



BRITISH COLUMBIA
POSTAL HISTORY
RESEARCH GROUP

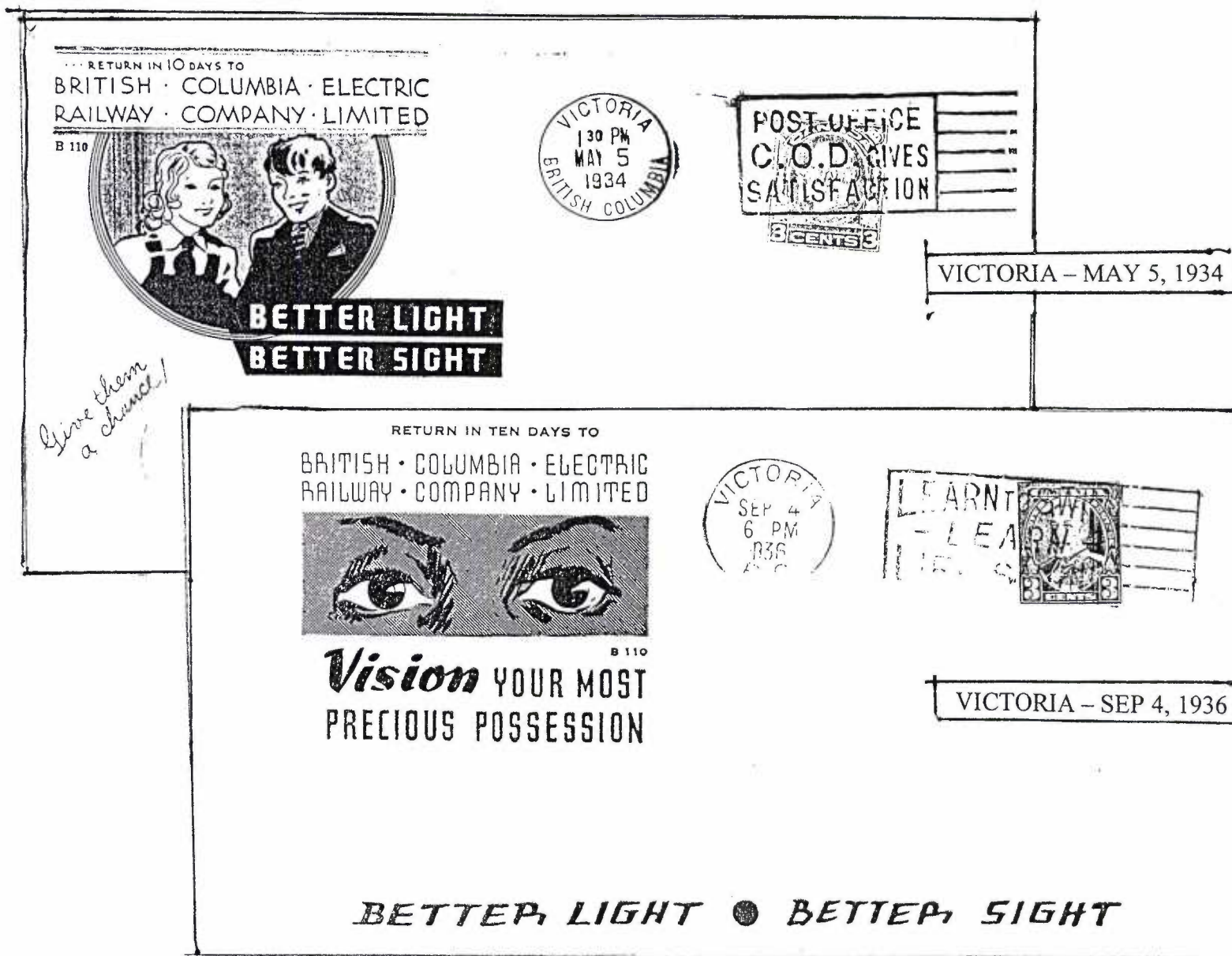
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June 2011

B.C. TELEPHONE & B.C. ELECTRIC PICTORIAL WINDOW ENVELOPES

During the mid to late 1930's both the British Columbia Electric Company and the British Columbia Telephone Company used "window envelopes" to mail their respective monthly bills under Section 241 of the *Canada Official Postal Guide*. Considering the number of bills mailed by both companies it is surprising how few envelopes exist. Any reports would be greatly appreciated.



RETURN TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA
TELEPHONE COMPANY
AT POINT OF MAILING

"Quick, Doctor!"



You feel safer with a
Telephone in the house

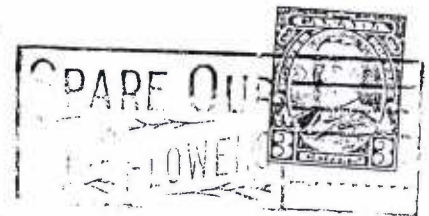


VICTORIA - MAY 1, 1934



RETURN TO
BRITISH COLUMBIA
TELEPHONE COMPANY
AT POINT OF MAILING

Lonely
Hearts
made
lighter



VICTORIA - MAY 1, 1936

by

A Long-Distance
Call



243. Letters, circulars, etc., may be posted in "window envelopes" (i.e., envelopes having an opening in front either with or without a transparent covering) under the following conditions: Window Envelopes.

"Window" envelopes, to be mailable, must be so prepared that the 'window' or transparent panel in the front through which the address on the enclosure is disclosed, shall be parallel with the length of the envelope and shall be as transparent as possible. The 'window' shall not occupy any space within $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top nor within $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch from the bottom or ends of the envelope. Such envelopes shall bear the card of the sender, that is, the name and address of the sender, which shall be placed in the upper left hand corner of the address side. No printing around the 'window' is permissible, nor on any part of the envelope where it will interfere with a distinct postmark, rating endorsements, forwarding address, etc. The stationery used in 'window' envelopes, or at least the portion upon which the exposed address appears, must be white, or if coloured, of a very light tint or shade. The use of dark-coloured stationery in 'window' envelopes is not permissible. Nothing but the name and address of the addressee should appear on that part of the enclosure visible through the 'window' and the enclosure should be folded so that it will not slip out of position. The address should be written clearly and boldly, preferably in typewriting, with ink of a dense black or other strongly contrasting colour. Changes in address must not be made on the 'window' but on the opaque portion of the envelope. 'Window' envelopes not conforming to the foregoing are unmailable, and if mailed are to be returned to the senders through the usual channels."

Section 243 (1936-1937) Canada Official Postal Guide

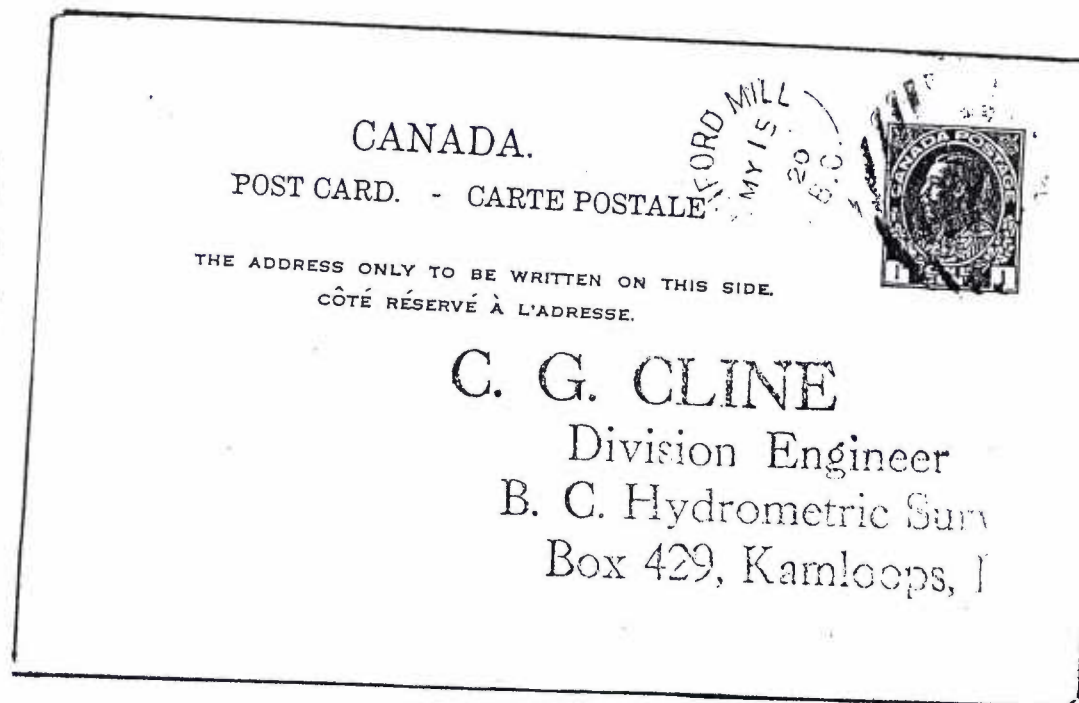
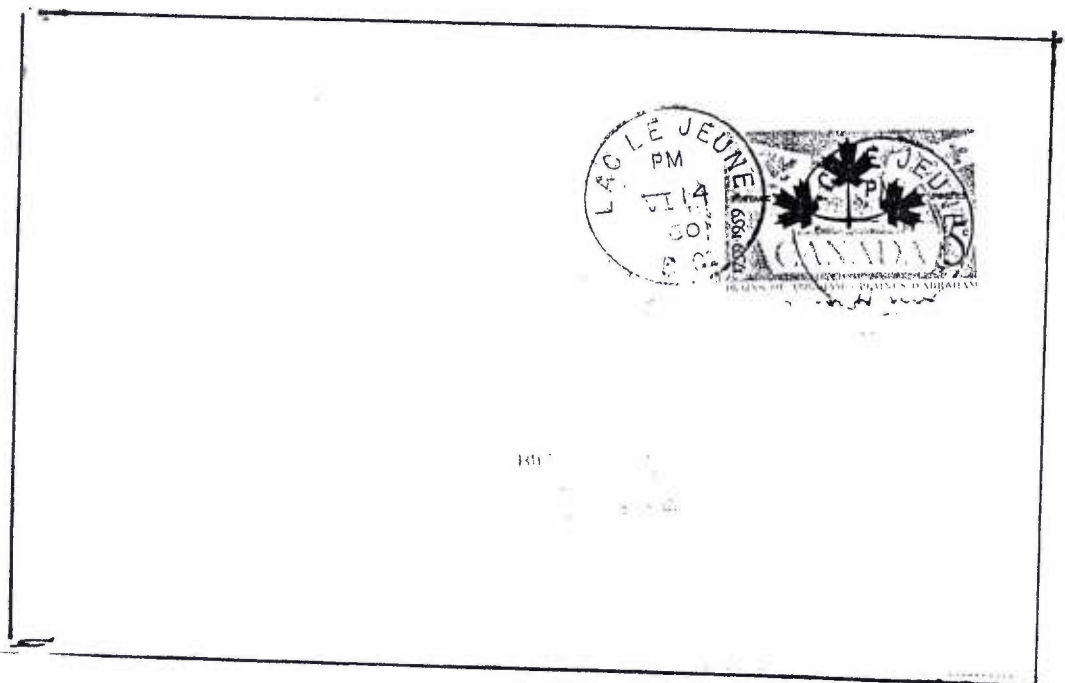
Nicola Valley Historical **QUARTERLY****Canford
Mill**

Henry C. Meeker bought the logging, lumbering, sawmill interests of Andrew McGoran in 1910, shortly after a devastating fire which razed the sawmill located at Canford on the banks of the Nicola River. Meeker rebuilt the mill in a new location on the banks of Spius Creek about two miles from its confluence with the Nicola. It took about two years to build the new complex which included a dam across the Spius, a large mill pond, sawmill buildings, office, commissary. It was said at the time that it was the largest sawmill in the interior of British Columbia.

Another disastrous fire in May, 1919 burned the second mill. Mr. Meeker started negotiations almost immediately to relocate again, this time closer to Merritt. He was successful in obtaining property known at the time as Blair Field, just across the Coldwater from town. He then established a small sawmill at Brookmere where he manufactured lumber for his new mill (now the Balco Mill).

The dam at the former Canford Mill continued to be used to catch logs floated down Spius until it washed out in the mid 20's.

The Postmaster for Canford Mill was Henry C. Meeker and his tenure was 17.04.01 - 20.05.01.

**Lac Le Jeune**

Nicola Valley Historical **QUARTERLY**

Logan Lake



The latest post office to open in the watershed is Logan Lake. The origin of this name is not known. The townsite was developed by Lornex Mining Corporation Ltd. in conjunction with its open pit copper mine about 10 miles to the west.

Today, Logan Lake has a population of about 1500 people and plans a very large expansion of its residential area. Within a few years it could be larger than Merritt!!

The second full time postmaster in the valley was appointed in Logan Lake.

The Postmasters:

Rose Naismyth	71.08.02 - 76.06.30
E. Bodner (acting)	76.07.02 - 76.08.13
Martin Koppes	76.08.13 - 78.01.20
Jean Gair	78.01.20 - 79.11.02

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Lac Le Jeune



Lac Le Jeune is referred to as Twin Lakes on Marion's map of 1887. Later maps call it Trout Lake. During the '20's, some Water Records assign the name Bachelor or Batchelor to this lake.

Long a popular fishing lake for people of Kamloops and other parts of the world, it is fitting that the name Lac Le Jeune, to honour Father Le Jeune, was assigned to it. Father Le Jeune spent almost all of his Missionary years - 1880-1928 - among the people, both native and white in the Thompson-Nicola Region.

There has been a lodge on Lac Le Jeune for many years. It was to serve the tourist trade that a post office was operated for about 8 years. The postmaster was J. E. Whitaker, 57.08.16 - 65.09.28.

About 4 or 5 years ago the old lodge was knocked down and a beautiful new building was put up in its place. We need much help in getting more information on Lac Le Jeune, its lodge and people. Does anybody have any pictures?



Father Le Jeune, O.M.I.

Mr. & Mrs. G.D. Smith
Box 104
Logan Lake, B.C. V0K 1W0



B.C. Teachers' Federation
105 - 2235 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C. V6J 3H9

Nicola Valley Historical **QUARTERLY***The Langstaffs*

My Dad was at all times most obliging and served the public above and beyond the call of duty. Many a time he has gone back after hours or on Sunday to get the mail for someone from out of town or opened a bundle of letters for someone to get a letter in the mail that just must go today. I think his assistants and his family might have been harder-hearted but I suppose we all went along with it too. Dad was lucky in having a succession of conscientious woman assistants. All of them are still living so perhaps there was something healthy about the smell of printer's ink!

According to my sister, a Miss Seton was the assistant when Dad first took over and when the post office was situated where the Oddfellows Hall is now. She was a sister of Dr. Williams who later moved to Trail.

Dad's second assistant was Miss Chrissie Aitken, the aunt of Agnes Dunnigan and her brothers. She left in 1915 to return to Scotland with her father, a brother and the brother's infant son. They were on the Lusitania when it was torpedoed and sunk by enemy action and only Chrissie of those four survived. She is now Mrs. George Barnett and lives in Edinburgh. Our family have always kept in touch with her and I wrote asking her to reminisce on early days in the post office. Unfortunately she has recently undergone surgery and was not able to contribute for that reason. Another niece of hers, Cathy (Aitken) Sargent of New Hazelton has her aunt's first-hand account of the Lusitania disaster as published in the Nicola Valley News of June 4, 1915 and is sending a copy to the N.V. Archives.

I rather think that Helen Hyland (now Mrs. Jack Fairley of Alberni) was in the post office as assistant for a short time before my sister, Glennie Langstaff (now Jones) graduated from High School and became our Dad's assistant. When she was married in 1927 and moved to Vancouver, Margaret Stephenson (now Mortimer) took over her job. She was in turn succeeded by Kathleen Williams (now living in North Vancouver) who was with my father as assistant until he retired in 1948. She went on as assistant to Norman Dixon for a time.

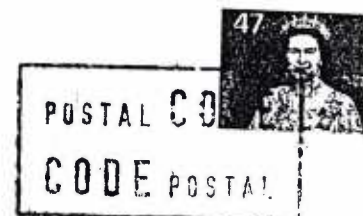
Although Dad was for several years President of the B.C. Postmasters Association and on the executive which worked for a superannuation plan for postmasters, he himself was not able to share in the scheme. It had almost come into fruition in 1948 when he retired but though he had shared in the spadework, he did not enjoy the fruit of their efforts.

One amusing incident I remember was when a parcel arrived addressed only to Fairley, Merritt, B.C. As there were forty Fairleys, each family was sent a parcel card and the parcel was duly inspected by all and claimed by the rightful owner. Just before a dance or big party or wedding, the parcels began arriving from the famous T. B. Lees or Sweet Sixteen to be claimed with great excitement. Not infrequently ladies saw their own dresses duplicated at a social gathering.

My pet peeve was stamp collectors who wished to look over a whole sheet of stamps and pick out the perfect one in the centre of the sheet.

Nicola Valley

Aspen Grove	1900 09 01	1961 02 03
Brookmere	1916 09 01	1969 12 18
Canford	1907 05 01	1956 08 31
Canford Mill	1917 04 01	1920 05 13
Curnow	1905 11 01	1906 03 31
Coutlee	1885 04 01	1917 07 31
Dot	1909 03 01	1947 09 06
Douglas Lake	1884 11 01	open
Kingsvale	1916 06 01	1918 05 15
Lac Le Jeune	1957 08 06	1966 09 28
Logan Lake	1971 08 09	open
Lower Nicola	1885 04 01	1990 10 15
	1990 10 19	1992 09 30
	1992 10 01	1993 06 20
	1993 06 21	1995 06 18
	1995 06 19	1995 08 31
Lower Nicola PO	1995 09 01	2001 07 31
Mamette Lake	1892 10 01	1933 09 01
Merritt Main	1907 12 01	open
Merritt I	1978 06 19	1997 07 26
Merritt	1997 97 28	2002 01 07
Merritt Downtown	2002 07 02	2005 12 09
Merritt Downtown	2005 01 30	open
Merritt Sub I	1978 06 01	1997 08 36
Merritt	1997 97 28	2002 01 07
Merritt Downtown	2002 07 02	1905 12 09
Merritt Downtown	2005 01 30	open
Middlesboro	1900 03 01	1968 08 30
Nicola Lake	1872 08 01	1905 09 01
Nicola	1905 09 01	1960 08 29
Quilchena	1885 04 01	open
Rockford	1887 10 01	1906 05 11
Stump Lake	1908 03 01	1923 10 31
Voght Valley	1903 10 01	1923 03 31



Thank you to: Mr. E. W. Veale for saving the number of stamps and covers he did; Mr. George H. Melvin for his fantastic book "The Post Offices of British Columbia 1858-1970" without which the writing of this article would have been almost impossible; Mr. Lee Yow, President of the Okanagan-Mainline Philatelic Association for talking me into putting these thoughts together and for acquiring a number of scarce post marks for me; Mr. Norm Dixon for reading the copy.

ADDRESSED ADMAIL

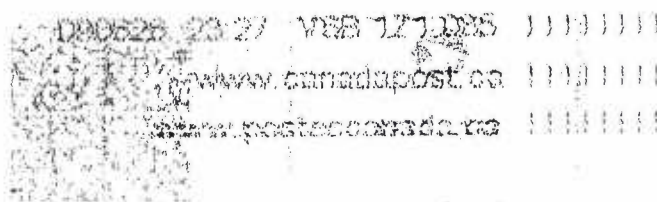
In recent years the Canada Post has been expanding its services in an attempt to compete with private operators that are attempting to skim off the more lucrative postal operations. One of the recent innovations is the "Addressed Admail" service that allows companies to do major mailings at considerably lower cost per item than by using the regular mail system. Letters must be pre-sorted and may be delayed for up to a week. Newly installed processing equipment in Vancouver is being used to integrate various pieces of admail to save the postman the tiresome job of combining the various inserts into individual letter drops. In Vancouver much of the add mail is processed on MLOCR 085.

The collecting of Addressed Admail has its problems and as a result very few collectors are interested in attempting to collect the material as most items are on number 10 size envelopes and as a result are hard to display. The item below is unusual in that meter date stamp shows the words "ADDRESSED ADMAIL" where as in most cases the only indication is the postage rate which in this case is 38 cents.



1150 Raymur Avenue
Vancouver, BC V6A 3T2

ADDRESSED
ADMAL



William G. Robinson
301-2108 W 38th Ave
Vancouver, BC V6M 1R9

Help us put food
in the cupboards

VANCOUVER POSTAL METER ?
13 VIII 2007 – From Cec Coutts

The meter marking is in red and looks like a Klusendorf marking but it is definitely from a meter machine.
Post Office billing number 7017336
Any other reports?



Early Vancouver Postmarks (to 1905) Compiled by Gray Scrimgeour

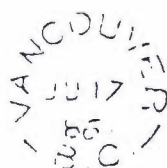
First known date stamp
for Vancouver

Used to June 13



1886

Broken Circles



Proof

1886

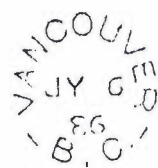
VANCOUVER, B.C.



Proof

1886-1887

VANCOUVER, B.C.



Proof

VANCOUVER, B.C.

JUL 6 1886

20 mm

2.5, 2 mm arcs; B.C. is wide

VANCOUVER, B.C.

NIPB

20.5 mm

3.5 mm arcs; wide B; PM then various numbers

VANCOUVER, B.C.

NIPB

20.5 mm

3.5, 3 mm arcs; various numbers; distinctive R



1897-1902; 1906



1904-1906

1887 Circle Date Stamps



Proof. 23 mm

1887-1889



Proof. 25 mm

First Duplex



DBC-391 Proof 24 mm May 15, 1888-Jun 15, 1891



Blank, then AM and PM

Revival in 1898 and 1899
with numeral time marks.

1890 to 1892 Circle Date Stamps



Proof 25 mm
1890-1891 Blank



Proof 23.5 mm
1890-1895; 1898-
1899; 1902-1903



Proof 24 mm
1891, 1893
Blank



Proof 24 mm
1893. Special use; GB
reply card



Proof 24.5 mm
1892-1893
AM, PM; 1-2

1893, 1894, and Later Circle Date Stamps



Proof 24 mm
1893: 1895; 1905



Proof 25 mm
1894-1901
1-2; AM, PM, NT; 1-6



23 mm
1901-1905
11, 17



23 mm
1903-1906
3, 12, 17



23 mm
1904
3

Squared Circle

Proofed on January 13, 1894.

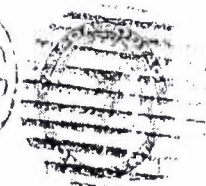
Used 1893-1896.



Duplexes 1898 — 1905 All A9 (i.e., with 9-bar killers).



DBC-392 Apr 23, 1898-Sep 14, 1899
25 mm Blank, 1-7



DBC-393 Jan 11, 1900 – Aug 24, 1901
22 mm 1-6



DBC-394 Jan 23, 1901 – Feb 24, 1902
22 mm 1-7, then 7-20 (Nov. 1901)



DBC-395 Dec 22, 1900 – Mar 6, 1906
22.5 mm (B.C.) 1, 2, 6-19



DBC-395A A late state of DBC-394
22 mm 3, 4, 7, 11, 12



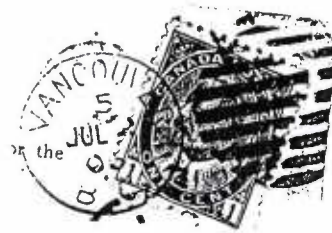
DBC-396 Feb 27, 1902 – July 28, 1903
22.5 mm Side dots 7-20



Proof DBC-397 Use from Dec 5, 1903
23 mm (B.C.) 7-23



DBC-397A to Dec 14, 1906
R of Vancouver – gradual damage



DBC-398 Jan 3, 1905 – Oct 25, 1906
21.5 mm 2-18

POST OFFICE TRANSFORMATION - 2011 +

See – December 2009 page 625 for earlier information

The upgrading and replacement of the Vancouver Main Post Office has been under discussion for some time and although the Vancouver post office was state of the art office when it opened in 1958 within a year the newly designed equipment was out of date. With the end of the Railway Mail Service to Vancouver in 1965 the tunnel from the Vancouver post office to the old C.P.R. station became obsolete, although it had only been rarely used as trucking the mail was more efficient. The helicopter pad on the roof was a good idea but for a variety of reason it was rarely used.

The relocating of the main Vancouver Post Office has been under discussion for the last 20 years and sites in New Westminster, Surrey, Richmond, have all been considered with none of the suggested locations fully meeting the needs of a relocated sorting facility. At the same time the cost removing the present building exceeded the value of the land. The item below is from the May 20, 2011 *Province*.

Posties to exit city landmark

IMPACT: City, union worry about lost jobs in area when building is vacated

BY ANDY IVENS
THE PROVINCE

Canada Post is moving mail-sorting operations out of its iconic building in downtown Vancouver, spreading worry among many of its 1,200 employees there, a union official confirmed Thursday.

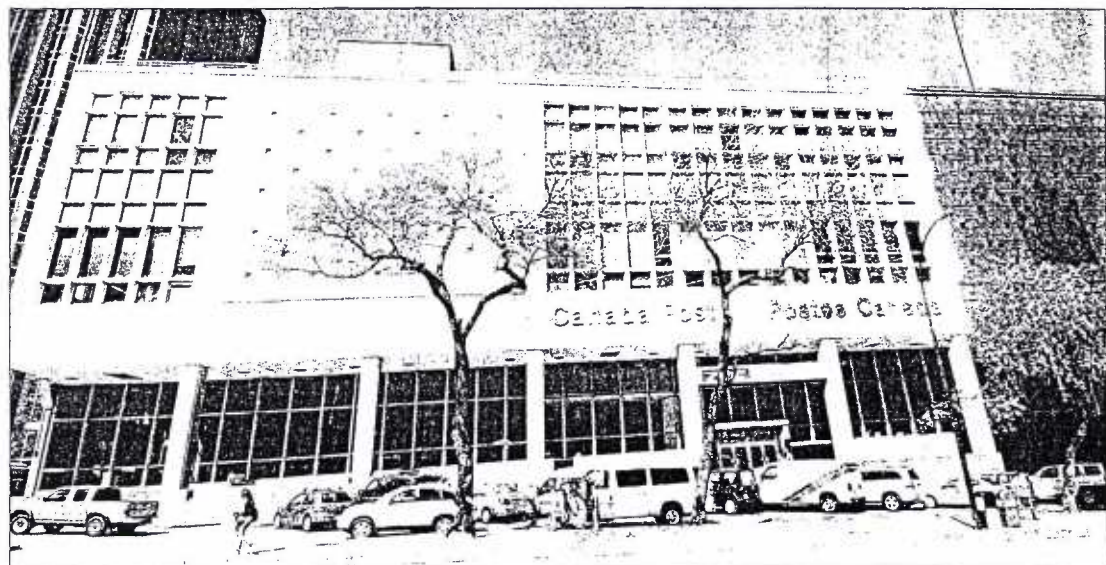
While the move to a modern, 700,000-square-foot plant to be built at Vancouver International Airport by 2014 could mean job losses for its union employees, Vancouver Coun. Geoff Meggs is concerned about the impact on the city of hundreds of high-quality jobs leaving town.

"The building is very good," Meggs said of the Georgia Street landmark, which was the largest welded-steel structure in the world when it opened in 1958.

"It is one of the key federal buildings in Western Canada," he said. "I don't think anybody's talking about demolishing it. My only concern is we find a good, job-generating solution for the building."

In a letter to employees, Canada Post said it "is examining all options to maximize the value of the... site and offset the costs of constructing the new mail processing plant at the airport."

"It is anticipated that Canada Post



Canada Post plans to retire this Georgia Street icon, the largest welded-steel structure in the world when it opened in 1958, and move remaining employees to a new plant at YVR by 2015. STEVE BOSCH — PNG

will continue to operate at the West Georgia Street facility until 2015. No employees will lose their jobs. Any position reductions will be realized through attrition," said the letter.

But "it's a significant impact," Kim Evans, first vice-president of Canadian Union of Postal Workers Local 846, told *The Province*. "They are also introducing significant technological changes and mechanization."

Evans said a similar move by Canada Post in Winnipeg, where a new plant was opened last year, resulted in cutbacks to staffing levels.

Work previously done by mail-

service couriers, who shuttle mail from the main stations to depots and deliver some mail, was "downloaded onto letter carriers," said Evans.

"That resulted in higher injuries and a great deal of overburdening on that group. They're not geared for that type of work."

Evans noted CUPW is currently in contract negotiations with the Crown corporation, and news that it is spending money on a big move undercuts the company's assertion that it is financially squeezed.

"They are crying poor in the face of having earned profits for 16 years, and record profits in 2009," said

Evans. "I think it's somewhat disingenuous to be approaching [negotiations] that way."

A recent strike vote resulted in 94.5 per cent of CUPW members in favour of a strike to get a new contract, said Evans.

"It's the highest [strike vote] we've ever had and the highest turnout we've ever had in our history."

A possible strike or lockout could come as early as Wednesday, but either side must give 72-hours' notice, said Evans. The two sides are still talking, he said.

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