



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 7 - Number 3

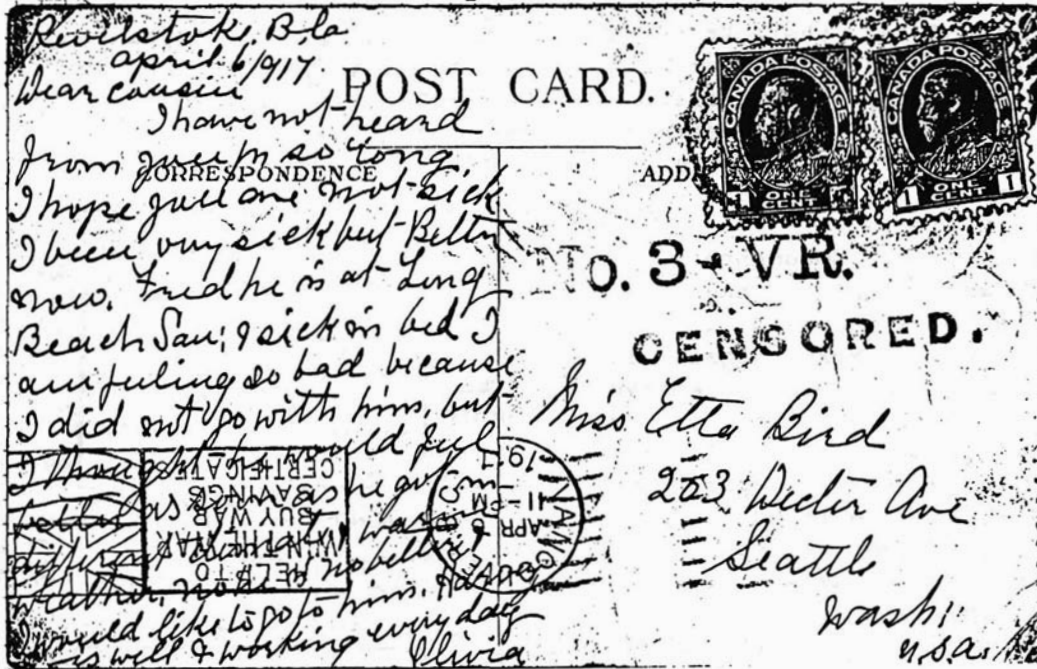
WHOLE NUMBER 27

OCTOBER 1998

CENSORED AT VANCOUVER - 1917

The Civil Censorship of mail during World War I was authorized under the Canadian War Measures Act of 1914 and gave authority to the Governor General in Council to implement regulations. The Postal Censorship at Vancouver began in June 1916 with the censorship of 20,000 letters from the C.P.R. ship the Empress of Russia. Postal employee A.S. Black was placed in charge of the Censorship Branch which operated in the attic of the Vancouver Post Office at Hasting and Granville. Between 40 and 200 postal employees acted as censors depending on the volume of Trans-Pacific and foreign mail. The censorship of mail for China appears to have ended in November 1919.

Post card from Revelstoke to Seattle, Washington
Censored at Vancouver by "No. 3 VR./ CENSORED."



REVELSTOKE / AP 6 / 1917 / B.C.
VANCOUVER, B.C. / APR 8 / 1917

The Censor markings at Vancouver can be divided into three periods -

- 1916 - "CENSORED" rubber stamp plus number or initials numbers up to 204 reported for Vancouver
- 1917 - Rubber stamp with "No." censor number and "VR." numbers up to 117 reported for Vancouver
- 1917+ - Paper tape with "C." followed by printed number numbers 300 to 550 used at Vancouver

THE POST OFFICES OF LANGLEY MUNICIPALITY & CITY

by Norman Sherritt, produced for the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of British North America Philatelic Society, \$24.95.

Norm Sherritt was born and brought up in Langley and his love for and his intimate knowledge of the Langley area show in this study of the post offices of the Langley Municipality. He deals with the named post offices chronologically, which causes some confusion as the names "Langley" and "Langley Prairie" refer to different places at different times. A map of the Municipality showing the post office locations would have been a great help to those not familiar with the region.

Details on openings, changes of status and a list of the postmasters are provided for each office and this is followed by a one or two page discussion of the history of the office based on comments of local residents and post office information. This personal touch makes for very interesting reading. Pictures of the post offices as well as examples of postal markings from the author's collection are included. No mention is made of the many R.P.O.s and Franchise offices established in recent years.

Only 65 copies of the spiral bound 86 page booklet were produced and for those interested in British Columbia postal history the search to find a copy will be well worth while as the book forms a valuable contribution to the study of British Columbia postal history.

MOON TO POCAN - 1973

In the spring of 1973 the Post Office Department changed its accounting system and as a result all post offices in Canada were assigned a new accounting number. The old four digit Money Order Office Numbers (MOON) were replaced by a five digit Post Office Computer Number (POCAN). The conversion in British Columbia took place in March of 1973 and for most post offices the exact date of conversion is not known.

Kevin O'Reilly has documented the proof dates and earliest usage for most of the markings used in the Yukon and NWT. Mike Sagar is working on a much more extensive project for all of Canada and is in the process of publishing listings of the MOON's used in each province. Kevin's books can be found in most of the better stamp shops. For information on Mike's present publication it is best to contact him at #208 - 611 West 13th Ave., Vancouver, V5Z 1N8.

POSTES CANADA POST		REGISTRATION RECEIPT - RÉCÉPISSÉ DE RECOMMANDATION	
To	<i>R. Blackmore, Inverness</i>	Date From To	
A	<i>Box 7200, Vanc. 3</i>	9506	
	<i>reg letter Nels - Kam</i>	VANCOUVER	
FEE	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	19 III 1973
DROIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	B.C.
		No.	211
P.M. Initials	<i>CS</i>	Timbre à date	
Initiales du m. de p.			
POSTES CANADA POST		REGISTRATION RECEIPT - RÉCÉPISSÉ DE RECOMMANDATION	
To	<i>J. Plancy, Surrey</i>	Date From To	
A	<i>1885-11, Surrey, Vanc. 8</i>	644897	
	<i>reg letter Kam</i>	SUB-AUX 88	
FEE	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	5 IV 1973
DROIT	<input type="checkbox"/>	No.	VANCOUVER
		No.	EC
P.M. Initials	<i>W</i>	Timbre à date	
Initiales du m. de p.			

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.

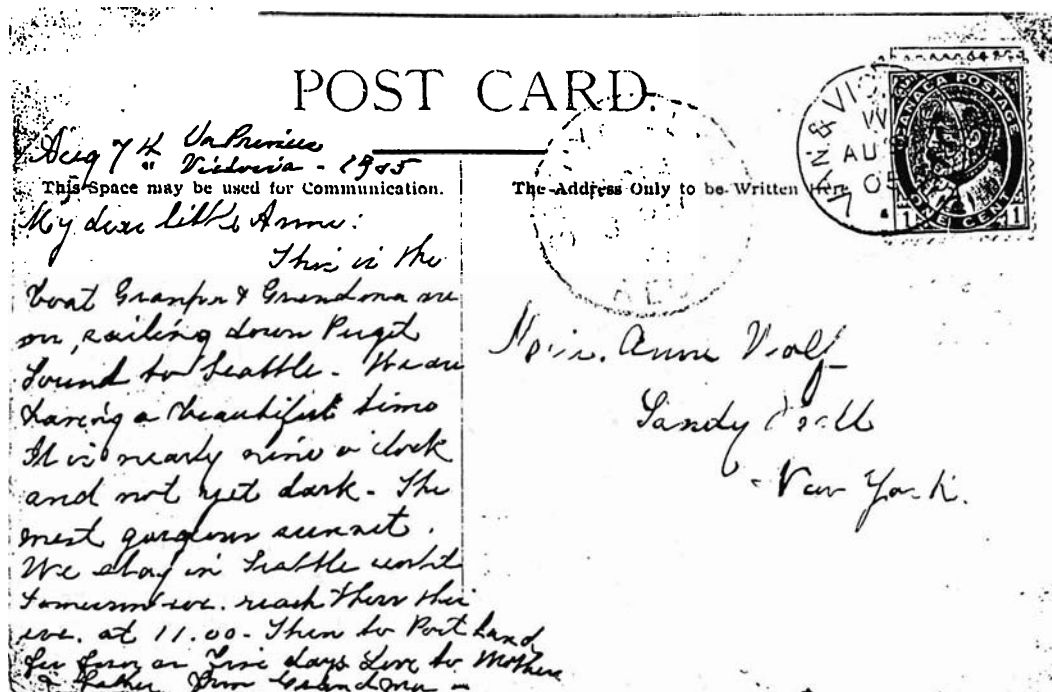
(604) 261-1508

VAN & VIC. B.C. R.P.O. - A Second Look.

(See: Vol. 6, No. 3, page 178)

In an earlier item on the VAN & VIC. B.C. R.P.O. (Ludlow W-160j) I suggested that there is much to be gained from reading the messages written on post cards and Pat Page did just that. He has found a post card showing "C.P.R. S.S PRINCESS VICTORIA" and mailed on the *Princess Victoria* on August 7, 1905. The message clearly states that the card was written on the Victoria to Seattle leg of the Triangle Route (Vancouver - Victoria - Seattle).

Both this post card and the one mentioned in the previous article were mailed on the boat to Victoria boat which left Vancouver shortly after the noon arrival of the train from the east. It can therefore be assumed that the VAN & VIC R.P.O. was assigned to the "Train" boat rather than the "Night" boat as previously thought. Covers from the VAN & VIC. R.P.O. are known between February 1903 and April 1911, during which time the C.P.R. Coast Service was undergoing a series of rapid changes. The C.P.R. was in intense competition with the Puget Sound Navigation Company and other U.S. based operators for control of the Vancouver - Victoria - Seattle route and ships on the route were added, re-routed, and withdrawn to meet the competition. In all, seven different C.P.R. ships served the route between 1903 and 1911 and based on sketchy time table information it is likely each of these seven ships served as the afternoon boat to Victoria.



The above post card was written on board the "Princess Victoria" on Monday, August 7, 1905 and mailed in the ship letter box prior to arrival in Seattle at 11:00 pm. The "VAN & VIC. R.P.O." postal marking is dated two days later, namely, Wednesday, August 9, 1905, with a "W" direction letter, indicating that the letter was postmarked on the Vancouver to Victoria leg of the route. The two day delay is quite easily explained since Tuesday was coaling day and the *PRINCESS VICTORIA* remained in Vancouver for servicing. Mail from the Seattle leg of the trip was not cleared until the ship left on the afternoon sailing from Vancouver which would not have taken place until Wednesday, August 9.

POST OFFICE CHANGES - An update

No sooner had the last News Letter gone to press than the marking produced by the jet spray and bubble jet cancelling equipment was re-programmed.

A new three line jet spray cancellation was introduced on OCR 081 at Vancouver on the evening of July 24 and a similar slogan was introduced on OCR 118 at Victoria on July 30. The change appears to have been Canada wide. Not all jets were re-programmed with the new slogan and jets 22 and 21 continued to produce the two line "Postal Code/ marking on number 8 size envelopes.

118 V8Z 4B0 980811 23:39 11111111

USE A POSTAL MONEY ORDER 11111111

UTILISEZ UN MANDAT-POSTE 11111111

At about the same time the bubble jet printer on FSM 619 was re-programmed to produce sets of 4 bars each 11 mm high rather than five sets of bars 8 mm high. Both these changes are designed to cancel stamps that are not located in the upper corner of the envelope.

Old 8 mm bars

New 11 mm bars



ATLIN BC - 1898-1998

Another in the growing number of special cancellation issued to commemorate special events.



THIS IS PHILATELY

By Kenneth A. Wood

Bill Pekonen has supplied the following definition for Postal History from Ken Woods three volume series *This is Philately* published by Van Dahl Publication of Portland, Oregon. Unfortunately his comments appear to have been ignored by many judges at recent exhibitions.

Postal History: In simple terms, postal history collecting can be considered as the collection and study of material showing the usage of postage stamps and the purpose of manuscript, handstamped, and machine-applied postal markings, and related material that tells the story of the development and working of postal systems.

Any piece of mail that illustrates some aspect of the working of a postal system, be it a manuscript rate marking, a transit or arrival marking, often in the form of a backstamp (q.v.), or in a few cases, with no marking at all, can be described as postal history material.

One of the great attractions of a postal history approach to philately is the fact that, like a history, it is still being made.

Though it may seem contradictory to speak of contemporary postal history, it is no less fascinating than is the study of the post in medieval times, and it can present a similar challenge.

Its very modernity can mean that little information is readily available, and you have the satisfaction of plowing new ground.

Another inviting aspect of current postal development is that so much material comes on everyday mail, and an office wastebasket can be a veritable treasure chest for the contemporary postal history student.

Perhaps the sociological significance of the transmission of the written word can only be assessed with the perspective of time, but it is a wise collector who gathers current material while it is easily available at little or no cost. Examples of experimental mail processing can disappear within a comparatively short time.

Increasing automation — with the electronic transmission of messages by the general public already available and with the chemical tagging of adhesive stamps and postal stationery — is opening up whole new areas of postal history study.

For those who prefer to look backward in time, there is still much that may be achieved in the postal history field. As noted above, postal markings are a necessary part of a postal history study. They can indicate routes, illustrate elapsed transit time, and tell of the adventures apt to befall a piece of mail.

Properly used, adhesive postage stamps can indicate cost and thus tell the postal rate in effect at a given time.

In this connection it might be mentioned that the tendency for modern collectors to overfrank covers by placing more stamps on a cover than are required, merely to have a number of canceled stamps or a complete commemorative set, will not please postal historians of the future, who will seek the more postally valid and historically accurate material.

Thus the made-for-collectors souvenir item may be considerably less desirable than many collectors might imagine.

How was a letter carried? How long did it take? How much did it cost? When and why was that particular route established?

It is the answer to these questions that the postal historian seeks, rather than the watermark-perforation-printing method information sought by the stamp collector, or the subject data of interest to the topical collector.

So, what really is postal history? It is the entire story of man's desire to communicate, and it reflects his ability to do so at any given time, from the cleft-stick message carried through tropical forests by relays of native runners, to the communications satellite whirling around the earth and reflecting electronic impulses from one part of the globe to another, all in the wink of an eye.

The Federation Internationale de Philatelie, known as the FIP (q.v.), at its Prague meeting in September 1978, drafted the following definition of a postal history display:

"A postal history collection should aim to show the methods and means of franking and payment of postage and dispatching and routing of correspondence.

"It should consist primarily of covers of all kinds, and may also contain relevant illustrative material, including adhesive stamps off cover.

"The emphasis of the collection should be mainly on the history of postal communication, and therefore research and knowledge shown in the exhibit may be as important as the material shown."

Also at its 1978 Prague meeting, the FIP offered some notes on judging postal history exhibits, which the collector will find to be useful in preparing a postal history collection.

The FIP emphasizes that the following is not mandatory:

A. A postal history collection is one based on a study and classification of postal and philatelic items that are directly relevant to the methods, routing, and conditions of dispatch of postal communications of all periods, or to the organization to this end of postal services, whether government, local, or private.

Three important guidelines for judges to follow from this definition are:

1. The emphasis in any postal history exhibit (or collection) should be on study and classification — illustrated by the material shown.

2. Such a postal history exhibit may contain two kinds of material: i.e., on the one hand, postal maps, letter bills, notices, illustrations, etc., and on the other, used stamps, envelopes, postcards, parcel labels, etc., that have seen postal use.

There should normally be a marked preponderance of postally used items.

3. The exhibit/ collection and all the material included should be "directly relevant" to postal communications or to the "organization to this end of postal services."

B. Specific Points in Assessing an Exhibit.

1. Study and Classification (Research). The content and quality of the information on the album pages of the exhibit should explain the reason for showing the items (i.e., what postal rate, marking, or special usage is illustrated by the item).

2. Completeness. How well does the exhibit cover its declared scope?

(a) Is the subject too large to be properly dealt with in the number of frames allocated (e.g., the postal history of London 1680-1914 in five frames)?

(b) Conversely, has a very restricted subject been over-elaborated to fill a specific number of frames?

(c) Is the coverage of the subject balanced: are the "difficult" periods or services adequately shown, or is most of the exhibit devoted to the more common markings/ services?

(d) The material exhibited should correspond to the title.

3. Originality and Personal Research.

(a) Relevance

(i) A postal history collection/ exhibit sometimes includes eye-catching (and valuable) covers that are almost irrelevant to the declared subject. Judges should never be influenced by such items when assessing the exhibit.

(ii) The inclusion of mint stamps or unused postal stationery is in no case relevant to a postal history exhibit.

(iii) Though commercial and other non-philatelic covers are always preferable, sometimes certain aspects of a country's postal history are almost impossible to show without "philatelic" covers, and judges should take such instances into account.

(b) Quality.

(i) Except in the case of "wreck" and disinfected covers, the closer a postal history item is to its original condition, the better. Judges should, of course, use their experience in allowing for the effects of age, methods of transport, or climate and the (non) availability of similar covers in fine condition.

(ii) Nevertheless, a cover must be judged above all on the quality of its postal history aspects (the clarity of impressions, the relevance and rarity of its postal markings).

(iii) As between two items of equal (postal history) quality, the use of a rare stamp on one cover may make it more attractive: this should only carry real weight in judging (as opposed to the auction sale) if the rare stamp was issued and used properly at the right period for a particular postal service or rate.

4. Presentation.

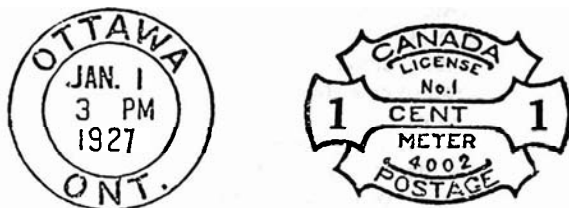
Neatness and conciseness are always to be commended. A typewritten text should not be discriminated against.

CANADIAN POSTAGE METERS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

The use of postage meters was first introduced into Canada in 1922 and although Seale Holmes included a listing in his 1959 "Specialized Philatelic Catalogue of Canada ...", there are very few collectors of meters. Wilf Whitehouse, Rob McGuinness and Ken Barlow are active collectors of meters and have provided the list of British Columbia towns for which meters have been reported (see next page).

Postage meters were first used in British Columbia in 1922 and the format of the meter imprint was prescribed in the Canada Official Guide as follows;

91. The Department has approved the use in Canada of machines that will Prepayment print on mail matter the words: "Canada Postage," the amount of postage pre- by stamped paid and the date stamp. The printing will be in the upper right hand corner impressions, where postage stamps are usually placed, thus:



As the postage on such mail matter will have been prepaid in cash, the letters, postcards, circulars, etc., are to be forwarded and delivered free of charge.

Canada Postal Guide - 1926 page 21.

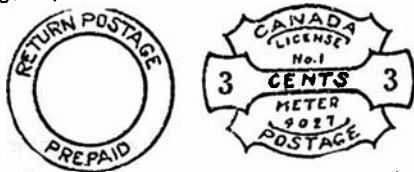
Pitney Bowes is the best known of the companies manufacturing the machines but many other companies have also produced meter equipment. These include Hasler, Friden, Roneo-Neopost, National Cash Register Company, National Postage Meters Company, Universal Postal Frankers and Postalia. The meters produced by each of these companies vary in format and as the postal regulations change so has the wording on the meters. Today the popularity of meter machines has increased to the point that over 80% of the first class mail handled by the post office is now metered.

All meters have two major parts. The town mark (usually in a circle) at left and the indicia which shows the value of the postage paid by the meter impression. Some meters have a slogan option which may be used for a return address or a slogan or pictorial design.

There are a number of ways to collect meters, including: meter types, town or localities, slogans, postal rates, or limited time periods of meter usage.

Reply Postage
Prepaid by
Postage
Impression
Machine

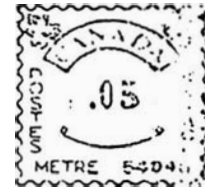
100. In order to facilitate the handling of large mailings, approval has been given to a system whereby firms when sending out letters, enquiries, etc., to the public may enclose an addressed reply envelope having the postage prepaid thereon by means of a postage impression as follows:-



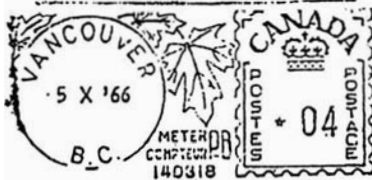
As the reply postage will have been prepaid in cash, such mailings are to be date-stamped at the office of posting, forwarded and delivered free of charge.



British Columbia
is Celebrating
its Centenary
in 1966



British Columbia
is Celebrating
its Centenary
in 1966



"HAVE WE
YOUR
CORRECT
ADDRESS?"



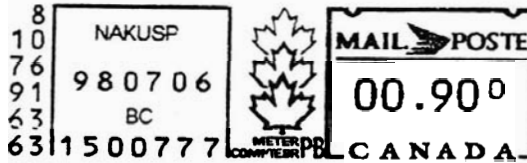
Visit Beautiful
British Columbia



SCHOOL DISTRICT
NO. 36 (SURREY)
P.O. Box 820
CLOVERDALE, B.C.



School District No. 10
(Arrow Lakes)
Box 340
Nakusp, B.C. V0G 1R0



7110 TORBRAM ROAD
MISSISSAUGA, ON
L4T 4B5



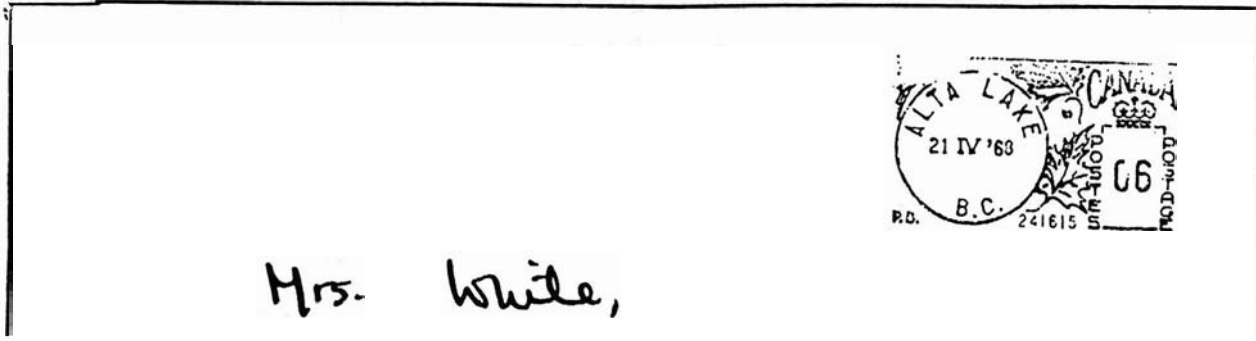
B.C. Meter Towns

Abbotsford	Fairmont Hot Springs	Lumby	Qualicum Beach	Waglisla
Agassiz	Fanny Bay	Lytton	Quathiaski Cove	Wellington
Aiyansh	Fernie		Queen Charlotte	Westbank
Alberni	Field	Mackenzie	Quesnel	West Bank (error)
Aldergrove	F.M.O. Victoria	Madeira Park		West Summerland
Alert Bay	Fort Langley	Manson's Landing	Radium Hot Springs	West Vancouver
Alexis Creek	Fort Nelson	Maple Ridge	Radium Junction	West View
Armstrong	Fort Saint John	Masset	Revelstoke	Whistler
Ashcroft	Fort St. John	Matsqui	Richmond	White Rock
Atlin	Fort St John	McBride	Richmond/Q.C. (with	Whonnock
	Fort St. James	Merrit (error)	Richmond /BC cornercard)	Williams Lake
Bamfield	Fraser Lake	Merritt	Rosedale	Winfield
Barnet	Fr. Nelson		Rossland	Woodfibre
Barrier (error)	Ft St John	Mesachie Lake	Royal Oak	Woss
Barriere	Fruitvale	Mica Creek	Rutland	
Beaver Cove		Midway		Yarrow
Bella Coola	Gabriola	Mill Bay		Youbou
Birch Island	Gabriola Island	Milner	Saanichton	
Blind Bay	Galloway	Mission	Salmo	Zeballos
Boston Bar	Ganges	Mission City	Salmon Arm	
Bowen Island	Garibaldi Highlands	Mount Currie	Salt Spring Island	South Burnaby
Brackendale	Gibsons	Murrayville	Sandspit	/Van.B.C.
Brentwood Bay	Gillies Bay		San Josef	
Brisco	Golden	Nakusp	Sardis	
Britannia Beach	Gold River	Nanaimo	Savona	Postal Station "A"
Burnaby	Grand Forks	Nanoose Bay	Sayward	/Vancouver B.C.
Burnaby 1	Granisle	Naramata	Sechelt	
Burnaby 2	Greenwood	Natal	Shawnigan Lake	Postal Station "E"
Burns Lake	Grindrod	Nelson	Sicamous	/Vancouver B.C.
		New Denver	Sidney	
Cache Creek	Hagensborg	Newton Station	Skookumchuck	Vancouver-South
Campbell River	Halfmoon Bay	New Westminster	Slocan	Burnaby
Canoe	Haney	New Westminster	Slocan Park	
Cassiar	Harrison Hot Springs	(error)	Smithers	
Castelgar	Harrison Mills	North Burnaby	Sooke	
Chase	Hazelton	North Surrey	Sorrento	
Chemainus	Hendrix Lake	North Vancouver	South Burnaby	
Chetwydn (error)	Honeymoon Bay	N.P.O. 1113 (Esquimalt)	South Hazelton	
Chetwynd	Horsefly	N.P.O. 1117(Vancouver)	South Slocan	
Chilliwack	Houston		Sparwood	
Christina Lake	Hudson Hope	Ocean Falls	Spences Bridge/P.Q.(error)	
Clayburn	Huntingdon	Okanagan Falls	Spences Bridge	
Clearbrook		Oliver	Squamish	
Clearwater	Invermere	Osoyoos	Steveston	
Clinton	loco	100 Mile House	Stewart	
Cloverdale		Oyama	Summerland	
Cobble Hill	James Island		Surrey	
Comox	Juskatla	Panorama		Tahsis
Copper Mountain		Parksville		Tasu
Coquitlam	Kamloops	Peachland		Taylor
Courtenay	Kaslo	Peach Land (error)		Terrace
Cranbrook	Kelowna	Pemberton		Tofino
Cranbrooke (error)	Kelsey Bay	Pender Island		Trail
Crawford Bay	Kemano	Penny		Tranquille
Crescent Valley	Keremeos	Penticton		Tsawwassen
Creston	Kimberley	Pitt Meadows		Tumbler Ridge
Crofton	Kincolith	Port Alberni		
Cultus Lake	Kitimat	Port Alice		Ucluelet
Cumberland	Kitwanga	Port Clements		Union Bay
		Port Coquitlam		
Dawson Creek	Ladner	Port Edward		
Dease Lake	Ladysmith	Port Hammond		Valemount
Delta	Lake Cowichan	Port Hardy		Vananda
Donald Station	Langley	Port McNeil		Vancouver
Duncan	Langley Prairie	Port Mellon		Vanderhoof
	Lantzville	Port Moody		Vavenby
Edgewood	Lavington	Port Renfrew		Vedder Crossing
Elkford	Lazo	Powell River		Vernon
Endako	Lillooet	Prince George		Victoria
Enderby	Lions Bay	Prince Rupert		Victoria/F.M.O.
Esquimalt	Logan Lake	Princeton		Victoria/H.M.C. Dockyard
Essondale				V6B 3A0 (Vancouver)

BRITISH COLUMBIA METER MARKINGS

FOREIGN EXCHANGE CONTROL BRANCH

On page 216 is a listing, compiled by Wilf Whitehouse of the town names appearing on meter impressions used in British Columbia. No attempt has been made to list the meters by meter type or by company of manufacture. Of particular interest in the list are meters used in settlements such as ALTA LAKE which is not included but is reproduced below. The meter was used briefly at the Cheakamus Inn, prior to Whistler engulfing the settlement of Alta Lake.



Please list similar unreported towns in the space below. If possible xerox copies would be appreciated.

.....
 Name

.....
 Address

.....

Forms should be sent to -
Bill Topping
7430 Angus Drive
Vancouver, B.C.
V6P 5K2 CANADA

Pickin' on the Post Office

by Julian Willsey

While Canada Post isn't everybody's favorite place, somebody in the Central Interior likes it a lot.

So much so that they have visited most every-one of them between here and Hope and then some.

They haven't been visiting during regular hours either. According to RCMP Const. Steve Cox post offices in Hope, Blue River, Lac la Hache, 108 Mile, 70 Mile, Clinton, Savona, Spences Bridge, Vavenby and Kamloops have all been broken into.

The post office at Lone Butte was spared only because an alert resident stopped the robbery.

According to Cox, postal outlets are targeted because they have cash and stamps.

Cox said the thieves have also been going after anyone with a safe. He recommends that people who have stored large amounts of cash or valuables in their homes to store it somewhere else for now, preferably a bank.

The thieves have not had any trouble opening the safes or getting around alarm systems. In most cases the alarms have been put out of service prior to the break in. If the safe is small enough it goes with the thieves.

The public can be helpful in preventing these crimes, says Cox, by simply noting strangers in

their neighborhood — people who may be walking around or hanging around postal outlets or neighborhood stores. Take note of their appearance and write down a description of their vehicle including the license plate number if possible.

Lone Butte resident Gerry Baerg had just settled into bed last Friday night when his dog started to bark. "He just went nuts and wouldn't stop, so I got out of bed and went to the porch." Baerg saw two men unscrewing the light bulb above the back door of the post office. He yelled at the pair. "They weren't the slightest bit afraid, they just walked away, towards Meline's (Restaurant)," said Baerg. "I threw on my clothes and went over there," he said. There was no sign until he saw tail lights near the railway tower.

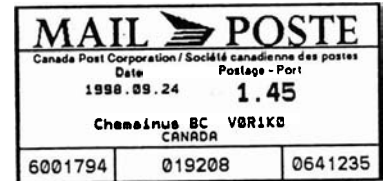
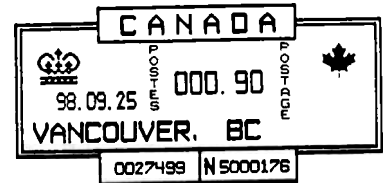
"A vehicle took off on Hwy. 24 going east. I followed them and they pulled into the Iron Horse Pub. I think it was to see if I was following them."

When they took off Baerg called police.

Lone Butte postmaster Pam Pfannmueller has nothing but praise for Baerg. "He is a resident hero, if you ask me," she said. "He saved Lone Butte Post Office a lot of grief. We're the only Post Office for miles around

that they didn't get into and we have Gerry to thank for that."

While it was a brave and conscientious thing to do the RCMP would prefer that people maintained a discrete distance. "It would be better if people phoned us first," Cox said. "It could turn out to be a dangerous situation if you follow or chase suspects in a crime."

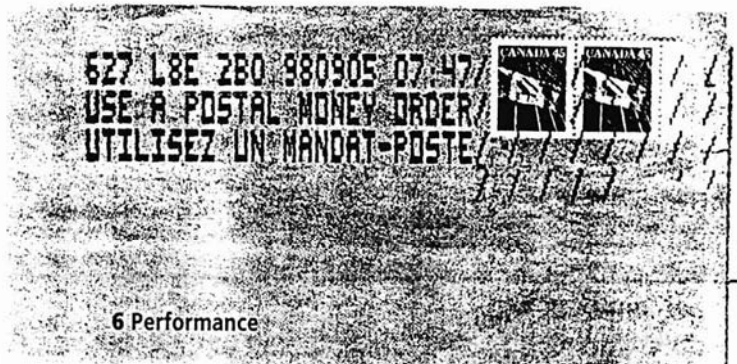


Cancellation messages hit the spot

For many years, the promotional line on electronic (MLOC) and machine cancellation messages has reminded customers to use their postal code. Starting in September, a new message is being used nationally to remind customers to use postal money orders.

"We cancel 75 to 90 million pieces of Lettermail each month nationally," says Andrea Fields, officer, Advertising. "Using the cancellation space is a great way to increase awareness of Canada Post's services."

The awareness campaign runs until the end of December 1998. Meanwhile, meetings between other departments are under way to determine how to use the cancellation space to promote other uses of Lettermail. (see *Boosting Lettermail Ideas* p. 28)



6 Performance