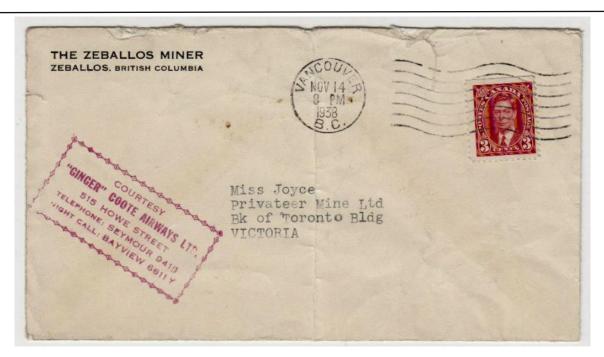


BRITISH COLUMBIA POSTAL HISTORY NEWSLETTER

Volume 31 Number 4 Whole number 124 December 2022



One of my favorite side collections is courtesy airmail postal history. These covers were all carried by favour or "courtesy" by various airlines in Canada from one location to another as de facto airmail even though applicable airmail postage rates were not applied because it was carried at the airline's discretion, rather than as a Canadian post office service. These letters typically originated from a remote or isolated location and were carried to a major city where they were placed into the postal system and postmarked (though not always) at that location, rather than at the point of origin. understanding, these airlines had no official sanction from the post office to carry mail but seem to have done so to endear themselves to those who would benefit from expedient air service with the idea that they might then also use their paid services such as cargo and personal air transport. They also obviously wanted to promote themselves and the handstamps they applied to the mail that they carried served as advertising.

Finding commercially-used examples (philatelic CTO examples also exist, particularly in later years) can, to varying degrees, be difficult but I have managed to compile an interesting group over the years that includes many from British Columbia. One airline that is known to have carried mail in B.C. was "Ginger" Coote Airways (GCA). Beginning as Bridge River and Cariboo Airways Limited, Russel L.

In this issue:

- Favourite cover: Coote Airways
- Atlin fire
- Victoria DLO
- Glassine on postcards

- p 1349
- p 1350
- p 1351
- p 1353
- Tod Inlet
- Japanese Internment Mail
- Dutchman Head
- The Waltons

 - Mara Lake Censor

- p 1354 p 1360
- p 1362
- p 1363
- p 1364

Favourite cover - Ginger Coote - continued

"Ginger" Coote and his father Andrew L. Coote, changed the name of the airline to Ginger Coote Airways Ltd. on April 16, 1938 after having bought out the other directors of the company a few years earlier.

GCA is known to have carried courtesy airmail from various locations within B.C. including Bralorne, Bridge River, Gold Bridge and Zeballos which was then typically brought to Vancouver and placed in the mail system. Examples of courtesy airmail carried by GCA range from 1938 to 1940.

Sent by a local newspaper, *The Zeballos Miner*, this cover is addressed to the Privateer Mine Limited in Victoria, which was a company with major gold mining interests at Zeballos. Though originating from Zeballos, it was postmarked in Vancouver on November 14, 1938 and would appear to have been handed directly to the airline for transport

FAST CLEAN
FLY WITH
GINGER COOTE
AIRWAYS LTD.

REGELEAR SERVICE

Braiorne and Pioneer bids live Based
AND TO THE TOTAL TO THE CONTROL OF THE TOTAL TO THE CONTROL OF THE TOTAL T

to Vancouver. The cover bears the airline's red handstamp "Courtesy/ "Ginger" Coote Airways Ltd. / 515 Howe Street / Telephone: Seymour 9418 / Night Call: Bayview 6611 Y", and its reported use is 1938 only. This is, in my view, a quintessential example of courtesy airmail. At that time, Zeballos was an isolated location on the west coast of Vancouver Island that was suddenly booming with gold mining. Ginger Coote saw the business opportunity of using his airline to connect this community to the outside world through air service. What better way to promote his company to those living and doing business in this community than by carrying their mail for them. - Tom Watkins



Fire Destroys Atlin Post Office

The five hundred or so residents of this northern community recently lost their post office to fire according to this link sent to us by Gus Knierim via Gray Scrimgeour.

https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/atlin-yukon-fire-sincerely-yours-post-office-1.6593620

The town of Atlin was born at the start of the 20th century when gold was discovered there. Gold mining continues to this day, albeit at a much smaller scale than a hundred years ago.

The *British Columbia Postal History Newsletter* is published quartery 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: Morris Beattie 2938 Celtic Ave, Vancouver, BC, Canada, V6N 3X7

Editor: Morris Beattie email: *mbeattie48@shaw.ca*

Associate Editor: Tracy Cooper email: *tracycooper100@shaw.ca*

Study Group Chair: Tim Woodland

email: twoodland@telus.net

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

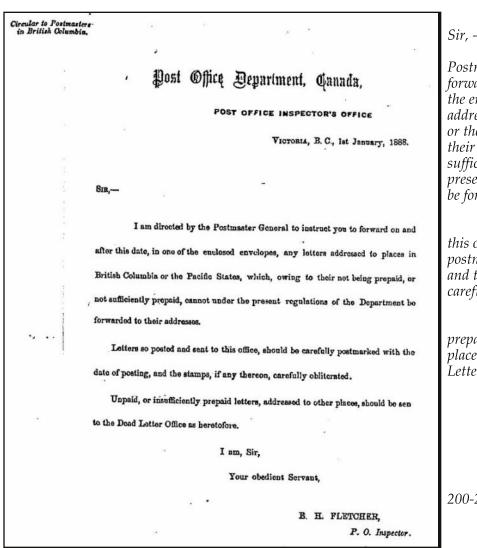
Free digital newsletters can be downloaded as PDF files at https://bnaps.org/hhl/n-bcr.htm (for all issues). Issues 89 to present are in full colour; earlier newsletters are in b&w only. File size is approximately 1.5 to 2 Mb/issue.

Victoria Dead Letter Office More on the Victoria Exception

by Tracy Cooper

Brian Plain in his exhibit and article on the Dead Letter Office in Canada wrote an illuminating article on how insufficiently prepaid or poorly addressed letters were handled in British Columbia.

Prior to January 1, 1888 all letters that could not be delivered in British Columbia, for whatever reason, were to be forwarded to Ottawa for processing. The time and expense for a cross Canada service was particularly annoying to local businessmen and politicians, particularly for local letters, and following much lobbying, an exception to this requirement was granted to Fletcher by the Postmaster General. Brian Plain noted this fact and appropriately called this local service, The Victoria Exception. A Circular to Postmasters in British Columbia from Post Office Inspector, E.H. Fletcher dated Victoria, January 1, 1888 is reproduced below:



I am directed by the Postmaster General to instruct you to forward on and after this date, in one of the enclosed envelopes, any letters addressed to places in British Columbia or the Pacific States, which, owing to their not being prepaid, or not sufficiently prepaid, cannot under the present regulations of the Department be forwarded to their addressee.

Letters so posted and sent to this office, should be carefully postmarked with the date of posting, and the stamps, if any thereon, carefully obliterated.

Unpaid, or insufficiently prepaid letters, addressed to other places, should be sent to the Dead Letter Office as heretofore.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H. Fletcher,

P.O. Inspector

200-20-12-87.

Figure 1. 1888 letter from Post Office Inspector to postmasters.

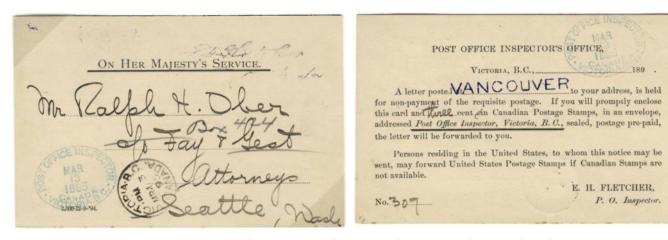
Victoria Dead Letter continued

The following two printed cards, (2000-12-9-'94) illustrate the process Fletcher used to manage the large volume of dead letters forwarded to him for processing. The first card, which I acquired in 1991, is addressed to Mr. Ralph H. Ober, Attorneys, Seattle. The OHMS card with Fletcher's signature handstamp and blue oval dated March 13, 1895 and noted as No. 309 declares:

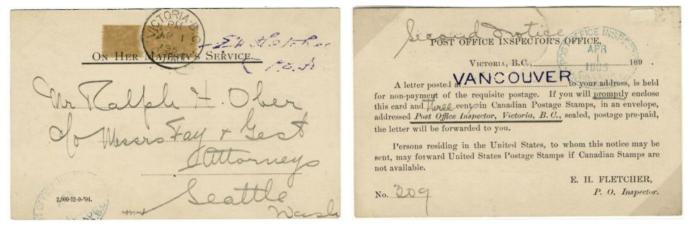
A letter posted at VANCOUVER to your address, is held for non-payment of the requisite postage. If you will promptly enclose this card and three cents in Canadian Postage Stamps, in an envelope, addressed Post Office Inspector, Victoria, B.C. sealed, postage pre-paid, this letter will be forwarded to you.

Persons residing in the United States, to whom this notice may be sent, may forward United States Postage Stamps if Canadian Stamps are not available.

E.H. Fletcher, P.O. Inspector



Figures 2 and 3. First card dated March 13, 1895. (Size Reduced)



Figures 4 and 5. Second card dated April 1, 1895. (Size Reduced)

A second notice, again noted as No. 309, dated April 1, 1895 with the word "promptly" underlined was also sent. This card was acquired from a different source almost 30 years later!

To my knowledge these two notices are unique and illustrate the local service Fletcher provided, prior to the official establishment of a Branch Dead Letter Office in Victoria on July 1, 1898.

Glassine Usage on Postcards

by Tracy Cooper

"Some years ago one of my collecting interests was unusual postal usages. The attached two post cards are very scarce examples of postcards required to be enclosed in envelopes, in this case "glassines"; the fact that they were from British Columbia was a bonus and thus was of interest to me. There are several complex regulations applicable to the interpretation of these postcards which were also confusing to postal officials.

The 1906 Postal Guide noted: "Private Post Cards in transparent envelopes (glassines) having an address written on the enclosure are not transmissible by mail."

The October 1907 Postal Convention adopted the following changes regarding postcards as noted in a Post Office Circular dated Sept 17, 1907.

(6) Cards bearing the title 'Post Card' or its equivalent, are admitted at the rate for printed matter, provided that they conform to the general regulations respecting printed papers; that is, that they contain no handwriting or typewriting not authorized by the regulations respecting printed papers. If they do not conform to these regulations or to the rules applicable to post cards, they are treated as letters.

Previously, postcards including materials such as diamond dust, that were thought to damage the postal machinery, were excluded from the mails by way or a circular dated March 18, 1907. The April 26, 1907 Postal Circular reversed this decision provided they were enclosed in suitable envelopes. (glassines were the preferred method). The circular also restated *When such cards or any post cards, enclosed in envelopes have written communications upon them they are subject to letter rate of postage*.



Glassine usage continued

The first example (Figure 2) is a leather postcard, enclosed in a glassine envelope (Figure 1) dated AU 7/09 VIC & VAN R.P.O. franked with a 1 cent Edward. The glassine envelope was cut open at the location of the stamp as required but because the address was written on the enclosure it was deemed to be inadmissible as the postcard rate and thus was rated at the letter rate and was rated "2" Due, double the 1c deficiency.

The second example (Figure 3, below) is of a proper usage of a "diamond card" franked with a 2 cent Edward from Victoria dated DEC 24 enclosed in a glassine envelope.



Figure 3
Proper usage of glassine envelope.

Tod Inlet – Dust to Flowers

by Morris Beattie

Today, Tod Inlet is the site of the Butchart Gardens, a world famous tourist attraction where people flock to wander along pleasant paths through a garden full of colourful flowers and fountains. It was not always this way at Tod Inlet. For many years from the late 19th through early 20th century the area was of commercial significance due to the occurrence of high-quality limestone in the area. Limestone was mined for the production of agricultural lime and as a raw material for the manufacture of cement, a very dusty business.

Over the period of limestone mining, various individuals and companies controlled the operations. Limestone in the Tod Inlet area was first exploited in 1870 by John Greig for the production of lime for agricultural purposes obtained by burning the limestone in a kiln. These kilns used wood to provide the heat for the "burning" process that converted the calcium carbonate to calcium oxide. John Greig had previously worked for the Hudson's Bay Company, including participation in the York Factory Express from Fort Vancouver to Hudson Bay. Following John Greig, additional limestone burning operations to produce lime for agricultural purposes at Tod Inlet were conducted through the 1880s and 1890s by Peter Fernie and Joseph Wriglesworth, who in addition to his own operations eventually purchased the Greig property.

Tod Creek, which subsequently became Tod Inlet, is named after John Tod, a Hudson's Bay Company employee over the period from 1811 until June 1852. Tod held various posts with HBC including chief trader within the Pacific Northwest. In 1851 he was elected a Member of Council by Governor Richard Blanchard and following his retirement from HBC he served in the legislative Council of Vancouver Island until October 1858. Captain G.H. Richards in 1858, while conducting a survey in the area, gave the name "Tod Creek" to the area that had previously been referred to as the "Lake District".

During this same period, Peter Fernie and Joseph Wriglesworth were operating lime kilns in the Tod Inlet area with Wriglesworth becoming the dominant producer and by 1887 operating the Saanich Lime Company.

Although Portland cement had been developed by an English inventor early in the 19th century, its production in Canada was very limited until early in the 20th century. The early Canadian production included a small plant built in about 1890 by the C.P.R. in Vancouver. Eventually, the potential markets for cement and the occurrence of the required raw materials were recognized by Robert Butchart.

Robert Butchart appeared on the scene in the early 1900s, establishing the Vancouver Portland Cement Company Limited in 1902 and purchasing land at Tod Inlet, including the lime kiln and quarry. The Vancouver Portland Cement Company, the first cement company west of the Great Lakes, was incorporated in British Columbia on 19 April 1904. At first, the cement company's head office was in Toronto but by the time that the plant was under construction in June 1904 it had moved to Bastion Street in Victoria.

The controlling shareholders were Senator George Albertus Cox and Edward Rogers Wood. Robert Butchart was a minority shareholder and Managing Director. On 2 January 1907, Wood incorporated a new Vancouver Portland Cement Company under the federal Companies Act of 1906, and the Vancouver Portland Cement Company which had been incorporated in April 1904 under B.C. provincial legislation was merged into the new federally incorporated Vancouver Portland Cement Company.

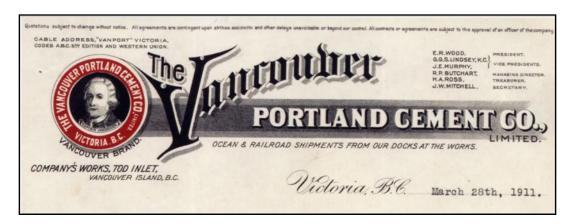


Figure 1. Letterhead for the Vancouver Portland Cement Co., 1911.

In about April 1905, quality cement production commenced at Tod Inlet. Shipping of the cement was facilitated by the deep inlet that allowed many ships to come to the wharves.

The Tod Inlet post office opened on May 1, 1905, located in the company office building just east of the cement plant. Mail was collected from the Keating station of the Victoria and Sidney Railway and delivered to the post office by a local businessman, Wilfred Butler.

Two split-ring hammers have been noted for Tod Inlet. The first hammer is distinguished by a short arc

of about 7mm and the fact that the stems on the "T" in Tod and Inlet are directly opposite each other, ie at an angle of 180 degrees. The second hammer, which the proof book shows with a date of June 29, 1923 has a longer arc of 12mm and has the stems of the two "T"s at about 100 degrees. All cancels noted after this later date have the second hammer impression.

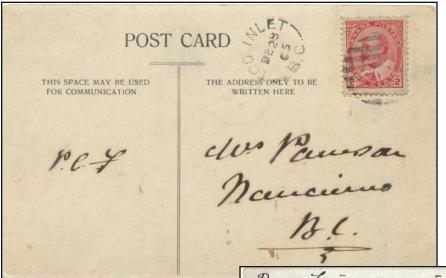


Figure 2. Early Tod Inlet split-ring cancel dated Dec 28, 1905 on postcard to Nanaimo. (Courtesy of Brian Copeland)

Figure 3. Tod Inlet Feb 27, 1912 split-ring dater. (courtesy of Tracy Cooper) Dear Firench niceire your card are allewell tark in sitting trying to read I got a letter from mer leverbion it is a nice day men Signe behruch way thing in greens nice here. is seems Bellewel burnet burnet beauto hear is in so warm and see here answer soon sies here answer soon see here answer soon see here answer soon see here answer soon see here answer soon see



Figure 4. Split-ring cancel dated Sept 10, 1912 on registered cover with three 2¢ and one 1¢ Admiral to pay the 7¢ rate. (courtesy of Tracy Cooper)

The first postmaster was H.A. Ross who was also the treasurer of the cement company. The second postmaster, Edward Tomlin, assumed the position of postmaster when the production resumed in Feb 1921 following an extended closure as discussed below. Tomlin was the President and Managing Director of the BC Cement Company and he served until his death in 1944. Following his death, the British Columbia Cement Company applied to become a corporate postmaster. James Carrier, who had acted as assistant postmaster under Tomlin and who was the manager of the tile plant at Tod Inlet, became the company-appointed postmaster until the post office ceased to operate on October 8, 1952. Following this closure, mail delivery to the remaining families in the area was by mail courier.

Postmaster	Start Date	End Date
H.A. Ross	May 1, 1905	1920
E. Tomlin	Feb 2, 1921	May 26, 1944
B.C. Cement Co. Ltd	June 1, 1944	Oct 8, 1952

Figure 5. Tod Inlet split-ring cancel using the second hammer dated March 19, 1931 with blue ink.





Figure 6. Tod Inlet split ring cancel using the second hammer dated April 25, 1934.



Figure 7. Incoming 1945 cover to Tod Inlet. The cover was shortpaid and two 1 cent Postage Due stamps were added and canceled with Tod Inlet split ring cancel.

The Tod Inlet story would not be complete without bringing Bamberton into the discussion. Bamberton was the site of a short-lived post office that operated during the first phase of operations here from June 1, 1914 until July 30, 1916. The sole postmaster during this period was E. Tomlin.

Bamberton, named after H.K. Bamber of Associated Cement Company was located across the inlet from the Tod Inlet works. The cement plant here was established by 1914 in competition with the Tod Inlet plant. The outbreak of World War 2 in 1914 slowed the local and foreign demand for cement considerably and by 1916 the plant was forced to close. In 1918 the British Columbia Cement Company was formed by amalgamation of the two competing companies; the Associated Cement Company at Bamberton and the Vancouver Portland Cement Company at Tod Inlet. Operations at the Bamberton plant resumed in 1921 and the Tod Inlet operations were closed as it was running out of limestone. A tile plant at Tod Inlet continued to operate until 1953.

Dust was a reality of work in and around the cement plant. The cover shown in Figure 5, above, contains a letter addressed from Bamberton but mailed from the Tod Inlet post office in which the writer refers to her husband as follows: "after working hard in that terribly dusty place he comes home..."



Figure 8.
Postcard view of
Bamberton.

Figure 9. Postcard mailed from Bamberton June 29, 1915 receiving split-ring cancel. (courtesy of Brian Copeland).

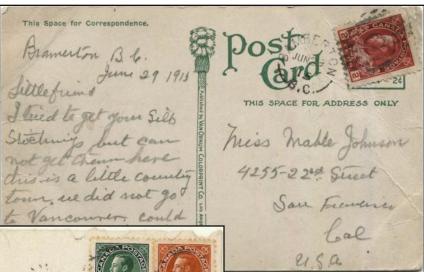




Figure 10. Cover mailed from Bamberton Jan 31, 1916, receiving split-ring cancel. (courtesy of Brian Copeland)

In 1957, the BC Cement Company was merged and continued business under the name of the holding company, Ocean Cement and Supplies, becoming a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ocean Cement in 1964. Genstar purchased Ocean cement in 1971. In October 1982, Genstar Cement Company, advertised for sale the abandoned and overgrown site. Demolition of the mill began within weeks of the sale and in subsequent years considerable effort has gone into cleaning up the environmental impact of the dust and waste emitted by the limestone and cement operations.

Much of what was the Vancouver Portland Cement Company land at Tod Inlet is now occupied by the Butchart Gardens. Jennie Butchart was creating the original garden components by 1906 – 1909, including the Japanese gardens. Day trips to the gardens started early and by the 1930s the CPR ran excursions from Victoria to the garden site using the *Princess Patricia*. Today, over one million visitors visit the gardens each year and the area in 2004 was designated a National Historic Site of Canada. Some relics of the former operations remain and one of the former limestone quarries is now the Sunken Garden at Butchart Gardens.

Reference:

Gray, David R., "Deep and Sheltered Waters: The History of Tod Inlet", Royal BC Museum, Victoria, BC, 2020.

Japanese Internment Mail Regulations

by Tracy Cooper

One of the most shameful examples of racism in Canadian history was the internment of Canadian-born Japanese in internment and work camps during the second World War. Despite, or because of this history, Japanese Internment Camps and the associated Work Camps, are one of the more popular areas of BC Postal History collecting.

Several years ago I had the opportunity to purchase from a local antique dealer an archive of postal documents from the 1930's to the 1950's, from the Nanaimo Post Office. One of the more interesting pieces of correspondence in this archive noted the regulations and procedures around mail to and from the work camps and censorship of the same. The correspondence is self explanatory but of special interest to collectors is the list of the Japanese Work Camps in British Columbia, Alberta and Ontario. I previously collected mail from these work camps but what was intriguing were two on the list that were completely unknown to me; specifically Grant Brook and Rainbow.

Hopefully, this material will be of interest to specialists of this fascinating area of BC Postal History.

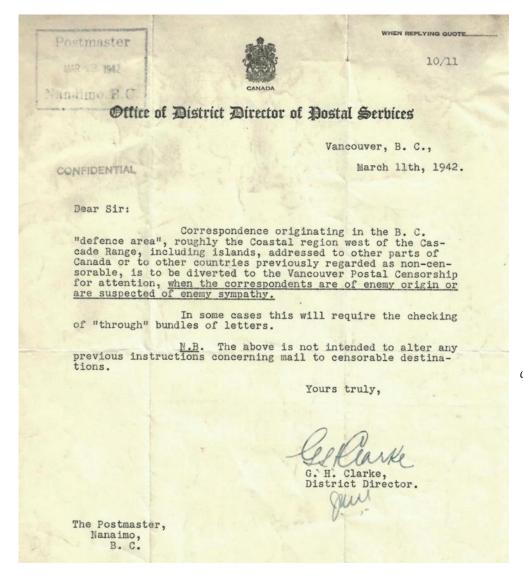
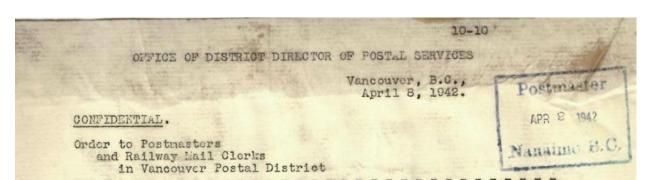


Figure 1. Letter with censorship instructions.

Internment Mail continued



All concerned are instructed that all letter mail, including air mail and registered mail, addressed to or sent by Japanese, including Canadian-born Japanese, whether located in the Coastal Defence Area or elsewhere in Canada, including Work Camps, is to be diverted under special cover to the "Postal Censorship, Vancouver, B.C.", for attention. (Work Camps must not be confused with Internment Camps).

No such letter is to be delivered to the addressee unless the cover bears evidence that it has been "Examined by Censor", or "Passed by Censor", in Canada.

For the present it is not intended that the Postal Censorship shall examine all newspaper and parcel post packets for hidden correspondence, but all postal employees receiving and delivering such articles should in the ordinary course of their duties in protecting postal revenue be on the lookout for illegal enclosures in newspapers and parcels. If correspondence is intercepted in this way, the packet with its enclosures should be diverted to the "Postal Censorship, Vancouver, B.C.", for attention.

The following places are the locations of Work Camps established to date:

In Ontario:	Schreiber		
In Alberta:	Coaldale Decoigne	Geikie Picture Butte	Raymond Taber
In B.C.	Albreda Blue River Gosnell Grant Brook Hope	Lempriere Lucerne Princeton Rainbow Red Pass	Tete Jaune Thunder River Valemount Yellowhead

N.B. Hastings Park, Vancouver, B.C., is not established as a Work Camp, but mail to or from Japanese being held there is to be dealt with in the manner specified for Work Camps.

It is not intended that the above instruction for diversion of letters to Vancouver should apply to the mail of Canadian Officials in charge at the Work Camps.

G.H.Clarke, District Director.

Figure 2. Censorship instructions for camps.

Dutchman Head

by Andrew Scott

One of the most unusual items I acquired from Bill Topping when he disposed of his BC postal history collection was a small envelope dated PM/5 II/53 and postmarked Dutchman Head, BC. The cover had a rectangular registration box and two clear circular datestamps in black ink tying a two-cent Wilding definitive. Inside the cover were two pieces of paper with identically dated CDSs in purple ink. The cover had no address or other writing on it but looked authentic. The two-cent stamp, of course, did not pay any legitimate postal rate, and was considerably shortpaid for registration.

Dutchman Head was an unfamiliar name to me. I searched the BC Geographical Names Office website and learned that the origin of the name was unknown, but that it had first appeared on British Admiralty Chart 581, dated 1867, and from then, on revised charts, until the present day. The location given by George H Melvin in *The Post Offices of British Columbia, 1858-1970*, was "at north end of Knight Inlet." "Apparently," wrote Melvin, "this office never opened." There was no record of the office at Library and Archives Canada, in Ottawa. And besides, another post office, named Knight Inlet, operated 50 km to the south of Dutchman Head, at Glendale Cove, from 1919 to 1949.

Considering the isolated location of Dutchman Head and the small number of people who lived in the area, it is not surprising that the plan for a post office—if there ever was one—never came to fruition. BC mountaineer and journalist Don Munday wrote about exploring BC's Coast range in his entertaining book, *The Unknown Mountain*."Nothing less than a 16-foot tide," he claimed, "would permit passing the mudflats below the cliffs of Dutchman Head. We landed at the foot of a rockslide, no other place offering. This knobby headland may have been named in humorous derision. We dubbed its inland spur 'Dutchman's Ear."

Munday, his wife Phyllis, and their climbing colleagues used to stop at the head of Knight Inlet, where the Klinaklini River meets salt water, to visit Jim and Laurette Stanton, an American couple who had built a home there and become well-known in the region. Jim Stanton worked as a guide and a trapper; Laurette gardened and raised (but did not kill) pigs. Their unusual way of life and close proximity to the natural world became the subjects of a best-selling 1956 biography, *Grizzlies in Their Backyard*, by Beth Day.

Does anyone else have any information about Dutchman Head?



Figure 1. Cancelled but unaddressed cover from Dutchman Head.

A British Columbia Connection to "The Waltons"

By Morris Beattie from a presentation by Ron Leith on Nov. 1, 2022

In what we like to call "Social Philately", we often find interesting detail about not just the postal markings, rates etc. that are displayed on a cover but also about the people and places named on these covers. The cover shown here is a perfect example of such a find.

At first glance it is an unassuming cover; neatly written, franked and cancelled. I came across this cover in the course of an ongoing study of Victoria cork cancels. The 3-cent small queen stamp is cancelled with the latest reported date of Wellburn no. V.57, 9-bar duplex cancel dated April 29, 1890. It was sent from Victoria and addressed to pioneer BC settler Robert Carson at his Pavilion Mountain ranch.

Pavilion Mountain is located along the Cariboo gold rush trail built in 1862 by Sgt. Major John McMurphy of the Royal Engineers and is located partway between Lillooet and Clinton. By the 1890s the regular Ashcroft-Lillooet stage service routed over Pavilion Mountain. This cover was routed through Clinton on May 2, 1890.

Although earlier settlers inhabited the mountain, enterprising Scottish-born Robert Carson (1841-1911) who had originally immigrated to the USA, bought the land here and in 1867, became the first permanent resident. He gradually bought out other ranchers in the area and created "Carson's Kingdom" where his sizeable log cabin also served as a roadhouse for stagecoach passengers. The Lillooet to Burrard Inlet cattle trail construction in 1877 was largely influenced by Carson.

The Carsons raised a large family with an emphasis on education. Three of their sons eventually became lawyers and prominent cabinet ministers in the BC legislature.

The Pavilion Mountain ranchland stayed in the Carson family until 1942 when Colonel Victor Spencer purchased the spread. In 1949, Spencer acquired the Bryson Ranch, comprising land on the mountain and in the valley below. The combined Carson and Bryson holdings became the "Diamond S Ranch", the largest ranch in BC at the time.

The Carson story was later adapted for the movie "Spencer's Mountain" with Henry Fonda playing the part of Carson and Maureen O'Hara as his wife. Subsequently, the film became the basis for the hugely-popular "The Waltons" television series.



Figure 1. 1890 cover from Victoria to Pavilion Mountain with Type V.57, 9 bar duplex cancel.

Unreported Internment Cover – World War 1 – Mara Lake

by Tracy Cooper

During World War 1 over 8000 mainly European immigrants, were classified by the war-time Government of Canada as 'enemy aliens' and were interned in 24 various locations across several provinces of Canada along with captured Prisoners of War. The collecting of these internment covers is a popular philatelic area of Canadian and war time philately.

Bailey and Toop in their 1995 two volume book, *Canadian Military Postal Markings* noted that: "Early in 1915 captured German sailors were transferred from Jamaica and Bermuda to Canadian camps. A large camp was opened at Amherst, N.S. and later, additional camps were opened in Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia."

A particularly distinct style of handstamp used at these camps was a 36 mm large CDS being characterized by the phrase 'PASSED BY INTERNMENT CENSOR". These markings are generally very scarce with only the similar marking from Vernon being more common.

From British Columbia, Passed by Internment Censor markings are reported from: MORRISEY, NANAIMO and VERNON with markings from the camps at EDGEWOOD, MARA and REVELSTOKE/FIELD as unreported. As no proof strikes exist from these towns, it was not known if this style of marking was in fact issued from these camps.

This first report from the Internment Camp at Mara Lake addressed to the Victoria Daily Times is dated OCT 11 1916 and was posted at SICAMOUS/B.C. on October 12th with the two cent War Tax cancelled with the duplex hammer in use at the time. The receiver noted in manuscript "From interned German at Sicamous Internment Camp." A very rare and important report from this small camp demonstrating that perhaps even the smallest camps received this general censorship marking.



Figure 1. Cover mailed from Internment camp, receiving "Mara Lake, B.C Internment Censor" marking.