



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 1 - Number 3

SEPTEMBER 1992

MAJUBA HILL POST OFFICE

By Cecil C. Coutts

Established 1 July 1900

Closed 1 January 1914

Reopened as Yarrow 1 January 1914

In 1877 Great Britain annexed the Transvaal. In a subsequent struggle for Independence, a troop of Boer soldiers under the command of Petrus J. Jobert (1831-1900) routed 500 British soldiers at Majuba Hill on 27 February 1881. Sir George Colley, British Commander, was killed in the exchange. Skirmishes such as this led eventually to the South African War (1899-1905.)

Type "A"
proof
unknown

The battle site was chosen as the name for a British Columbia post office which opened on the north side of Vedder Mountain just south of where the Village of Yarrow was later built.

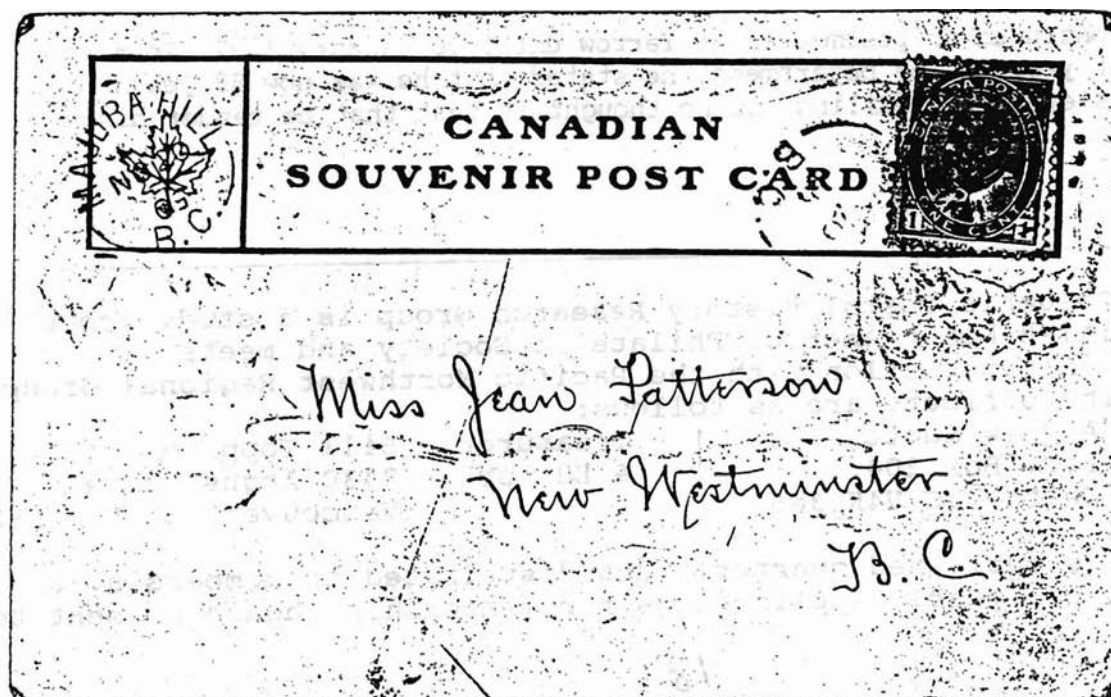


The Chilliwack Progress (newspaper) of 4 July 1900 carried the following item:

"A new semi-weekly mail service has been established between Sumas and Vedder Mountain. The new post office is called Majuba Hill and Mr. William Chasdey is postmaster."

MAJUBA HILL / NO 20 / 05 / B.C.

unreadable strike / NO 20 / 05 / B.C.



Post Office opened 1 July 1900 in the Chadsey home situated at the intersection of Majuba Hill and Robinson Roads. William Chadsey (1843-1906) was a brother of Chester and James Chadsey, who were pioneer farmers on Sumas Prairie. William and his wife Mary Town had a family of twelve children.

Mail in 1900 was received/dispatched through Sumas Post Office. When Sumas Lake flooded (which was a regular occurrence,) it was necessary to transport mail by boat. Later, (1902) a contract was let to William Chadsey to haul mail twice per week between Majuba Hill and Sardis, eight and one-half miles distant at \$120. per annum. By this time, a bridge had been built at Vedder Crossing.

On 1 December 1906, William Chadsey's eighth-born, Lockhart Eugene Chadsey (1879-1942) took over the postmaster job and mail hauling contract, the latter apparently being shared with J.B. Redman.

Lock, a farmer, was married to Ola Adeline Mercy in January 1903. The couple had six children. He served as postmaster until 1 November 1909.

Third postmaster was James Hounscome, who just nicely got set up in his home across the road from the Chadsey place, when the post office closed down because the bridge at Vedder Crossing was destroyed by high water. Postal service resumed 1 April 1910.

The British Columbia Electric Railway built stations at Yarrow and Sinclair in 1910. Robert Town had the mail contract until 1 April 1912, hauling from Sinclair Siding, south-west of Yarrow.

The post office moved 1 April 1912 into a new house built by Hounscome next to Yarrow Station. Thereafter, mail was transported between Majuba Hill Post Office and this station. The distance was only fifty yards, three trips per week until 1915 when six-day mail service was implemented.

An event of note occurred 1 January 1914 when the name of the post office was changed to "Yarrow."

Hounscome continued as postmaster at Yarrow until 10 January 1927. In a letter that year to the Department, he stated that he was now 83 years old and his eyes were failing, so he thought it best that he tender his resignation.

The British Columbia Postal History Research Group is a study group under the British North America Philatelic Society and meets occasionally in conjunction with the Pacific Northwest Regional Group of BNAPS. The officers are as follows:

Chairman	Andrew Scott	Treasurer	Bill Topping
	P.O. Box 204	& Editor	7430 Angus Drive
	Delta, BC V4K 3N6		Vancouver, BC V6B 5K2

A newsletter is published quarterly and distributed to members at a cost of \$5.00 per year. Applications for membership should be sent to the Editor.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

The third newsletter of the B. C. Postal History Research Group is being published for distribution at the Fall meeting of the B.N.A. Regional Group. Since the publication of the first newsletter in March I have been very pleased with the response I have received from the members both in the form of print ready material as well as suggestions and comments needs for such a publication. I have also received a number of promises of material on a wide variety of topics which will provide a more interesting content than if all the material comes from one source. As I stated when I offered to edit this newsletter, I do not intend to make it a one man show - so keep the material coming.

For a variety of reasons this newsletter was written before newsletter number two was mailed, actually in late June. The major reason for the early publication date is that I will be retiring after 39 years of teaching in the Richmond School District and will be attending the C.P.S. of G.B. Convention in Perth, Scotland at the same time as the Kelowna meeting takes place. As a result I am leaving the affairs of the group in the capable hands of Andrew Scott who I hope will take charge at the September meeting. I will see you again at the spring meeting.

Although I will not be present to discuss the newsletter I would like to make a few observations as to the direction I would like to see the newsletter move. Where possible, I plan to include as an opener of two or three pages featuring some topic of postal history, such as the study of a particular post office or the discussion of the use of a particular type of marking. I also consider that each issue should contain material on each of the five specific time periods of postal history - namely:

1. the Victoria - Edward, period roughly to 1910,
2. the George V era, ending roughly at the start of World War II,
3. the George VI period, that is mainly World War II,
4. the early Queen Elizabeth period ending in the early 1980's
5. finally the automated and privatized of the Post Office.

This breakdown would not preclude topics crossing between one period or another nor would it preclude studies that might cover all periods. The objective is to cater to the wide spectrum of interests of the members.

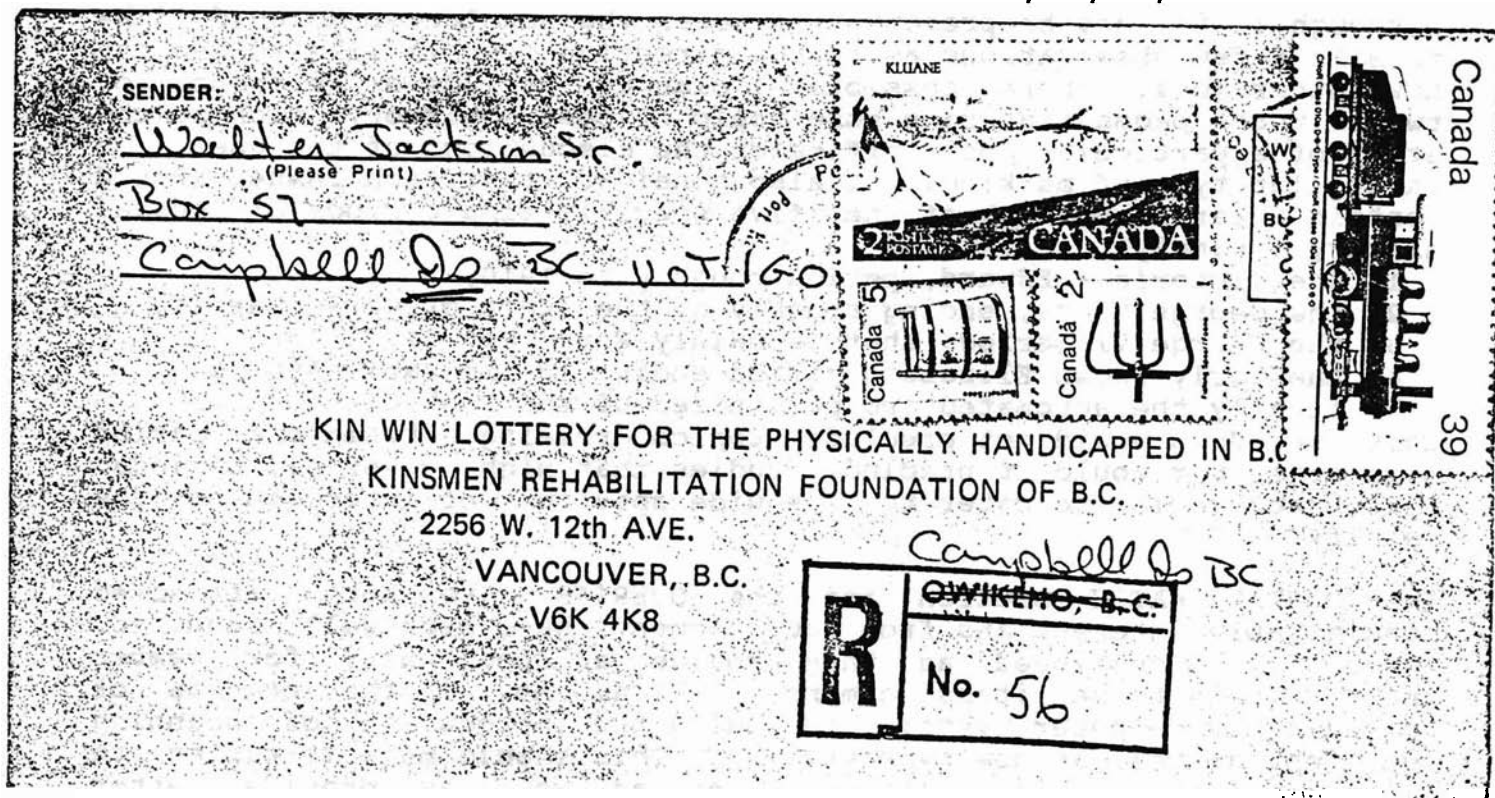
The POSTAL WATCH section and the QUERIES have both attracted considerable interest and from your comments have been well received. They will be continued as they provide an opportunity for member input. Keep these items coming. I am now in the process of upgrading my computer system, including the introduction of scanning equipment as well as new type styles. This should make it easier to illustrate various cancellation types as well as provide better clarity of print.

Finally, I hope you enjoy the fall meeting and that I will see you at the spring meeting on Vancouver Island but in the mean time send in a small (or large) item for inclusion in a future issue of the newsletter.

OWIKENO - The Post Office that never was.

Shortly after the opening of the DAWSONS LANDING Post Office, in 1967, the Canadian Post Office received a request from the Owikeno Indian Band to establish an additional Post Office at, or near, the site of the former RIVERS INLET (1890-1942) Post Office. The name proposed was OWIKENO, B.C. and it was to be located on the Owikeno Reserve inland from the dock at Rivers Inlet. The new office would be about 21 miles by water or logging road from the DAWSONS LANDING Post Office which was located half way along Rivers Inlet. Owikeno was to serve about 30 families and was to be operated by the Indian band. On November 10, 1974, approval was given for equipment to be ordered and postal code VOT 2A0 was assigned and a tender was called for the transfer of mail from Dawsons Landing to Owikeno. The net result of the tendering and the discussions that followed was that the cost of transferring the mail was to be considerably above that paid in most other parts of B.C. for a comparable distance and as a result on February 25, 1977 the postal code was withdrawn and mail continued to be delivered to Dawson Landing. The cancelling equipment that had been made for use at Owikeno had been set to PORT HARDY Post Office where it remained after the cancellation of the proposal.

PORT HARDY / 3 / 1 / 1986



Back - VANCOUVER / 5 / 1 / 1986

The story would have ended there except for a fire at CAMPBELL ISLAND Post Office in December 1986. In the fire the registration equipment was lost or destroyed and replacement equipment was needed quickly. The Owikeno registration stamp was sent as a replacement pending the delivery of new CAMPBELL ISLAND equipment.

REPLY QUERY 92-02 - MPO/NPO ACCOUNTING NUMBERS

JUNE SUPPLEMENT, 1946

POST OFFICE TRANSACTIONS

UP TO THE

1st June, 1946

In response to a query from Bill Bailey the following extracts from the Canada Postal Guide Monthly Supplements may add new or additional information. References were found in the September and December 1939 Supplement and again in the June 1946 Supplement. No mention of MPO or NPO openings or closings were found between these dates and even the offices included in the Supplements were listed in the in the Canada Postal Guides for the period between 1939 and 1946.

The 1946 reference would indicate that by April 1, 1946 all MPO/NPO offices were closed with the exception of those transferred to civilian status.

CHANGE IN STATUS OF OFFICES					
Note: The following M.P.O.'s and N.P.O.'s are being continued on a civilian basis as from 1st April, 1946					
OFFICE NUMBER	POST OFFICE	POSTAL DISTRICT	TOWNSHIP OR PARISH	ELECTORAL DISTRICT	PROV- INCE
4783	Trenton M.P.O. 303. (1st April).	O.....		South.....	Ont.
81210	Ottawa M.P.O. 304. (1st April).	O.....		Ottawa West.....	Ont.
4193	Rockcliffe M.P.O. 306. (1st April).	O.....	Gloucester Tp.....	Russell.....	Ont.
1800	Uplands M.P.O. 307. (1st April).	O.....	Lot 8, Con. 2, Gloucester Tp.	Carleton.....	Ont.
3898	Ottawa N.P.O. 317. (1st April).	O.....		Ottawa West.....	Ont.
0518	Lachine M.P.O. 405. (1st April).	M.....		Jacques Cartier.....	P.Q.
X106	Dartmouth M.P.O. 602. (1st April).	H.....	Halifax County.....	Halifax.....	N.S.
X270	Halifax N.P.O. 605. (1st April).	H.....		Halifax.....	N.S.
9879	Patricia Bay M.P.O. 1102. (1st April).	V.....	District of North Saan- iche.	Nanaimo.....	B.C.
9885	Esquimalt N.P.O. 1113. (1st April).	V.....		Victoria.....	B.C.
9875	Vancouver M.P.O. 1116. (1st April).	V.....	Sea Island.....	New Westminster.....	B.C.
	Edmonton M.P.O. 1315. (1st April).	E.....		West Edmonton.....	Alta.
8210	Calgary M.P.O. 1317. (1st April).	C.....	N.E. 31-23-1 WSM.....	Calgary East.....	Alta.

SEPTEMBER SUPPLEMENT, 1939

NOTE.—(a) A new Post Office was opened under the name of Esprit Saint and the name of the existing Esprit Saint Post Office was changed to Cenellier.

Aldershot Camp Field Post Office, N.S., was in operation during the period 3rd to 12th July.

Barriefield Camp Field Post Office, Ont., was in operation during the period 22nd July to 2nd August.

Connaught Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Carleton, Ont., was in operation during the period 4th to 9th July.

Dundurn Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Rosthern, Sask., was in operation during the period 2nd to 16th July.

Niagara-on-the-Lake Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Lincoln, Ont., was in operation during the period 10th June to 8th July.

St. Bruno Field Post Office, P.Q., was in operation for the period 18th June to 8th July.

Sarcee Camp Field Post Office, Alta., was in operation during the period 1st to 11th July.

Shilo Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Neepawa, Man., was in operation during the period 12th June to 12th August.

Sussex Camp Field Post Office, Electoral District of Royal, N.B., was in operation during the period 3rd to 13th July.

Camp Valcartier Field Post Office, Electoral District of Quebec-Montmorency, P.Q., was in operation during the periods 24th June to 11th July and 26th July to 6th August.

Vernon Camp Field Post Office, B.C., was in operation during the period 28th June to 1st July.

DECEMBER SUPPLEMENT, 1939

NOTE.—(a) A new post office was opened under the name of Mattagami Heights and the former Mattagami Heights Post Office was closed.

Cann Post Office, Electoral District of Pontiac, P.Q., was reopened on the 23rd October, 1939, as a Winter Office under the charge of Mr. J. G. Groleau as Postmaster.

Linton Junction Post Office, Electoral District of Portneuf, P.Q., was temporarily closed on the 30th September, 1939.

Military Post Office No. 201 was placed in operation on the 11th October, 1939.

80790—Military Post Office No. 302—was placed in operation on the 8th November, 1939.

Suffren Post Office, Electoral District of Selkirk, Manitoba, was temporarily closed on the 14th October and reopened on the 23rd October under the charge of Mr. Napoleon Lane as Postmaster.

SLOGAN POSTMARKS - Kamloops

Dan Rosenblat, of 1512 Templemore Drive, Canronment, Florida, 32533, is an ardent collector of slogan postmarks and would like to hear from others of similar interest. At the present time he and Cec Coutts are working on the slogans from Kamloops and have sent a three and one half page list of slogans for early and late dates. Space does not allow for printing the complete list but a few of the common slogans that are unreported for some years are as follows;

HELP PREVENT FOREST FIRES
1921, 1938, to 1950'S

PLAN TO ATTEND FAT STOCK SHOW
KAMLOOPS B.C.
1949, 1952, 1953

MAIL YOUR CHRISTMAS PARCELS EARLY
1941

Type 1



Type 2



HUDSON HOPE or HUDSON'S HOPE



HUDSON'S HOPE, B.C. V0C 1V0

The 1991 Postal Code Book lists HUDSON'S HOPE rather than the traditional spelling, without the apostrophe, of HUDSON HOPE. On the other hand the printout of open post offices lost the traditional spelling HUDSON HOPE. When the Alaska Highway Anniversary cancellations were issued in 1991 and 1992 the name is spelled with the apostrophe. The problem arises - when the anniversary equipment is withdrawn will new equipment be used or will the spelling revert to HUDSON HOPE.

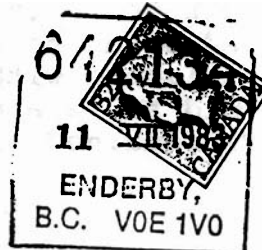


POSTAL WATCH 3 - ENDERBY

Enderby is a good example of the problems for postal historians of Canada Post's move to privatization. Major offices, normally open five days a week 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM, have been replaced by "B" Franchise offices, open 6 or 7 days a week and open longer hours than the Staff or Semi-Staff offices. The problem is that in the case of Enderby three of the four replacement office have ENDERBY / BC at the bottom of the dater. The only distinguishing feature between the offices is the accounting or HRIS number. Although Ashton Creek was listed in postal records as ENDERBY RPO 2 the dater read ASHTON CREEK / BC.

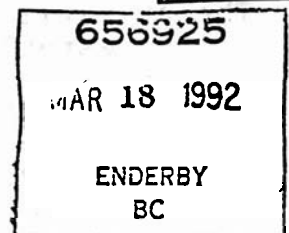
ENDERBY, B.C.

Number 642134
Semi-staff
Established 1887 11 01
Closed 1991 09 27
Belvedere Ave.



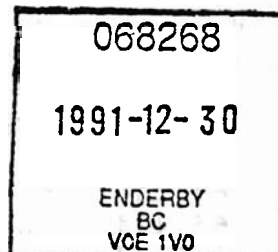
ENDERBY BC

Number 656925
Franchise
Established 1990 01 23
Open
People's Drug Mart #5
Cliff Street



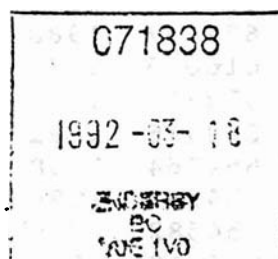
ENDERBY BC

Number 068268
Franchise
Established 1991 09 30
Open
Super Save Highway 97
Spallumchun Food Mart



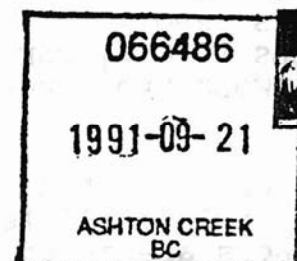
ENDERBY BC

Number 071838
Franchise
Established 1991 09 30
Open
Belvedere Service
1005 Belvedere Ave.



ASHTON CREEK (Enderby RPO 2)

Number 066486
Franchise
Cancel reads Ashton Creek
Established 1991 08 15
Closed 1991 11 29
Ashton Creek General Store
R.R. 2, Enderby



ALASKA HIGHWAY - Cancellations Changed



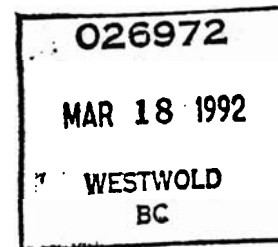
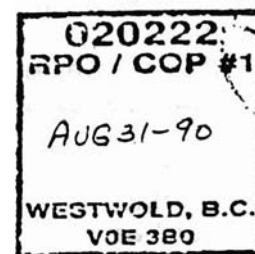
Since the publication of the first newsletter the cancellations used to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the Alaska Highway have been changed to a smaller hammer similar in size to those used on First Day Covers. The design reads CANADA POST - POSTES CANADA at the top and RENDEZVOUS'92 at the bottom. The anniversary logo appears above the town name in the centre with the date below. It is assumed that all post offices issued with the original logo cancellation have been issued with the new dater which came into use in mid to late May. The machine cancellations have remained unchanged.

RESEARCH REPORT

TEMPORARY "R P.O." OFFICES

The privatization of a number of small rural Post Offices has resulted in the establishment of temporary short term R.P.O.s. These RPO offices have often lasted less than a year but have been issued with a new accounting number. In some, but not all cases, these temporary offices have also been issued with new rectangular dater including the name and "R.P.O. No. 1". Any additional information on these offices is requested as many are unreported.

RPO OFFICE	NUMBER	ESTBLISHED	CLOSED
BIG LAKE RANCH RPO 1	654248	1987 12 14	1989 06 01
BRIDGE LAKE RPO 1	654434	1988 08 01	OPEN
BURTON RPO 1	654477	1988 12 01	1989 05 15
CANIM LAKE RPO 1	631523	1989 04 24	1989 08 04
CELISTA RPO 1	654302	1988 02 20	1990 03 01
D'ARCY RPO 1	631191	1989 05 01	1990 11 01
EAGLE BAY RPO 1	631515	1989 05 08	1989 08 09
FARMINGTON RPO 1	630489	1988 11 30	1989 03 20
FAUQUIER RPO 1	654353	1988 07 14	1989 08 09
MONTE LAKE [RPO 1]	654337	1988 04 11	1990 05 31
MONTE LAKE RPO 2	016055	1990 06 01	1991 03 01
NIMPO LAKE RPO 1	072311	1991 09 05	OPEN
SETON PORTAGE RPO 1	062316	1991 05 01	1991 09 12
TAKYSIE LAKE RPO 1	654264	1988 02 25	1989 06 05
TOPLEY RPO 1	654361	1988 06 01	1989 05 15
WELLS [RPO 1]	654582	1989 10 11	1990 05 15
WELLS [RPO 2] VOK 2R2	066419	1991 06 06	1991 12 10
WESTWOLD RPO 1 VOE 3B0	020222	1990 07 18	1990 10 30



The above list has been compiled from recent postal records but may not include all Temporary R.P.O. offices. Members are asked to report any omissions to editor.