



Cancellation Club NEWS

VOL. 16, NO. 6

WHOLE NO. 176

SPRING 1983

DOCKETING DANGERS: A CAUTIONARY NOTE

by Theodore W. Bozarth

Many of our early hand stamped postmarks lack a year date, and even later machine cancels may have unreadable year digits. The student of postmarks routinely looks for a more informative back-stamp, a dated inclosure, or contemporary docketing by the recipient to furnish the missing information. Most researchers have learned from experience that contents of envelopes may have been shuffled, so they first check to see if the date on the letter approximates the day and month of the envelope. However, the typed or written message on a postal card is usually a valid date source (if used with caution during the first days of a new year) and docketing dates are normally accepted without quibble as it is assumed that they were added by an impartial contemporary hand solely for recording arrival of the card of letter by the recipient or his agent.

That the docketing itself is in error can only be detected when there is a dated postmark of unquestioned validity or when the postmark is confirmed by a second marking or record. Two such examples of false docketing, probably quite accidental, are shown here. Had the year date not appeared in these two New York postmarks, a postal historian could have been seriously misled had he trusted the routine commercial docketing dates on the back.

The first is a copy of the 1¢ black postal card of 1881 mailed from New York City to Shelby Iron Works, Alabama, on "Feb 27...84" (Fig. 1) but which arrived there two years earlier, on "Feb 29, 1882" (Fig. 2), according to the recipient's docketing stamp. In this instance, the dated message on the back confirms the 1884 date, as does the docketing day. "If this is Feb 29, this must be 1884."

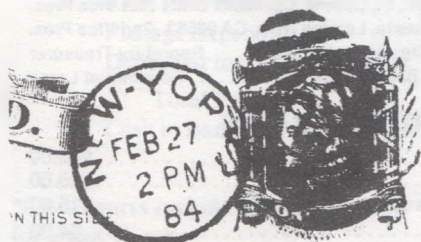


Figure 1. Address side (Feb 27...84)



Figure 3. Address side (Aug 3..85)

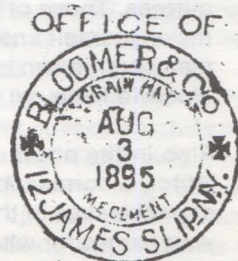


Figure 4. Message side (Aug 3, 1895)

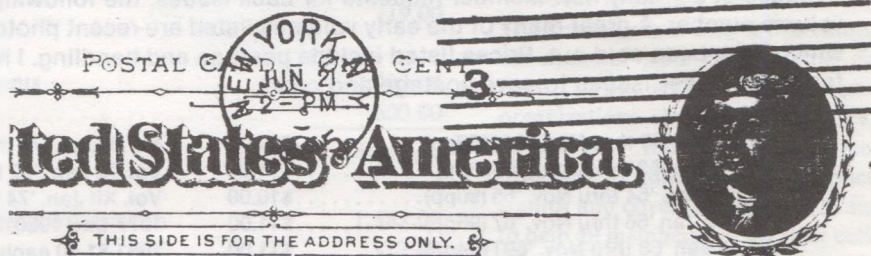


Figure 5. Machine cancel (June 21, 1895)

The second example is the reverse. Mailed from New York to Leicester Junction, VT., on "Aug 3—85" (Fig. 3), it was stamped by the sender as having been dispatched ten years later, on "Aug 3, 1895" (Fig. 4). But we know that by 1895 the 1¢ black Liberty postal had long been replaced in commercial mail by other designs, and nearly all of the formerly hand stamped cards from the main office in New York were being cancelled by machine (Fig. 5), so we can safely assume that a

misplaced digit was again the cause of the misdating.

In the absence of correcting evidence, an uncautious researcher might have claimed historical significance for the erroneous dates. All too often we see claims in the philatelic press for discovery of postal items used before their possible use-span based upon such refutable evidence. Use any docketing dates with caution; properly used they can be invaluable to the postal historian.

P. O. Box 3482.

Office of H. K. & F. B. THURBER & CO.,

Importers, Wholesale Grocers, Manufacturers & Commission Merchants,

WEST BROADWAY, READE & HUDSON STREETS,

New York, July 27th 1884

Gentlemen:

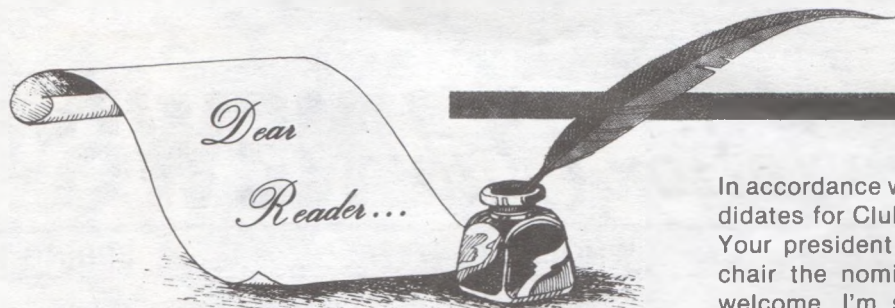
We beg to acknowledge yours of the 19th inst with \$50.00 & have sent Nickels for the amount as instructed

FEB 23 1882

Respectfully

Thurber, Whyland & Co

Figure 2. Message side (Feb 29, 1882)



In accordance with our by-laws, it is time to select candidates for Club office (to be voted upon at year end). Your president has requested Len Persson to again chair the nominating committee. It would be most welcome, I'm sure, if the committee had a list of names to guide them and make their job easier. And so I suggest we work up a backlog of volunteers to

present to the chairman during election years, and for the president, who selects the chairmen of the various committees. Those of you who would consider becoming a part of the governing and operation of the Club, *please* make yourself known . . . if not for this election, then for future ones. Working with a fine group like the USCC membership can truly be a pleasant and rewarding experience and there is always a need for fresh faces and new blood to keep our Club healthy and strong.

Also in the above vein, **your editor will be leaving at the end of this year**, which will create openings for a new editor, a corresponding secretary, membership chairman, and someone to handle the archiving and distribution of past issues of the News. Remember, the president and nominating committee cannot read your minds, so offer your names for whatever position you would feel comfortable with. New ideas, views, and enthusiasm are always constructive in this type of enterprise and will lead to a continuing improvement of Club activities. Get involved! It's *your* Club!!

Because of so many new-member requests for back issues, the following list is provided and can be ordered by volume number. A great many of the early volumes listed are recent photocopies, as are some of the 1981 issues, which have been sold out. Prices listed include postage and handling. I have eliminated the membership rosters from these past issues to save postage and costs.

Vol. V Jan '60 thru Nov. '61 (102pp) \$11.00
 Vol. VI Jan '62 thru Nov. '63 (98pp) \$11.00
 Vol. VII Jan. '64 thru Nov. '65 (90pp) \$10.00
 Vol. VIII Jan '66 thru Nov. '67 (96pp) \$11.00
 Vol. IX Jan '68 thru Nov. '69 (104pp) \$11.00

Vol. X Jan. '70 thru Nov. '71 (94pp) \$10.50
 Vol. XI Jan. '72 thru Nov. '73 (86pp) \$10.00
 Vol. XII Jan. '74 thru Nov. '76 (103pp) \$11.00
 1977 thru 1980 (24 issues) \$10.00
 1981 \$1.50 each, or total of 6 issues \$9.00
 1982 \$2.00 each, or total of 4 issues \$8.00

MACHINE CANCEL REPRINTS: The last copy of the International booklet has been sold. Since this book has been updated, it seems pointless to reprint more. Those wishing copies of the revised version should order from the Machine Cancel Forum, P.O. Box 98, Greenbelt, MD. Cost is \$20.00. There was obviously a need for the reprint, as we sold 36 copies. We've also sold 44 copies of the Barry M/C booklet and still have copies available for \$6.00 pp.

I had hoped to include a current membership roster with this issue of the News, but did not have time to complete the typing. Hopefully, it will be "proofed" in time for the next issue as well as an updated version of the Library List.

A reminder . . . **of the annual meeting of the USCC, Aug. 27, 1 P.M.**, Room 3, at the Convention Center in conjunction with the APS "Stampshow '83" in Pittsburgh.

With best philatelic wishes, your editor (for two more issues) . . .

Alyce

THE U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB NEWS

Published four times a year; February, May, August and November by the U.S. CANCELLATION CLUB and included with membership. Back issues as available. Prices on request.

Annual Dues: \$6.00 per year plus a one-time admission fee of \$1.00.

Address Library Inquiries to:

William H. Bauer, Box 1449, Spring, TX 77373

Address Sales Circuit Inquiries to:

P.O. Box 83, Winnetka, IL 60093

Address all other communications to:

Alyce Evans, Editor, Box 286, Bonsall, CA 92003

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ADVERTISING RATES

Full Page \$40.00
 Half Page \$25.00
 Quarter Page \$15.00
 Column Inch \$4.00

TREASURER'S REPORT

While the year of 1982 resulted in substantial increases in the cost of printing and postage, the relatively high interest received on our endowment fund partially offset these increases, and allowed the Club to continue its modest annual dues of \$6.00.

General Account:

Cash on Hand 31 December 1982	
Endowment Account	\$10,000.00
Checking Account	268.00
	\$10,268.00

Receipts

Interest on Endowment	1,099.00
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Disbursements

Award Plaques (100)	408.00
To Sales Dept. to pay for stolen circuits	600.00
To USCC News Account	600.00
Postage & Misc. expense	183.00
	1791.00

U.S.C.C. News Account:

Cash on Hand 31 Dec. 1981	119.00
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Receipts

Dues, Sale of back issues, advertisements	2,700.00
Received from General Account	600.00
	3,419.00

Disbursements

Publication of USCC News (printing and typesetting)	1,583.00
Purchase of books for Club Library	117.00
Postage for News Mailings & correspondence; printing/ purchase of stationery & envelopes; application forms; mailers for News; graphics supplies; reprints of machine cancel handbooks and misc. supplies	1,439.00
	3,193.00

Cash on Hand 31 Dec. 1982	226.00
	3,419.00

Sales Circuit Account 1/1/82 to 12/31/82:

Receipts

includes circuit payments, bank interest, and the sale of supplies	\$ 9,703.47
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Disbursements

To members for closed out circuit material	7,475.14
Postage	595.29
	\$8,070.43

Bank Reconciliation:

Cash in Bank (1/1/82)	5,366.62
Cash Received	9,703.47
Total Cash	\$15,070.09
Cash Paid Out	7,475.14
Postage Expenditures	595.29
Deposited to Savings Account	4,000.00
Total Payouts	\$12,070.43
Cash in Bank (1/1/83)	2,999.66
	\$15,070.09

*Cash figures include \$600.00 received from the U.S.C.C. Treasury which was paid out for a lost circuit.

A NOTE

FROM OUR PRESIDENT

It was felt by the Club officers that the members are due a financial report. The accompanying figures show our financial status as of Jan. 1, 1983. While our interest income amounted to just less than \$1,100.00, our expenses aggregated over \$1,700.00. The Award Plaques will last several years, so this item will be non-recurring until 1985 at least.

The \$600.00 loss to the Club from stolen and lost circuits hopefully will also be non-recurring. This loss is the reason the Sales Director and officers are "tightening up" the circuit system. We hope all members will cooperate in forwarding circuits *promptly* and will mail via the U.S. Postal Service with the required insurance.

We are running a "bare bones" system. The Club charges only a 5% commission on material sold through the circuits. Most, if not all of the other philatelic organizations charge at least 20%. It is hoped that this will enable members disposing of duplicates etc., to price their stamps and covers modestly. The intent is to help all members pursue their collecting interests as economically as possible.

We earnestly solicit your support in making ours a better and larger Club. Our Sales Director, Editor and Officers serve without pay and we urgently need the help of *all* members to make the Club interesting and useful. We solicit your ideas and comments and also your "surplus" material for the Circuits. Please mount up your duplicates and help relieve our chronic shortage of good sales material. This will also generate income to build your own collection. We really need and greatly appreciate your help. *Bill Walker, President.*

The Illinois PHS is offering two reprints of 1855 maps. One map is for the state of Illinois, showing towns, counties, RR's etc. Chicago and St. Louis share the other map on a 11' x 14" sheet. Sent rolled in tubes. Cost is \$3 each pp. Checks payable to IL PHS. Order from Jack Hilbing, 380 Indian Hill Dr., Buffalo Grove, IL 60090.

Randy Neil, publicity chairman for MIDAPHIL '83 to be held Oct. 21-23 in Kansas city, requests that those interested in exhibiting or obtaining a dealer table for the show write to Box 584, Kansas City, MO 64141.

STENCIL POSTMARKS AND OTHER STENCILED MARKINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THE U.S. MAILS: *Stampless Period Through The Banknote Period, Part 3*

by Frank Mandel

MAINE

Prospect Ferry, Me

Characteristics: Straight line; 44x3mm.; black. *Use:* 1851 issue, exact use and year not known. *Notes:* Not examined by me. Illustrated by tracing #96 in U.S.P.M. where it does not look like a stencil postmark, and as PM-TS 16 in Skinner-Eno, where it does. Take your choice. Rarity 9 rating in U.S.P.M. suggests more than one example exists.

WEEKS MILLS(.) / ME(.)

Characteristics: Two different types, both comprised of 2 straight lines: Type 1: 45x10mm., no periods after "MILLS" and "ME"; black. Type 2: 40x11½ mm., periods after "MILLS." and "ME."; *Use:* both 1851 issue, exact use and years not known. *Notes:* Not examined by me; illustrated by Tracings PM-TS 24 and PM-TS 25 in Skinner-Eno.

Figure 6. Stencil postmark from URBANA MD with stencil "5" in circle. Color: black, ca. 1847.

MARYLAND

URBANA MD

Characteristics: Two distinct types, both circular; Type 1: with outer and inner lines enclosing letters, both lines comprised of 4 segments; 22mm.; Colors: black, brown and red; known with stenciled "5" in 20mm. circle comprised of 6 segments. Type 2: no outer rim; 28mm.; black, known with stenciled "5" in 3 segments, and Fancy curved "Paid" between 2 lines comprised of two segments. *Use:* Type 1: Stampless 1845-1848 (per A.S.C.C.), verified uses in 1847. Type 2: Stampless: May 25, 1848. *Notes:* At least 4 copies (all colors included) of the Type 1 stencil exist. The Type 2 postmark appears to be much scarcer; at least two exist; one is illustrated in "Postal Markings of Maryland, 1766-1855" edited by Roger T. Powers (1960), at page 88; a second is illustrated as Lot 132 in the David G. Phillips auction of Feb. 24, 1979 (Sale #17, ex-Sampson), both Types 1 and 2 are rated in Powers as "less than 10 copies known," so my figures may be a bit conservative. The more "common" Type 1 is illustrated here as Figure 6.

MASSACHUSETTS

Pelham, Mass.

Characteristics: Arc, 31x5mm; Colors: dark blue and brownish black. *Use:* #26 (exact year not known); Stampless: Nov. 7, 1861 with ms. "Paid 3"; #65 (exact year of use not known, stamp is pen-cancelled). *Notes:* This postmark was formed out of the bottom half of an advertising stencil which read: "E.S. Richardson (upper arc)/

Variety Store (straight line in middle)/Pelham, Mass. (bottom arc)". Enos Richardson was the postmaster of Pelham in the early 1860's, and so, made his stencil device do double duty by brushing the ink over only the bottom portion to make postmarks. A remarkable cover (Figure 7, courtesy, J.R. Kesterson) exists which has the postmark on the front, and the full advertising stencil on the flap side.

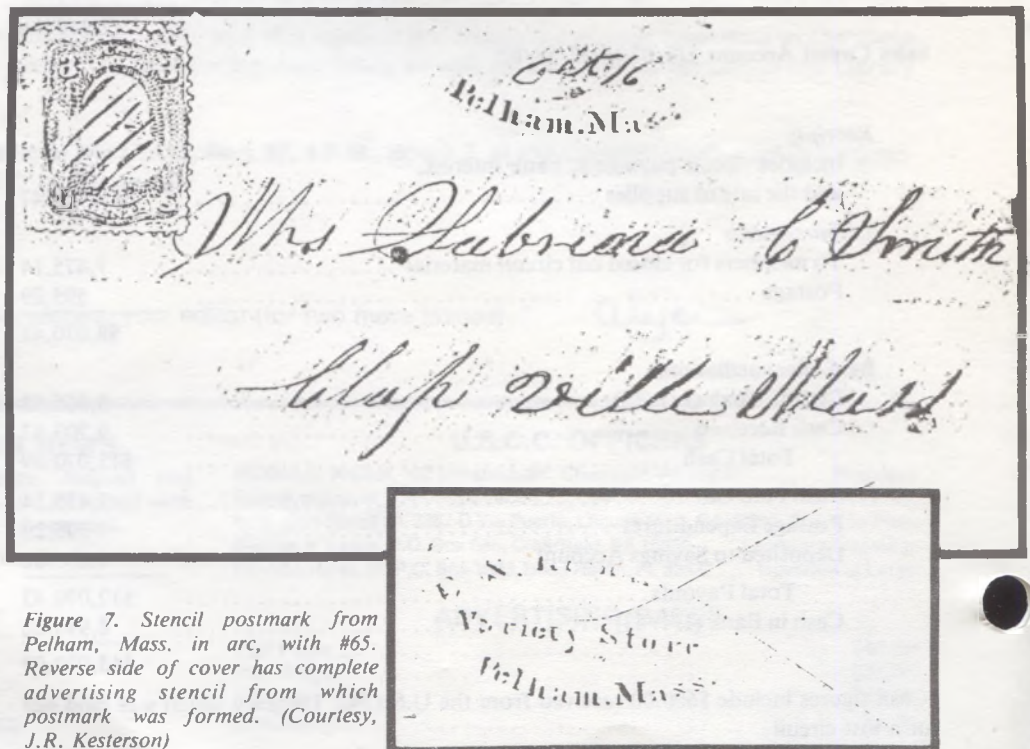
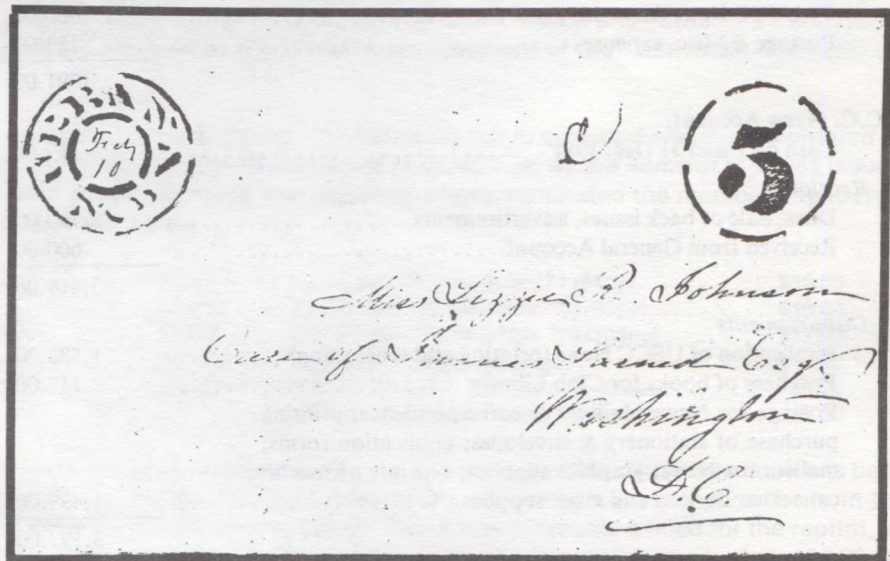


Figure 7. Stencil postmark from Pelham, Mass. in arc, with #65. Reverse side of cover has complete advertising stencil from which postmark was formed. (Courtesy, J.R. Kesterson)

Figure 8. Stencil postmark from LEMPSTER/N.H., Stampless use, July 6, 1835. Color: gray-black. (Courtesy, David L. Jarrett)

MICHIGAN

ALGODON MICH

Characteristics: Circular, outer line comprised of at least 17 dashes; 25mm.; black, stamp cancelled by handstamp 4 ring target. *Use:* 3° Banknote (exact year not known, probably 1870's). *Notes:* Only one example seen.

MISSISSIPPI

Tolands. Depot/-Miss-

Characteristics: Two straight lines, long dashes at either end of "Miss"; 35x6mm; black, stamp tied by stencil, ms. dating at left. *Use:* 3° (U9) Nesbitt envelope, /May 25, exact year not known. *Notes:* Only one example seen. It was offered as Lot 1138 in the Robert A. Siegel auction of Jan. 12, 1961 (Sale #236) which included the Tracy Simpson 3° 1851-57 Collection. It is also illustrated as Tracing #111 in U.S.P.M.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

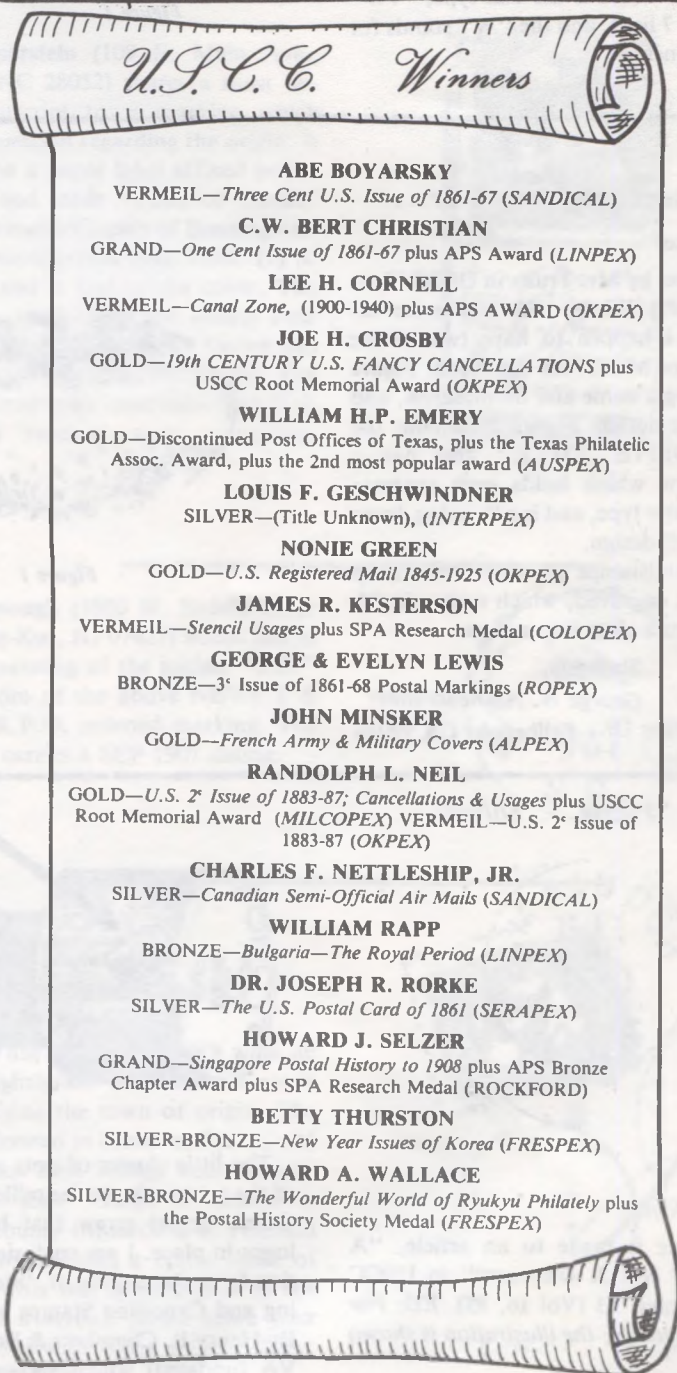
FRANCESTOWN N.H.(?)

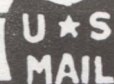
Characteristics: Circular, outer line comprised of 11 segments; 32mm.; purplish brown with ms. date in magenta ink. *Use:* Stampless; July 14, 1824. *Notes:* This was previously discussed in detail in Part 2 of this article; only one example seen.

LEMPSTER.N.H.

Characteristics: Circular, outer line comprised of 30 small dots. "N.H." at center of design; 30mm. Colors: magenta with ms. date also in magenta; gray-black; brown. *Use:* Stampless: magenta: Feb. 24, 1834; brown: Jan. 21, 1835; gray-black: July 6, 1835. *Notes:* At least three copies of this attractive stencil exist; the Feb. 24 and July 6 examples were both illustrated in the Edwin Mayer collection (Lots 3316 & 3317, H.R. Harmer, Inc., Feb. 17, 1967). The Jan. 21 listing is from the Robert A. Siegel Sale #458 of Sept. 20, 1974 where it was illustrated as lot 95. One very fine example is illustrated here as Figure 8 (Courtesy, David L. Jarrett). Anyone with additional information on the above towns may contact Frank Mandel, P.O. Box 157, New York, NY 10014.

(To be continued)





THE MAIL BAG

Which Dallas?... Dallas, Oregon!

In response to Herb McNeal's query in the last issue of the News (page 72), regarding the posting point of the Dallas postmark (Figure 1), **Donald Smith** informs us that it is DALLAS, OREG. (Figure 2) and believes this cancel was in use for only four years—'16, '17, '18, and '19. Donald further explains his covers stating the cancel is a Columbia machine type EA-7W (EA is the dial type, "7W" stands for 7 lines, and the "W" stands for "wavy" lines.



Figure 1

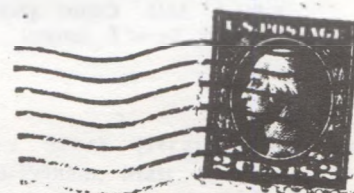


Figure 2

Another Linen Marker, Or...

Dear Alyce:

The letter by Mr. Truax in USCC News (Vol 16 #5) Winter '83 was most interesting. I happen to have two of the handstamps Mr. Truax described. Figure 1 is missing a name and thumbscrew, and is an eagle design. Figure 2 contains the name "OLIVE JOYCE" and has a thumbscrew which holds each separate piece of letter type, and is a "cooing doves over heart" design.

Both handstamps are cast from cheap metal, not engraved, which makes it difficult to get a clear impression.

Sincerely,

George W. Aschenbrenner

(2933 Mackey Dr., Fallbrook, CA 92028)



Figure 1



Figure 2

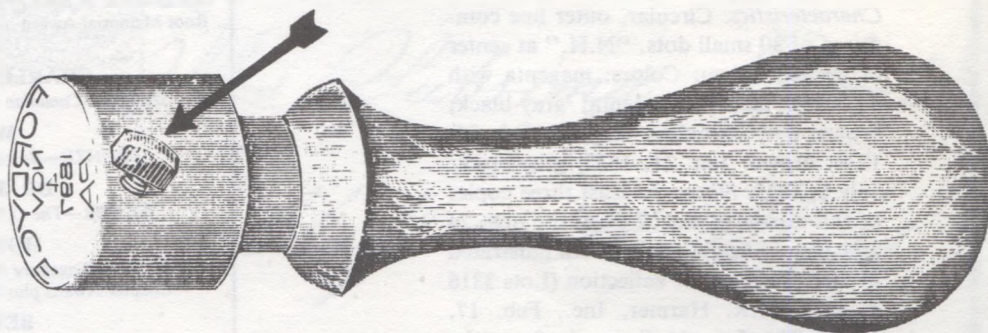
ED: Can any of our "steamboat buffs" inform us if there was a ship called the "OLIVE JOYCE"?

A "Puzzle"... Solved!



My dear Alyce:

Reference is made to an article, "A Puzzle—If Not A Discovery" in USCC News, Winter '83 (Vol 16, #5). ED: For ease of reference, the illustration is shown above.



The little cluster of dots at the bottom of the postmark are the milled edge of the thumb or set screw that held the date logos in place. I am enclosing an illustration from the catalog of "Steel Postmarking and Canceling Stamps Manufactured By Henry B. Chambers & Bros.", Lodge, VA (undated) which shows the thumb-

screw. The catalog (given to me by Delf Norona 45 years ago) does not illustrate a cancel & cork killer combination, but the thumbscrew was the same.

Sincerely,

Robert A. Truax

3629 Legation St. NW.,
Washington, DC 20015

CANCEL UPDATE — QUESTION CORNER

Readers are invited to report unlisted 19th century fancy cancels or additional information on the cancels listed in the generally used reference works.



The unidentified "PAID" from the Chester Wilcox collection, shown in the last issue, did not print well even though it was a half-tone photograph. Shown above is a tracing of the cancel. Hopefully, some member has this cancel on cover and can identify the town in Conn. which produced it.

Jean West sends an unrecorded cancel of five small stars struck in black on the 3¢ 1861 issue. The double circle cds from BROOKLINE MS is dated Nov. 20. Jean is a bit concerned because the stars are not tied to the cover, and wonders if any member has a similar example of this cluster of stars tied to the cover?



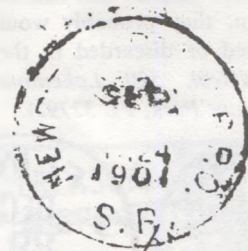
ODD & UNUSUAL

Perry Sapperstein (109 E. Main Ave., Gastonia, NC 28052) shares a most unusual manuscript town marking which leaves no question regarding the origin. It is written on a paper label affixed beside the stamp and reads "Town of Dorset/State of Vermont/County of Bennington/U.S. of America/18th Aug 1865/ (?) S. D.P.M.," and is tied to the cover. The "D.P.M." could stand for Dorset Post Master, and the postmaster of Dorset was Gilbert M. Sykes during this period. The volume of mail must have been light if all the covers received such meticulous attention.



Evelyn and George Lewis have submitted this unusual segmented star from OAK HILL, NY, struck on the 3¢ 1861 issue.

Joe McDonough (1000 W. Saddle River Rd., Ho-Ho-Kus, NJ 07423) would like to know the meaning of the initials "S.R." at the bottom of the above NEWP'T & SPRING. R.P.O. railroad marking. The 30 mm cds carries a SEP 1901 dating.



An interesting maltese cross in a septagon frame originated at PEEKSKILL N.Y. The cancel was struck twice on this cover franked with the 3¢ 1861 issue, and is from the collection of Evelyn and George Lewis.

A "LIGHTHOUSE" CANCEL?

Bill Stearns has a #65 cover with what he terms a "lighthouse" cancel, and needs help identifying the town of origin. The cover is addressed to Monroe, Conn., and there is a ms East Village below the illegible cds. East Village is located in Litchfield county (Monroe is in Fairfield county). Anyone with a better strike of the cancel (this one is enhanced by the editor from a xerox), please share your good news and write Bill at 1 Circle Drive, Syosset, NY 11791.



PHILATELIC TRAGEDIES

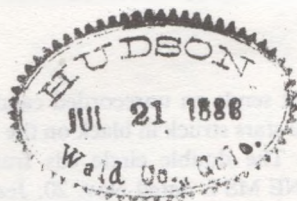
by Herb McNeal

Many a beautiful cover has been ruined by mutilation, removing stamps, stains, docketing, and other thoughtless actions. Of all these, perhaps the most heartbreaking is cutting out the postmark and discarding the cover.

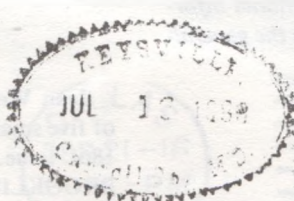
We have all seen scrapbooks of these cancellations. Recently one came my way via an antique dealer. Originally, this book was a business ledger, with blue marbled covers and leather binding on corners and spine. Stubs of pages which have been removed indicate that it was in service in 1839 and 1840, until being placed in service as a postmark album about 1891. On a page prefacing the postmarks is written in pencil: "Ethel Sparrow, Woodford, Me., Aged 10 years." Following are pages of postmarks neatly clipped from covers, arranged alphabetically by name of town, from A to N, where the project ended.

The covers apparently came from the mail received by one or more of the publishing houses in Maine, and all postmarks are dated 1888-1891. There are several hundred postmarks in the book, including fancy cancels in red, magenta, and violet, and postmaster and county cancels which include several heretofore unlisted towns or types. What a beautiful display these covers could have made!

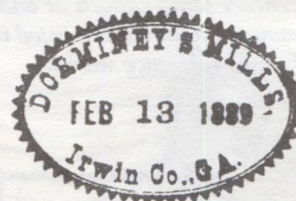
Yet, all is not lost. The unlisted postmarks are helpful, and had not Ethel saved them, they probably would have been burned or discarded in the trash. (Herb McNeal, 520 Lakemont Ave. South, Winter Park, FL 32792).



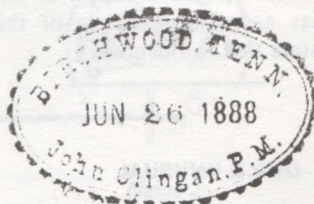
Black



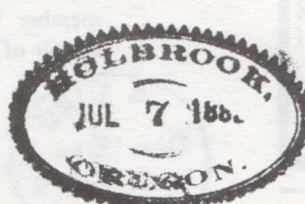
Black



Red



Black



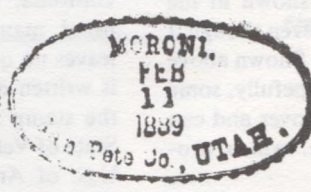
Black



Black



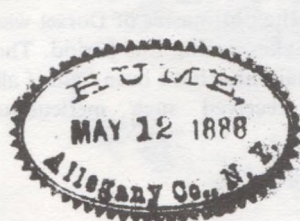
Black



Magenta



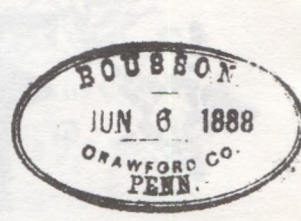
Black



Blue



Violet



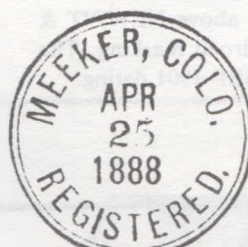
Black



Black



Purple



Purple



Violet



Purple



Violet



Violet



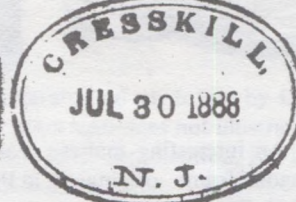
Red Violet



Black



Violet



Purple

by John W. Koontz

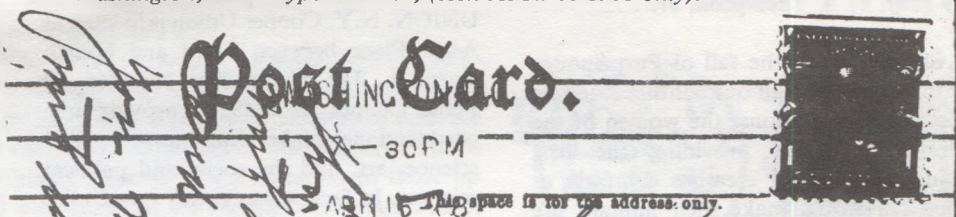
The Columbia Postal Supply Co. of Silver Creek, NY produced a number of different cancellers for its rapid cancelling machines. Unfortunately, no comprehensive "catalog" or book on Columbia's has been published to date. The most complete writings on the styles, towns, and dates of use of the Columbia Postal Supply Co. have been those of Gene Funk, scattered throughout *Machine Cancel Forum* and some computations by this author of certain styles which were first typed by the late A.H. Pike.

The repeaters of 1908-1911 are some of the most difficult of the Columbia's to find. However, a type R1 was found a couple of years ago in a dealers 50¢ box. With a sharp eye and a little good luck good finds are still to be had for the knowledgeable. *Good Hunting!*

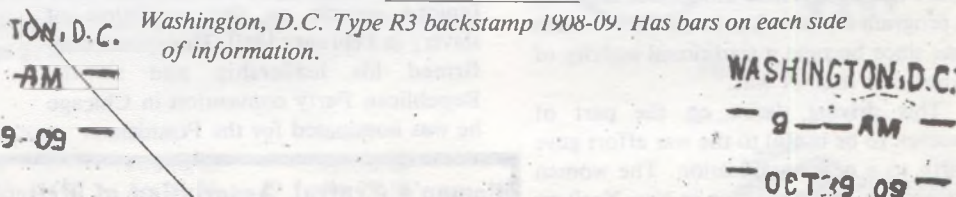
(John W. Koontz, P.O. Box G,
W. Bowie Sta., Bowie, MD 20715.)

"REPEATER" CANCELS

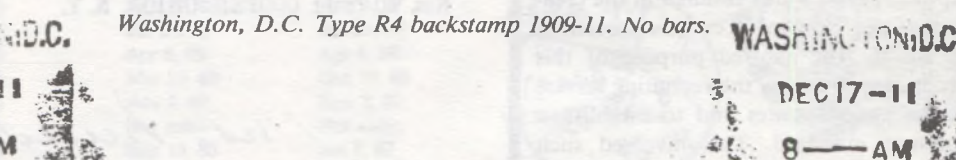
Washington, D.C. Type R1 1908, (seen APR. 16 1908 only).



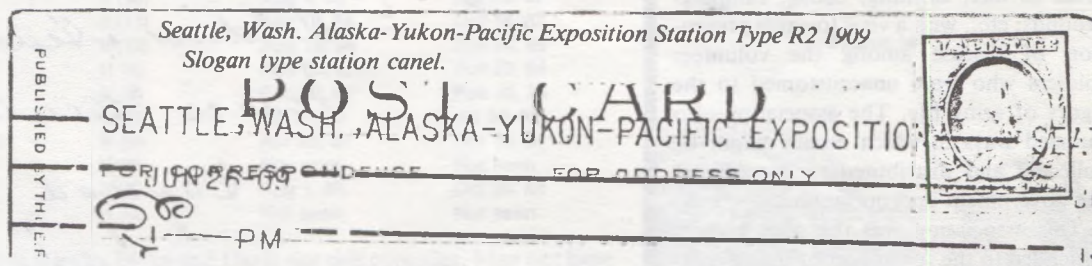
Washington, D.C. Type R3 backstamp 1908-09. Has bars on each side of information.



Washington, D.C. Type R4 backstamp 1909-11. No bars.



Seattle, Wash. Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition Station Type R2 1909
Slogan type station cancel.



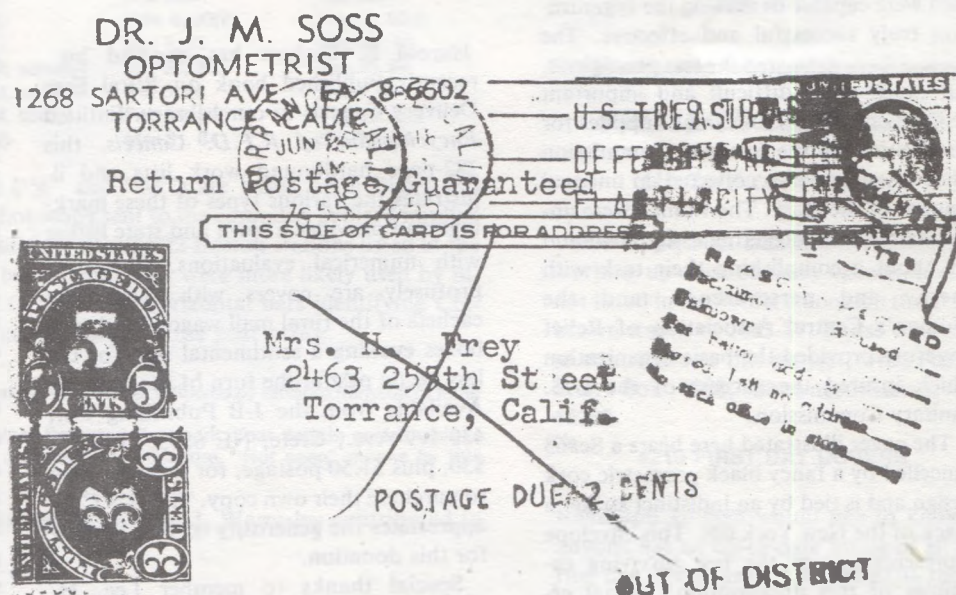
Letter Rate Postal Card

by Zaven M. Seron, M.D.

In 1955, the postal card rate was two cents. But look at the illustration — this postal card cost an optometrist ten cents to urge a patient to come in for a follow-up appointment. Solving the rate cost from the accessory markings wasn't easy!

To begin with, note the typewritten notation below Dr. Soss's return address at upper left, "Return Postage Guaranteed," which promptly converted the postal card into the equivalent of a letter. Note the "POSTAGE DUE 2 CENTS" (in red, just below the Torrance, Calif. address). This marking covered one cent added for the letter rate, plus one cent penalty charge.

Mrs. Frey, the addressee, had moved out of the Torrance District (Note: "OUT OF DISTRICT" marking in red, at bottom of the card). Inability to locate cost three cents for return to sender, plus an additional three-cent penalty charge. Total cost of postage due was thus eight cents, as shown by the due stamps in the left margin.



Dr. Soss's ESP must have anticipated Mrs. Frey's move, otherwise why did he bother to guarantee return postage on the card? Time elapsed from receipt at the

Torrance post office to the return to Dr. Soss totals 16 days by the two slogan machine cancels. A neat bit of modern postal history!

THE STORY BEHIND THE CORNER CARD

by Prof. C. S. Thompson, Jr.

Shortly before the fall of Fort Sumter with the fever of all-out conflict reaching historical proportions, the women of the North set about providing the first soldiers with such creature comforts as they felt would make their military life more bearable. These kindnesses included a program of "sew for the soldiers" which has since become a traditional activity of women in time of war.

This driving desire on the part of women to be useful to the war effort gave birth to a new organization. The women organizers held a meeting in New York on April 25, 1861 which resulted in the creation of the Woman's Central Association of Relief. The avowed purpose of this group was to review the recruiting service in the various states and to establish a common standard. This involved such areas as diet, clothing, cooks, camping-grounds, etc., with a view towards prevention of disease among the volunteer soldiers who were unaccustomed to the rigors of army life. The association also pursued ways in which money might be collected and distributed to supplement the government appropriations.

This association was the pilot project which led to the formation of the government sponsored United States Sanitary Commission. No women were appointed to this governing body and, as often happens, the male members of the U.S. Sanitary Commission felt that only young men were capable of making the organization truly successful and effective. The women were delegated the less prestigious, but much more difficult and important task, of collecting money and supplies for distribution by the Sanitary Commission who, of course, also collected an unequal amount of the glory. The women were undaunted by the staggering assignment and set about accomplishing their task with energy and perseverance, and the Woman's Central Association of Relief therefore provided the basic organization which insured the success of the U.S. Sanitary Commission.

The cover illustrated here bears a Sc#65 cancelled by a fancy black geometric cork design and is tied by an indistinct strike in black of the New York cds. This envelope represents one of the few surviving examples of this organization's initial efforts in behalf of the servicemen. The two-line corner card simply states: WOMEN'S CENTRAL ASSOCIATION OF RELIEF/Nos. 10 & 11 COOPER

UNION, N.Y. Cooper Union is located at Astor Place between Third and Fourth Avenues. The Union was founded by Peter Cooper in 1859 to provide free coeducational higher learning in applied science, art, and the social and political sciences. In fact, it was at this very Union that Abraham Lincoln delivered his famous speech on the restriction of slavery in February 1860. This speech confirmed his leadership and at the Republican Party convention in Chicago he was nominated for the Presidency.

One should also note that the envelope is addressed to one Mrs. Murdock/Prest. Soldiers Aid Society/Venice Center/Cayuga Co./N.Y. Mrs. Murdock was simply one of many such women who were already hard at work to make life easier for the soldiers in service. Venice Center is located 144 miles west of Albany, has a rolling surface, gravelly soil and dry loam. Its population at the time of this letter was only slightly more than two thousand who were probably not very wealthy which makes their efforts in behalf of the service personnel a most magnanimous gesture.

Woman's Central Association of Relief,

Nos. 10 & 11 COOPER UNION, N. Y.

Mrs. Murdock
Pres. Soldiers Aid Society
Venice Center
Cayuga Co.
N. Y.

LIBRARY UPDATE

Harold E. Richow has donated his recently published book on Rural Free Delivery Cancels to our Library. Entitled *Encyclopedia of R.F.D. Cancels*, this 282-page hardbound work lists and illustrates the various types of these markings and provides a town and state listing with numerical evaluations. Illustrated profusely are covers with fascinating cachets of the rural mail wagons and mail boxes evoking a sentimental sigh for the less hectic past at the turn of the century. Available from the J-B Publishing Co., 430 Ivy Ave., Crete, NE 68333. Price is \$30, plus \$1.50 postage, for those wishing to purchase their own copy. The U.S.C.C. appreciates the generosity of Mr. Richow for this donation.

Special thanks to member Lee. H. Cornell for the donation of the following:
Kansas Post Offices by Robert W. Baughman
U.S. Postal Guide, July 1947, Part I: Domestic

Since this is the first of the Postal Guides that we have in the Library, perhaps those members with duplicates or unwanted copies would consider donating them to our Library?

We are exchanging journals with the following societies whose current issues are available from our Library: Dixie Philatelist, Flag Cancellation Society, the Ohio, Penn., Postal History, U.S.A., Vermont, and Wisconsin Postal History Societies. If any reader is a member of a society not listed here, do encourage the editor to exchange journals with us.

Rhode Island Post Offices, by William C. Hillman is another recent addition to our Library. This is a revised 7 page alphabetical listing of all post offices in Rhode Island, showing dates of operation and scarcity ratings of the various postmarks. The scarcity ratings are assigned to branches, and to each period that a post office was opened. Those wishing to purchase this booklet may write to the author at 403 South Main Street, Providence, RI 02903. Price is \$4.95 postpaid.

Walter D. Wesson's Time-On-Bottom (TOB) Duplex Hand-Cancellers, Part 6

by Theodore W. Bozarth

BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

Maurice Blake and Wilbur Davis made an intensive study of all Boston postal markings nearly half a century ago. With a single exception (killer "G") they confirm the TOB varieties listed by Willard but went on to identify more minor varieties of both the CDS and the killers and attempted to list various combinations of the two parts. This is beyond the scope of this study and we gladly leave such specialization to those interested. However, since all Boston TOB with numerals are varieties of Willard #1096, and all with letters are #1098, the column for these numbers will be replaced by a listing of Blake and Davis (B & D) identification numbers of the killers only. The CDS include B&D 2084 through 2103, Plate 117, page 277.

City	B & D	Killer Type	E.R.P. ²	L.R.P. ²
Boston	2123, 2123A (See Fig.1)	V (1)	Feb 16, 83	Apr 18, 87
	2124, 2124A, 2125	V (2)	Apr 27, 83	Apr 27, 83
	2126, 2127	V (3)	Mar 4, 85	Mar 4, 85
	2128, 2129	V (4)	Feb 17, 83	Feb 8, 87
	..(Rimless)	V (4)	Jul 31, 87	Jul 31, 87
	2130, 2131	V (5)	Apr 6, 85	Apr 6, 85
	2132, 2133	V (6)	Mar 23, 83	Oct 14, 89
	2134	V (7)	Nov 3, 87	Nov 3, 87
	2135, 2135A	V (8)	Not seen	Not seen
	2136, 2137	V (9)	Sep 18, 83	Jul 7, 87
..(Rimless)	2138, 2138A	V (10)	Aug 4, 83	Apr 23, 87
	2139	V (11)	Sep 19, 84	Oct 14, 87
	2140, 2141 (Fig. 27)	V (12)	Aug 13, 84	Jun 24, 85
	2104, 2105	H (A)	May 31, 8(4?)	Jun 23, 84
	2106	H (B)	Feb 20, 84	Feb 20, 84
	2107, 2108, 2109	H (C)	Jul 30, 83	Jul 30, 83
	2110, 2111, 2111A	H (D)	Apr 26, 83	Oct 10, 84
	2112	H (E)	Not seen	Not seen
	2113	H (F)	Aug 1, 83	Oct 30, 84
	(None)	H (G)	Not seen	Not seen

Reported by Willard but not seen by Blake and Davis nor this compiler. May not have been made since "G" is so easily confused with "C". The twelve letters known (A through N, less G and I) equal the twelve numerals known.

	2114	H (H)	Not seen	Not seen
	2115	H (J)	Apr 14, 85	Apr 14, 85
Boston	2116, 2117, 2118	H (K)	Not seen	Not seen
..(Rimless)	2118 (?)	H (K)	Nov. 6, 90(?)	Nov. 6, 90(?)
	2119 (Fig. 28)	H (L)	Oct 1, 83	Dec 22, 84
	2120, 2121	H (M, sanserif)	Jan 25, 84	Jan 25, 84
..(Rimless)	2121	H (M, sanserif)	Oct 5, 88	Oct 4, 88
	(None) (Fig. 29)	H (M, serifs)	Feb 16, (89)	Feb 16, (89)
	2122	H (N)	Mar 31, 84	Oct 10, 84

Two of the rimless combinations above ("4" and "M") are based upon Blake and Davis; the third ("K") is from a murky photocopy sent to the compiler. Willard implied that the 24 numerals and letters were identified with the 22 Boston stations listed in the 1887 Postal Guide. Modern researchers believe that they were more likely used by individual clerks in the main Boston Post Office, with horizontal bars identifying Collected (Carrier) mail and vertical bars mail Deposited at the post office.

¹H for 9 Horizontal bars in ellipse, V for 6 Vertical bars in ellipse, followed by letter or numeral of killer in parenthesis.

²E.R.P., Earliest Reported Postmark; L.R.P., Latest Reported Postmark. Year date in parenthesis is NOT in CDS but obtained from backstamp, docketing, or inclosure. "Not seen" means by this compiler.

J.B. Devol, Alyce Evans, William H. Heisler and Arthur J. Warmesley contributed to this section.

References:

Blake, Maurice C., and Davis, Wilbur W., *Postal Markings of Boston, Massachusetts to 1890*, (Portland, ME., 1949), pp. 276-279.

Willard, Edward L., *United States Two Cent Red Brown of 1883-1887, Vol II*, (New York: Lindquist, 1970), pp. 122-123.

(Theodore W. Bozarth, RFD 2, Box 168, Titusville, NJ 08560.)

(To be continued.)

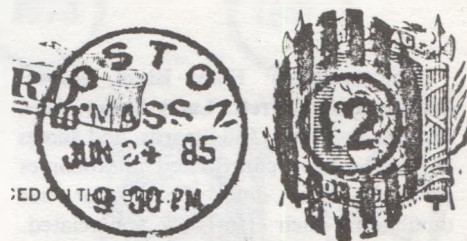


Figure 27



Figure 28



Figure 29

PROJECT RESEARCH

Update on Willard

Randolph Neil and Jim Wrobliske are working up a list of fancy cancels that are not listed in the Willard book on the 2nd red brown stamp of 1883-87. Those who wish to contribute to this project, write Neil at P.O. Box 7088, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66207.

#210 FIRST DAY COVERS

Randolph L. Neil would like to know if anyone has an up-to-date listing of all the first day covers known on the #210- the 2nd red brown. Randy thinks there may now be over 30 of them, but is unaware of a recent tabulation. Information may be sent to him at P.O. Box 7088, Shawnee-Mission, KS 66207.

FOR LOVE OF A CANCEL

by Alyce Evans

YEAR DATES ON BANKNOTE ISSUES

Nine members: **Elliot Blum, Robert Currey, Don Garrett, Larry Kelley, Stan Martin, Ted Mills, Bill Stearns, and James Wrobliske** have contributed photocopies of their "year date" covers for our tabulation. Their efforts are appreciated. Remember, this is an on-going study, so continue to send examples as you acquire them. We will continue the "year date" study in the next issue also, and begin a new category of "multiple letters" used as cancels on banknotes. We will not include full words (such as PAID) in this category since they command their own separate listing, but will stay with initials and other collection of letters.

At least 50 towns are known to have used "year dates" as cancels, representing each year from 1870 thru 1895. We are assuming the cancels which show only the last two digits are year abbreviations, and were actually used during the year they represented. Docketing, backstamps and enclosures would help to confirm the actual year of use. Determining how many months of the year each town used the "year date" cancel is one of the things we hope to accomplish with this study.

No.1 SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., negative "76" in octagon; #158 on cover dated Aug. 2. Source: Ted Mills. Covers dated May 30 and July 10 reported. Earlier covers show the octagon shape quite well, but by Aug. the corners were rounded, and a break had started by the "6". The years "78" and "79" were also reported for South Orange, whose postmaster during the years 1869-1887 was Lewis P. Taylor.

No.2 OSCEOLA MILLS, PA., "U S 76", #158 on cover dated Sep. 26. Source: Larry Kelley. The Robert Siegel 326 Sale (1/9/68) showed a cover with a May 11 date. Bill Walker, who traced the John McLaughlin covers for the Sep. '63 News, reported an Oct. 4 and Nov. 1 use.

No.3 MATTAPOISETT, MASS., "77"; #158 on cover dated Mar. 19. Source: Ted Mills. This town also used a "76" and "78". Postmaster from 9/26/66-6/28/93 was Wm. E. Sparrow.

No.4 TICONDEROGA, N.Y., negative "78"; on piece dated Jan. 1. Source: Alyce Evans.

No.5 WALLINGFORD, CT., negative "76"; #158 on cover dated Oct. 12. Source: Larry Kelley. (copy not to size).

No.6 MATTAPOISETT, MASS., "78"; 3¢ green on cover dated MA(?) 4. Source: Robert Currey. A cover dated July 15 has also been reported.

No.7 UTICA, N.Y., negative "78"; on cover dated Sep. 28. Source: Ted Mills. An earlier cover is reported dated Sep. 5.

No.8 PRINCETON, ILL., negative "79"; #184 on cover dated May 5. Source: Alyce Evans. This cover was definitely used in '79, as it is verified by a New York Rec'd backstamp dated May 7 '79. A forwarded cover, it also has a New York postmark on the front dated May 8/79. Elliot Blum sent a three-strike cover with a June 2 date, and Ted Mills enclosed a copy showing a late date of Aug. 25. James W. Templeton was P.M. from 3/17/75-2/21/87.

No.9 NASHOTAH, WISC., "1870" in circle. Source: Frank Moertl, of the Wisconsin PHS informs us that the Nashotah office used the small circle year date cancel for the years 1869, 70, 71, 72 and 73. Nashotah was established as Pine Lake on July 13, '54. The name was changed to Nashotah Mission on Aug. 26, '63, and the name was finally changed to Nashotah on 5/10/81. Alden S. Kelley was P.M. from 6/21/67-5/9/81.

No.10 NASHOTAH, WISC., "1871" in circle. Source: Frank Moertl confirmed that the Nashotah P.M. made his 1870 cancel do double duty, by cutting the "O" in half, to resemble a "1", and used it for the 1871 year. Frank reported a cover dated April 22, 1871 with this cancel, which was used as late as April 1872.

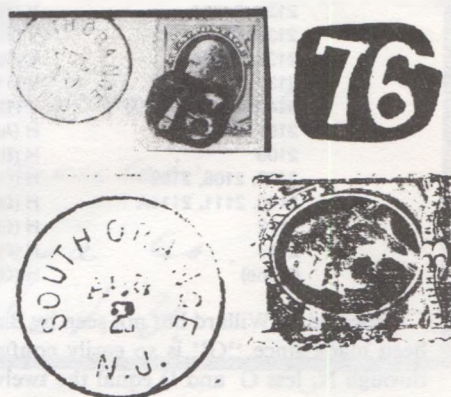
No.11 NASHOTAH, WIS., "1873" in circle; #147 on cover dated Jan. 27. Source: Ted Mills.

No.12 WATKINS, N.Y., "1870"; #147 on cover dated Sep. 26. Source: Ted Mills. An earlier cover is reported dated Sep. 21, and Stan Martin reports a Nov. 4 use, and the latest recorded is Dec. 13. Watkins also used "1871" and "1878" cancels. The P.M. for the years 12/10/61-1/15/71 was Henry M. Hillerman. Levi M. Gano was P.M. from 1/16/71-2/25/87.

No.13 GREELEY, CO.O., "1873" in grid; #147 on cover dated May 17. Source: Ted Mills. The grids of this cancel wore to mere dots, changing its look considerably, as shown by a Sep. 29 cover. The P.M. from 1/25/72-1/31/76 was James B. Flower.

No.14 WURTSBOROUGH, N.Y., negative "1882" grid; #207 on cover dated Sep. 22. Source: Ted Mills. A Mar. 1 use has been reported. Wurtsborough also used an "1881" cancel. The P.M. from 8/5/61-7/29/81 was Wm. C. Cogswell and from 7/30/81-12/29/85, the P.M. was Harvey R. Morris.

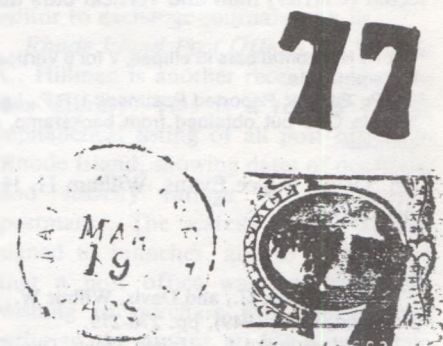
No.15 STONEHAM, MASS., "1885" in Greek Cross; on a pair of #210s, with the CDS showing the month of use as June, (and also, that it is a duplex canceller.) Source: James Wrobliske. A cover showing later use on Sep. 12 has been reported.



No. 1



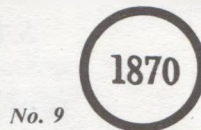
No. 2



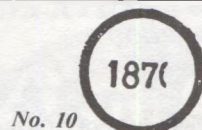
No. 3



No. 4



No. 9



No. 10



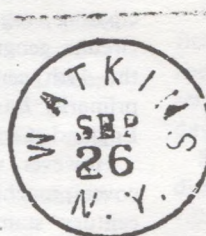
No. 5



No. 11



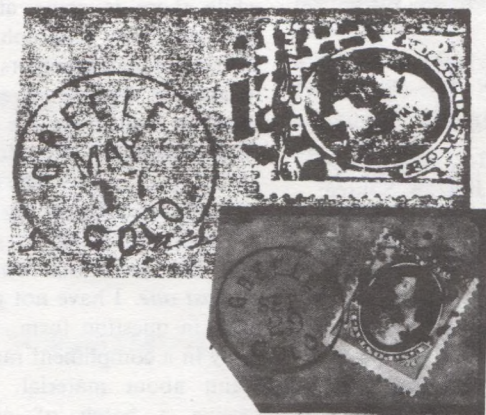
No. 6



No. 12



No. 7



No. 13



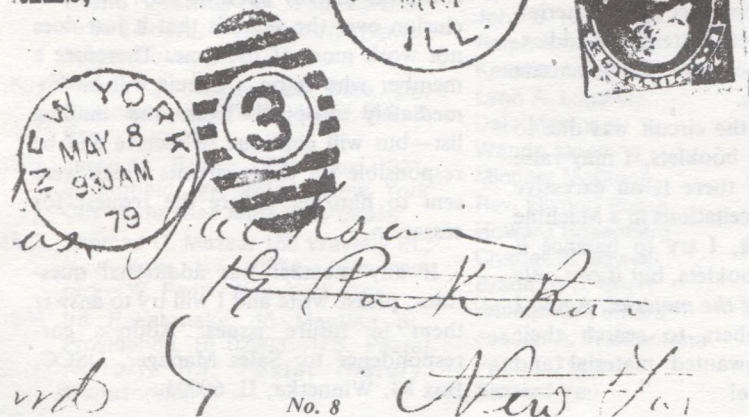
No. 8



No. 14

urn to

Pop
RIES,



No. 15

ANCHOR CANCELS ON BANKNOTES—

A Continuation

ERRATA: The anchor tracing shown for No. 12 in the last issue is the tracing for No. 5.

- No. 19 NASHUA, NEW HAMPSHIRE;** #147 on cover, dated APR/18, docketed "Received Friday April 19 1872". Source: Theodore O. Mills. George Swain was P.M. from 3/2/67-4/3/72, Henry B. Atherton was P.M. from 4/4/72-6/28/76.



No. 19

- No. 20 PHILADELPHIA, PA.;** #136 on cover dated Jun/28. Source: Theodore O. Mills. The names of the postmasters and dates served: Henry H. Bingham, 3/18/67-11/19/72; George W. Fairman, 11/20/72-12/11/76; A. Loudon Snowdon, 12/12/76-2/16/79; John F. Hartranft, 2/17/79-7/21/80; Henry S. Hurdekoper, 7/22/80-11/16/85.



No. 20

We will continue to publish and update this list as material is received, so please take the time and make the effort to assure the success of this project. The goal is to publish a handbook, when sufficient material is collected.

REPORT FROM THE SALES MANAGER

In this issue I will attempt to answer common questions which are received from members. The presumption is that if it is asked by one member, it might be of interest to other members.

1. The cost of mailing these packages is getting prohibitive. Couldn't it be arranged so that California cities to each other and so on to the Midwest. This question is a regular one. The answer is yes and no. In the type of circuits for which we have lots of covers and stamps and members participating a regular attempt is to arrange the circuits geographically. For example, in the 19th century covers, Circuit #1 is primarily East Coast, Circuit #2 is New England, Circuit #501 is the Midwest.

However, when we get to 20th century covers, machine cancellations and to 20th century stamps, we have many fewer members participating. Consequently while there is some attempt made to separate them geographically, there are seldom enough members in any one area to make it feasible. Even if we grouped them by area, there are complaints. The common one is "Why do I always follow Mr. _____?" The second problem will be noted below in question 3, and hopefully explained.

2. This circuit was certainly better than the last one. I have not placed this statement in question form, but preferred to glory in a compliment rather than a complaint about material. Seldom do we receive a batch of circuit payments without at least one member telling me how bad the material is.

The Sales Manager does not select the material. It is sent out as received. If more members sent in better material, the circuits would be better. I am certainly not going to complain to the relatively few members who support the circuits about their material, and possibly have them stop. We have a couple of members who do send in what I consider poor material. I include it. However, I attempt to add extra books to those circuits to compensate for the poorer ones.

For example, if the circuit was due to receive 17 separate booklets, I may raise the total to 20. If there is an excessive number of flag cancellations in a Machine Cancellation circuit, I try to balance it with a few better booklets, but *it can only be done, if we have the material*. Again I will ask all members to search their duplicates and unwanted material and send it to us. Please!

3. Why am I never first on a circuit?

Everybody is first in an equal manner! As Sales Manager, I have absolutely nothing to do with how a member is placed in a circuit. The computer program was written with a random access for the placement of members in a circuit, given the fact that it takes into consideration where the members previously received a circuit.

I absolutely guarantee that everyone is treated fairly. I do have the ability to override the random selection, but it is seldom done. When I see a member somehow placed too often toward the end, I do try to remedy the situation. As I mentioned in the answer to question one, I would provide another answer here. The computer, selecting randomly, does not have addresses. It therefore cannot provide for geographical distribution. It may be a flaw in the computer program, but it seems to me that fairness for everyone is more important than a state-by-state mailing.

4. I asked to be dropped from circuits three months ago. Why are you still sending them to me? I would like to be in the position to immediately drop a person from a circuit upon response for a request for elimination from circuits or for a temporary elimination from circuits.

Practically it is often impossible. Circuits are mailed about every 2-3 months when enough material has been accumulated to set up a batch. The average circuit is in the mail 3-9 months dependent upon the number of members in a circuit and the speed in which they mail the material on the next member.

Thus if you asked to be dropped, there are circuits already in progress to you. We have attempted, with regularity, to write to all of the members, and ask them to eliminate the name try to strike the most nearest member for receipt of the circuits. At least 1/2 of the time we miss the circuits and more often the members do not tie the letter together with the circuit if it is spaced apart in time. Consequently the member is not dropped, and the circuit continues merrily upon its way. The conclusion over the years is that it just does not work most of the time. Therefore a member who is on a circuit will be immediately dropped from the mailing list—but will continue to receive and be responsible for those circuits which were sent to him/her before the request for cessation.

If any member has additional questions, please write and I will try to answer them in future issues. Address correspondence to: Sales Manager, USCC, Box 83, Winnetka, IL 60093.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following:

- 1488 Bert C. Gore, P.O. Box 1713, Fallbrook CA 92028—*U.S. Classics, Covers, Fancy Cancels, Postal History, Trans-Atlantic Postal History.*
- 1489 Robert T. Lee, P/O Box 505, Carlsbad, CA 92008—*19th Century U.S. Cancellations; Sino-US Mails (19th c).*
- 1490 Lester S. Bardack, 32 Pryer Lane, Larchmont, NY 10538—*U.S. Classics & Banknotes with Fancy Cancels-On/Off Cover.*
- 1491 Ronald C. Horky, 361 Caryl Dr., Pleasant Hills, PA 15236—*U.S., BNA, PCS, Postal History.*
- 1492 Stan Martin, Box 22, Polk Cir. Dr., Columbus, KY 42032—*U.S. Pre-Scott #200; Fancy Cancels on Piece/Cover; #114 Proofs, Essays & Covers*
- 1493 Myrna Golden, 690 Hungry Harbor Rd., N. Woodmere, NY 11581—*Dealer/Collector.*
- 1494 Douglas C. Kutz, P/O Box 8467, Northfield, IL 60093—*U.S. complete. Part time dealer.*
- 1495 Rev. George C. Muresan, 4309 Olcott Ave., East Chicago, IN 46312—*US 3* 1851-57; US 2* Wash. 1922-27; IN postal history; Romania, classic & early post-classics thru 1920.*
- 1496 Dave L. Dozer, 505 Cypress Pt., Apt #152, Mountain View, CA 94043—*Early U.S. & Great Brit. Singles, Covers, Fancy Cancels.*
- 1497 Dale C. Dwyer, 3728 Merrimac Ln. E, Hanover Pk., IL 60103—*U.S. #65; Washington; Franklins.*
- 1498 Thomas G. Current, P.O. Box 4586, Portland, OR 97208—*Great Britain, incl. Numerals & all 19th century Postmarks. Dealer.*
- 1499 Leonard Piskiewicz, 951 Rose Court, Santa Clara, CA 95051—*Chicago Postal History & Postal Markings; World's Columbian Expo. & Century of Progress items.*
- 1500 John A. Turrentine, Jr., 2033 Ave. A, Grand Prairie, TX 75051—*U.S.; Precancels; Cancellations. Dealer/Collector.*
- 1501 Robert J. Taylor, 29 Dale Dr., Chatham, NJ 07928—*Used U.S. & Fancy Cancels*
- 1502 Jerry M. Brown, P.O. Box 1321, Springfield, VA 22151—*New York City Stampless Markings. Dealer*
- 1503 Thomas C. Mazza, 158 Waverly Pl., New York, NY 10014—*19th century—W. Penn., New York City.*
- 1504 Ira Rakatansky, 15 Meeting St., Providence, RI 02903—*U.S. Postal History; R.I. Postal History; Manuscripts.*

1505 Aaron R. Sobel, 64 S. Little Tor Rd., New City, NY 10956—*U.S. & Holy Land Postal History-Stamps.*

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

N.V. Ellerton, Box 2742, Columbia, MD 21045
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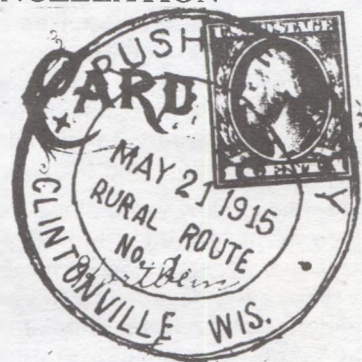
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A "SUPER SERVICE" RFD CANCELLATION



by William B. Robinson

Does your rural carrier provide fast, efficient and personal service for you on his route? Perhaps these days rural carrier service isn't too special, but in the early days of RFD operations, it was.

Shown above is a large, somewhat indistinct, purple handstamp from Clintonville, Wisconsin. It seems to be a new type of RFD carrier marking which was reported for the first time in the Nov. 1980 issue of *Badger Postal History*, the quarterly journal of the Wisconsin Postal History Society. (The marking has been enhanced slightly for reproduction purposes).

By 1915, rural mail carriers had no marking devices issued to them by the Post Office Department, but often did cancel mail. Many indelible pencil markings are found on cards and covers from this period, but very rarely are hand-stamped markings found. Evidently the carrier purchased such a handstamp with his own funds.

A carrier that did cancel stamps on mail he picked up from his rural route patrons could only do so on mail to be delivered further on down his route that same day. Mail for the part of the route he had already covered, mail for another rural route of the same post office and mail for all other post offices was to be returned for processing and cancellation at his main post office.

This Clintonville carrier not only provided himself with a fancy handstamp, but promoted his good standing with his rural route patrons by noting at the top of the cancellation "RUSH DELIVERY." The letters above the date in the handstamp are not clear, but may have been the carrier's name. Talk about personal service!

If any USCC readers have information about this or similar RFD markings or about regulations governing their use, I would appreciate hearing from you at 1641 Bruce Lane, Green Bay, WI 54303.

REMEMBRANCES OF TIMES PAST

In the days before turnpikes and modern highways, the road from New York to Boston went right through the main streets of each city along the way. There was no Merritt Parkway and, more to the point, there was no pretzel in the middle of Waterbury, taking automobiles over the center city if one did not mind the twists and turns.

It is now many years since we have been to Waterbury, since we have lived in Florida almost ten years, and it is many more years since we have driven through the center of Waterbury, because of the aforesaid pretzel. Thus our memories of the Hotel Elton are perhaps a quarter century old; we do not even know if it is still there.

But associated with our recollections of the Hotel Elton was the memory of a very pleasant purchase made there in the mid-1930s. It should be remembered that a half century ago, early covers were not as popular as they are now ... even if they had fancy Waterbury postmarks.

A gentleman had come to the stamp show there with a shoebox of Connecticut covers, all bearing stamps between the 3¢ 1861 and the 3¢ greens of the 1870-1880s. It was apparent that the accumulation had been picked before it came to the show. There were no Bridgeport Fireman Cancels, no arrow in hearts. But there were plenty of the less valuable Waterbury cancels, dozens of them.

The chap had been to every dealer in the show. Some pawed through them before they indicated a lack of interest; others simply told the gentleman that they were not interested in covers.

John Fox of Floral Park, NY, and the writer had driven up to Waterbury, just to look in to see whether the dealers had anything to offer of interest. It should be remembered that in those depression days, dealers sold other dealers, and happily. In fact, at many of these shows there was far more business done between dealers than between collector and dealer.

A dealer who did have a stand, seeing Fox and the writer, suggested that we look at the chap's box of covers on condition that we give him ten per cent of whatever we purchased. We agreed with pleasure, since although we had not looked at the covers, the transaction left us with nothing to lose.

The owner of the covers complained that no one seemed to be interested and he was determined not to take them home. Apparently he had been trying to get rid of them for some time. He suggested that Fox and I go through them, taking what we wanted at 25¢ per cover, or if we took the entire lot, they would be fifteen cents per cover. When we saw dozens of Waterbury stars, leaves, geometrics, we took the latter option. Fox and I counted the covers, paid the owner, took care of the commission, and went to a quiet part of the hotel lobby to divide the covers.

How to divide the covers? That was no problem. We simply reversed the box and divided them backwards, one for Fox, one for me, and so on, until the last cover had been dispensed. (I do not recall now who got the better of the deal, whether there was an odd or an even number of covers.)

Today, with even common Waterbury covers bringing the kind of money that they bring, I often wish that I could find another accumulation of them ... at fifteen cents each!

by Herman Herst, Jr.

Robert J. Loller

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