WHALETOWN - 100 YEAR OLD CDS

The Type "A" (split ring) circular date stamp in use at Whaletown Post Office is now over 100 years old and is, to the best of my knowledge, the oldest hammer in continuous use in Canada. Thanks to the efforts of Chris McGregor, a special cover was produced to mark the 100th anniversary of the Post Office.   The establishment was authorized under postal order 715 dated 3 March 1894 and the Whaletown CDS was proofed JU 19 / 94. The office opened officially on July 1, 1894 with Lawrence J. Rose as postmaster.   The present Postmaster is Joan Goring.

Proof strike   Current strike

Whaletown P.O. Centenary
This hammer alone has served the Whaletown Post Office continuously since the post office opened on 1 July 1894. It is believed to be the oldest such hammer in Canada.
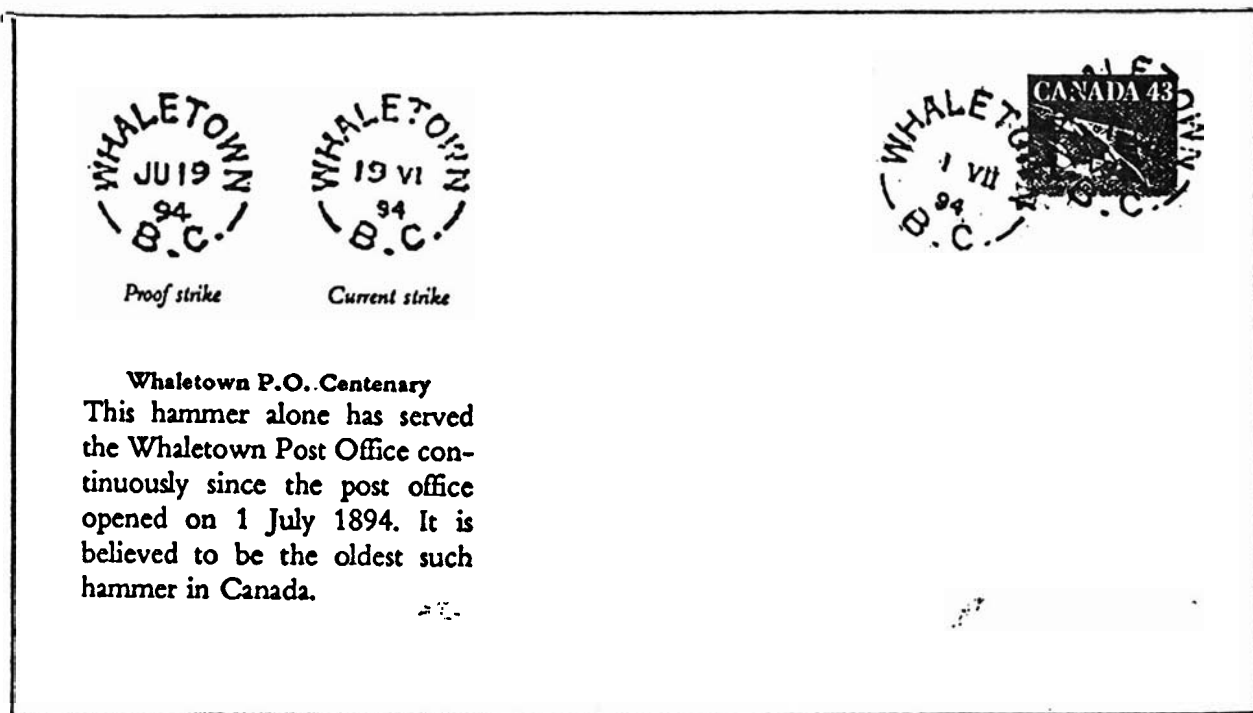
Whaletown is not the only Post Office to use historic cancelling equipment.   The editor is now attempting to list older equipment currently in use in British Columbia. These include the split ring and duplex hammers that have not been manufactured since the 1920's and 1950's respectively.   In the response form is a list of those recently seen by the editor. At the same time a list of CDS hammers from closed post offices that have not been destroyed is being compiled. These include hammers in private hands, museums, and those retained by Canada Post or its employees.

CROSS BORDER MAIL
   Norman Sherritt

BLAINE POST OFFICE,
   WASHINGTON TERRITORY

In the 1880's and early 1890's most of the settlers in South Surrey and South West Langley used Blaine as their centre for supply, medical, and postal services.

At right is the front page of a letter written by an early South Langley pioneer, Murdock Kirby, to his siter, Agnes, in Fort William, showing his Blaine post office address. Even though it was quite a hike through the bush to Blaine, it was closer than any of the existing Langley Post Offices.

He used this address from October 1888 until late in 1894, when he changed his address to Glenwood Post Office, which had opened in South Langley in August 1892, and which was much closer to his "ranch".

Similarly residents of South Surrey went to Blaine for their mail until Hazelmere and Hall's Prairie Post Offices opened in June and November of 1893.

CROSS BORDER MAIL
   Norman Sherritt

PATRICIA POST OFFICE
1 March 1912 - 15 February 1917
- Postmaster A. Westland   proof strike

One hundred years ago South Aldergrove was a little farming community, about a mile north of the U.S. border, on the trail from Aldergrove to Lynden, Washington.

The South Aldergrove School was built in 1891 and the area continued to be known as South Aldergrove until a post office was established in 1912 and the name chosen was "Patricia" after Princess Patricia, the youngest child of the Duke of Connaught, later Governor General of Canada.

Prior to the establishment of the Patricia Post Office, residents along the border had their mail delivered on the American side of the border.

A series of letters in the 'Langley Advance' in 1972 written by Kathleen (Nash) Fleck and her brother, B. Nash, descendents of the John A. Nash family, pioneers of the district, confirm this U.S. delivery.

Mrs. Fleck says, "Prior to the establishment of the Patricia P.O. we got our mail on the American side of the boundary line - our address was 'R.F.D. # 1 Lynden, Wash.' All the folks on the Canadian side got their mail this way."

Mr. Nash says, "Regarding the R.F.D. Lynden, Wash. route, it was established pretty early in the century. I started school in Patricia, then South Aldergrove, in 1902, and I think it was going then or the next year. How the B.C. residents got on it was that the courier, Frank Bostwick, had the agency for the boxes - maybe they were government issue - anyway he just drove along the border and sold one to anybody he could talk into buying one. I was home when he called at our place, and I remember my dad asking him what Uncle Sam would think of this and according to him 'the more the merrier'! Also, they did not have the route along the 49th parallel but in our case [the box] was down on H St. which runs all the way to Blaine about half a mile south of the border.

"I think it [delivery] was 3 or 4 times a week, so it was a real convenience for a lot of B.C.'ites down along the line as the nearest Canadian P.O. was [either] Shortreed's at the corner of County Line and Yale Road, or Otter, corner of Otter and Yale."
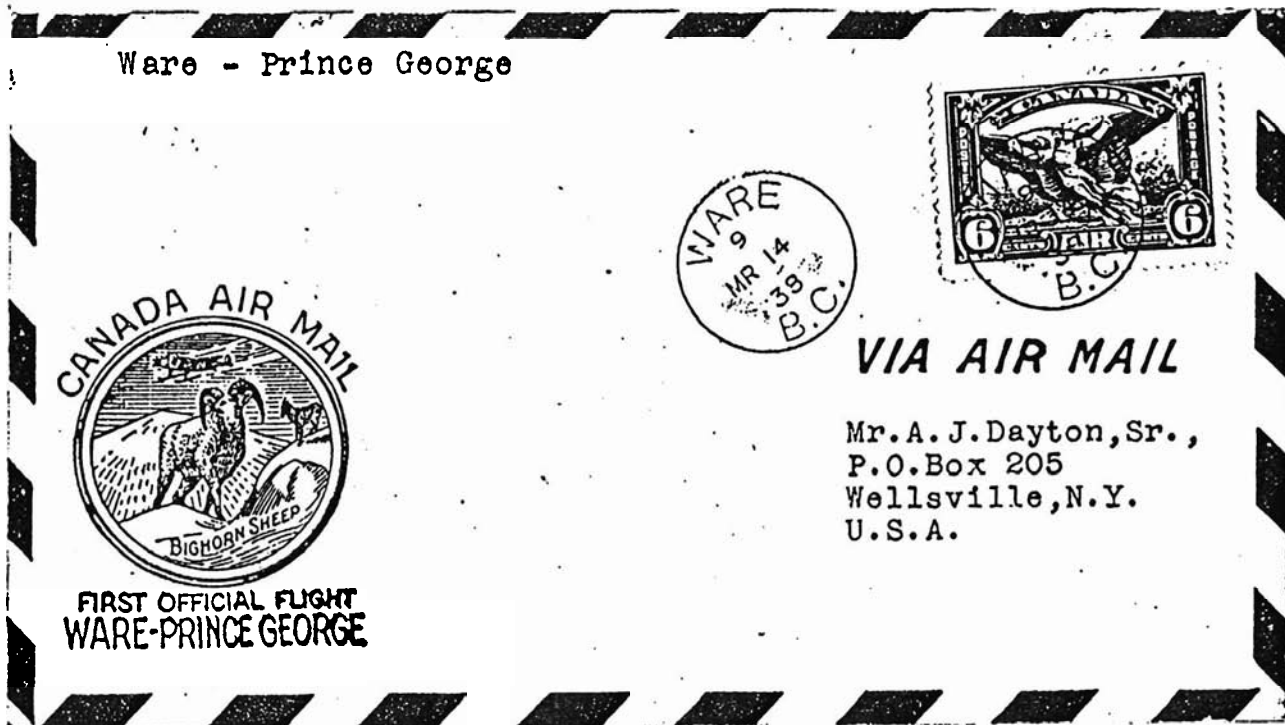
This was a convenience for Canadians living along the border, they only had to walk half a mile through the bush to H Street to pick up their mail.

POSTAL WATCH

Grand Forks received its first rapid cancelling machine in November 1962. The first hub was Type 4A (B.C.) and this was replaced in 1977 by new hub Type 4A1 (BC). In 1984 the Pitney Bowes machine was withdrawn and replaced by a Klussendorf machine which is still in use. But, for short periods during September and November 1994 the old Bitney Bowes machine was revived using the original Type 4A hub without date.

OPENING DATE OF WARE P.O. by Mike Painter

Ware - Prince George

CANADA AIR MAIL
BIGHORN SHEEP

FIRST OFFICIAL FLIGHT
WARE-PRINCE GEORGE

VIA AIR MAIL

Mr.A.J.Dayton,Sr.,
P.O.Box 205
Wellsville,N.Y.
U.S.A.

This FFC, one of 5668 pieces carried on AAMC 611a, raises a question about the opening of the Ware post office. In June of the previous year Grant McConachie's United Air Transport Ltd., with a fleet comprising a Ford Trimotor and three Fokker Universals, started contract airmail service to Fort Grahame, seventy miles down the Finlay River from Ware - and now at the bottom of Williston Lake. In 1938 the government extended the contract to serve Ware members of the some-what nomadic members of the Carrier Indian Band. In later years the bulk of the Indians migrated south, causing the closing of the Ware P.O. in 1953, then back north again, resulting in the closing of Fort Grahame P.O. in February 1962 and the reopening of Ware in March 1962.

According to the AAMC, Ware was made a post office on the date of the inaugural flight, made by pilot E.R.R. Field, which is given as March 12, 1938. Melvin also gives March 12 as the date Postmaster W.R. Parsons opened the office. The above FFC, however, is date stamped March 14. This is not likely an error as the backstamp at Prince George at the end of the 270 mile flight is also March 14, and it would be unusual for two postmasters to insert the wrong date slugs. Possible explanations of this discrepancy are: 1) AAMC and Melvin are in error and the office opened March 14. 2) AAMC is wrong and the office didn't open on the day of the inaugural flight, but two days earlier (perhaps the flight was scheduled for March 12 but was delayed). 3) The cover is not a first flight cover, but is an envelope with a first flight cachet that was actually flown on another flight two days later (since it is philatelic, this surely would not have pleased the addressee).

Can anyone shed further light on the opening date?

Sources: AAMC 5th Ed., The Post Offices of B.C. by Melvin, Canadian Pacific
         Airlines by D.M. Bain, 1964 conversation by author with Ben Corke,
         Ware postmaster (about the Carrier migrations).

FROM CANADA POST

Thanks to Pat Hue of Canada Post Corporation, I am again able to supply an update of postal changes. In response to a number of requests the letters under "Type" can be translated as follows;

CO	Commercial Dealership	GH	Gross Margin Outlet (GMO)
CR	Corporate Retail Outlet	PS	Postal Station
FA	Franchise "A" (urban)	SB	Retail Postal Outlet (sub)
FB	Franchise "B" (rural)		

| CLOSING/TRASFERRING				REPLACEMENT / OPENING			
Close Date	Type	Name	RC	Type	Name	RC	Open Date
94-01-04	FA	MERCURY POSTAL OUTLET	076805				
94-01-10	GH	Abbotsford GMO #11	134236	GH	Abbotsford GMO #11	148598	94-02-10
94-01-17	GH	PRINCE GEORGE GMO 4	100463	FA	SPRUCELAND POSTAL OUTLET	140139	94-01-18
94-01-30	SB	CAMPBELL RIVER RPO 3	651893	GH	CAMPBELL RIVER GMO 3	148008	94-02-14
94-02-05	GH	100 Mile House GMO 3	654043	GH	100 Mile House GMO 3	147559	94-02-07
94-02-18	CO	BEST EXPRESS	140570				
94-02-20	FA	HOWE STREET RETAIL OUTLET	083054	FA	FOOD POST	150347	94-02-21
94-03-06	SB	CASTLEGAR RPO 1	642940	GH	CASTLEGAR GMO 1	642940	94-03-07
94-03-13	GH	SUMMERLAND GMO 1	654167	GH	SUMMERLAND GMO 1	150851	94-03-14
94-03-28	GH	VANCOUVER GMO 91A	140333				
94-03-30	FB	ROCK CREEK POSTAL OUTLET	089419	FB	ROCK CREEK POSTAL OUTLET	151483	94-03-31
94-03-31	FB	SETON PORTAGE POSTAL OUTLET	067806	FB	SETON PORTAGE POSTAL OUTLET	151572	94-04-01
94-04-15	CR	Vancouver Station A	647470				
94-04-15	GH	Victoria GMO Cadboro Bay	640972	GH	Victoria GMO 62	152161	94-05-02
94-04-20	GH	Victoria GMO Tillicum	648515	GH	Victoria GMO 61	152331	94-04-21
94-04-22	GH	VANCOUVER GMO 144	644889				
94-04-29	GH	CHILLIWACK GMO 2	641421				
94-04-30	GH	Vancouver GMO 14	647772				
94-05-01	FB	MARA POSTAL OUTLET	027170	FB	MARA POSTAL OUTLET	151963	94-05-02
94-05-01	FA	LAKEVIEW HEIGHTS RETAIL OUTLET	130079	FA	LAKEVIEW HEIGHTS RETAIL OUTLET	152641	94-05-02
94-05-05	GH	VANCOUVER GMO 111	647268				
94-05-14	GH	Port Alberni GMO 7	139173	GH	Port Alberni GMO 7	155675	94-05-18
94-05-15	GH	POWELL RIVER GMO 11	654876	GH	POWELL RIVER GMO 11	155187	94-05-16
94-05-24	FB	MONTE LAKE POSTAL OUTLET	055689	FB	MONTE LAKE POSTAL OUTLET	155780	94-05-25
94-05-27	GH	Vancouver GMO 127	084956				
94-06-08	FA	MR. B'S CORNER STORE & DELI	013161	FA	MR. B'S CORNER STORE & DELI	157651	94-06-09
94-06-19	SB	Vernon RPO 2	640522	GH	Vernon GMO 2	158593	94-06-20
94-06-24	GH	Parksville GMO 3	116017				
94-06-26	FB	MEZIADIN LAKE RO	631639	FB	MEZIADIN LAKE RO	157376	94-09-01
94-06-29	FB	SOUTH HAZELTON POSTAL OUTLET	656569	FB	SOUTH HAZELTON POSTAL OUTLET	157716	94-06-30
94-07-04	GH	VANCOUVER GMO 117	140740	FA	Edgemont Village Postal Outlet	656674	94-07-05
94-07-05	FB	Whistler North	630810	FB	Wistler North	162051	94-08-16
94-07-31	SB	NANAIMO RPO 11	652407	GH	NANAIMO GMO 11	162531	94-08-01

VICTORIA CROWN - PROOF STRIKES

See Vol. 3, No. 2, page 74

The item on the Victoria / Esquimalt Crowns has
provided a large number of xeroxes and date
information. Three things are now obvious. Type
"A" was used at Victoria from October 1880 to late
in 1882 and Type "B" was used at Esquimalt
starting in the fall of 1904 and may have ended
its life in the hands of a Vancouver stamp dealer.
Thirdly most of the information published to date
is inaccurate.

A point in question is the proof strike or should
I say the proof strikes. Gray Scrimgeour has
provided a copy of item 125E from the Pritchard
and Andrews Proof Book. Although undated the
other cancels on the page are dated September 1880
and thus it is safe to assume the proof was taken
in mid September 1880.

Pritchard Anderews Proof Book - Item 125E
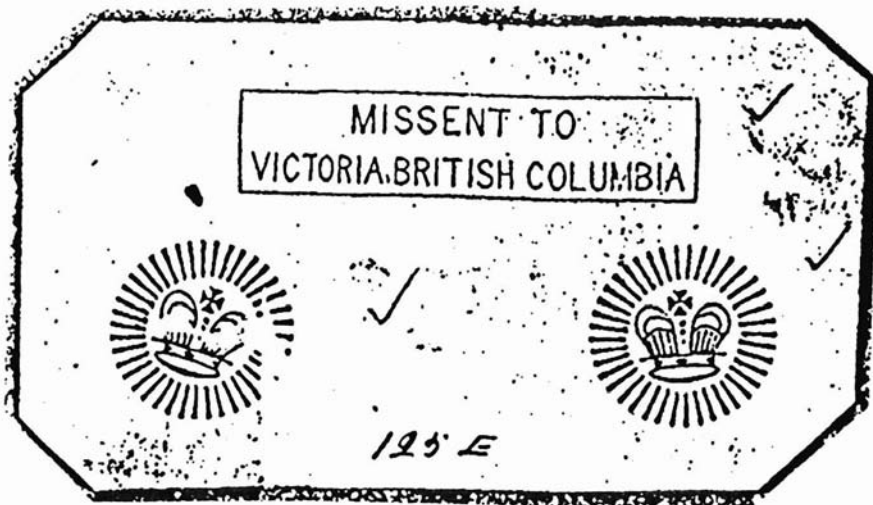
Why two identical strikes? Was it because the one
at left is poorly struck and a second strike was
made to show the full detail of the hammer? Were
two identical hammers, made one for use in
Victoria Post Office and one for use at some other
location such as the Victoria Customs House? Were
two different hammers made and one struck twice to
indicate the production of two hammers?

There are many more questions that could be asked
about the use of the Crown hammers, the main ones
being - why were they made in the first place?
And, why was a second hammer introduced in 1904?
Any answers?

RECENTLY REPORTED -

VEDDER XING - POCON

Only reported copy -
1980 09 22

Not listed by C. Coutts

KILDONAN - 30mm CDS

Unlisted R. Smith
(see Vol. 3, No. 1, p. xvii)

1994 07 19

QUEEN CHARLOTTE -

New Klussendorf
Early - 1994 10 21

KEEP NEW ITEMS COMING

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE KLONDIKE

CAPEX '96 will be marking the centennial of the Klondike gold discovery of 1896 with a special display of early Yukon material. Although most of the items on display will be from the Yukon there is also a place for British Columbia advertising covers with a Klondike flavour. The Clondyke (sic) cover, below, although originating in Victoria, is not only an attractive advertising cover from Johns Brothers but also provides an interesting insight into the equiping of gold seekers. A number of similar advertising covers are known from both Vancouver and Seattle and show a variety of spellings of Klondike. It is also known that the Harvey Bailey Company of Ashcroft Station advertised extensively in the United States that Ashcroft was the nearest railway point to the Klondike.

Face - VICTORIA / JA 27 / 98 / B.C.
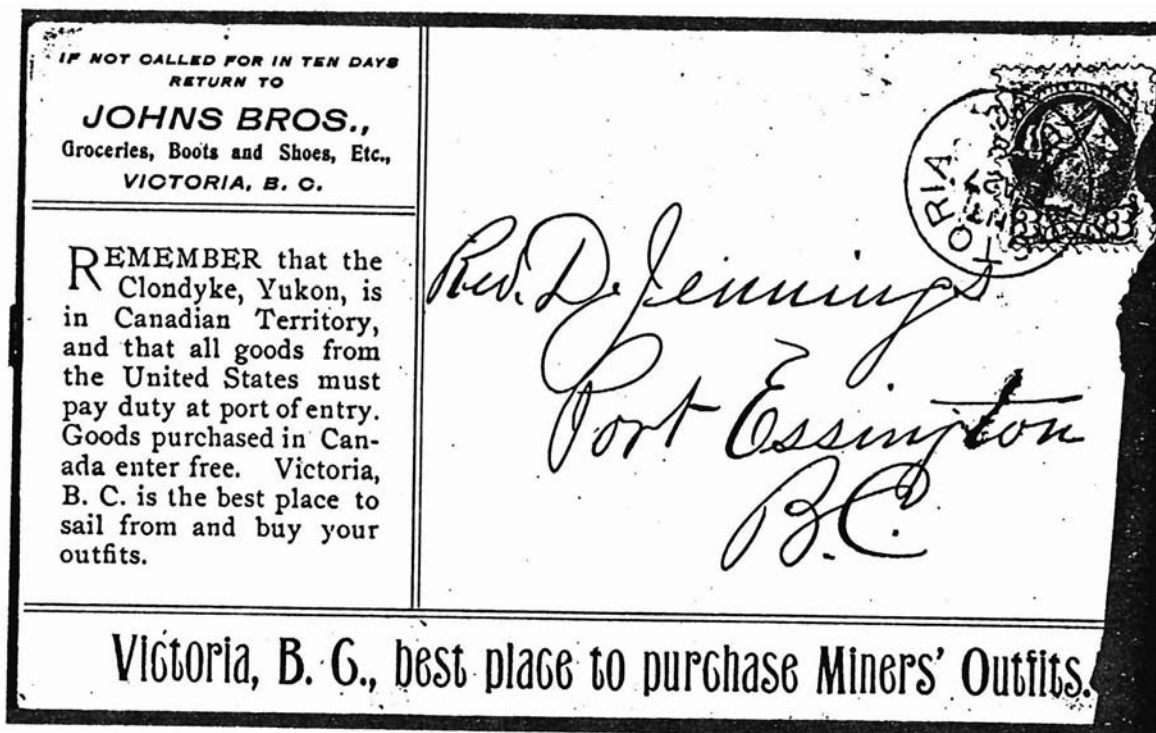
Back - nil

Gray Scrimgeour is compiling a list of similar covers that have a Klondike gold rush association and would appreciate xerox copies of any items that fit the theme of the CAPEX '96 Exhibition. Material can be sent directly to Gray or to the Editor.

EDITOR APPOINTED SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OVERSEAS FOR THE ROYAL OF LONDON

Your Editor, Bill Topping, F.RPSL, has been asked to serve as the Special Representative Overseas for Canada for the Royal Philatelic Society - London. He will share the duties with Harry Sutherland, QC RDP F.RPSL and Bill will primarily serve Western Canada. The Royal Philatelic Society - London is the oldest philatelic society in the world in continuous operation since its formation in 1869. As a result it has one of the most extensive philatelic libraries in the world, particularly in the field of philatelic periodicals. Those wishing further information on the Royal of London should contact Bill.

**OKANAGON - OKANAGAN
and KOOTENAI - KOOTENAY**

At the 1983 Conference of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, D.F. Pearson of the Ministry of the Environment quoted from a letter from W.F. Robertson, dated 17 December 1901, to the Geographic Board of Canada. The following quote from his report should be of interest to collectors of Okanagan and Kootenay material.

"In correspondence with the Geographic Board of Canada, the first British Columbia representative, W.F. Robertson, responded to a query directed by Marcus Baker, Secretary of the U.S. Board of Geographic Names who noted the differences in the spelling of Kootenay (B.C.) and Kootenai (U.S.A) and Okanagan (B.C.) and Okanagon (U.S.A.). In discussion with Col. Wolfenden, who had been appointed printer during the colonial period of the 1860's, the B.C. member was told that "the change was made by express personal order of Governor Seymour in 1864 to distinguish the British Columbia district from the U.S. District"".

The B.C. spelling of Kootenay appears to have been implemented at once by the Post Office Department as Kootenai is unknown on B.C. cancellations. On the other hand it was not until 1899 that Okanagon was officially changed to Okanagan. (The exact date is not recorded in postal records.) The Okanagon hammers were not replaced until after 1905.

OCR 081 - NEW SPRAY JETS

Taken out of service   1994 07 28
Re-entered service   1994 11 10

POST OFFICES OF 1872
See Vol. 3, No 3, page xxi

A quick response by those who collect British Columbia postmarks from the 1870's has produced the following up date of the early work done by Jack Hauser.

Post office	Established	Early
Ashcroft, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 05 16
Barkerville, B.C.	1872 07 01	1874 11 02
Burrard Inlet, B.C.	1872 07 01	1872 07 11
Cache Creek, B.C.	1872 07 01	1872 06 --
Cariboo, BRIT COL	no date	1872 05 31
Chemainus, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	@
Chilliwack, B.C.	1872 09 01	1876 06 16
Clinton, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1874 06 20
Comox, B.C.	1872 07 01	1879 06 10
Cowichan, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 03 15
Duck & Pringle's, B.C.	1872 07 01	1881 04 21
Dunkeld, B.C.	1872 08 01	unreported
Esqimalt, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1873 09 15
Hope, B.C.	1872 07 01	1876 03 05
Kamloops, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 05 04
Kootenay Sub Office, B.C.	1872 07 01	1876 06 01
Lac la Hache, B.C.	1872 07 01	1878 04 --
Langley, B.C.	1872 07 01	1874 06 06
Lillooet, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 06 22
Lytton, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 06 23
Maple Bay, B.C.	1872 07 01	1877 10 20
Nanaimo, B.C.	1872 07 01	1874 05 07
New Westminster, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1872 04 13
Nicola Lake, B.C.	1872 08 01	1878 11 24
Okanagon, B.C.	1872 08 14	1873 05 02
Okanagon Mission, B.C.	1872 10 01	1877 03 26
Ominica, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1873 08 18
150 Mile House, B.C.	1872 07 01	@
Pavilion, B.C.	1872 08 01	@
Quesnelle. BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1873 04 27
Skeena, B.C.	1872 07 01	@
Soda Creek, B.C.	1872 07 01	1875 01 04
Sooke, B.C.	1872 08 01	@
Spence's Bridge, B.C.	1872 07 01	1875 01 09
Sumas, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1879 09 19
Van Winkle, B.C.	1872 07 01	1873 07 11
Victoria, BRIT COL	1871 07 20	1872 01 08
Yale, BRIT COL	1872 07 01	1872 04 15

@ - no copies reported for first hammer

081 V6B 3A0 941118 18:17 ///////////

POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL ///////////

The topic for this month is cancelling equipment that is still in use long after similar equipment has been withdrawn from other post offices. The information below includes all equipment that has been reported as being in use after 1980. In the "Status" column "C" stands for closed and "F" for change to franchise status. In most cases when a franchise was established the cancelling equipment was collected but in a few cases the franchise retained its equipment and continued to use it.

Please check your collection for late dates for the following

TYPE "A" - SPLIT RING

Post Office	Proof	Late date	Status
Aiyansh	JAN 2 / 18	1993 10 12	in use
Avola	DE 15 / 28	1984 06 25	F-1989 07 15
Burton	-	1989 04 13	F-1988 11 30
Cedarvale	JUN 23 / 10	1984 02 12	in use ?
Creston	-	1985 10 ??	destroyed
East Kelowna	AP 19 / 26	1988 11 04	F-1989 01 03
Endako	FE 25 / 28	1988 03 07	C-1991 02 15
Erickson	FE 15 / 25	1991 10 01	F-1992 03 01
Granthams Landing	MR 10 / 24	1980 09 05	open
Hartley Bay	-	1991 02 04	open
Hopkins Landing	FE 28 / 14	1981 02 07	C-1981 06 26
Manson Creek	-	1986 11 23	Open
Okanagon Centre	SP 19 / 07		in use
Pender Island	MY 28 / 10	1986 04 20	in occ use
Port Neville	-		open
Redstone	OC 15 /14	1987 09 13	C-1987 09 21
Riske Creek	MR 13 / 15	1981 09 ??	F-1991 05 01
Sandspit	SP 23 / 15		in use
Whaletown	JU 19 / 94		in use

TYPE "D" - DUPLEX

Creston (P)	1 VII / 50	1985 10 09	not in use
Thetis Island	MY 11 / 46	1988 08 31	F-1989 09 21
Ucuellet (R)	3 XI / 58		in use
Youbou (P)	3 XI / 48	1992 02 03	F-1993 02 25

I can add no new dates |☐|

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

        ....