



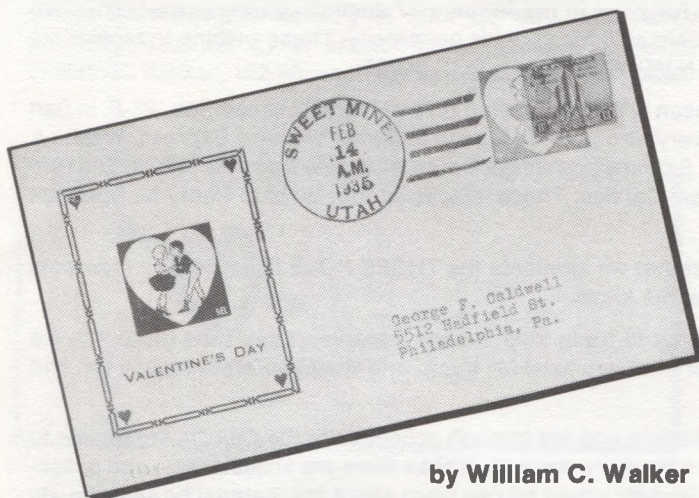
# Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 15, NO. 7

WHOLE NO. 165

JANUARY 1981

## HANKY-PANKY at the POST OFFICE



by William C. Walker

The covers shown here are a fair sample of those used about fifty years ago to commemorate St Valentine's Day.

Close study of a large number of these covers indicate that a rather small number of dedicated collectors were responsible for most of them. The Sweet Mine, Utah cancel is identical to the inner part of the cachet. It is almost certain that the artist who made the cachet sent or took some pre-cancelled covers to the post office. Mostly, the postmaster would cooperate and refrain from having the 'killer bars' of the town cancel touch the fancy cancel or the stamp. Also, he would comply with the request to use the same color ink as was on the cancel. In many cases there is a quite noticeable difference in the shade however. Of course there were cases where the

person cancelling the covers simply applied the town cancel in black. In some cases, the clerk applied an ordinary cancel to the stamps. This of course detracts from the beauty of these fancy cancels and from their desirability to present day collectors.

*Continued on page 57*

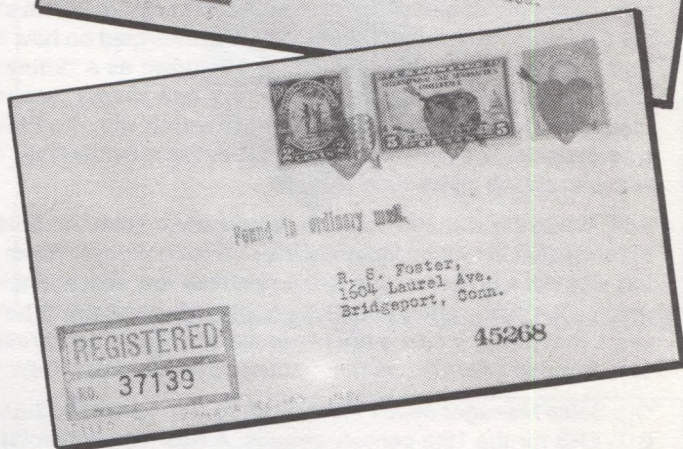
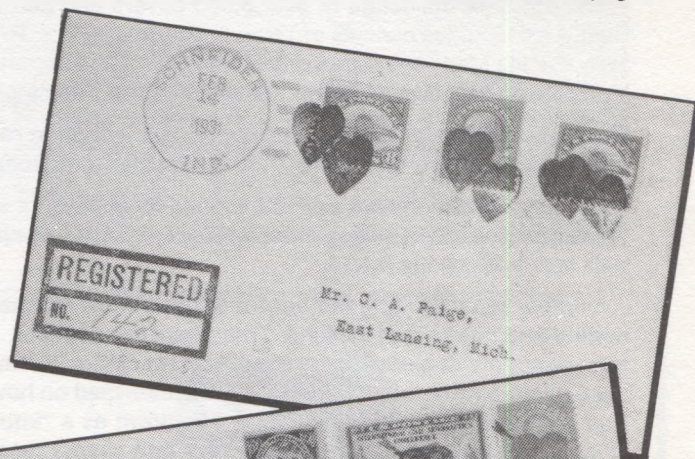


Fig. 1a

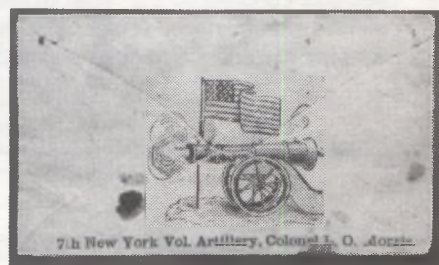


Fig. 1b

## FAKED COVERS

by  
Paul J. Wolf

First is a Black Jack Patriotic, franked, ostensibly, by a pair of Black Jacks, not tied, with the scarce CDS of Tennallytown, D.C. (a Post Office then within the District of Columbia) long gone, and now an integral part of the Washington, D.C. service area. (Fig. 1a.)

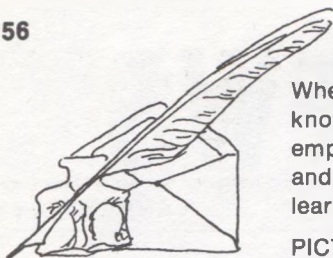
This bears on the reverse (Fig 1b.) a stock cut of a cannon firing, with flag, and in this case the line "7th New York Vol. Artillery, Colonel L.O. Morris." According to "Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies" (known as ORA) Col. Lewis O. Morris commanded the 7th New York Heavy Artillery and is mentioned quite a number of times. As a Senior

Colonel, he apparently often served as Brigadier General. His Regiment was in the Washington, D.C. area during the first years of the Civil War.

According to Cole, whose handbook, "The Black Jacks of 1863-1867" is very helpful, who looked into the matter, Black Jack Patriotics are as 1 to 1,000 of those with commoner franking, so some happy fausseur figured he'd make himself a gem. Unhappily for him, there is a faint pencil docketing that was probably overlooked, showing a date of 1861. Since the Black Jacks didn't come along until the Summer of 1863, July

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When an expert examines a cancel for authenticity, he bases his opinion on an accumulation of knowledge gained through research and comparative examination of hundreds of cancels. He's employing, almost subconsciously, an intuitive reaction to the cancel which some call a sixth sense and others call gut instinct. We asked several collectors to share their thoughts on what triggers this learned response and have listed some basic visual checks they use, on page 58.

PICTORIAL SHOW CANCELS might be the answer for those looking for a new collecting field. A new member, Wanda Lee Moening introduces these interesting cancels with an informative and well written article in today's issue.

We would like to thank JOHN W. KAUFMANN who donated a full page in his January 17 auction catalog to the USCC. We have received eleven applications (at this writing) for membership as a result of his generosity. Those wishing to receive his catalogs may write to John W. Kaufmann, Inc., 1522 K Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005.

The postmark and postal marking collection of Hervey A. Dobson will be auctioned off by Henry Spelman Feb. 27-8, in San Francisco. This collection of over 5,000 covers and cards is very strong in Calif. and includes Western Express, Wash., & Colo. Also includes cancels of Town & Country, RPO's, RFD's, Slogans and Street Cars which date from the 1860's. The rare early Pacific Mails are represented with China and Japan Steam Service. Those interested may write to Henry M. Spelman III, P.O. Box 645, San Anselmo, CA 94960, for a free catalog.

Members who have their issues bound have written to request that we eliminate the THREE HOLE PUNCH, as it interferes with binding. Those who prefer their Newsletter unpunched, let me know.

With this issue we initiate a FREE service for members who wish to trade their excess material, rather than place it in the Sales Circuits. We're calling it the BARTER BOARD. Simply list what you have for trade, and what you wish to trade for, and we'll tack it up on the board.

A member recently resigned because "there were too many dealers and not enough collectors in the Club." I am unable to understand this kind of thinking. True, there are dealers . . . and there are dealers. Just as there are collectors . . . and collectors. I want my dealer to be informed. I want him to join every Society where he can learn about the material he sells me. By gaining more knowledge he will be better informed on how to price, how to detect spurious material, how better to serve me. And it doesn't hurt his reputation to be known as a "knowledgeable dealer" either. In this issue there are several dealers listed as new members. They joined for one simple reason . . . to learn. At a recent stamp show I met one of them, Tim Flanagan. Tim is actively involved in research with the Philatelic Foundation and the Collector's Club. The addition of this type of dealer is a decided asset to the entire membership. There are dealers . . . and there are dealers, and I prefer the ones who join stamp clubs such as ours!

BILL WALKER, our 20th century fancy cancel editor, shares some Valentine cancels in this issue as he continues his series of fancy cancels which illustrate the current holidays. When asked about fakers invading this area of specialization, Bill said this was not a problem, due to the relatively low cost and thin market. A little "hanky-panky" resulted since the collector and postmaster were often in collusion, playing games and bending the rules, but nothing has come to light in the past thirty years that would indicate the presence of a faker. If any reader suspects he has a fake cover, Bill would like to have a Xerox of it. Bill also informed us the manuscript of the Loso-DeWindt book is now in the hands of the APS.

Our Sales Manager needs MEMBERS to sign up for the 20th century circuits, which has an excess of material. He also needs COVERS for the 19th century circuits. A New Year's resolution for all of us: "I will put my duplicates in the sales circuit."

1980 was considered the "year of the investor." 1981 is projected as the "year of the collector." Hoping the latter was true, I couldn't wait to ring out the old and ring in the new. And I wish you, gentle reader, a year filled with the pleasantest of philatelic experiences and the good health to make them happen.

*Alyce*

## THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

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## ADVERTISING RATES

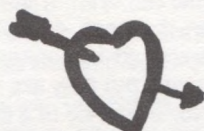
Full Page	\$25.00
Half Page	\$12.00
Quarter Page	\$ 7.00
Column Inch	\$ 2.00



## Hanky Panky at the Post Office

Continued from page 55

These cancels are quite elusive and present a real challenge to the collector. Research is continuing to turn up new unlisted material. Correspondence is invited from anyone having unlisted cancels or covers with dates or types of usage (i.e. special delivery, registered etc.), other than those shown in the Loso-DeWindt catalog of 20th Century U.S. Fancy Cancels. Also, will try to answer any questions. Write to: William C. Walker, 102 Elizabeth Street, Clearfield, PA 16830.



Reg. 2-14-32  
also used 2-14-33  
(red strikes)  
Lakewood, Ill



Reg. 2-14-31  
3 magenta strikes  
Bass, Ind.



F.C.  
2-14-31  
1 purple strike  
Hamlet, Ind.



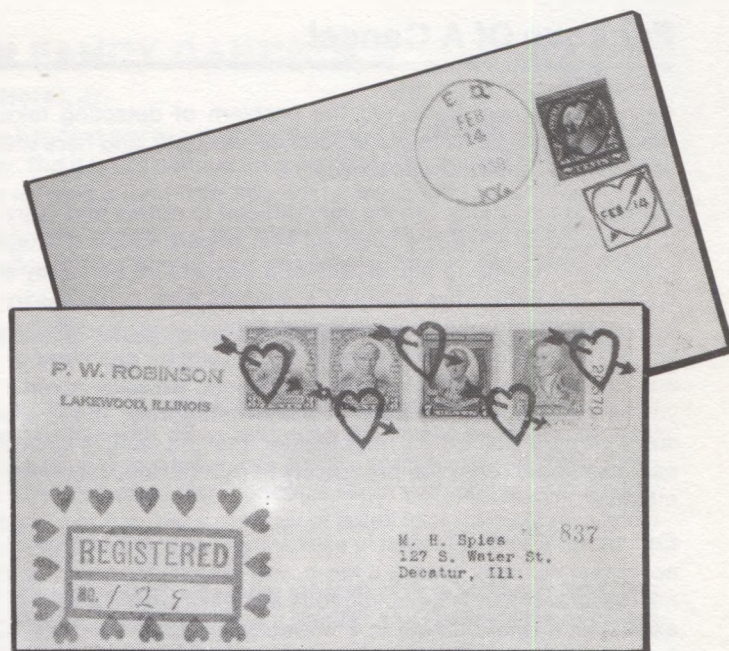
Reg. 2-14-34  
4 red strikes  
Valentine, Mont.



2-14-31  
killer bars  
also used  
Brasie Corners,  
N.Y.



Reg. 2-14-34  
10 red strikes  
Lakewood, Ill.





## For Love Of A Cancel

by Alyce Evans

As promised, we discussed the problem of detecting fake fancy cancels with as many experts as we could, and here are some of the results of our survey:

Forged cancellations can be very difficult to detect and there is no *one* way to spot a fake. No real expert makes a snap judgement regarding the validity of a cancel and generally a careful and exhaustive study of a suspect item is necessary before an opinion can be rendered. Experience, knowledge and the proper use of some basic equipment for examination are the key elements for expert judgement. However, even if you are somewhat deficient in these categories, there are some steps, which we will refer to later, that the relative novice can take to decrease the probability of purchasing fraudulent material

Equipment which will assist in examining material includes an accurate millimeter gauge, a ten-power magnifying glass, or a microscope which is advantageous since it keeps the item in exact focus (the ultimate is a stereomicroscope which is lit from both top and bottom and provides more comfortable viewing), an ultra-violet lamp, a watermarking device and fluid, and as large a collection of reference material as possible.

Fraudulent cancels can be divided into two main categories; those which are copied from genuine cancels, and those where the faker produced his own original design. The first type is usually easier to detect since genuine cancels exist with which it can be compared, and a fake almost always differs in some important way from the genuine article. The second category has nothing with which to compare it (except possibly additional examples by the same faker), however its relative uniqueness should arouse a degree of suspicion. Remember, though, that genuine unique cancels do exist.

Cancels which you may consider purchasing may be on or off-cover. Off-cover examples provide a fewer number of checks for validity than do those on cover, but the following can be considered when viewing an off-cover item:

1. Does the cancel differ from a genuine strike in a way which cannot be attributed to wear on the cancelling device, or by the angle or force with which it was struck?
2. Does the cancel ink bleed through to the back of the stamp? This is by no means an absolute determination, since many genuine cancels have significant bleed-through. It does

however show that there is an increased probability that the cancel was applied on a used stamp where the paper is more porous or that a modern penetrating ink was used for the cancel.

3. Does the ink look "different" somehow? This is a judgement that can only be made after you have seen hundreds of cancels and have a "feel" for how the appearance of genuine cancels vary. Then, a spurious cancel will probably trigger a reaction.

4. Is the cancel appropriate to the stamp on which it is found? If a design which is found on an early classic is found on a late banknote it should arouse some suspicion. Conversely, use on a much earlier issue of a later type cancel is suspect.

5. Beautifully struck, socked-on-the-nose cancels which usually demand higher premiums should be looked at with special care. Extra-fine strikes do exist, but they are rare.

6. Carefully examine the stamp for evidence of a cancel on the stamp other than the fancy strike. Fakers frequently employ lightly cancelled stamps for their artistic endeavors. This is particularly true in the early periods where the value of an unused copy is relatively high. Use of an ultra-violet light and immersion in watermarking fluid can facilitate the detection of additional cancels.

7. Has the cancel been enhanced? Weak or incomplete strikes can be touched up to increase their value. Look for differences in the character or color of the ink in different sections of the cancel. Ultra-violet viewing will sometimes show these discrepancies in a dramatic way.

When examining a fancy cancel on cover, most of the above would apply and additionally, the following checks can be made:

1. If the cover is dated, does it pre-date the issuance of the stamp? Fakers are sometimes remiss in doing their homework and it is not rare to spot a grilled stamp issued in 1867 on a cover dated in the early 1860s.
2. Does the cover look aged? A cover achieves a patina as it ages. One hundred years of handling, chemical reactions caused by atmospheric contaminants and improper storage, grime, mildew, bugs and mice all take their toll on a cover, making "pristine covers" suspect and rare.
3. Does the stamp compliment the cover with respect to

*Continued on page 59*



Beginning with this issue we are bestowing an uncoveted "Black Blob" award on those cancels which are still being offered for public sale despite the fact they have received a certificate from a recognized philatelic expertization committee stating in their opinion the cancel is not genuine.

The Mortar and Pestle receiving this month's Blob is recorded as having entered the American market in 1977 and advertised by a N.Y. auction house, along with some suspiciously unique items, as being "from a European source." It sold for \$105.00 and offered for \$500.00 the next year in a N.Y. net price sale. Although certified as not genuine, this did not hinder its progression through two more auction houses, a small N.Y. one offered it with an estimated value of \$200.00 in 1980, and a Boston auctioneer placed this Waterbury look-alike in his December '80 sale with an estimated value of \$75-\$100.00.





## SOME THOUGHTS ON FANCY CANCELS

By Herman Herst, Jr.

You can tell a non-collector that a stamp worth a dime can easily become worth a thousand times that, simply because it has an unusual postmark, and your friend's face will show incredulity. But it is not difficult for a philatelist to understand this, and before anyone considers the whole thing ridiculous, Wall Street learned a long time ago not to argue with smart money.

And the collecting of fancy cancels on United States stamps has been something the smart money has been going into for half a century . . . and in almost every instance where a collection of the scarce and popular items has been sold, it has brought considerably more than it cost the owner.

One word of caution is in order. As happens any time that a particular philatelic specialty becomes popular, and valuable, the crooks get into the act.

In the past few years, there have been more fake fancy cancels, on and off cover, being sold than ever before. Some of them are exceedingly well made. Most can easily be told by anyone familiar with them. Although legitimate markings do vary sometimes, one from another, according to the angle at which the canceling device was struck, or its degree of wear, there are other differences which turn up. In almost every illustration or sketch of a fancy cancel, a slight variation is intentionally done, to prevent fakers from using it as a source for a new device. Thus it is that a number of fakes today are actually fakes of fakes and can be told readily.

Others can be told by the ink. Anyone familiar with covers who has spent a considerable amount of time studying them can tell modern ink from ancient ink, or even modern ink with iron granules added to make it appear old. (Today's ink formulae vary from that of a half century ago, which in turn varies from that of a century ago.)

Nevertheless, collectors of fancy cancels cannot be warned too much to make certain that what they are buying comes from a reputable source, and that in the case of particularly valuable items, ample time should be allowed for inspection by a competent authority. To this writer, it seems silly to spend fifty or a hundred dollars for an item, and then to balk at spending ten dollars more to make sure that it is as represented. And since any dealer worthy of respect will refund that expertization fee if the item is proven faked, the economy becomes more difficult to understand.

With all reputable auctioneers in this country refusing to put in their sales, or to offer for direct purchase, any of these questionable items, many are finding their way to Europe. Some of the top European auctioneers may know Continental stamps, but they just do not see enough rare United States material to become informed on the good and the bad. Several recent German sales offered covers which to the informed eye were fraudulent, and the realizations were considerable. It is only a question of time until they find their way back to the American market, and come to rest in American collections, the property of collectors who will not know that they have been stung until their collections come up for sale.

In January of 1974, at a sheriff's sale in New York, an accumulation of fake covers and fake cancels was offered for sale on an "as is" basis. Everyone knew the story of the merchandise. Some bids were submitted with the idea of buying the material, and keeping it for reference, after marking it, or buying it to submit for permanent keeping to one of the several philatelic museums around the country.

Unfortunately, the lot was bought by a dealer who apparently wanted it for none of these purposes. It has not surfaced as yet; we can only hope that it does not. But sad to say, we can only fear the worst.

But fakes notwithstanding, scheming swindlers to the contrary, the collecting of fancy cancels is not likely to diminish, as long as the vast majority of those engaged in the business are themselves informed on what they are selling, and the greatest number of buyers learned a long time ago that a philatelic bargain is suspect, and that in our hobby, "just as good" is not good enough.

### For Love of a Cancel

*Continued from page 58*

wear? If the cover around the stamp and under it is worn and torn and wrinkled, and the stamp above it isn't, chances are the stamp was added.

4. If the design of the cancel is not completely struck on the stamp, is it continued on to the cover, (known as being "tied" to the cover), or does the design stop at the edge of the stamp? If the design of the cancel is not complete and stops at the edge of the stamp, the stamp may have been added to the cover. If the cancel is tied to the cover, the inks should match, as fakers have been known to "paint in" the tie. If the stamp is tied by a town cancel, the outer ring should have the same appearance on both the stamp and the cover, as to heaviness of the strike and color of ink.

5. Is there gum between the perfs? Since stamps were

gummed on the back and not between the perfs originally, finding gum between the perfs indicate the stamp has been added. A smart faker might neglect to glue the perfs down, knowing we would look for it, and loose perfs therefore become suspect. Perfs usually adhere tightly to the cover.

6. Is the design of the cancel known for use in the town denoted by the town-mark? One would not expect to find a "running chicken" known to originate in Waterbury, Conn. on a cover originating from Washington, D.C. for example.

All of the above tests and checks can be added together to give a reasonably accurate indication regarding the validity of an item. Remember, the best check you have is your knowledge against the faker's lack of philatelic expertise, and most important, purchasing from a knowledgeable and reliable dealer will decrease your chances of obtaining fraudulent material and will save you from any financial loss in the rare instance that a spurious item is unknowingly offered for sale.



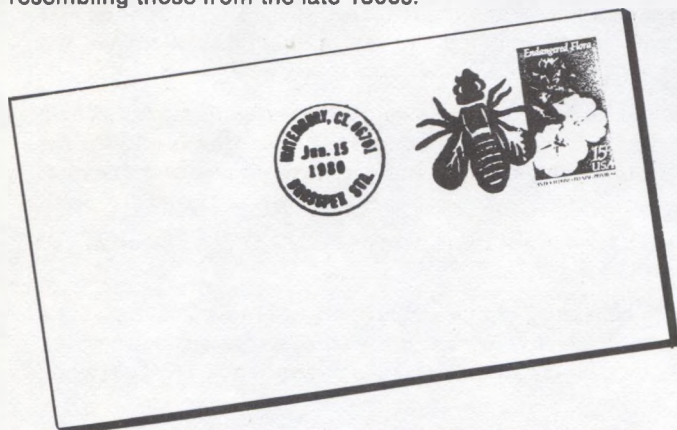
## PICTORIAL SHOW CANCELS

by Wanda Lee Moening

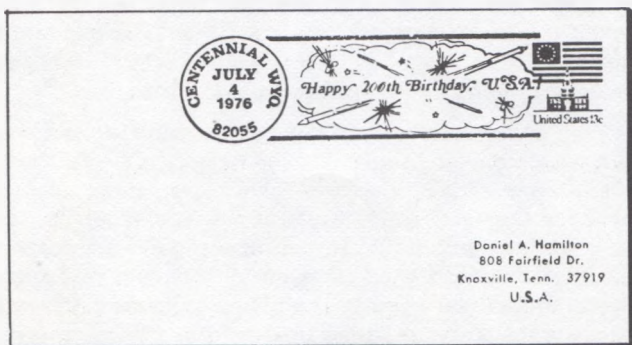
On July 1, 1971, the Post Office Department officially became the United States Postal Service. This act of congress led to the rebirth of fancy cancels on cover. Shortly after its creation, the USPS authorized the use of pictorial hand cancels. Initially they were used primarily at philatelic exhibitions. Later, covers show their use at coin and flower shows, county and state fairs, building dedications and Olympic games, to mention just a few. The sponsoring organization decides on a theme for the show and a design for the cancel. The cancel is then submitted to the USPS for approval. The early qualification required that the event have some national interest but that requirement has been relaxed in more recent years. If approved, its use is authorized for the duration of the show or event at a temporary post office and after a period for replacement request it is returned to the USPS and destroyed.

Early on, they were unknown to most stamp collectors. Only a small number of fancy cancels were authorized in 1971 and 1972. Also, since few people collected them, relatively few strikes were made. With the growing popularity of this field, earlier examples are much more difficult to find.

The beauty of these cancels rivals those from the 19th century and those of the early 20th century. Indeed, a few are replicas of rare cancels from over a century ago. Waterbury, Connecticut has favored us with cancels featuring the "running chicken," the "Bridgeport fireman" and the "Waterbury Bee" resembling those from the late 1800s.

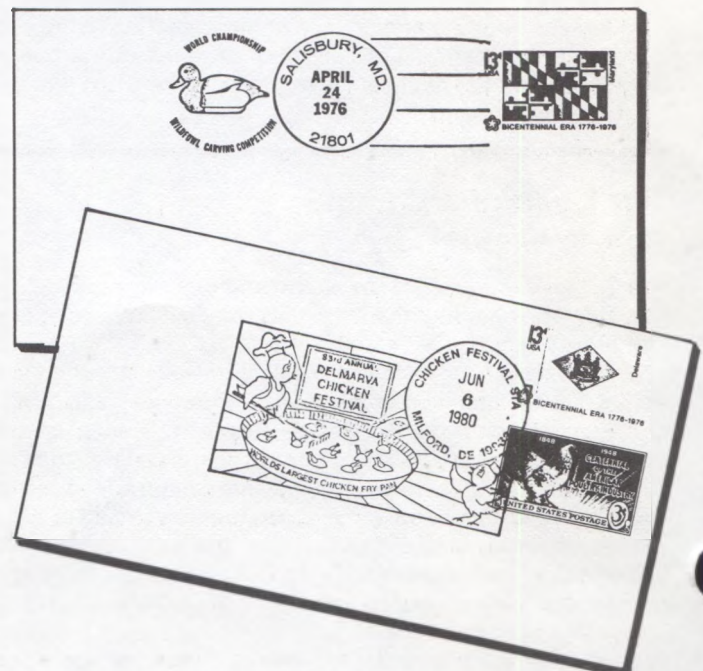


Close to three thousand of these cancels have been authorized so far, with hundreds of new ones making their appearance annually. America's Bicentennial celebration in 1976 was responsible for the creation of hundreds of cancels commemorating the 200th birthday of the United States.



These covers with the show cancel can be purchased very reasonably at the shows offering them. Collectors can prepare their own covers and mail them to the Postmaster of the town at which the show is to be held. Advance publicity in most cases, offers the opportunity for the collector to use stamps relating to the cancel to be used. Although most of these cancels are to be found only in "basic black," a number of shows do offer them in various colors. This of course, greatly enhances their beauty and popularity with collectors.

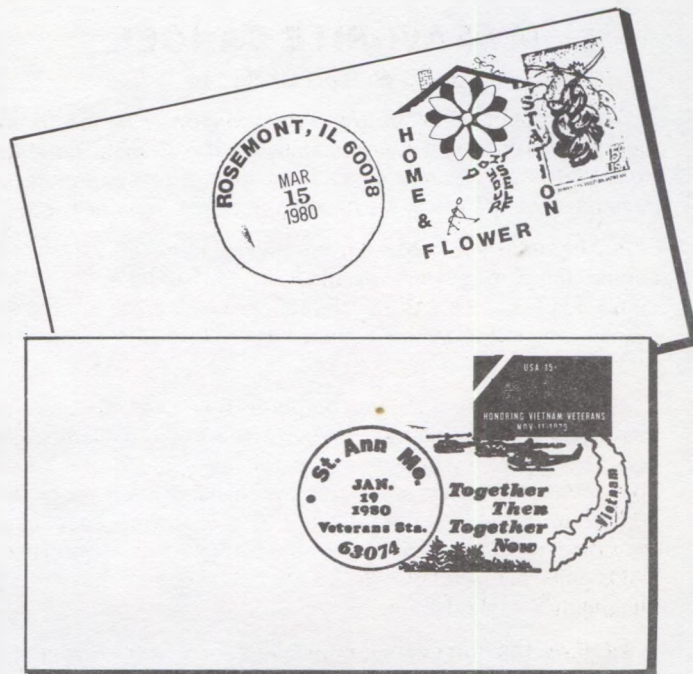
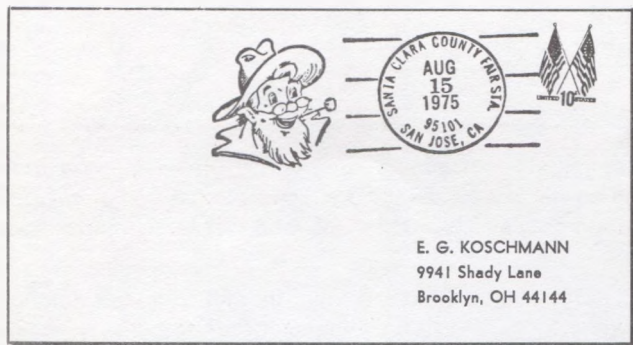
These "show" cancels also offer topical collectors a chance to broaden their collection. Collectors specializing in stamps and covers which depict zeppelins, balloons, flags, bells and space related events to name just a few topics, will enhance even an advanced topical collection with the addition of these cancels.





Early enthusiasts formed a club called Pictorial Eleven. The eleven original members exchanged information and covers among themselves. The growing popularity of this field has seen the club expand to several hundred members. One of the club's services to members is the publication of catalog pages depicting cancels which were used in previous months.

The covers/cancels illustrated here offer a tiny glimpse into a whole new field of collecting. An award winning exhibition can be formed at a modest cost. The future holds great promise!



## Faked Covers

Continued from page 55

to be more exact, this is slightly improbable. The fact that the stamps are not tied, although the moderately fancy cork killers run off the stamps in three directions, lends strength to the finding.

This cover has been examined by C.W. Bert Christlan, one of the acknowledged experts on the 1861 issue, who points out that, under strong light, traces of another cancellation may be seen **under** the pair of Black Jacks. Probably the original franking was a single copy of the 3¢ 1861, Scott No. 65.

It is also likely that the Tennallytown D.C. CDS was added to replace the original less desirable cancellation!

Another faked cover (Fig. 2) shows a 5¢ rate made up by a Black Jack with “F” Grill, and a 3¢ #65. The difference in the two killers alone would be instantly apparent to any thinking person, but there are a number of very interesting points about this cover that repay study.



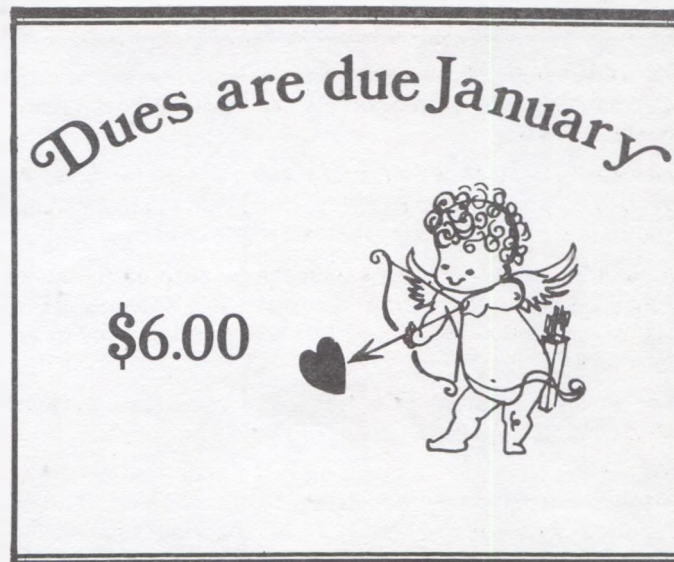
Fig. 2

First, let us consider the rate. The 5¢ rate was incorrectly believed to be for ship transit, but what ships ran between Wilmot Flat, New Hampshire and Concord in the same state is not clear. Wilmot Flat is approximately 23 miles Northwest of Concord, and neither place is served by a navigable river. In fact, Wilmot Flats has no stream at all! The 3¢ #65 would have been quite adequate to frank this cover by itself. The subject

of inland ship letter fees is quite another matter, and we won't consider it at this time. The regulations involved are long and complex, and it would take a complete article to cover them.

Second, the dates involved. The CDS of Willmot Flat shows May 5, no year date, but a docketing on the reverse shows the same date, and the year 1863. The plain, ungrilled Black Jack, Scott #73, was first issued in July of 1863 so a date of May 5 is automatically suspect. The presence of an "F" Grill, Scott #93, makes the earliest date feasible 1868, which is even further along.

There are faint traces, on the Black Jack, of a double grill. Actually, the stamp itself, off cover, is much more valuable and interesting than the clumsily faked cover is! It would seem that the fausseur attempted to create a rarity with the double grill, and then decided to use it up on a faked cover. In any event, the Black Jack, which is not tied, certainly does not belong here. The use of two completely different killers is hardly likely, and there is no excuse for the rate.





## MY FAVORITE CANCEL

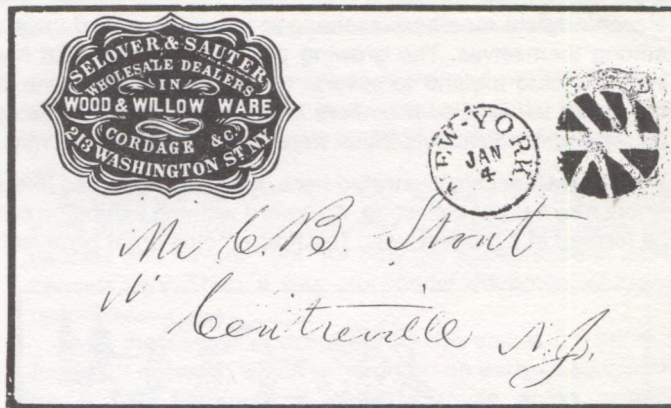
by C. W. Bert Christian

Favorite cancel? Whenever this question is posed, one's thoughts turn almost automatically to the Classic carvings from Waterbury, Conn., or to some of the famous pictorial designs, if we are fortunate enough to own a copy or two.

Picking only one favorite from several hundred varieties is almost the "impossible dream." In the writer's collection numerous favorites can be chosen, each one for a different reason, and most of them need not necessarily fall into the Classic or pictorial category.

A long time favorite, yet unglamorous example, can be seen in the simple geometric killer on this cover to Centerville, N.J. New York City is well known for using a wide variety of bold geometric killers, many of which have been recorded, yet this example remains unlisted in any of the cancellation records available today. A few of the New York cancels are cut in this general format but none have been seen by the writer in this oblique angle design.

Perhaps the affection for this item has been further influenced by the fact that it is struck 100% on a well-centered



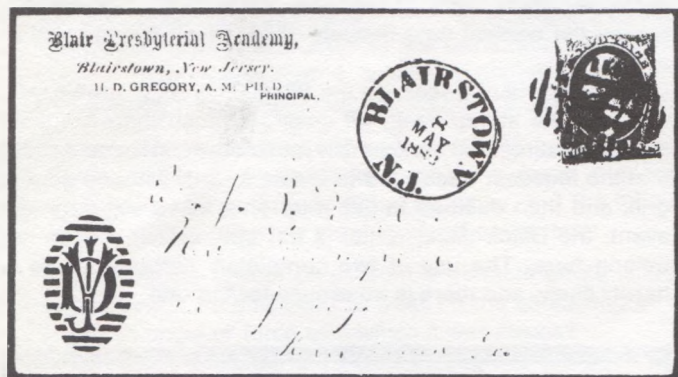
stamp that is affixed to a clean cover. The envelope is orange, the corner card a deep black and both the C D S and cancel are an intense black, all combining into an eye-pleasing picture.

If further inducement is required to include this among the favorites it can be added that the cover had a cost value of just five dollars; but then, that was 23 years ago.

## THE NEW JERSEY "JDV" MONOGRAM

by Brad Arch

... This New Jersey unique style of marking fits into almost any category of cancellation that you could think of:



As a County and Postmaster cancel—it's a borderline case, as the initials "JDV" represent the initials of the Postmaster's name, J.D. Vail.

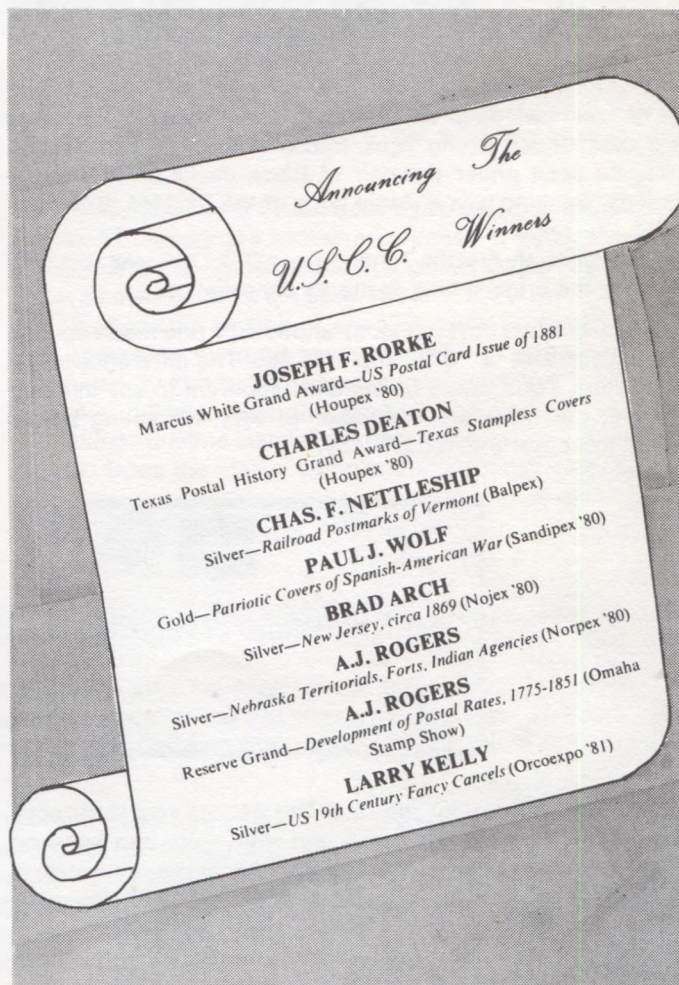
As a Fancy Cancel—it's unusual in that it's in the format of the soon to be popular Duplex Grids; along with the fact that it is known in a variety of colors that match the rainbow.

As a Grid Cancel—it's most unusual because of the initials contained within it, and the fact that it is a separate hand-stamp from the CDS, although usually positioned as to appear as a Duplex.

Known in the following colors: Black (commonest), Magenta (2nd commonest), Blue, Green, Brown, Violet.

Known Period of Use: Earliest reported date—26 Oct. 1876, magenta; latest reported date—1879, magenta. Earliest reported date—1880, black; latest reported date—1886, black.

Ed: Readers are asked to check their covers to add to this listing, and send the information to Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton NJ 07011.





## PROJECT RESEARCH

The New Jersey Postal History Society is in the midst of compiling information on earliest and latest known dates of use of all the following types of Postmarks used in New Jersey, along with illustrations of all known types of County & Postmaster cancels used in New Jersey.

The County/PM listing is nearing the final stage for the initial listing, but illustrations of several known markings are missing, and any help that members may provide along with dates of use for the County/PM cancels and for the types listed below:

RFD cancels

Doane cancels

"Post Office" cancels—those which contain the words "P.O." or "Post Office"

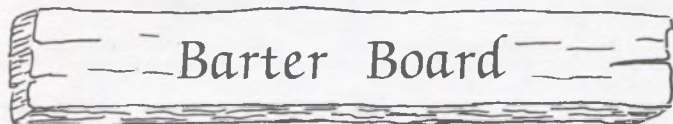
Besides the date on the RFD & Doane cancels, would also need the number that appears between the killer bars. Send information to Brad Arch, 144 Hamilton Ave., Clifton NJ 07011.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**INTRODUCTORY OFFER 25 percent off on purchases of most well-known stamp and coin supplies. Send 28¢ postage and mailing label to: Valuable Heritage Collectors Supplies, P.O. Box 195, Darlington WI 53530**

**WANTED** Oneida County, N.Y.  
Stampless and 19th Century Covers  
Send Priced or My Offer  
J.B. Ludin, Box 218, Rome NY 13440

**WANTED:** Ellipse-type cancels with centers of numerals, letters etc. on common stamps of the 1880s—esp. accum. of 2¢ browns & 2¢ greens. Stamps only or on scraps of paper with part or all of the date, or on 2x4s or plain covers. Warren Tingley, 1627 Riverside Rd., Apt. 409, Deerfield Beach FL 33441



I NEED POSTALLY USED COVERS FROM GEORGIA before 1930, post cards, DPOs, Confed., flag and fancy cancels, no meters. From anywhere before 1930: illustrated bus. covers, no meters. MY ITEMS FOR TRADING: US, UN FDCs (from your list); all types covers from your state; US Naval, First Flight, Space cachets; Canadian First Flight cachets/C1 stamps; US Plate # blocks (your list). Eugene M. Espy, 1383 Briarcliff Rd., Macon GA 31211.

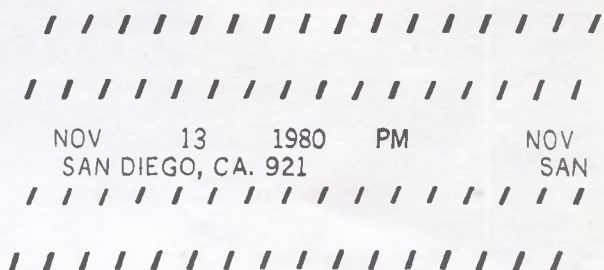
## A NEW MACHINE CANCEL

by William H. Bauer

For several years the Postal Service has had at many sites a special machine for cancelling large envelopes or "flats." The machine consisted of a conveyor belt on which the mail was placed, face up, and was thus carried beneath a large cancelling roller.

There have been some variations in the style of the canceller but basically it left, across the envelope a repeating series of circular date stamps and horizontal bars.

Recently I encountered a totally different type of cancel which had been used on a large envelope that originated in San Diego, California. Gone is the circular date stamp, replaced by a double straight line townmark, with the upper line the date and the lower line the city, state, and ZIP area. The horizontal bars are replaced by continuous bands of short slanted lines, two above and two below the date and city imprint.



The width of the marking is 67 mm. An estimate of the diameter depends in how many times the logo is repeated. In the example shown here, the distance from one 'S' of San Diego to the next 'S' is 124 mm. As shown the inscription is closer to the bottom rows of dashes; the lettering is generally thin with no serifs (except the number 1); the year date is heavier, and the time (PM) is the heaviest of the lettering. The dashes are approximately 5 mm in length and their ends are cut perpendicular to the supposed axis of the cancelling roller. The dashes do appear irregular but this could be a function of wear, inking, or a non-uniform pressure during the cancelling.

At present, no details are known about the manufacturer or whether or not this style cancel will appear at other cities. A letter of inquiry has been sent to the San Diego Postmaster and hopefully will bring an informative response. (Ed: See response on p. 64)

Anticipating future difficulties which will be encountered when ordering back issues, we are publishing a correct listing for Volume 15, and ask that members change the numbering of their six copies. We are renumbering our remaining back issues to conform to this new, corrected listing. When mentioning back issues, it might be wise to refer to them by month and year.

### AS PUBLISHED

Vol. 15 No. 1 Whole No. 159 Jan. 1980 pp 1-16  
Vol. 16 No. 2 Whole No. 160 Mar. 1980 pp 15-22  
Vol. 17 No. 3 Whole No. 159 May. 1980 pp 1-6  
Vol. 18 No. 1 Whole No. 159 Jul. 1980 pp 1-8  
Vol. 17 No. 4 Whole No. 159 Sep. 1980 pp 1-8  
Vol. 15 No. 6 Whole No. 164 Nov. 1980 pp 1-8

### CORRECTED LISTING

Vol. 15 No. 1 Whole No. 159 Jan. 1980 pp 1-16  
Vol. 15 No. 2 Whole No. 160 Mar. 1980 pp 17-24  
Vol. 15 No. 3 Whole No. 161 May 1980 pp 25-30  
Vol. 15 No. 4 Whole No. 162 Jul. 1980 pp 31-38  
Vol. 15 No. 5 Whole No. 163 Sep. 1980 pp 39-46  
Vol. 15 No. 6 Whole No. 164 Nov. 1980 pp 47-54



## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1324 Leonard McCabe, P.O.Box 1027, Fresno CA 93714  
*U.S. Covers & Postal History; Dealer/collector*
- 1325 Gregory F. Sutherland, 7269 Cohasset Dr., Dayton OH 45424  
*US Philatelic Literature collector/dealer*
- 1326 William T. Crowe, P.O. Box 214, Danbury CT 06810  
*19th Century US; Maryland Postal Hist.; Coll./dealer*
- 1327 D. George Martino, 800 Kings Hwy. N., Ste. 304, Cherry Hill NJ 08034  
*US 1847-51 used; Canada Pence issues; dealer/collector*
- 1328 E.D. (Tim) Flanagan, P.O. Box 69, Baldwin NY 11510  
*19th century US; Collector/Dealer*
- 1329 Stephen B. Bluestein, P.O. Box 5874, Sherman Oaks CA 91413  
*Mailer's Postmark Permits; First Day Covers; Special Event & Phil. Handstamp Covers; Mint US.*
- 1330 Betty Thurston, 3079 N. Parkview, Fresno CA 93711  
*Albion, Mich. Postal History; Topicals; Hunting Covers; Canada.*
- 1331 Joseph D. Ellis III, 67 Guilden St., New Brunswick NJ 08901  
*U.S.; US Machine Cancels.*
- 1332 John R. Mason, 5707 Lindenshire Lane, Dallas TX 75230  
*US Covers; Stampless; RPOs; Street Car Cancels; Phil. Cancels; Fancy Cancels; Machine Cancels.*
- 1333 Wanda Lee Moening, Capricon Court #2, Clearfield PA 16830  
*Modern Pictorial Cancels; US Mint & Used; early 20th Century Fancy Cancels on Cover.*

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Charles Deaton	John B. Ludin, M.D.
5719 Kirby Dr.	P.O. Box 218
Houston TX 77005	Rome NY 13440
Mark Fromer	Steven E. Ruecker
1605 East 4th St.	P.O. Box 10062
Brooklyn NY 11230	Phoenix AZ 85064
Harry Kennedy	Richard Stambaugh
4766 E. Terrace Ave.	23 Beverly Ct.
Fresno CA 93703	Tinton Falls NJ 07724
Sidney P. Kanne	Wm. C. Tatham
P.O. Box 420052	P.O. Box 651
Atlanta GA 30342	Whittier CA 90608
Dr. Daniel M. Knowles	
165 Hudson St., Apt. 2A	
New York NY 10013	

### RESIGNED

Andrew L. Andrews	Guy Prescott	Thomas J. Young
John S. Maye	Sally Tunnicliff	

Update on "CROSS MY HEART" . . . origin is Dayton, Ohio. (March '80).

ERRATA— . . . in the July '80 News, page 8, 2nd column, the 11th line should read: Stier. Michael G Stier (June 20, 1866).

## STAMP THEFT COMMITTEE

Maryette B. Lane is chairman of the APS Stamp Theft Committee. All stamp thefts should be reported immediately to Lane, 490 23rd Ave. N., St. Petersburg FL 33704, telephone (day, night, or weekend) 813-898-7328.



### THE MAIL BAG

One of our members, Alton L. Kraft has written to remind us that "CENEPEX '81" show and auction will be held on April 4-5, at the Hotel Yancey, Grand Island, Nebraska. Contact Alton at 2708 W. John, Grand Island NE 68801 for more info.

Bill Menker writes and suggests that an ad placed in a small local newspaper, or advertising throw-aways etc. might be one way to acquire additional material. The following ad might serve as an example. It was used by a friend of Bill's and generated some response:

#### CASH FOR OLD LETTERS

A Postal History collector wishes to purchase letters & envelopes w/postal markings &/or stamps (U.S. or foreign) from the 19th C. If you wish to dispose of old letters, documents, mail of historic interest, please call . . .!

*Thank you Bill, for this suggestion, and as requested I'd be most happy to stamp your supplied cover with the Bonsall Pony Express Oval.*

Dear Mr. Bauer:

In response to your letter of December 3, 1980, the following information is given in answer to your specific questions. I hope this will be of help to you in your follow-up article.

1. The machine, a flats canceller, is a new developmental prototype machine. The concept is a combination of methods used in other letter and flats cancelling machines.

2. The prototype machine used here in San Diego was built by Century Design, Inc. of San Diego, under contract with our Western Region Headquarters in San Bruno, CA.

3. Whether or not this style of cancellation becomes permanent is a decision to be made sometime in the future by our Headquarters in Washington, D.C. Many evaluations and cost studies must be considered before a decision could be made.

4. This cancelling machine was first used on outgoing flats on April 28, 1980.

5. There are no other offices using this style or cancellation nor will there be such use in the near future.

Your article indicates an interest in the cancelling roller. The roller is 4 3/4" dia. with rubber cancelling ring fitted on the outside diameter making the overall diameter 5". There are three (3) logos around the diameter. The post office designation, date and "PM" designation are interlocking inserts easily changeable to change date. The "PM" is used to designate mail received for cancellation after 5 PM mailings.

I hope this information is helpful. We appreciate your interest in the Postal Service.

Sincerely,

Margaret L. Sellers  
MSC Manager/Postmaster

## THE QUESTION CORNER

Q2. Postal regulations were very specific about the necessity of cancelling stamps with black ink. Chase (3¢ 1851-7) points out that this regulation led to the creation of bi-colored cancels: black for the stamp and red, blue, green for the town mark. Washington, D.C is known to have used a purple cancel June 11, 1878, which would seem to be in violation of the postal regulations. Considering the many colored cancellations that exist, does any reader know of a change in the postal regulations that allowed this? How long was the D.C. purple used?