

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

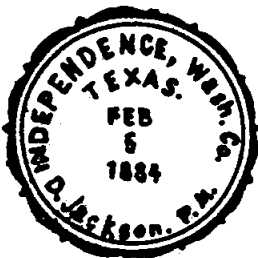


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Several unusual postmarks from different eras of Texas postal history are shown on the cover. Above the Journal's title is shown a rare marking used at Nacogdoches during the Mexican Texas (pre-1836) period. This marking also exists without the serrated edge.

Just beneath the title is an example of the oval handstamp applied during the Republic of Texas years by the Texian postal agents at New Orleans. The oval pictured was used by agent Wm. Bryan in 1841; agent Sam Ricker also used a similar marking during the Republic years.

Below and to the left of the Bryan oval is a handsome example of one of those "county and postmaster" cancels used widely during the latter part of the last century. This marking was used at Independence during the 1880's.

Below and to the right of the Bryan oval is shown the striking Cuero, Texas "Turkey Trot" flag cancel of 1922, one of the true classics of 20th Century Texas postal history.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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THE EDITOR'S PAGE

Secretary-Treasurer
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Welcome, welcome to the very first issue of the Texas Postal History Society Journal. First, let me give you a status report on our fledgling organization. As this is written (early December), we have enlisted 39 paid-up members. And that, as someone commented, means 39 people were willing to send in their \$5 just on faith--without seeing anything other than a letter from me or a notice in a stamp newspaper. I personally am quite pleased with this response, and I think we'll pick up some more members now that we have a Journal in print to send to prospective members. I think it is entirely possible for us to build our membership up to the 60 or 75 or even the 100 member level within the next few months. Since there are still several weeks left before our December 31, 1975 charter membership deadline, we will not attempt to list our membership in this first Journal. Rather, a complete list of all charter members, along with their collecting interests, will be included with the March, 1976 issue of the Journal. Now, here's some news about our first meeting and other things of interest:

FIRST MEETING: The first get-together for the TPHS has been set for the weekend of Feb. 14-15, 1976, at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 7800 N. Interregional Hwy., Austin, Texas. (This is the only Howard Johnson's in Austin, and is conveniently located at the intersection of IH 35 and State Hwy. 183.) This date was chosen after checking with several people to make sure there were no other philatelic events around the state, and we hope it fits into your schedule. We have reserved a block of rooms and a meeting room at Howard Johnson's. This meeting room will cost the club \$35 a day, but we get \$4 credit for every overnight guest we generate for the motel, so, with a good attendance, it won't cost the club anything at all. Make your plans now to come in on Saturday, Feb. 14 in time for some cover talking and swapping (and a dutch-treat dinner Saturday night at a nearby restaurant). On Sunday morning, we'll have a breakfast meeting and a short business session, and then will devote the rest of the day to more important things such as more cover swapping and talking. You need to (1) mail in the enclosed reservation card, and (2) drop me a note, too, so I'll know how many reservations to make for that breakfast meeting on Sunday morning. (My address is shown above; my phone is 512-474-1352, and I'll be glad to handle your reservations if you wish.)

OTHER MEETINGS: More about these later, but we should be able to arrange a get-together for interested cover collectors at the Seagull Stamp Club's Show in Corpus Christi on May 7-9, 1976, and also at the TEXANEX '76 Show in San Antonio on June 18-20, 1976. You might note those dates on your calendar.

BIG NEWS ABOUT RESEARCH MATERIALS: For those of you who don't know about it, there exists a monumental work entitled Postmasters and Post Offices in Texas, 1846-1930. This study, compiled by one Jim Wheat, contains (1) a list of list of all 254 Texas counties, showing the post offices that have existed in each county; (2) an alphabetical list of all post offices that existed in Texas in those years, showing the dates of establishment and discontinuance for each; and (3) an alphabetical list of all persons who served as a postmaster at any Texas post office in those years. This work is undated and has unfortunately not been published. In manuscript form it is approximately 1,800 type-written pages long. As far as is presently known, it is available only on microfilm at the Baylor University Library in Waco, the Southwest Texas State University Library in San Marcos, and the State Archives in Austin.

I think the author is the same Jim Wheat who published a couple of booklets on Texas ghost towns in 1971, and I am currently trying to locate him through an address in the booklets to find out if he has published this study or if plans are being made for publication. If you would be interested in obtaining a copy, let me know. If enough demand is evident, then possibly a decision to publish might come sooner. In the meantime, you'll have to be content to use the microfilm version. If you can make the arrangements, I think it would be worth your time to come to our Feb. 14-15 meeting in Austin a day or two early so you can spend some time examining this study in the Archives. I'll be glad to act as a guide for this if you do, and I assure you that you'll come away astounded at the wealth of postal history information contained in this work.

I did not know about this remarkable study myself until a couple of months ago, when I learned of it through some of the letters that my efforts to start a TPHS brought in. I don't know how long this microfilm has been available, but it was apparently discovered by two different groups of Texas cover collectors a year or so ago, and all efforts by both groups to locate Wheat were futile. Can anyone help us find this gentleman who has done this tremendous compilation??

YOU AND THE TPHS: To those of you who have asked what you can do to get the TPHS ball rolling, we need help of several kinds. First of all, articles about interesting covers are and always will be needed. Have you run across some marking unlisted in any catalog? or have you made a study of the different postmarks used by some town over a period of years? or have you found a cover whose markings leave you slightly puzzled? or have you noticed something of historical importance about an otherwise-routine cover? Then write it down on paper, whether it is a few sentences or a few pages, and send it to me so we can put it in the Journal. We also need some volunteer workers for several chores. Anyone care to handle the Auction Realizations section? All you have to do is just watch the auctions and write up their interesting Texas items once every three months. It is really a nice way to keep up with the market

WHY A TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY?

By Edward B. T. Glass

This seems a strange question to ask a group of people who would not be reading this article unless they were somewhat familiar with the subject. The writer, teaching at the University of Texas at Austin about fifteen years ago, used to try and agitate students with the old quotation "there are no stupid questions, only stupid answers." I ended up convincing myself of the fact that none of us knows it all, and without questions we'll not learn one new thing; that is, if you want to learn or help someone else by sharing your knowledge.

In answer to the question, and in order not to appear too stupid, let me break it down into, for me, manageable bits:

TEXAS. Another question: Where else in the United States can a piece of real estate, not too well defined in the early periods, demonstrate in its postal history that during a forty-five year span, 1820-1865, it was:

- (a) An out-post of settlements of the Kingdom of Spain.
- (b) Part of a state of the Republic of Mexico.
- (c) An independent Republic.
- (d) One of the United States of America.
- (e) An independent state following secession.
- (f) One of the Confederate States of America.
- (g) One of the United States of America again.

The above listed political conditions of what we now call Texas can be dated from any history book, but not in a "postal history" sense. Postal markings carry over from one period to another, and during periods (a) through (d) towns changed their postal markings--"townmark" or CDS (for circular date stamp)--at least four of five times on the average. Without a complete letter or "docketing" marks on a cover, only periods (e), (f), and (g) can be dated in the sense that a cover is a "first" or "last" day of a period. This is because of year-dated townmarks or "Star Die" embossed envelopes with month and date townmark cancels.

POSTAL HISTORY. (Try to find a simple definition!) How many times have I been at a pleasant social gathering and had someone ask "I hear you're a stamp collector--how many do you have--what's the oldest--what's it worth--etc.?" Half an hour later, I'm still doing my postal history monologue, my audience has changed, my wife is pretending she didn't come with me, and the hostess is obviously making mental notes to never invite me again.

Of the various writers I've turned to for help, I believe Tracy Simpson defines this vast field of collecting in the fewest possible words: "The postage stamp is the receipt for money paid for mail service to be rendered, and the postal markings indicate what mail service was furnished. Only by reference to the markings can the history of a cover be determined, and unless this history

is known, the usual objective of collecting is unattained; that is, to know the essential facts about the items collected."

"This is why the study of postal markings goes hand in hand with the study of stamps. Completeness of identification is impossible unless both are investigated. Modern collecting of early U.S. stamps follows this pattern: stamp plus postal history as evidenced by the markings on the cover." (From Tracy W. Simpson, U.S. Postal Markings 1851-'61 and Related Mail Services, published by Tracy W. Simpson, 1959)

It is interesting that Mr. Simpson differentiates between "stamps"--and this is what his book is all about, i.e., the postal markings on U.S. stamps issued during the period named--and "postal markings," which are then identified as postal history. His monumental book, the equivalent of all other books on this period put together, does ignore, except for a few instances, the "pre-stamp" and "stampless" covers which probably constituted the bulk of the mail for at least half of the period he's concerned with. These covers have not only their own "stampless" markings, but also nearly all of the markings used on stamped covers. Much of Texas postal history falls within this category, possibly because of poor distribution of stamps and/or envelopes to small post offices during the middle 1850's. Maybe demand was so slight that the fact that Nesbitt envelopes with manuscript markings are so available to collectors is an evidence of Post Office economy.

While nearly all of the postal markings used elsewhere in the United States were also applied or written on covers originating in Texas, this writer does question whether all of the stamps and/or embossed envelopes issued by the United States government were distributed to, and used from, Texas. Stamps were and are issued to indicate prepayment of rates set forth in the "Postal Laws and Regulations" for particular years as passed by Congress. Issuance of stamps usually followed need or demand by several years. Texas mail for most of this period seems to indicate that the high rates for multiple weight or foreign mail were usually made up of combinations of the lower (below 12¢) denomination stamps rather than the single 24¢ stamp (the rate to Britain) or 30¢ stamp (the rate to Germany). The 15¢ and 21¢ rates to Belgium and France are naturally combinations at this time, since there were no such stamps. The 12¢ stamp is fairly well-known as prepaying the quadruple weight usually required by legal correspondence. Covers of this rate are good, though sometimes ugly because of the docketing which does tell when a particular townmark was used, right down to the day, month, and year.

The period in which Texas was in the Confederacy raises many questions, also. Were all of the stamps issued by the Confederate States of America Postmaster General John H. Reagan, "a good ol' Texas boy," sent to Texas? Was there time for the "sample" stamps, the "Frameline" and the "Ten" to be sent to Texas? Why send the 2¢ brown, a "carrier" stamp, to a place that had no carrier service?

Young collectors of postal history might not be able to envision a time about thirty-five or forty years ago when there were only "stamp" collectors and dealers. These people believed that a cancelled stamp should rightfully be hinged in an appropriate space in

a stamp album only until it could be replaced by a mint stamp. In order to do this, stamps had to be cut and soaked off of covers, and the higher the denomination, the quicker it was done. If this theory is not correct, what happened to the 1847 stamps (and other "premium" values of later issues) sent to Texas? And what happened to the Confederate "Frameline" and "Ten" and 10¢ rose stamps sent to Texas?

SOCIETY. According to the 1948 edition of The New Century Dictionary published by the D. Appleton-Century Co., society is defined as:

- (a) "companionship or company, as to seek or enjoy one's society"
- (b) "a body of persons associated in action by their calling, interests, etc."
- (c) "an alliance, hence an organization of persons associated together for the promotion of common purposes..."

The dictionary is usually considered to be the last "word" when it comes to definitions. In the above, I believe we are told that our "society," by definition, should be a cooperative group. I hope we work that way.

For some reason, collectors of Texas postal history material have seemed in the past reluctant to exhibit or write concerning the subject. This is, in part, explained by the remarkable achievement of Alex L. ter Braake in getting his series of articles on Texas postal history published in the American Philatelist and later in book form by the American Philatelic Society (APS). This writer, a year or so after publication of Alex's book, asked the editor of the APS publications whether the APS would be interested in additional, supplemental, articles on Texas. The answer went along the theme of "No, ter Braake has done it all...exhausted the subject..."

This is simply not so. Alex, himself, says in his book that his is only a general treatment, and that only on Galveston has he done an in-depth study. Alex's work on Galveston is the type of study that can, and should be, done on any and every community in Texas. It won't be too difficult, if we do it together.

Editor's note: In Ed's cover letter (his address is Box 18, UNM, Albuquerque, N.M. 87131) bringing this article to me, he remarked that "on re-reading this, I see its implication is that postal history stops at the Civil War, and I did not intend to give this impression. In fact, I'm very curious about the Reconstruction period, the use of the grilled stamps, the 1869 issue, etc. The banknote period is interesting, too, with lots of new towns, railroad cancellations, illustrated covers and corner cards." I agree with Ed's comments about these later postal history fields, and would also add that I have found some of the more recent fields to be quite interesting. The flag cancels, the early machine cancels, and the slogan cancels of the last few decades make very attractive covers and are most challenging to collect.

Ed's account in his article of his "postal history monologue" at a party reminded me of similar problems I've had when trying to explain my collecting interests to a non-collector. I guess we all have to come to grips with this sooner or later, and work out a good definition of postal history in our own minds. Alexander Braake, in the book mentioned in this article (and reviewed elsewhere in this Journal), said that when he began studying postal history, no American student or organization had been able to give a satisfactory definition of the term. Later, he wrote, the Postal History Society of the Americas in 1968 published the following definition:

"Postal History is the study of letter sheets, covers, cards, and related items, in reference to written communications transmitted by recognized means."

This one-sentence definition did not satisfy all students, Alex noted, but a corollary to it detailing the various categories of collectible postal history material was also issued by the Society.

For another definition, you might consult the regular ads placed in the American Philatelist by the English firm Rigby Philatelic Auctions, Ltd., self-described as the "largest postal history auctioneers in the world" Their ad says:

"Postal History is the study of the use of the postage stamp, both adhesive and handstruck. It includes stamps on cover, postal stationery, and cancellations. It can be either simple or technical (just like any other form of Philately), depending entirely upon your own choice of collecting..."

Anyone else care to get their two cents' worth in on this subject? If so, just drop me a letter with your own definition of postal history, and we'll continue this discussion in the next issue of this Journal.

THE BOOK SECTION:

(Editor's note: It has been my experience that anytime a couple of postal history buffs get together and start talking about covers, the conversation will sooner or later turn to postal history reference books. "Where did you find out about that marking?" or "How did you know that town was established in 1874?" are typical of the questions that will quickly turn cover conversations into book discussions. Because of this, I hope THE BOOK SECTION can become a regular part of the TPHS Journal. If you know of good books, philatelic or otherwise, that contain information of interest to cover collectors, please share your knowledge with the rest of us. Just send me the name and author of the book, along with a few words about what it contains, and I'll list it here. I'll write up some of the more obvious works in this issue to get the ball rolling. Your contributions are earnestly solicited.)

The Handbook of Texas. (A two-volume set, available for \$35 plus tax from the Texas State Historical Association; Richardson Hall 2/306; University Station; Austin, TX 78712.)

Many of you, I know, are familiar with this set, but for those folks who aren't, it is, in my opinion, one of the most helpful books now available for the Texas postal historian. It is non-philatelic in origin, being a "dictionary of essential information" about Texas compiled by literally dozens of historians writing under the auspices of the TSHA. Its listing of thousands of towns, communities, and historical figures, though, make this work invaluable for someone trying to find out where a certain discontinued post office was located, or when a certain town was established, or whether some addressee or letter-writer was important historically. (This work, does not, as a matter of course, list the dates of establishment and discontinuance of all post offices, but many, many of the write-ups for individual towns and communities will mention the year when when a post office was first obtained or later discontinued.) It is an expensive set of books, of course, but the knowledge it provides will pay dividends in the long run, both in terms of added enjoyment from knowing more about your covers, and in terms of added money you'll get by knowing more about your covers when you sell or trade them.

Texas, The Drama of its Postal Past, by Alex L. ter Braake. (Available for \$15 from the American Philatelic Society; Box 800; State College, Pa. 16801; 20% discount to APS members.)

Surely anyone interested enough in Texas postal history to join this organization will be aware of this monumental work, published in 1970 in book form by the APS after being serialized in the APS Journal for many months. Among the topics covered in depth in this work are Spanish Texas and Mexican Texas postal history, the organization and workings of the Republic of Texas post office department, the postal history of Confederate Texas, military mail including the Mexican War of 1847-8 and the Vera Cruz occupation of 1914, diplomatic and consular mail, postal markings of the West Texas forts, and the strange case of Greer County on the Texas-Oklahoma border. Only scattered articles and a few out-of-print books had

ever touched on most of these subjects before, and Alex did a masterful job of pulling all the known information together, adding to it mountains of new facts uncovered by his long hours of burrowing through manuscript collections in various libraries, and coming up with the best in-print treatment of early Texas postal history. If you don't have it, by all means get it for your library.

Standard Flag Cancel Encyclopedia, by Frederick Langford. (Price of this book is \$10; the only address I have for Mr. Langford is 184 Virginia Ave., Pasadena, Calif. This address is 12 years old, so I'd suggest writing before sending payment as it may no longer be current.)

This is a complete listing, as of 1965, of the known examples of those popular wavy flag cancels of the early 1900's. Texas cover collectors will find almost 300 different Texas flag cancels listed. Many of these are common and fairly inexpensive, but this field also has its classics, such as the beautiful pictorial Cuero, Texas Turkey Trot marking of 1922 (this would make a good subject for a TPHS Journal article--any volunteers?), and the "Border series" RPO flags of 1916. Newer collectors looking for a challenging, yet inexpensive postal history field would be well-advised to give these flag cancels a try.

American Stampless Cover Catalog, edited by E. N. Sampson. (The last edition, published in 1971, is now out-of-print, and will have to be purchased from philatelic book dealers such as the HJMR Co., Box 308, North Miami, Fla. 33161; or Indi, Box 41268, Indianapolis, Ind. 46241. A bicentennial edition, to be edited by Henry Spelman III, Box 645, San Anselmo, Cal. 94960, is in the works and should be available sometime next year.)

This is the "bible" of stampless cover collectors all over the country. The 1971 edition is based on earlier works of two of this country's most eminent postal historians, Sampson, and the late Harry M. Konwiser. The Texas section provides a listing of the pre-stamp and stampless postal markings of Spanish Texas, Mexican Texas, the Republic of Texas, the statehood period, and Confederate Texas. Also listed in the back of the catalog are ship and packet boat markings, including several from vessels important in the transportation of early Texas mails. Anyone seriously interested in Texas stampless material can't afford to be without this book.

Next Issue: You'll find more information here in the next issue, including a listing of books dealing with RPO cancels, fancy cancels, and anything else reported by our members. Got anything to share with us?



A Waco Village, Texas Confederate Usage of U.S. Postage?

The stamp is a Scott #65 (1861 3¢ rose)...the postmark is a circular Waco Village, Jan. 7, 1862, Tex...and both are on a 1 3/8" x 1 1/2" cut square from a yellowish-tan envelope.

The reaction to this combination has to be that of the man who, as the old story goes, said upon seeing a giraffe, "there ain't no such animal." This is because on January 7, 1862, Waco Village, Texas was as loyal to the Confederate States of America as was Richmond, Virginia, and the stamp and postmark just don't belong together.

The first possible explanation which comes to mind is that the stamp was accepted because no Confederate stamps were available at the time to the local postmaster (J. C. Newlon, who served from July 12, 1861 to June 19, 1863) but this theory is rather weak because the correct postal rate was either 5¢ or 10¢, depending on where the letter was being sent, and not 3¢. The possibility exists that the cover from which the cut square was taken bore a surcharge, but this, of course, must remain pure speculation.

A correspondent friend in Dallas has suggested that the most logical explanation is that the postal worker who applied the cancellation did not check for accuracy the year date portion of the hand stamp used in applying the cancellation. This raises the interesting possibility that other such errors (if indeed this is one) of this type exist. It should be mentioned that the cancellation is well-struck and absolutely cannot be mistaken for anything other than 1862.

My Dallas friend also stated that in his opinion the item could not have been postmarked earlier than January 7 of 1866 or 1867. The possibility of it having been in 1867 must be virtually ruled out because the "Village" was dropped from the postmark on Oct. 11, 1866, and Waco Village became simply Waco.

The writer would welcome comments from those who have an opinion as to how this interesting postmark may have come about, or who may know of the existence of similar Waco Village markings. It is probably much too much to hope for, but wouldn't it be revealing to locate another cover with such a stamp/postmark puzzle...but this time with the original dated letter in it?

AUCTION REALIZATIONS

Al Zimmerman's 35th Auction. (843 Van Nest Ave., Bronx, N.Y. 10462)

This sale had a number of interesting Texas covers. The stampless section had three nice statehood covers. A red "Chapel Hill, Tex" CDS plus a red "PAID 3" on a F-VF envelope brought \$40. A nice black "Jasper, Tex" CDS plus a "PAID 3" circular marking on a VF envelope also hit the \$40 level. The third cover, which went for \$37.50, was a F-VF envelope bearing both an incomplete black "Galveston, Tex" CDS and a nicer red "Wharton, Tex" CDS.

Zimmerman also had a group of seven Confederate Texas stampless covers, all with manuscript "Paid 10" markings, and all in F-VF condition. An "Alto, Tex" black CDS on an 1864 folded letter brought \$70. An "Anderson, Tex" undated black circle brought \$67.50, while a black CDS from the same town hit \$70.00. A pretty "Beaumont, Tex" black rimless circle on a homemade cover went for \$75, as did a black "Houston, Tex" CDS on a letter to Dr. J. H. Starr. A "Crockett, Tex" black CDS on an 1863 folded letter to Dr. Starr brought \$90, and a "Henderson, Tex" CDS, also on an 1863 folded letter to Dr. Starr, hit the \$70 mark.

This sale also had a couple of interesting covers with fancy Wheelock, Tex. cancellations. The first had a regular black "Wheelock, Texas" CDS, and a bold open star tying a #65; it sold for \$75. The other was a Confederate cover with a pair of #7 tied by the upper portion of the "Wheelock, Robertson County, Texas" black CDS. Zimmerman described it as "a Pre-War County cancel, used in the Confederacy, a great rarity, possibly unique." It brought \$310 against an estimated realization of \$150-250.

Two other covers in the Zimmerman sale worth noting here were a "Cut Off, Guadalupe Co., Texas" double-lined circle on a #210 that brought \$14, and a Cuero, Texas "Turkey Trot" flag cancel on an unaddressed postcard that went for \$40.

H. R. Harmer's Oct. 21-23 Auction of the Sidney A. Hessel Collection.
(6 West 48th St., New York, N.Y. 10036)

This auction provided one of those "once-in-every-other-decade" chances for Texas collectors with fat pocketbooks to acquire some choice Texas Confederate Postmasters Provisionals.

A Beaumont, Texas 10¢ black on pink (Scott #12X2, Cat. \$2500) used on a cover to Galveston hit the \$3400 mark. Three copies of the type-set Goliad, Texas provisional issue were offered, two off cover, and one on a neat little cover to Stonewall, Texas. A 5¢ black on green (29X6, Cat. \$2000) described as fine went for \$1700; a different type 5¢ black (29X6, Cat. \$2000) described as repaired and fine appearing brought \$700. The cover, bearing a 10¢ black on gray (29X7, \$4000) made it to the \$5500 level before bidding ceased.

A pair of examples of the Gonzales, Texas provisional labels were also in the sale, both on covers with the Gonzales CDS. A pair of the 5¢ gold on dark blue (30X1, \$7500) brought \$4250, and a single of the 10¢ gold on black (unlisted by Scott) went for \$3200. The Independence, Texas 10¢ black on buff envelope cutout (41X1, unpr.) sold for \$3800.

A ragged example of the Richmond, Texas 10¢ handstamped provisional envelope (70XU2, \$450), used to Hillsboro, went for \$625. And finally, there were two off-cover copies of the Victoria, Texas provisional stamps. The 5¢ (88X1, \$2000), described as having small faults but fine appearance, sold for \$1500; the 10¢ (88X2, \$2250), similarly described, brought \$950.

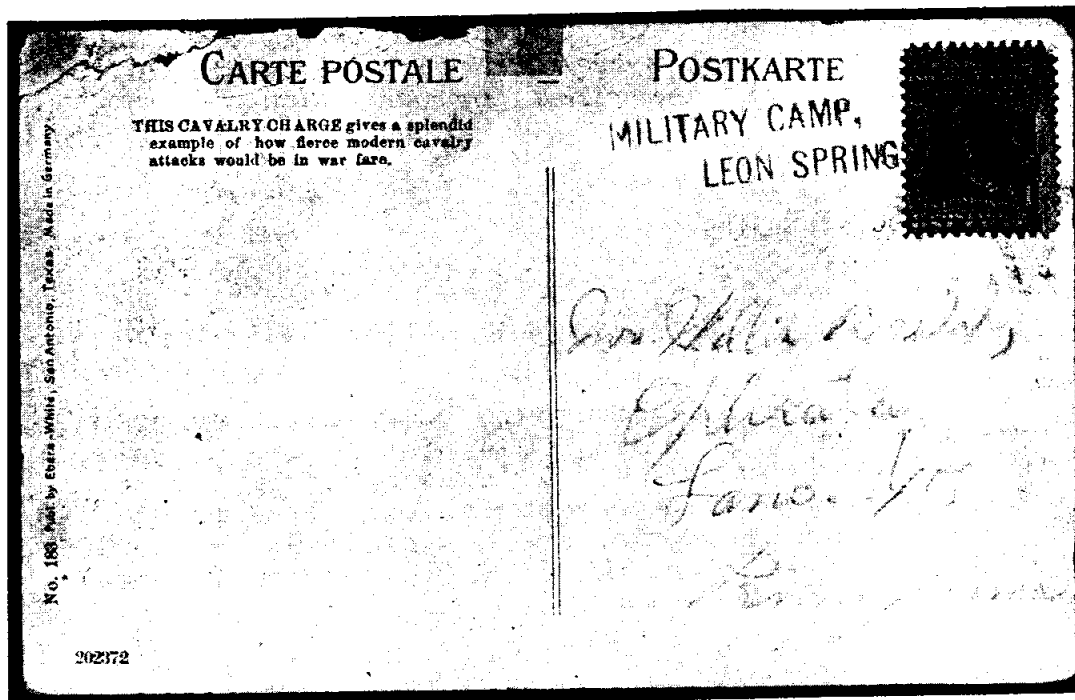
THE EDITOR'S PAGE: (Cont. from P. 4)

yourself. And what about volunteers to coordinate research projects such as a study of Texas RPO's, Texas flag cancels, Texas County and Postmaster cancels, Texas manuscript town markings, etc. Surely there are examples of all of these unlisted by the various catalogs, and new discoveries should be reported in this Journal. Now then. Which job are you most interested in?

COMING IN FUTURE JOURNAL ISSUES: Among the articles all ready for printing is an expansion of Gene Gaddy's research piece on Dallas County postal history as printed in STAMPS Magazine earlier this year. Gene has added his comments about the relative scarcity of the various Dallas County postmarks, and this article will be printed in the next Journal, which, by the way, will be published quarterly. We also have an interesting article by Guy Prescott on some unusual Texas Confederate covers ready to go for the next issue. Plans are being made for an article on the use of the 1847 stamps in Texas (to be written by one of the foremost authorities on this issue in the country). We also hope to have an article on Texas RFD markings with the help and collaboration of this country's most respected researcher in this area. And, finally, we plan to have that article you are thinking about writing at this very moment, so please get to work.

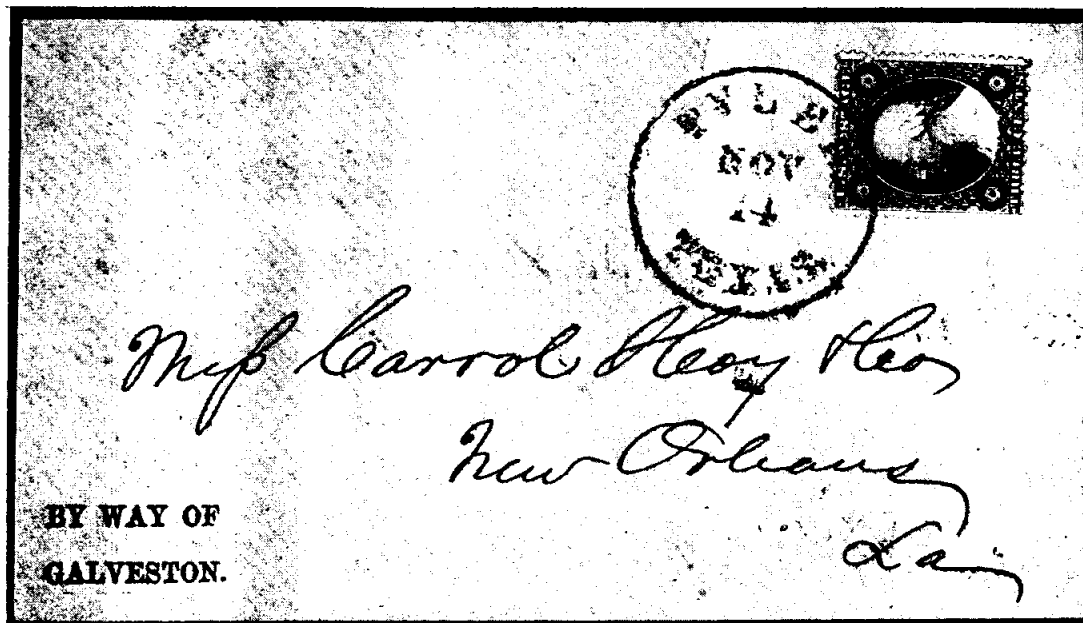
THE COVER PAGE

This page will be regularly devoted to unusual covers in the hopes that our members can help provide explanations for, or other copies of, any strange or puzzling postal markings. Two covers from the editor's collection are shown in this issue, and an explanation is offered for one. It is a postcard with a blue, straight-line "Military Camp/Leon Springs, Texas/Jul 20, 1908":



I described this in one of my earlier letters aimed at stirring up interest in the TPHS, and asked for comments. Shortly, a xerox copy of a card with a similar marking arrived from Ed Glass in Albuquerque. Ed wrote that "before the various state militia or volunteer quasi-military units were 'federalized' before WW I, many communities had their own 'companies.'" Ed's grandfather was commander of the "Garrity Rifles," a unit from Corsicana, Texas, and they went to "summer camp" at Leon Springs, which the Handbook of Texas describes as a military training camp in northwestern Bexar County. Ed's example of this mark is on a postcard from his grandfather to his daughter - later Ed's mother, but then a teen-age girl back home in Corsicana. The marking on this card is similar, except the date line is in manuscript. This marking, then, was apparently applied to mail from these summer camps.

The second item, the "problem cover" for this issue, is pictured at the top of the next page. It's an envelope from the famous Carroll Hoy correspondence, is undated, and bears a nice #26 tied by a "Tyler, Texas" black CDS. The puzzling part, at least to me, is the "BY WAY OF GALVESTON" printed on the lower left corner of the envelope. Does anyone have any theories as to its significance? Does anyone have similar covers? I would appreciate hearing about this from any of our members, and any explanations offered will be mentioned here next issue.



Other "problem covers" are hereby solicited. Send them (or a glossy print) in to me, and we'll ask the TPHS members about them.

THE CLASSIFIED AD SECTION: (Non-commercial ads of reasonable length will be printed free of charge here for members only.)

WANTED: To purchase. Your duplicate stampless or stamped covers from Texas, Hawaii, CSA, Ind. Terr., Kansas, Calif., or anything else you want to get rid of. Also want information or covers relating to Wm. Nicholson, Terry's Texas Rangers, CSA period. If not for sale, would appreciate copies for research article. Guy Prescott; 8920 Wonderland Ave., Los Angeles, Cal. 90046.

WANTED: Waco Village, Texas covers. To be used in research projects on Waco postal history. Please write and tell me what you have or send with your price. Member of APS, TPA, TPHS. Jim Shannon; Box 8531; Waco, Texas 76710.

WANTED: Dallas County postal items. Have a few Texas stampless, early covers, and DPO's to trade or will purchase. A. E. (Gene) Gaddy; 9817 Kingsley Rd.; Dallas, Texas 75238.

WANTED: Nacogdoches, Texas covers. Anything from stampless to recent. Will buy or trade other Texas covers. Charles Deaton; Box 12814; Austin, Texas 78711.

