



# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 15, NO. 6

WHOLE NO. 164

NOVEMBER 1980

## "RARE TURKEYS"

### Thanksgiving Day Covers

by William C. Walker

Collectors of 20th century U.S. Fancy Cancels are familiar with the beautiful and colorful cancels inspired by our national holidays. Thanksgiving Day was no exception. Postmasters of a number of towns commemorated the event in the late 1920s and early 1930s with cancels associated with this holiday.

Registered covers from Turkey, Ark. (Fig. 1) show a fat turkey in purple or blue. Turkey, N.C. in 1929 and 1930 featured a smaller bird in magenta and also in blue-grey. Turkey, Tex. in which the same years had a still different turkey which is to be found in black or purple on registered covers. Turkey City, Pa., not to be outdone, in 1932 and 1933 came up with a gorgeous gobbler which can be found in green, purple and blue. Sometimes it is "framed" and examples are known where the turkeys are sitting on a fence, with the turkeys in green and the fence in magenta.

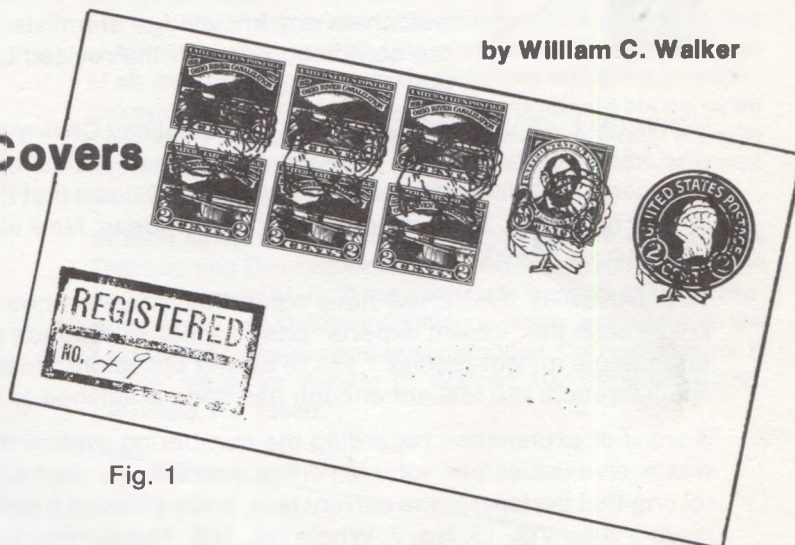
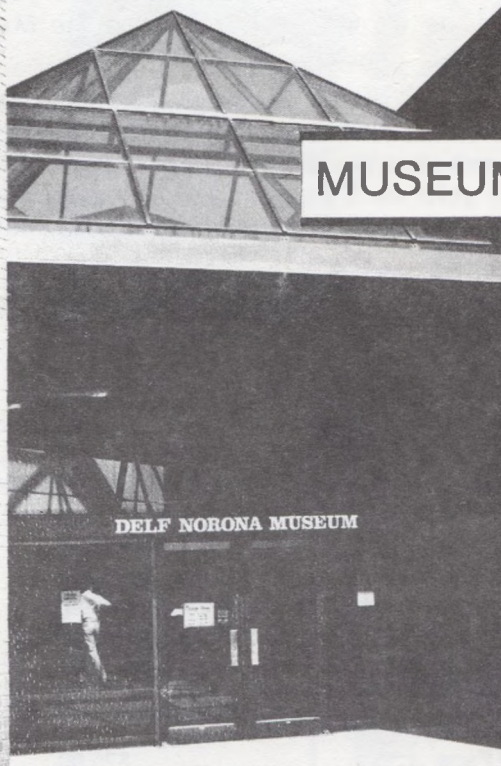


Fig. 1

Dr. B. R. Bales, originator of a substantial number of fancy cancels persuaded the postmaster of Turkey Creek, Fla. to

*Continued on page 3*

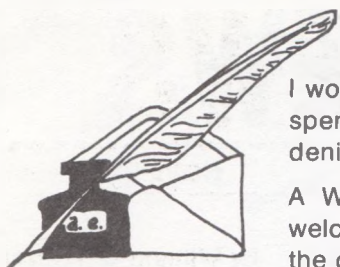
## MUSEUM HONORS APS HALL OF FAMER



Located within the city of Moundsville, W.Va. is the largest of all burial mounds in the western hemisphere, called Grave Creek Mound. Built by the Adena people 4,000 years ago, this culture was studied and its artifacts collected and preserved by a renowned philatelist, Delf Norona.

Recently, a 25,000 sq. foot museum at a cost of almost two million dollars was built on the Grave Creek site. The building has been named Delf Norona Museum (pictured) in honor of the man who was so prominent in the preservation of the history housed there. Mr. Norona authored many philatelic articles and is probably best remembered for his "Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History." Following his death in 1974, he was elected to the APS Hall of Fame as a Distinguished Postal Historian, Researcher, Author, in 1975.





I would like to express my appreciation to our previous editor for the *many* hours he has spent over the past five years in publishing this newsletter. Thank you, Jim, for those hours denied your family and business, in accomplishing this task.

A WARM WELCOME to *Bill Walker*, our new 20th Century Cancellation Editor. Bill welcomes any knowledge of unlisted cancels, either tracings or xeroxes, as he is nearing the completion date of the revised Loso-DeWindt Book, and he would like to be as complete as possible.

HOWARD L. ROSENBERG IS OUR new Publicity Chairman. If you've won an award, or are aware of a member who has; if you've had an article that has been published; if you hold an office in any philatelic organization, then send the information to Howard and he will see that it gets published. We need the exposure. It helps bring in new members. New members bring new ideas. New ideas make this a better Club. His address is Box 951, Chicago, Ill. 60690.

THE JANUARY ISSUE will have some tips for us on how to protect ourselves from buying spurious material. We've seen the "instant experts" pass opinion in seconds on an item. What did they look for, how much of it was attributable to "gut-feeling"? We're asking collectors, dealers and experts to share their secrets, in their field of specialization. We feel not enough has been published to help the beginner in a new field or the new collector.

A word of explanation regarding the numbering system of our publication: The system used in the early years was twelve issues per volume, with a new volume starting at the beginning of each even-numbered year. Projecting that system for the current Nov. issue gives us a designation of Vol. 15, No. 6, Whole No. 164. The Jan. '81 issue will be Vol. 15, No. 7, Whole No. 165. The numbering of the pages is consecutive, starting over with each new volume. The whole number is the total number of issues published to date.

Share your favorite cancel in "MY FAVORITE CANCEL" contest. This new feature will start in January and run all year, and it will star YOUR favorite cancel! So make a photo copy of your favorite item and tell us why it holds so much interest for you. We'll have the members pick the winner who will receive one year's free membership and a box of organically grown avocados.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS are once more being issued. Your '81 paid up dues card is enclosed with this issue, saving the cost of a separate mailing. Simply replace the card with a \$6.00 check in the envelope provided. If your collecting interests have changed, please include this information, as we will begin preparing the May membership roster with collecting interests soon.

Upon completion of a novel, Virginia Woolf would sink into the blackest of depressions while awaiting "peer approval." And as I wrap up this first issue, while certainly not depressed, I do admit to a wee bit of apprehension. I'd previously thought (if, indeed, I'd thought of it at all) a "paste-up" was what they did on the wall of the P.O. to the "10-Most-Wanted"! Fortunately, I have a friend in graphics who gave me a crash course in copyart and layout. Poor Virginia! If her book was a success she would agonize, "When people praise me, I don't quite know what to say. If they don't that's not much fun either."

If I've done anything that merits your approval, it needs no comment, however, constructive criticism is welcomed.

With best philatelic wishes,

*Alyce*

### THE U. S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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## Thanksgiving Day Covers

Continued from page 1

register covers with a turkey in brown. Bloomingdale, Ill. favored collectors with a cancel depicting a pilgrim with a gun, with which he presumably "got his bird." This cover is only known first class, and only in dull blue.

Schererville, Ind., in 1930 gave us a purple bird that is distinguishable from the one found on Turkey City, Pa. covers.

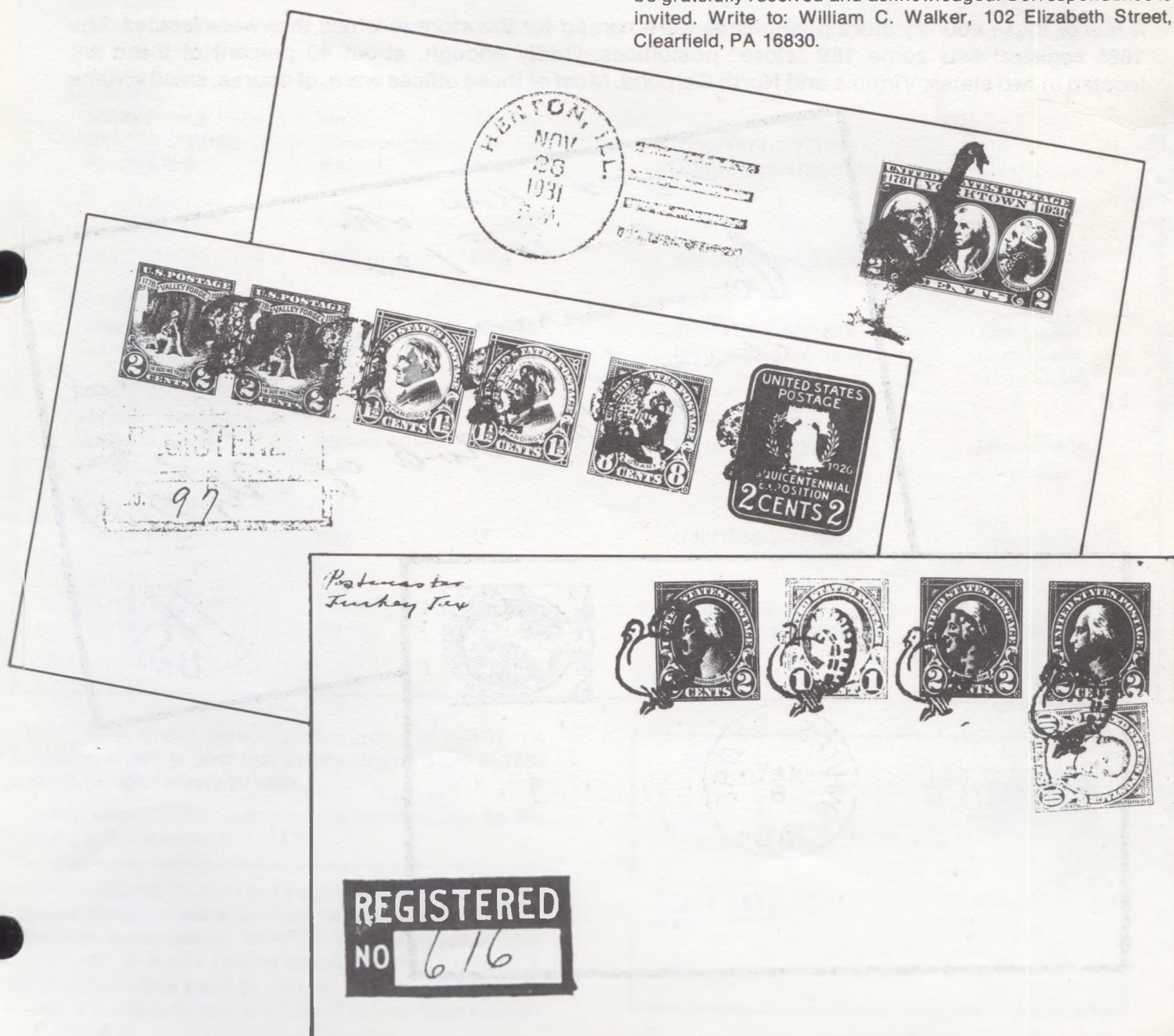
Possibly the most rare turkey of all is a silhouette of a very large turkey cancel which originated in Talcville, N.Y. In 1929 "about four" registered covers were serviced. Information is needed as to the whereabouts of these covers mentioned in the Loso-DeWindt 20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancellations.

Probably the most common fancy Thanksgiving Day cancel from this period is the one from Ed, Ky. For three years, starting in 1932, the postmaster, E. S. True, offered a

representation of a turkey on first class or registered covers. (This enterprising gentleman went so far as to send out "samples" of his wares, the intent being to augment his meager earnings. A fourth class postmaster derived his earnings from the sale of stamps. He was responsible for at least 57 different cancels from 1929 to 1938).

Another "rare" turkey, (but who likes rare turkey?), originated at Appleton, Wis., in 1929. One of the most "different" turkeys of all, comes on covers from Mexico, Ind. It depicts a roasted turkey on a platter. It is known only on registered covers dated 11-27-30. Pacolet Mills, S.C. also "served" a turkey ready to eat. It's to be found on first class and registered covers dated around Thanksgiving Day in 1928 and 1929.

At least seven other towns are known to have used special Thanksgiving Day cancels. There may be others. Information on 20th century U. S. fancy cancels is needed NOW. A revision of the Loso DeWindt Catalog is under way and help will be gratefully received and acknowledged. Correspondence is invited. Write to: William C. Walker, 102 Elizabeth Street, Clearfield, PA 16830.





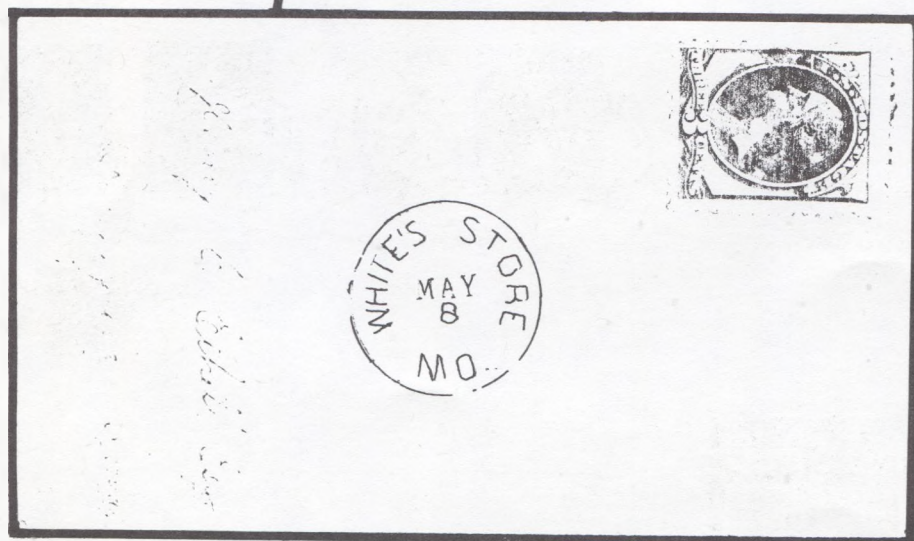
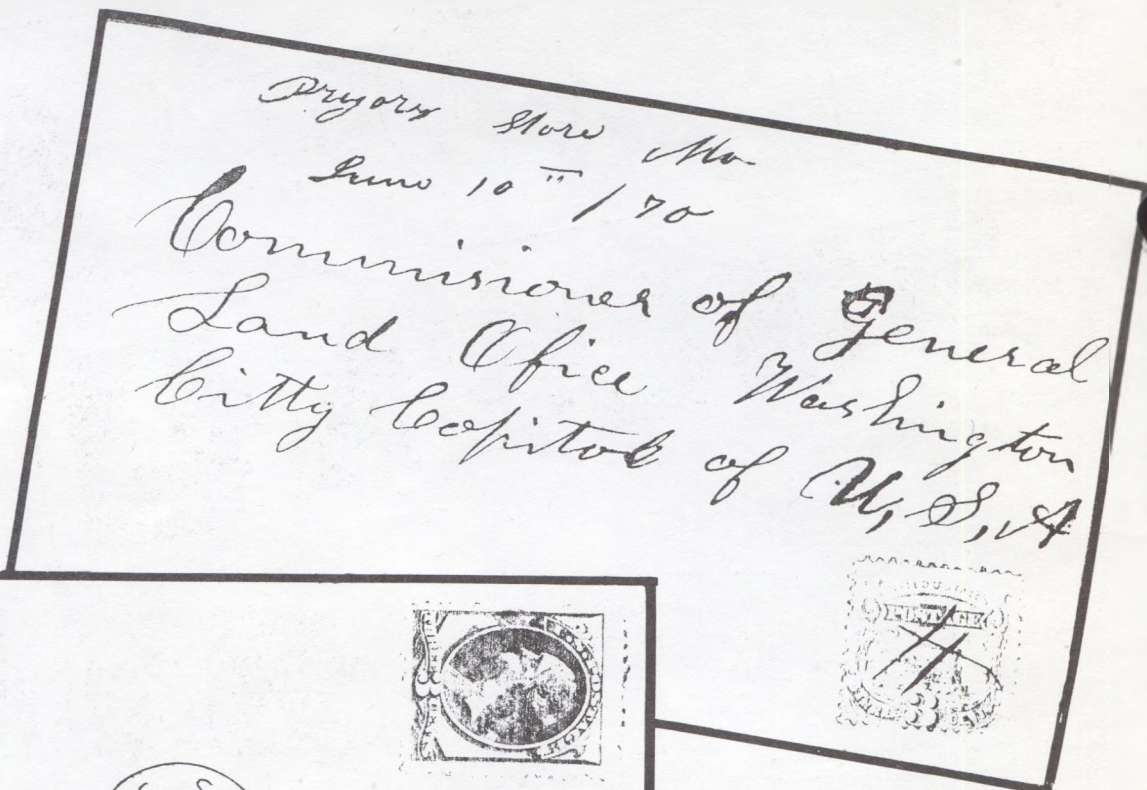
## TOWN MARKINGS DENOTING STORES

by Jim Inverarity

Until 1920 more than half the population lived in rural areas. Until 1896 when rural free delivery was introduced, "picking up the mail" meant a trip to the post office. Many of these rural postoffices were located in general stores. The business advantage of the store owner of having a post office on the premises more than outweighed the extra effort the appointment brought.

"There was both dignity and certain financial return attached to the office. The United States Post Office Department gave a large academic-appearing certificate of appointment which made its owner as proud as if he had a University of Virginia diploma displayed on his wall. Most post offices paid only by cancellations (Ed. number of stamps cancelled), which amounted to very small sums of money, but the post-office windows were excellent places for keeping a check on customers who occasionally ordered goods from mail order houses. In such cases it was possible for alert clerks to suggest that better goods could be secured through the store. This was especially true of jewelry and ready-made clothing."

A few of these country store post offices were named for the store in which they were located. The 1885 register<sup>2</sup> lists some 189 "store" postoffices. Oddly enough, about 40 percent of these are located in two states: Virginia and North Carolina. Most of these offices were, of course, small volume





operations. Consequently most of the markings we uncover today are manuscript rather than hand-stamp. Two Missouri store covers are illustrated here, products of postmasters William Pryor and Benton White. The table is a listing of store markings in my collection; additional listings would be welcome from other readers of USCC News.

<sup>1</sup>Thomas Clark, *Pills, Petticoats and Plows: The Southern Country Store*.  
(Norman, Okla., 1944), p. 72

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Interior, *Register of the U.S.*, 1885.

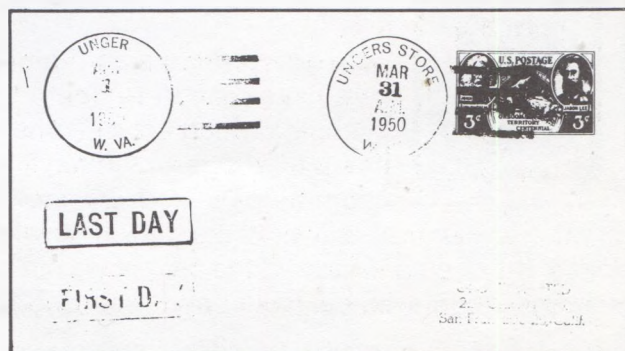
## TOWNMARKS DENOTING STORES: A SHORT CENSUS

MARKING	DIMENSIONS	USAGE	DATES OF P.O. OPERATION	NOTES
LOUISIANA:				
Plains Store	ms	stampless "5"	10/21/1853-6/28/1866	
MARYLAND:				
Mathews Store	ms	U10	7/30/1841-1/13/1874	Name changed to Glenwood
MISSOURI:				
Naylors Store	ms	11		
WHITES STORE	25mm purple	158	7/10/1874-7/7/1908	
Pryors Store	ms	114	10/21/1859-4/20/1882	Name changed to Roy
NEW YORK:				
BLUE STORE	27mm	UX 8	5/22/1871-5/31/1923	
NORTH CAROLINA:				
Hills Store	ms	26, U10	2/5/1823-8/30/1824	Quaker date
Lawsons Store	ms	stampless Free "John Lawson, PM"	4/16/1832-1/15/1844	Name changed to Lawsonville
PENNSYLVANIA:				
MOHNS STORE	28mm	U362	11/16/1857-8/8/1906	Name changed to Mohnton
VIRGINIA:				
Bergers Store	ms	11	4/30/1830-7/7/1860	Name changed to Toshes and in 1956 to Pittsville
COSBYS STORE	34mm	11	11/22/1889	
Garys Store	ms	11	4/27/1857-1/4/1858	Name changed to Ivy Depot, and in 1950 to Ivy

*Editor's note:* Shown here is a cover from our own W. VA collection to add to your listings Jim. Ungers Store in 1880 had a population of only 20 souls.

Readers may send their listings to Jim Inverarity, 401 9th St., S.E. #307, Minneapolis, MN 55415.

DOING RESEARCH? *Can't find the information you want, and you just KNOW someone out there has it? Don't despair, our Newsletter is your answer. We're offering FREE space for your cry of help in a new column called, naturally, "PROJECT RESEARCH."* (See Page 8) *Let's all respond to these requests. It works both ways, and it could be your "help wanted" plea next time.*





# For love of a cancel

Alyce Evans



Fig. 1

## THE STANDING ROOSTER

All the fuss and feathers that have been raised this year over the \$240,000 Running Chicken has prompted us to write and demand equal time for the Standing Rooster (Fig. 1). One of the reasons he is deserving of attention is because he may be unique, while those Chickens are running all over the place, with five off-cover examples having been recorded and two covers.

According to our files, the Standing Rooster has made two auction appearances. His first was in the '41 Knapp sale, the same sale incidentally in which the "three-strike" Running Chicken was sold. His second appearance was in the Siegel '79 sale, subsequent to which it received a '79 P.F. certificate (#76 863) which states "it is a genuine Rooster used on the 2¢ red brown of the 1883 issue." We saw it recently offered in a private sale at a substantially higher price than the five dollars it brought in the Knapp sale.

This Standing Rooster is a handsome devil, and *now* we know why all the Chickens are running!

NEW MEMBERS or those new to the hobby whose collecting interests include machine cancels might be interested in a monthly publication called the *Machine Cancel Forum* put out by John McGee, and John Koontz. It's free. Just send a #10 SAE with 28¢ postage to John R. McGee, Box 98, Greenbelt, MD 20770. The two Johns are planning to revise the Bond book on *International Machine Cancels*. Our own have been sold out for some time. McGee informs us he has 300 on his mailing list, they're quite an active group. Perhaps not everyone is aware of another research group who study the 1869 issue. Called the PRA (Pictorial Research Associates) they have a quarterly journal, *1869 Times* which is excellent, both in content and writing. The cancellations found on this issue is edited by Scott Trepel, called *The 1869 Clearing House*. Trepel's expert treatment of the Waterbury cancels and their fakes, in a recent issue exhibited a rare talent for research. Finally, our own INDEX contains a wealth of information on postmarks and cancellations which are cross-indexed by type and town. The first ten volumes of our Newsletter were painstakingly researched by Chester Smith and Joseph Hahn, and they listed over 22,000 references which had previously been illustrated in our publication. This useful reference work is available from our Librarian, William H. Bauer, Box 721, Wheaton, ILL 60187. We still have copies for sale at \$5.00 each.

**NEW FIND FROM RUSH, PA.** was shown in the Nov. Al Zimmerman sale. Have our readers seen or recorded any of these examples? Our files show no listing for Rush, nor does our *U.S. Cancellation Index* or the new *U.S. Postal Markings* by Simpson list it. However, the Kay-Smith book on *Penn. Postal History* lists Rush in Susquehanna County as having existed from 1843-1954. Two first postmasters are listed in the book with the name of "Kunkel," and since this appears to be the "Kunkel" correspondence, we wonder if they were related. This find presents interesting possibilities for new research.



We are forming a committee which will report to our readers on cancels for which we have reason to doubt their authenticity. Emphasis will be placed on doubtful cancels which are currently being placed on the market. We have seen some recent offerings which have been denied certificates of genuineness by expertizing committees, and we feel it is important to bring this to the attention of our

members. Pictured is a skull cancel which was recently removed from sale by a West Coast auction house after being informed the cancel was in the opinion rendered by experts, not genuine. No other examples of this cancel have been recorded to our knowledge.

It is our goal to publicize these "unique" cancels continuously, with the hope of removing them from the market permanently!



## REVIEW

**UNITED STATES CANCELLATIONS—1845-1869:** Unusual and Representative Markings, by Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno. An APS Handbook published by the American Philatelic Society and the Louisiana Heritage Press of New Orleans, 1980, ii + 362 pp., 4030 text-figures, 155 halftone illustrations, city and state index.

As the authors state, "the present work is not a revision of any pre-existing book(s), but is a compilation 'from scratch' based primarily on original philatelic material." The effort required to, at last, produce this long awaited volume is evident from a glance at the more than 4,000 markings illustrated. Amos Eno has spent nearly forty years and Hubert Skinner more than twenty years, the last five and one-half working together, in dedicated study and research of the subject. They have been fortunate to have the co-operation of many other collectors in assembling the information.

Although the book is entirely new, the authors have been careful in their research of past efforts by others which they acknowledge in the introduction in the form of a history of the previous studies of fancy cancellations.

The text is of necessity a brief one, as the illustrations speak for themselves. The authors have developed a straightforward and logical classification that progresses from the simplest designs to the detailed "pictures" and ending with numbers and letters. Included is a brief section of postal markings which is for the purpose of illustrating the variety and diversity of such markings (not intended as obliterations) which can be found cancelling postage stamps.

The illustrations have been accurately traced from the original material and the town of origin of a great many is identified. The authors have also noted the markings for which the attribution was confirmed by their personal examination of a piece or full cover bearing the cancel.

For each marking, the classification has been reduced to a code which will undoubtedly become a standard cross reference for use in auction descriptions and future studies. A final feature of the book is an index to the markings by state and town of origin. This section will enhance the utility of the book for those collectors interested in a specific state or region of the country.

If in this work there is anything to regret, it is the unfortunate fact that only the period 1845-1869 is covered. We can only hope that the authors will now proceed to attempt the enormous task of extending the work to cover the markings of the 1870s and 1880s.

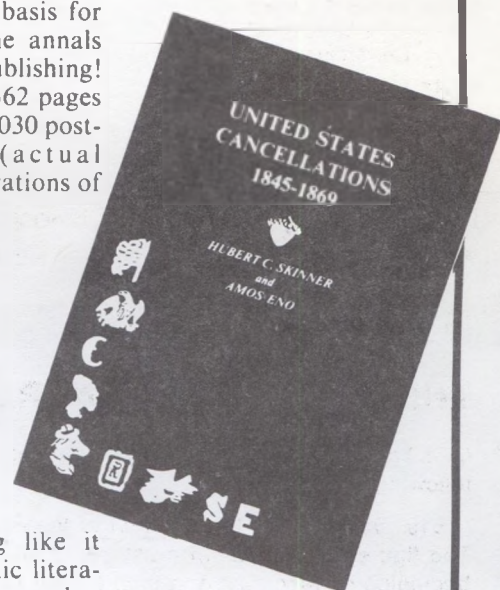
This is a volume that will become an essential reference for everyone who collects or is interested in the stamps and postal markings of the United States.

*William H. Bauer*

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# United States Cancellations 1845-1869

Produced by Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno, the work has no basis for comparison in the annals of philatelic publishing! Contained in its 362 pages are drawings of 4,030 postal markings (actual count!) and illustrations of 149 covers.



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- |  |  |
|--|--|
| #1312 Alan M. Thomas<br>3125 Cumberland Club Drive<br>Atlanta, GA 30339          | #1320 John B. Ludin, M.D.<br>1105 N. George St.<br>Rome, N.Y. 13440        |
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| #1317 Brad Arch<br>144 Hamilton Ave.<br>Clifton, N.J. 07011                      | #150 Paul Hannum<br>60 Grove Ave.<br>Flourtown, Pa. 19031                  |
| #1318 Paul E. Boschung<br>10-A Indian Lake<br>Northport, Ala 35476               | #484 John B. Bean<br>938 South 24th<br>Quincy, IL 62301                    |
| #1319 Frederick P. Schmitt<br>Box 67<br>Woodbury, N.Y. 11797                     | Resignation Received:  |
|  | Charles J. Reiling   |

## THE QUESTION CORNER

Q. 1 The Postal Laws and Regulations of 1887 contains the following section:

519. *Impressions to be Taken of the Postmarking Stamp.* The figures of the stamp must be carefully adjusted at the beginning of each day; and then a clear impression must be made in a book specially provided for the purpose, so as to afford evidence of the discharge of this duty. Special care must be taken not to omit the Sunday impression of the stamp. If the stamp is fitted with letters and figures indicating the hour at which any letter arrives or is dispatched, care must be taken to change them punctually at the appointed periods. If this duty is neglected the postmaster is liable to be charged with a delay which has not occurred at his post-office. An impression must be made in the book provided of every change made throughout the day, and each impression should be taken immediately after change is made either in date or hour. **This book or record must be kept two years, after which period it may be sold for waste paper.** (Emphasis added.)

Does anyone know of such records that have survived? What was the earliest year this regulation was included in the PL&R?

## PROJECT RESEARCH

U.S. 3¢ 1861

One of our members, Abe Boyarsky is currently doing research on the United States 3¢ 1861 issue. He would like to compile a list of dates (off cover as well as on cover) of all 3¢ 1861's that were used during the months of August 1861 and September 1861. Would members having these dates in their collections send the information to Abe at 1470 Tacuba Drive La Mirada, CA 90638.

## STAMP THEFT COMMITTEE

All stamp thefts should be reported promptly to the chairman of the S.P.A. Stamp Theft Committee, Mrs. Maryette B. Lane, 490-23rd Ave., North, St. Petersburg, FL 33704. To avoid delay, it is preferable that the report be made by telephone, day or night: 812-898-7238.



## THE MAIL BAG

Where do members find excess material for the circuits? We asked several collectors, and received the same answer . . . they buy Large Lots! The following letter from our Governor-at-Large Herman Herst, Jr., is representative of their response:

"Now that I am no longer in the auction business, I can plug auctions as a source for material, especially covers. Of course one has to have a knowledge of what covers are worth, and one has to be willing to be competitive in this market. Admittedly, that lets a lot of people out of the game.

Unfortunately, it is not likely to be rewarding if one must bid blind on large lots of covers. If they are not worth the estimate, the distant bidder will probably get them. If they are worth more than the estimate, he certainly will not.

But if he lives near a city where auctions are held he should watch the catalogs. It may be difficult to buy individually listed covers at prices advantageous enough to buy and put in the USCC sales books. But if there are large lots, it could happen.

The advantage in large lots of covers goes to those who have inspected them. Not one in one hundred bidders is even interested, and even among those who look at the lots, prior to the sale, only a very few take the trouble to look through the large lots. I sold material at auction in New York for almost fifty years, and can assure any doubter that the biggest bargains were in those lots that prospective bidders did not take the trouble to examine.

Here in the Florida boondocks, I seldom bid at auction simply because the opportunity to look at large lots in the major sales is not there. But I regularly attend the large auction sales at the Hollywood Stamp Club, and have bought many mixed lots of covers there that easily permit the doubling of one's money when priced up for a USCC circuit. As for selling, that presents no problem. The USCC is the only sales circuit in the world, to my knowledge that does not charge a commission for selling. That alone is a tremendous incentive. But as suggested in the September News, I am one of the largest suppliers of covers in the sales department.

The secret is in pricing. My books come back 80% to 85% sold. I do not know how others make out, for I do not see any other books, but there is no reason for anyone to be disappointed unless the prices are out of this world.

There are opportunities to buy covers if one takes the trouble to find them, and there are opportunities to sell them if one takes the trouble to use them. I have been fortunate in both respects, and hope that the USCC continues for a long time to come. The wonder is that more people do not take advantage of what the Club offers."