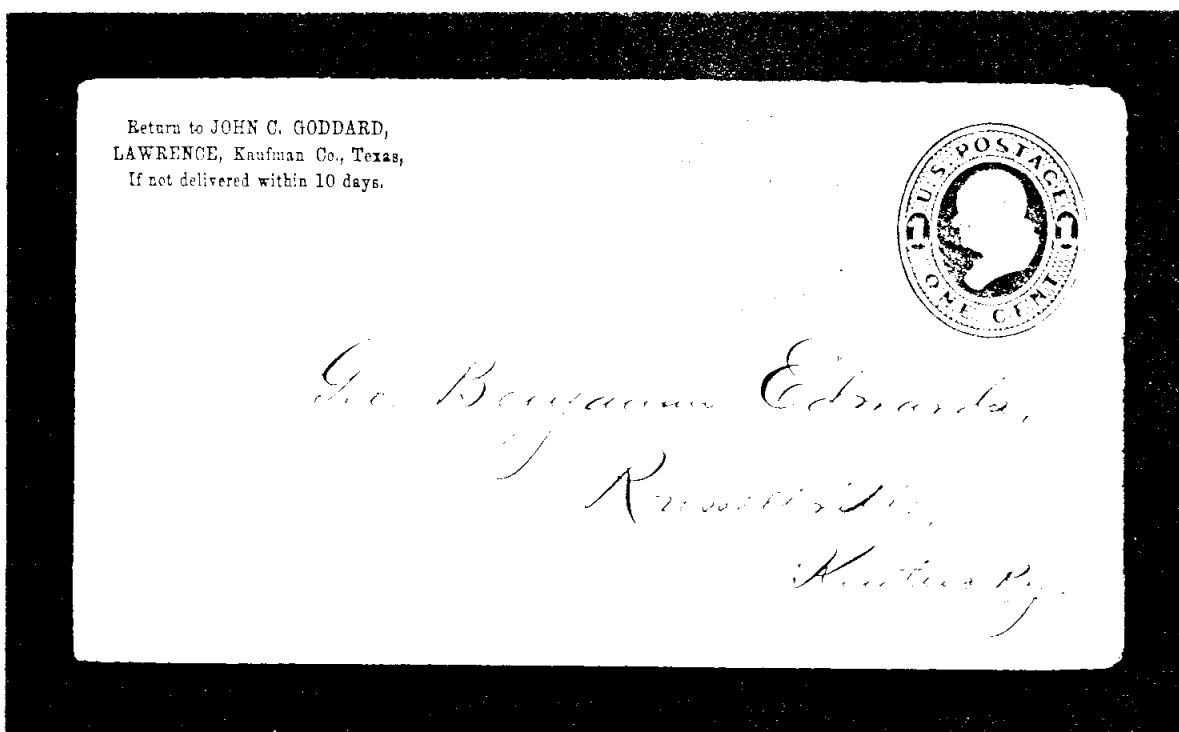


# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL



Volume 10  
No. 24

December, 1985

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\* \* \* \*

Shown on the front of this issue is a nice cover from Lawrence, Texas,  
a Kaufman County DPO.

# THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$7 per year, payable to Secretary-Treasurer

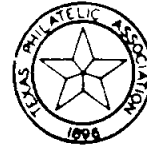
Affiliated With:

President:  
Nonie Green  
2401 Colorado  
San Angelo, TX 76901

Vice-President:  
Norman A. Cohen  
P.O. Box 29543  
Dallas, TX 75229

Secretary-Treasurer:  
Jim Alexander  
5825 Caldwell  
Waco, TX 76710

Journal Editor:  
John Whitehead  
P.O. Box 966  
Longview, TX 75606



## PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Our special sesquicentennial issue will follow this one. It will contain articles by five writers who have produced excellent material pertaining to various areas of our State.

Editor John Whitehead gave us a nice issue for the 3rd quarter. Our thanks are extended to those who contributed articles for it and also to John.

COME TO SAN ANTONIO MARCH 28-30, 1986!!! It promises to be an outstanding event and our annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday afternoon on the 29th. I am looking forward to seeing you there. We know many of you will have some fine Texas postal history exhibits. Don't forget to bring your trading material with you.

## EDITOR'S COMMENT

Our thanks to Norma Watz, David L. Jarrett and Jane King Fohn for their contributions to this issue of the Journal. Norma Watz continues her "Cover Stories" series with "Doing Business The Old Fashioned Way - For a Penny", which is an examination of the various ways businesses used the penny post card. Norma also adds a followup piece on Part I of the "Cover Stories" series. David L. Jarrett contributes an article on a cover which traveled through both the U. S. Mail and the Republic of Texas Postal System. Also, in anticipation of the upcoming Texas Sesquicentennial, Jane King Fohn reviews two books dealing with important areas of Texas history: The Texas Republic: A Social and Economic History by William Ransom Hogan, and The German Texans, by Glen E. Lich.

As our president has reminded us, the next issue of the TPHS Journal will be our sesquicentennial issue. It will be much larger than the standard issue, and should become something of a collector's item. But to receive it, you must pay your 1986 dues! So, right now, put your check for \$7.00 in the envelope attached to the front page and send it to Jim Alexander. You will certainly not want to miss the 1986 issues! If you are one of the few who have already paid your dues, thank you, and you may ignore the above.

## CORRECTIONS (Mea Culpa)

John D. Osborne has pointed out several mistakes made in preparing his article, "Valour in Adversity" (Vol. 10, No. 3) for printing. His comments are as follows:

"In addition to a few trivial mistakes, my quoted reference to the strongest legible letters in the Clarksville CDS -- "R K S" -- was given as "R D S". I hope that readers took this as a typographical error, as otherwise the thing makes no sense. A little bit more serious was the changing of my original text, in its reference to the Clarksville postmaster D. K. Jamison, from "who served under a United States commission from 1858 to 1861, and under a Confederate commission from 1861 to 1864" to "who served under a United States commission from 1861 to 1864."

Your editor humbly appologizes for the mistakes.

"COVER STORIES"

by Norma Watz

Part II

"DOING BUSINESS THE OLD-FASHIONED WAY - FOR A PENNY"

The American Post Card Company of New York City patented a card August 8, 1871, on which messages were written on the inner side of the lower panel, then turned up and sealed by curved segments at the top and sides. When opened, the card measured 6 3/4" by 6 1/4". A printed box space (top right) for "Stamp", three ruled lines for address, and a symbolic Eagle in upper-left corner completed its design. This patented card became the forerunner of the postal card inaugurated by the U.S. Post Office Department in 1873.

The one-cent 1873 U.S. brown-on-buff colored postal card with "Liberty" design had its first-day cancels in Boston, New York, and Washington on May 13, and was watermarked (large letters) "USPOD" in the monogram. In 1875, postal cards became available in sheets, thus making them practical for multiple printing and business use purposes.

Card shown has the second "Liberty" design (color - black-on-buff) and was postmarked Columbus (Colorado County) October 13, 1876. (See Illustration No. 1) In earlier days, Columbus was called "Montezuma" and "Beason's Ferry" -- 1836 mail routes (listed in Mary Austin Holley's "Texas 1836") carry the name as "Beason's". On October 30, 1845, mail routes were revised with "Columbus" listed as having regular weekly mail services.

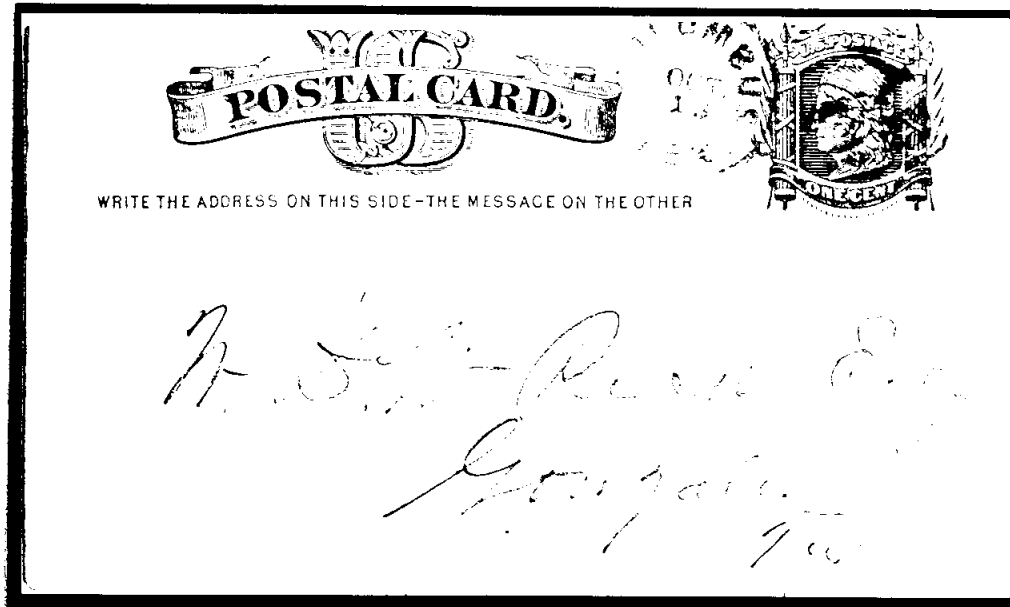


ILLUSTRATION #1

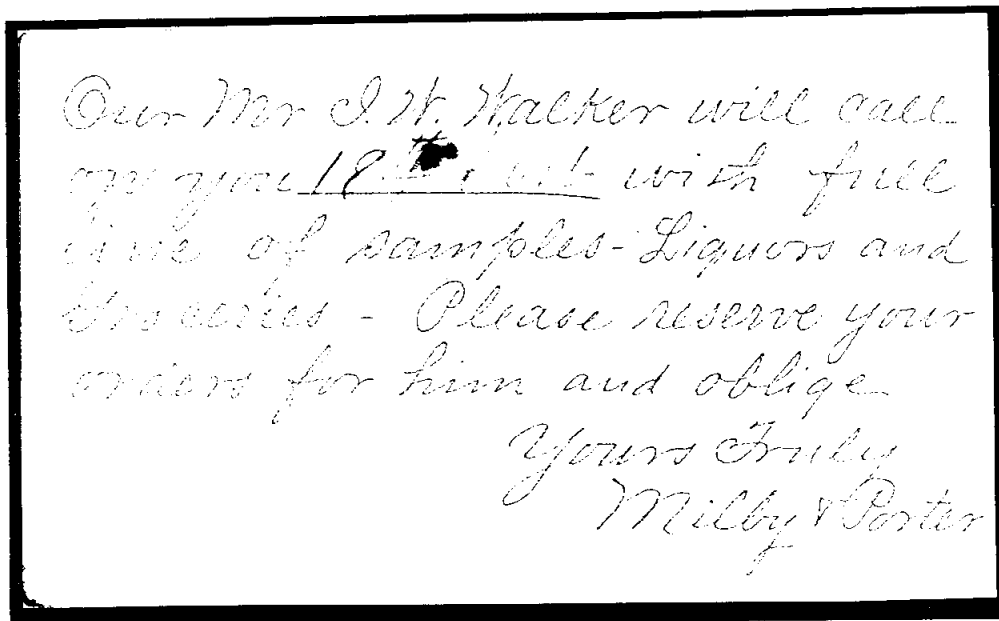


ILLUSTRATION #2

Message side of card indicates firm of "Milby and Porter" mailed card in advance of their salesman's calling with a "full line of samples." (See Illustration No. 2) (Traveling salesmen were often referred to as "drummers" during this era - hence the expression - "drum up business".)

Card with Houston (black town cds) August 14, 1880, is shown with an unusual (?? Indian scalp) cork cancel. (See Illustration No. 3) Houston (Harris County) took roots in 1836 when the Allen Bros. founded the new settlement to replace Harrisburg, which Santa Anna had burned, prior to the Battle of San Jacinto. "Houston" was listed on a mail route to Nacogdoches around May 1838.

Message side of card reflects business transaction with City Bank of Houston. (See Illustration No. 4) By 1890, around 148 private banks were in operation in Texas along with approximately 189 national banks.

Example of "Private Mailing Card" authorized by Act of Congress of May 19, 1898, is shown with El Campo (Wharton County) postmark January 31, 1915, and bears one-cent green issue. (See Illustration No. 5) El Campo, known in 1881 as "Prairie Switch", had had continuous postal service since March 17, 1890, when Christian Bruns was appointed Postmaster. Card from El Campo's First National Bank (chartered 1902) sent to Angleton State Bank, Angleton, Texas, was returned from the Angleton Bank and marked "Received February 3, 1915" by the sender, reflecting quite rapid postal service. (See Illustration No. 6)

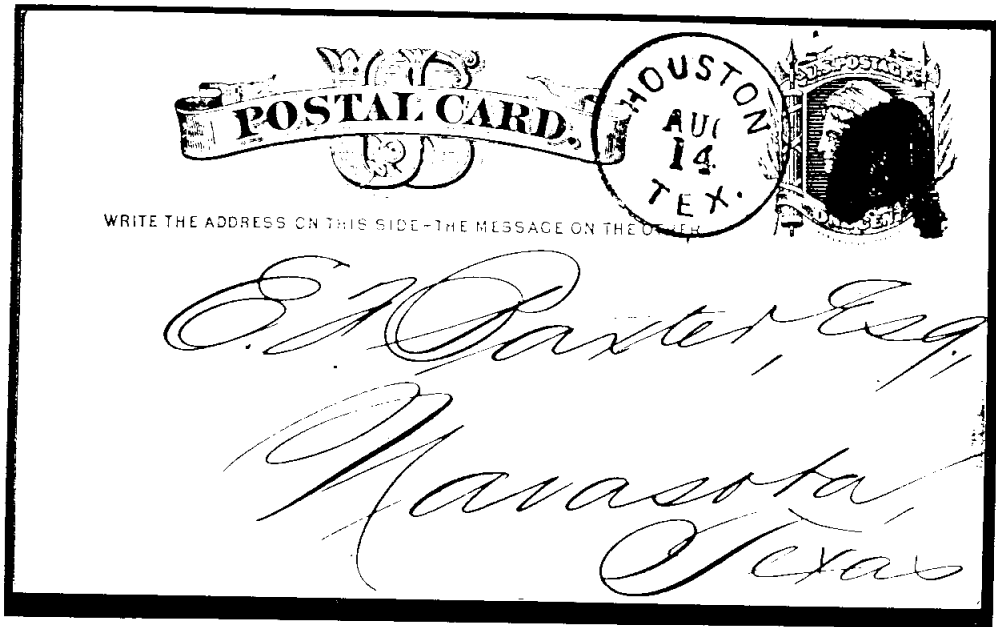


ILLUSTRATION #3

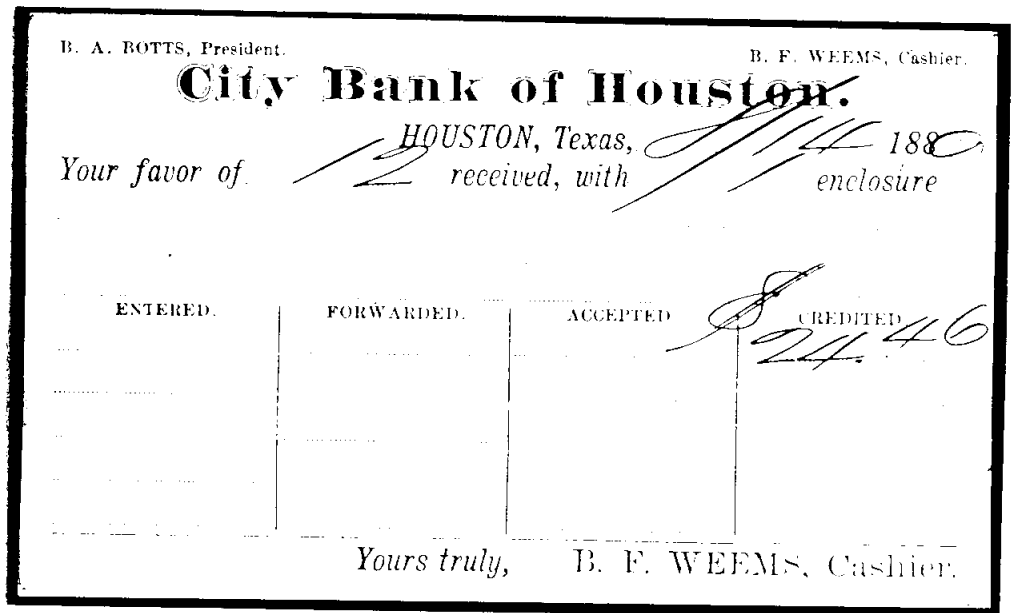


ILLUSTRATION #4

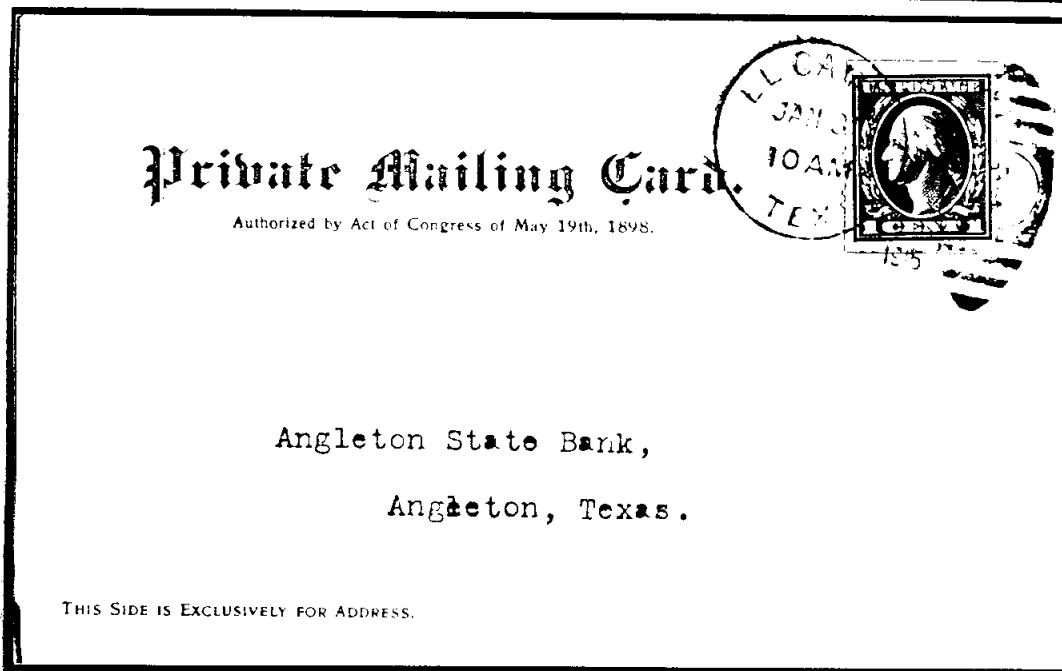



ILLUSTRATION #5

The First National Bank  El Campo, Texas, ..... 190 .....

M .....

Your favor of ..... received, with stated enclosures:

PATENTED BY THE PATENT OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES

NUMBER	ACCEPTED	DUE	CREDITED	Entered For Collection	Forwarded For Collection
Kindly advise prospects on our C338 sent you 4th,					
<del>\$249.32</del> on J. P. French & Co.					
<i>over hand</i>					
<i>J. E. H. Koch</i>					

Items on outside points credited subject to payment

Yours truly, *J. E. H. Koch* E. H. KOCH, Cashier

ILLUSTRATION #6

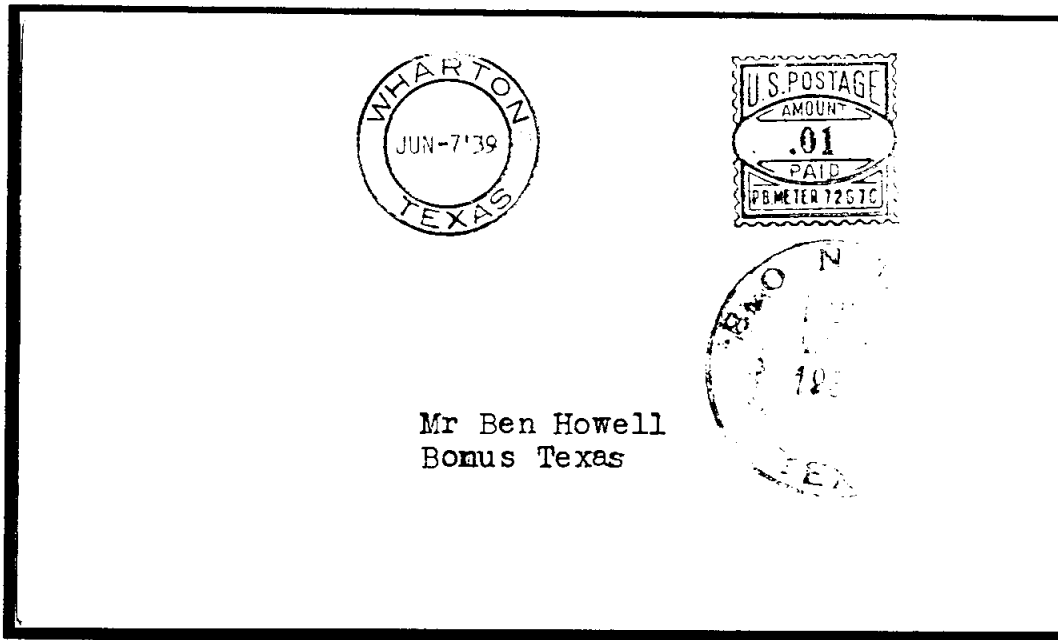


ILLUSTRATION #7



ILLUSTRATION #8

THE STATE OF TEXAS }  
County of Wharton

No. 36

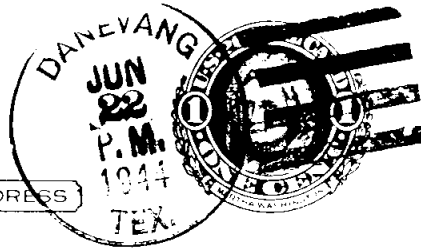
To Mr. Ben Howell

You are hereby notified to appear before the Honorable District Court of Wharton County, Monday, the 19th day of June A. D., 1939, at 9 o'clock a. m., then and there to serve as Petit Juror for the May Term, 1939 of said Court.

Dated 6th day of June 1939, 19

A. H. REITZ, Sheriff, Wharton County, Texas.

REPLY CARD  
THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS



Wharton Co. Electric Coop., Inc.  
Box 911  
El Cempo, Texas

ILLUSTRATION #9

ILLUSTRATION #10

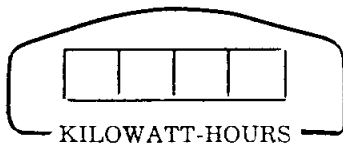
Acct. No. 2307

JUN 22

PLEASE READ METER ON OR BEFORE THIS DATE

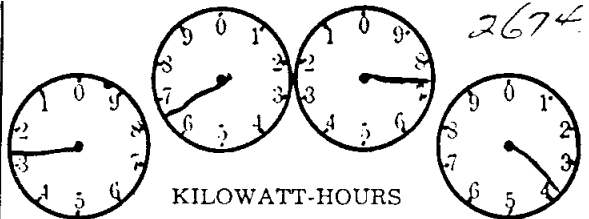
Meter Readings Not Received On Time Will Be Estimated

MARK ONLY ONE OF THE DIAGRAMS BELOW



KILOWATT-HOURS

Please Write Figures In These Four Squares Just as They Appear On Your Meter Dial.



KILOWATT-HOURS

Please Mark POSITION OF HANDS Just As They Appear On Your Meter Dial

Meter Read Cn Date 22 Read By (Sign Here) W W Jr.

Card postmarked Wharton (Wharton County) with one-cent metered postage June 7, 1939, shows usage of a Pitney-Bowles machine in a small town as early as 1939. (See Illustration No. 7) Wharton, formerly Peach Creek (May 22, 1846 - Matagorda County - Thomas Thacker, Postmaster) has had continuous postal service since July 1, 1847 when Gabriele Eagan was appointed Postmaster.

Bonus Post Office (Wharton County 1896-1940) receiving mark was applied June 8, 1939 by Postmaster Thomas L. Tate, last Bonus Postmaster. (Mail to Eagle Lake, Colorado County). Purpose of card was summons to addressee to serve as Petit Juror for the May Term, 1939, of District Court of Wharton County. (See Illustration No. 8)

Paid reply postal cards are sold as two unsevered cards, one for message and the other for reply. The October 25, 1892 issue featured Grant, with card framed, and in black-on-buff color. One-cent reply card shown has Danevang (Wharton County) June 22, 1944 cancel and features the first Martha Washington design in green-on-cream color. George Washington was featured on the message side of the card in matching colors. (See Illustration No. 9) The Danevang Post Office has been in continuous operation since July 23, 1895 and has had seven different Postmasters during its history.

Purpose of reply card was to enable rural user of electricity to self-read meter for billing purposes. (See Illustration No. 10)

#### CONCLUSION:

Innovative ideas, which came from private citizens, resulted in the patenting of not only the 1871 post card (American Post Card Company, New York City) but also a stamp booklet (patented and made in Buffalo), which was widely used years before the USPOD began printing booklet panes (around 1900).

Examples shown illustrate various business usage of one-cent postal and post cards between 1876-1944, a period of time when it was possible to "do business" ---- for a penny!

#### REFERENCES - PART II

"The Handbook of Texas" -- Vols. I & II  
"The History of Wharton County" -- Annie Lee Williams  
"United States Postal History" -- Seymour Dunbar  
"The Stamp Specialist" -- Vol. I, Part 3  
"Texas Republic Postal System" -- Harry M. Konwiser  
Scott U.S. Stamp Catalogue - Specialized  
Personal files, records, collection

(To be continued - next, "Louise - and her Seven Sisters")

A COVER STORY

POSTSCRIPT TO PART I

by Norma Watz

While looking through a dealer's stock at a stamp show recently, two covers caught my attention. Both were far from an admirable condition, and neither had postmarks from my "most-wanted" list! The reason??? It was the sender's name - J. S. Daugherty. His story and the 1880 letter he wrote from East Bernard (Wharton County) to his wife in Lexington, Kentucky, was the focal point in my Part I of "Cover Stories" (TPHS JOURNAL Oct. 1985, Vol. 10, No. 3).

The first cover bears Dallas postmark of October 31, 1891, and was back-stamped "P.O.N.Y. 11-3-91". (See Illustration No. 1)

The second cover bears Dallas postmark of April 29, 1892, and was back-stamped "P.O.N.Y. 5-2-92". (See Illustration No. 2)

Both postmarks reflect the years he operated as a "General Land Agent" in Dallas, before moving to the Houston area around 1894.

Covers give us postal information -- post office of origin, dates and rates, cancellations, etc., but covers also serve to remind us that people were involved in their making it into the mailstream, and often, the human interest factor can be just as intriguing!

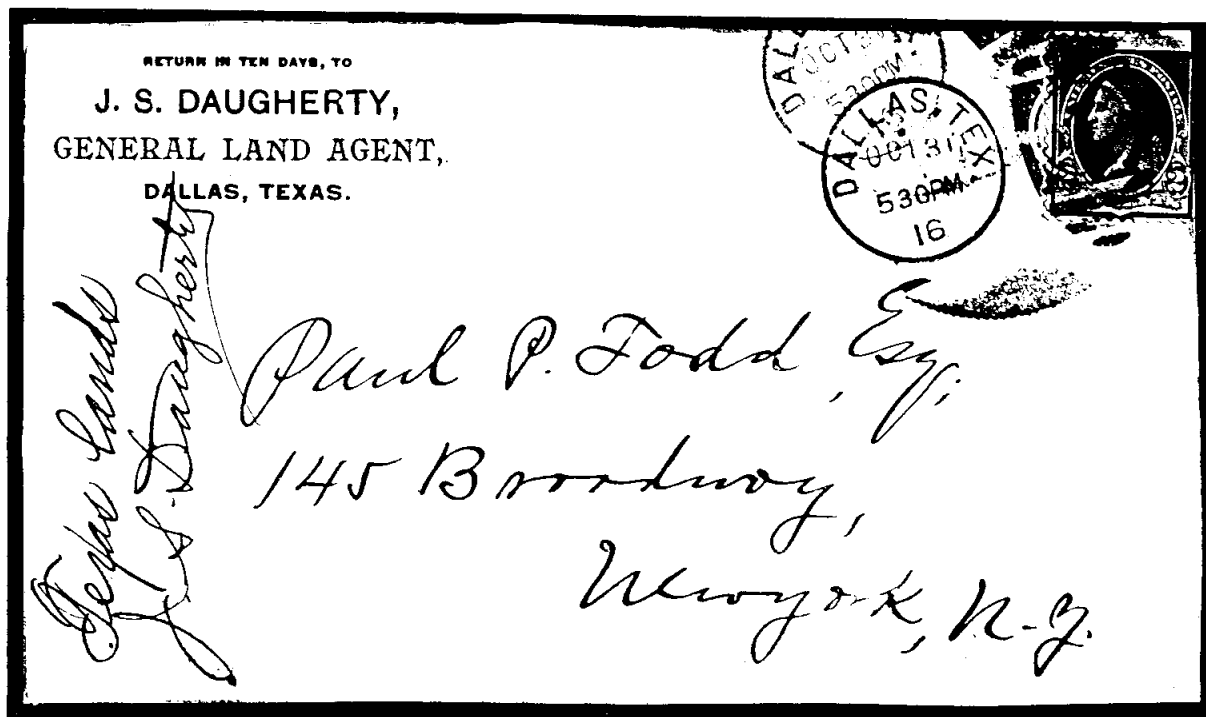


ILLUSTRATION #1

RETURN IN TEN DAYS, TO  
J. S. DAUGHERTY,  
GENERAL LAND AGENT,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.



*J. S. Daugherty  
May 3/92*

*Paul P. Fodd, Esq.  
145 Broadway  
New York, N.Y.*

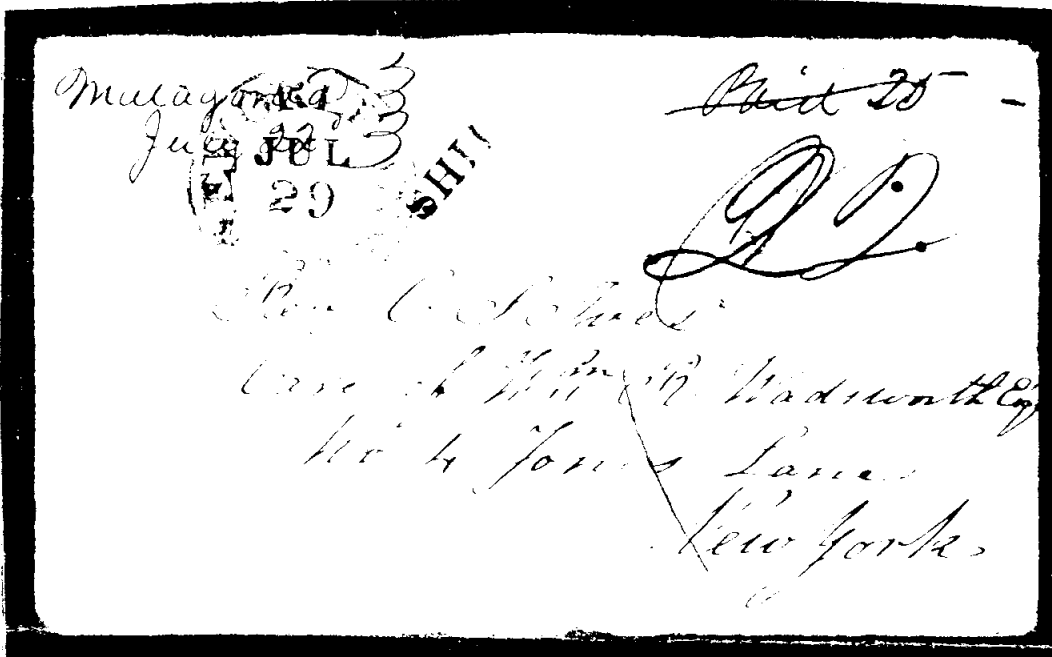
ILLUSTRATION #2

COMBINATION U.S. MAIL AND REPUBLIC OF TEXAS POSTAL SYSTEM

By David L. Jarrett

The illustrated cover, now owned by this writer, was one of a pair that was recently uncovered in an original find of Ives correspondence letters dating from 1839 to 1850; the group of 45 folded lettersheets and covers were sold in Christie's 19 September 1985 auction, which included an unlisted Matagorda 1839 straightline.

The illustrated folded lettersheet was written and postmarked Matagorda 22 July 1845. The townmark and "Paid 25" rate were applied in the same hand and prepaid the Republic of Texas postage from Matagorda to the port of Galveston. Of that charge, 20¢ included the double weight fee and 5¢ incorporated the outgoing ship charge; the letter was double weight since the writer had inclosed a second folded lettersheet addressed to another person. At Galveston, the postmaster handed the letter to a ship captain, who transported it to New Orleans for 2¢. The captain subsequently collected his 2¢ when he delivered it to the New Orleans postmaster; a penciled "2" under the inked "22" represents that charge.



The New Orleans postmaster then applied his blue New Orleans July 29 circular date stamp, matching "SHIP" handstamp and manuscript blue "22" on the cover, while striking off in blue pen the "Paid 25" of the Texas postage. The 22¢ United States collect charge represents both a double weight fee of 20¢ for carriage from New Orleans to New York and the 2¢ ship captain's compensation.

In New York, an additional charge of 1¢ was made since the letter was delivered by carrier to the addressee at 4 Jones Lane. That charge is indicated by the typical penciled slash "1" across the address, probably hastily

applied by the carrier when he simultaneously delivered the letter. That particular carrier rate marking often goes unnoticed since it does not stand out on the cover. Thus the addressee paid 23¢ for the letter.

The companion folded lettersheet (also with a manuscript Matagorda townmark) in the auction was dated a month earlier, June 25, but was a single rate letter and also carrier delivered.

## BOOK REVIEW

by Jane King Fohn

The Texas Republic:  
A Social and Economic History  
William Ransom Hogan  
University of Texas Press  
Austin. 1980.

From the first days of the Texas Republic, a way of life developed that still flourishes, even in the face of the space age. Stamina, individualism, initiative, and pride are still among the indomitable ingredients of the Texas spirit. Bitter courage, sardonic humor and kindness stood out amidst the drab and coarse frontier life. The Republic of Texas cast a spell over its citizens, the educated and the untutored alike. It took the sons and daughters of Virginia, Tennessee, the Carolinas, Georgia, Mississippi, Missouri, New York, France, Bohemia and Germany; and set its own ineradicable stamp on their souls. The same process continues in Texas today.

The Texas Republic: A Social and Economic History is exactly as titled - a social and economic history. William Ransom Hogan describes Texas' decade of independence following the Texas Revolution against Mexico of 1835-36, with interesting information enlivened with human touches and wry humor. Though the work is annotated with references to primary sources--old newspapers, letters, and court records--it is very readable.

A century and a half ago, the letters "G.T.T." ("Gone to Texas"), scrawled on house doors in the southern states, indicated that the occupants had departed for the Republic of Texas. The majority of Texas immigrants were homemakers searching for desirable land, while others were one jump ahead of the sheriff. Immigrants came to barely developed towns, woods full of game and a multitude of edible botanicals; prairies and river bottoms promised bumper crops and luxuriant cattle grazing. Threats of hostile Comanches and Mexicans kept migration in the eastern part of the State, with a gradual movement to the west.

The society required strength and self-reliance in acquiring the necessities of life and in its social relationships. Everyone was inclined to be self-assertive and resisted restraint. Newly arrived immigrants were aided by their new neighbors to establish themselves with help in such major undertakings as "house raisings." Local meetings were a forum for expressing community political or economic sentiment. As a general rule, the Sabbath was not observed, but camp meetings met both spiritual and social needs. Texans erected grogshops, caroused in saloons, square danced, raced horses, and gambled. The "Texas tall tale" came to the fore as an escape from a life of malaria, unbalanced diet, and economic misfortune.

In an economic depression, creating a new country produced steadfast spirits and strong backs. Broad distribution of land did much to dispel the

pain of the depression years. Ownership of land in this period of American history was considered the "key to happiness." Economic growth of the Republic of Texas was seriously retarded by spasms of speculation and devastating financial depression which followed the world-wide financial Panic of 1837. The public debt mounted alarmingly, and the value of the Texas dollar fell to two cents.

The era of Texas independence following the Texas Revolution came to an end in June, 1845, when the Texas Congress wisely and quickly accepted the statehood proposal of the United States for reasons both economic and protective. On February 16, 1846, the first state legislature was organized. Three days later, President Anson Jones relinquished executive power to Governor J. Pinckney Henderson. "The final act in this great drama is now performed," Jones said in his valedictory address. "The Republic of Texas is no more."

\* \* \*

### The German Texans

Glen E. Lich

The University of Texas

Institute of Texan Cultures

at San Antonio. 1981.

The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures at San Antonio, Texas houses exhibits and services for those interested in the rich history and the diverse cultural heritage of Texas. Of particular interest is a series of publications dealing with the many peoples who make Texas the extraordinary state it is today.

The German Texans is included in the Institute's series of books about Texians and Texans. This volume begins in the early 1800's, explaining the political, economic, and intellectual suppression in Germany that led to emigration. Glen E. Lich has developed a fascinating potpourri of lively reading with personal anecdotes, biographical sketches, and illustrations of the largest ethnic group to come to Texas.

Concluding The German Texans is a chronology and an extensive bibliography. The chronology places the Germans in the broader fabric of the central European colonization in Texas, and relates the migration to the significant events that have patterned the State's development. The bibliography provides a vast number of readily available references for those wishing to do further investigating.

An extensive research library is maintained by The University of Texas Institute of Texan Cultures for their research in Texas history and folk cultures. The library includes a large historic photographic collection, non-circulating reference books, vertical files, periodicals, audiovisual materials, and Texas Bicentennial records. The use of the library is available to researchers with advance appointments only. Telephone and mail requests for photographs which involve limited research may be handled by the library staff.