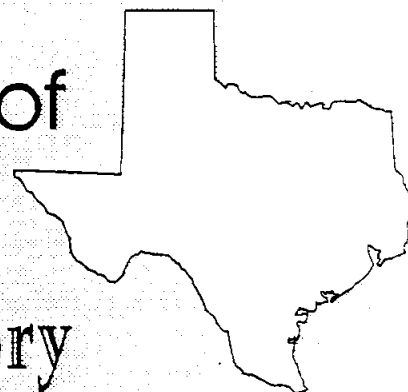


The

Journal of

Texas State Postal History



Volume 21, Number 1- Spring 1996

E.F. Christman, Jr., President

Martin Margulis, Editor

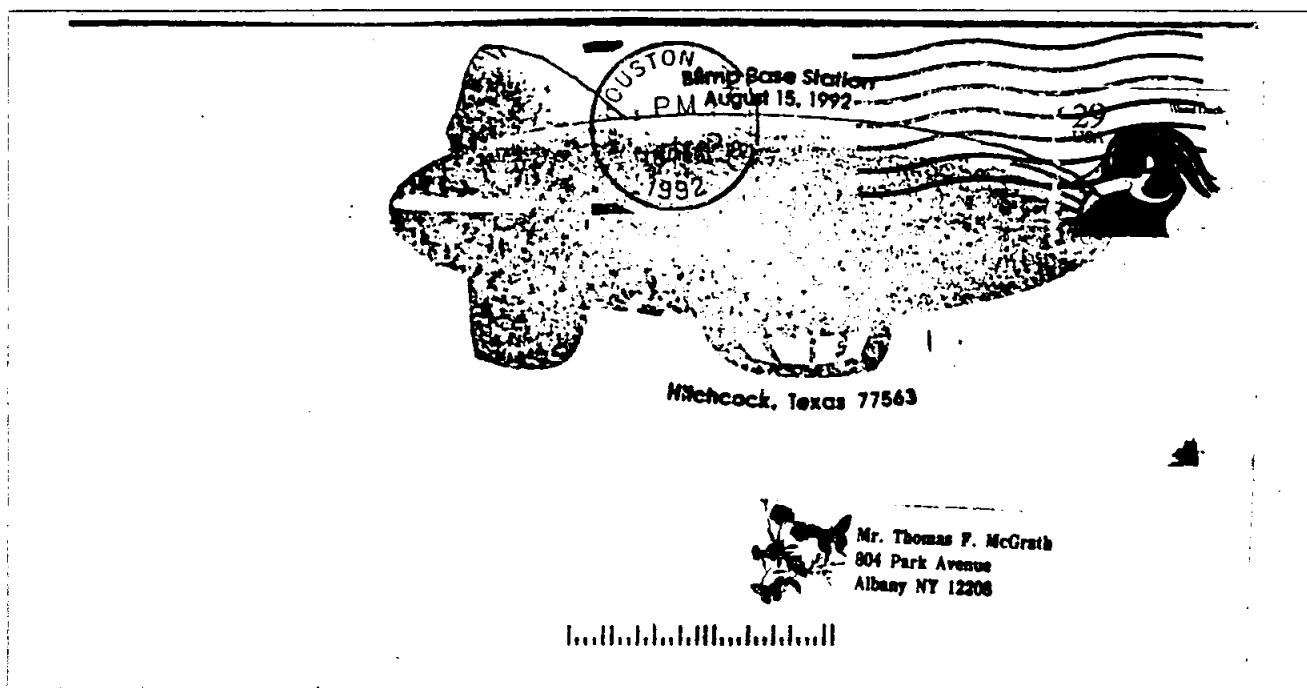


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From the President . . .

By the time you get this edition of the Journal, you will have received the notice telling about our T.P.H.S. meeting at the Austin Stamp Show. We will not have a program presentation at this meeting, but we are scheduling a *Swap and Sell* session. So bring any TEXAS material you have which you would like to trade or sell . . . or just show off! We will have fun and felowship, too, along with some philately.

Don't forget this meeting date—Saturday, March 9 at 12:00 Noon. Plan to attend if you are in Austin.

The 10 year Journal Index has been well received but the costs associated with it were higher than expected. We are again asking for help with these costs. If you did not send in a contribution with your dues envelope, we'd like to suggest you send \$5.00 or more to our treasurer. We hope to recoup most of the extra Index costs and it will take approximately \$300.00 to do so. So mail your contribution now.

Last call, too, for back issues of the Journal. Check the notice in the December 1995 issue of the Journal which contains the information about them. They can be ordered from Bill Emery in San Marcos.

News Notes: Our program at **TEXPEX '96** will be persented by Ed Leissner of San Antonio. His topic will be Texas, Mexico, Spanish Postal History—Early Mails of Bexar County and South Texas. He will cover lots of territory! Our meeting at the show will be on Saturday afternoon, June 15. Check the show calendar for that day for the exact time and place.

A new book which I've just discovered enabled me to learn more about Fort Richardson's rôle in the Indian wars and the settlement of northwest Texas. The book by Allen L. Hamilton is titled Sentinel of the Southern Plains: Fort Richardson and the Northwest Texas Frontier, 1866-1878." The book can be ordered from Texas A&M University Press, Drawer C, College Station, TX 77843-4354. The cost is \$14.95 plus \$4.00 shipping. Texas residents must add 8.25% sales tax. That is it for this time.

Good Collectin'
Ed

From the Editor:

On the cover you will have seen one of the sorriest excuses for a front page cover you have ever seen. However, it is postal history of a sort, and probably quite rare. I purchased it just for the newsletter. It appealed to me. Generally we don't think of air ships when we think of Houston.

I take a very open view of postal history and it can cover anything from the gem on the cover to First Day covers, to First Flight covers. All of this I have. What I don't have is any real Texas postal history material. It is expensive and extremely hard to get. If this is what you want to see you will have to write the articles and send them to me. Doanes are postal history, machine cancels are postal history, city postmarks are too. Also, we can include county studies, pictures of village post offices, studies of post masters, and letters from those serving in Texas wars.

After an issue on Austin postmarks and some air mail covers, I'm out of material. It will then be up to you and the sooner I get serious studies, the better things will be. I also take photocopies of prize-winning exhibits of local covers or state-wide covers, etc. I would like to put out a balanced journal as I do in New York State. But what makes that possible is a lot of cooperation from society members.

Martin Margulis

**TPHS AUCTION NO. 12
HAMMER PRICES REALIZED**

<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>	<u>LOT</u>	<u>PRICE</u>
01	6.00	15	5.00	28	10.00	41	15.00
02	30.00	16	20.00	29	8.00	42	14.00
03	4.00	17	5.00	30	10.00	43	12.00
04	4.00	18	5.00	31	14.00	44	30.00
05	5.00	19	7.00	32	12.00	45	3.00
06	7.00	20	7.00	33	WD	46	10.00
07	100.00	21	34.00	34	8.00	47	5.00
08	64.00	22	5.00	35	8.00	48	6.00
09	15.00	23	20.00	36	12.00	49	75.00
10	15.00	24	30.00	37	6.00	50	10.00
11	30.00	25	2.00	38	60.00	51	3.00
12	WD	26	15.00	39	3.00	52	12.00
13	18.00	27	13.00	40	3.00	53	3.00
14	50.00					54	10.00

The TPHS Sale 12 went very well. We had more members bidding in this offering than we have had in any previous sale. Lot No. 15, the FLATONIA cover, received the greatest number of bids, and sold for \$50.00. the CALDWELL cover, Lot No. 7, was also a popular item and sold for \$100.00. A few covers sold for \$3.00 to \$5.00. Some good buys were made. We feel that our sales are the "Market" place for Texas philatelic matter. Where else do you see fifty plus Texas items offered?

We had recently had to purchase new supplies, i.e. invoice forms, and the inflation requires that we increase the sale fee from five percent (5%) to seven and one-half percent (7½%).

POSTMARKED: EMBARRASSMENT

by John J. Germann

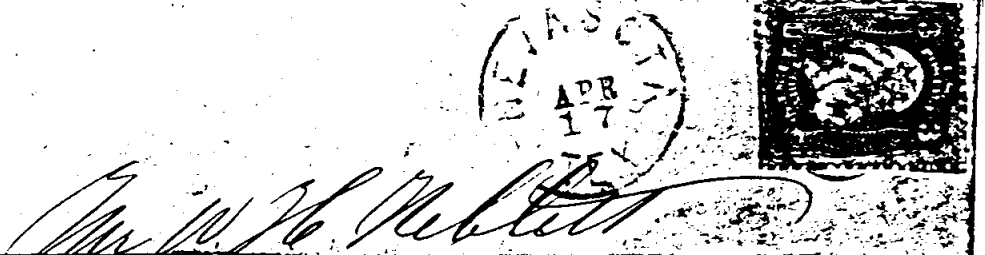
Pity the poor, proud, Texas postmasters. They order up a cancelling device which will advertise their office and community to the world, and then they wind up with the likes of these:

- Figure 1: Nevasota - 1860s - According to Post Office Department records it has "neva" been Nevasota, always Navasota.
- Figure 2: Hemp Hill - 1870s - Sounds like an elevation providing rope, rather than a community named for a distinguished judge - John Hemphill.
- Figure 3: Lampassas - 1884 - Someone should have made one *less* "pass" at producing this for the Lampasas post office.
- Figure 4: Nacagdoches - 1894 - It makes one shudder to contemplate the pronunciation that this spelling would generate. Nacogdoches is bad enough.
- Figure 5: Hitchcok - 1899 - The donor of the townsite - Lent M. Hitchcock - might have been tempted to rescind his gift.

- Figure 6: Itaska - 1901 - "Itaska, Itasca - What the heck! It all sounds the same."
- Figure 7: Enless - 1908 - Perhaps the creator was hoping for an en(d)less future for Euless.
- Figure 8: San Marcas - 1908 - So what if "San" in Spanish is masculine and "Marcas" is feminine. It's not *pronounced* "Marcos."
- Figure 9: Raymondsville - 1957 - Perhaps Raymond's family was becoming increasingly possessive. Or perhaps the postmaster (note the return address) had his own idea of what Ramondville ought to be.
- Figure 10: Tankersly - 1958 - At least the sender knew how to spell "Tankersley."
- Figure 11: Alleytown - 1958 - Doesn't this conjure up the idea of a rather large town full of narrow streets, rather than that of a small community named Alleyton for the local Alley family?
- Figure 12: Cyp~~pe~~ss - 1962 - "Wood" that someone in or out of Cypress had looked or cared a little more.
- Figure 13: Corsicanna - 1965 - This is, actually, a rather attractive spelling of Corsicana. Oh, well- at least Eureka is right.
- Figure 14: Beebe - 1965 - Actually, this is closer to the Beebee Baking Powder for which the office was reputedly named than is "Bebe," the real name of the town.
- Figure 15: Houston, TX Reg. Sec. GOP - 1973 - Perhaps a partisan Republican saw an opportunity to rearrange General Post Office. President Nixon was in power at the time.
- Figure 16: Whitesboro - 1975 - The citizens of Whitesboro could well be mortified.
- Figure 17: Canp Wood - 1979 - So could those of Campw Wood.

We can't help but wonder how many other such truly "unlisted" post offices exist "out there." If any reader has other examples of similar misspelling embarrassments please notify me, preferably with a photocopy included, at 12102 Whittington - Houston, TX 77077-4911. Thanks.

1



Mr. W. H. Webster

2



W. H. Webster

3



Return to JAS. R. BUCHANON,
 P. O. Lock Box No. 53, NACOGDOCHES, Texas,
 If not delivered within 10 days.

4



5



W. H. Webster
1000 1/2

After 10 days, return to

J. J. Deaton

ITASCA, Hill Co., TEXAS.



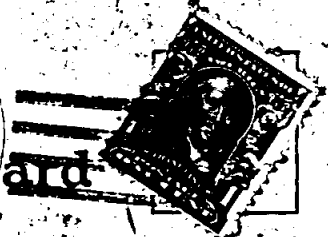
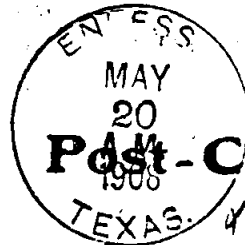
6

Mrs L. L. Shield

Writing on this part of the address side permitted after March 1, 1907.

*Hello maud;
How are you
and D.D.*

St. Louis Mo.



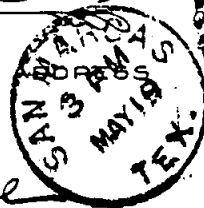
7

POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE

FOR THE

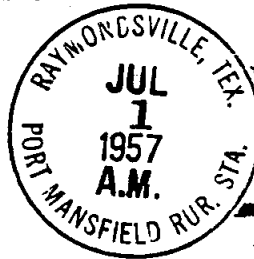
Mr. Deaton



8

RETURN TO

E. B. Spinks
E. B. SPINKS, POSTMASTER
RAYMONDVILLE, TEX.



9

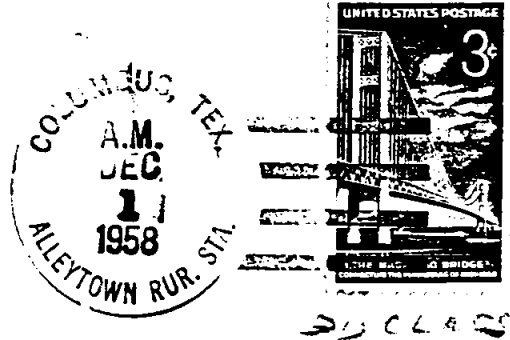
MILDRED D. MONTGOMERY

10

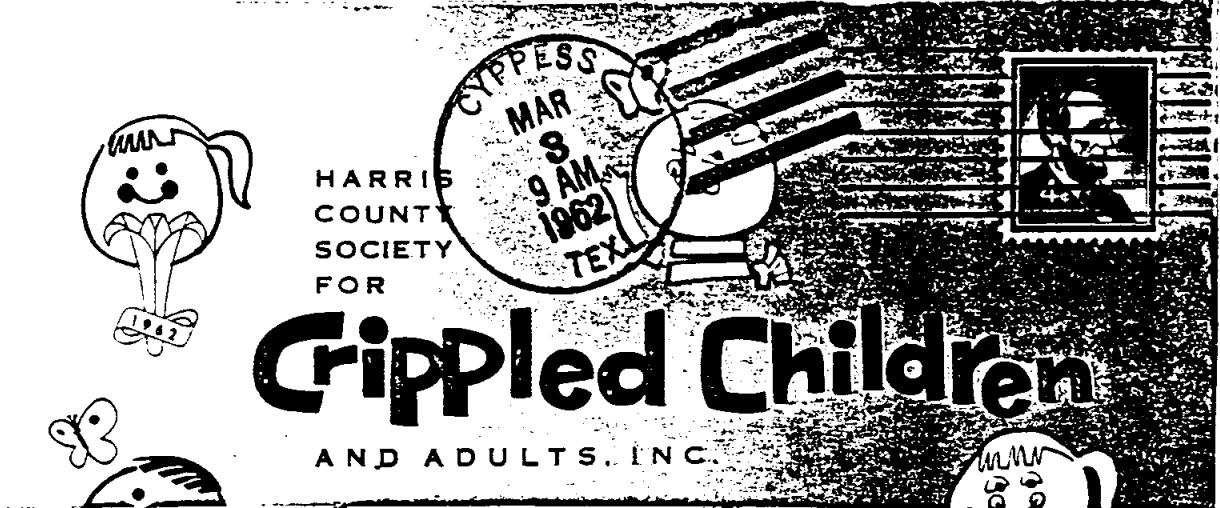


11

Leola B. Cox Postmaster
 Alletton Texas



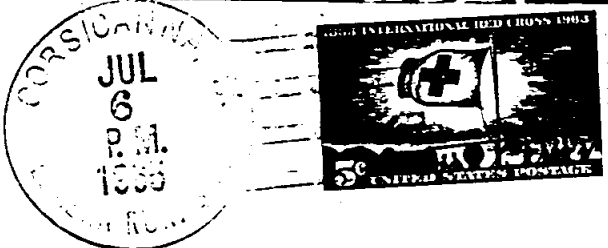
12



13

FROM *Bobby Anthon*
Route One
Europa, Tex 75110

ACCOUNT NUMBER
 181 | 705 | 537 | 7



P. O. BOX 1435
 HUMBLE OIL & REFINING CO.
 HOUSTON, TEXAS 77001

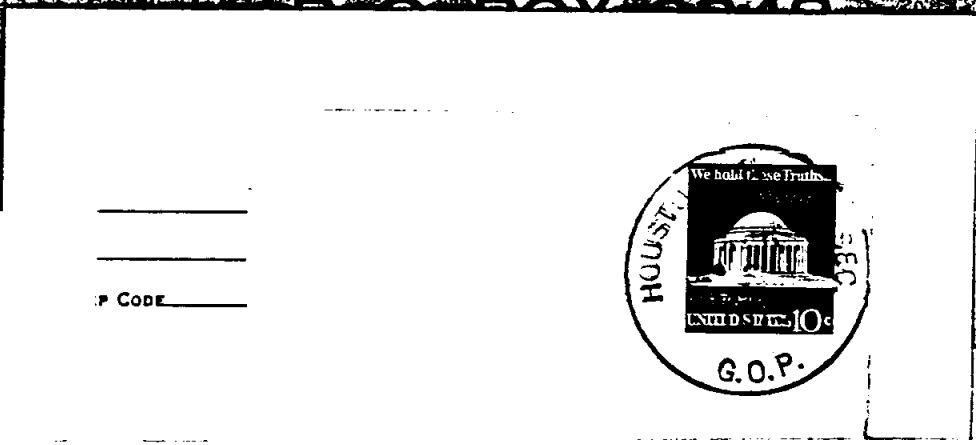
ENV 13 63 P

*Miss Carolyn
Lebanille
Dallas 75122
52-737-0611-2*



14

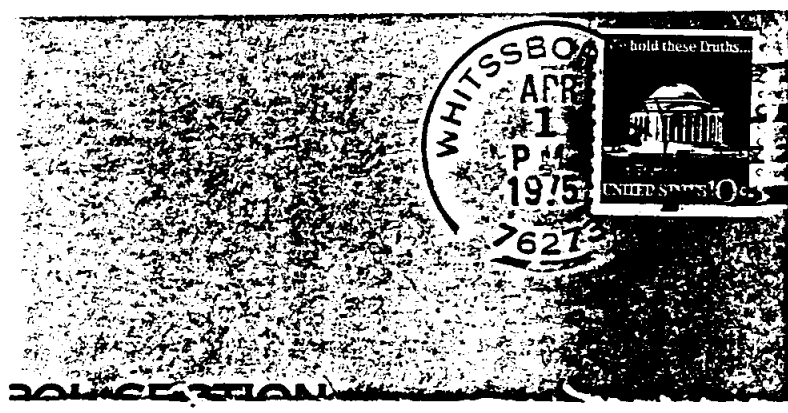
CREDIT CARD NUMBER



15

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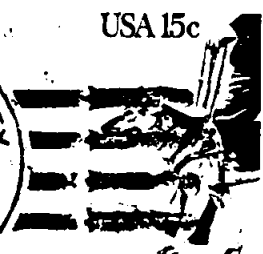
16



17



USA 15c



Seeing For Me

Mr. John J. Germann
11210 Sandstone
Houston, Texas 77072

A SUPERB WORLD WAR I COVER

by R.H. Stever

Some covers have a lot going for them. Such is the case for the cover shown in Figure 1. First, it is an advertising cover in pristine condition. That in itself makes it an attractive item. The cancellation is a Corpus Christi machine cancel, dated July 4, 1918, by a Universal Stamping Machine Co. Type DT-300. This type of machine canceler came into use at Corpus Christi no earlier than June 1918 making this cover one of the earliest known DT-300 survivors.



Figure 1. Advertising cover posted at Corpus Christi July 4, 1918 paying the 3¢ War Tax rate effective during World War I.

On October 1, 1883 the first class letter rate was reduced from 3¢ to 2¢ per ½-ounce. This was changed from per ½-ounce to per ounce on July 1, 1885. That rate remained the same for 32 years. However, with U.S. involvement in World War I, a special "War Tax Rate" was imposed beginning November 2, 1917 in order to raise money for the war effort which included the added expense of handling soldiers' mail. After the war was over the first class rate was reduced to 2¢ per ounce as before. This occurred effective July 1, 1919. So the War Tax rate was in effect about a year and a half. The Figure 1 cover bears 3¢ postage composed of 1-cent green and 2-cent carmine Washington heads and is a fine example of this special wartime rate.

What is probably the most interesting aspect of this cover is not evident in Figure 1. Being an advertising envelope, there wasn't room on the front for the author to write his return address so he put it on the back. See Figure 2. Yes, "U.S.A. General Hospital, #15 Corpus Christi, Texas." What is that all about?

This was a temporary medical establishment located in the Corpus Beach Hotel (Figure 3) and Bathing Pavilion. On January 25, 1918 the Surgeon General recommended this property be leased for use as a hospital. The actual lease included, besides the hotel property, ten frame buildings including small cottages plus 17 acres of unimproved land for possible expansion.

The place was small compared to other hospital properties but had the advantage of a climate suitable for convalescents. The hotel-hospital was located about 100 yards from the Corpus Christi Bay water's

edge. Following execution of the lease for \$6,000.00 per year the Surgeon General authorized the physical development of the hospital. On March 21, 1918 the hospital was designated General Hospital No. 15. It was opened for care of the sick on April 7, 1918. Initial bed capacity was 100 but this was increased within a few weeks to a maximum of 215 beds. Admissions increased from 130 in May 1918 to a maximum of 286 in August 1918 declining to 88 in February 1919. Every month there were quite a few new admissions. About half the convalescents were returned to duty each month. However, there were nine deaths, twenty three patients discharged for disabilities and four deserters.

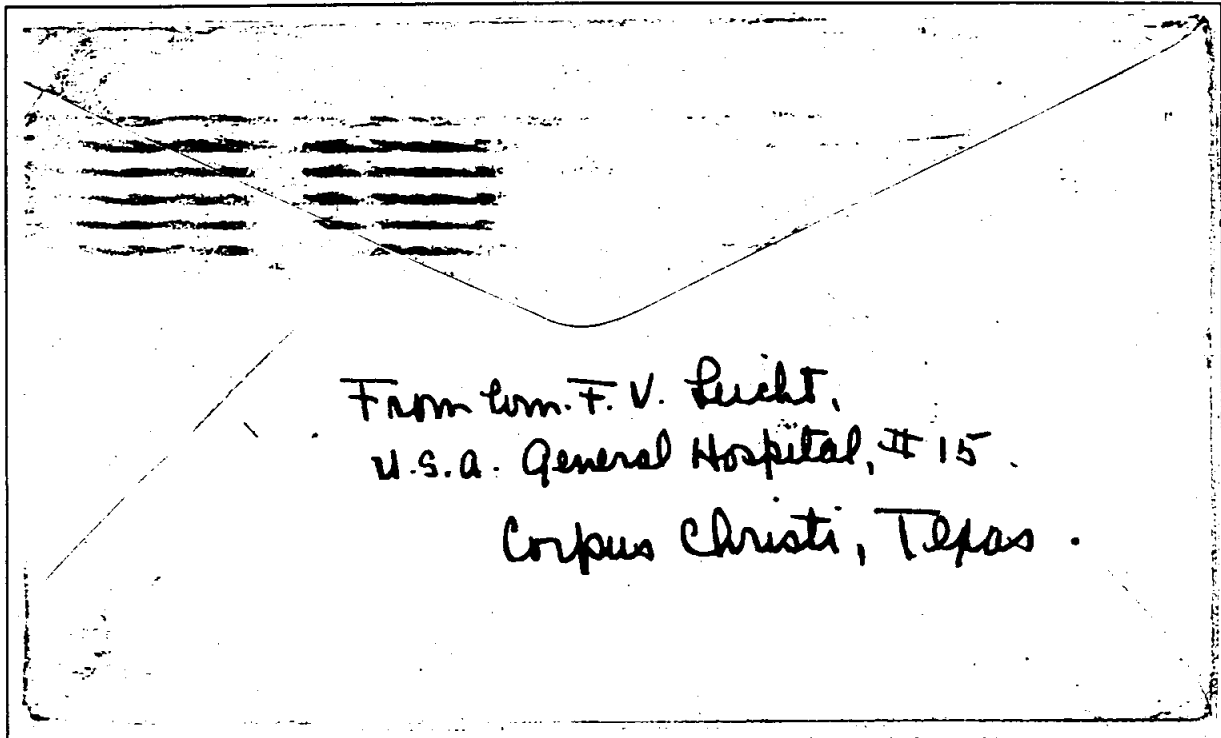


Figure 2. Reverse of Figure 1 cover showing return address at U.S.A. General Hospital No. 15.

Local civilian employees were predominantly women, averaging in number from 24 to 28 monthly, plus three children helpers each month. Military personnel on duty consisted of 10 to 14 medical corps officers, one to three sanitary corps officers plus one or two quartermaster officers. Enlisted personnel consisted of over 10 medical department men plus from half a dozen to 49 quartermaster and miscellaneous men. The number of nurses varied from as few as three to as many as fourteen.

On July 26, 1918 the facility was rated as a convalescent hospital only with neither reconstruction nor specialty operations. On February 26, 1919 it was ordered abandoned by the War Department and two days later all patients requiring further treatment were transferred to another hospital which finally took place May 31, 1919 when the final abandonment was effected. It was indeed a fortuitous circumstance that the hospital closed that May because three and a half months later (Sept. 14, 1919) a giant hurricane hit the Corpus Christi area causing over 400 deaths. A 12 to 14 foot tidal surge swept the beach area clean leaving only three badly damaged structures standing, one of which was the hotel-hospital building. This building, later known as The Breakers Hotel, was razed in 1970.

As is obvious from Figure 1, there was no postal facility with separate markings at the hospital. All mail was handled at the Corpus Christi post office. Open only about a year, it is unlikely that very many covers originating at General Hospital No. 15 exist. Thus the subject cover really is an outstanding WWI artifact.

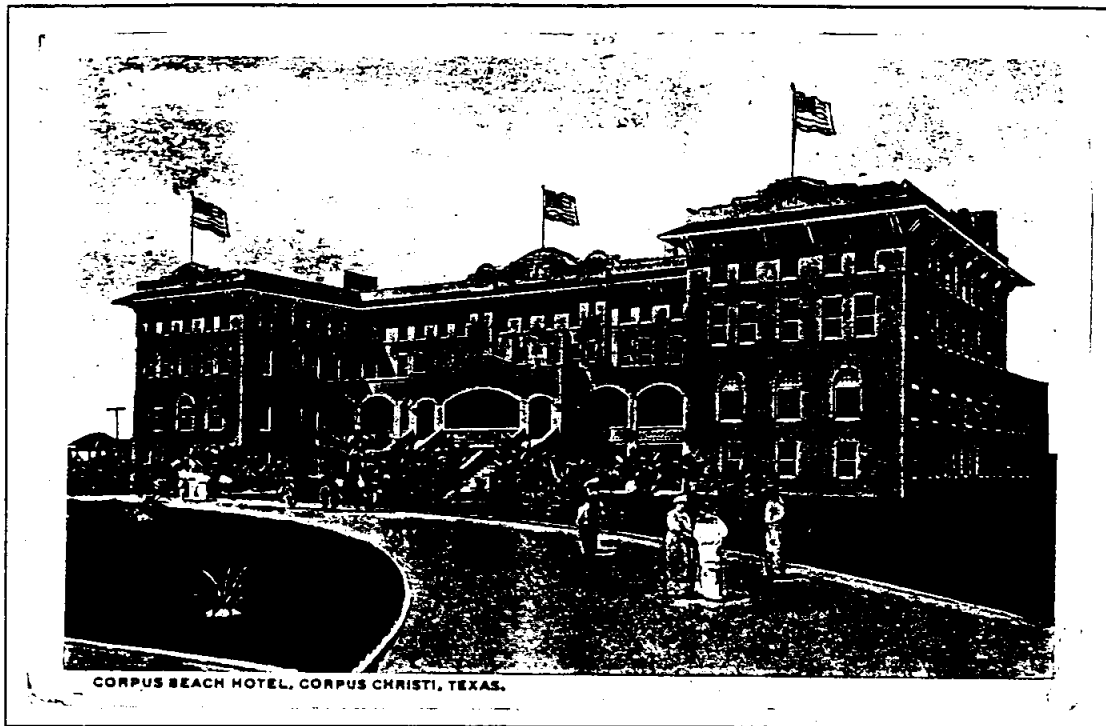


Figure 3. Post card showing the Corpus Beach Hotel which was leased by the government as a convalescent hospital.

References:

1. Beecher, Henry W. and Anthony S. Wawrukiewicz, U.S. Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1993, The Traditions Press, Shawnee Mission, Kansas, 1994, p 103.
2. Hanmer, Russell F., A Collector's Guide to U.S. Machine Postmarks 1871-1925, David G. Phillips Publishing Co., North Miami Florida, Third Edition, 1989 pp 163-173. This data supplemented by R.M. Arndt, Midland Texas through personal communication.
3. Order of Battle of the United States Land Forces in the World War, Zone of the Interior: Territorial Departments Tactical Divisions Organized in 1918 Posts, Camps and Stations, Volume 3 Part 2, pp 906-907, published by the Center of Military History, United States Army, Washington, D.C., 1988.
4. The Medical Department of the United States Army in the World War, Vol V, Military Hospitals in the United States, Lt. Col. Frank W. Weed, M.C., U.S. Army for Maj. Gen. M.W. Ireland, M.D., Surgeon General of the Army, Government Printing Office, Washington D.C., 1923, p 537.