



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

MEMBERSHIP DUES
ARE NOW DUE

Volume 4 - Number 1

Whole number 13

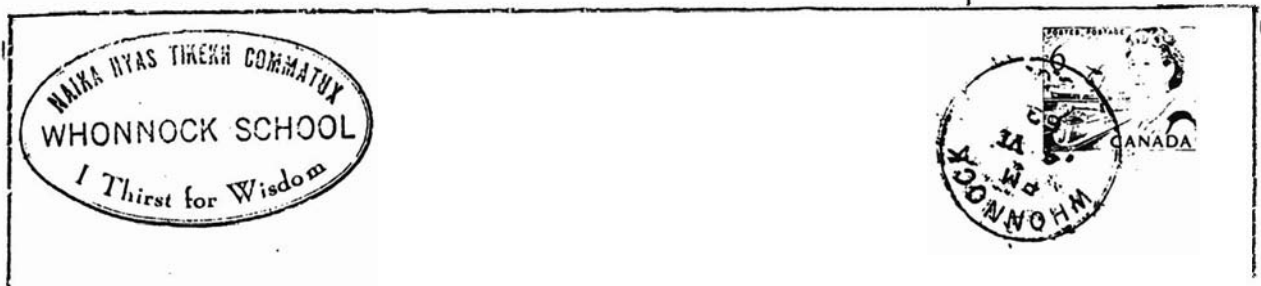
March 1995

WHONNOCK - WHONOCK - WHONNOCK

OKANAGON was not the only post office in British Columbia to have the spelling of the name changed. (see Vol. 3, No. 4, p. 96) There have been at least a dozen changes that have resulted in the production of new cancelling equipment. Only in a few cases is the actual date of change recorded in the postal records and at many offices the original hammer remained in use long after the change took place. Thus the dates of change shown in Melvin and later in Topping and Robinson are little more than educated guesses.

WHONOCK / AM / 14 IV / 69 / B.C.
WHONNOCK / PM / 4 VI / 69 / B.C.

11988 Acadia Crescent
Haney B C



The change of WHONNOCK to WONOCK and then back to WHONNOCK is one of the few fully documented changes. WHONNOCK was established on August 1, 1885 at the time of the building of the C.P.R. through the community and the double "N" spelling remained in use until 1939. The Postal Transactions for April 1939 shows the change of WHONOCK, to one "N" and lists the date as March 9, 1939. A hammer spelling WHONNOCK with a double "N" was proofed "FE 17 39". This change is not listed in the Postal Transaction for that time but the Vancouver postal records show the date as May 1, 1969..

ABBOTTSFORD - ABBOTTSFORD

ABBOTTSFORD Post Office was established January 1, 1892 at the junction of the Old Yale Road and the newly constructed C.P.R. spur line from Mission City to Sumas, Washington. According to the founder of the townsite J.C. Maclure, the office was named after Henry J. Abbott, General Superintendent of the Pacific Division of the C.P.R., thus the double "T".

ABBOTTSFORD / NO 13 / 22 / B.C.

ABBOTTSFORD / DE 7 / 22 / B.C.



*Dr. H.A. DeWeef, Smith Esq.
Box 910
New Westminster
B.C.*

In 1921, F.S. Maclure, son of J.C. Maclure, established the Kilgard Clay Works, at Kilgard and in the process had considerable difficulty obtaining rail service from the C.P.R. According to local tradition, he wrote to the Post Office department pointing out that ABBOTTSFORD was named by his father after a pioneer family named Abbot, one "T" and requested the spelling error be corrected. As a result of his protests the records in Vancouver show the change to the single "T" being authorized by the General Superintendent on October 21, 1922. A duplex hammer with the single "T" was proofed "NO 25 22 and came into use in early December.

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly for the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. The annual membership fee is \$5.00 in Canadian or US funds. Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada.

OKANAGON - OKANAGAN

See Vol. 3, No. 4, page 96

In the last issue of the News Letter the change in spelling of OKANAGON was explained. The date of the changes has always been vague and indications are that it did not take place in 1905 as suggested in some sources. The 1898 Postal Guide lists the spelling as OKANAGON and the 1900 Postal Guide gives the spelling as OKANAGAN. Unfortunately the Quarterly Postal Transactions for this period do not exist and as a result the official date of change, if any, is not known. It appears that although the spelling in the Postal Guide changed in 1900 the hammers were not changed at that time. The Proof Books for 1900 period do not exist but it appears that new hammers were not issued until the existing hammer needed replacement. The earliest of these hammer replacements appears to have been at OKANAGAN MISSION in November 1909. Melvin lists the change in spelling as 1905 and Topping and Robinson give 1906 08 01 as the date. The latter being the date the post office was re-established after a brief closure. The more likely date of change is in November 1909 shortly after F.D. Taylor became Postmaster as an OKANAGAN MISSION hammer was proofed NO 15 19.

PORT ALBERNI - POSTAL AGENCY No. 1

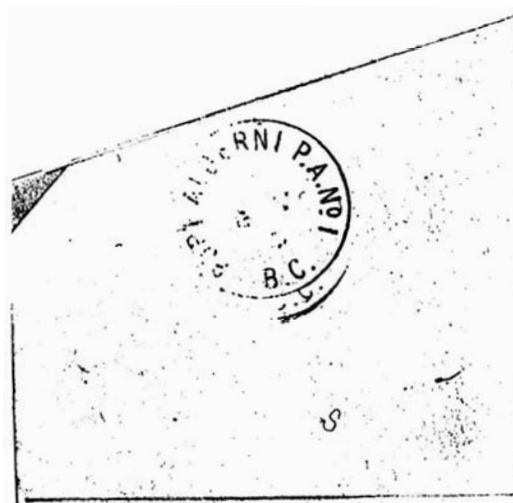
Port Alberni Postal Agency Number 1 is listed in the 1st July 1965 postal records as opening Saturday, May 1, 1965. According to the postmaster Arthur B. McGregor the equipment was not delivered by the Port Alberni postmaster until Wednesday May 6. Mr. McGregor expected to receive full sub-office status, but found that he was only given a postal agency and thus could do little more than sell stamps. He claims he was upset and requested full Sub-office status which was refused. By Saturday May 8 he had had enough and told the Port Alberni postmaster to pick up the equipment. This caused a problem as an error had been made in ordering equipment and the equipment for a full status office had been received including the metal hammer and registration equipment. Only the metal hammer was delivered to the office and according to Mr. McGregor it was never used. Because of the error in ordering the Post Alberni Postal Agency No. 1 Post Office was not listed as closing until December 9 1965 some seven months after it ceased operation. Thus Melvin lists the dates as open 1-5-65 closed 9-12-65 but according to the postmaster the actual operation was from May 5 to May 8 during which time almost no postal business was done. On August 12, 1965, three or four poor strikes of the hammer were made on the back of a cheque book showing the date of 8 V 65.

MCGREGOR'S HI-WAY STORE
PHONE 723-5521
R.R. 3 ALBERNI, B.C.

Date Aug 12 1965

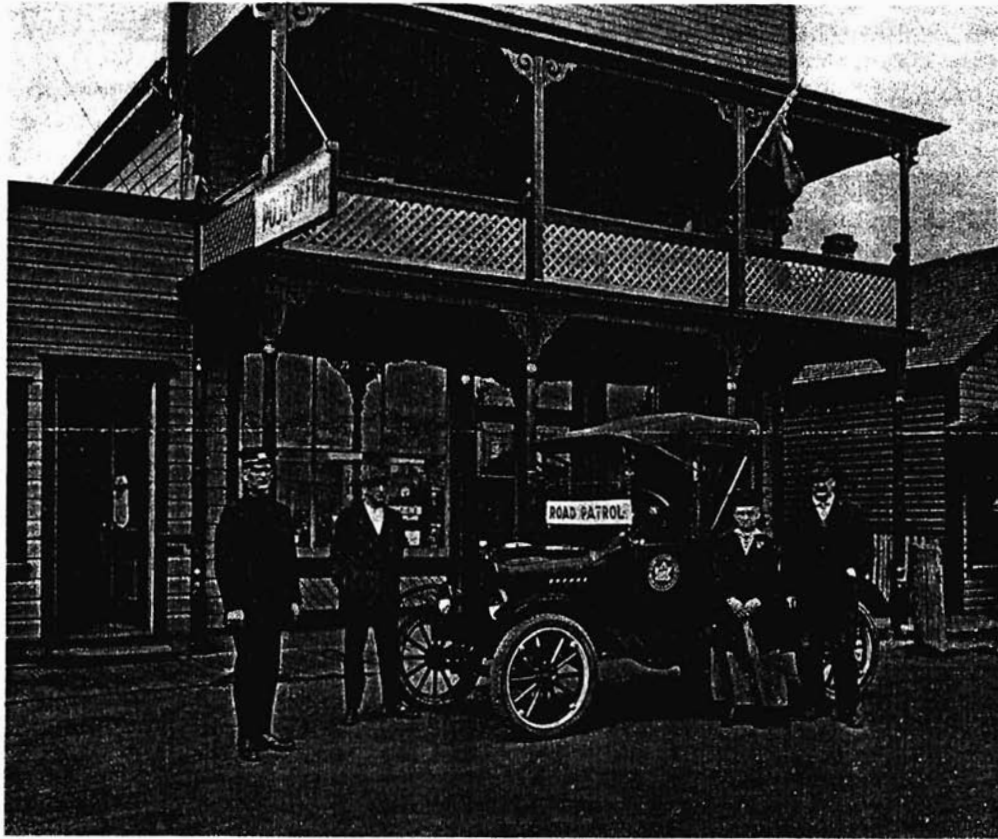
M Cash

SOLD BY:	C.O.D.	CHARGE	ON ACCT.	ACCT. F.W'D.
1		<u>Stamps</u>		
2				<u>50</u>



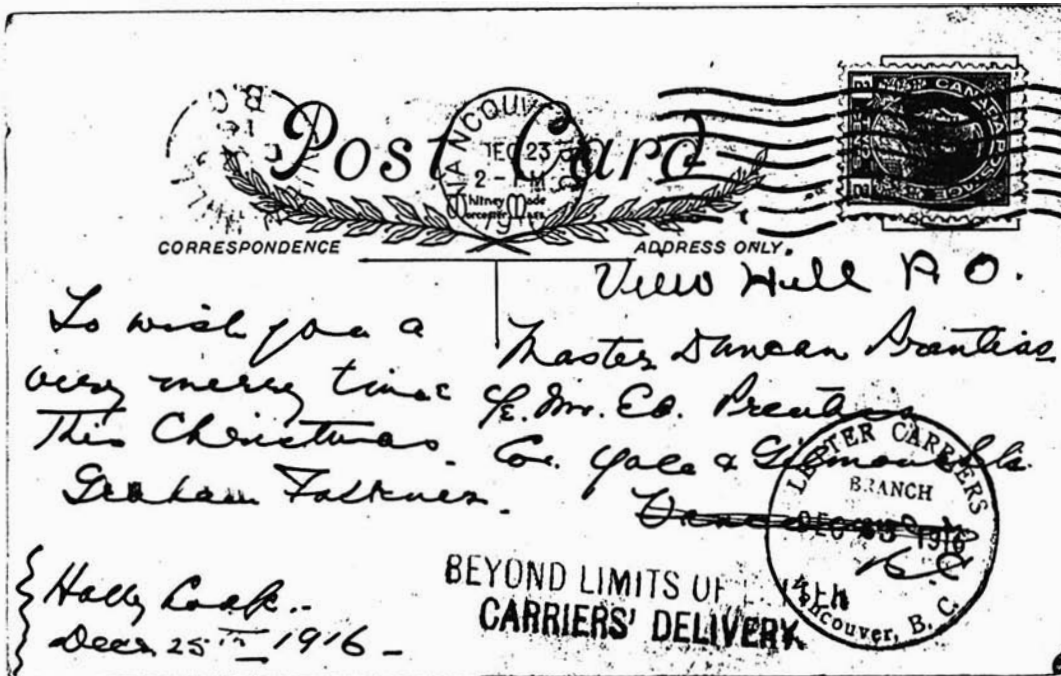
LOVELY - BUT WHERE?

A few years ago the BCAA Magazine ran this photograph of a general store and Post Office with the question "Where is it?" Any suggestions?



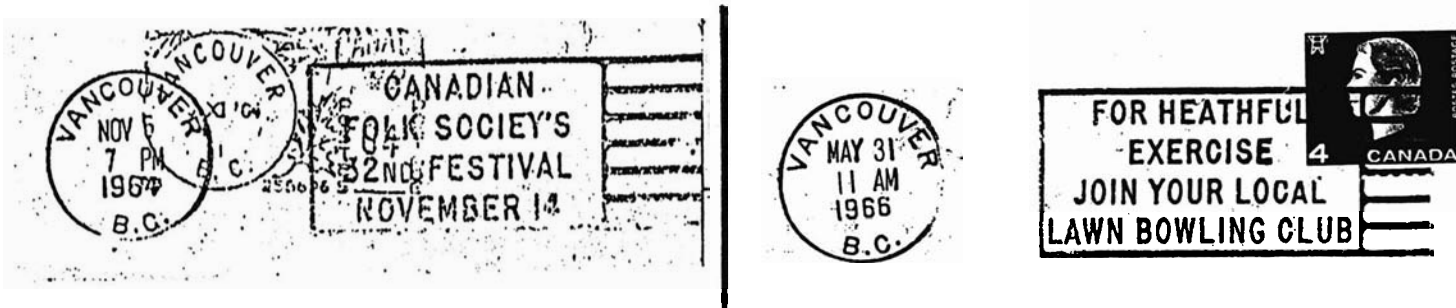
Dating back to the early days of motoring in British Columbia, is this photograph of a BCAA road patrol car and its uniformed driver. We know that the car is a Ford and the year is 1923, but we don't know where the photo was taken. Can any of our readers identify the post office and its location?

MORE "BEYOND LIMITS OF LETTER CARRIERS' DELIVERY"

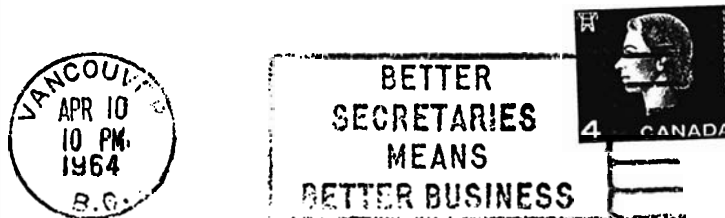


SLOGAN ERRORS

Cec Coutts is presently updating the "Slogan Postal Markings of Canada" catalogue and has pointed out there are at least two slogans with spelling errors, neither of which were corrected. The most recent being reported by Len Harris almost 30 years after the slogan was used. **Test yourself on the two below.**



A third is more a grammatical error rather than spelling and was changed.



WARE - OPENED - MR 12 / 38
See Vol. 3 No. 4 page 92.

First day WARE
9 / MR 12 / 38

Dean Mario points out that Melvin is correct when he states that the WARE post office opened March 12, 1938 and provides a back stamp of that date to prove it. The April 1938 supplement to the Postal Guide confirms the date and also provided information on the proposed flight schedules.



CANADA OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE - APRIL 1938

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CANADA OFFICIAL POSTAL GUIDE

Air Mail Service Schedules on Routes in Operation—(Continued)

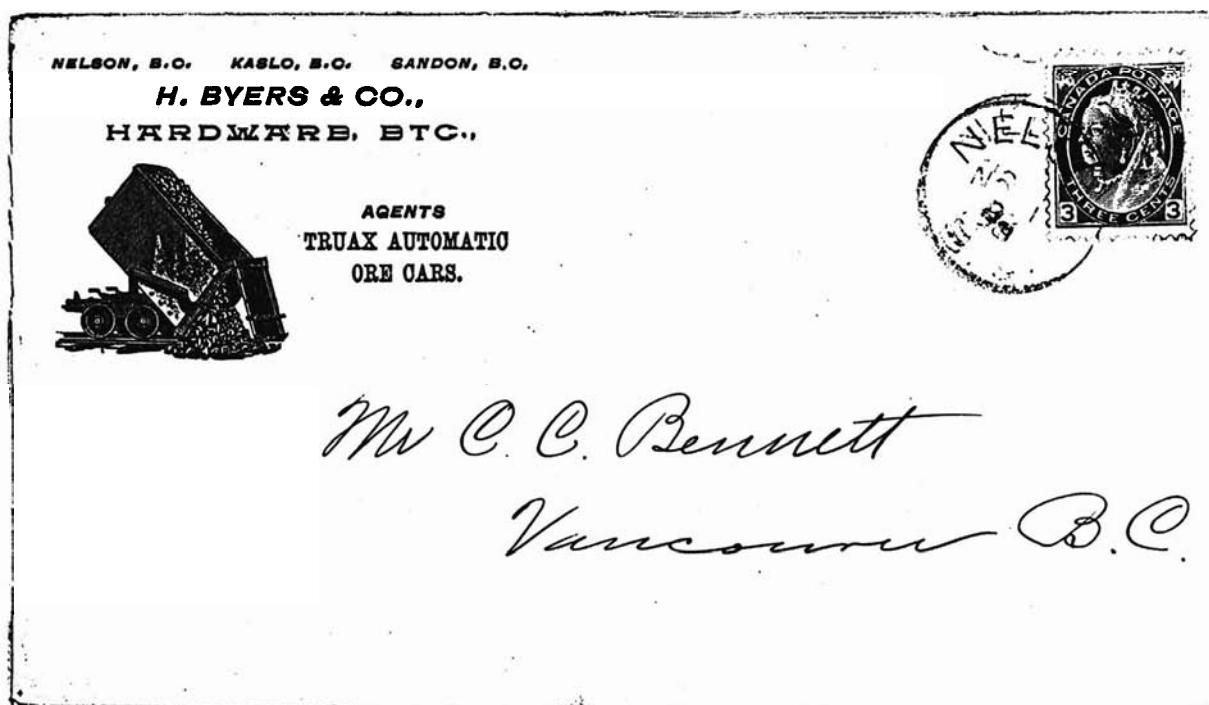
Route	Duration of service	Frequency of service	Schedule	Rate of Postage (including air mail fee)
Prince George— Ware via Fort McLeod, Finlay Forks and Fort Grahame (275 miles).	All year round.....	9 round trips per annum, 2nd Sat. in Jan., Mar., May, June, July, Aug., Sept., Oct. & 23rd Dec.	Subject to weather conditions and approval of Postmaster General.	First and third class matter— Ordinary rates. Second class matter When mailed by the public— 1c. per oz. with a minimum prepayment of 4c. covering a weight of 4 oz. 12c. per lb. up to and including 10 lb. \$1.50 per bundle over 10 lb. up to and including 15 lb. \$2.00 per bundle over 15 lb. up to and including 20 lb. \$2.50 per bundle over 20 lb. up to and including 25 lb.
Fort St. John— Fort Nelson. (190 miles).	do	4 round trips per annum, Jan., April, May & Sept.	do	

NELSON MAIL - 1893

The topic of Cross Border Mail has produced considerable interest. In the Postal History Society of Canada Journal volume 43 starting on page 29, Gray Scrimgeour deals at some length with mail from the Nelson region of the West Kootenay's. Gray quotes from "Nelson: Queen City of the Kootenays" by D. Scott and R. Hanic (Mitchell Press 1972).

"The new camp [Stanley now Nelson] struggled for a sense of identity. The population was predominately American and to most of them, the place was just a suburb of the United States of America. Why not? They were even using American postage on their mail."

"J.A. Gilker, who started his business in a tent close to Ward Creek, found himself one day arbitrarily appointed custodian of the mail. ... All outgoing mail had to bear American postage because it was taken to the nearest official post office which was Bonner's Ferry."



He further quotes from the Post Master General's Report of 1894 which adds further light on the problems faced by the Canadian Post Office Department.

"The building of the Nelson and Fort Sheppard Railway, which practically carries the Northern Pacific Railway system into the heart of the Kootenay District has put it in the power of this department to extend its service into a region, which owing to the mountainous character of its surroundings has been to all intents and purposes inaccessible from December until April each year. Until last winter the correspondence for this country was carried by pack horses from some point in the adjoining state of Washington, and the difficulties which lay in the way of a successful prosecution of the service in point of frequency and regularity deprived such arrangements were made of nearly all their value. But that is not the only mode of inlet into this district now at the service of this department. During the last year a line has been built from Nakusp, a point on the Columbia River, about 65 miles south of Revelstoke to New Denver, a prosperous mining settlement, which is connected by a stage line with Kaslo on Kootenay Lake; and another line is in the course of construction from Revelstoke southward towards Nakusp."

TYPE "A" AN 1984 UPDATE

supplied by Joe Smith

The study, in the last issue of the News Letter, of the Type "A" cancellations still in use in British Columbia prompted Joe Smith to provide the following report on the Type "A" cancellations in use in 1984. Some 1984 offices have changed status since then and present status is shown in square brackets thus [O] = open, [C-..] = closed, and [F-..] = franchise. Joe Smith writes -

In mid January of 1984, after noting the occasional usage of a Type "A" cancel in contemporary usage, I decided to find out how many Type "A" 's are still in daily use throughout the province of British Columbia. Using Bill Topping's Post Office list I was able to narrow down a possible list of 18 to 20 offices. I wrote to all of them and had a good response.

There are a total of 15 active users and one in a semi-dormant state. There may be one to three more hammers that are used occasionally. Xmas etc. Some I have seen in the past were used for registration mail. I have no proof of any of these at the moment. Six offices may be considered remote or off the main stream of traffic. PORT NEVILLE [O] and HARTLEY BAY [O] are strictly fly-in offices. MANSON CREEK [O] and AIYANSH [O] are on dirt or gravel based roads. MANSON CREEK [O] being 90 miles north of FORT ST JAMES [O], is the furthest off the beaten track. SANDSPIT [O] is on Moresby Island (Queen Charlotte Islands) and requires a ferry trip between islands. ENDAKO [C-1988] and CEDARVALE [O] are on Highway 16 west of Prince George. REDSTONE [C-1987] is west of Williams Lake. AVOLA [F-1989] is on the Yellowhead Highway. In the interior there is ERICKSON [F-1991] near Creston. BURTON [F-1989] near Nakusp. EAST KELOWNA [F-1988] near Kelowna. OKANAGAN CENTRE [O] north of Kelowna. PENDER ISLAND [O] is on one of the Gulf Islands between Victoria and Vancouver. WHALETOWN [O] is on Cortes Island off Campbell River.

There seems to be no particular pattern of distribution other than small communities away from large centres. However the age of these offices place them pre-depression. Type "A" cancellers were phasaed out in the 1928-32 years. They were replaced by circular date stamps (CDS) larger letter devices. I do not know why this occurred. Change for the sake of change; manufacturing economics or technology or postal directive conforming to Imperial, Universal Postal Union or International standards. The Type "A" style of canceller has been in vogue for a long time with minor changes. One possible reason may be the change of indicia. This is a problem faced by many Type "A" users today, in that the year date does not fit well in older hammers. Too small I suspect. This is precisely why GRANTHAMS LANDING has fallen into disuse. According to the postmaster there the new, smaller year date does not fit well. She has reported using a POCON since 1975-76. As the Type "A" hammers wore out, fell victim to neglect or abuse (RISKE CREEK), were lost in fires (KLEENA KLEEN), or simple closing (HOPKINS LANDING), we are slowly losing these remarkable and beautiful pieces of our heritage. This is why I wanted to update the list of active offices. Of the remainig 15 I predict less than half will survive the next ten years.

I did not visit any of these Post Offices but coresponded by mail. In summation I would like to thank each and everone for their co-operation. Last but not least, sincere thanks to Paul Hughes and Dr. Gray Scrimgeour for their encouragement and help. Comments and additional information should be sent to the editor or Joe Smith, P.O. Box 1143, Rocky Mountain House, AB, TOM 1T0.

OLDEST TYPE "A" HAMMERS

In the December 1994 News Letter it was stated that the WHALETOWN type "A" hammer might be the oldest hammer in continual use in Canada today. Joe Smith has pointed out that the oldest hammers actually in use STE MARIE DE BLANFORD, QUE., the hammer having been proofed JA 9 1890. Postmater M. Lepage confirms that she uses the hammer every day and finds that it does the job well. Details on the three oldest hammers are listed below.

Town	Proof date
STE MARIE DE BLANFORD, QUE.	JA 9 1891
WHALETOWN, B.C.	JU 19 1894
PORT NEVILLE, B.C.	est NO 1 1895*

* no proof known - original hammer in use.

Note; ST PLACIDE, QUE. proof of JA 9 1891 is not the present hammer which came into use between 1898 and 1908.



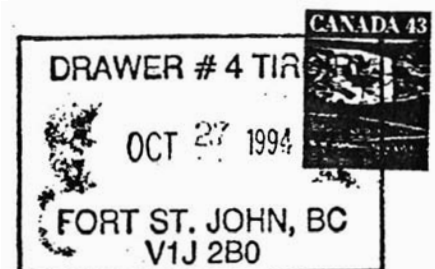
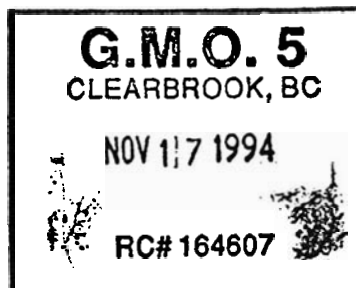
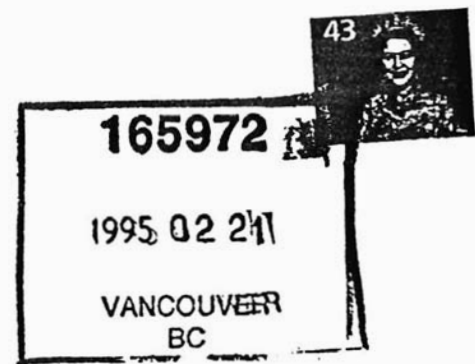
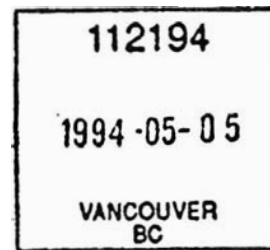
SPELLING CHANGES -Response Form

This months Response form lists 12 changes of spelling effecting 17 post offices. Your assistance is requested in attempting to narrow the gap in the use of the old and new spellings. The following are the recorded changes. In some cases the spelling was changed and then changed back to the original.

- ABBOTTSFORD - ABBOTSFORD
- AMSBURY - AMESBURY
- CHILCOTEN - CHILCOTIN
- HUDSON HOPE - HUDSON'S HOPE
- KITIMAAT - KITIMAT
- MASSETT - MASSET
- OKANAGON - OKANAGAN
- QUESNELLE - QUESNEL
- ROSEBERRY - ROSBERY
- TINEHEAD - TYNEHEAD
- GRIMMETT - GRIMMET
- WHONNOCK - WHONOCK

NEW STYLE POCONS

Most new POCONS being issued are of the small size (3.5x3 mm) but in the past few months a new larger size of POCON has been introduced using a bigger size box with the RC number at the top in large numbers. At the same time a few unusual items have been reported. The two shown below from Clearbrook and Fort St. John are examples.



MEMBERSHIP DUES \$5.00 (CAN OR US) ARE NOW DUE

RESPONSE FORM

Volume 4 Number 1, March 1995

Forms should be mailed to Bill Topping
B.C. Postal History News Letter
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5K2 CANADA

The purpose of this page is to provide opportunities for members to obtain information on areas of special research. It makes it possible to tap a large number of collections that might otherwise be missed in the study of a particular topic. It is hoped all members will take advantage of this aspect of the news letter.

Please check your collection for use of the following -

- ABBOTTSFORD - ABBOTSFORD
- AMSBURY - AMESBURY
- CHILCOTEN - CHILCOTIN
- HUDSON HOPE - HUDSON'S HOPE
- KITIMAAT - KITIMAT
- MASSETT - MASSET
- OKANAGON - OKANAGAN
- QUESNELLE - QUESNEL
- ROSEBERRY - ROSBERY
- TINEHEAD - TYNEHEAD
- GRIMMETT - GRIMMET
- WHONNOCK - WHONOCK

See back of sheet for more details -

I can provide no additional information

Name

Address

.....

DUES ENCLOSED \$5.00
Checks payable to -
Bill Topping

Spelling	Listed	Proof	Late/Early
ABBOTTSFORD	1892 01 01	DE 26 19	1922 11 18
ABBOTTSFORD	1922 11 01	NO 25 22	1922 12 05
AMSBURY	1918 10 01	SP 21 18	1919 10 07
AMESBURY	1920 04 10		
AMSBURY	1921 04 01		
CHILCOTEN	1886 05 01	JU 9 86	1905 06 17
CHILCOTIN	1911 05 01	AP 6 11	
HUDSON HOPE	1913 11 01	10 VII 64	1991 10 02
HUDSON'S HOPE	1991 06 05		1991 09 11
KITIMAAT (1)	1900 03 01		1904 02 19
KITIMAAT MISSION	1908 05 01		1910 02 09
KITIMAT MISSION	1910 10 29	OC 29 10	1911 10 30
KITIMAAT (2)	1908 05 01		1910 12 16
KITIMAT (1)	1908 10 19	OC 9 08	
MASSETT	1910 06 01	DE 30 41	1947 03 29
MASSET	1948 05 25	MY 6 48	1950 12 23
OKANAGON	1872 08 14		1909 05 19
OKANAGON	1912 04 12	AP 12 12	1913 02 23
OKANAGON FALLS	1899 02 01		
OKANAGON FALLS	1910 01 26	JA 25 10	1932 10 06
OKANAGON LANDING	1898 10 01		1900 02 06
OKANAGON LANDING	1905	NO 15 19	1928 11 10
OKANAGON MISSION	1872 10 01		1901 01 15
OKANAGON MISSION	1906 08 01	NO 3 09	1935 07 11
QUESNELLE	1872 07 01	DE 30 91	1892 01 30
QUESNEL	1900 06 01	OC 9 08	1908 06 25
QUESNELLE FORKS	1884 06 01		1898 02 25
QUESNEL FORKS	1900 06 01		1913 04 11
ROSEBERRY	1895 09 01		1922 11 02
ROSEBERY	1924 03 22	MR 22 24	1939 07 10
TINEHEAD	1893 10 01	AU 23 93	
TYNEHEAD	1898		1898 11 17
GRIMMETT		AU 6 12	1914 11 21
VAN- GRIMMET	1918 07 01	JU 16 18	1943 08 30
VAN- GRIMMET			1953 10 31
VAN- GRIMMETT	1953 10 30	30 X 53	1957 11 05
WHONNOCK (1)	1885 08 01	FE 6 28	1939 02 09
WHONOCK	1939 03 09	FE 17 39	1939 07 04
WHONOCK		1 X 55	1969 04 19