



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 2 - Number 3

WHOLE NUMBER 7

SEPTEMBER 1993

Alex Price writes:

"The very early, or first Vancouver hammers interest me and you may know the answer. Alex continues - "I have a cover postmarked Vancouver May 24, 1886. I do not know of an earlier date but, of course I could stand corrected. The strike is a full circle and is not shown in the proof book. My imagination likes to tell me that this was the first Vancouver hammer which, in all probability, was lost in the fire of June 13. The cover contains the letter which confirms the date. The dates I have for this period are as follows:

April 6, 1886 Vancouver incorporated

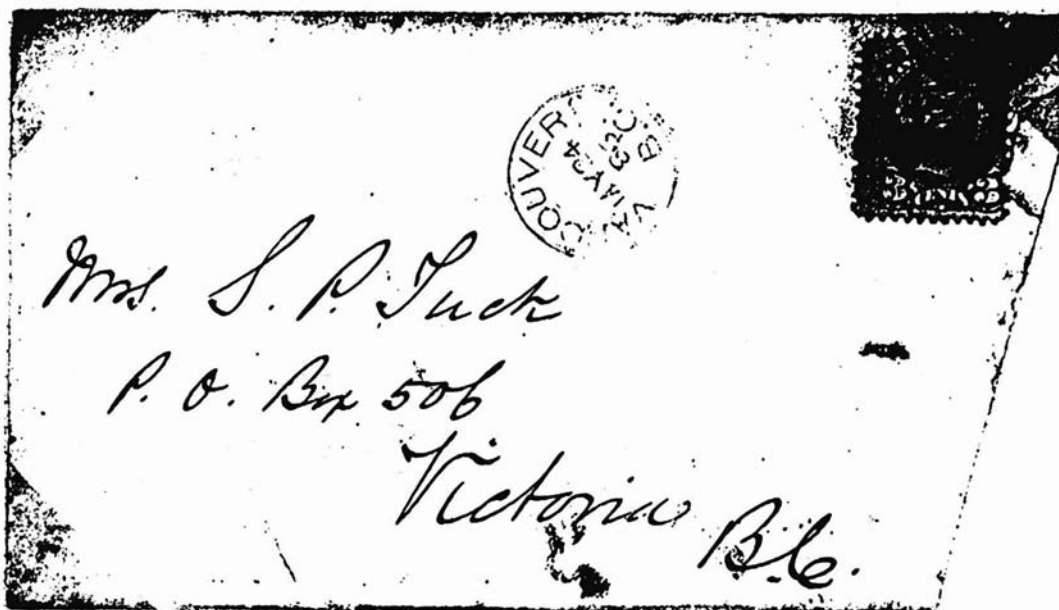
April 30, 1886 Vancouver post office opens

From April 6, to April 30 Granville hammer continues in use. I have two Granville covers for this period, April 12 and April 19, 1886.

May 1, 1886 First Vancouver hammer in use.

June 13, 1886 First hammer probably lost in fire.

My next Vancouver item is a postcard dated Vancouver, June 30 1886 seventeen days after the fire. It is a split ring."






Only 1886 reported Type "B" hammer for Vancouver - dated MY 24 / 88.⁶

Granville - Vancouver - 1886

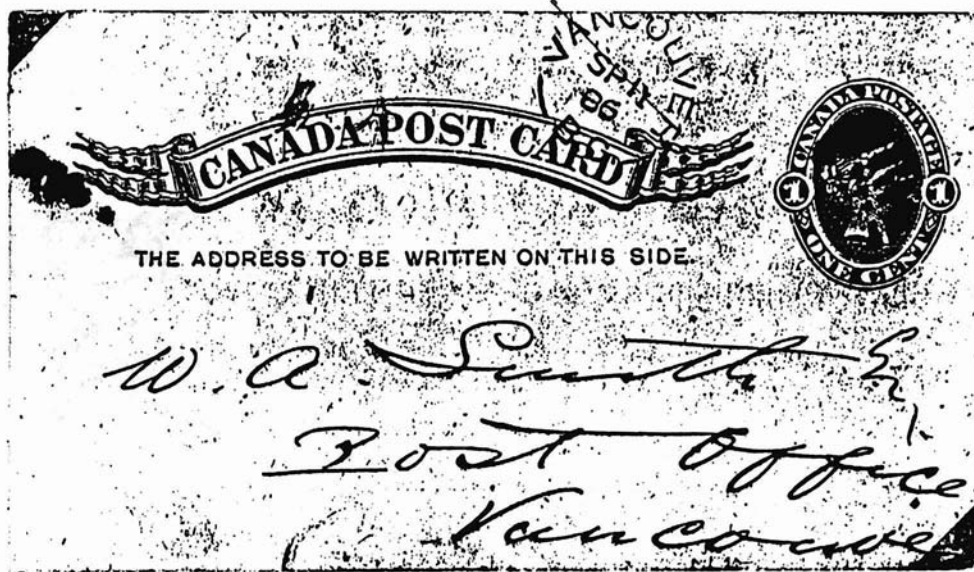
Editors note -

The Proof Books do not record a proof for the Type "B" hammer shown on Alex's cover but they do record three Type "A" - split ring hammers proofed in 1886. It is assumed the Type "B" hammers was destroyed in the fire of June 13. The Type "A" hammers were all proofed after the fire and are dated JU 17, JU 24 and JY 6. [see below]. For purposes of identification I have called these A1-1, A1-2 and A1-3. A carefull examination of the three hammers shows that the letters are slightly different shapes but the easiest method is in the length of the arcs and the spacing from the back of "B" in B.C. to the period after "C.".

| Hammer | (arc | B.C. | arc) | A1-1 | A1-2 | A1-3 |
|--------|-------|------|-------|---|--|---|
| JU 17 | 4.0mm | 11mm | 4.0mm |  |  |  |
| JU 24 | 5.0mm | 9mm | 4.5mm | | | |
| JY 6 | 2.5mm | 11mm | 2.0mm | | | |

Almost all the cancels I have seen are of from hammer A1-2. The "A" Type hammers appear to have been withdrawn when the office moved to new quarters in 1887.

Vancouver Hammer A1-2 - Sp 11 / 86



Your help is requested. On the Response Form are listed the 1886 hammers used at Granville and Vancouver Post Offices. If you have any additional dates for 1886 please complete and return the Response Form. If possible xerox copies of cancels would be appreciated.

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, B.C. Canada

PENDER ISLAND POST OFFICES - conclusion
continued from Vol. 2

PORT WASHINGTON 1912 to 1980

Proof FE 12 /12
(hammer 1)

The PORT WASHINGTON Post Office was established as a result of the sinking of the Puget Sound Navigation Company's ship the "Iroquois" in 1911. In 1902 the original PENDER ISLAND Post Office had moved from Post Washington to the new dock at Hope Bay leaving Port Washington without regular Mail service. Following the sinking of the "Iroquois" the CPR took over the mail contract and as the "Princess Royal" already served both Hope Bay and Port Washington a second Post Office was quickly established at Port Washington. Post Washington dock had been named after Washington Grimmer, first Postmaster at PENDER ISLAND, by Captain Harry Bishop of the "R.P. Rithet" at the time first mail delivery to the island in 1891.

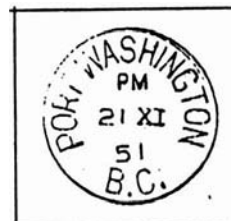


The PORT WASHINGTON hammer was proofed February 12, 1912 and the Post Office was established on March 1, 1912 with S. Percival as Postmaster. In all six Postmasters operated the PORT WASHINGTON Post Office. (See list below) In February 1980 David Nance served briefly as Postmaster before PORT WASHINGTON office was combined with PENDER ISLAND Post Office on March 31, 1980. He continued as Postmaster of the new PENDER ISLAND Post Office which was relocated in a more central location in the Driftwood Mall.

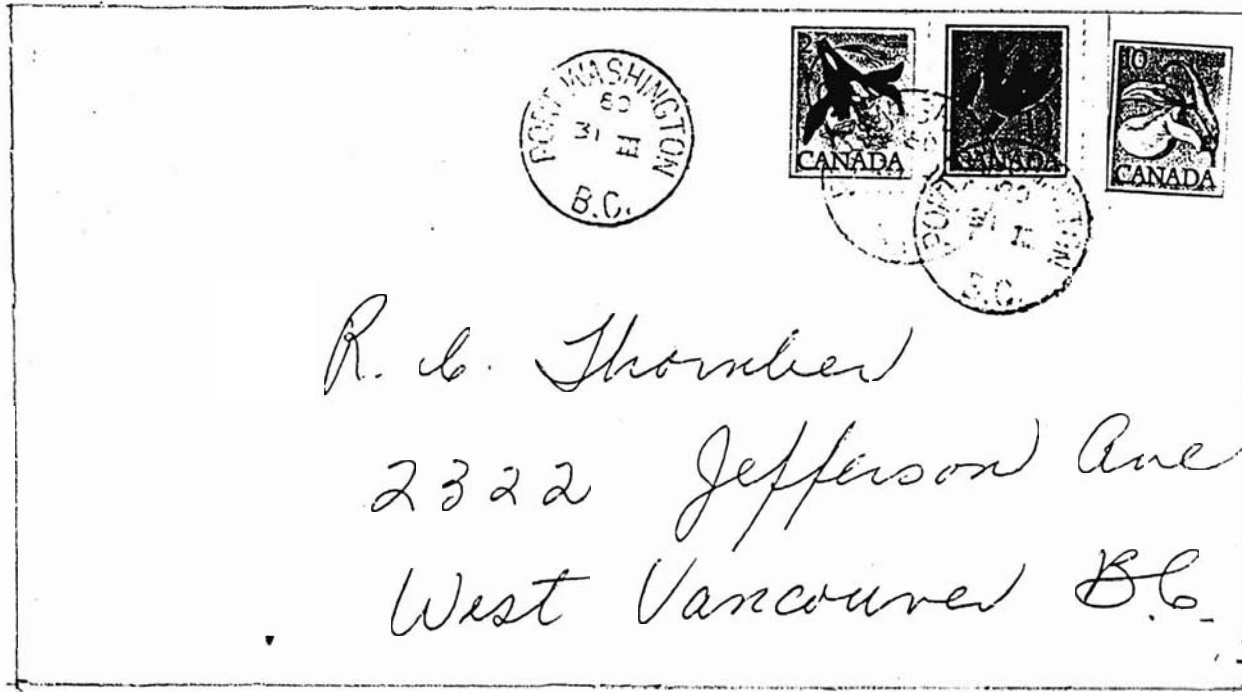
Postmasters at PORT WASHINGTON Post Office-

Proof 21 XI / 51

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|----|------------|
| S. Percival | 1912 03 01 | to | 1913 03 10 |
| C.A. Gaunt | 1913 04 12 | to | 1914 06 23 |
| S. Percival | 1914 08 01 | to | 1921 05 02 |
| J.P. Bridge | 1921 07 01 | to | 1961 09 15 |
| W.F. Cunliffe | 1961 09 20 | to | 1967 05 15 |
| S.A. Kent | 1967 06 15 | to | 1980 01 31 |
| David Nance | 1980 02 01 | to | closing |



Last day of service PORT WASHINGTON - 31 III / 80 / B.C.



Attempts were made to re-open the PORT WASHINGTON Post Office but they were unsuccessful and the office was officially closed on May 12, 1981.

PORT WASHINGTON
POST OFFICE
c. 1970



SOUTH PENDER - 1903 to 1970

Arthur Reed Spalding and Charles Long took up farming on South Pender Island about 1890 and between them they acquired the greater portion of the island. About the same time regular steamer service between Victoria and New Westminster was established and mail for the Gulf Islands was dropped off at PLUMPER PASS on Mayne Island or FULFORD HARBOUR on South Salt Spring Island. Residents of the other islands had to collect the mail as best they could. In 1900 the steamer "Iroquois" started regular service from Sidney to the Gulf Islands with stops at most islands including South Pender Island.

SOUTH PENDER - NO 5 / 45 plus 8 bar killer



Freight Claim Agent,
Canadian Pacific Railway,
Vancouver, B.C.

In 1901 a wharf with a small shed, which served as the Post Office, was built on the north side of Bedwell Harbour on South Pender Island and this served a regular stopping point for the "Iroquois". No regular Post Office existed so a mail bag for the island was simply dropped off on the wharf where it appears Mrs. Spalding assumed un-official postal duties. By 1903 the need for a regular post office was seen and under Postal Authorization F6977, dated May 2, 1903, a post office was authorized to open June 1, 1903. Mr. A.R. Spalding was named the official Postmaster but the duties were actually carried out by his wife who officially became Postmaster after his death on 24 January 1932. Newspaper reports claim she actually started her postal duties on 1 April 1900 with the first arrival of the "Iroquois" and continued for 43 year until she retired in April 1943 making her one of the longest serving Postmasters in Canada. After her retirement a number of other Postmasters served for periods of a few years to ten or more years until the SOUTH PENDER Post Office closed July 7, 1970.

No Proof strikes reported

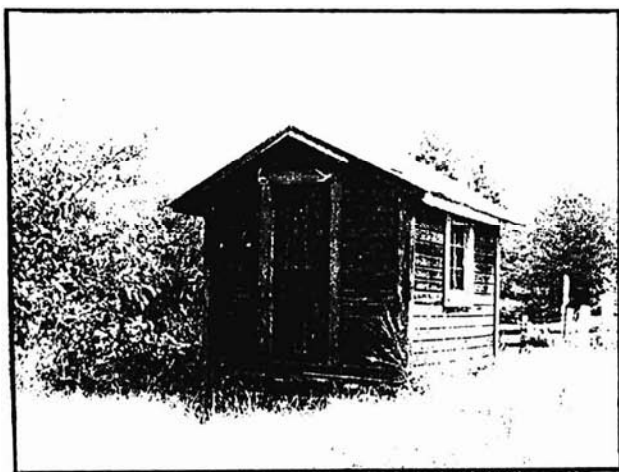
Postal records show the following Postmasters
for SOUTH PENDER Post Office-

Hammer 1

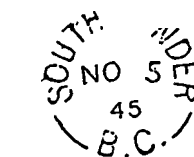
| | | | |
|----------------------|------------|----|------------|
| A.R. Spalding | 1903 06 01 | to | 1932 01 24 |
| Mrs. L.M.H. Spalding | 1932 03 23 | to | 1943 01 06 |
| C.C. Coney | 1943 04 01 | to | 1947 03 24 |
| J. Freeman | 1947 05 14 | to | 1962 10 31 |
| S.F. Lettner | 1962 11 01 | to | 1963 07 25 |
| Mrs. E.A. Henshaw | 1963 07 19 | to | 1966 03 09 |
| D.H. Gardner | 1966 05 01 | to | 1967 02 21 |
| Mrs. L.H. Jennens | 1967 03 23 | to | 1970 07 07 |

Hammer 2

Post Office shed from wharf shortly
before closing of Post Office c.1969



Cover from SOUTH PENDER - 13 IX / 65



*Mr. H.M. Silworth
47th - West 7th Ave.
Vancouver 8
B.C.*

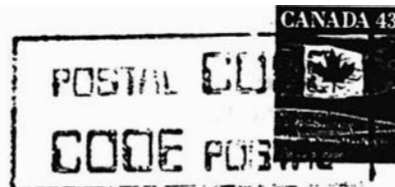
WHAT'S NEW WITH CANADA POST

A number of changes in cancelling equipment have taken place at the Vancouver and Victoria Post Offices in the past few months. These include new parcel cancellers, new culler-facer-cancellers and new coding machines, presently used on the back of the envelope. A problem seems to exist with year dates as 1992 dates are reported and impossible dates are common.

DATES OF FIRST REPORTED USAGE -

Culler-facer-canceller
V6B 3A0 (Vancouver)

#5 9 VI 93
#6 unreported
#7 9 VII 93
#8 9 VII 93



Parcel Equipment
CANADA / V6B 1Z1

#1 18 ~~IV~~ 93
#2 18 ~~IV~~ 93
#3 8 VII 93



CANADA / V8Z 4B0

#1 21 VI 93

Coding machine

read number from left

Vancouver

ends in date plus "V"

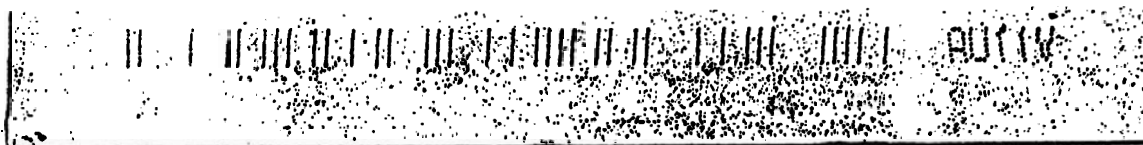
#2-1-1-3 AU 4 (93)
#2-1-2-3 AU 5 (93)
#2-2-1-3 AU 5 (93)
#2-2-2-3 AU 4 (93)

Victoria

ends in date plus "Z"

#2-1-3 AU 18 (93)
#2-1-1-3 AU 18 (93)
#2-1-1-4 AU 18 (93)

Using first 14 possible lines from left number reads "2-1-2-3"



BRIT COL cancellations - Research Report

In Volume 1 Number 2 page 16 a request was made for information on "BRIT COL" cancellations. These cancellations had been extensively researched by Jim Pike and it was considered limited new information would be found. The updated list contains 4 additional listings, mainly new hammers, and 18 newly reported dates. These results speak very well for the ability of the Research Group to provide new research information and it is hoped this will encourage more collectors to request assistance from the group on their pet topic. These results should debunk the position held by a number of leading American Societies that claim all philatelic research has been done and the Research category should be dropped from future stamp exhibitions.

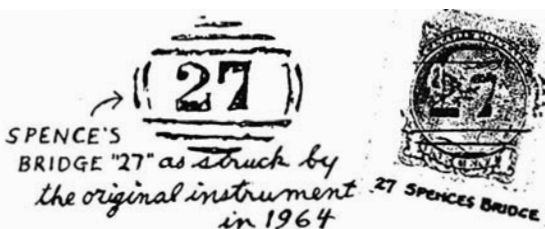
BRIT.COL - 1993 07 08

| NO./PO. | TYPE | MM | PROOF | PERIOD | NOTE |
|----------------------|---------|-------|------------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- | ----- |
| CARIBOO | A | 22 | | 1872 05 31 1872 09 07 | |
| CHEMAINUS | A | 21 | 1883 10 06 | 1884 12 10 1884 12 11 | |
| CLINTON | A | 22 | | 1874 06 20 1902 01 14 | |
| CLINTON | B | 29 | | 1879 03 27 1880 11 11 | |
| CLOVER VALLEY | A | 22 | 1883 11 09 | 1888 11 13 1909 02 27 | |
| COMOX | A | 22 | 1883 11 29 | 1885 08 06 1900 06 09 | |
| DOG CREEK | A | 22 | 1882 08 05 | 1890 12 12 1901 02 16 | |
| DRYNOCH | A | 21 | 1882 08 16 | 1883 03 26 | |
| EMORY | A | 22.5 | 1881 12 02 | 1883 06 03 1883 09 24 | |
| ESQUIMALT | A | 21 | | 1873 09 15 1890 01 22 | |
| HALLS PRAIRIE | A | 21 | 1883 11 09 | 1891 11 23 1917 06 11 | |
| KAMLOOPS | A | 21 | 1883 08 09 | 1883 11 04 1893 07 20 | |
| LANGLEY PRAIRIE | A | 21 | 1883 11 09 | 1888 11 16 1891 03 04 | |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | A | 21 | | 1872 04 13 1879 09 12 | |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | B | 30 | | 1879 08 29 | ALL 1879 08 29 |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | B | 23 | 1883 06 02 | 1883 06 20 1888 03 23 | SEE PROOFS |
| NEW WESTMINSTER | B | 23 | 1890 08 09 | 1890 11 22 1892 09 22 | 2 HAMMERS SAME |
| NORTH ARM | A | 23.5 | 1882 03 06 | 1892 03 21 1892 09 02 | |
| OMINICA | A | 21.5 | | 1873 08 18 | |
| PAVILION | A | 22.5 | 1878 05 06 | 1897 03 09 1899 05 06 | DIA. 22.5MM |
| PAVILION | A | 24 | 1882 03 25 | 1890 12 04 1904 03 08 | DIA. 24MM |
| PORT MOODY | A | 21 | 1882 12 09 | 1884 12 06 1900 03 27 | ONLY ONE HAMMER |
| QUESNELLE | A | 21.5 | | 1873 04 27 1891 11 01 | |
| QUESNELLE | A | 23 | | 1892 10 01 | |
| UPPER SUMAS | A | 20.5 | 1883 11 02 | 1893 07 10 1904 04 25 | |
| VICTORIA | A | 22 | | 1872 01 08 1876 10 24 | "I" TO BACK "L" |
| VICTORIA | A | 22 | | 1872 02 07 1875 10 18 | "I" TO "OL" |
| VICTORIA | A | 22 | | 1872 01 09 1874 07 09 | "A" CONCAVE |
| VICTORIA | A | 22 | | 1872 06 13 1875 12 24 | "I" TO "O" |
| VICTORIA (T) | B | 21 | 1877 07 27 | 1877 10 24 1880 11 24 | "T" ONLY |
| VICTORIA (SF) | A | 21 | 1872 07 28 | 1877 02 06 1881 01 19 | "SF" ONLY |
| VICTORIA / CANADA | B | 23 | 1882 09 07 | 1882 10 04 1895 06 16 | BLANK, SF, T, AM, 3 |
| VICTORIA M.O.O. | B | 25 | | 1877 10 18 1882 10 13 | |
| YALE | A | 21.5 | | 1872 04 15 1881 08 14 | |
| YALE | B | 29 | | 1879 01 26 1880 08 29 | |
| YALE | B | 23.5 | | 1883 03 06 1911 02 18 | |
| RAILWAY POST OFFICES | | | | | |
| C. P. RY. M.C. | 11 (B) | 23 | | 1886 09 07 1898 09 24 | |
| NEL. & MID. R.P.O. | 17F (B) | 23.5 | | 1931 10 10 1957 07 27 | |
| NELS. & MID. R.P.O. | 17F (B) | 22.5 | | 1908 08 13 1926 03 13 | |

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? - A FOLLOW UP.

Jack Wallace quite correctly pointed out that the colonial "27" marking taken from Frank Campbell's "Canada Post Offices 1755 - 1895" and illustrated on page 47 of the last News Letter is not from the original instrument as stated by Campbell. The Frank Campbell illustration is repeated below as is the marking from the Wellburn Collection and shown on page 162 of "The Stamps & Postal History of Vancouver Island & British Columbia". Two other examples are included, one from a recent Bob Lee sale and one from a cover in the editors collection dated SPENCES BRIDGE / MY 28 / 79.

The question still is "Where are they now?" And, is the Campbell illustration a drawing, as are most of his illustration or did he have a hammer that could be used in making forgeries?



Speaking of forgeries - a Metro Vancouver dealer has recently acquired a collection of examples of the work of Alex MacMaster and others. The lot consists of 14 item, mainly the CENTS and DOLLAR overprints on the Colonial British Columbia stamps. All item are crudely done and the wording on the overprinted stamps is incorrect - see example.



From Canada Post






| OSO # | DATE | OUTLET AND/OR SITE | OLD RC# | NEW RC# | REMARKS |
|-------|----------|----------------------------|---------|---------|------------------|
| 439 | 93/02/16 | New Westminster RPO #14 | 653594 | | |
| 440 | 93/02/17 | Youbou | 649414 | 097799 | |
| 441 | 93/02/17 | Halfmoon Bay | 13676 | | |
| 442 | 93/02/17 | Tatla Lake | 93327 | 092797 | |
| 443 | 93/02/17 | Vancouver RPO #4 | | 097764 | |
| 444 | 93/02/19 | Naramata | 644706 | 089427 | |
| 445 | 93/02/22 | Parson | 093262 | 093416 | |
| 446 | 93/03/05 | Richmond Main | 648523 | 104620 | |
| 447 | 93/03/09 | Elko | 054429 | | |
| 448 | 93/03/11 | Kelowna RPO #1 | 643459 | 081744 | |
| 449 | 93/03/11 | Kamloops RPO #11 | 650323 | | |
| 450 | 93/03/11 | Van RPO Dollarton | 651109 | | |
| 451 | 93/03/18 | Prince Rupert PU | 645893 | 105090 | |
| 452 | 93/03/18 | Langley PU | 643866 | 105082 | |
| 453 | 93/04/02 | Vancouver PU D | 647586 | 105503 | |
| 454 | 93/04/02 | South Burnaby PU | 648590 | 105481 | |
| 455 | 93/04/02 | Nanaimo RPO #1 | 652318 | | |
| 456 | 93/04/06 | Duncan RPO #1 | 641952 | 105570 | |
| 457 | 93/04/06 | Powell River RPO #2 | 645966 | | |
| 458 | 93/04/06 | Powell River RPO #7 | 650846 | | |
| 459 | 93/04/07 | Trail RPO #1 | 067229 | | |
| 460 | 93/04/07 | New Westminster RPO #35 | 645087 | | |
| 461 | 93/04/07 | Victoria RPO #54 | 073784 | 075442 | |
| 462 | 93/04/14 | Kamloops RPO #15 (GMO) | | 100935 | |
| 463 | 93/04/14 | Barkerville | | 640468 | |
| 464 | 93/04/26 | Revelstoke RPO #3 | 657794 | 111325 | |
| 465 | 93/05/03 | Cassidy | 641103 | 112208 | |
| 466 | 93/05/03 | Glenrosa RO | | 101052 | |
| 467 | 93/05/04 | Harrogate | 016500 | 113530 | |
| 468 | 93/05/07 | Kelowna CSC | 653580 | 113875 | |
| 469 | 93/05/07 | Kamloops RPO #12 (GMO) | 093319 | 112437 | |
| 470 | 93/05/08 | South Vancouver CSC | | | |
| 471 | 93/05/11 | Deep Cove RPO | 641782 | | |
| 472 | 93/05/11 | Vernon RPO #5 | 075248 | | |
| 473 | 93/05/13 | Clearbrook RPO #16 | 075477 | 114138 | |
| 474 | 93/05/13 | Tatla Lake | 092797 | 115908 | |
| 475 | 93/05/20 | Fanny Bay | 642290 | 111937 | |
| 476 | 93/05/20 | Parksville RPO #3 (GMO) | | 116017 | |
| 477 | 93/05/25 | Langley RPO 7 | 654175 | | |
| 478 | 93/05/31 | Youbou | 97799 | 18265 | |
| 479 | 93/05/31 | Campbell River RPO 1 | 641111 | | |
| 480 | 93/05/31 | Terrace RPO 4 | 653616 | | |
| 481 | 93/06/21 | Campbell River South (GMO) | 129615 | | |
| 482 | 93/06/21 | Vancouver GMO 4 | | 97764 | |
| 483 | 93/06/21 | Courtenay GMO 3 | | 651818 | |
| 484 | 93/06/22 | Wynndell | 15636 | 129631 | |
| 485 | 93/06/28 | Terrace RPO 6 | 72893 | | |
| 486 | 93/06/30 | Port Alberni 4 | 645826 | | |
| 487 | 93/07/05 | Lake Errock (TGMO) | 640646 | 119156 | |
| 488 | 93/07/05 | Tulameen | 630586 | 130737 | |
| 489 | 93/07/13 | Vernon RPO 4 / GMO | 20249 | 131547 | New Operator |
| 490 | 93/07/19 | Campbell Island | | 641006 | Rural conversion |
| 491 | 93/07/19 | Mill Bay | 27901 | 129577 | New Operator |
| 492 | 93/07/19 | Westholme | 66303 | 130540 | New Operator |
| 493 | 93/07/19 | Cassidy | 112208 | 118281 | TGMO - FB |

RESPONSE FORM

Volume 2 Number 3, September 1993

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

Please check your collection for copies of the following for 1886-

| POST OFFICE | PROOF | EARLY | LATE |
|---|----------|-------|-------|
| <u>GRANVILLE</u> | | | |
| Type A | nil | _____ | _____ |
|  | | | |
| <u>VANCOUVER</u> | | | |
| Type B | nil | _____ | _____ |
|  | | | |
| Type A1-1 | JU 17 86 | _____ | _____ |
|  | | | |
| Type A1-2 | JU 24 86 | _____ | _____ |
|  | | | |
| Type A1-3 | JY 6 86 | _____ | _____ |
|  | | | |

Note - Respond only if you have 1886 Granville-Vancouver postmarks.

Name

Address

.....