

# BNAPS FANCY CANCEL & MISCELLANEOUS MARKINGS NEWSLETTER 94

Apr. 2023

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**Group News.** I wish all of you a happy and warm Spring, the moss in my front yard is doing just fine right now. Since it is also April, may I also wish all of you a Happy Income Tax Month Eh. Also known by the {new} Canadian acronym "HITME". Sorry, I love playing with the language and could not help myself!

Thanks to the dozen of you whom have sent in material for this Newsletter. Without your help we could not have this group. I would also like to thank Gregoire Teyssier for sending two scans from his listings which are useful to all of us. [gteyssier@videotron.ca](mailto:gteyssier@videotron.ca) I am always asking for MORE MATERIAL for the newsletter, I would also ask that if any of you see an item for sale anywhere that you think would be appropriate, please send me a reference. I am a researcher, do not have a collection and am thus not competing with any of you to purchase anything.

## REVISIONS TO PREVIOUS NEWSLETTERS

Newsletter 93, Dec. 2022, pg. 7, the WWII "military" cover at right. My statement regarding the Special Delivery cancel "Special Delivery stamps to foreign destinations were supposed to be cancelled by the receiving country." Is a bit too general and should be ignored. Also, the purple marking at bottom right is a "Keyhole Registration Marking" and would have been applied at the sending PO and not in the U.K. Thanks to the two of you for sending these corrections. I have a rather "thick skin" and do not mind being corrected especially when I am bumbling along outside of my area of expertise. Our Study Group allows us "to git it rite". Please send in any other corrections. There are still two odd features about this cover, everything but the SD stamp was cancelled by the sending office. This is a small somewhat isolated PO, and perhaps the PM was unsure what to do regarding a foreign destination Special Delivery item, he treated it as registered. It appears to have received a WWII blackout cancel in transit or at destination. The other curious item is the transected Airmail sticker. This was done on purpose. Why?



I have asked in several newsletters when the mass of covers to "Ontario Crown Lands" first hit the market. Research into Richard Creighton's material (See pg. 6 ) indicated that it was for sale in fairly large lots in 1956 & 1957 by a New York City auction firm. This is earlier than I thought, and also not in Canada.

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## CORRESPONDENCE AND QUERIES

Guy Jefferies sent in the items below with the suggestion that they should be listed as fancy cancels. I agree, but would like to state my primary criteria for such listings. Firstly, I like to see more than one strike of the cancel, and in a perfect world an on cover example. This avoids listing something apparently creative, but really just a unique strike from some PM using a rag on a stick as a canceller. Secondly, I like to see some sense of meaning to the design, whether an initial, flower or whatever. Any PM could in a few seconds randomly slash a cork with his pocket knife and unless you are doing a postal history study of a specific PO the cork has little meaning. Some of the geometric designs may have had “meanings” in their day, Fraternal Society symbols, or even PO codes – for example a small panned in “X in a circle” means “reused stamp”. Thirdly, the cork has to be compared with other similar corks so that the new item is not just a heavy, weak, left handed etc. strike of something already recorded. Fourth, I did a detailed study about 15 years ago on how to detect forged or bogus fancy cancels. There were 23 different “things to look for”. Some require the stamp to be on cover, or backside views etc. Fifth, there are more modern methods such as spectral ink analysis etc. Finally (I could go on...), but piecemeal listings of any items over time results in collation errors, double listings, missed listings etc. Modern data base technology partly resolves these last issues. Smythies probably used “knitting needle card files” to sort his hand drawn illustrations.

Several newsletters ago I suggested I would go backwards in the old newsletters and prepare a sortable listing of all “L” numbers by newsletter number. This (as well as other uses) would identify what should be new listings. This went over like the proverbial lead balloon there was no support or interest from our group. I got back to about NL 26 before I gave up. There were about 20 items which could be “new listings”. I invite any comments on any of the above.

Having said the above, Guy’s items fulfill most criteria and probably should be new listings.



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Guy's first item, previous page, (Black Creek Ont. July 1 1880) is probably an example of an everyday (1880's) item 'pressed' into use as a cancel, in this case a manual beard trimmer. Men were particularly hirsute in that era. (See our Appendix 3, Pg. 204 for other "Utilitarian" items.) There are unfortunately 37 "Black Creeks" in Ontario, however Jarrett lists a similar (Jar. 905) cancel from "Ottawa 1880" and there is a location with this name east of Ottawa. Tentatively L 1608a.

This cancel is on a circular from Montreal, with June 1878 as the circular's date. The three on stamp items are probably L 1619, Drummondville East Que., Jan. 1882 –Jan. 1883. Should the cover be listed as "similar to..." ?



This is from Gravenhurst Ont., 1876 (backstamp), tentatively L1656a. Gravenhurst used several different types of fancies between 1875 and 1885, including Masonic, star, cross, letters ("A", "W", not PM's initial) and other geometrics. There are probably meanings here that we just don't 'get'.

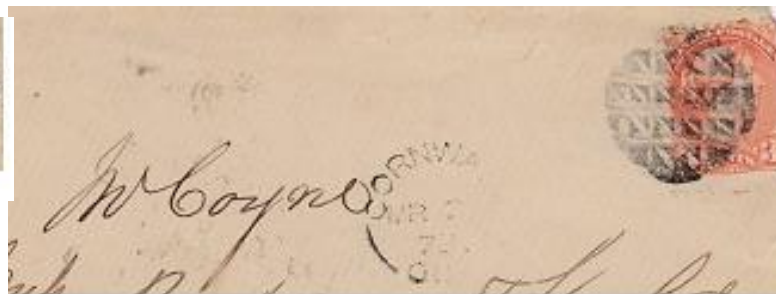


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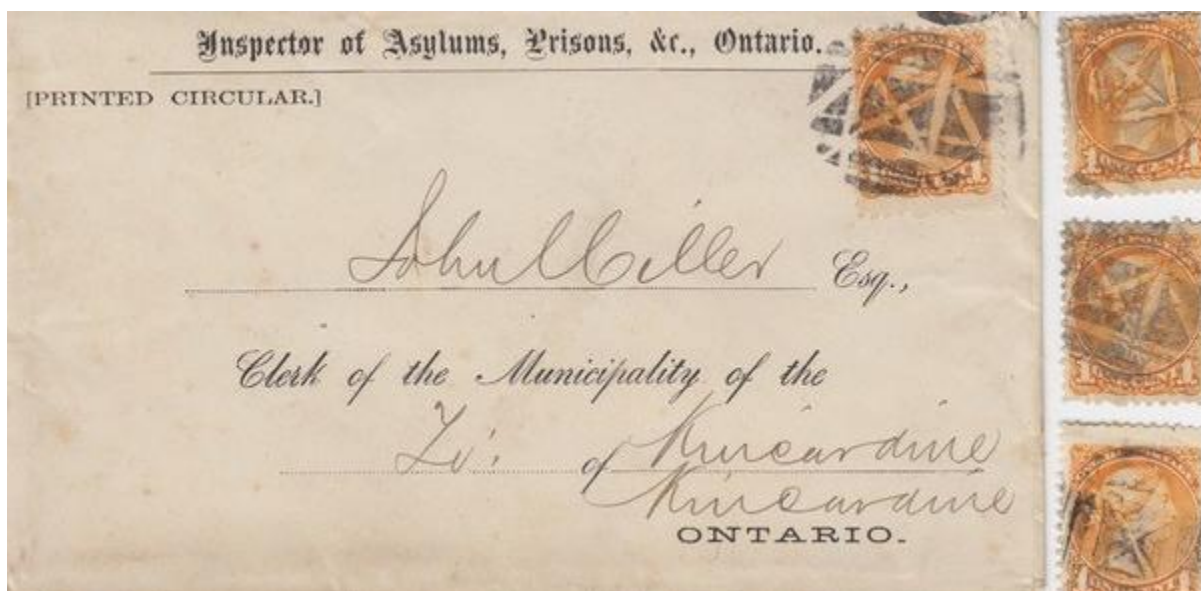
Another  
Gravenhurst  
Ont. cancel  
Aug. 1880. I  
see this as an  
initial "C" and  
tentatively list  
as L 327a. It  
may also be a  
"G" (Masonic?)  
or an "O". See  
previous page  
regarding different types of fancies from Gravenhurst. Anyone else have one of these?



This is our D 757 which I had described as "spurious". It is listed in D&S as D&S 859, Cornwall Ont., Oct. 1873. (? year typo?) and now as Mar. 1878. To me it is still just a slashed/ribbed cork however with two covers known, and previously listed in D&S, perhaps it should be listed? Tentatively L 1695a with the D&S year date corrected to 1878. Cornwall does not have any other listed fancy cancels.



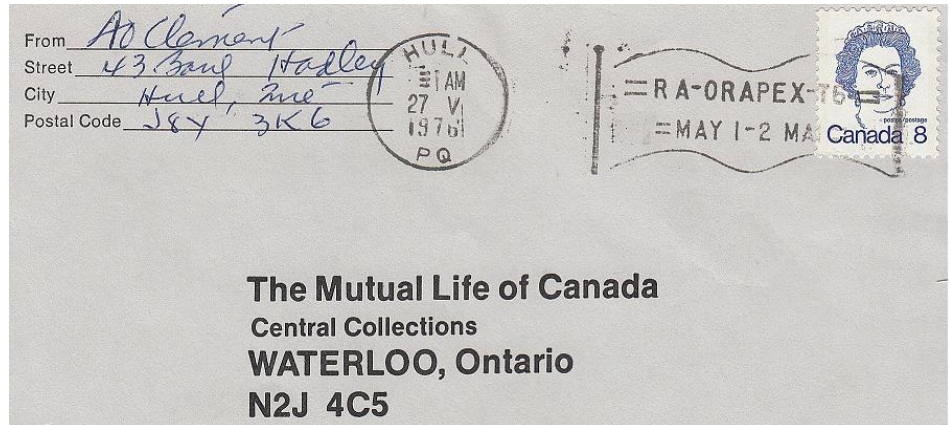
I am quite sure this is our L1674a (in 3<sup>rd</sup> Ed. of our book.) as above. Not located,



but on stamp from 1875. These are early orange yellows from about 1873. It is probably from the provincial government in Toronto as "ONTARIO" is preprinted. The book illustration is poor as it was highlighted from a weak strike on a dark stamp.

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And now for something completely different... a modern fancy flag cancel (about 1/2 scale) from Hull Quebec advertising ORAPEX in Ottawa. See page 11 regarding ORAPEX 2023. The cancel was used for several weeks and is not rare. Thank you Larry.



Randy Evans sent in these three items. The first is L1482, a Railway PO fancy cancel, L&P.S, RR July 1879 – Mar. 1880. The cancel device seems to be quite soft, possibly made of sealing wax? The



Railway clerk really did his job well. I have seen the next item several times but never on cover. Anyone got one? I would probably list this as a star rather than a radial. The last item is a \$1.00 Sc. 122 issued in 1923. The cancel is probably several partial heavy strikes of something like an “R” registration marking. It may also be a fiscal usage, or from a bulk mailing receipt, the higher values were usually cancelled very well.

Guy Teyssier has this in his current offerings. It is from Baillieboro Ont., and both CDS and cancel are in blue. The cancel at first looks like a standard “bulls eye”, but closer examination reveals lettering or at least some sort of pattern. It may be a private wax seal, or some military



medal/button being used as a cancel. Have any of you seen a similar cancel?

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Richard Creighton sent in a few comments regarding the fancy cancels from Port Carling, Ont. and mentioned that he had not seen one of the reported "MS" (Muskoka Steamer) covers. This led me to check my database regarding these cancels. There were 21 "MS" references (some duplication) and a



total of eight covers. As mentioned on page one, all except one were to the Crown Lands Department in Toronto. This consistency is unusual, however some PM's used their fancy initial or routing markings on "Official" or important looking mail. The exception was to an MPP in Toronto, also an important looking item. All were used between Apr. 1874, and Feb. 1875. There were also two different fancy PM initial cancels ("BHJ") used from early 1875 to 1879. The suggestion that "MS" stood for "Muskoka Steamer" was made in an article by W.J. Scott in Popular Stamps Magazine in May 1957. If all the "MS" covers were on C.L.D. correspondence sold in 1956, then how did Jarrett know in 1929 that the cancel was associated with Port Carling? This last point indicates there were earlier (then 1956) MS covers on the market. Do any of you have any? Richard would like to know of these I am sure.

As mentioned in N.L. 93, here are the other items sent in by Richard Hautala.



L1227a Not located  
L662 Newton ON  
L1135 Kingston ON  
L1487 (Type)  
L377 Not located



A few more details are in order. L1227a was originally believed to be a "blob", later strikes showed "leaf" details. L 662, full PO name is Newton Robinson. L1135 is part of the "Kingston crosses" series, PM Deacon was probably referring to the religious nature of his name. L377, probably "DS" initials, anyone got a cover?

Brian Hargreaves sent in this "Thames" cancel which he had never seen before. Neither have I. It is a soft rubber hammer re-cancelling a pen cancel, and could have been applied in transit. A UK use is also possible; there have been ferries on the London Thames forever. There is even an ancient name for the operators "The Rivermen". Any Rivermen out there who could provide more info?



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Martin Schofield has been working on his Miramichi and Chatham NB material and has sent in these covers.

This is a new location for L1515 (Type). Chatham NB, Dec. 1873. Chatham used several other corks in the 1870's and also used receiver cancels on otherwise poorly cancelled mail. Note how the PM is lining up his items, the cover below this one would get half of the CDS from the bottom of this cover, same for the cover above.



This is L1035, Chatham NB, Jan. 1872 – Apr. 1874.

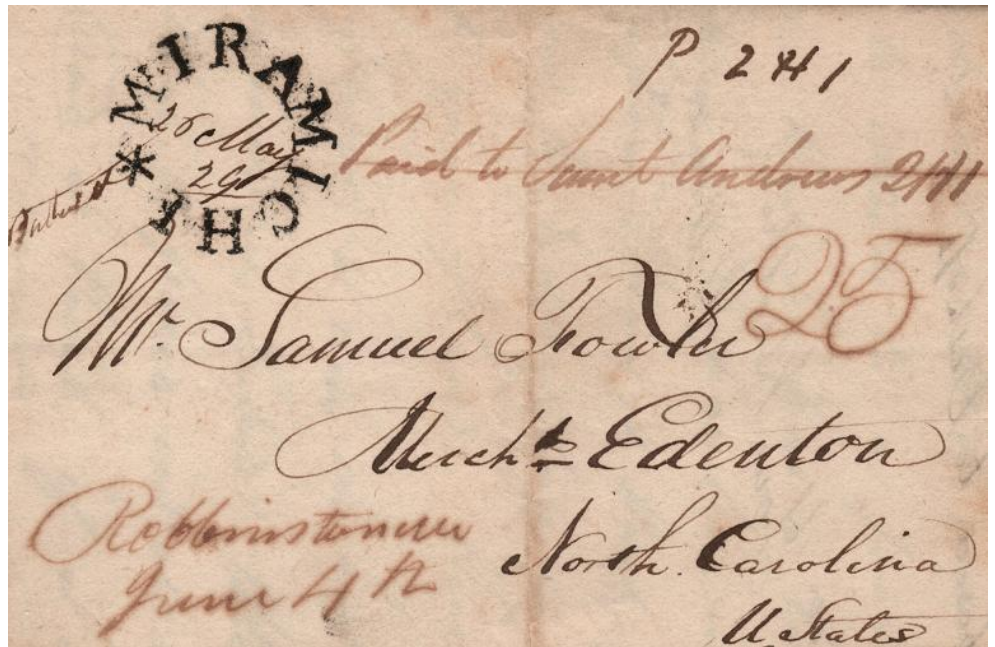


This is a commonly used eight segment cork, with some damage to the top. Chatham NB, Aug. 1882.



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Martins last item is this stampless cover from Miramichi \* May 1829. The CDS is very primitive, and appears homemade. It may have been enhanced by a straight pen, probably by the PM. The CDS has a star instead of any other areal designation. Martin informs me that Dorchester, Saint John and Sussex also used stars at this time. These stars may be a bit of a socio- political statement as the population in "New Brunswick" at this time was not homogenous and consisted of Native, French, Acadian, English and recent Irish emigrants. Note also the use of English Including "May:" in the CDS. Neat stampless item!



Something different above again. We should not be serious all the time! Merville PM liked it too. Thank you Mr. Wiseman

I have recently seen a French style diamond grid cancel with "SPM" (Saint Pierre Miquelon), a tiny Colony of France south of Newfoundland in the centre on a Small Queen. I have been unable to obtain further information. It was similar to our D105. All three examples of this France diamond grid style of cancel on Canada are bogus, see D42, D49, D105. Similar diamond grids were used by Spiro on stamp forgeries. Later CDS type Ste. Pierre Miquelon cancels on Canada and NFLD are genuine.





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The three items at right were recently offered for sale as bogus or fake. Two of them may be genuine.



The first, a 3cent SQ with "OnHMS" overprint (On His Majesty's

Service) was first reported by Fred Jarrett in 1929. Stamps had been perforated with OHMS since 1923, however official OHMS overprints were not used until 1949. The abbreviation OHMS or On H.M.S was used on official government mail since at least the 1890's. Some of the "fancy" covers produced by Henry Hechler (A creative Halifax stamp dealer) had "SERVICE" or "OFFICIAL" overprints, but he did not appear to have used OHMS possibly because he might get in trouble with the PO. Fred Jarrett on page 64 of his book asks his readers for any

information on an 1880 printing 1 cent SQ. overprinted "On H M S". He does not show the stamp but the overprint is at right. I was

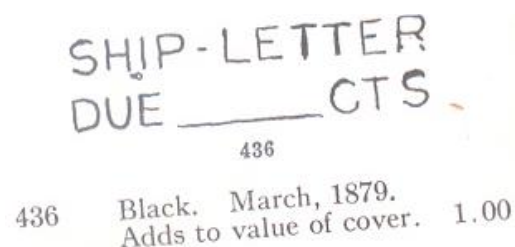
able to obtain the illustration at right in the 1990's. The letter order in the item above is On H S M (!) otherwise a used 3 cent SQ

of similar vintage. Was some PO employee in the 1880's messing around with one of those new fangled typewriter things and a sheet of stamps? Any other examples out there?



The second item, a 3 cent crossed out and "5" is more likely a fake. Other "5" fake overprints are known and there is a general consensus that there was no need to overprint "5".

The last item, with the "SHIP LETTER" marking is probably genuine and is listed in Jarrett as 436. The "2" and "PAID" marks were used in many PO's.



### FAKES, BOGUS, AND SPURIOUS ITEMS

Other than the above possibilities, I have no fakes etc.this time.

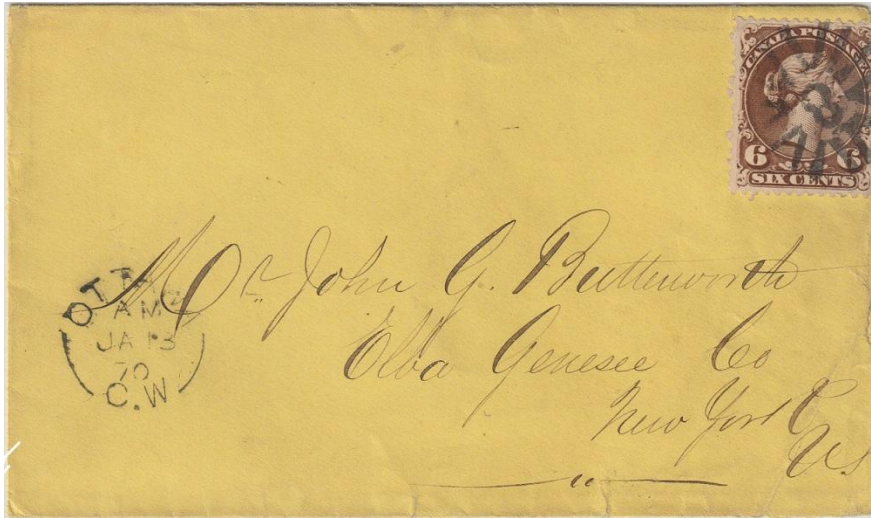
I am pleased to report that Ron Smith has published an extensive article on Lester Littlefield (aka Bogusman) which nicely ties together the material from many of our newsletters as well as other material. See our Appendix 8 for 35 examples of bogus cancels which can be tied (so to speak) to Lester Littlefield. Ron's Philatelic Specialist article is posted here [www.philatelicsspecialistsociety.com/publications.php#Edge](http://www.philatelicsspecialistsociety.com/publications.php#Edge)

I had intended to do a bit of research into seven of the LL covers in our Appendix 8 which were sold as bogus items in 2010 for commonalities. Next newsletter....

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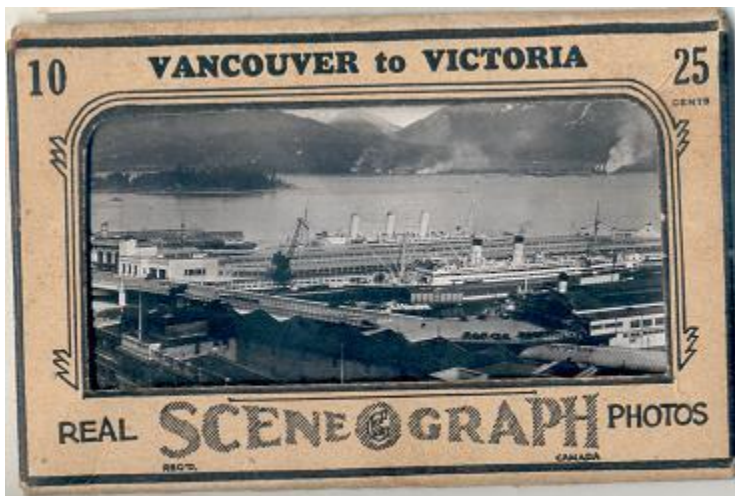
## READER'S WRITE by Mike Halhed

In our hobby, new discoveries don't happen every day, esp. after 100+ years of BNA philately. The cover below is showing a fancy L97 (also listed in Jarrett's 1923 Catalogue as #143) . It's out of an Ottawa Large Queen collection and part of a five letter correspondence between the two Butterworth brothers. The stamp is tied to the right of the fancyl. It provides us with the first known dated cover showing use on 1870-01-13. It was replaced two weeks later on 1870-01-31 by an unremarkable 8-Segment Radial cork on a double weight cover to the US. L97 also appears to be the earliest fancy used in Ottawa after the 2-Ring 8 (last known 1870-04-30) and Ottawa Duplex DBE62 . This duplex was used occasionally until 1872-04-28 according to the PHSC website) which fell out of common use. The 2-Ring 8 and Duplex were rarely used thereafter for reasons unknown but perhaps because the Ottawa PM decided to follow the trend to use fancy cork cancels to obliterate stamps. L97 was most likely in use for only 3-4 weeks in January of 1870.



## MISCELLANEOUS

This souvenir "Scenograph" mail out 10 photo set fell out of a drawer at home. Illustration is about ¾ scale. It is mint (never sent) and is from about 1939. I note that the new Lion's Gate Bridge (opened Nov. 1938) among other superlatives is "... first bridge in Canada with clover-leaf approaches". If any of you would like it, just make me an offer.



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## ORAPEX 2023

ORAPEX, the Ottawa Regional Association of Philatelic Exhibitions, returned in 2022 after a two-year absence. The show was a huge success.

2023 will mark the 60th anniversary of this show, which is managed by volunteers drawn from the RA Stamp Club, the Amicale des philatélistes de l'Outaouais, the Ottawa Philatelic Society and related philatelic societies and organizations. ORAPEX is one of only a few national-level stamp shows held annually in Canada and is part of the American Philatelic Society's "World Series of Philately."

Saturday, May 6	10am-6pm
Sunday, May 7	10am-4pm

Nepean Sportsplex  
1701 Woodroffe Avenue  
Ottawa, Ontario K2G 1W2  
Free admission and parking.

And finally, let me wish you all well. I started this newsletter with a new word acronym pun and shall end with same. I know it has very little to do with our field, but....

If you see something from Artificial Intelligence which just ain't true could it be called an "AINT" short for "Artificial Intelligence Not True"?

Just asking.... |

T.C.

Dave. Lacelle

& **PLEASE** send some stuff for the next newsletter.