



BRITISH COLUMBIA

POSTAL HISTORY

RESEARCH GROUP

Volume 5 - Number 4

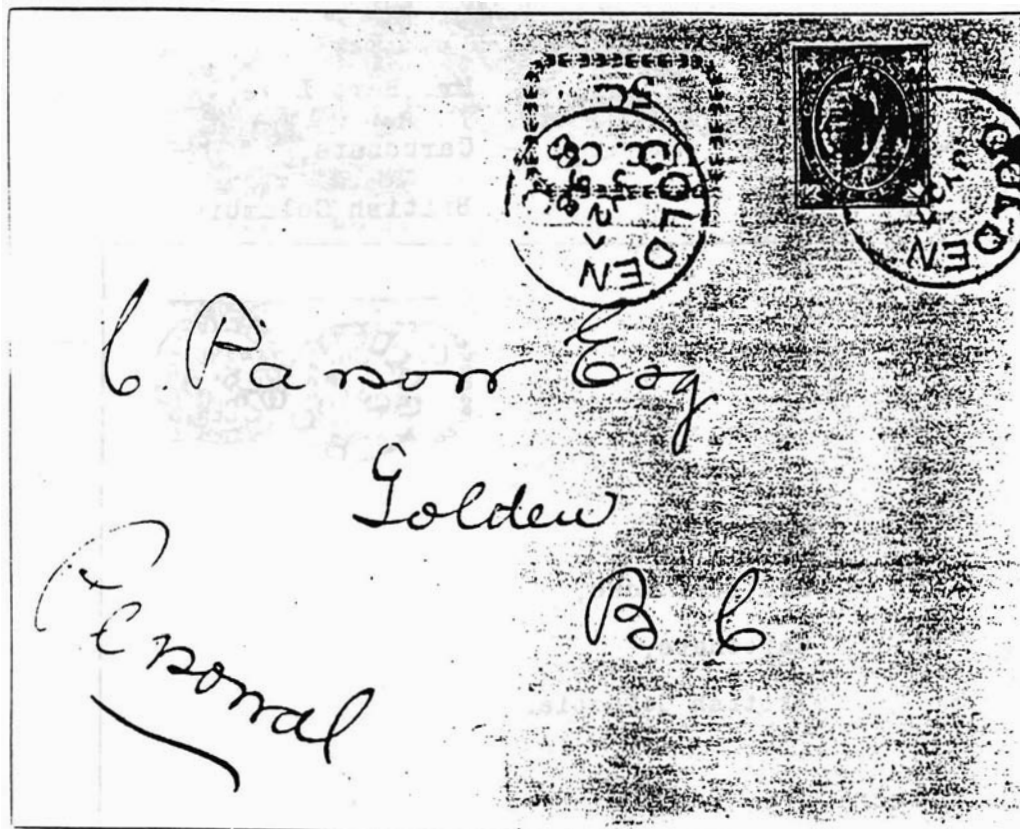
Whole number 20

DECEMBER 1996

**UPPER COLUMBIA NAVIGATION AND TRAMWAY COMPANY - PART 2**

See News Letter 19 page 147 - based on information by Tracy Cooper.

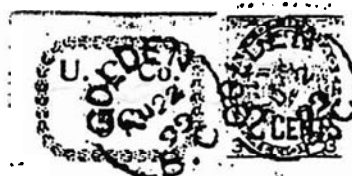
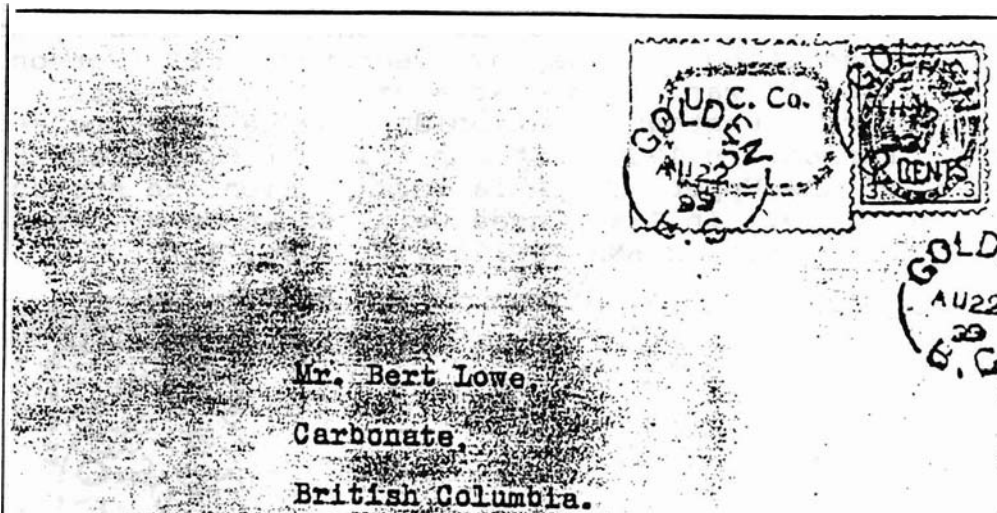
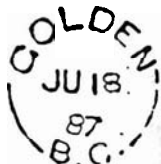
The history of the Upper Columbia Navigation and Tramway Company better known as the Upper Columbia Company was outlined in detail in the September News Letter. The company was operated by Captain Armstrong from 1886 until February 1898 when Anderson left for the Klondike and C.H. Parson took over. Initially Captain Anderson held the mail contract for a monthly mail service between Golden and Cranbrook but in March 1897 the contract was awarded to Mr. A. Doyle and the demise of the Upper Columbia Company began. Captain Anderson appears to have continued to carry some mail and at the suggestion of company secretary C.H. Parson a "U.C." stamp or "local" was issued at a value of 5 cents. In 1913 C.H. Parson became postmaster at Golden and he was succeeded by his son, C.N. Parson, in 1939. It appears that C.H. Parson retained a small stock of the Upper Columbia locals which he stored in the Golden Post Office. In 1946 these were shown to Mr. Warren Hale who reported his visit in BNA TOPICS Vol. 3 No. 1.



Besides the Upper Columbia cover illustrated on page 149 of the September News Letter half dozen other covers are known, all of questionable parentage. A cover addressed to C. Parson, Esq. at Golden and cancelled 'JY 27 98' presents a number of problems. This cover was shown to Mr. Hale at the Golden Post Office by the then postmaster Mr. C.N. Parson. Mr. Hale explains the cover as follows; "Mr. Cecil Parson tells me this particular letter was delivered by his late father, who was then travelling on the boat, and at his father's request the addressee removed the letter and gave him the envelope." The cancellation and the date appears correct but the use of the "U.C. Co. 5 c." local was unnecessary on a letter sent to a company official and the use of three cent stamp is questionable when the drop letter rate was one cent. In 1950-51 attempts by Bill Topping to see or discuss the cover were unsuccessful although Cecil Parson claimed he had the cover in the Golden Post Office safe.

Of greater interest are two almost identical covers both addressed to 'Mr. Bert Lowe, Carbonate, British Columbia'. The covers are cancelled with a Golden split ring dater showing the date 'AU 22 99'. Postal records show that Golden was issued with at least three split ring daters. Unfortunately the one most closely resembling the strike on the "AU 22" covers was proofed "DE 23 15". The shapes of the "G", the "O" and the "C" all differ from the earlier daters. Also, typewriters were rare in 1899 and most showed faulty letter alignment and irregular stroke. Finally, if the cover was placed on the U.C. ship the "Duchess" for delivery to the non post office stop at Carbonado there would be no need for Canadian postage as the 5 c U.C. Co. local would be sufficient to pay the charge for delivery.

Proof  
strike



Mr. Bert Lowe,  
Carbonate,  
British Columbia.

An 'U.C. Co. 5 c.' local dated at 'BEAVER FE 20 99' looks good but Beaver was on the C.P.R. some 25 miles down river from Golden and the Upper Columbia steamers never operated below Golden and could not operate during low water or after freeze-up, usually November to March.



The U.C. labels without value were for use on company or favor mail and are unreported on covers with double franking. Covers from the Cranbrook area with US/Canadian franking are known to have been sent via Jennings, Montana between 1892 and 1898. The undated piece at left could be from such usage.

### FROM CANADA POST

Again Canada Post has provided a listing of post office changes. Ray Maurice, who has taken over from Pat Hue as the contact at Canada Post, and I would like to **thank** Ray Maurice for his help in providing the information. I would also like to express my appreciation to Pat Hue for the assistance she provided over the past few years in keeping British Columbia postal information up to date.

#### CLOSING / TRANSFERRING OUTLET

#### REPLACEMENT / OPENING OUTLET

Province	City	Close Date	Type	Name	RC	Type	Name	Open Date	Reason for Notification
Division: Pacific									
BC	Victoria BC					GH	Victoria GMD 6	177245 96-01-15	New Opening
BC	Panny Bay BC					FB	Panny Bay BC	246913 96-02-19	New Opening
BC	Langley BC					FA	Walnut Grove PO	083720 96-02-26	Upgrade to POS
BC	Barkerville BC			VOK 180		RV	Barkerville	640468 96-05-01	Seasonal Opening
BC	Whistler BC			VON 180		GH	Whistler South Postal Outlet	257699 96-09-30	New Opening
BC	Vancouver BC					GH	Vancouver GMD Yaletown	259608 96-10-29	New Opening
BC	Vancouver BC	96-01-01	FA	Fraser RO	655341	FA	Fraser RO	245798 96-01-02	Replacement
BC	Victoria BC	96-01-01	FA	Saanich Centre RO	631035	FA	Saanich Centre RO	245690 96-01-02	Replacement
BC	Richmond BC	96-01-12	FA	Bridgeview PO	174351				Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	Richmond BC	96-01-12	FA	Broadmoor PO	174947	FA	Broadmoor PO	246050 96-01-12	Replacement
BC	Victoria BC	96-01-31	FA	Colwood Corners PO	152188	GH	Victoria GMD Colwood	246824 96-02-01	Replacement
BC	Victoria BC	96-02-01	GH	Victoria GMD Mount Tolmie	644536				Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	Halfmoon Bay BC	96-02-06	FB	Secret Cove (Half Moon Bay)	013315				Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	Kelowna	96-02-11	GH	Kelowna GMD 12	176753	GH	Kelowna GMD 12	246999 96-02-12	Replacement
BC	Vancouver BC	96-02-23	GH	Vancouver Dundarave GMD	164038				Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	100 Mile House	96-02-25	GH	100 Mile House GMD	175390	GH	100 Mile House GMD	247766 96-02-26	Replacement
BC	Coquitlam BC	96-02-29	FA	Austin Ave PO	173088	FA	Austin Ave PO	246719 96-03-01	Replacement
BC	Burnaby BC	96-02-29	FA	Metrotown PO	639982	FA	Metrotown PO	247111 96-03-01	Replacement
BC	Salmon Arm	96-03-08	GH	Salmon Arm GMD 1	651567	GH	Salmon Arm GMD 1	248673 96-03-09	Replacement
BC	Vancouver BC	96-03-13	FA	Kingsway PO	656933	FA	Kingsway PO	656933 96-03-13	Change of Address
BC	Erickson BC	96-03-31	FB	Erickson	074373	FB	Erickson	247960 96-04-01	Replacement

## CLOSING / TRANSFERRING OUTLET

## REPLACEMENT / OPENING OUTLET

Province	City	Close Date	Type	Name	RC	Type	Name	RC	Open Date	Reason for Notification
BC	VOH 1G0	96-03-31	FB	East Kelowna	657034	FB	East Kelowna	657034	96-04-01	Change of Address
BC		96-03-31	GH	Quesnel GMD 1	650420	GH	Quesnel GMD 1	249246	96-04-01	Replacement
BC		96-03-31	GH	Kamloops GMD 15	100935	GH	Kamloops GMD 15	249114	96-04-01	Replacement
BC	VOH 1G0	96-04-01	FB	East Kelowna	065703	FB	East Kelowna	065703	96-04-02	Change of Address
BC		96-04-01	FA	Musqueam Postal Outlet	169404	FA	Musqueam Postal Outlet	169404	96-04-02	Change of Address
BC	LAVINGTON BC VOR 2B0	96-04-01	RV	Lavington Post Office	643963	RV	Lavington Post Office	643963	96-04-02	Change of Address
BC	Salt Spring Island	96-04-02	FB	Ganges RO	657107	FB	Ganges RO	657107	96-04-02	Change of Address
BC		96-04-08	GH	Quesnel GMD 2	650927	GH	Quesnel GMD 2	249254	96-04-09	Replacement
BC	Kelowna BC	96-04-14	RV	Okanagan Mission	645346	RV	Okanagan Mission	645346	96-04-15	Change of Address
BC		96-04-21	FB	108 Mile Ranch	068845	FB	108 Mile Ranch	249610	96-04-22	Replacement
BC	Nanaimo BC V9T 1W0	96-04-26	GH	Nanaimo GMD 11	162531					Privatized Outlet Closure
BC		96-05-12	GH	Abbotsford GMD 5	178098	GH	Abbotsford GMD 5	250163	96-05-13	Replacement
BC	Quesnel BC	96-05-12	GH	Quesnel GMD 2	249254	GH	Quesnel GMD 2	250813	96-05-14	Replacement
BC	Vernon BC	96-05-14	GH	Vernon GMD 2	171271	GH	Vernon GMD 2	251054	96-05-15	Replacement
BC	Woss BC	96-05-20	CN	Woss	650870	FB	Woss	249602	96-05-21	Replacement
BC	Chilliwack BC	96-05-24	CP	Chilliwack MPO 612	651907					Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	Riske Creek BC V0L 1T0	96-06-02	FB	Riske Creek Postal Outlet	168963	FB	Riske Creek Postal Outlet	250775	96-06-03	Replacement
BC	North Vancouver BC V7G 1X0	96-06-12	GH	Deep Cove	641782					Privatized Outlet Closure
BC		96-06-13	FB	Yubou Postal Outlet	118265	FB	Yubou Postal Outlet	250694	96-06-14	Replacement
BC	Abbotsford BC V2T 1B0	96-06-15	GH	Abbotsford GMD 5	250163					Privatized Outlet Closure
BC		96-06-18	FB	Wells Postal Outlet	072699	FB	Wells Postal Outlet	251119	96-06-19	Replacement
BC		96-06-28	GH	Victoria GMD 7	648671	GH	Victoria GMD 7	252522	96-06-29	Replacement
BC	Mara BC	96-06-30	FB	Mara RO	151963	FB	Mara RO	252166	96-07-01	Replacement
BC	Abbotsford BC	96-07-13	GH	Abbotsford GMD #15	654280					Privatized Outlet Closure
BC	Surrey BC	96-07-31	FA	Impact Plaza PO	167193	FA	Impact Plaza PO	256463	96-08-01	Replacement
BC	North Vancouver BC	96-07-31	FA	Lower Lonsdale PO	013714	FA	Lower Lonsdale PO	252719	96-08-01	Replacement
BC	Mission BC	96-08-02	GH	Mission GMD #2	163767	GH	Mission GMD #2	251941	96-08-03	Replacement
BC		96-08-18	FA	Lakefront Postal Outlet	140295	FA	Lakefront Postal Outlet	257265	96-08-19	Replacement
BC	West Vancouver BC	96-09-06	PS	West Vancouver PS	647616	PS	West Vancouver PS	647616	96-09-09	Change of Address
BC	CHASE BC	96-09-13	SS	CHASE POST OFFICE	641219	SS	CHASE POST OFFICE	641219	96-09-16	Change of Address
BC	Delta BC	96-09-22	FA	Delta Shoppers Mall PO	654965	FA	Delta Shoppers Mall PO	257737	96-09-23	Replacement
BC	BARKERVILLE BC	96-09-30	RV	BARKERVILLE	640468					Seasonal Closing
BC	Nimpo Lake BC	96-10-20	FB	Nimpo Lake BC	073164	FB	Nimpo Lake BC	257400	96-10-21	Replacement
BC	VANCOUVER BC	96-10-22	GH	VANCOUVER GMD 144	155896					Privatized Outlet Closure

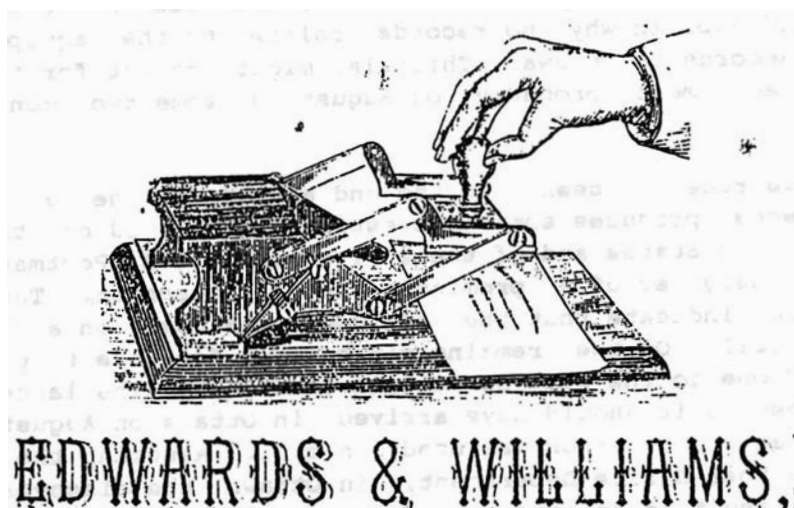
VICTORIA, B.C. FLAG - AUGUST 1901 - revisited  
by Bill Topping

In the April 1995 issue of Maple Leaves I discussed the Victoria, British Columbia, Provincial Exhibition flag cancellation of 1901 and presented the controversial position that it was produced by a Bickerdike Mail Marking Machine. The piece was primarily written to stimulate thought and discussion and hopefully to produce a definitive statement as to how the cancellation had been produced. The interest and discussion came quickly the definitive statement has yet to be made.

Following publication, I received letters from a number of very well informed collectors with special interests in and knowledge of machine cancellations, flag cancellations and other related specialty area. I also participated in a number of study group meetings as well as discussions with individual collectors. During these sessions all possible methods of producing the flag cancellation were discussed in detail and for the most part all were ruled out. Most, but not all, of those involved agreed that the marking was not produced by any of the following methods.

1. a rubber stamp,
2. a metal hand stamp,
3. a roller,
4. a rocker,
5. a rapid mail cancelling machine,
6. a hand drawing by a local artist.

Thus, by the end of these discussions it appeared that all possible method of production had been eliminated.



I was just about to give up the search when, in connection with another project, my attention was directed to a "French Dating Press" marketed in England by Edwards & Williams of Jewin Street, London. Edwards & Williams was the supplier of revenue "handmarks" to the British Government in the 1880's. In an advertising circular dated July 1883 a number of dating presses and endorsing presses are shown. Much of the equipment appears similar to the self inking dating equipment used by the Post Office today. On the other hand the "Endorsing Press" resembled

a small printing press and in the illustration shows an envelope being endorsed. The equipment was self inking and in the price list Model No. 5a was list as taking a die 3.5" by 1" and sold for 7/6. This is the same size as the die used to produce the Victoria flag cancellation. Additional charges were listed for engraving of dies and dating equipment.

There is no record of this type of equipment being used in Canada or the United States but in the late 1890's there were a number of companies attempting to sell postmasters cancelling equipment. In the late 1880's, equipment, similar to the endorsing press, was used in France to produce a few of the early slogan postmarks. It is possible that the Victoria Flag cancellation of 1901 was produced using an endorsing press, or similar device, which was purchased by the Victoria Exhibition Committee for use in the Victoria Post Office on selected mail. The press was designed to take an engraved die as well as changeable dates. The bed of the press was large enough to take an envelope but had no guide to hold the envelope in a pre-set position. As a result, envelopes could be placed on the bed of the press at differing angles and unlike the rapid cancelling machine would produce cancellations that were not parallel to the top of the envelope. This would explain why the Victoria flag cancellations are rarely parallel to the top of the envelope, a problem that has bothered those studying the Victoria flag cancellation.

Assuming that the equipment was purchased by the Victoria Exhibition Committee in an attempt to establish the Victoria Exhibiton as the only "Provincial Exhibiton" despite a similar claim by the New Westminster Exhibition Committee. It would then seem logical that the committee would adopted a flag design similar to the one introduced in Toronto, in May 1901, to advertise Toronto's "Canada's Exhibition". The flags were not identical but are very similar. The dater hub was based in the daters currently in use in Victoria with "CANADA" at the base rather than the year as is found on the Toronto hub. If the assumption is correct, the equipment was purchased by the Exhibition Committee without the approval of the Canadian Post Office, in Ottawa, and was in violation of postal policy. This would explain why no records related to the equipment have been located in Postal Records in Ottawa. This also might account for the unexplained withdrawal of the equipment, probably on August 20 some two months before the exhibition opened.

Six more covers have recently been reported and a study of the 19 reported covers and three dated pieces produces some interesting facts. 13 of the covers are addressed to the United States and of these five are to U.S. Postmasters and three to May Oppenheimer, daughter of a prominent Victoria merchant. The predominance of U.S. covers would indicate that the equipment was used on a selective basis rather than on all mail. Of the remaing six covers, four are to points in B.C., one to England, and one to the Bank of Ottawa in Ottawa. The latter cover is of considerable interest as it should have arrived in Ottawa on August 20, the last day the Victoria flag cancellation was used on mail. Assuming the equipment was not approved by the Post Office Department, in Ottawa, the discovery of the flag cancellation would result in an immediate order to withdraw the device. The three post cards, dated August 22, to Miss May Oppenheimer, at Portland, are all written in the same hand and show no indication of having passed through the mail.

Unfortunately there are no records to back up the forgoing but on the other hand until someone can produce a more satisfactory sugggestion as to how the Victoria flag cancellation of August 1901 was produced, I would like to think that it was produced on an endorsing press purchased by the Victoria Exhibition Committee to advertise their exhibition and was used at the Victoria Post Office from August 8 to 22, 1901.

# Fire hits store at Blind Bay

A blaze that destroyed the Sportsman RV store and office in Blind Bay Sunday night is also affecting postal service to the area.

The owner and his wife were awakened by their dog and found the building in flames. They got out without injury and called the fire department.

The roof was already in flames when firefighters attended the scene. It took about 20 firemen and four trucks nearly four hours to get things under control.

About 540 families in Blind Bay and Shuswap Lake Estates were served by the postal centre in the building. How much mail was destroyed is uncertain. Temporary mail service has been established in the basement of the Sorrento Post Office.

Sorrento Fire Chief Ben Thomas said the cause of the fire is not yet known and would begin his investigation on Tuesday. He expects to know the cause and damage estimate in a couple of days.



BLIND BAY POST OFFICE - c. 1991 - Topping photo

<--- Salmon Arm Observer - March 27, 1996  
Thanks to Sid Bedwell

Blind Bay - Established December 1, 1914

Proof Type A  
OC 29 14



Proof Type B  
2 XI 50



Type B  
Moon 1990

Replacement dater  
June 1996



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Bill Topping, Editor, 7430 Angus Drive, Vancouver, B.C. V6P 5K2, Canada.



## VICTORIA "HAPPY HOLIDAY" SLOGAN 1995

The "HAPPY HOLIDAY" slogan used on OCR 118 (Victoria) is a good example of the problems faced by the collectors of the new jet spray cancellations. In September of 1995 the original 'POSTAL CODE' lower line spray was converted to read "SUPERMAN (TM/MC)" followed by ten slashes. Other more or less experimental spray markings had been used earlier but the "SUPERMAN" marking was the first to see general use throughout Canada. Although the collecting of slogan postmarks is a popular part of Canadian philately, as is evidenced by the Cec Coutts recent publication, the new jet spray markings had attracted little interest. The jet spray equipment was, and still is, in an experimental stage and as a result equipment is being changed or modified quite regularly. Unfortunately much of the information in the philatelic press has been based on speculation rather than on hard facts.

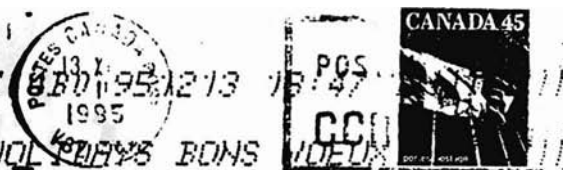
For those not familiar with the jet spray equipment a brief introduction might help explain the changes in the Victoria "HAPPY HOLIDAY" jet spray slogan. In the case of Victoria an A.B. Dick Jet Spray Printer (JSP) was added to the AEG Multi Line Optical Character Reader (MLOCR) in July 1994. The equipment has six jet sprays mounted at about 123, 113, 103, 93, 83 and 73 mm above the base. The jets are sprayed in pairs producing five two line jet spray cancellation. The sprays are numbered from top, number 1, to bottom, number 6. The top jet always sprays the OCR number "118", the postal code "V8Z 4B0", the date and time followed by ten slash marks. The lower jet spray usually reads "POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL" followed by ten slash lines but may be reprogrammed to produce other wording. It appears that each of the jets can be individually programmed and thus the spray location or wording may differ from one jet spray to another. A sensing device on the jet spray equipment locates the tagging on the stamp and activates the pair of jets closest to the stamp.

Now back to the HAPPY HOLIDAY cancellation which was came into use on the afternoon of December 1, 1995. It spelled "HOLIDAY" in the singular and the second line started under the second "1" in "118". It is reported for jet sprays 4/5 and 5/6. At the same time jet spray 2/3 started under the "4" of the postal code and ended with an exclamation point and no slash lines.

118 V8Z 4B0 951201 23:22 1111111111  
HAPPY HOLIDAY BONS VDEUX1111111111

118 V8Z 4B0 951212 16:17 1111111111  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS BONS VDEUX!

118 V8Z 951213 15:47 1111111111  
HAPPY HOLIDAYS BONS VDEUX



On December 6 spray 4/5 was changed to read "HOLIDAYS" in the plural and the wording began under the first "1". The other jets appear to have been reprogrammed on the same date.

The wording appears to have been changed back to the singular on December 11 and the HAPPY HOLIDAY jet spray was withdrawn on December 14. Because of the scarcity of larger size envelopes with the "HOLIDAY" slogan the exact periods of usage are confusing. Your help is required.



RESPONSE FORM

Volume Number 4, December 1994

The OCR 118 (Victoria) "HAPPY HOLIDAY" jet spray slogan is the response topic for the December News Letter. A very fitting topic as it provides an opportunity to wish everyone a Happy Holiday or should it be Happy Holidays. Take your choice as the Victoria MPP does not seem to know which is correct.

Please supply dates where possible;

HOLIDAY Under "1"	Under "4"	HOLIDAYS Under "1"	Under "4"
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Jet spray 1/2  
123/113 mm  
above base

---

Jet spray 2/3  
113/103 mm  
above base

---

Jet spray 3/4  
103/93 mm  
above bsse

---

Jet spray 4/5  
93/83 mm  
above base  
No. 10

---

Jet spray 5/6  
83/73 mm  
above base  
No. 8

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Note- other starting locations may exist - xerox copies please.

I can add no new dates ☐

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

## BOOKS, BOOKS AND MORE BOOKS

*CANADA POST OFFICE LOSSES CAUSED BY FIRE 1889-1917* by Susan M. Sheffield; 8.5 x 11", spiral bound, 198 pages, ISBN 0-9681196-0-3, published by Keyboard House Publishing, CPC 67039, Edmonton, AB, T5R 5Y3,

A very interesting study of the Post Office files related to Post Office losses as the result of fires. The first 16 pages are devoted to British Columbia and the front cover features the Fernie fire of August 1, 1908. The post office fires arranged by province and fires losses are reported for each fire. A study of the before and replacement hammers based on the proof books is included. In my view the book would have been improved had the author attempted to obtain copies of markings from sources other than the proof books. It is an interesting book and worth adding to your library.

*HUBBARD THE FORGOTTEN BOEING AVIATOR* by Jim Brown, 6 x 9", bound soft cover, 234 pages, ISBN 0-89716-651-5, published by Peanut Butter Publishing, 226 2nd Avenue, Seattle, WA, 98119, \$19.95 US, \$24.95 CAN plus taxes and \$3.00 shipping.

Eddie Hubbard was closely connected with Bill Boeing and although Boeing gets most of the credit Hubbard did most of the flying. Of particular interest to B.C. postal historians is the study of FAM 2, the first air mail route between Victoria and Seattle established on October 15, 1920. The book is well illustrated and in particular a large number of cover related to the FAM 2 are included. This book is a must for those interested in the development of air mail in western North America.

*POSTAL HISTORY OF THE KLONDIKE GOLD RUSH* compiled by Gray Scrimgeour, 8.5 x 11" spiral bound, 142 pages, ISBN none listed, published Northern Canada Study Group of the Postal History Society of Canada. available from Gray Scrimgeour, #507 188 Douglas St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 2P1.

The theme of CAPEX'96 was the discovery of gold in the Yukon and a display of Yukon gold rush related material with emphasis on philately was arranged by Gray Scrimgeour. It is very unlikely that a similar display of Klondike gold rush material will ever be assembled again. The book consists of the pages as displayed at CAPEX making it a very valuable reference for those interested in the gold rush period. The book is also an excellent example of the quality of reproduction that can be obtained from xerox material.

*CANADIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE ANGLO-BOER WAR 1899-1902* by William G. Robinson, 8.5 x 11", coil binding, pages unnumbered, ISBN none listed, published by British North America Philatelic Society, Ltd., 108 Duncan Drive, Troy, MI, 48098-4613. Available from Ken Ellison, 14600 Middlebench Road, Oyama, B.C., V4V 2C3. \$13.00 CAN, \$11.00 US prepaid.

Although the booklet does not relate directly to B.C. postal history it is the first in a new series called B.N.A.P.S. "Exhibits" and is designed to make available, to interested collector, xerox copies of award winning collections shown at BNA exhibitions. The first collection to be so honoured is Bill Robinson's collection of Boer War material, one of the outstanding collections of Canadian Boer War material. The idea of making available xerox copies of outstanding collections is an excellent one. Unfortunately, the xerox equipment used to produce the booklet was not suited to the job and as a result many fine covers appear tatty. If this worth while project is to be a success a much higher standard of xeroxing is necessary.