#### THE R.P.O.NEWSLETTER

OF THE CANADIAN R.P.O.STUDY GROUP (B.N.A.P.S.)

Volume 26 - No.2

Whole No.133

December, 1997

CONGRATULATIONS TO: our Members Geoffrey Walburn of Kelowna, B.C. on being elected as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada at their Annual Meeting in Calgary; and J.Don Wilson of St. John's, Newfoundland, on being elected as a Fellow of the Order of the Beaver at the BNAPS Annual Meeting in St. John's.

A Sad Commentary on the State of Railways in Canada, from the Financial Post. Fall, 1997 -



1997-98 DUES OWING - \$ 10 Canadian, \$ 9 U.S. or 5 Pounds Sterling if box checked.

**CONTENTS** - This issue contains quite a few new reports from various members, two pages and a map from Leahy's Hotel Guide & Railway Distance Guide of America, submitted by Jim Felton, some recent news of the sale of CPR track in Ouebec, a few historic photographs, and an obituary from the London Times of the late Robson Lowe, a great Postal Historian.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORTs - Should appear in Annex XVII -

213

Ara 4 61 WASH - N BAY / R. COTE - 0-425B -A. COTE New Early Date 4/1/67. Train 213 Reporter 293

Late date is 2/3/68, Reporter 16.

TOR & SUD /(Name removed) - 0-415 -Type 22A, 4/13/65 RF 500, Reporter 293.

This report - and those above and below were in Bob Lee's May 1997 Sale.

TORASUD 4



Mark.

TOR. & SUDBURY / (Name Removed) - 0-414Cb Type 7B, Train 3, 4/25/65, Reporter 293.

A De-listing - TS-330 - MONTREAL / CANADA -No. 357, Type 6F, 4/27/?, Reporter 108.

This run was listed in 1981 on the assumption that the "No.357" represented a train number. This was a pool train which left Quebec City at 11:55 PM and arrived in Montreal at 7:30 AM daily. There is no record of this train running west of Montreal - but the listing cover was mailed in Montreal, addressed to Sarnia, Ontario.

A New Listing - TS-196 - NORTHERN ALBERTA RAILWAYS / ?????/ E.W.BYFORD / TRA.23 DEC 6 1932 / LAC LA BICHE - WATERWAYS RTE. Type 22C, RF 500\*, Reporter 329

This is the first report of a mail clerk marking from the eastern or Fort McMurray branch of the Northern Alberta Railways. As shown by the ????? above, the second line of the marking is unintelligible.



#### THE OTTAWA CITIZEN

#### **STAMPS • CHARLES VERGE**

Always happy, showing pleasure in seeing you and greeting you with the words of Wilbur the pig in Charlotte's Web, "Salutations, my fancy way of saying hello," is how I will always remember Ron Kitchen who died last Sunday of cancer. Ron was a stalwart of many of the Ottawa stamp clubs. Although his collecting interests were eclectic, he specialized in Ottawa post card views and military and railway mail. Constantly accompanied by at least two cameras, he took it upon himself to record, during the last three decades, the history of philately and stamp collecting in the Ottawa area. These efforts will stand as a memorial to him. Our condolences to Lillian, his wife of 55 years, and to his

Charles Verge is vice-president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada. For questions and comments, write to him c/o The Citizen, 1101 Baxter Rd., Box 5020, Ottawa K2C 3M4. He can also be reached on Internet at: vergec@sympatico.ca

### VERNOU DAILY NEWS -

Is it not time that No. 374-that old patriarch who so manfully struggles up and down our valley-was relegated to the home for aged and worn out engines, if such exists. On Saturday she toiled into Armstrong nearly three hours late, on the southward trip. Returning in the evening, between Vernon and this town, her fire-tox became detached-an accident which would have been serious on any other lineand only with the end of namerous pieces of wire and scrap was she coaxed into Armstrong. This was about 8 o'cleck, and the remarks of some of her supperiess passengers are hardly fla for publication. S2P. 7, 1905

Robson Lowe, philatelist and publisher, died on August 19 aged 92. He was born on January 7, 1905.

IN THE sphere of philately over the past seven decades, no name has become better known worldwide than that of Robson Lowe — known as "Robbie" by anyone who had spoken to him more than once.

He was regarded as the fount of knowledge not only in the field of adhesive postage stamps issued in the British Empire, but also of the earlier handstruck markings which signified that postage had or had not been prepaid. He virtually created the study and collection of items of postal history. His book Handstruck Postage Stamps of the Empire 1680-1900 pioneered the study of these markings.

He will be remembered for many things, perhaps mostly for his labours in editing and preparing for publication the six-volume Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps (1948-90), although to his regret this is incomplete with regard to Southern America and Antarctica. Among his other books were Codrington Correspondence (1951), which details the postal history of a dossier of letters from Antigua, and The British Postage Stamp (1968).

The activity that gave him the greatest personal satisfaction was the acquisition and removal from the market of the stock of the notorious forger Jean de Sperati, who refused to admit that his productions were anything other than works of art—artifice would have been a less objectionable term. His two-volume exposé of the forgeries appeared in 1955 and is perhaps his best work.

Lowe was an indefatigable philatelic publisher. In 1934 he started a magazine called *The Raconteur*, which became *The Philatelist and Raconteur* and then *The Philatelist* in 1937, after he had acquired the title to a magazine of that name first published in 1866. His most recent periodical publication was *The Philatelist and Philatelist Journal of Great Britain*, which last appeared in July 1997.

ROBSON LOWE

He was a man of great



puckish charm, with a fund of stories and jokes. Perhaps it was his Irish sense of humour that resulted in a four-item entry in his 88-page *Index to The Philatelist and The Philatelist and P.J.G.B.* (1980) with a heading "Entries with Reference Number Missing".

Robbie Lowe began trading in stamps as a schoolboy, and recorded that his first year yielded a profit of £100.

At a dinner marking his 70 years as a dealer, he related how in 1920 he joined the stamp dealers Fox & Co, at South Kensington — and lasted only a day. The managing director asked Lowe into his room to chat about his reasons for going into the stamp business, and Lowe explained that he wanted to learn how a good business

was run so that he could start his own. Naturally loath to train a rival, the boss fired him on the spot.

In 1926 Lowe managed to set himself up in business in Regent Street, London, as Robson Lowe Ltd. Ten years later the firm began stamp auctions, which continued until being taken over by Christie's in 1980.

He regularly attended international philatelic exhibitions in Europe, America and the Far East. He was also responsible for much of the organisation of the international stamp exhibition at the Festival Hall in 1960.

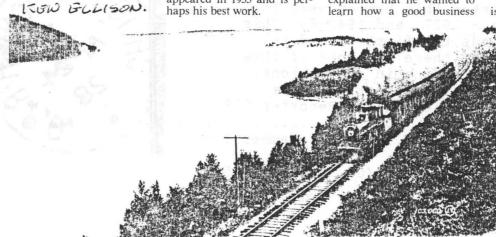
His collecting and studying activities were remarkable. He was forever starting new collections. One which gave him intense pleasure was several albums of Valentines: lacy cards of the mid-Victorian era and later.

He was a strong philatelic propagandist, and encouraged people of all kinds to partake of the delights of studying the objects of their acquisition.

Many philatelic honours were bestowed on him, all over the world. He was the first member of the trade to be awarded honorary membership of the Royal Philatelic Society London, in 1991, and in 1983 he became president of the Cinderella Stamp Club.

However, eminence has its perils and temptations. Occasionally, Lowe used his authority to make assertions for which the evidence was ambivalent. His business was certainly at the service of his publishing, and it may be that his publishing was sometimes excessively at the service of his business. Commercially too, he sometimes sailed close to the wind.

His wife died in 1972, but he is survived by two daughters.



A Limited along the Bras d'Or Lakes, Nova Scotia Submitted by Don Wilson

#### MORE NEW REPORTS -

Horace Harrison has pointed out an error in the Type definition section of the Catalogue. Please refer to Page 240, Type 4D. The definition should read - "Like Type 4, except ends of run are joined by single line arc or arcs, with or without dot in centre. His example is listing N-47, which has a central dot at bottom.

DENCE

From Bill Topping - S-102,46-

BRITISH COLUMBIA /
COAST SERVICE /
PURSER'S OFFICE /
S/S PRINCESS ALICE

Type 1J. August 1, 1917 RF 500, Reporter 97 A Late date of January 1:

A Late date of January 13, 1935 is also reported.

From Bob Lee - W-149B -

SOURIS & REGINA R.P.O./ J.N.DOW, R.M.C.

Type 3D, Train 56, 2/17/12 RF 500, Reporter 179

From Jim Felton - MA-59, Hammer II -

This strike is dated before the proof date of 12/9/48 reported for this hammer. The XI slug was probably used in place of the XII by the mail clerk. Reporter 258.

From Jim Felton - MA-53, Hammer VII -

Ludlow reported this hammer used for two periods - 1927, and 1941-63. This strike extends the first period to 4/24/28. Maybe there are more of these early strikes hiding in collections. How about some more reports? This strike is magnified twice. Reporter 258.

Also from Jim Felton - NNA-255, Hammer I -

A new early date - 9/12/00, Reporter 258





FEB 17





A Page from Jim Felton -

MA-125 - Ludlow reports two distinct periods of use - 1913-23, and 1935-54.

Here is a report of 8/23/27, between these two. Any more reports /



W-89 - Hammer 2 - An interesting ding in the rim



MA-62 - December 8. 7 An inverted M for a W in the Indicia-



MA-131a. Hammer I -An early date - 1/8/14. Hammer proofed 12/3/13.





O-362 - Hammer I has a short horizontal bar on the "L", while Hammer II has a normal "L". Note also the return trip markings for Hammer II, both "N" and "S" on June 17, 1904.





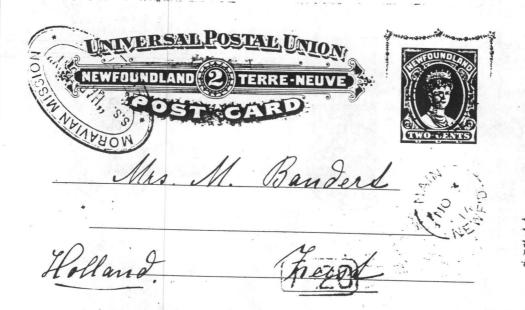


O-272 - Jim reports a clear maltese cross at the bottom of the strike.

no year date, but a clear "76" below the month and day. It can't be a train number. Does anyone have an explanation?



From Kevin O'Reilly - A new listing - S-178, Type 3, 11/12/10 to 11/3/14, RF 500, Reporter 329.





John Watson reports 0-166A, LONDON & WINOSOR R.P.O. dated 12/18/09. This is a new late date by Reporter 333. Reduce RF to 400.

The Financial Post August 23, 1997

## CN to transfer two lines in Ontario to Railink

TORONTO — Canadian National Railway Co. has agreed in principle to transfer through a 21-year lease two freight lines in southern Ontario to Edmonton-based shortline operator, RaiLink Ltd.

The deal for one line, the 90-kilometre Brantford-to-Nanticoke line known as the Hagersville Subdivision, is scheduled to close in September. The second deal, for a 7-km spur line in the north end of Hamilton, is to close in December. Together the lines handle about 35,000 carloads of freight a year and are expected to generate annual revenue of \$6 million for RaiLink.

Transfer of the lines is part of CN's three-year plan to shed about 9,600 kilometres of track by 2000.

- Peter Fitzpatrick/FF

# CPR unit finds buyer for big portion of Quebec track

BY PETER FITZPATRICK

Transportation Reporter The Financial Post

St. Lawrence & Hudson Railway Co. has found a buyer for a huge portion of its tracks in Quebec.

The subsidiary of Canadian Pacific Railway Co. said yesterday it is in final negotiations with Montreal-based Genesee Rail-One for the 590-kilometre rail corridor linking Quebec City, Montreal and Hull.

The line serves about 70 industrial customers and carries 35,000 carloads of freight annually.

St. L&H put the line up for sale in January, saying it was looking for a buyer or partner to operate it as part of CPR's three-year plan to shed 8,656 km of line by 1999.

"The sale of these assets will enable the St. L&H to restructure its rail network and to focus on its two core corridors linking Montreal and Toronto with Chicago on the one hand, and extending to the U.S. northeast as far as Philadelphia and Washington on the other," said Jacques Coté, St. L&H president.

The agreement is expected to be finalized by mid-November.

No details of the deal were provided, but the line will be operated by GRO's subsidiary, Les Chemin de fer Québec-Gatineau. GRO is a Canadian shortline railway whose principal shareholders are Quebec-based Cygnus Group and Genesee and Wyoming Inc. of Greenwich, Conn.

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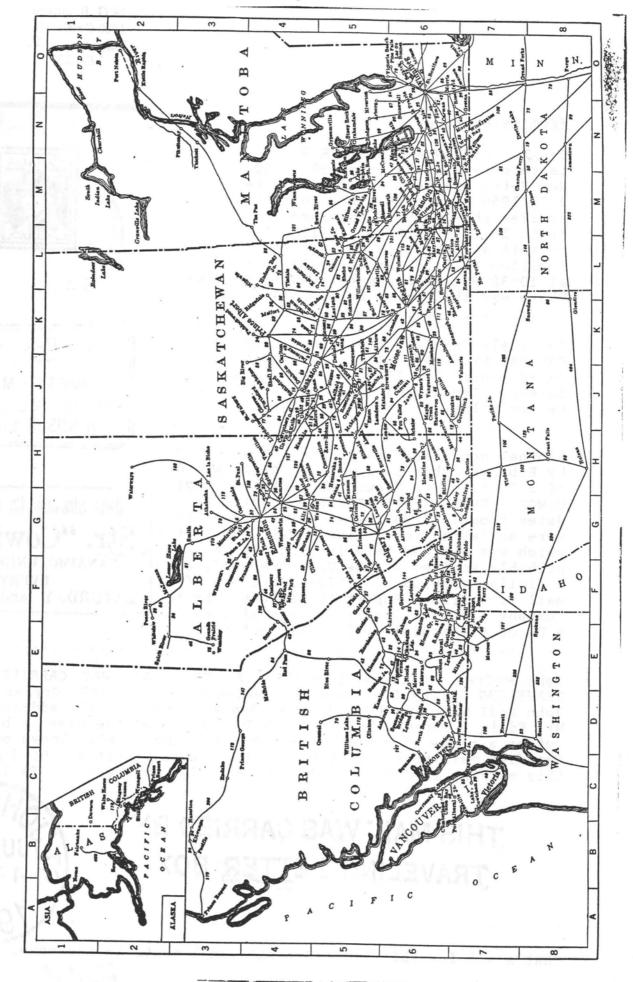
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BASSANO, 799 H-6	CARDSTON 1 612 P-7	EDS
HUNTER 47RE 1.25 up	CARDSTON, 1,612 P-7 Canadian Pacific CAHOON SOR 38 1.50	EMP
RAWLE. 300	SPENCER 17R E .76	ENTW
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	LELAND SOR E 1.00 us
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Canadian Pacific	EMPRESS, 700 CP
Canadian Pacific AHOON 56R	ENTWICTIP
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ARESHOLM. 1.000	PORTLAND 10R A 1.00
Canadian Pacific	GIBSON A 3.50
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Canadian Pacific	OUREN'S SSR A S.O.
LEMAN. 1.590	OADSBY, 300 OXFORD 30B A 3.00
LEMAN, 1.590 Canadian Pacific OLEMAN 40R E 1.00 up	Canadian Pacific
MPIRE 23R A 2.00 up	GLEICHEN, 668 G-6
MPIRE 23R A 2.00 up NION 30R A 2.50	Canadian Pacific
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UXTTS, 500 H-7	ALBERTA 35B A 3.30
WLEY, 1,000	GPASSV LAVE 278
	GRASSY LAKE, 375 GRASSY LAKE, 375 GRASSY LAKE 20R 1.00 m
UWLEI BOR A 8.00	GRASSY LAKE 20R 1.00 m
OSSFIELD. 350	HANNA, 1.364 H-
Canadian Pacific	NATIONAL 75R E 1.5
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SBURY, 900 Canadian Pasite OSEBUD SOR E 1.50	HARDISTY, 517 He-

HIGH RIVER, 1,200	M
HIGH RIVER. 1,200 Canadian Pacific ASTORIA 60R	
ST. GEORGE 40R. H 1.50 up	
HILLCREST, 1,000	
UNION 33B A 2.00	
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IRVINE 356	м
GREAT WESTE .78 up	m
JASPER PARK ATHABASCA 45E A 4.00 up LODGE 350RA 9.50 up	M
KELOWNA	
PALACE SSRA 8.50 mp	M
KILLAM, 350	
FLORENCE 39RE 1.00 up	N.
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EMPRESS 35K A 3.00	0
CHATEAU LAKE LOUISE	0
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COMMERCIAL 17R A 8.00	P
LANGDON 488 G-5	P
Canadian Pacific	
LEDUC. 800	P
Canadian Pacific WALDORF SORE .75 up	P
LETHBRIDGE, 14,000 G-6 Canadian Pacific ALEXANDRA SSR E 1.50 up	14
ALEXANDRA SSR E 1.50 up	
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MAGRATH, 1.069	R
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MANVILLE, 476 Can. Nor. ALBERTA 25R A 2.50 up	R
MIDNAPORE, 300	

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ASSINABOIA 75R., E 1.00 up	SE
CORONA 75R E 1.00 up COSMOPOLITAN 57R	L
IEDICINE HAT, 9.000 H-6 AMERICANADA PRINCE T.75 up ASSINADA T. E. 1.00 up CECIL 50R. E. 1.50 up CORONA TR. E. 1.00 up CORONA TR. E. 1.00 up ROYAL 50R. E. 7.5 up IIRROR, 500	ST
MIRROR 14B B 1.50	ST
ITN. PARK, 600 F-4	Can N
CHEVIOT 27E E 1.50	ST
ORINVILLE, 600 G-3 ALBERTA 20R E 1.50 MORINVILLE 30R A 3.50	SR
HINDARF 400	K
Canadian Northern MUNDARE 24R . E 1.00 up ANTON. 700	SU
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ASSBURG, 500 Canadian Pacific PEACE RIVER, 1.000 F-2 Canadian Pacific FRACE SIR B 1.00 up ROYAL 30R B 1.50 up	1
ENHULD. 200	VE
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KING EDWARD 50R A 3.50	VI
CANDY COVE 26B A 8.00	
ONOKA, 1,594 Canadian Paelfie	VL
ROYAL 26R E 1.50	W
PROVOST, 500	1
PROVOST 40R B 1.50	W
RAYMOND, 1,394 Canadian Padite RAYMOND SOR E 1.00 up	W
RED CLIFF, 1.137 Canadian Pacific RED CLIFF 20R. E 1.50 up	3
RED CLIFF ROR E 1.80 up RED DEER, 2,328 G-5	W
Canadian Pasida	Y
ALBERTA SOR E 1.50 ARLINGTON SOR E 1.50 WINDSOR SAR E 1.60	1

at Best	
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ST. ALBERT, 800	G-4
SEDGEWICK. 400	1.50
LUNGHEAD 30RE	1.50
STIRLING, 514	G-6
PRAIRIE 10R	G-4
Canadian Northern. Canadian NATIONAL 90B	Pacifie 3.50
CTONV DI AIN 486	0.4
ROYAL 24R. SRATHMORE, 584 Canadian Pacific KING EDWARD 68RE 1.	1.00
KING EDWARD 68RE 1. SUFFIELD, 200	50 H-6
ALBION 12R A 2.	00 up
TABER, 1,705 Canadian Pacific PALACE SOR	2.50
TABER 28RE	75 19
TOFIELD, 500	G-4
TROCHU. 600	
VEGREVILLE, 1,479	H-4
ALBERTA 45R E 1. PRI EDWARD 45R E 1.	00 up
VERMILLION, 1,250	H-4
Canadian Northern ALBERTA 46B A BRUNSWICK 45R A	2.50
VIKING. 500	2.50
KING EDWARD SOR .	1.50
IMPERIAL 60R	R 1.00
WAINWRIGHT, 1.000	H-4
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WETASKIWIN, 2,061	0-4
WAYNE 500 CM	.00 🖦
WETARKIWIN 15E	2.00
YOUNGSTOWN, 410	.
EMPIRE 428 E 1.	.00 mg



-10-

From Peter McCarthy -

0-165 - LONDON & WINDSOR R.P.O. is reported in use from 1900-1920. Now Peter has sent an example dated 2/19/1950, Train 16. The two partial strikes show most of the inscription. Train 16. The ONTARIO LIMITED, left Detroit at 4PM daily, London at 7:30, Hamilton at 9:30, arriving in Toronto at 10:30 PM, with connections to Montreal Where was the hammer between 1920 and 1950 ?



Peter also sends a pretty backstamp of CAN.PAC.RY. / MAIL ROOM / WINDSOR STN. dated August 11. 1939. As this is an internal Company mark, not a postal use. we won't list it. Nice collateral.

Another non-postal marking has been found by Bob Lee. This says - Union Steamship Co. of B.C.Ltd. / Str. "Cowichan" / NANAIMO, UNION COMOX / EVERY / SATURDAY and SUNDAY. It dates from 7/4/1909, when Union Steamships were agitating to receive a mail contract which was awarded late in 1909. It was probably applied at the Vancouver office. A similar marking advertises carriage of mail from Prince Rupert to Vancouver by the SATURDAY and Company. It is a lovely collateral item for

a Union Steamships collection, but not postal.

CAN, PAC, RY AUG 11 P.M. MAIL ROOM WINDSOR STN.

Union Steamship Co. of BA NANAIMO, UNION. EVERY

John McCrea is researching RR-163, THIS MAIL WAS CARRIED BY / TRAVELING LETTER BOX, used in Newfoundland in 1927. Copies which John and I have are dated between Jun 4 and June 9, all addressed to Mr. Edwin J. Burney, Trinity, T.B. In most cases the name is blanked out by a piece of gummed tape. This marking is also known on Canadian mail from 2/1/01 to 3/5/42. Please report any holdings of this marking in detail to John at Box 172. Monroeville. PA 15146.

## THIS MAIL WAS CARRIED BY TRAVELING LETTER BOX



That's all for this time. Seasons Compliments to everyone.