



BRITISH COLUMBIA  
POSTAL HISTORY  
RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 14 Number 1

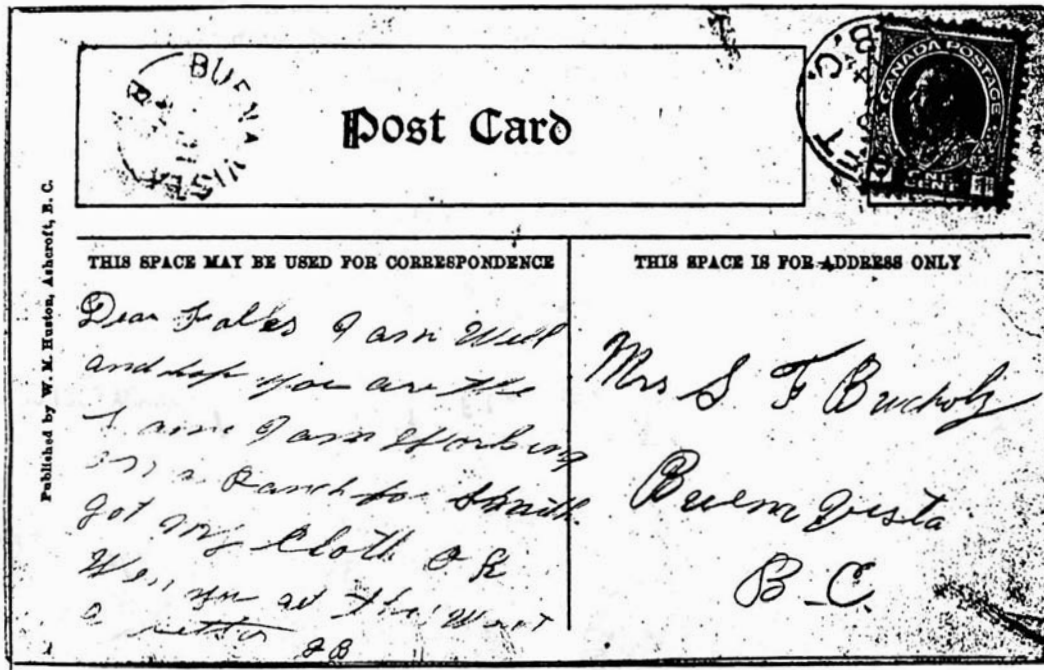
Whole number 53

April 2005

### BUENA VISTA

Buena Vista Post office was located on the bluffs half way between Burnaby Lake and Sapperton Post Office. Although it was open from 1912 to 1946 postal markings from this post office are extremely rare and it illustrates the problem of collecting markings from post offices in the Greater Vancouver region. Many offices such as Lozells, also located near Burnaby Lake, were open for more than ten years and should be relatively common but because they tended to be isolated and served a small population, these offices are assigned a "D" or "E" rarity factor.

BUENA VISTA / AP 10 / 14 / B.C.



#### Buena Vista

Authorized PMG 56889 - 5 Nov. 1912  
Hand stamp proof - NO 16 / 12  
Equipment sent - 1 Dec. 1912  
Closed 1946 06 29

#### Postmasters

J.H. Bucholz - 1912 12 01 @ 2BMI DL 13  
D. Buchart - 1915 09 01  
F.W.A. Wood - 1922 10 10 @ 724 Bulmer  
O.R. McQuity - 1940 04 01 @ 593 Armstrong

**NEWS LETTER DELAYED**

As mentioned in the last B.C. News Letter my wife was diagnosed with cancer shortly before Christmas last year and I am now able to announce that she is well on the way to recovery. At the same time as she was undergoing chemotherapy, I suffered a detached retina and after six minor operations on the eye, I am slowly returning to normal. The result has been that I have had little time or energy to produce newsletters.

I am now ready to return to publishing the B.C. News Letter and hope to have three newsletters out by the end of the year. Unlike most editors I have a backlog of material and I apologize to those who have sent material that has yet to be used. Hopefully by January I will be back to the normal publishing routine.

One of the first items to be dealt with is the major update at the Vancouver Post Office. Older equipment, such as the Culler Facer Cancellers (CFC), has been replaced and new modular equipment has been introduced. Much of the new equipment is modular and can easily be added to existing equipment or moved from machine to machine. Thanks to the excellent cooperation of the Vancouver Post Office I will be visiting the MPP and doing a series of reports on the new equipment.

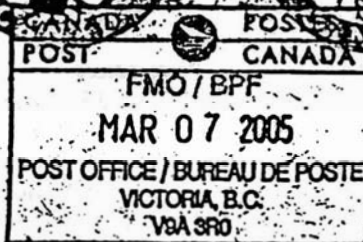
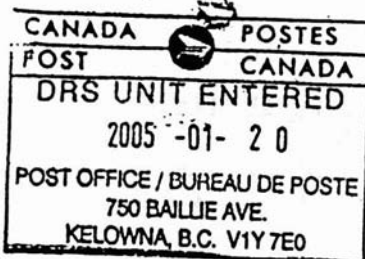
On another topic – A dues notice should have been mailed in April but this was not done. A dues notice for those who have not paid their 2005 dues is included with this newsletter.

**MORE PICTORIAL CANCELS - Thanks to Andrew Scott and others**



GOLD RIVER POST OFFICE  
GENERAL DELIVERY  
GOLD RIVER BC V0P 1G0

BUREAU DE POSTE  
DE GOLD RIVER  
POSTE RESTANTE  
GOLD RIVER BC V0P 1G0



*The* **MAIL**  **BAG**

Thanks to Ken Barlow

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE VANCOUVER POSTAL CLUB

OWNED AND PUBLISHED BY THE POSTAL WORKERS OF VANCOUVER, NORTH VANCOUVER, WEST VANCOUVER (Hollyburn), AND BURNABY

Vol. 12, No. 11

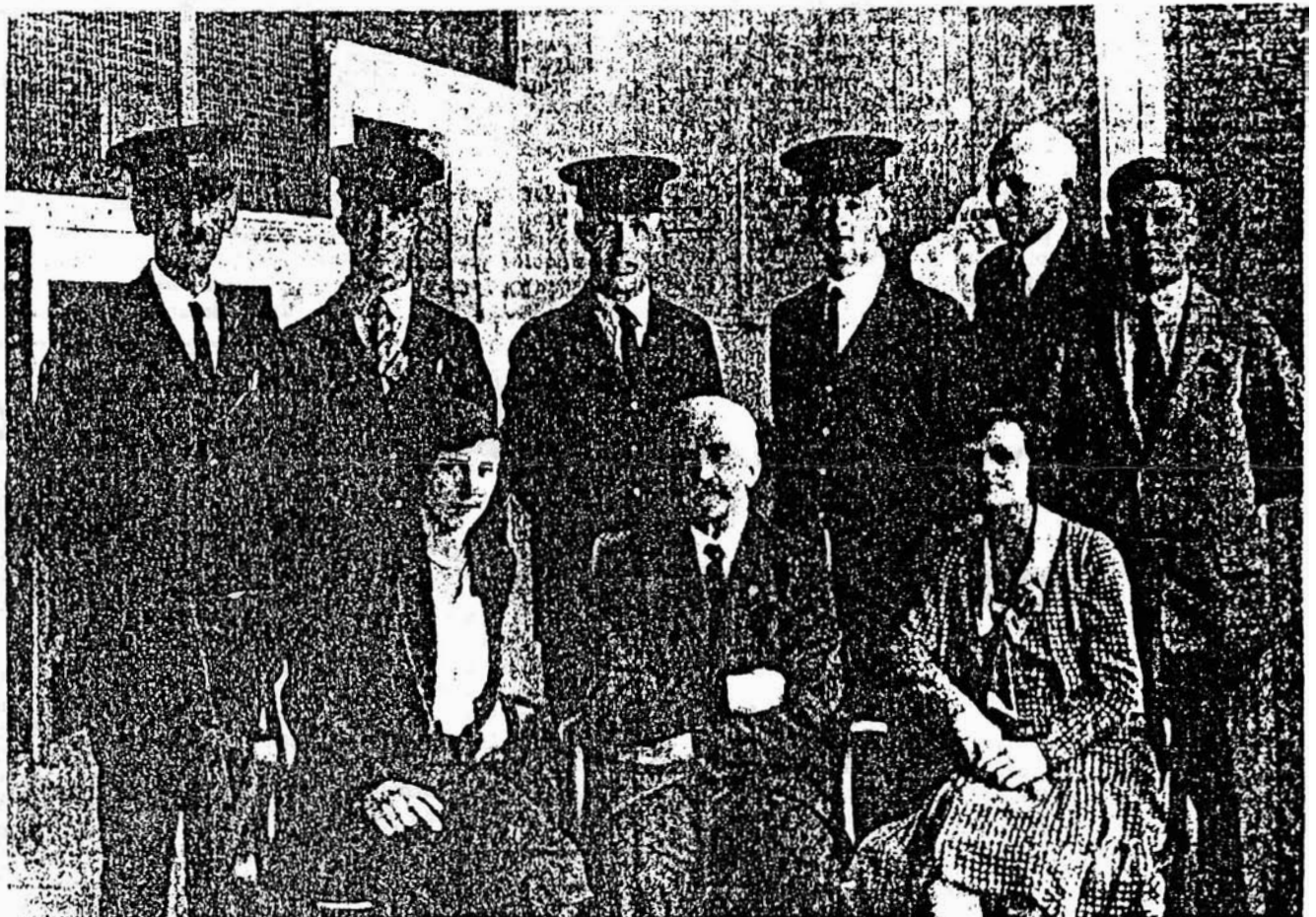
Advertising - MU 3-3718  
Bryon Lawes

MARCH, 1959



Postal Sta. D, Vancouver 9, B.C.  
Editor: Geo. Gallagher

# WEST VANCOUVER POST OFFICE



ORIGINAL STAFF, JUNE, 1931.

Standing left to right: Letter Carriers—Frank Evenett, Cyril and Bert Mason; Seated: Office Staff—Lorna Thomps

# THE WEST VANCOUVER STORY

By JOHN C. CLUCAS

(Former Postal Officer in charge, West Vancouver Postal Station, now retired)

The earliest unauthorized postal service in the district, which later became known as Hollyburn, dates back to 1907. John Lawson had acquired a home from an early settler, Navy Jack. It was located on the south-west corner of 17th and Bellevue Avenue, and still stands on a new location a little further west on Bellevue, to where it was moved some years ago. Lawson rented a Post Office Box in North Vancouver, as this area was then included in that District. The majority of residents in the district which is now known as West Vancouver had their mail addressed c/o Mr. John Lawson, who picked up the mail from his P.O. box, once or twice a week, and delivered it to the residents from a small office in his home.

It is interesting to know that the original name of Hollyburn was selected by John Lawson. Amongst his other varied interests he was a great admirer of holly trees, and he imported a number of them to plant on his property. A stream ran nearby and so he christened his place "Hollyburn". Two of these original trees are still flourishing in John Lawson Park just south of the new post office.

In 1909 Postal service was authorized and the first Post Office, under the name of Hollyburn, B.C., was established in a store building three doors west of 17th Street on the south side of Marine Drive (then known as Keith Road).

John Lawson was appointed first postmaster and remained in the position until about 1921. When he served overseas during the First World War from 1916 to 1918, Mrs. Lawson carried on the postal duties for him.

In 1921, the store was leased to J. T. Watt, who became postmaster for about twelve months. He was followed by John Lynn, another lessee of the store. Lynn was postmaster for a short period, until John Lawson again assumed the position of postmaster.

It was found that the space in the store was not adequate to meet the needs of the growing population, which from 1912 to 1921 had grown from 600 to 4,200, and by 1931 showed a further gain to 7,000. Another store next door was acquired for additional space. It was from this office that the first letter carrier service was established June 1st 1931, and it consisted of four walks.

Growing pains were still evident and a new government

building was erected at the north west corner of Marine Drive and 17th Street in 1937. In 1940 Hollyburn, B.C. became part of the Greater Vancouver system so far as postal arrangements were concerned, and on August 1st of that year the office became a Postal Station of Vancouver, B.C. Mr. James Turner, Post Office Inspector (who later became Postmaster, Vancouver, B.C.) transferred the office from John Lawson to John Clucas, who became Clerk in Charge. John Clucas had been employed at the Vancouver Post Office for twenty-eight years previously. Miss Lorna Thomson, who had been Mr. Lawson's assistant, became a postal clerk and remained to be of great assistance to the comparatively new staff taking over. Lorna is presently employed in the office of the District Director of Postal Services, Vancouver, B.C.

When the office was first taken over in 1940 it was for all practical purposes an independent office. All sorting, both for despatch and letter carrier routes was done on the premises. The staff numbered 3 clerks and 5 letter carriers. Gradually over the years, and with the further increase in population in 1941—8,324 and 1951—13,990, it was found necessary to have the sorting done in Vancouver, in order to speed delivery.

The name of the office was changed in 1955 from Vancouver (Hollyburn) B.C. to Vancouver (West Vancouver) B.C. This was done because of the increase in area covered by the Postal Station, and because the use of the name Hollyburn was causing some confusion.

John Clucas retired from the Postal Service in 1956 after forty-five years' service, sixteen of which were spent in West Vancouver. He has been succeeded by the following Postal Officers: P. D. Fagan, C. G. Hawkes, and A. J. Wirth who is presently in charge of the new office.

It had been very evident for a number of years that the accommodation provided in the Government Building at the corner of 17th Street and Marine Drive was inadequate to meet the postal needs; and proposals had been made at various times to ease the situation.

The new building, opened on February 23, 1959, stands on the corner of 17th and Bellevue, just across the street from Mr. Lawson's home where postal service in West Vancouver started. The staff of twenty five under the direction of Al Wirth, has a building modern in every way, in which to service the estimated population of 21,000.

## Hollyburn P.O. now just plain West Vancouver

WEST VANCOUVER — Name of Hollyburn postal station has been changed to West Vancouver, B.C.

Change was made because the station now serves far more of the municipality than just Hollyburn.

However, residents now receiving mail through post offices at Eagle Harbor, Horseshoe Bay or sub offices at Cypress Park, Dundarave, Park Royal and Wadsley should continue to have mail so addressed.

THE VANCOUVER PROVINCE,  
Tuesday, December 13, 1955

## West Van Mail Service Speeded Up

WEST VANCOUVER — Local mail will reach its destination within 12 hours of being posted, thanks to municipal council's request for a thorough investigation of postal services throughout West Vancouver.

Although many of the requests for improved delivery could not be granted, J. Turner, postmaster for the Greater Vancouver area, has approved a special chute earmarked for Hollyburn mail at the local post office.

This mail will now be handled entirely by West Vancouver staff instead of being sorted in Vancouver.

Council also requested two deliveries a day in business districts but the postmaster replied: "Two deliveries cannot be made to any letter carrier walk in which the number of business calls does not exceed 25 percent of the total number of calls in the walk."

A request for widening of residential postal service was also turned down.

Letter carrier delivery is not considered, in cases in which the average distance per call exceeds 40 yards.

This affects the British Properties area and homes west of block Marine Drive.

Vancouver Times  
Oct. 9, 1953

POST OFFICE

Vancouver 1, B.C.,

Vancouver Post Office - c/ 1958

Extension of Letter Carrier Delivery Service has been authorized to portions of the Sherman, Cypress Park and Caulfeild areas of West Vancouver. However, the area in which you reside does not meet requirements for normal Letter Carrier Delivery. Until such time as it does, the Postal Department will provide a service through the installation of "Group Mail Boxes".

Group Mail Boxes are designed in units of ten and are of steel construction. The master door in front of the unit contains individual doors for each of the ten boxes comprising a unit. (They are supplied without cost).

An individual box which can be locked with a padlock will be allotted to you at the corner of *The Dale + Water Lane*, on request. However, before service can be provided, it will be necessary for each patron to place a padlock on his respective box. Any padlock which can be used to fasten a door with a hasp will be suitable.

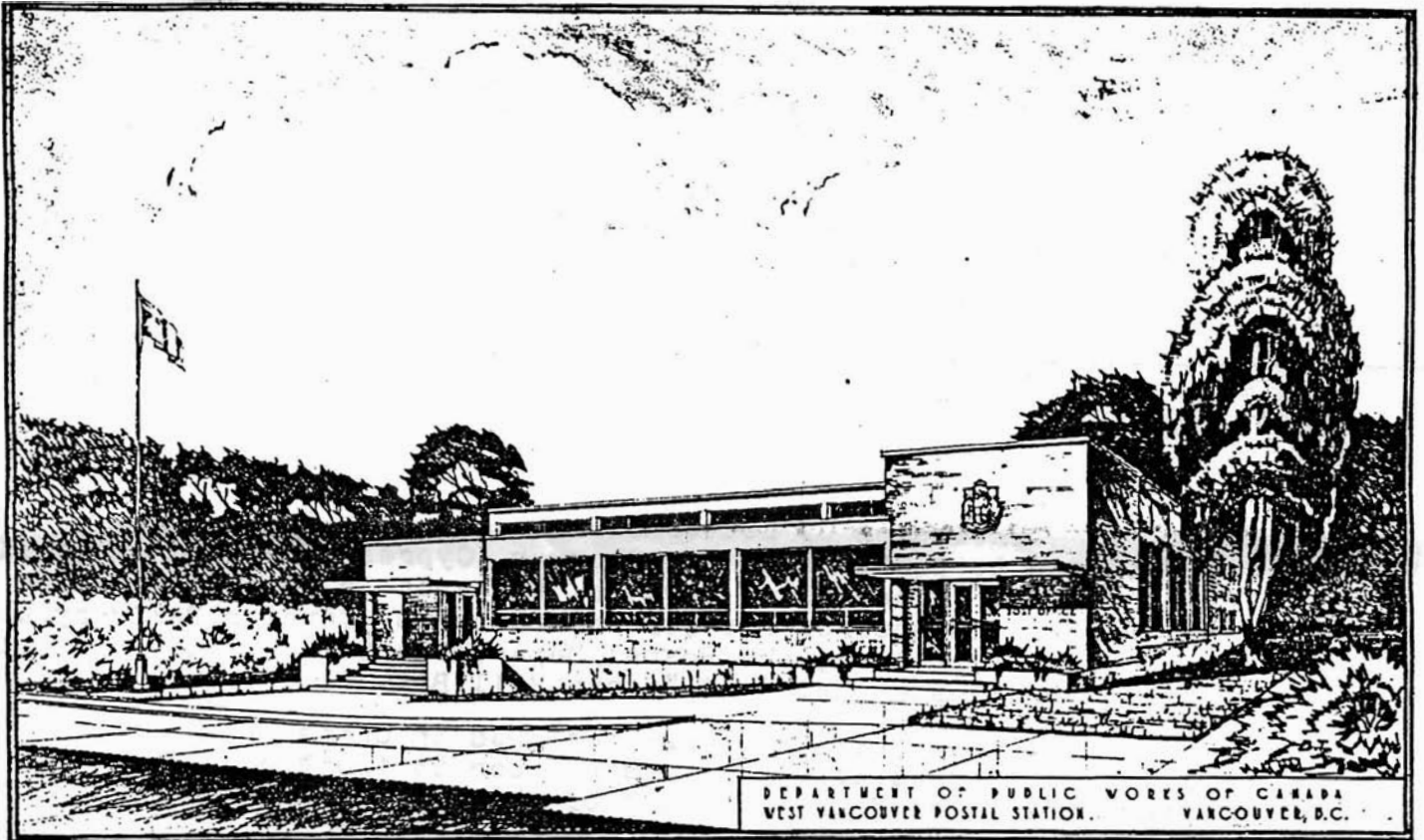
Ordinary mail, including small parcels, will be delivered to Group Mail Boxes. A card will be left advising you to call at the nearest Post Office or Sub Post Office to take delivery of C.O.D.'s, registers, large parcels, etc.

If you are now taking delivery through General Delivery at a Sub Post Office and wish to continue you may do so, but, in this case, it is essential that your mail be properly addressed to the Sub Post Office. Mail addressed to street and number will normally be sorted for delivery to the Group Mail Boxes, and will have to be re-directed to the Sub Post Office, with consequent delay.

Should you wish to take advantage of this service, which is provided without additional cost to yourself, please complete the attached form and return it in the enclosed envelope which requires no postage. You will then be advised further.

Yours truly,

Enc.  
JBT/6W. H. Wilson,  
Postmaster.



**MODERN POST OFFICE** for West Vancouver will open its doors Monday at corner 17th and Bellevue Ave. Feature of entrance wall is large area of fixed glass panels separated by porcelain enamel

and maroon Roman tiles. Plans were prepared by Public Works dept. at Ottawa.

-THE LIONS GATE TIMES-

-Thursday, Feb. 19, 1959

**New Post Office  
Opens Feb. 23**

West Vancouver's new post office at the corner of 17th and Bellevue will open its doors Monday morning, February 23.

There will be no ceremony and the old post office will be locked up after close of business Saturday.

Card delivered - Mon. Apr. 5, 1971

**STOP -**



★ **WE THOUGHT YOU'D BE INTERESTED.** ★

**COMPLETE WICKET SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE ON SATURDAYS  
AT**

Postal Station "West Vancouver"  
225 - 17th Street  
West Vancouver, B.C.

From 8:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Postage Stamps - Money Orders - Registration - C.O.D.'s -  
Parcel Post - Insurance - Special Delivery.

## POST OFFICE

Vancouver 3, B.C.  
30th September 1963

Dear Sir or Madam

The extension of Letter Carrier Delivery Service to various sections of West Vancouver will commence on October 7th, 1963.

The area in which you reside will be included in this new service, provided the mail receptacles now lacking are installed before that date.

When this service is established, the residents of homes not equipped with the necessary facilities will be required to call at the West Vancouver Postal Station for their mail.

If you are now receiving your mail through the West Vancouver Postal Station, or a Sub Post Office and your mail does not bear your street address, please file a change of address card at that office.

Group Mail Box patrons are advised to arrange to pick up their mail on October 5th, 1963, and remove their padlocks from their boxes.

These Group Boxes will be relocated to provide service for residents in other areas.

You are also requested to advise your correspondents that the correct manner of addressing your mail is as follows:

Name  
Number and Street  
West Vancouver, B.C.

Yours truly

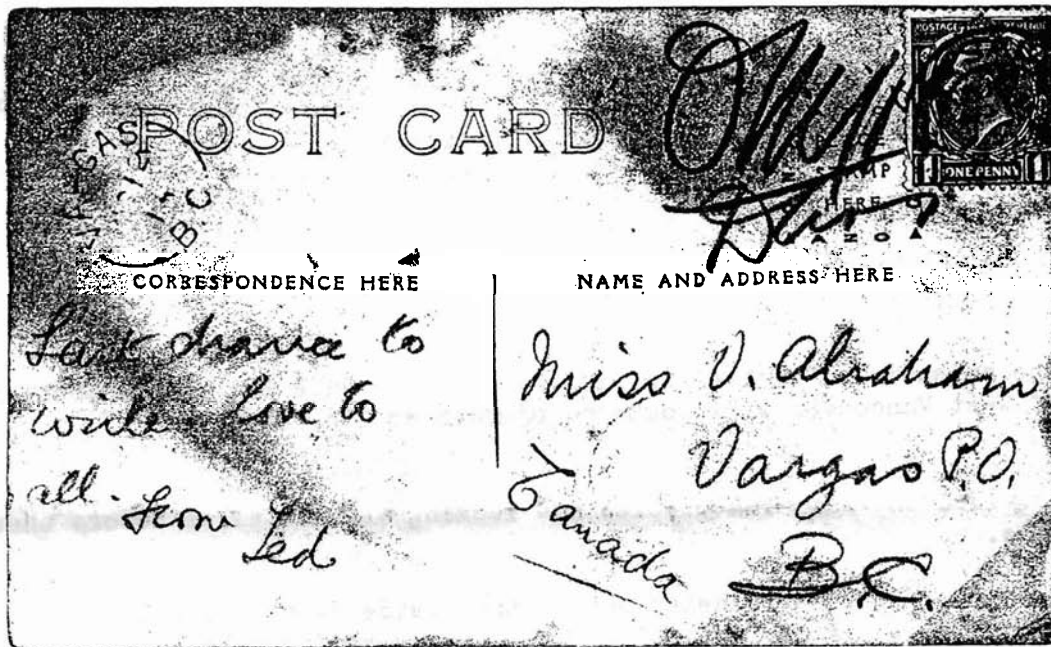


R.F. Reid  
Postmaster



Thanks to Tracy Cooper

## VARGAS



The first reported copy of the VARGAS/B.C. split ring hammer. Vargas was a steamer landing and fishing settlement on the east side of Vargas Island, 2 miles west of Clayoquot. It opened in 1914 and closed in 1922 and as was the case with most seasonal west coast settlements, was characterized by low Post Office annual revenues. This postcard has a real photo of large group of posed troops obviously going off to war. It was enscribed with a manuscript OHMS but a one penny stamp was added, probably at Salisbury dated OC 22/14, and it arrived at VARGAS/B.C. NO 12/14.

Steamer landing and settlement on the east side of Vargas Island, 2 miles west of Clayoquot.

<i>For the Period Ending:</i>	<i>Revenue</i>	<i>Postmaster Salary:</i>
1914-06-01		<i>P.O. Established</i>
	\$42.64	\$41.62
1915-03-31	\$62.75	\$50.00
1916-03-31	\$61.82	\$50.00
1917-03-31	\$42.87	N/A
1918-03-31	\$32.71	N/A
1919-03-31	\$43.45	N/A
1920-03-31	\$35.34	N/A
1921-03-31		

Notes:

1) Post Office was non accounting during this period.



**FROM CANADA POST -**

Again thanks to John Gannon and Darlene Lam of the staff at the Pacific Division of the Canada Post Corporation, we are able to provide a listing of the openings and closing dates for post offices in the Pacific Division. Again the format in which the information is provided has changed and as a result some changes of ownership may be shown as separate closings and openings rather than as changed to ...

**OPEN**

Rcnumber	Outlet	Address	City	Prov	Pcode	Old RC	Open
101451	PEACH CITY PO	232 MAIN STREET	PENTICTON	BC	V2A 5B0	386650	2004/11/01
101463	UNIVERSITY OF VICTORIA PO	3800 FINNERTY ROAD SUITE A102	VICTORIA	BC	V8P 5C0		2005/01/17
101465	PROCTER GENERAL STORE	MAIN STREET	PROCTER	BC	V0G 1V0		2004/11/01
101470	MARKETPLACE IGA #115	1160 GOVERNMENT STREET	PENTICTON	BC	V2A 4V1	071876	2004/09/07
101473	LIKELY PO	5029 LIKELY STREET	LIKELY	BC	VOL 1N0	100228	2004/10/29
101483	MONTE LAKE PO	MAIN STREET	MONTE LAKE	BC	VOE 2N0	176710	2004/10/24
101490	UNIVERCITY PO	8961 CORNERSTONE MEWS	BURNABY	BC	V5A 4Y0		2005/04/11
101491	WEST END PO	7689 20TH STREET	GRAND FORKS	BC	VOH 2E0	100751	2004/11/14
101503	WESTPARK CENTRE PO	8 - 20349 88TH AVENUE	LANGLEY	BC	V1M 2K0	428361	2004/12/06
101509	CREST CENTRE PO	8697 10TH AVENUE	BURNABY	BC	V3N 2S0	355186	2004/12/13
101511	SKOOKUMCHUCK PO	4534 HIGHWAY 9395	SKOOKUMCHUCK	BC	V0B 2E0	644250	2005/01/01
101518	LA CASA STAMP SHOP/CALL FOR	6808 WESTSIDE ROAD	KELOWNA	BC	V1Z 3R8		2004/11/29
101521	EAST RICHMOND PO	22940 WESTMINSTER HIGHWAY	RICHMOND	BC	V6V 1B0	100809	2005/03/23
101525	WOSS PO	3001 ENGLEWOOD DRIVE	WOSS	BC	VON 3P0	438723	2005/01/01
101531	CANOE CREEK BAND	GENERAL DELIVERY	DOG CREEK	BC	VOL 1J0	641863	2004/12/06
101532	PRITCHARD PO	4132 TRANSCANADA HIGHWAY EAST	PRITCHARD	BC	VOE 2P0	340200	2004/11/15
101548	JAMES BAY PO	2 - 455 SIMCOE STREET	VICTORIA	BC	V8V 2G0	386545	2005/01/17
101564	MERRITT DOWNTOWN PO	1800 GARCIA STREET	MERRITT	BC	V1K 1B0	100207	2005/01/30
101566	RIVERSIDE PO	14819 108TH AVENUE	SURREY	BC	V3R 1W0	100306	2005/02/07
101569	WEST PENDER STREET P.O.	499 GRANVILLE STREET	VANCOUVER	BC	V6C 1T0	413984	2005/02/21
101632	WAGLISLA PO	GENERAL DELIVERY	WAGLISLA	BC	VOT 1Z0	650730	2005/05/01
101605	SMITHERS PO	3738 3RD AVENUE	SMITHERS	BC	VOJ 2N0		2005/02/21

**CLOSED**

Rcnumber	Outlet	Address	City	Prov	Pcode	Close
416487	SOOKE	BOX 616	SOOKE	BC	V0S 1N0	2004/09/04
068691	SKAHA LAKE P.O.	3030 SKAHA LAKE RD	PENTICTON	BC	V2A 7H2	2004/09/08
071676	GOVERNMENT STREET PO	1160 GOVERNMENT ST	PENTICTON	BC	V2A 4V0	2004/09/08
058912	VANCOUVER STN SOUTH DEL CTR	8726 BARNARD ST	VANCOUVER	BC	V6P 5G0	2004/09/24
640468	BARKERVILLE PO	GENERAL DELIVERY	BARKERVILLE	BC	VOK 1B0	2004/09/30
640638	BLUBBER BAY PO	BLUBBER BAY RD	BLUBBER BAY	BC	VON 1E0	2004/10/15
648965	WALHACHIN PO	MAIN ST	WALHACHIN	BC	VOK 2P0	2004/10/15
176710	MONTE LAKE P.O.	MAIN ST	MONTE LAKE	BC	VOE 2N0	2004/10/23
100809	EAST RICHMOND PO	22940 WESTMINSTER HIGHWAY	RICHMOND	BC	V6V 1B0	2004/10/27
100226	LIKELY	5029 LIKELY ST	LIKELY	BC	VOL 1N0	2004/10/28
439045	TERRACE DOWNTOWN PO	SUITE 202 1551 CATERPILLAR ROAD	MISSISSISSAUGA	ON	L4X 2Z6	2004/10/29
645931	PROCTER PO	MAIN ST	PROCTER	BC	V0G 1V0	2004/10/30
386650	WESTMINSTER	187 WESTMINSTER AVE W	PENTICTON	BC	V2A 1J0	2004/11/06
100751	WEST END PO	7689 20TH ST	GRAND FORKS	BC	VOH 2E0	2004/11/13
340200	PRITCHARD P.O.	4132 E. TRANSCAN HWY	PRITCHARD	BC	VOE 2P0	2004/11/14
428361	WESTPARK CENTRE	20349 88 AVE	LANGLEY	BC	V1M 2K0	2004/12/05
641863	DOG CREEK	GD	DOG CREEK	BC	VOL 1J0	2004/12/05
355186	CREST CENTRE P.O.	8697 10TH AVE	BURNABY	BC	V3N 2S0	2004/12/12
438723	WOSS PO	3001 ENGLEWOOD DR	WOSS	BC	VON 3P0	2004/12/31
644250	SKOOKUMCHUK	5005 BRADFORD RD	SKOOKUMCHUCK	BC	V0B 2E0	2005/01/03
100485	KAMLOOPS	1271 SALISH RD	KAMLOOPS	BC	V2H 1P6	2005/01/15
386545	JAMES BAY	2 - 455 SIMCOE STREET	VICTORIA	BC	V8V 2G0	2005/01/16
650633	ABBOTSFORD STN CLEARBROOK	31949 S FRASER WAY	CLEARBROOK	BC	V2T 1V0	2005/01/24
100207	MERRITT DOWNTOWN	1800 GARCIA ST., QUILCHENA SQUARE	MERRITT	BC	V1K 1B0	2005/01/29
100306	RIVERSIDE	14819 - 108TH AVE	SURREY	BC	V3R 1W0	2005/02/06
413984	HARBOUR CENTRE	555 WEST HASTINGS ST	VANCOUVER	BC	V6B 4P0	2005/02/18
101605	SMITHERS PO	3738 3RD AVENUE	SMITHERS	BC	VOJ 2N0	2005/02/22
263168	MARYSVILLE P.O.	660 304TH ST	MARYSVILLE	BC	V1A 3H0	2005/03/01
643394	KAMLOOPS STN A	459 TRANQUILLE RD	KAMLOOPS	BC	V2B 3H0	2005/03/04

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2004-2005

Surplus from previous year	\$605.00
Dues	
Dues @ \$8 x 60	480.00
Advance dues @ \$7.50 x 21	202.50
	<hr/>
	1287.50
BNA grant	116.00
	<hr/>
	1403.50
News letters 315 @ \$1.50	472.50
Surplus	<hr/>
	931.00
Less advanced dues	202.50
Net surplus	<hr/>
	728.50

The British Columbia Postal History News Letter is published quarterly in conjunction with the British North America Philatelic Society.

Membership fees are;  
\$8.00 for 1 year  
\$15.00 for 2 years  
in Canadian or US dollars.

Individual Issues sell for  
\$2.00 post paid.

Dues are payable to the Editor  
Bill Topping 604-261-1508  
7430 Angus Drive  
Vancouver, BC, V6P 5K2, Canada

## MEMBERS 2005

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Leith, Ron D.	Wynns, John P.
Liaskas, Bill	Young, Alan M.
Link, David	Young, William

## DUES -

Dues notices have been included with this News Letter.  
Dues are \$8.00 for 1 year and \$15.00 for 2 years \$US/Can.

If you received a dues notice please return the notice  
with a check made out to Bill Topping.