

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY JOURNAL

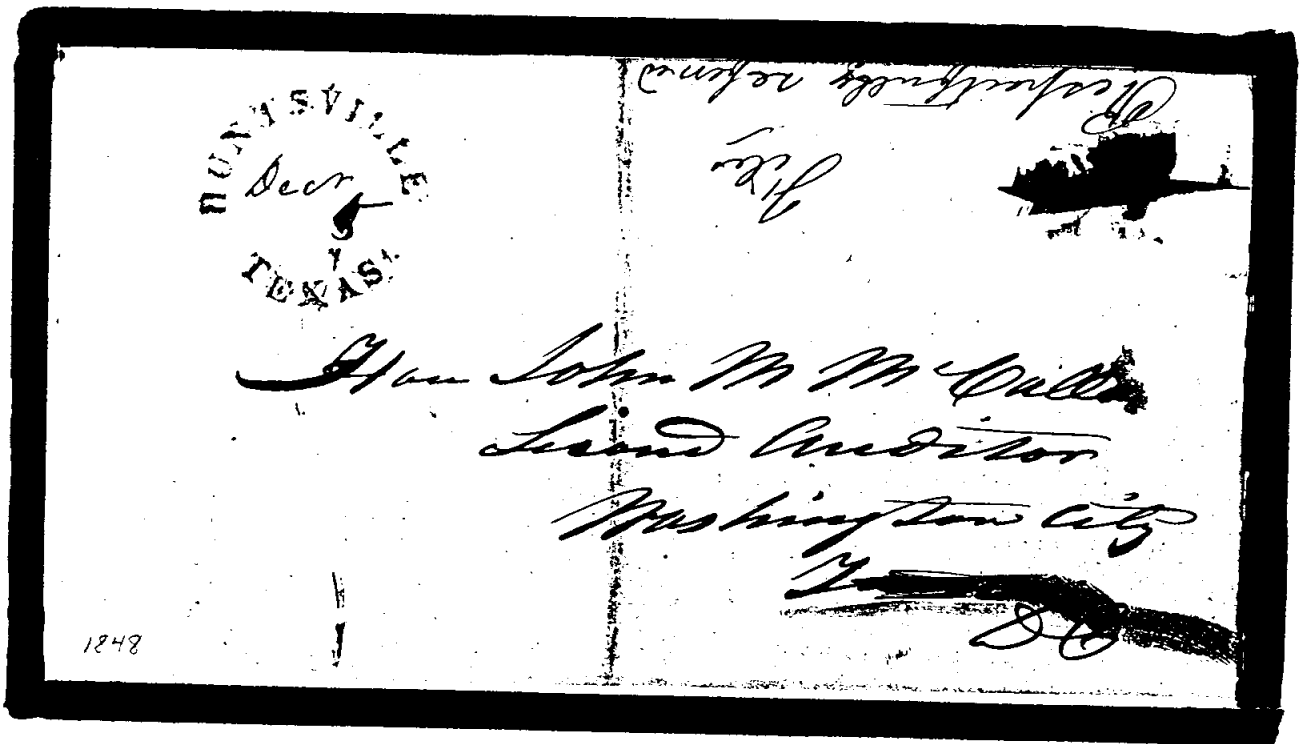


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Illustrated on the front page is a black, 29mm., Huntsville, Texas postmark, with manuscript center showing the month and day, used from 1848-1850. It is one of only seven towns in Texas to have circular town postmarks with no outer ring (NOR) reported in the American Stampless Cover Catalog.

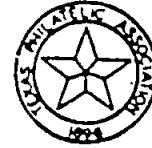
THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Dues \$10 per year payable to the Secretary-Treasurer

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I'm pleased to announce that we now have a new Editor for the TPHS Journal. His name is Martin Margulis and he lives in Austin. He will work with Bill Emery until the fall of this year and then be completely on his own for 1996.

Martin is a new Texan, but has a varied and rich background in postal history philately. But look at the philatelic autobiography which can be found on page 2 of this issue. There you'll find detailed background on our new Editor.

It's not too early to begin planning for our annual get together which has normally been held in conjunction with one of our state shows. It has been suggested that we consider meeting in San Antonio, instead of Dallas this year. What do you think of this idea? I'd be pleased to hear from you, pro or con. Or should we consider another location ie. Austin or Houston? Think about your preference and drop me a note. Or call me if you prefer.

And don't forget that "Dues are Due", if you haven't renewed them for 1995. Send in your \$10.00 to Karl Gebert, our Treasurer, so he won't have to send you another reminder.

Hope you've acquired some interesting new material during the holidays.

Good Collectin,

Ed Christman

MEET THE NEW EDITOR

By Martin Margulis

My name is Martin Margulis and I am to be the new editor of your Texas Postal History Society Journal. So it is only fair that I tell you something about myself, my qualifications, and my editorial philosophy.

By the time you read this I will have lived in Austin for over a year. Previously, I lived in NYC (the Bronx) where I worked as a teacher, administrator and guidance counselor.

I started collecting stamps as a pre-teenager, dropped it in my teens. I commenced again when I got married. As the price of stamps increased I started to specialize. I cut my collecting interests to England, Canada and the United States. Within a few years Canada and then England were sold off.

My U.S. collection grew to be fairly complete and it became quite expensive to purchase new materials. I had the Columbians, and all but the two dollar Trans-Miss, as well as all the airmails. I then started to collect postal history and sold my U.S. collection.

I collect Westchester, Putnam, Orange and Richmond counties, as well as, New York City. I exhibited my Orange County collection regionally and nationally, until I learned that a county collection was only worth a silver medal. I have written for La Posta, and a number of other philatelic journals.

Because I concentrated on part of New York State, I joined the Empire State (N.Y.) Postal History Society. Within a few years I became editor of its Bulletin, now the Journal of New York State Postal History, a position I still hold. My son David did the layout and all the hard work of desk top publishing and the paper became an excellent publication. It is published bi-annually and runs about thirty pages. It is now published from Austin, Texas.

As editor, I covered all phases of postal history, and tend to present material from the entire State of New York. I also included pertinent articles from other Journals, ie. M.P.O.'s, L.I.P.H.S., and the Machine Cancel Society. I also spent considerable time badgering members and non-members for contributions. I illustrated many award winning exhibits, (Belonging to the Collectors Club of New York was a big help.).

I have only a rudimentary collection of Texas material and specialize in Travis County. I never expect to have much of a collection of Texas material as much of it is already owned by other Society members. But it will be fun seeing what I can find.

As editor, I am counting on the cooperation of the membership to fill the pages of the Journal. I don't specialize in Texas history and do not look down on F.D.C.'s or other commemorative covers. I like articles on county and other local units, as well as, local or national, personages and events. Obviously, they should be about Texas or Texans.

Lastly, if you really want a publication, you must contribute to it, which obviously includes illustrated exhibits. If I get the material, I'll do the rest. I do not intend to publish the Journal without your input.

I'm looking forward to meeting a lot of you in person at various philatelic events in Austin and around the State. Meanwhile, start planning on what you can contribute to the Texas Postal History Society Journal.

**TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY
HAMMER PRICES SALE #12**

LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE	LOT	PRICE
1	16.50	18	12.00	31	25.00
2	7.00	19	3.00	32	27.00
4	35.00	21	12.00	35	10.50
5	30.00	22	19.00	36	13.50
8	9.50	24	10.00	37	30.00
9	100.00	25	20.00	38	14.00
11	6.00	26	75.00	52	25.00
14	16.00	27	32.00	53	30.00
15	7.50	28	37.00	54	13.50
16	8.50	29	13.50	57	17.00

BORJAS, TEXAS
by R. H. Stever

You probably never heard of it. Borjas (pronounced bor-haas) is a DPO whose post office life was from May 19, 1879 to November 1, 1881. It was located in a remote area of southwestern Duval County. (Figure 1) Even today there is little human habitation in this part of Texas. The country consists of rolling caliche hills, mesquite brush, cactus and rattlesnakes. So why do you suppose there was a settlement here in 1880? The probable explanation has to do with railroad building.

The Morris & Cummings Co. of New York finished dredging a deepwater (for that day and time) channel from the Gulf to Corpus Christi's central wharf in the spring of 1874. Uriah Lott, famous Texas railroad pioneer, envisioned a railroad from Corpus Christi to Laredo to enable goods out of Mexico to be shipped out of the new port and vice-versa. He was over 100 years ahead of NAFTA! Lott's big problem was a complete lack of funds. He chartered a railroad in March 1875 but could get only minor donations. But Lott knew human nature. He began construction and donors responded when they could see actual progress. On September 18, 1875, after a stockholders meeting, the charter was revised and the Corpus Christi, San Diego and Rio Grande Narrow Gauge Railroad Company was born.

Construction reached Banquete by 1878 and San Diego, a distance of 52 miles, by September 1879. Major backers of the project were Lott's good friends, Captain Mifflin Kenedy and Captain Richard King. Even so, funds were beginning to run short and it was doubtful if the track could reach Laredo.

When the railroad reached Realitos in 1880 the work shut down. There was, however, considerable rail traffic between Corpus Christi and the railhead which proved the validity of Uriah Lott's promise of increased commerce. Awaiting shipment at one point in time were 1100 barrels of merchandise at Benevides and another 1000 barrels at San Diego.

Naturally, mail from the nearby post office at Borjas also increased. This post office may have been established to handle construction workers' and other commercial mail. Figure 2 is an April 1880 letter which originated at Borjas. Note the manuscript cancel. Addressee, Mr. William H. Caldwell was probably a relative of Borjas postmaster Edward H. Caldwell. Perhaps the postmaster used this letter to have a family member get him a townmark handstamp because the letter in Figure 3, only a month later, bears a nice clean strike from a new handstamp.

The Figure 3 letter is from the Blucher correspondence at Texas A & M Corpus Christi. Felix von Blucher, a brilliant German immigrant surveyor, may have been working for Uriah Lott surveying railroad right-of-way. Other Blucher letters posted at Borjas are known.

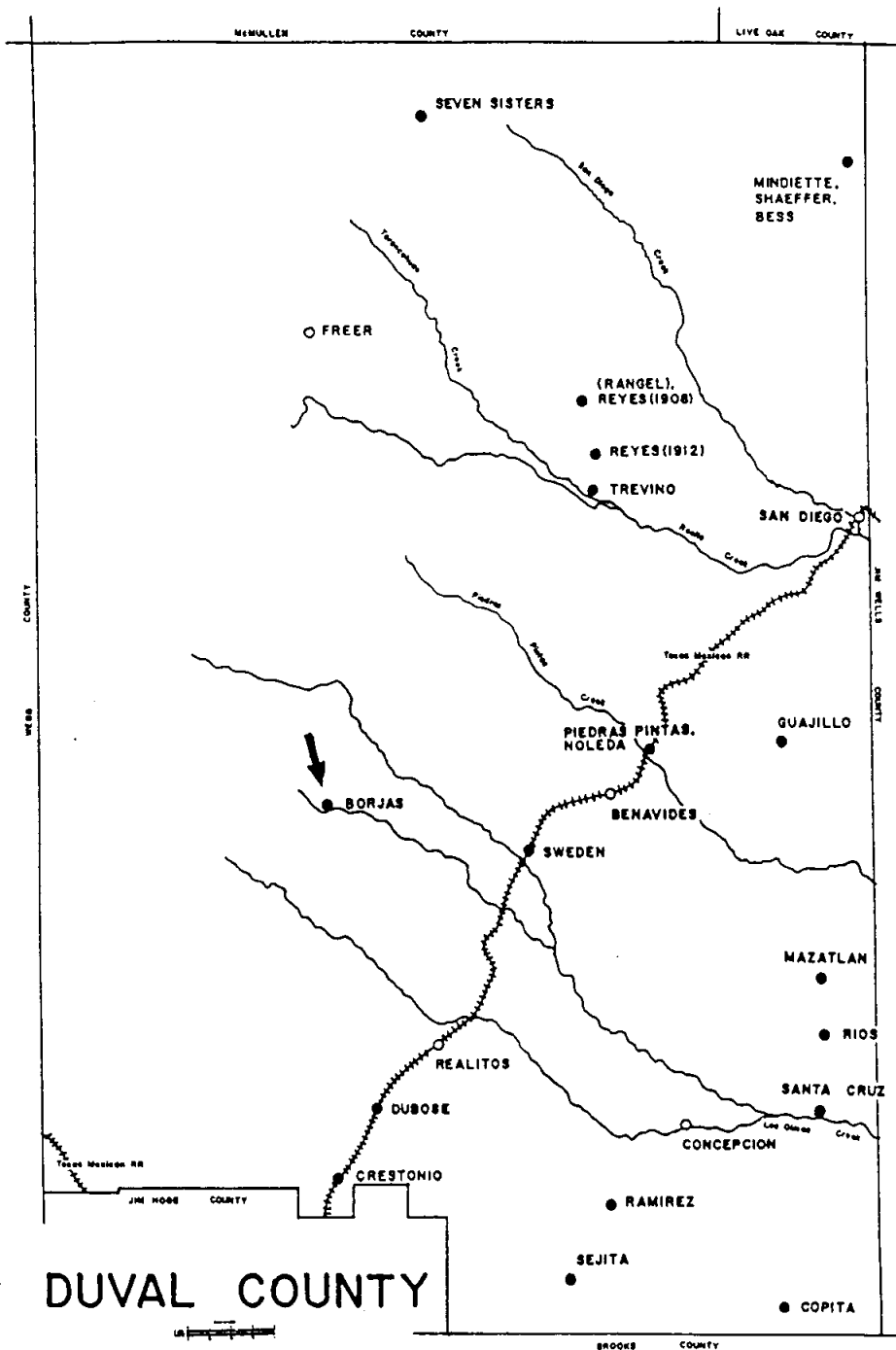


Figure 1. Map of Duval County courtesy John Germann. Arrow shows location of Borjas and shows railroad running southwesterly from San Diego through Realitos.

Lott and Captain Kenedy went to New York and sold the stalled Narrow Gauge to the Palmer-Sullivan interests, owners of the Mexican National Railway. The new owners re-named Lott's railroad the Texas-Mexican Railway Company or Tex-Mex as it is known today. It was converted to standard guage in 1902. Construction commenced again and Lott was able to reach Laredo on Sept. 1, 1881, beating J. Gould's I&GN by several weeks. With the railhead no longer at Realitos, the need for a post office at Borjas ceased and the office was closed November 1, 1881. A new post office was established at Realitos in 1886. Borjas became a ghost town whereas Realitos, on the Tex-Mex line, still lives.

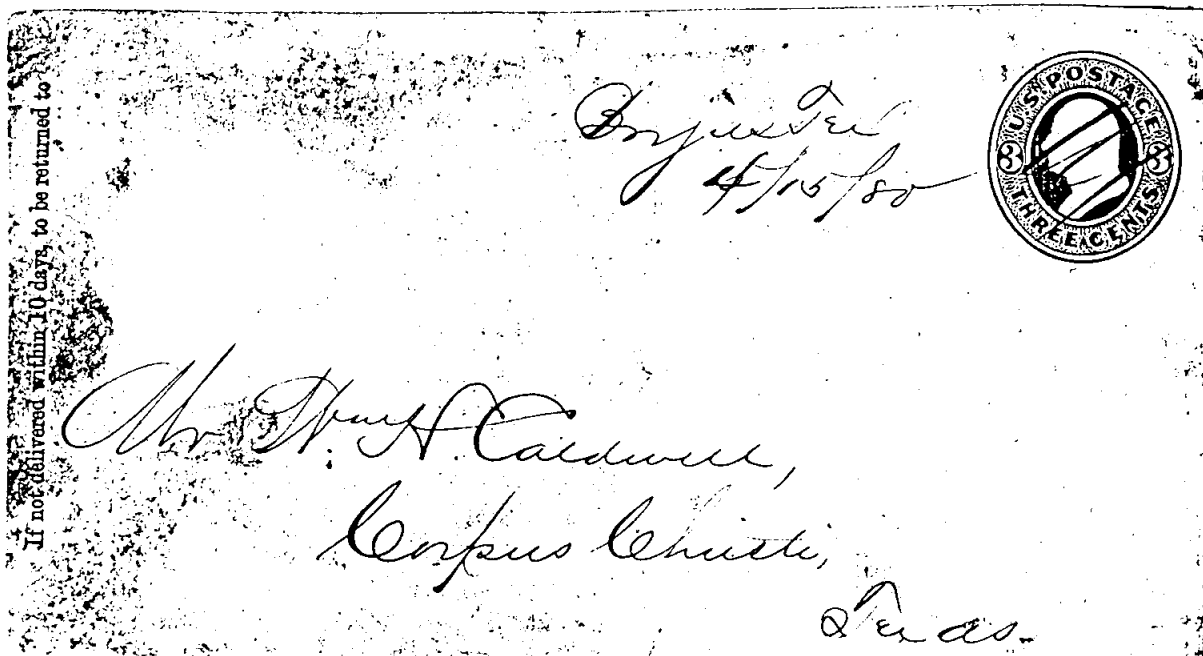


Figure 2. Borjas manuscript cancel, April 15, 1880.

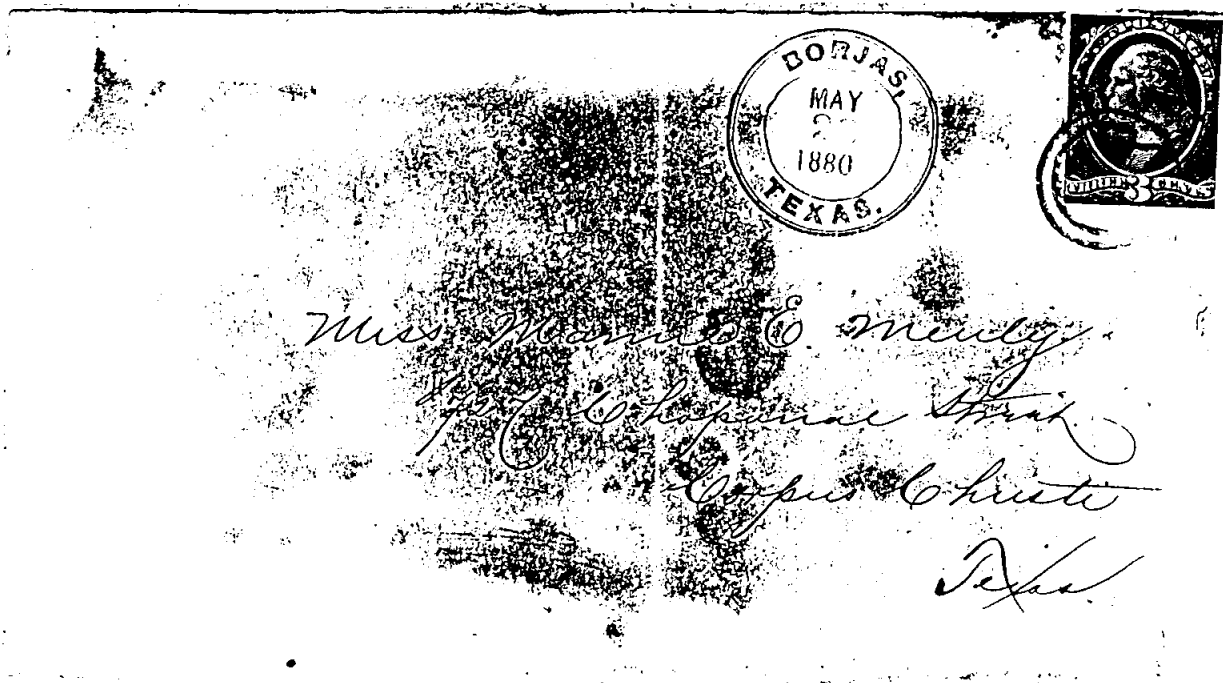


Figure 3. Borjas triple circle townmark, May 23, 1880.

REFERENCES:

Schmidt, Walter G., An Encyclopedia of Texas Post Offices, Collectors Club of Chicago, 1993, p 53.

Germann, John J. & Myron Janzen, Texas Post Offices By County, 1986.

Allhands, J. L., Uriah Lott, Naylor Co., San Antonio, 1949

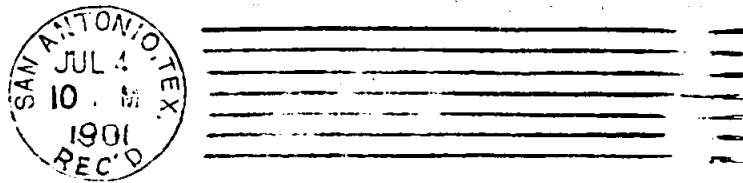
COLUMBIA MACHINE CANCELS SOUGHT

By R. M. Arndt

The MACHINE CANCEL SOCIETY is currently preparing a multi-volume study on the Columbia Postal Supply Company and its cancelling devices. They are seeking input from collectors of Texas material. Can you help?

I would like to provide some background information and examples of Texas uses, including a listing of the known uses by type and dates. An early recorded Texas use is a backstamp receiving mark from San Antonio, Texas, July 4, 1901, 10 PM, Fig. 1.

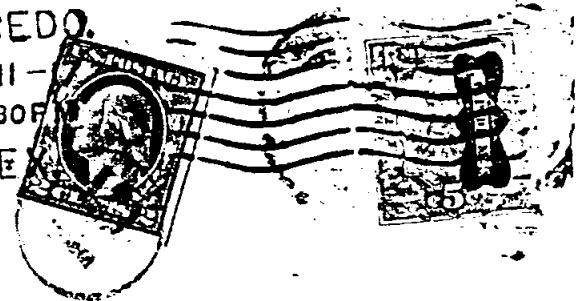
Fig. 1



The Columbia Postal Supply Company cancels are first seen from Paterson, NJ, Type A-1, October 16, 1901, which was during the heyday of many companies seeking to sell or lease machine cancelling devices to the U.S. Post Office Department. The turn of the century cancelling machines were electric powered. The smaller hand powered machines began appearing by July, 1913.

FORMA M Y M 110
COMPAÑIA DE MINERALES Y METALES, S. A.
CERRALVO, N. L.
MEXICO.

LAREDO,
FEB 11 -
7-30P
TEX



Cía. de Minerales y Metales, S. A., de México

P. O. BOX 867

Fig. 2

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS
E. U. DE A.

The Fig. 2 mixed franking cover has a Columbia hand power cancel, LAREDO, TEX, Type K-1WS on a 2¢ Washington, along with a magenta 19 mm circular handstamp with a numeral "15" (bold 8 mm high) of unknown origin. The cancel tying the 5 centavo "necktie" overprint of the revolutionary period appears to be a "Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas" steel duplex. The corner card from a mining area in "Nuevo Leon" may indicate it was hand carried to Nuevo Laredo and franked with both stamps since many revolutionary stamps were not recognized by U.S. Postal Authorities and dual franking assured smooth passage at the Exchange Office.

Following is a listing of the early Columbia machine cancels currently known to have been used in Texas. These range in dates from 1901 to 1921. The examples are all from electric machines, and the time has a line of its own. The next two pages are examples of postmarks and cancellers used primarily in the electric machines.

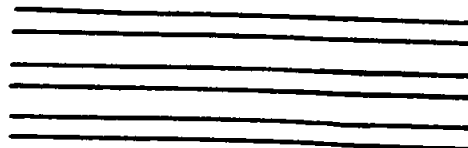
TEXAS

<u>CITY - STATE</u>	<u>STATION</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DIE</u>	<u>KNOWN USAGE</u>
AMARILLO, TEX.		K-8	1	08/02/13 - 09/25/16
AUSTIN, TEX.		K-8	1	08/12/13 - 09/27/17
, TEXAS		K-8	2	11/18/17 - 02/27/18
, TEX.	CAPITOL STA.	KS-8P	1	01/25/15 - 06/02/17
BEAUMONT, TEX.		K-8P	1	10/17/13 - 05/23/18
BREHAM, TEX.		K-8P	1	11/16/14 - 11/30/19
BROWNSVILLE, TEX.		J-6P	1	03/26/11 - 10/02/16
, TEX.		J-6P	2	12/09/16 - 06/18/18
CLEBURNE, TEX.		K-8P	1	01/20/14 - 12/24/17
COMMERCE, TEXAS		K-8	1	05/26/19 - 05/07/21
CORPUS CHRISTI, TEX.		K-8	1	05/26/13 - 05/22/18
CORSICANA, TEX.		K-8	1	07/14/13 - 11/10/14
, TEXAS		K-8	2	10/07/15 - 05/31/18
DALLAS, TEX.		K-8P	1	05/23/18 - 05/24/18
FORT WORTH, TEX.		A-2	1	10/20/02 - 11/13/02
, TEXAS		A-G	2	02/10/05 - 04/06/07
, TEX.		A-G	1	10/16/07 - 12/17/07
, TEX.	STOCK YARDS	KS-8	1	01/09/14 - 01/10/17
PORT ARTHUR, TEX.		K-8P	1	12/24/14 - 07/22/17
SAN ANTONIO, TEX.		A-2	1	06/17/02 - 04/17/04
, TEX.		A-2	2	09/01/04 - 02/16/06
, TEXAS		A-G	2	04/01/06 - 12/03/06
, TEX.		A-G	3	04/06/07 - 04/21/09
SAN ANTONIO, TEX.		J-6P	1	06/17/09 - 06/18/09
WACO, TEX.		K-8	1	12/21/13 - 05/20/18
WICHITA FALLS, TEX.		K-8P	1	07/03/13 - 01/01/18
, TEXAS		K-8P	2	01/18/18 - 01/19/18

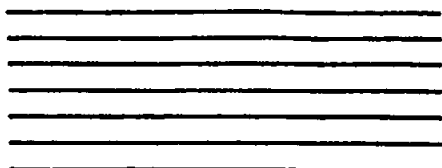
COLUMBIA POSTAL SUPPLY CO.
ELECTRIC MACHINE
BAR & 'G' CANCELLER TYPE CHART



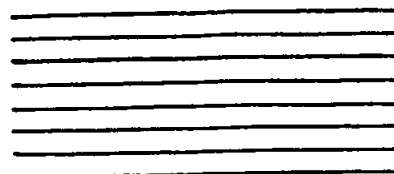
TYPE 2
7 BAR



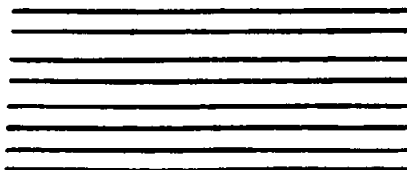
TYPE 6P
3 PAIRS -- 6 BARS



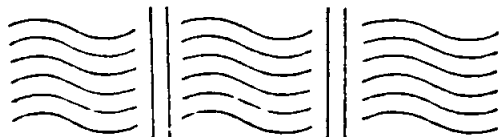
TYPE 7
7 BARS



TYPE 8
8 BARS



TYPE 8P
4 PAIRS - 8 BARS



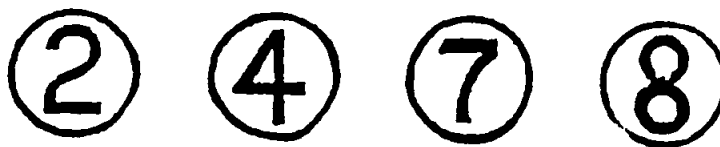
TYPE G



TYPE G

COMBINATION 6-2-6-2-6 (STANDARD)

SERVICE MARKING CANCELLERS



TYPE N.

FT. WORTH CARRIER NUMERALS

NUMERALS (2) (3) (4) (5) (7) (8) (9) (10) (11) (13)

COLUMBIA POSTAL SUPPLY CO.
ELECTRIC MACHINE
RECTILINEAR POSTMARK TYPE CHART

PATERSON, N.J.	<u>PATERSON, N.J.</u>	<u>FAR ROCKAWAY, N.Y.</u>	<u>DETROIT, MICH.</u>
	JUN 13 '09	MAY 20 '09	OCT 23 -14
	<u>6 30 -PM</u>	7 00 -AM	<u>1 30 -PM</u>

PATERSON, N.J.	MONTGOMERY, ALA.	WELLSBORO, PA.	PATERSON, N.J.
FEB 18 '07	1 - 30 PM	MAY 3 -11	MAY 13 13
5 30 -AM	SEP 7 -08	8 - -PM	10 - 30 PM

TYPE J
- - - - - RECTILINEAR THREE LINE POSTMARKS - - - - -
With or Without Die Edges
1907 -- 1926

SAINT MARYS	MARIETTA	LIBERTY
SEP 11 -16	SEP 28 -14	DE 21 -16
9 - - - PM	7 - 30 PM	4 - 30 PM
PA.	OHIO.	N.Y.

TYPE K
- - - - - RECTILINEAR FOUR LINE POSTMARKS - - - - -
LARGE LETTERING
1911 - 1938

SAINT MARYS	MARIETTA	LIBERTY
JUL 13 -15	JUN 27 -14	JUN 9 -15
5 - - - PM	7 - 30 PM	7 - 30 PM
P A.	OHIO.	N.Y.

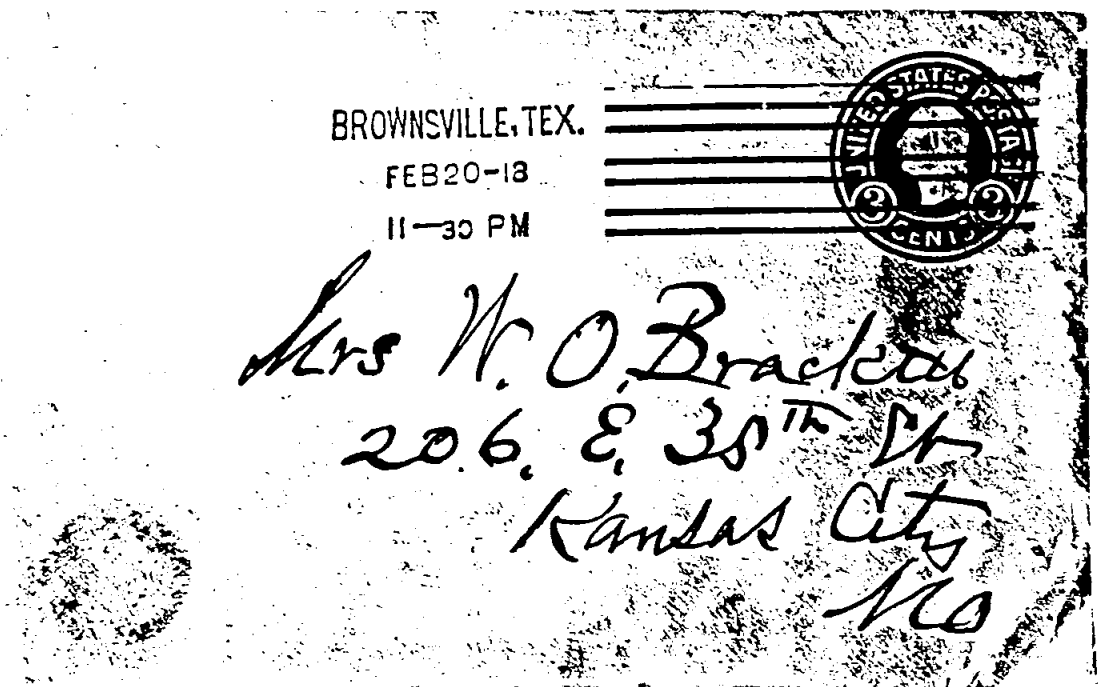
TYPE K
- - - - - RECTILINEAR FOUR LINE POSTMARKS - - - - -
SMALL LETTERING
1911 - 1938

SAGINAW WEST SIDE	FORT WORTH, TEX.	PITTSBURGH, PA.	NEW YORK N.Y.
DEC 24 -14	DEC 19 -16	JAN 5 -14	APR 28 -18
9 - 30 PM	12 - 30 PM	3 - 30 PM	7 - PM -
MICH.	STOCK YARDS STA	OAKLAND STATION.	WEST FARMS STA.

TYPE KS
- - - - - RECTILINEAR FOUR LINE STATION POSTMARKS - - - - -
1911 - 1918

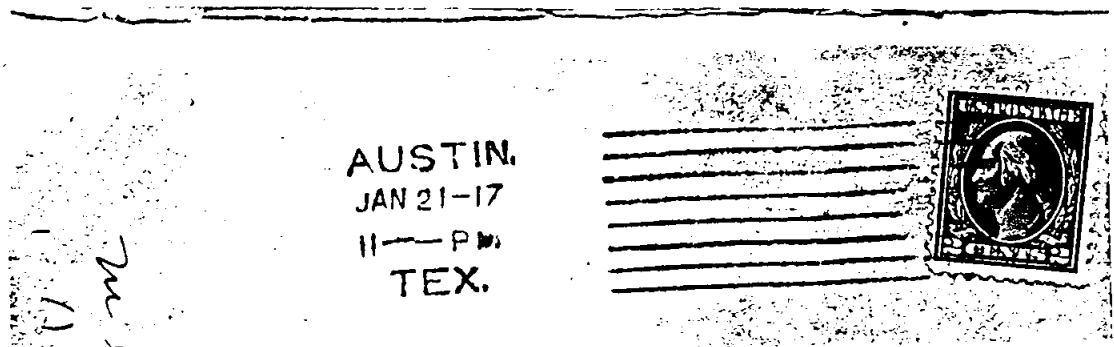
The Columbia rectilinear postmarks, Type J, are basically 3 lines with town and state, or station and state on the top line. Fig 3 is a Brownsville J-6P with the 3¢ World War I emergency rate.

Fig. 3



Type K has 4 lines with city on the top line and the state on the bottom line, except the station and received cancels which may vary. Figure 4 is a cut of an Austin K-8.

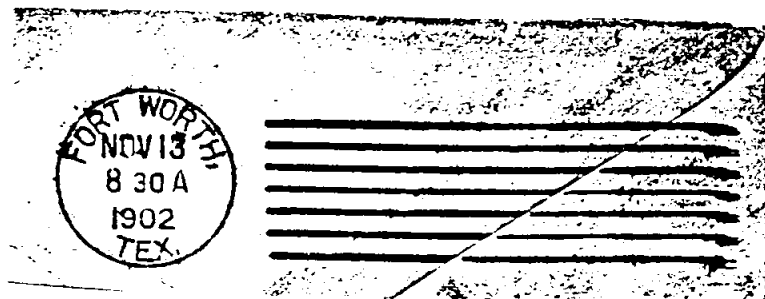
Fig. 4



The electric machines also used two circular dial types, both of which have 3 dater lines and range from 21 mm to 24 mm in diameter. The "A" Dial has the town in an arc in the top of the dial and the state in an arc in the bottom of the dial. Figure 5 is a cut of a Ft. Worth Type A-2 postmark used as a receiving mark. These receiving marks were required of all offices for first class mail,

Postal Laws and Regulations (PL&R's) of 1887 Sec 553, and continued in effect until Postmaster General's (PMG) Order 7107 dated May 8, 1913. Receiving stamps for postcards were discontinued circa 1907.

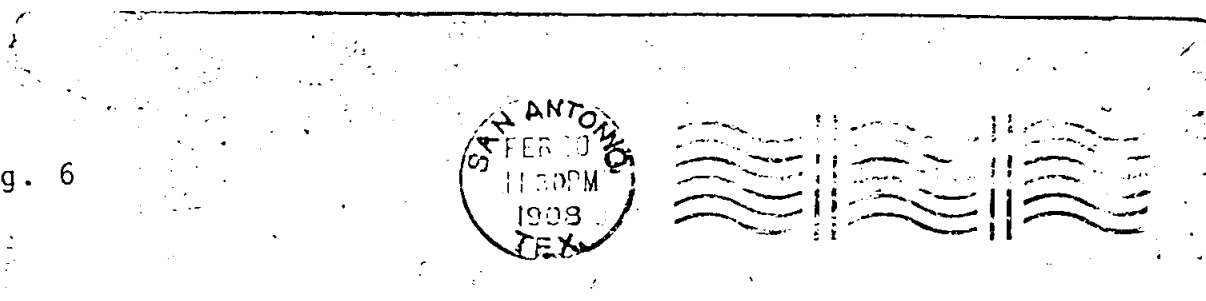
Fig. 5



The "B" Dial has both the town and state in an arc in the top of the dial, and where used, station, received or transit in the bottom of the dial. Later dials will be shown on the dial chart with the hand powered Columbia machines. This is illustrated by Fig. 1 on the first page of this article - San Antonio Type BR-2.

The cancellers used with the Columbia electric machines seen in Texas are generally of five types. The easiest canceller to identify is Type "G." It has 6 horizontal wavy lines (17 mm), 2 vertical lines, 6 wavy lines, 2 vertical lines, 6 wavy lines (6-2-6-2-6), which is only found with Columbia electric machine cancels. This canceller is illustrated by Fig. 6, San Antonio Type A-G as a postmark back stamp serving as a receiving mark.

Fig. 6



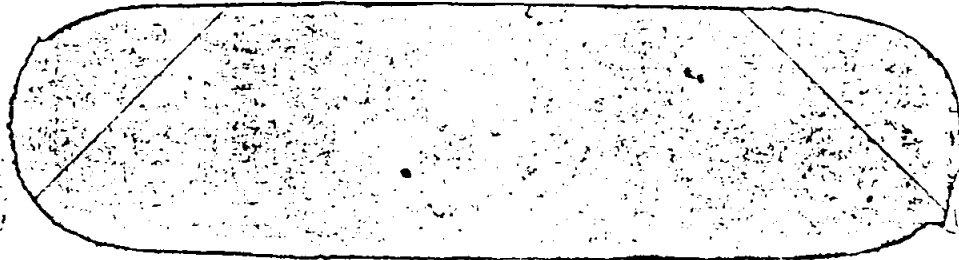
Type 6P has three pair of bars, approximately 17 mm high and 56-63 mm long. These are shown on the Brownsville Type J-6P as an example of the Type "J" postmark, Figure 3.

THOS. GOGGAN & BROS.
THE PIANO, ORGAN AND MUSIC HOUSE
OF TEXAS.
ESTABLISHED IN 1866
STEINWAY, EMERSON-GOGGAN AND OTHER
STANDARD PIANOS AND PLAYER PIANOS.
DALLAS, TEXAS.

DALLAS,
NOV 1 17
11-30 PM
TEX.



Fig. 7



Type 8P (Fig. 7) has four pair of bars, approximately 20.5 mm high and 50 mm long. The Dallas Type K-8P cover is interesting as it is an example of the last day of the 2¢ rate. On November 2, 1917 the 3¢ War Emergency Rate went into effect.

Type 8 has eight bars, approximately 21.5 mm high and 50-56 mm long, Fig. 4, in the Austin example of the Type "K" postmark (Austin K-8).

The Type 7 shown in the chart is from the hand powered machine to be detailed later, Fig. 9.