



# BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume 27 Number 3

Whole number 107

September 2018



*Two-cent Leaf cover from Empire Valley, dated Feb 1, 1899, to Caspar Phair at Lillooet. The Feb 3 transit mark at upper right is from Gang Ranch (more on next page).*

Study group member Jim White kindly responded to the editor's plea for "favourite covers" that could be featured on the front page of the newsletter. The scarce item above, mailed from Empire Valley (RF E3) in central BC, Feb 1, 1899, has a series of transit marks on front and back that reveal the complex journey the cover made across BC's interior bunchgrass rangelands (*backstamps on next page*).

Empire Valley post office, open 1889-1900, was located on the Empire Valley Ranch, in the Chilcotin, south and west of the Fraser River. It was never a very productive office: "As the revenue . . . is very trifling and not likely to increase," wrote Inspector Everard Fletcher to his superiors in Ottawa in May 1896, "I would recommend that the Post Office be

closed." Four years later it was.

The ranch, owned by the Koster family, started in a small way in the 1880s and grew to become one of the oldest and largest cattle operations in the province, running 3,000 head on 202.5 sq km of land at its peak. It remained under Koster family stewardship until 1956, then had several owners before being bought by the BC government in 1998 as a fine example of a rare BC ecosystem and added to the 360-sq km Churn Creek Protected Area.

The recipient of this letter, Caspar Phair, had an interesting history in the region. He arrived at Lillooet in 1877 and became, at first, the village school teacher. Then, as the district's government agent, he served in a wide (continued on next page)

## In this issue:

- |  |        |                                      |        |
|--|--------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| • Favourite cover: Empire Valley, 1899 | p 1075 | • Unreported Anyox registration mark | p 1084 |
| • Early CPR mail service in BC         | p 1077 | • US Foreign Air Mail Route No 2     | p 1085 |
| • Mail coach robbery correspondence    | p 1082 | • Powell River datestamps, Part II   | p 1087 |
|  |        | • New BC post office openings        | p 1090 |

*Favourite cover continued*



*The journey continues: Dog Creek (Brit Col), Feb 3, 1899; Clinton (Brit Col), Feb 6; Ashcroft (unclear); and Lillooet, Feb 17 (receiver). "I am thinking," wrote Jim White, "that perhaps this cover rode in a saddlebag to Clinton and then went by stage to Ashcroft, where it sat for a week to go by stage to Lillooet via Pavilion."*

variety of roles, including magistrate, chief constable, coroner, fire chief and game warden.

Caspar married Cerise Eyre in 1879, and together they established a general store in Lillooet that would remain open for more than fifty years. Covers to "C Phair" form an important source of postal history for BC collectors, but because Caspar and Cerise both played vital roles in running the Lillooet store, it's not always clear which person is being addressed. In this case, we presume it's Caspar because of the "Esquire" following the name.

Cerise and her older sister, Mary Josephine Eyre, had come to BC in 1871 to join their parents at the Grange, in Marble Canyon near Lillooet. In 1874, Mary married Henry Pennant Cornwall of Ashcroft Ranch and Manor. Henry's brother, Clement Francis Cornwall, became the lieutenant governor of British Columbia from 1881 to 1887 and, later, county court judge for the Cariboo. Coincidentally, we plan to run a story about Mary Cornwall (Eyre) and Ashcroft Manor in the next issue.

The *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter* is published quarterly by the BC Postal History Study Group, an affiliate of the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS).

Annual subscription fee for printed and mailed newsletters (four issues) is \$15, in Cdn or US funds. Individual print issues sell for \$2.50 each, post paid.

Dues are payable to the editor: Andrew Scott  
5143 Radcliffe Rd, Sechelt, BC, Canada V0N 3A2

## In memoriam

Just as this issue of the BC newsletter was ready for distribution, we learned, with great sadness, that Rev Jim White had died on August 21, aged 74. Over the last few years Jim had become a serious collector of BC town cancels, with a special interest in the region he'd worked and lived in, around Kamloops and Ashcroft—and in the Kootenay district, where his family originally settled in BC. He wanted to contribute to the newsletter but lacked a scanner, so we suggested that he send us a package of interesting covers and story ideas, and we would scan and return them. And that's what happened. We'll be publishing Jim's pieces regularly over the next few issues.

Since 1988, Jim and his wife Phyllis had been based at Ashcroft, where until his retirement Jim was the priest at St Albans Anglican church. In addition, he served as archdeacon for the Anglican diocese of the Cariboo. Jim knew western Canada well, having also worked in Kamloops, Lytton, Clearwater, Prince George, 100 Mile House and Logan Lake (all in BC), as well as Kindersley in Saskatchewan.

## Subscription renewal time

Print subscriptions are now due, at the annual rate of \$15, in Canadian funds for addresses in Canada, and in US funds for addresses south of the border. Please send cheques to the editor at the address below. Please keep in mind that emailed digital subscriptions continue to be **free**. (You can, of course, have both types of subscriptions.)

If you wish to receive the digital edition, please make sure we have your email address. You can also download the newsletter from our file-sharing site (see below). This is the last issue that we can honour 2017 print subscriptions. If we have your email address, we will shift any remaining unpaid print subscriptions to digital for the December issue. Thank you to those who have already resubscribed.

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Newsletter submissions may be sent to the editors at the addresses above.

Free digital newsletters can be downloaded as PDF files at the following websites: for issues 1 to 59, go to [www.bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm](http://www.bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm); for later numbers, visit [https://spideroak.com/browse/share/Andrew\\_Scott/Backissues](https://spideroak.com/browse/share/Andrew_Scott/Backissues). Issues 89 to present are in full colour; earlier newsletters are in b&w. File size is approximately 2 Mb / issue.

# Early Canadian Pacific Railway mail service in BC

## Part 2: New observations on the End of Track post office

by Tracy Cooper

Part 1 of this series of articles on the early CPR mails in British Columbia appeared in newsletter #103 (September 2017, pp 1015-18) and dealt with BC's inaugural mail contract. Part 2 looks at some new aspects of the End of Track story, while Part 3 will explore the introduction and early years of railway mail service in BC.

Much has been written about the End of Track post office and the pivotal role it played in delivering mail to workers as they constructed the Canadian Pacific Railway grade and laid rail, moving westwards across the Prairies and into British Columbia.

The definitive article on the subject was written by Alex Price in *BNA Topics* #421 (Sept-Oct 1987) and entitled "End of Track and the C P Mail Company." In this article Price noted that, "On 15 Aug, 1883, track laying for the Canadian Pacific Railway reached Calgary . . . and Banff on 27 October . . . . At the end of November track laying terminated for the year (because of winter) about one mile east of the Continental Divide, the summit of the Rockies." The grade crossed into BC on May 24, 1884. Price also noted that, at this time, "Westbound mail was now being carried as far as Calgary by regular trains, with mail cars staffed by postal clerks." The CPR West of Winnipeg hammer was in use.

### 1) The C P Mail Company

It was unclear how mail to the western camps was handled during the period leading up to early 1884, but a local newspaper advertisement (*see top of following page*) noted the formation of the C P Mail Co. The primary purpose of this independent CPR "mail company" was to service the railway operations. After his article in *BNA Topics* was published, Alex Price had an opportunity to view the CPR archives and discover more about the C P Mail Co's operation. In particular Price focused on "voucher registers," which revealed a wealth of information about contractors, debits and credits, and intriguing notes regarding the C P Mail Co during its short period of existence (Aug 25, 1884, to Nov 29, 1885). It is interesting that this period roughly overlaps with that of the End of Track post office (*see "Thomas Gordon and post office patronage," BC Postal History Newsletter #90, pp 802-805, July 2014*). Many voucher debits involved railway contractors working on the grade—including J McDermid and James Ross, William McKenzie and D D Mann—likely for services related to carrying the mails from various points east of Calgary. The CPR voucher archives had apparently never been explored for this type of financial information. We publish a selective listing of voucher registers at the end of this article, as Appendix "A," in order to aid philatelists in future research.



Three-cent Small Queen cover from the CPR's Office of Manager of Construction, Mountain Division, care of the C P Mail Co via Calgary to St John, New Brunswick. Target cancel.



Early CPR mails in BC continued

### NOTICE

The C P Mail Co are now prepared to receive, forward and deliver all mail for parties who will be located West of The Summit and out of reach of regular postal service.

Arrangements have also been made for safe transmission of Moneys, Deposits and other valuables to all points throughout Canada, United States and other foreign countries.

Parties who wish to avail themselves of these facilities should call at the C P Mail Co's Post Office, 32nd siding, Laggan, where they may register their addresses and obtain full information as to rates, etc. — *Calgary Herald* (June 18, 1884)

It's interesting to note that the first register listing after the *Calgary Herald* announcement was a debit entry for the C P Mail Co, likely for postage fees collected from railway workers for the June to August period. We also see credit entries to H S Holt for mail and medical dues. While there was no regular service from Calgary to the end of track west of Calgary in late 1883 and early 1884, mail did reach the construction crews by way of occasional construction trains, wagon teams or sleighs, depending on the weather. Price notes in his *BNA Topics* article that "Holt's store at the Summit became the point where westward mails terminated or were redirected, or were dispatched to the east. West of the Summit, some work was carried out through the winter with engineering and field work and surveying." Mail redirected via Holt's store to the various rail contractors' construction camps formed the functional beginning of the C P Mail Co—a rather ad hoc service but one that was essential to the rail workers.

The last entry in the C P Mail Co ledger notes a debit of \$11,670.51 on Nov 29, 1885, finalizing the accounts and relinquishing to the Post Office Department all aspects of mail service.

### 2) End of Track post office

BC's End of Track post office was established on Jan 1, 1885, but an examination of the voucher record reveals that the C P Mail Co continued, with the aid and assistance of various contractors, to deliver mail to workers on the advancing track. "On Aug 17, 1885, the track advanced over the summit of the Selkirk Range in Rogers Pass with the two ends of construction meeting at Craigellachie on Nov 7, 1885."



Preprinted pen-cancelled 3-cent Small Queen cover to End of Track West, care of the C P Mail Co, via Winnipeg, from contractor William McKenzie.

*Early CPR mails in BC continued*

The following is a listing of all reported BC End of Track postmarks:

Date	Type	Addressee
JA 27/85	Cover	BNAPS cover illustration
FE 10/85	Piece	
FE 27/85	Cover	New Brunswick (Miss May Earle)
JU 25/85	Cover	New Brunswick (Miss May Earle)
JY 2/85	Cover	England (Mrs Drummond)
AU 13/85	Cover	Ontario (Barbara Firth)
AU 17/85	Cover	Ontario (Miss H J Coleman)
SP 18/85	Cover (backstamp)	Major Sam Steele



Clear End of Track split-ring cancel dated Aug 17, 1885, on cork-cancelled 3-cent Small Queen cover to Gananoque, Ontario.

### 3) From the files of Alex Price: notes on the End of Track covers

"So, feeling in a generous mood, I thought I would throw more light on the End of Track covers. Thirty-five+ years ago eight covers appeared in the hands of Fred Eaton for disposal. Apparently they were originally sold in a Toronto auction to an 'accumulator' in New York, who then put them away for years and eventually passed them to Fred to sell on his behalf. Danny Eaton phoned and invited me over to take a look. The two covers with the EOT strike were offered for \$800 and \$600, respectively. For my purposes the \$600 one (the FE 27/85 cover) was the best one, having three significant markings. I also bought one of the covers with the purple handstamp for about \$400. Bill Robinson, who was working for Eaton at the time, got the other EOT strike. The one dated AU 13/85 I got from Don Kaye in 1999 for \$1,200 and the one dated AU 17/85 I got at a Sisson's auction years ago. Part of a lot with a bunch of stuff. I think I paid about \$600 for the lot. Stan Lum was my agent. A bit of a story. It came with a copy of a letter dated Oct 25, 1946, written by Walter S Bayley to the Post Office Department. Thus Bayley was an early owner." (Personal correspondence, June 12, 2010)

### 4) More from the files of Alex Price: Leo Rogers

Since 1987 a few new End of Track items have surfaced, as has additional research material from primary philatelic resources. One fascinating find relates to the Leo Rogers correspondence, which, to my knowledge, has never been published before.

"As with many 'finds,' it all started with Alan Steinhart. Years ago, Alan was in London, England, attending a major philatelic show and auction. Alan made himself knowledgeable about the collecting interests of his customers and had a particularly fine nose for uncovering rare or unusual items. When a lot of eight Small Queen covers was offered to him, he purchased them with the intention of selling them to me, which he did. These covers, mailed in 1882 and 1883, contained letters written by one Leo Rogers, no relation to Major Rogers of CPR fame. Leo, a native of Manchester,



## Early CPR mails in BC continued

England, had gone to Canada, a young man, seeking his fortune. He eventually became attached to CPR survey crew, establishing location, line and grade well ahead of the railway construction crews. He wrote faithfully to his father and other family members in Manchester. His family, in turn, in red, on the face of the envelope, recorded his location and date and gave the envelope a number. Six of the eight covers Alan purchased bore numbers 18, 27, 40, 49A, 65 and 66. All these covers were duly written up and mounted on my album pages. Case closed? No. Years later my phone rang one evening about 10 pm. The caller was Tracy Cooper, who insisted I go to my computer immediately, download an offering on eBay-UK and make a bid, as time was short. I did so and was successful. In due course I received the item and set to work. The cover tells a tale of unsuccessful wanderings as follows: Father Thomas Rogers of Manchester, England, writes to son, Leo, who, at this time, December 1883, is probably 'holed up' for the winter somewhere in western Canada. His crew has finished for the season and well down the Kicking Horse Pass west of the summit of the Rockies. The letter never reaches Leo. There are six markings on the back of the cover. Hamilton, Ontario, Dec 17, 1883. Calgary, Alta, Dec 23, 1883. Two Dead Letter Office strikes, one indicating the letter was received at Ottawa, Mar 2, 1884, and the other dispatched from that office Mar 26, 1884, for return to Great Britain where it is eventually returned to sender. The two other markings are hand-written pencil datings, Jan 9, 1884, and June 8, 1884. One can only speculate as to the feelings of family members upon return of the letter. I was able to contact the vendor, a member of the Anglican clergy in Norfolk, England, who could only say that he acquired the cover in a large lot of covers, with no provenance."

It is easy to speculate that, given the wide range of dates, other covers from the Leo Rogers correspondence survive, unrecognized for the fascinating light they bring to early CPR history in British Columbia.

Right: 5-cent Small Queen cover to Manchester, England, datestamped Aug 24, 1882, by Winnipeg duplex and endorsed "Railway Car on the way to Winnipeg Aug 22 1882" and "Leo to Father."



Left: 5-pence cover from Manchester, England, datestamped Dec 4, 1883, to "Locating party, South Bank of Bow River" and marked NOT CALLED FOR. See text above for more detailed description of DLO and other backstamps.

Early CPR mails in BC continued

Appendix "A." Examination of Voucher Registers in search of C P Mail Co data (May 1988)

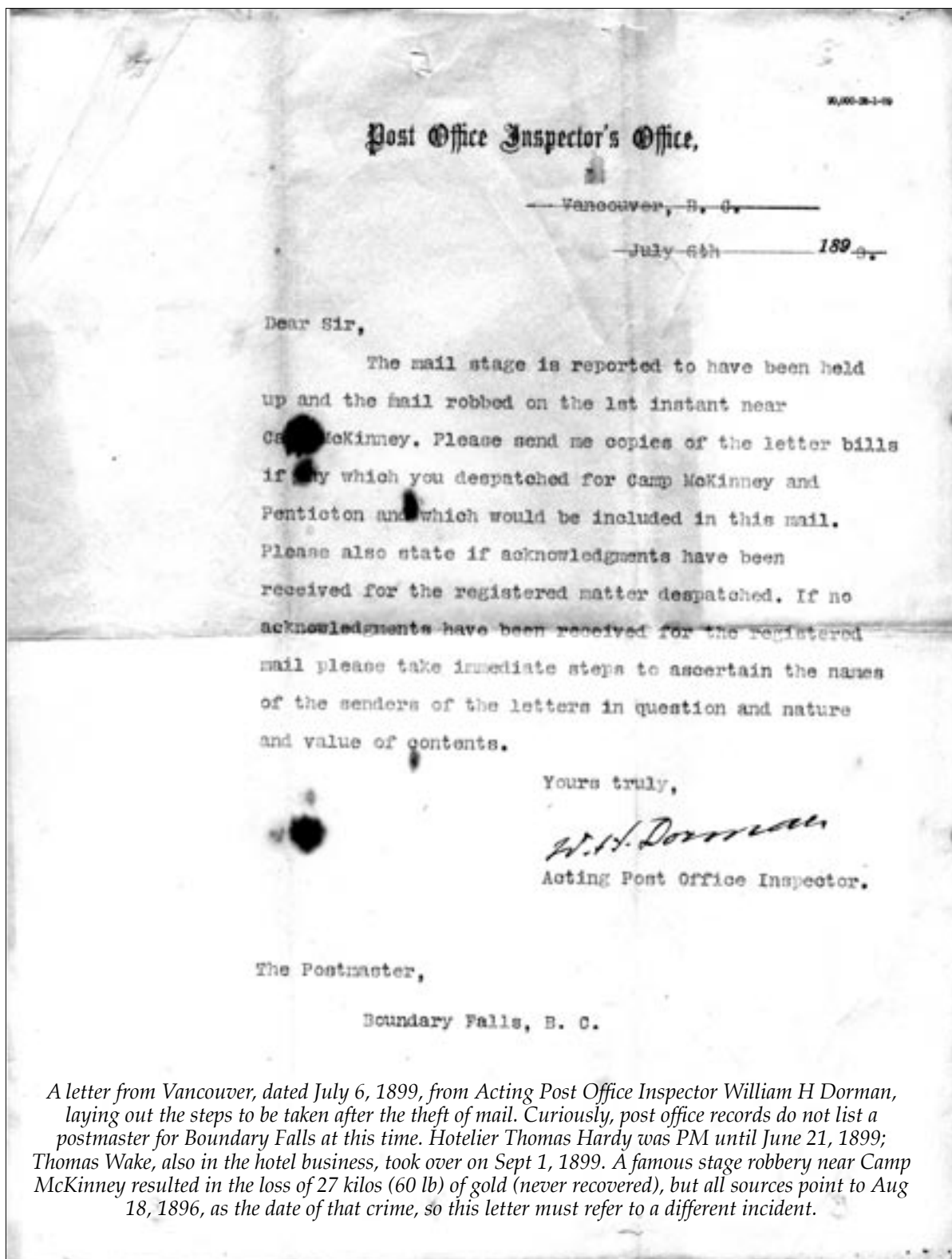
<u>Page</u>	<u>Mo</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Voucher</u> <u>No</u>	<u>Folio</u>	<u>Entry</u>	<u>Debit</u>	<u>Credit</u>
25	Aug	'84		238	C P Mail Co	\$28.60	
30	Sept	'84	373		Coy Kendall & Gleason Mail dues		\$18.25
			374		J O Varney. Mail & medical to end Oct		\$238.00
			375		Sundry contractors. Mail and medical to end Oct		\$4127.19
32	Sept	'84	248	238	C P Mail Co	\$2.75	
36	Oct	'84	468		H S Holt. Mail & medical dues Sept.		\$938.53
39	Oct	'84	503		Coy Kendall & Gleason. Mail dues		\$47.00
40	Oct	'84	513		C P Mail Co. Oct Service		\$125.00
44	Nov	'84	531		C P Mail Co. Holt's, Mann's mail dues to end Oct		\$378.00
			555		C P Mail Co. Coy Kendall & Gleason		\$18.25
				238	C P Mail Co	\$18.25	
50	Nov	'84		187	H Behan. C P Mail Co	\$67.45	
				208	McDermid & Ross. C P Mail Co	\$420.15	
				232	H S Holt. C P Mail Co	\$1278.93	
				191	Keefe & Clarke. C P Mail Co	\$245.75	
				197	Brooks & Davidson. C P Mail Co	\$411.90	
					(also shows under CR bill payable C P Mail Co)		\$2454.15
51	Nov	'84	633		C P Mail Co. Nov acct		\$125.00
				238	C P Mail Co		\$125.00
53	Dec	'84	641		D D Mann. Mail & medical to end Dec		\$799.86
			644		Wm McKenzie & Co. Mail and medical to end Nov		\$716.00
58	Dec		728		C P Mail Co. Services Dec		\$125.00
60	Jan	'85	758		C P Mail Co. Services		\$125.00
			769		Keefe & Clarke. Medical & mail dues Nov-Dec		\$207.00
61	Jan	'85		238	C P Mail Co	\$2.00	
64	Jan	'85	830		McDermid & Ross. Medical & mail dues Nov-Dec		\$518.00
71	Mar	'85	932		Armstrong Powder Co. Medical and mail dues Oct-Mar inc		\$52.00
			933		Muir Bros. Medical & mail dues Jan		\$177.00
			934		Wm McKenzie & Co. Medical & mail dues for Marsden to Dec 31		\$201.00
			935		C P Mail Co. services for March		\$125.00
81	Apr	'85	1039		C P Mail Co. services for April		\$125.00
82	May	'85		238	C P Mail Co. repair mail bags	\$9.00	
85	May	'85	1088		C P Mail Co. services for May		\$125.00
87	June	'85	1134		D D Mann. Medical & mail dues Jan-May inc		\$1548.35
			1135		Keefe & Clarke. Medical and mail dues Jan-Mar inc		\$528.00
			1136		Wm McKenzie & Co. Medical and mail dues Dec-Apr		\$1371.00
			1137		L. Madigan. Medical and mail dues Jan-May inc		\$572.00
			1138		D C Munro & Co. Medical and mail dues Mar-May		\$299.00
				238	C P Mail Co	\$3.02	
91	June	'85	1177		Quigley & McCrimmon. Mail dues for Apr-June		\$120.00
			1177		Quigley & McCrimmon from Aug 84-Mar 85		\$166.25
			1178		Keefe & Clarke. Medical & mail dues for June		\$125.00
			1179		C P Mail Co services for June		\$125.00
			1180		C P Mail Co stationery to main office		\$87.20
97	July	'85	1327		Corey Bros. Mail dues to end of June		\$416.75
98	July	'85	1361		Quigley & McCrimmon. Medical & mail dues in July		\$100.00
102	July	'85	1403		C.P. Mail Co. services for July		\$125.00
4	Sept	'85	1769		Keefe & Clarke. Medical & mail dues for September		\$126.00
			1770		Quigley & McCrimmon. Medical and mail dues for Aug and Sept		\$265.00
			1771		John Armstrong. Medical & mail dues to date		\$280.00
5	Sept	'85	1781		C P Mail Co for services for September		\$125.00
7	Sept	'85	1805		L Madigan. Medical and mail dues for Sept		\$150.00
			1814		John Linderman. Medical and mail dues for Aug		\$8.00
			1815		Wm Sproat. Medical and mail dues for July and Aug		\$46.00
			1816		E Vachon. Medical and mail dues for July		\$13.00
8	Sept	'85	1817		Ole Pederson. Medical and mail dues for Aug and Sept		\$368.15
			1818		I Lusk. Medical and mail dues for July and Aug		\$47.00
			1819		C Mann. Medical and mail dues for July and Aug		\$22.00
			1823		T A W Gordon. Board bill		\$7.70
9	Sept	'85	1858 & 1859		Sundry contractors mail and medical		\$18.49
12	Sept	'85	1911		D C Munroe & Co. Medical and mail service June-Sept		\$683.00
13	Sept	'85	1945		Mail service & telegrams. Govt cheques received	\$153.67	
16	Oct	'85	1995		Wm McKenzie & Co. Medical and mail dues May-Sept inc		\$1421.00
20	Oct	'85	2078		T A W Gordon for stationery. Cash payment		\$4.25
21	Oct	'85	2107		Sundry tie & wood contractors. Medical & mail dues for Oct		\$13.00
28	Nov	'85	2257		C P Mail Co account	\$231.50	
29	Nov	'85		238	C P Mail Co (see Credit voucher 2301)	\$11670.51	

The Canadian Pacific Railway mail line was shut down for the winter of 1885/86 and all of the contractors were released.

# Of stagecoach robberies and excess inventory

by Jim White

Internal post office correspondence, while often rather dull, can on occasion be fascinating. Here are two intriguing letters from the Inspector's Office to the postmaster at Boundary Falls, one dealing with the armed hold-up of the mail stage near Camp McKinney, one with an oversupply of stamps.





Post office correspondence continued

## Post Office Inspector's Office,

Victoria, B.C. \_\_\_\_\_

(D)

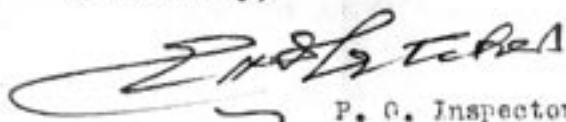
8th March 1898 — 189 —

Dear Sir—

I am directed by the Postmaster General to inform you that in view of the falling off in the revenue of your office as shown by the sale of stamps, which, for the year ended the 30th June, was \$60., and for the six months ended the 31st December was \$30 = it is considered that the present supply of stamps furnished your office on credit to the extent of \$75. 00 is excessive.

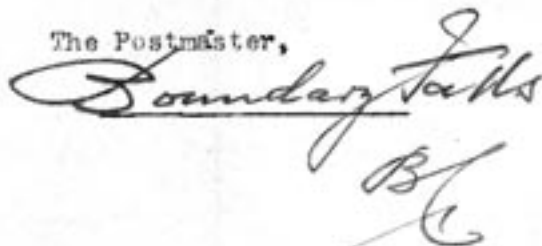
It is thought that a Credit Supply of \$20 = will be sufficient for the present needs of your office, and I am therefore instructed to ask you to send me the sum of \$55 = so that the Credit Supply of your office may be reduced *accordingly* -  
Please give this matter your early attention.

Yours truly,



P. O. Inspector.

The Postmaster,

*Returned March 17th 1898*

A letter from Victoria, dated March 8, 1898, from Post Office Inspector Everard Fletcher regarding a "falling off of revenue" and the need to reduce the supply of stamps furnished on credit.

## An unreported registration marking from Anyox



Large oval registration datestamps and coloured inks were all the rage in the first decades of the 20th century. They came in a number of attractive designs, and the double outer rims were often given special attention, with various milled, fluted, ridged and scalloped patterns. We hope to do a longer article on this unusual aspect of BC postal history, but in the meantime here is a scarce registered marking from the remote mining and smelting community of Anyox. The cover—a nice single use of the 50-centesimi stamp—was mailed from Antonimina, in Calabria, southern Italy, on July 2, 1916, and transited Genoa (Genova) on July 5. In Canada it received an EDM. & PR. GEORGE R.P.O./No 1. backstamp dated July 26 and finally arrived in Anyox on July 31, 1916, a transit time of 29 days. There's an additional faint July 25 backstamp I can't make out. The other Anyox registered oval, superimposed on the back of the cover, is a March 19, 1920, proof strike—*Andrew Scott*

# A way to identify southbound FAM-2 mail?

by Gray Scrimgeour

The US Foreign Air Mail Route No 2 (FAM-2) operated between Seattle and Victoria from October 15, 1920, until June 26, 1937<sup>1</sup>. It was devised to expedite mail service between Seattle and the trans-Pacific ships arriving at and leaving from Victoria. Identified commercial trans-Pacific mail carried on this route is rare (less than ten covers reported—only three known inbound). Large quantities of mail arrived at Victoria and were carried by the FAM-2 plane to Seattle. Most of the incoming mail was presorted and bagged for forwarding (ie, closed-bag mail). There must be a considerable number of unidentified FAM-2 covers addressed to the US. Can we identify any of them? The three known inbound FAM-2 covers are oversize envelopes that bear directional postmarks applied in Japan stipulating carriage by air from Victoria to Seattle.



Figure 1

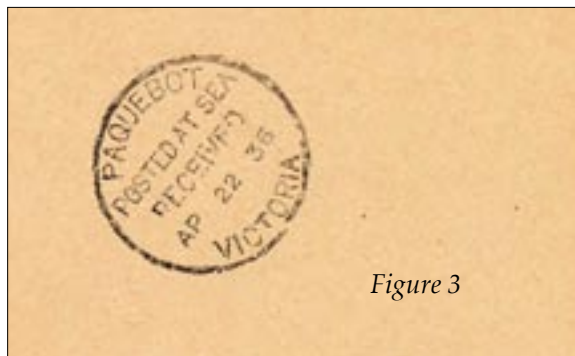


Figure 3



Figure 5

I suggest that one potential way to identify FAM-2 southbound mail is by the presence of the Victoria paquebot circular datestamp (CDS). Fig 1 shows a proof impression of this 28-mm CDS. It reads PAQUEBOT/POSTED AT SEA/RECEIVED/(date)/VICTORIA. This hammer was proofed on Nov 6, 1914, six years before FAM-2 started.

Fig 2 (following page) presents the only proven incoming FAM-2 cover with a Victoria postmark. It is a double-weight item from the Yokohama branch of the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation that was carried on the eastbound *Empress of Russia*, which arrived at Victoria on July 20, 1928. It bears a three-line postmark applied in Japan reading SILK DOCUMENTS/VIA AIRCRAFT SERVICE/FROM VICTORIA TO SEATTLE and is dated JUL 20/ 28 by two strikes of the Victoria paquebot CDS.

A facing slip (reduced) bearing a favour strike of the paquebot CDS dated AP 22, 1936 (the day the *Empress of Canada* arrived from Asia), is shown in Fig 3. Lester Small, a clerk in the Victoria post office, prepared this slip. Small's daughter, Helen Jaques, told me that her father postmarked incoming trans-Pacific mail at the wharf.

Fig 4 (following page) shows a cover from Manila, Philippines, incoming to Seattle. It was dated at Victoria on April 26, 1930, by the Victoria paquebot CDS. The *Empress of Russia* arrived at Victoria at 6:45 am on April 26, carrying 1,851 bags of mail. Was this paquebot cover carried to Seattle by FAM-2? Unfortunately, the cover has no backstamp. Some paquebot mail handled at Victoria was postmarked at the wharf, but most was machine-cancelled at the Victoria post office. Why was this cover selected for handstamping? I propose that it was sorted before arrival in Victoria for air service by FAM-2.

I suggest that in 1920 or later the Victoria paquebot CDS became the postmark used at the wharf for quickly dating incoming trans-Pacific paquebot mail intended for FAM-2. Applying this datestamp at the wharf would expedite incoming pre-sorted mail. The large (31 mm) CDS that indicated FAM-2 airmail from Victoria (Fig 5) probably remained at the post office and was applied there (usually in black ink) to favour mail and air mail deposited at the post office. Other paquebot mail from inbound ships and the bulk of the incoming mail were taken to the Victoria post office for dispatching. Selected mail (hundreds of pounds of it) was flown in each FAM-2 plane and was dispatched with no Victoria postmark and no way known yet to identify it.

I would like to hear if anyone has a cover with both a Victoria paquebot CDS and a receiving backstamp that shows expedited handling.

## Reference:

1) G Scrimgeour, "US Foreign Air Mail Route No 2," *PHSC Journal*, No 166 (Summer 2016), pp 7-16.



FAM-2 service continued



Figure 2. Double-weight cover (image reduced in size) from Yokohama directed to FAM-2. Note Victoria paquebot CDS postmarks.

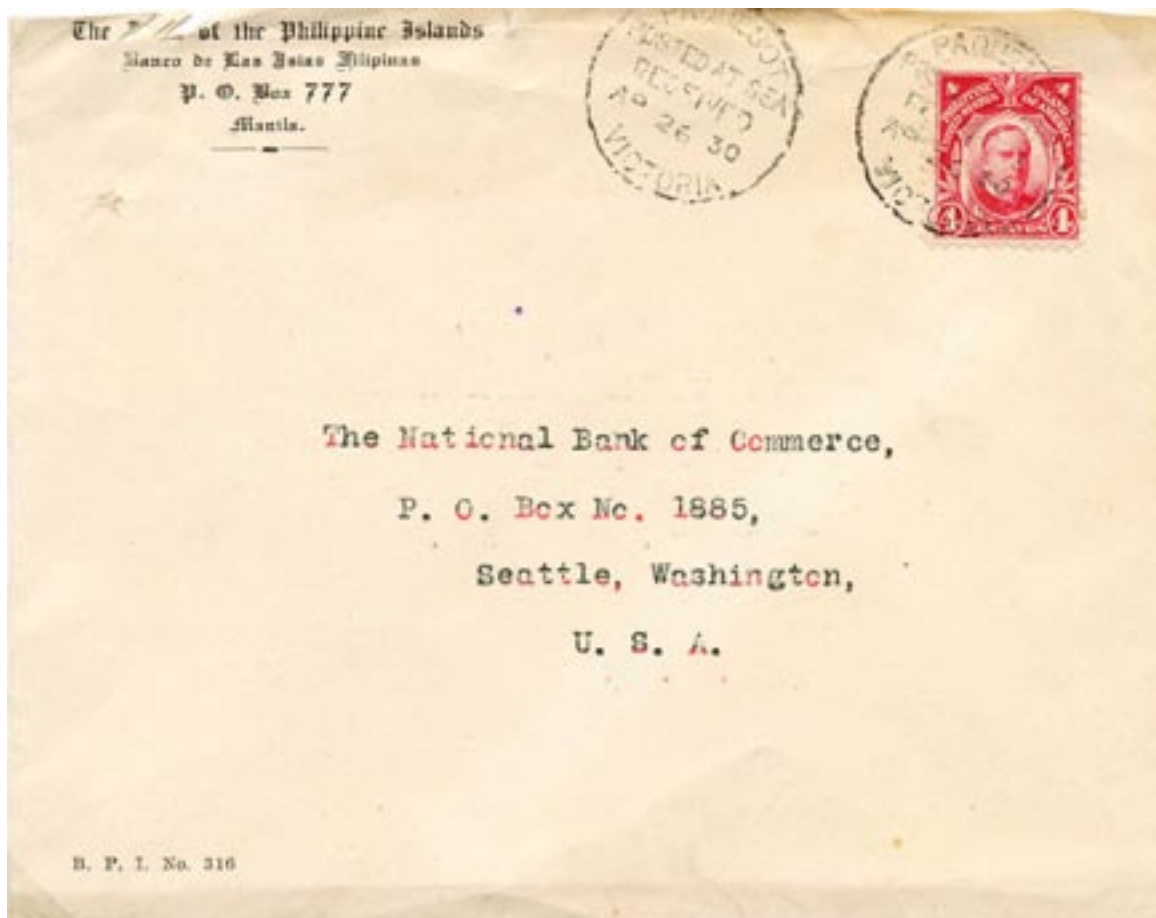


Figure 4. Paquebot mail from Manila to Seattle dated with the Victoria paquebot CDS.

# Postal History of the Powell River region: Part II

by Morris Beattie

The Powell River post office used a number of large-diameter circular (Type G) datestamps between 1945 and 1997. This article lists and identifies these markings based on diameter, font type, letter spacing and wording, etc—and on whether or not the cancel includes the postal code. (Circular datestamps with POCOs will be dealt with in a future article. Part I of this series appeared in issue #106, June 2018.)

## Circular cancels without postal code

The first group of G markings have “Powell River” at the top and “B.C.” at the bottom. The earliest types have a diameter of 31 mm and a sans-serif typeface. The month is shown in the form of a three-letter abbreviation. A proof strike is known for G1: Aug 8, 1945.

G1



G2



G1) Large, wide-spaced, rounded letters. Purple & blue ink noted. 1946-53 usage reported.

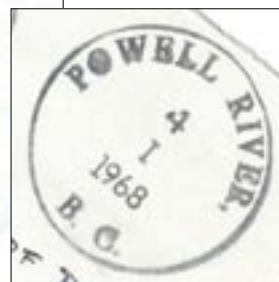
G2) Tighter-spaced, squarish letters, closer to the rim. Purple ink noted. 1954-62 usage reported.

The second group is similar to the first (ie POWELL RIVER/B.C.), but uses a serif typeface. The month is indicated by a Roman numeral. G4 may be a late use of G3, showing a slight expansion of the datestamp as it aged.



G3

G4 on a short-paid cover dated Feb 5, 1980, to Victoria. Postage on 30 to 50-gram letters was 26 cents. Cover was charged double the deficiency.



G5

G3) No comma after “RIVER”. 31-mm diameter. 1966-72 usage reported.

G4) No comma after “RIVER”. 34-mm diameter. 1979-80 usage reported.

G5) Comma after “RIVER”. 31-mm diameter. 1966-70 usage reported.

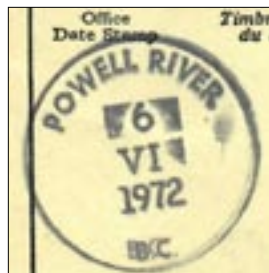


*Powell River markings continued*

The final group of "POWELL RIVER/B.C." datestamps are all sans serif, but with smaller lettering than G1 and G2. The month is indicated by a Roman numeral. G6 is an oddball marking, being the only datestamp with a double outer ring. G8 may be a late use of G7; the post office may have ordered several identical datestamps which then aged differently.



G6



G7



G8



G9

G6) 31-mm diameter. Double outer ring. 1971-73 usage reported.

G7) 31-mm diameter. 1972-75 usage reported.

G8) 34-mm diameter. 1974-81 usage reported.

G9) 31-mm diameter. Tiny lettering. 1990s usage reported but exact year date unclear.

**Circular cancel with postal code or "Post Office"**

The postal code was introduced across Canada over the period 1972-74, though by the end of 1974 only 38% of post offices across the country used the code on their cancelling devices. An example from 1975 is shown below (G10) with "POWELL RIVER, B.C." at the bottom and "POST OFFICE" at top, but without the code. Perhaps preparations in this office for the introduction of the code were being made in 1975. (The earliest example of the postal code on a Powell River datestamp identified so far is 1975.) The dates of unilingual and bilingual usage overlap during the period 1986-89. All the datestamps listed below are in a sans-serif typeface and have the month indicated by a Roman numeral. All are unilingual except for G16. Diameters are similar, ranging from 31 to 33 mm. There may be several G12 datestamps.



G10



G11



G12



G13



G14



G15



G16

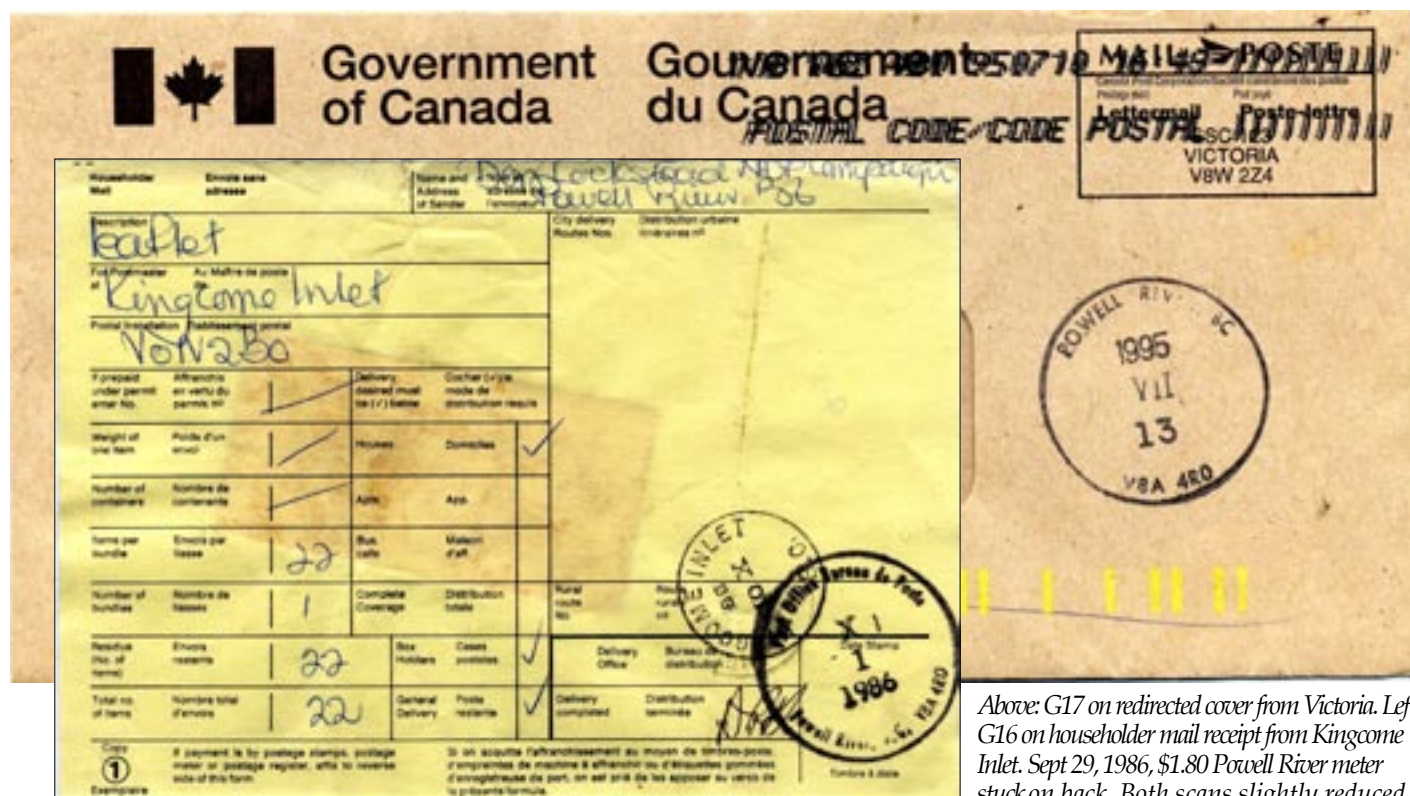


G17



*Powell River markings continued*

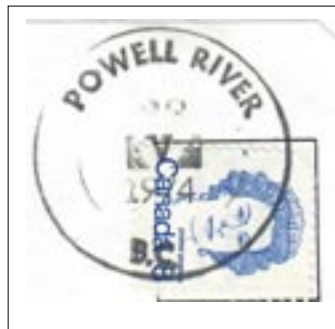
- G10) POST OFFICE/POWELL RIVER, B.C. 1975 usage reported.  
 G11) POST OFFICE/POWELL RIVER, B.C. V8A 4R0. 1978 usage reported.  
 G12) POST OFFICE/Powell River, B.C. V8A 4R0 (wide code). 1975-85 usage reported.  
 G13) Same as G12 but with tighter 14-mm postal code. 1977-83 usage reported.  
 G14) CANADA POST/POWELL RIVER, B.C. V8A 4R0. 1984-89 usage reported.  
 G15) Same as G14 but with tall narrow lettering. 1983 usage reported.  
 G16) Post Office Bureau de Poste/Powell River, B.C. V8A 4R0. 1986-91 usage reported.  
 G17) POWELL RIVER, B.C./V8A 4R0. 1994-97 usage reported.



Above: G17 on redirected cover from Victoria. Left: G16 on household mail receipt from Kingcome Inlet. Sept 29, 1986, \$1.80 Powell River meter stuck on back. Both scans slightly reduced.

**Two-ring datestamps**

Another type of large-diameter datestamp in use at Powell River appears to have two rings, with the post office name (at top) and "B.C." (at bottom) between them. Two different examples of this type of marking, both dated 1974, have been identified. These datestamps are unlike the steel barrel cancels issued to many larger post offices in the 1950s and '60s, which had the year date at bottom. The design of the cancel (though not its size) is similar to that of G7/G8. The two examples have been listed below on a provisional basis as H1 and H2. (With files from Andrew Scott.)



- H1) 33-mm diameter. May 1994 usage reported.  
 H2) 36-mm diameter. October 1994 usage reported.

## Recent BC post office openings and changes

About once a year or so, we publish a list of the latest post office and postal outlet openings, as described on the Canada Post website. The last list appeared in issue #104 (p 1042), and earlier lists can be found in #101 (p 994), #95 (p 894), #92 (p 841) and #85 (p 755). As early recorded dates for cancels are not available for most of these new offices, we've included additional address information instead.

105329	North Vancouver (2032 Lonsdale Ave, V7M 2K0)
105351	Coquitlam (London Drugs, 1030-2929 Barnet Hwy, V3B 5R0)
105356	Port Moody (Shoppers Drug Mart, 3215 St John's St, V3H 2E0)
105357	New Westminster (Shoppers Drug Mart, 1-811 Columbia St, V3M 1B0)
105358	Dease Lake (People's Haven, 1 Stikine St, V0C 1L0)
105371	Lions Bay (Lions Bay General Store & Cafe, 350 Centre Rd, V0N 2E0)
105375	Vancouver City Square (Hye Park Express, 15-555 W 12th Ave, V5Z 3X0)
105379	New Westminster (Ace Gift Shop, R140-805 Boyd St, V3M 5B0)
105383	Kelowna (Capri Service Centre, 144-1835 Gordon Dr, V1Y 3H0)
105384	Fort St John (Sootay Smoke & Conveniences, 9516 93 Ave, V1J 6T0)
105387	Surrey (Pharmasave Sullivan Square, 106-15325 56 Ave, V3S 0X0)
105400	Quilchena (Archwest Administrative Services, 3512 Hwy 5A, V0E 2R0)
105401	North Vancouver (Shoppers Drug Mart, 110-879 Marine Dr, V7P 1S0)
105405	Kelowna (Pharmasave, 304-1750 Pier Mac Way, V1V 3E0)
105416	Duncan (Crazy 8's Party Supplies, 106-2763 Beverly St, V9L 2P0)
105419	Victoria (Fairway Market, 772 Goldstream Ave, V9B 2Y0)
105420	Surrey (15 Minutes Express Photo, 1081-10355 152 St, V3R 1N0)
105440	150 Mile House (150 Mile Husky, 10 Settler Place, V0K 2G0)
105441	Victoria (Shoppers Drug Mart, 870 Esquimalt Rd, V9A 3P0)
105442	Victoria (Helmcken Market, 38 Helmcken Rd, V8Z 3G0)
105461	Richmond (Express Lane, 942-5300 No 3 Rd, V6X 2X0)
105463	Richmond (Bridgeport Stamps & Stationary, 160-3031 Beckman Pl, V6X 3R0)

We finish off this issue of the newsletter with a couple of oddities and a few new recent datestamps.



The Kaleden and Mount Lehman markings, at right and left, don't seem to conform to the normal pattern. Kaleden (334 Lakehill Rd) shows a RC# of 105953, while Mount Lehman (5855 Mount Lehman Rd, V4X 1V0) shows 106070. Both numbers, clearly visible under a magnifying glass, are much further ahead in the numerical sequence we're used to, which has only reached the 105400s. None of the numbers just before or after these new RCs have been issued yet. Do any readers know what's going on here? (KAM MPP, incidentally, lower right, stands for Kamloops Mail Processing Plant.)

