



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 1 - Number 4

DECEMBER 1992

BARBARA LOOPER
CFB CHILLIWACK BC
V0X2E0



CANADIAN FORCES BASE CHILLIWACK
CHILLIWACK, B.C.

50th ANNIVERSARY
1942 - 1992



BC Teachers Federation
105-2235 Burrard St
Vancouver BC
V6J 3H9

C.F.B. CHILLIWACK



Canadian Forces Base - Chilliwack is the latest addition to the special anniversary cancels. A special cachet (or postmark) is being used in conjunction with a 50th Anniversary envelope. Unfortunately these special markings are produced without advance notice nor are they listed in any postal publications. For example in the press release for the Alaska Highway stamp of May 15, 1992 the only mention of a special cachet is for the First Day centre which was Dawson Creek. Note - add ATLIN to the list of towns using the small type two Alaska Highway cancel (V. 1, p. 6).

BRIT. COL. - update



OMINICA / BRIT.COL is the latest addition to the BRIT.COL list (Vol. 1, p. 16) and it also removes one more office from the unreported list. Note: the name is spelled OMINICA not Omineca as is shown in the "Checklist of British Columbia Post Offices" and in the "Gazetteer of Canada". Unfortunately the cover still resides in England where it was discovered by Lynda Schutt.

The BRIT.COL list is still under revision and to date 19 changes have been reported - not bad for a list of 36 cancellations. An update will be published shortly.

POSTAL WATCH - 4

HUDSON HOPE TO HUDSON'S HOPE
- continued from page 22.



A new type "G" cancellation is now in use at Hudson's Hope. It is very similar to the previous hammer, so don't miss it. No official date of change is listed but the new equipment arrived June 5, 1991.

BIG LAKE - BIG LAKE RANCH

The new POCON issued to BIG LAKE again reads BIG LAKE RANCH as it is now listed in the 1992 Postal Code Book.

PAGE NUMBERS

Page numbers are now added to your newsletter. For those who wish to add these to the previous letters the numbering will be as follows;
Vol. 1 number 1 page 1 to 8
 response form i and ii
Vol. 1 number 2 page 9 to 16
 response form iii and iv
Vol. 1 number 3 page 17 to 24
 response form v and vi
Each volume will start at page 1 and number to the end of the volume. Response forms will be numbered in Roman Numerals.

BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY - RESEARCH GROUP NEWS LETTER.

Published quarterly by the BC Postal Research Group a chapter of the British North America Philatelic Society.
Membership is \$5.00 per year for BNAPS members. Applications should be sent to - Bill Topping, editor
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2

FROM CANADA POST - No. 2

The rapid re-organization of Canada Post continues with changes being made on an almost daily basis. Many place with little or no advance notice while other done as part of the long term re-organization of the Canadian postal system. Again the list does not include all changes but those omitted will be updated in a future newsletter.

QSO #	DATE	OUTLET AND/OR SITE	OLD RC#	NEW RC#	REMARKS
327	92/01/22	Penticton	645540	74705	conversion CSC
328	92/01/22	North Burnaby	647527	74713	conversion CSC
329	92/01/22	Port Moody	645737		closure
330	92/01/31	Big Lake	654574		operator change
331	92/02/04	Van. RPO#40	648019		closure
332	92/02/05	Surrey RPO Surrey N.	73997		closure
333	92/02/12	Van.RPO#105	649015		closure
334	92/02/12	Van.RPO#146	650447		closure
335	92/02/17	Nanaimo RPO#5 to RPO#6	644617	76775	cls/opening
336	92/02/17	not used			
337	92/02/25	Barkerville (Seasonal)	640468		closure
338	92/02/25	Lions Bay			conversion Fr B
339	92/02/25	Seton Portage	62316	67806	conversion Fr B
340	92/02/27	Niapo Lake RPO#1	72311	73164	conversion Fr B
341	92/02/27	Prince George RPO#16	16063		closure
342	92/03/10	Prophet River	652121	77542	operator change
343	92/03/10	Telegraph Cove	641480		closure
344	92/03/10	Erickson	642142	74373	conversion Fr B
345	92/03/11	Van. RPO# 40		76368	re-opening
346	92/03/12	Van. RPO# 120	646423		closure
347	92/03/23	Van. RPO# 46	648450		closure
348	92/03/23	Van. RPO# 138	644129		closure
349	92/03/23	N West RPO# 7	644900		closure
350	92/03/27	White Rock RPO# 8	56618	59846	conversion Fr A
351	92/03/27	Van. RPO# 164	76449		New Opening
352	92/03/30	Ymir, B.C.	65943	77496	closure Fr B
353	92/03/30	Van. RPO# 157	654493		closure
354	92/04/08	New Westminister RPO # 161	21903		closure
355	92/04/08	Penticton RPO # 8	651001	73512	conversion Fr A
356	92/04/21	Van.RPO # 165 (temporary)	76767		close/never opened
357	92/04/24	Van.RPO # 128	646350		closure
358	92/04/30	Victoria RPO # 13	648779		closure
359	92/05/04	Barkerville (seasonal)		640468	re-opening
360	92/05/06	Prince Rupert RPO# 5	71609		closure
361	92/05/06	Van. RPO# 52	648132		closure
362	92/05/19	Van RPO North Lonsdale	645176		closure
363	92/05/19	Kelowna RPO # 2	643726	073520	conversion Fr A
364	92/05/21	Nelson RPO # 1		650439	Address change
365	92/05/22	Oliver RPO # 2		654159	re-opening
366	92/05/25	Penticton CSC		074705	Address change
367	92/05/29	Kelowna RPO # 5	640581	076082	conversion Fr A
368	92/05/29	Van RPO # 62	648221		closure
369	92/05/29	Kaaloops RPO # 1	643424	082902	Operator change
370	92/06/01	Van RPO # 24	647861	067199	conversion Fr A
371	92/06/05	Bridge Lake RPO #1	654434	079693	conversion Fr B
372	92/06/10	Pritchard TRPO #1	645923	083062	conversion TRPO
373	92/06/19	Van RPO # 57	648183	079162	conversion Fr A
374	92/07/02	Vancouver / Howe St. RD	021156	083054	Host Business Change
375	92/07/02	Pink Mountain RD	015350	082813	Host Business Chan
376	92/07/02	Koksilah RD	011401		closure
377	92/07/08	Vancouver RPO # 127	646318	084956	Operator change
378	92/08/04	Vancouver RPO # 56	648175		closure
379	92/08/04	Vancouver RPO # 66	648302		closure
380	92/08/04	Vancouver RPO # 133	648302		closure
381	92/08/11	Qualicum Beach RD #1	656551	085022	Operator change
382	92/08/11	Curzon RD	057385		Closure Fran B

OKANAGON MISSION POST OFFICE
The First 120 Years

by Mike Painter



First spelling, type A

Established October 1, 1872
Spelling changed to Okanagan in 1905
Closed November 27, 1905
Reopened July 1, 1906

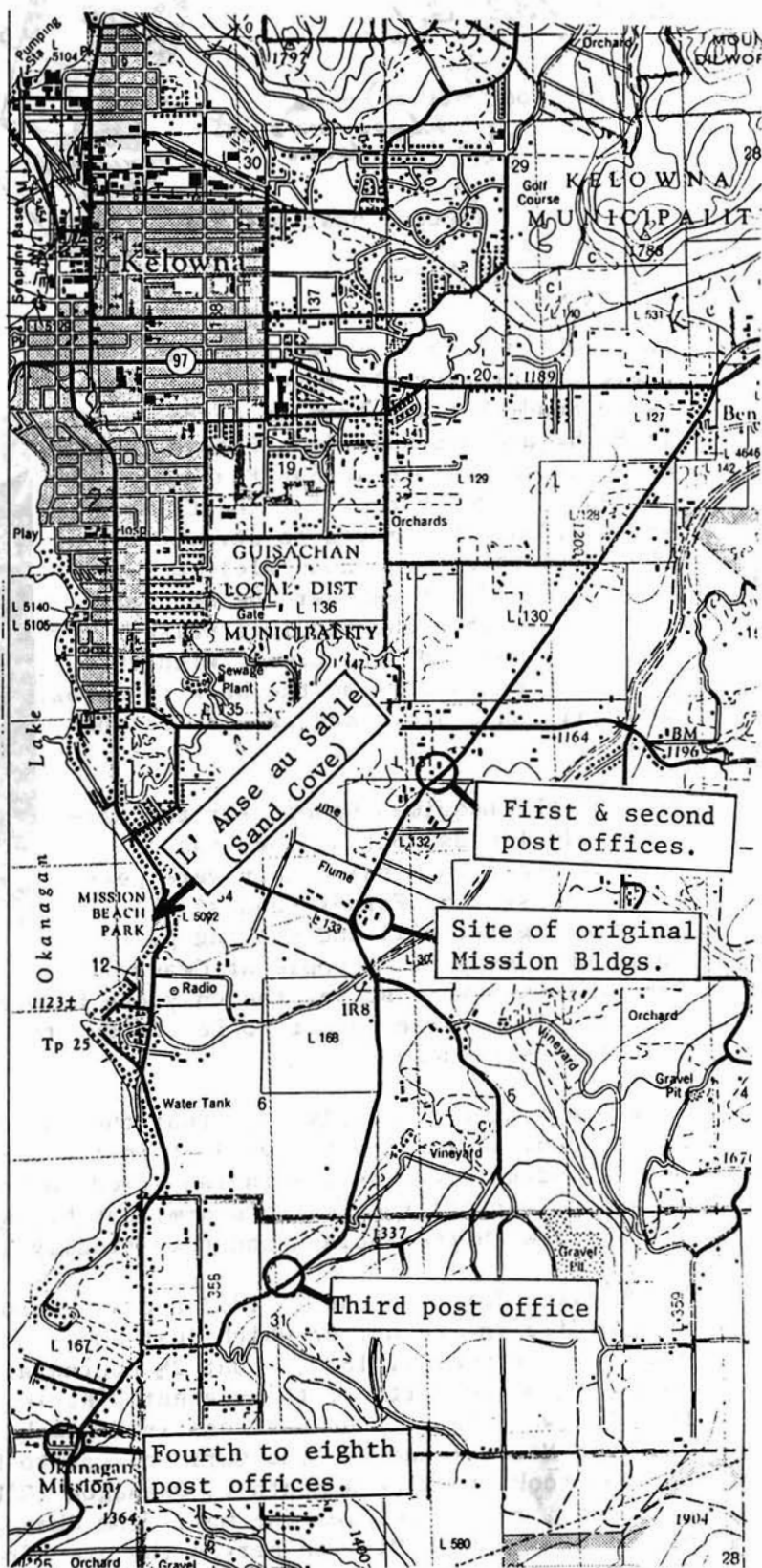
The first postmaster of Okanagan Mission was once chased by a naked indian with a knife, and the second postmaster had, as a boy, been kidnapped by an indian! Just isolated incidents - but there was a lack of native enthusiasm for white settlers at the time the post office came into being in the first of the 8 locations it has occupied at Okanagan Mission (see map).

"Okanagan" was an indian word that originally referred to the people and land around what is now Oroville, USA. Later it was extended to the whole of the valley to the north. The white men spelled it at least 46 different ways, from Lewis and Clark's "Otchenaukane" to David Thompson's "Oachenawawgen". The meaning has been variously translated as "rendevous", "the chief", "highest one", "big head" and "seeing the top" - so we don't really know.

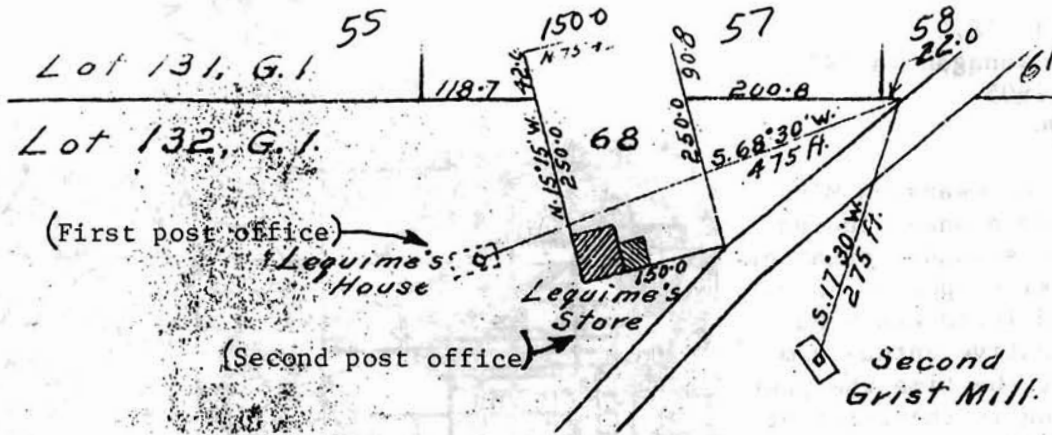
The first non-natives to see Okanagan Lake may have been Spanish explorers, but the first recorded visit was by David Stuart of the Pacific Fur Company. He and three others rode horses up the west side of the valley in late September 1811, discovering a route between the Columbia and Thompson rivers. The Northwest Fur Company and others used this trail over the next half century, but no one stopped to settle.

In 1859 an Oblate Missionary, Father Charles Marie Pandosy, walked in with a couple of companions and, after overwintering at what is now Duck Lake, he established a Mission just inland from what he named L'Anse au Sable. He came in from the south, using the old indian trail through Wild Horse canyon (now in Okanagan Park). Okanagan Mission thus acquired a name and its first tiny settlement.

The man who was to be first postmaster, Eli Lequime, arrived in 1861 and took up land just north of the Mission build-



Scale 1:50,000 (Approx. 3/4 mi to inch)



ELI LEQUIME

ings (which have been restored) about where the present KLO Road crosses the Swamp Road. Eli was born in Bordeaux in 1818. He and his wife left France in 1851 and started a store in San Francisco. He joined the French army for the Crimean war in 1854, then moved to Strawberry Island (between Hope and Yale) to run a store in 1858. It was here he met Father Pandosy. In 1862 the Lequimes walked over the Hope trail to Rock Creek, with the children in panniers on the back of an ox. Here Eli ran a store and saloon for the miners.



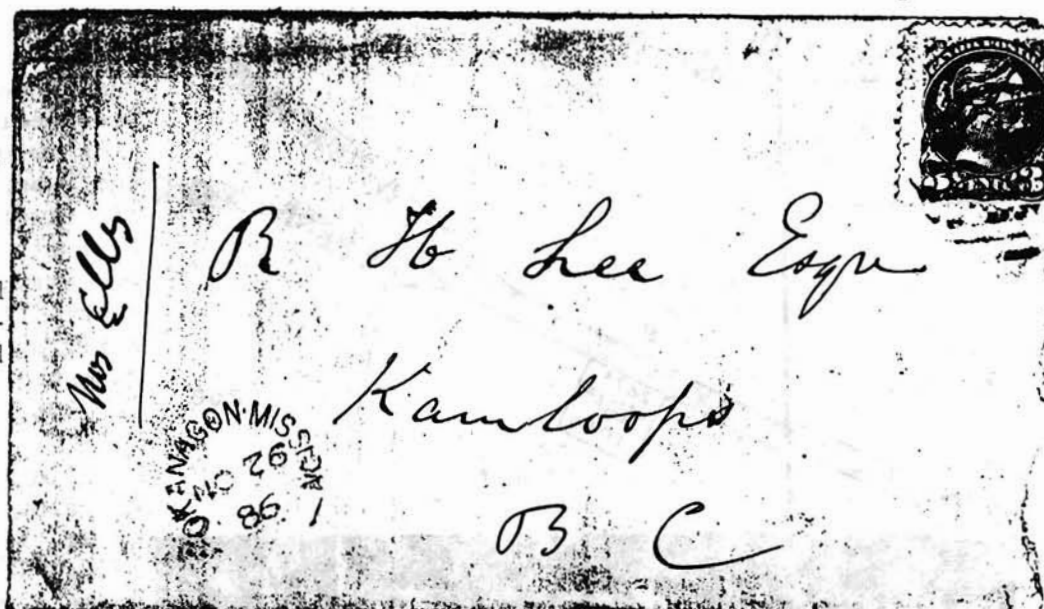
The Lequime store about 1900.

In 1861 the Lequimes headed for the Cariboo gold fields, but as they passed through Okanagon Mission they were persuaded to stay by Father Pandosy. Eli started a grist mill and trading post. There were only nine people at Okanagon Mission, but the post was the only one between Kamloops and Osoyoos. Eli cut a trail over the Chute lake summit to Pentiction, to bypass the difficult lower trail, and ran mule trains to Hope.

It was during these early days that the naked indian snuck up on Eli as he worked in his garden. Seeing the native just in time, Eli ran for the house and slammed the door on the indian's arm as the indian tried to knife him. Eli yelled for his wife to bring an axe to cut off the indian's arm, but his wife thought this might only aggravate the situation with the indians and they finally let the man go.

Eli built a larger house in 1872 and was appointed first postmaster, with the first post office in the house, which just shows at the left of the photo. The post office opened on October 1, 1872, about 2½ months after the Okanagon post office opened 40 miles to the north at the present O'Keefe. Today we deal with bilingualism, but then Eli was ready to do business in English, French, Spanish or Chinook. Mail for Okanagon Mission came up the Cariboo road to Kamloops and then Alex Vance of the BX Company took it twice a month to Okanagon (O'Keefe). Charles Lawson made a monthly horseback trip to deliver the mail from Okanagon to Okanagon Mission. Since the post office at Okanagon Mission served the area from Vernon to the border, there was the equivalent of a "rural delivery" and first Frederick Brent and later Joseph Brent made

monthly trips to Penticton. The Shuttleworths delivered the mail from Penticton to the Boundary. By 1874 most of the mail routes were services two times a month. Between 1875 and 1877 a wagon road was built to connect Okanagon Mission to Vernon and on to Kamloops, and the upper and lower trails to Penticton were improved so stock could be moved over them. It was now possible to take a two horse stage coach from Okanagon Mission to Kamloops. Eli Lequime built a store a little to the east of his house and moved the post office to this, its second location, in 1875.



In September 1881 Leighton hired Alex Macdonnell to drive a weekly stage coach from Cache Creek to Okanagon Mission, although lack of business soon caused them to revert to horseback between Okanagon and Okanagon Mission. The area was now also served from the south over the Dewdney trail by Prior and Fred Brent. The Directory of 1882 showed 77 heads of households with an Okanagon Mission address (which still comprised the entire Okanagan valley).

Eli Lequime resigned as postmaster on January 4, 1888 and his son Bernard was appointed to replace him on June 1 following. Bernard was born in Jamestown California in 1856. He rode in the pannier on an ox on the Hope trail as a six year old to go to Rock Creek. It was here that he was kidnapped by an indian. It's not clear whether he was voluntarily returned or rescued by the miners, but he survived to make another trip in a pannier on the back of a cow from Rock Creek to Okanagon Mission. He and his brother Gaston (who was the first white child born in the interior, at Okanagon Mission in 1861) bought out their father in 1888. Eli retired to San Francisco where he died in 1898, just three years before his old friend Father Pandosy died on a trip to the Boundary.

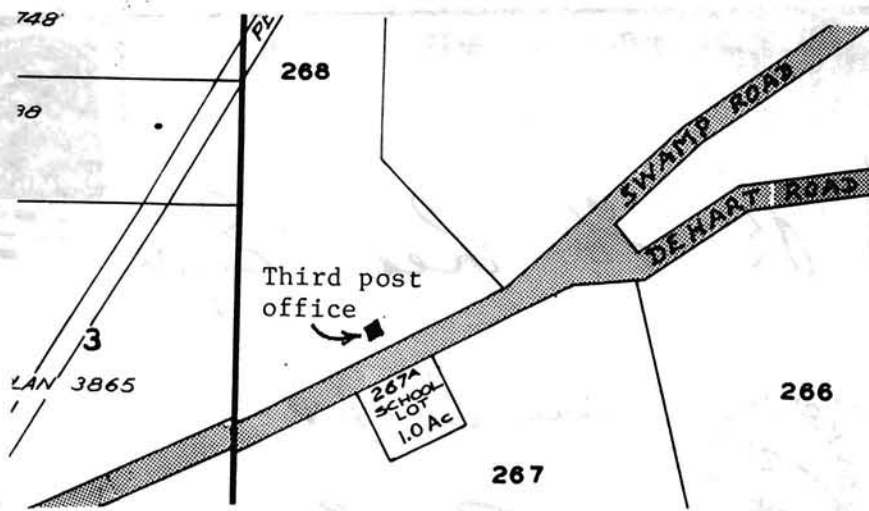


Bernard Lequime

Bernard Lequime learned carpentry and at one time worked on the Judge Begbie home in Victoria. Bernard also laid out much of the city of Kelowna, where the main street bears his name. During his tenure as postmaster until November 24, 1905, the Okanagan developed rapidly. In 1885 the CPR was built through to the coast and a branch line was built from Sicamous to Okanagan Landing in 1892. Captain Shorts had started the first steamboat service on the lake in 1886, with a 2 horsepower boat. The mail run had been taken over by James Armstrong Schubert in 1885 and Price Ellison (Ken's forebear) took over a few years later and made a weekly run to Sicamous until the S&O RR took over in 1892. After Bernard retired as postmaster in 1905, he still ran a store at a location in downtown Kelowna. He died in Kelowna on January 12, 1942.

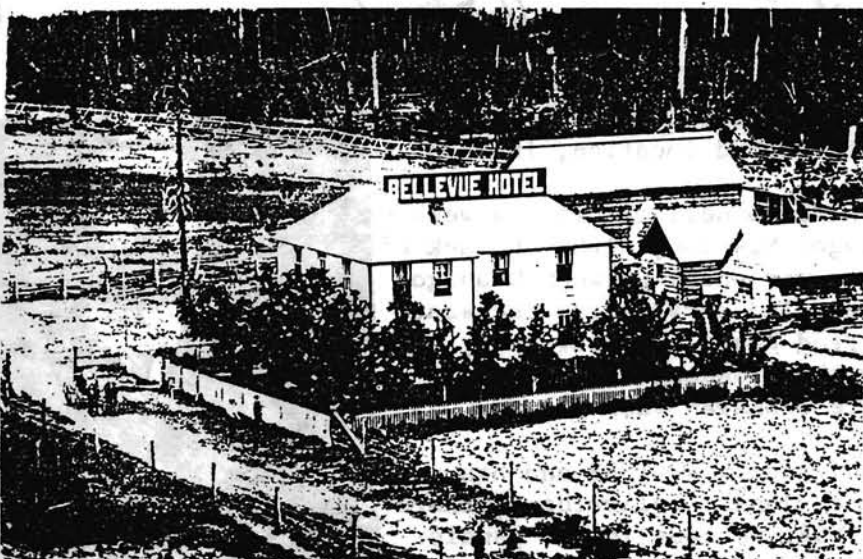
After a hiatus of seven months, J.H. Baillie became postmaster and the post office operated from its third location in a little bungalow opposite the school on the Swamp road. This was a couple of miles south of the first two post office locations.

J.H. Baillie came from England in 1903 and bought two blocks of land from James Murray.



The school, which had originally been near the Mission buildings, had been relocated further south along the Swamp Road, and Baillie put up his first cottage across the road from it. Baillie bought a lot of property, including the large house that Gifford Thomson had built after arriving in the Okanagan in 1891. Thomson sold this house to Baillie in 1904.

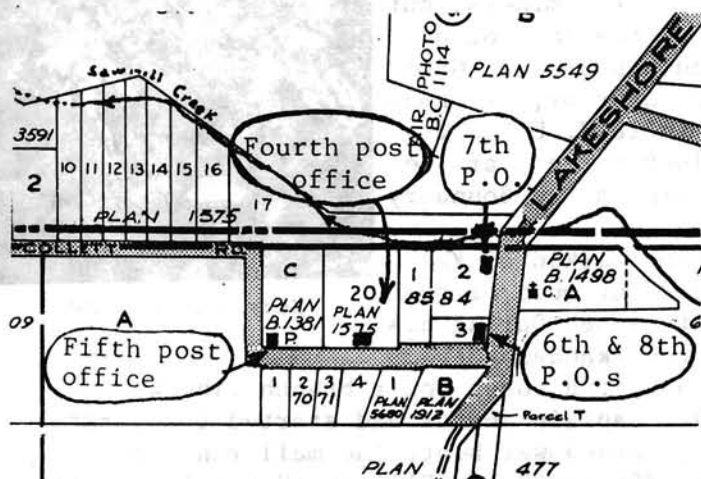
Baillie ran the post office in the bungalow opposite the school for a short time and then moved it to its fourth location in the old Thomson house a mile further south. He turned the house into the Bellevue Hotel, which continued until it was torn down in 1954.



The fourth post office

After a few months of having the post office in the Bellevue, he built a store on the lot immediately to the west and moved the post office to its fifth location at the back of this store.

Baillie sold this store to A.W. Agnew in 1908 and ceased to be postmaster as of July 27 that year. Agnew, however, was not formally appointed postmaster until October 1. Baillie died in 1956.



Agnew had a short tenure before selling the store to F.D. Taylor and resigning as postmaster on April 5, 1909. Taylor was appointed postmaster on June 1, 1909 and remained until July 30, 1913. He then sold to G.G.R. Harvey who was appointed postmaster on October 1, 1913 and continued until June 1, 1918 when he sold the business to George R. Hall.

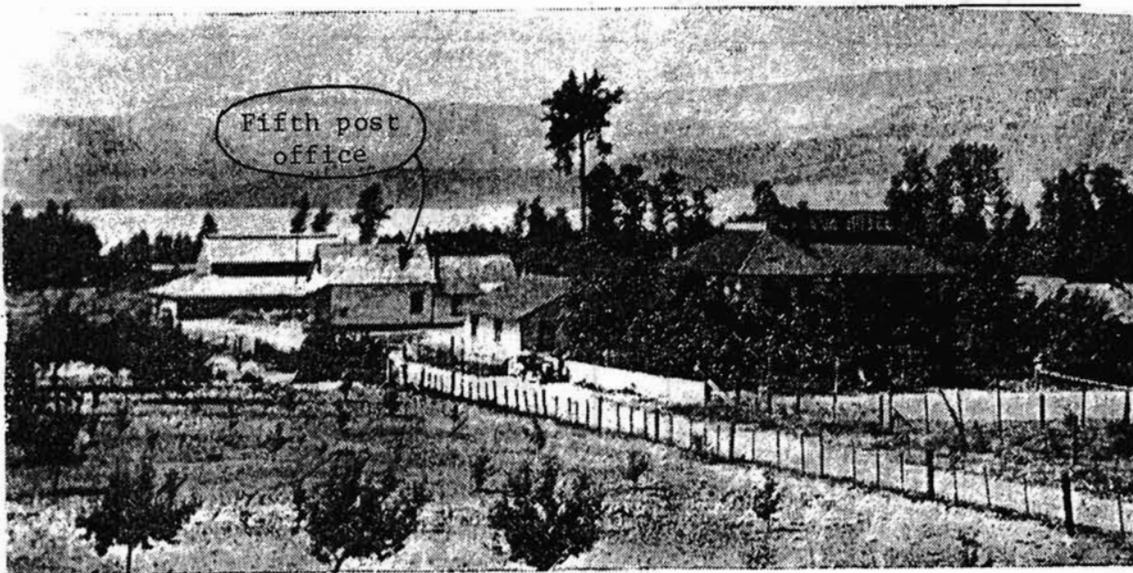
George Hall came from England in 1913. He and his partner Dodd bought the store and he was appointed postmaster on July 16, 1918. Hall died on February 5, 1935 and his employee, H.W. (Bill) Ashbery was appointed postmaster

on April 4, 1935. Ashbery drove the bus into Kelowna each day taking children to and from school, picking up supplies and mail and doing errands for those who couldn't conveniently get to "town". When war broke out Ashbery was granted military leave from the post office and from September 6, 1941, Mrs. Jesse B. Hall, the widow of George Hall and owner of the store was acting postmaster. Bill Ashbery served overseas and then tragically contracted pneumonia after returning to Canada and entraining for the Okanagan. He was taken to hospital in the east and died, becoming the seventh war casualty of the little community of only a few dozen families. He was taken off the postmaster list on February 7, 1946.

R.H.* (Dick) Hall, the oldest son of George and Jesse Hall, was appointed postmaster on June 1, 1946. He saw out the first century of the Okanagan Mission post office, though he has since retired.

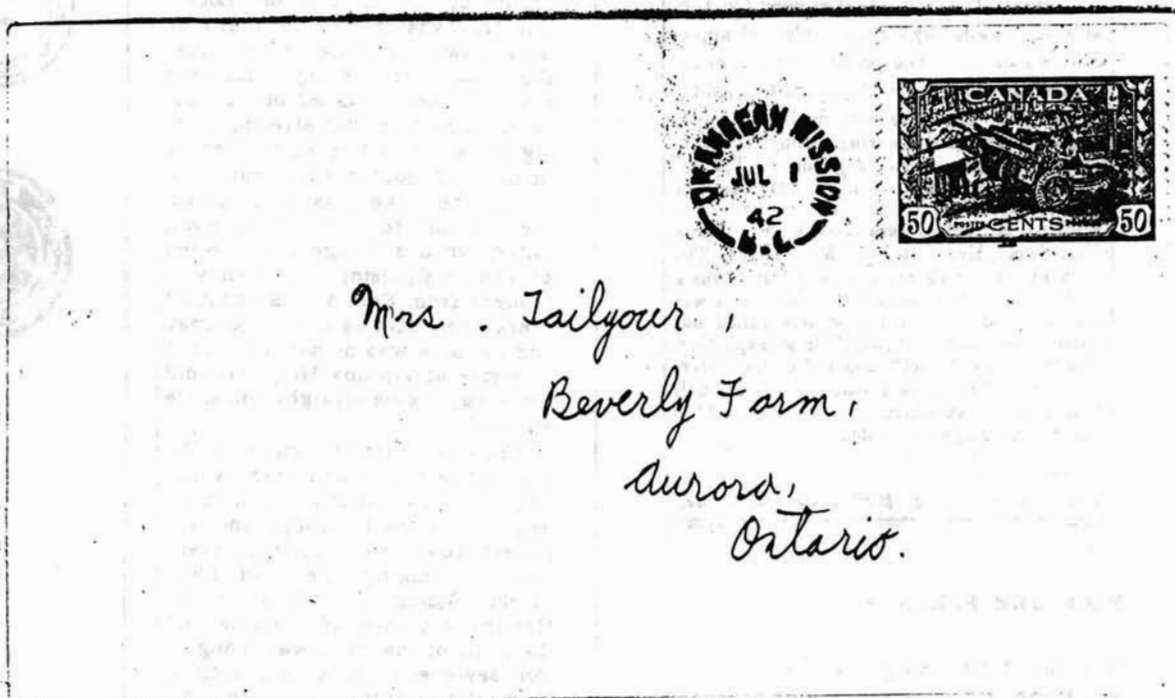
The third Okanagan Mission school was located on the lot just east of the Bellevue Hotel. It burned down in 1949 and Hall Brothers Ltd., who now operated the store, bought the lot. In April 1958 they opened a new store on this location and the post office found its sixth home.

Dick Hall, who kindly provided the information on events subsequent to Melvin's history to 1970, retired on April 28, 1981. The Hall family, together with the Gleeds of Okanagan Centre and the Dunkleys of Armstrong, were three of the families that served in B.C. Post Offices for the longest consecutive time. Mrs. B. Collingridge became postmistress on April 28, 1981. On July 1, 1982, the post office was moved to a new building about 200 feet to the north. This seventh location was just south of the bridge across Sawmill Creek, opposite the Anglican Church. On May 9, 1987, Mrs Collingridge married for the second time and became Mrs. B. Wood. She continues as postmistress to this date. The post office was moved back to its sixth (technically eighth) location on April 1, 1990. It continues in that location to this date and is one of the last rural post offices in the region.



(Sixth post office location just off right edge of photo) →

Okanagan Mission Store, Bellevue Hotel. On the left is the tobacco barn. Centre is the Bellevue Annex



Second spelling, type A



Type B

*Melvin gives the initials as R.B. but this is incorrect. The initials are R.H.

SOURCES: Bright Sunshine & a Brand New Country - Sound Heritage, Kelowna Tales of Bygone Days - Gray, Ogopogo's Vigil - Buckland, OHS Reports 1-7,11,12,17,19,22,26-30,32 & 52, Sunshine & Butterflies - Surtees, The History of Okanagan Mission - Upton, The Post Offices of B.C. - Melvin, and special thanks to Peter Tassie of Vernon for the map - made by his father - showing the location of the Lequime house and store.

THE BRITISH COLONIST

MONDAY, AUGUST 25, 1862.

COME BACK TO US.—Lulu Sweet, or "Sweet Lulu," as the Oregonians appropriately call her, arrived on the Oregon and will appear this evening as Pauline in the "Lady of Lyons," at the theatre. Lulu is a charming little actress, and used to take Victoria by storm a year and a half ago.

VICTORIA THEATRE.—Last evening the Theatre was crowded by a respectable and appreciative audience. The performances were under the patronage of the Mayor and Councillors of the city, and were very creditable, not a single occurrence transpiring during the evening to mar the general enjoyment. The extravaganza of "Shylock, or the Merchant of Venice Preserved," was well played. The principal characters were taken by Mr. Wood, Miss Sweet, Mr. Potter and Mr. Thayer. The piece abounds with wit and songs, and was a decided hit. The ballad by Miss Sweet was encored, and Mr. Cranshaw was called out twice; his "Larry O'Brien" is side-splitting. The "Lottery Ticket" concluded the entertainment. To-morrow evening Mr. Wood will take a benefit, on which occasion we trust to see the house again crowded.

Tuesday Morning, September 2, 1862.

FROM THE PRESS -

One of the very usefull sources of postal history is news reports and releases from Canada Post. Since the publication of the first News Letter a large number of items of this kind have been forwarded to the Editor. Three items have been selected for this News Letter. An item on Lulu Sweet (Vol. 1, p.3) and item on Majuba Hill (Vol. 1, p. 17) from unknown paper about 1936. Finally an item from MAIL POSTE giving details on the "Stamp Month" machine cancellation.

Yarrow Post Office Has Known Many Experiences

To turn the pages of the calendar back into the "nineties" would appear to be stretching a point in the history of the postal service of Yarrow office, but reverting back to the time when Mr. William Chadsey, father of Mr. Lockhart Chadsey, first conducted the post office then known as Majuba Hill, it was close to forty years.

The mail in those days was distributed in Mr. Chadsey's house, now known to us as the Manuel place.

The mailbag was carried from Mr. J. A. MacLeod's farm at Atcheltitz by Mr. Chadsey or "Lock." The trip was made to and fro by horse down the Wilson road across the Vedder on a bridge that long since has been washed out by the swift current of that stream. During the season when Sumas Prairie flooded, of course that was long before the dyke was constructed, the trip had to be made by boat. Later, when a bridge was erected at Vedder Crossing, the mail was brought from Sardis, this about 30 years ago. It was a long journey and as there was no set time for it to arrive at Majuba Hill, Lock did not always come straight home, we are told.

When the tram line was built the post office was taken over by the late Mr. Jas. Haunsome, a close neighbor of the Chadseys, and Mr. Robert Town was appointed mail-carrier, bringing the mail from Sinclair Siding. Shortly after, Mr. Haunsome moved to Yarrow and the name of the office was changed. For seventeen years and until a short time before his death, Mr. Haunsome acted in the capacity of postmaster and mail-carrier. At the expiration of that period it was taken over by Mr. and Mrs. Siddall. Postal business has been steadily increasing to such an extent that recently an accounting office has been established.

OCTOBER IS STAMP MONTH

October is Stamp Month — an event celebrated around the world — and Canada Post Corporation is marking the occasion with a special Stamp Month logo. In keeping with the theme, From Sea To Space, the logo bears a stamp motif depicting a sailing vessel and images of the planets and stars. The logo also bears a stylized maple leaf, the phrase "October is Stamp Month," traditional wavy lines, and the date 1992.



From September 15th to October 30th, the Stamp Month logo will be adapted and used as a cancellation on the approximately 85 million pieces of mail that will be processed by Canada Post during that period.



MAIL POSTE

1992

RESPONSE FORM - NO. 4

Andrew Scott, Chairman of the B.C. Research Group, is presently working the postmarks of Queen Charlotte Islands. He has produced a Response Form and would like information on the metal hammers used at the 30 Post Offices established on the Islands. In a later News Letter he will be requesting information on the rubber hammers used at the offices. When his study is complete a full report on his findings will appear in the News Letter.

RESPONSE FORM

Forms should be mailed to: Andrew Scott, P.O. Box 204, Delta, B.C. V4K 3N6

Queen Charlotte Islands postmarks: please check your collection for early and late dates.

Hammer styles are those used in Topping's B.C. Post Offices, ie. A (split-ring), B & C (circular date stamp), D (duplex), M (machine). Under comments, besides any pertinent information regarding usage, ink colors, etc., a brief description of scarcer postmarks (marked by *) would be appreciated, so that an inventory can be compiled, and precise rarity factors established.

<u>Post Office</u>	<u>Hammer</u>	<u>Early</u>	<u>Late</u>	<u>Comments</u>
*Aero	B	10/10/49		
*Alliford Bay	A			
*Alliford Bay MPO 1127	B	02/28/45	07/27/45	
*Buckley Bay	A	07/09/20	04/05/31	
*Graham Centre	A	10/20/12		
*Haida	C	11/13/57	12/09/58	
*Hydah	A	09/01/12	10/17/15	
*Jedway	A			
	B	11/22/62	06/14/65	
*Juskatla	B	02/20/51	03/03/54	
	C	04/07/67	12/17/75	
*Lawn Hill	A	11/30/11	06/28/23	
*Lockeport	A1	11/04/11	09/02/35	Period after B.
*	A2			No period after B
Masset	B	10/14/50	10/17/72	
	M	09/16/75		
Masset	A	10/17/28	05/06/41	
	B	07/29/43	07/06/44	
Naden Harbour	A			Unreported
Nadu River	A			Unreported
*Pacofi	A	09/30/18		
*	B	10/01/39	08/15/44	
Port Clements	A	12/24/20	07/18/34	
*	B	01/04/22		
	C	03/21/56	12/10/74	

Queen Charlotte	A	12/29/11 06/21/19	
*	B		
	C	08/17/58 10/12/71	
	D	11/03/30 01/17/57	
*Rose Harbour	A1		19mm hammer
*	A2	07/31/28 09/29/31	21mm hammer
Sandspit	A	08/18/18 09/10/72	
Sewall	A		Unreported
Sewell Inlet	C	03/22/72 09/31/78	
Skidegate	A	07/13/99 10/10/46	
	B	11/08/57 01/30/64	
*Skidegate Mission	A	11/01/26 04/01/48	
*	B	05/05/51 01/24/56	
Tasu	C	03/09/66 05/16/77	
Thurston Harbour	A		Unreported
*Tlell	A	03/21/14	
	B	03/28/53	
	C	10/01/58 04/10/76	
*Tow Hill	A	05/21/13	
*Watun River	A	12/11/30	
Woden River	A		Unreported

I can add no new information

I do not collect Queen Charlotte Islands postmarks

Name

Address