR NOTE: Thanks Pat. Without the continuing help of people like yourself, we could not have survived the past five years. Even today, you are still the largest contributor to the U.S.C.C. circuits -- you are the only person who has remained on the Board of Governors throughout the entire period -- and who was there before I came. Again, many thanks for your help.



SALES CIRCUITS NEEDED

send to:

Sales Circuits
P.O. Box 83
Winnetka, Illinois 60093

LETTERS..

Gentlemen:

I have three times read the (U.S.C.C. Secretary's) letter of June 1, and each time come to the unhappy conclusion that perhaps the U.S. Cancellation Club is no longer a viable organization. It would appear that too few of our members are willing or able to contribute their efforts to the Society -- the Journal and circuits.

Therefore, I believe that we should take the following actions:

1. Continue to publish the remaining issues of the current volume of the Cancellation Club News. This may be difficult and may require each of us to contribute something, no matter how mundane.

2. In the next issue, lay it on the line plainly, with a full page, capital letters, that if by November 1, there is no sufficient material on hand to continue the publication of the bulletin through 1981, then the organization will disband at the end of this year. An alternative is to make that decision now, without further hassle.

If a decision is made to disband, then we must determine the manner of disposal of Society assets; The Library and the funds; to which I would propose the following.

1: Sale Division: the return of all sales books and the payment of all funds due to participating members. The remaining funds, after payment of any other Society obligations, to be contributed to the American Philatelic Research Library and the Western Philatelic Library on a 2/3, 1/3 division.

I realize that this is a drastic step, but if there is no sufficient desire within the membership to support the Societie's activities, without the continual pleadings, then it is useless to prolong the agony.

2: That the contents of the Library be offered on a selection basis to:

- a. The American Philatelic Research Library
- b. The Western Philatelic Research Library
- c. The Chicago Collectors Club Library
- d. The Collectors Club of New York Library

Regards,

W.H. Bauer

Dear Editor:

Please find the enclosed photo copy of a cover I recently purchased. Can anyone help with the explanation of a very unusual postmark on the cover.

The postmark reminds me of the much later sea post cancellations. This postmark I just can not place. Everything else about the cover seems O.K., but this postmark which I do not understand, and cannot recall seeing it, anywhere before.

Again I ask can anyone help? Perhaps a student from the Germany Society can help. Surely, we must have a member who knows something about it. Any and all help will be greatly appreciated.

Should I keep this cover or destroy it?

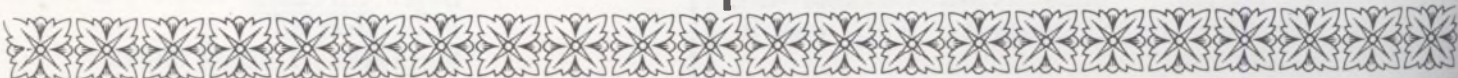
Sincerely,

Henry Nowak

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

Published six times a year: January, March, May, July, September and November by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and set free to members. Back numbers \$1.00 each.

Subscription price to non-members: \$6.00 per year.



MORE LETTERS ..

DEAR EDITOR:

I think a poll is needed to determine the collecting interests of the membership. Then, regular columns written around those interests. I, or someone better qualified, to edit 19th Century fancies, someone like Bill Walker to update the 20th, then there's the stampless etc. etc. This "spokesman" would be responsible for integrating his specialized group, and reporting on it, much like the Classics Society handles their studies, under the various issues. Sounds simple.

Who implements such ideas? I mean, a butler "buttles", an editor "edits" (that is, if he's given anything TO edit), what do "Officers", V.P.'s, etc., etc. do? Or is their role merely perfunctory? Or is it the responsibility of the members? I should think an editor wears enough hats, without the additional burden of restructuring.

Your possible solution, to "merge" will probably be met with negativism. SPA would seem the obvious choice (to me) in this event. A 19th Century fancy devotee would no doubt opt to align with the Classics Group and there we go splintered! Splintered into oblivion, while

the fakers go unchecked, the "orphans" remain unidentified, and (since the Skinner book stops with the 1869 issue), the banknotes hang in limbo!

I've always felt we should contact the various state societies...practically each state has one...and have them work up their particular state, much as the Wisconsin Society did on their fancy cancels. We could act as a "clearing house" for the whole. In this respect, we will have "merged" and still retained our identity. We would then, actually be merged regionally.

A lot of members probably were lost because of a lack of published material. Dealers constantly bemoan the fact they cannot find information on the various cancels. I wonder what percent of those lost, were fancy cancel collectors?

Don't give up yet, Jim. The Club needs your talents for survival. You have my 100% support, in whatever way I may be useful. There are no encroachments on my time, and no one, but no one, could possibly be more dedicated in the pursuit of keeping this Club alive!!!

Optimistically, and for Love
of a Cancel,
Alyce Evans

Front of Buff Colored Envelope.

America in Same Manuscript.



STAMP IS SCOTT NO.
223, ISSUED IN
1890
ALL MARKINGS IN
BLACK, SMALL
SINGLE LINE
CIRCULAR POSTMARK
U.S. GERMAN
MAY 8
94

ADDRESSED IN
MANUSCRIPT
MR. DAVE GREEN
CHATTANOOGA
TENN

FIGURE 3 (refer to Nowak letter, page 6)

FOR THE LOVE OF A CANCEL

Update on



The Camouflaged Cat by Alyce Evans

In the February 27, 1954 issue of "Weekly Philatelic Gossip", a column by Larie Konikoff on "U.S. 20th Century Fancies" pictured over thirty fancy cancels originating from Lakewood, Illinois. One of these holds special interest for us as it is the same "spray of leaves" shown in our May '80 article, (ex. 3). It is backstamped and canceled in red and dated 5-30-32.

We queried our 20th Century expert, Bill Walker and he sent the above tracing which is the exact size as the one on our 3¢ 1869 example. Bill has this on a registered cover, dated 5-30-34, and he states the cancel occurs in purple, blue and red.

Confronted with this new data, which in no way exactly thrilled us, we looked for some answers other than the obvious, i.e. the cancel was spurious, or was used at a much later date in the 20th Century. We know that many of the fancies carved in the depression era were done by collectors themselves, from a favorite design of the previous century, to be placed on a favorite stamp of their own choosing, and it too, might be from the previous century. These were presented to the postmaster who accepted them gladly. In many cases their compensation consisted of revenue from stamps sold, and many with small fourth class post offices augmented their meagre incomes by offering fancy cancels to collectors. Times were hard, and stamps were cheap, many of the 19th century ones going at face (even today, we buy the commems of the 30's and 40's at face and use on our philatelic mail).

To explain the "mirror image" of ex. 3, a postmaster or collector could have copied ex. 2, and the result would have shown in reverse. The purplish ink would have been

the result of using alternately the red and blue stamp pads. The "oily appearance" might be due to the incompatibility of the pigments in the two inks.

Until a reader finds a 19th century cover, we rest our case.

Letters..(cont'd)

DEAR EDITOR:

I would like to sell my collection of "Club News". This material is in excellent condition starting with January, 1961, to date.

Only copies missing are:

January, 1969
July - September, 1975 -- Six in All
June, November, 1976

Have two copies of:

July, 1958
November, 1958
September, 1959
November, 1959

Total of around 105 issues in all.

Can you suggest best the way to dispose of this excellent material?

To answer your questions there is no reason to renew my membership.

I would be happy to have any suggestion from you.

Most sincerely,

Marcia N. Ruhl
P.O. Box 88
Geneva, Ohio 44041

EDITOR: Any member interested, please contact Ms. Ruhl directly.



ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page	\$25.00
Half Page	\$12.00
Quarter Page	\$ 7.00
Column Inch	\$ 2.00