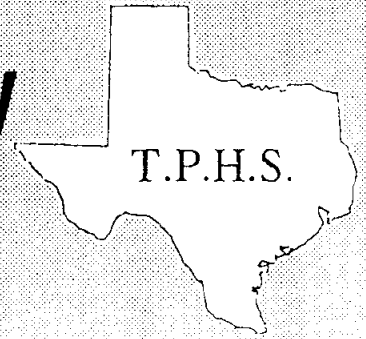


The
Texas Postal History Society
Journal



CONSULADO
CONSULADO DE MEXICO
P. O. Box 1955,
Corpus Christi, Texas

CITIZEN CONSULAR MAIL FREE
CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL CONSULAR EXEMTA
CORPUS CHRISTI TX
MAY 5 PM
1968
ALWAYS USE
ZIP CODE

Hon. Jack R. Blackmon
Mayor of the City,
City Hall,
Corpus Christi, Texas.



CONTENTS

	Page
From the President	3
A Texas Cover Handled by U.S. Mail after Secession by <i>Robert E. Baker</i>	4
Explanation of an Old Cover's Markings by <i>R. H. Stever</i>	7
Texas Blackjack Census by <i>Durward Mommsen</i>	11
More About Anthony by <i>Thomas K. Todsén</i>	12
Days Gone By by <i>John J. Germann</i>	14
Cut-N-Shoot by <i>Maybelle Summers</i>	17
Hobson, Texas by <i>Robert H. Thonhoff</i>	19
Paid Advertising	20

\$10 PAY YOUR DUES EARLY \$10

On the Cover

A fine example of consular mail which is one type of mail matter that can legally pass through the U.S. postal system free of charge. This is a manila envelope with printed black insignia of the Mexican Consular Service at upper left and black handstamp of the consulate address in Corpus Christi below. A printed straightline message at upper right reads "CORRESPONDENCIA OFICIAL CONSULAR FRANCA" in Spanish with an English language handstamp above reading "OFFICIAL CONSULAR MAIL FREE". The letter was posted at Corpus Christi May 6, 1968 addressed to the local mayor. Ironically, the Mexican secretary at the consulate didn't type the zip code while the slogan cancel says "ALWAYS USE ZIP CODE". Printed at lower right is a stylized Mexican logo advertising the 1968 Games of the XIX Olympiad.

THE TEXAS POSTAL HISTORY SOCIETY

President

E. F. Christman, Jr.
5419 Jason
Houston, TX 77096

Vice President

John Germann
1212 Whittington
Houston, TX 77077

Secretary-Treasurer

Lyle Boardman
3916 Wyldwood
Austin, TX 78739-3005

Journal Editor

Rex H. Stever
44 Camden Place
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
FAX: (361) 9914688

*(Dues to The Texas Postal
History Society are \$10 per
year payable to the
Secretary-Treasurer.)*

Affiliated with:



From the President . . .

The Houston meeting has come and gone and I'm pleased to report that we had a good one - a nice turnout and some very unique Show and Tell presentations. They have become a permanent feature of our TPHS meetings.

A number of items were handled in the business part of our program.

(1). Concern was expressed regarding the TPA auction. The next one, hopefully, will have more participation, and be more successful. Ed Leissner, in the discussion that followed, stated that he would be interested in resuming the Auction Manager's position again for TPHS if the TPA auction were discontinued.

(2). Lyle Boardman reported that we're in good shape financially, but we could use more dues-paying members. The only kind!

(3). Lyle also reported that the Sept. 13th issue of Linn's Stamp News contained a news note stating that Jim Stever will receive an Award of Merit for his book Handling The Mails at Corpus Christi from the American Association of State and Local History.

(4). At the meeting Jim Stever brought eight Postal History Journals from other states. It was fun to compare them with our Journal and ours matched up nicely., Our *Journal* won a Silver-Bronze in literature competition at the National Stamp Show in Cleveland.

(5). Jim also reported that North Carolina has a State Postal History Commission. The Commission was the result of legislative action and probably lots of lobbying!

Question: do our members have an interest in working on such a project, ie, a Texas Postal History Commission?

I'd be pleased to hear from any of you either Pro or Con regarding your ideas on this matter. It's important for you to vote on this.

That's it for this time.
Good Collectin,

A TEXAS COVER HANDLED BY U.S.MAIL AFTER SECESSION

by Robert E. Baker

Texas seceded from the Union on February 1, 1861 and officially joined the Confederacy on March 6th. The U.S. continued to deliver the mail in the seceded states, however, through the month of May. The Confederate postal service took over June 1. Figure 1. is a post-secession pre-Confederate P.O.D. cover bearing a strip of three No. 26 U.S. stamps paying 9¢ postage for a triple weight letter. U.S. rates still prevailed.

The cover is outstanding in its simplicity since all transactions are recorded on the envelope. No excess paperwork here. This is typical of a "courthouse" cover which usually carried a deposition, as in this case, or other court papers. The cover is addressed to the Clerk of the District Court of Brazoria County at Brazoria and obviously concerns a lawsuit. Figure 2 shows the back with all sending and receiving signatures plus amount of notary fee.

F. W. Merriman was a prominent attorney in Galveston. George Sealy, whose deposition was enclosed, was a leading banker and John B. Root was Galveston's postmaster during the Civil War. Major General Gordon Granger relieved him of the duty when the U.S. army occupied Galveston in June 1865. The Galveston post office was not re-opened until Nov. 11, 1865 when Victor W. Grahn was appointed postmaster and regular U.S. postal operations resumed.

Although the war was over and political control had returned to the United States, there was still a need to collect and deliver citizens' mail. In all probability John Root stayed on for a few months, knowing he was relieved of the postmaster's job, until the formal appointment of Victor Grahn that fall. Mail service was not to be interrupted or shut down. Just as U.S. postmasters continued to handle the mail in 1861 after secession until the Confederate postal system could take over, so the reverse occurred at the end of the war. Both U.S. postmasters in 1861 and Confederate postmasters in 1865 were dedicated servants of their communities.

On November 5, 1866 a blanket order by the U.S. Postmaster General discontinued many post offices in small communities deemed un-necessary. Many were holdovers from pre-Civil War days and many had been established by the Confederates. Galveston, however, was an important city and unaffected by this probable economy move.

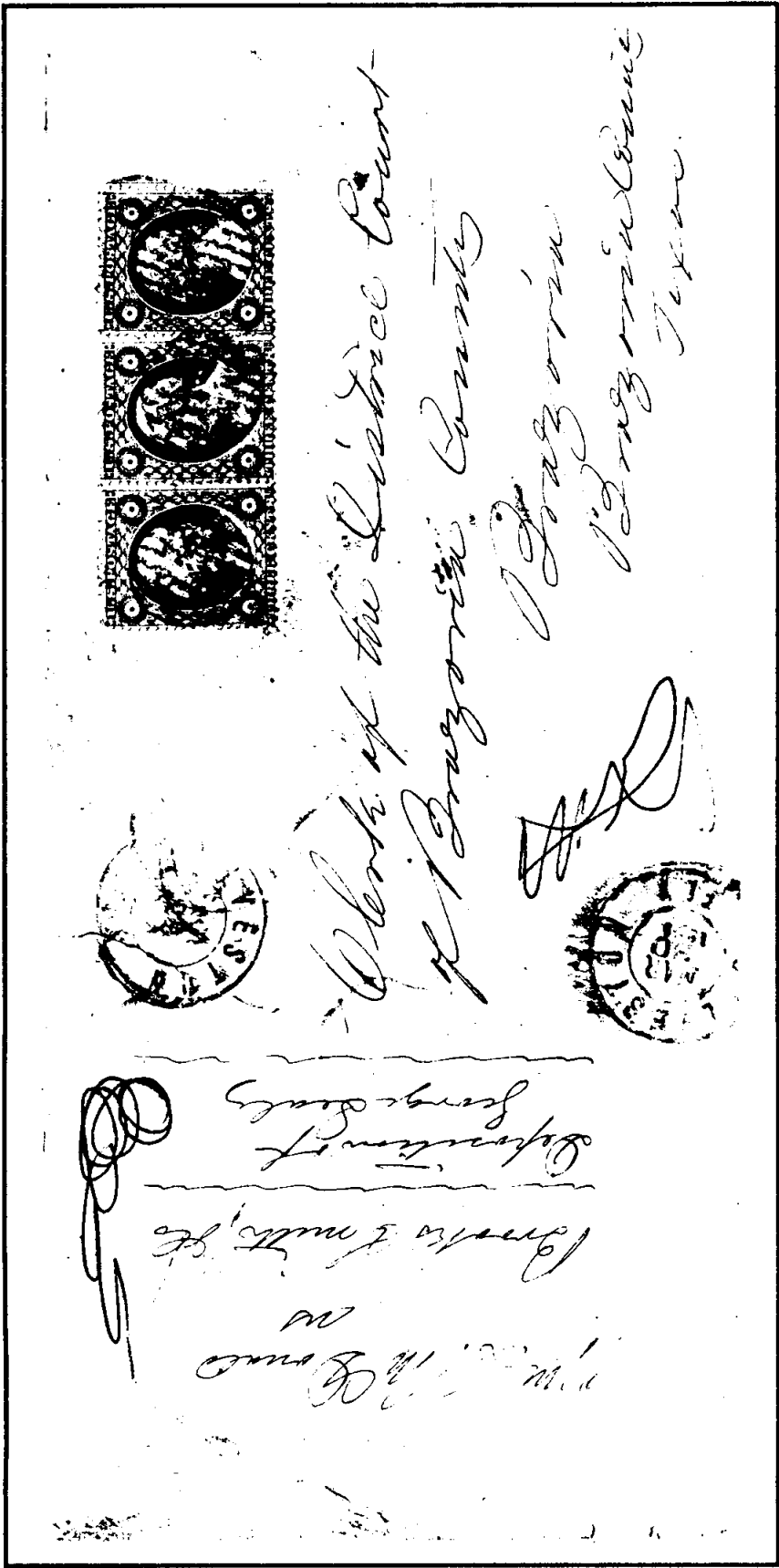


Figure 1. Courthouse cover posted at Galveston on March 30, 1861. Frontside docketing reads:

W.L. McDonald
 vs
 Brooks Smith & Co

Deposition of
 George Seally

(S)

Recd this package from the hand of Edward T. Austin and mailed the same at Galveston this 28 March 1861

John B. Root
Postmaster
Galveston

Filed April 2 1861
S.L.S. Ballome
DCCB
Pr G.C. Limond
Dpy

Edward T. Austin
Notary Public
Galveston, Texas

Opened at request of
F. H. Merriman Esq
Atty for Plyf (Plaintiff)
S.L.S. Ballome
Pr G.C. Limond, Dpy (Deputy)

Notary fee 75¢ paid
by F. H. Merriman
(S) E. T. Austin

Recd from the post office of Brazoria April 1 1861 and done April 2 1861 S.L.S. Ballome DCCB Pr G.C. Limond Dpy

Figure 2. Cover reverse showing notations as follows:

Recd this package from the hand of Edward T. Austin and mailed same day at Galveston this 28 March 1861

John B. Root PM
Postmaster Galveston
(Note: The postmark shows March 30, 1861)

Recd from the post office of Brazoria
April 1, 1861 and filed
April 2, 1861

S.L.S. Ballome
DCCB (District
Clerk County of Brazoria)

Opened at request of F.H. Merriman, Esq
Atty for Plyf (Plaintiff)
S.L.S. Ballome, Clk D.C.C.B.
Pr G.C. Limond, Dpy (Deputy)

Edward T. Austin
Notary Public
Galveston, Texas

Notary fee 75¢ paid
by F. H. Merriman
(S) E. T. Austin

EXPLANATION OF AN OLD COVER'S MARKINGS

by R. H. Stever

Postal historians know that every cover has a story if one can just ferret it out. Usually, what can be learned is minimal but on rare occasions enough information can be discovered about a cover to provide a fairly complete account, both philatelically and historically. What follows is in the latter category.

The cover illustrated in Figure 1 was purchased for a very nominal price at a stamp show several years ago because it originated at a nearby town and had several interesting markings and aspects which had research possibilities. It is one of those small yellow envelopes of a type commonly used during the 19th Century.

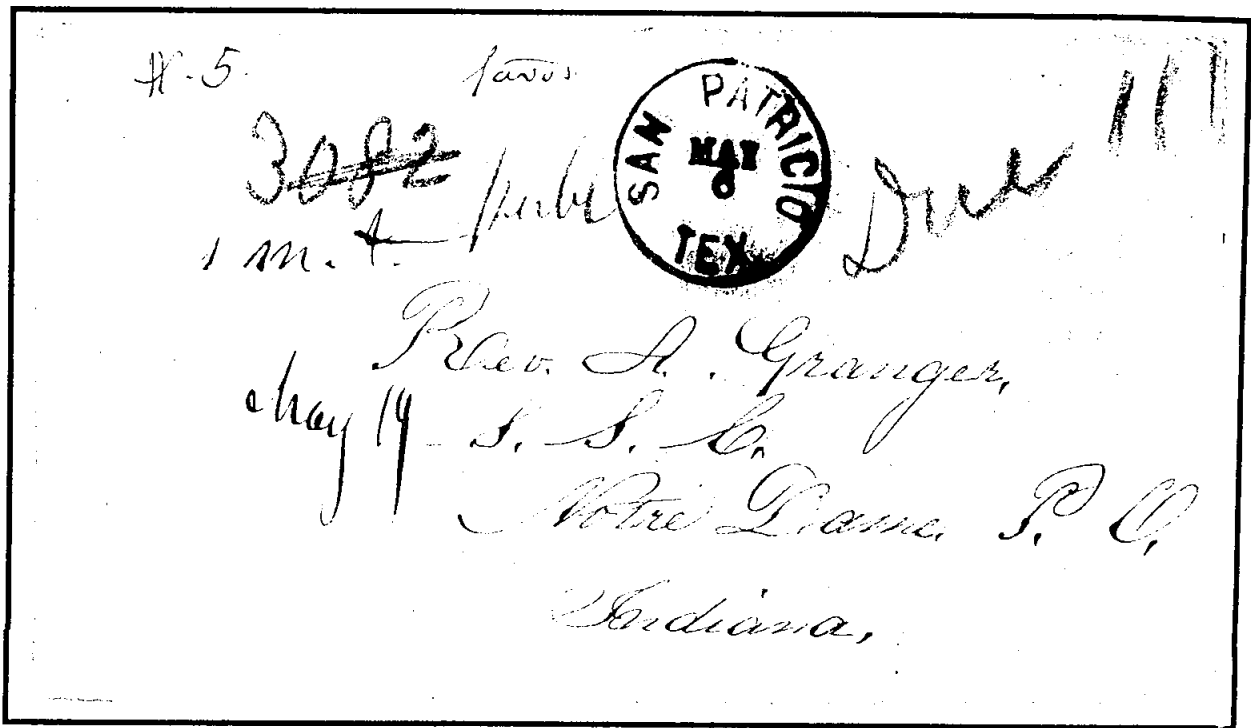


Figure 1. Late 19th Century registered letter posted at old San Patricio, a San Patricio County DPO. Sent unpaid to Notre Dame, Indiana. (15% enlargement)

A bold circular date stamp of San Patricio, Texas is dated May 6 but there is no year date. Prior to the Civil War and during the Confederate era San Patricio had only manuscript townmarks. Thus this cover is post-Civil War and its year date can be further narrowed by the following reasoning. A pencilled registry number "3082" is in large numerals to the left of the date stamp. The letter travelled unpaid -- there are no postage stamps -- and bears a prominent "Due 11" at upper right. The post-Civil War first class letter rate was three cents per half ounce until reduced to two cents on March 3, 1883. There never was a 9-cent domestic registry fee. This letter, therefore, falls within the three cents era during which the only 8-cent registry fee was in the period from January 1, 1874 through September 30, 1875 (a very scarce rate). The May 6 letter date could be either of those two years.

The addressee is Rev. A. Granger, S.S.C., Notre Dame P.O., Indiana. He or possibly an associate docketed the envelope "May 19" upon receipt along with a mysterious "1m.+" notation which was probably added after the envelope was opened and the enclosure read. Who was Rev. A. Granger? While we tend to pronounce his name as if it rhymed with "lone Ranger", that is not correct. Father Alexis Granger (pronounced "Gron-jay") was born in France in 1817. He was a Holy Cross priest, a member of the Congregation of Holy Cross, C.S.C. (Congregation de Sainte Croix). The S.S.C. on the subject cover is an early form of the Congregation's name and stands for Societe de Sainte Croix. Father Granger became a member of the Congregation in France and came to Indiana in 1844. He was confere and spiritual advisor to Father Edward Sorin, C.S.C., the founder of the University of Notre Dame.

Father Alexis Granger was the provincial (superior) of the United States Province from 1868 to 1870 and again from 1872 to 1880. This San Patricio letter was written during the latter period. He was pastor of the Sacred Heart Church on the University campus. From 1880 until 1886 he served as the Assistant Superior General of the Congregation. Reverend Granger died in 1893 at Notre Dame and is buried there.

When the Catholic Church re-entered Texas after the Texas Revolution many of the early priests and sisters were French. The Congregation of Holy Cross had brothers and priests in three foundations in Texas around 1874. Thus Father Granger, as provincial of the United States Province, may have made a trip or trips to Texas to oversee these operations. From 1870 until 1871 the Congregation staffed St. Mary's University in Galveston and in 1873-74 they staffed St. Joseph's College in Brownsville. In 1874 they took over St. Mary's Parish in Austin and a few years later founded St. Edward's Academy which today is St. Edward's University.

There is a "#5" in the upper left corner of Figure 1. This was thus the fifth letter of a correspondence and as such was probably a personal letter but possibly included church business. Who would know to put "S.S.C." on the address? There were several other priests and two bishops of French descent in Texas at this time. Perhaps one of them was a long-time French friend who corresponded with Reverend Granger.

Such, however, has not proven to be the case. The Notre Dame University archives contain a Father Alexis Granger personal file in which reposes a letter datelined San Patricio, Texas on May 5, 1874! How rare it is to be able to locate the enclosure of a 125-year old cover purchased in the philatelic marketplace!

The letter that was originally carried in the Figure 1 cover was not written by a French cleric but by a lay person, Mary Anna Kinlin, who does refer in the letter to previous correspondence with Rev. Granger. Included with the letter was five dollars in currency which no doubt explains why it was a registered letter. Mary Kinlin wrote the letter for her aged and ailing mother, Mary Haley, who was a member of the Association of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart and who had received her letter of admission along with a medal. Somehow the medal had gotten lost and this letter is asking for a replacement. The medal, possibly one on a chain that hung around the neck, may have been in the form of a cross and this could explain the "1m.+" on the cover -- one metal cross -- a reminder noted by Father Granger.

Figure 2. Letterhead. Original "Live Oak County" crossed out and San Patricio added.

Census data lists Mary Anna Kinlin as the wife of Mathew Kinlin, an Irish immigrant farmer. The letter was very likely written on the farm which was probably located in southern Live Oak County northwest of San Patricio. Note the letterhead (Figure 2). She originally wrote "May 5th 1874 Live Oak County, Texas", then crossed out the county name and wrote "San Patricio" with "San Patricio County" written below. This may explain the word "favor" at the top of the envelope. She undoubtedly gave the letter to a friend to take to the post office in San Patricio as a favor. This was common practice during the 19th Century. The 1870 census showed the Kinlins with five children and nine in 1880. So Mary had a half-dozen kids (or more) in 1874 and could not make it to the post office in San Patricio. The friend, who no doubt had instructions to register the letter, did not wish to pay for the postage and sent it unpaid. No stamps. Father Granger had to pay the eleven cents postage due.

Figure 3. Instructions for sending replacement medal and notice of enclosed currency.

The main purpose of the letter was to ask for a new medal to replace the one that was lost. So Mary Kinlin wrote "Send it here to my address" and explained that her mother was now staying with her. Figure 3.) Thus the letterhead was changed because the farm actually had no address. After signing the letter she wrote: (Figure 4)

Address

Mary Anna Kinlin
 San Patricio
 San Patricio County, Texas

The new medal could thus be picked up at the post office in San Patricio.

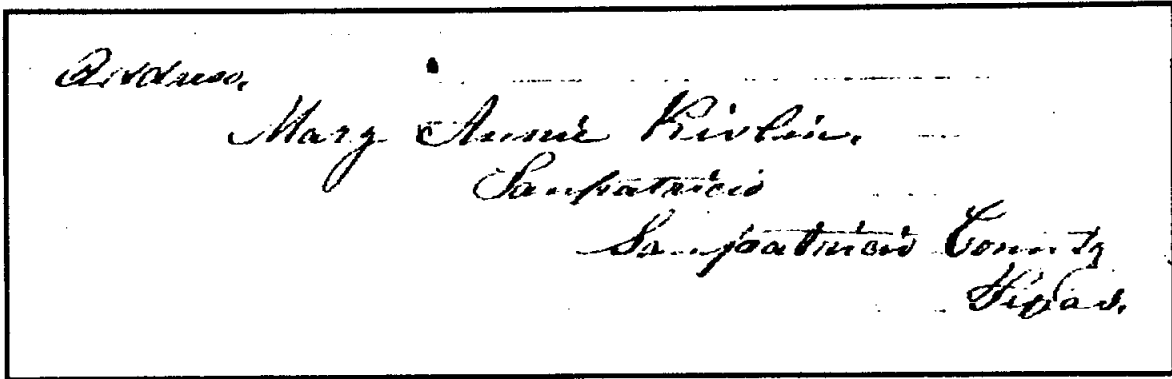


Figure 4. Return Address. Note this letter appears to have been written on ruled paper.

There is one more marking on Figure 1 that has not yet been explained. Just left of the San Patricio datestamp is a manuscript "publ". The handwriting is unlike that of Mary Kinlin or Father Granger and the ink is a light brown, possibly homemade type. This is undoubtedly a notation by San Patricio postmaster Robert Dougherty. The purpose was to point out that this is an unpaid registered letter that must be handled by public conveyance -- the U.S. postal system as opposed to being hand carried -- until the due postage is paid by the addressee and acknowledgement of receipt has been signed. It was at this time that the registry number was crossed out and "Due 11" added to the envelope by the Notre Dame postmaster.

From the foregoing it is evident that some questions about this cover have been answered with certainty while others are somewhat speculative. Even so, it is a remarkable artifact from old San Patricio, currently a DPO. The one question for which there probably is no answer is how this cover got into the philatelic marketplace. Many letter recipients, whether they keep the enclosure or not, will throw the envelope into the wastebasket. Evidently Reverend Granger did just that but probably not right away if the "1m+" on the cover is a reminder to send Mrs. Haley a new medal. Somehow this envelope was rescued from the trash heap by a collector -- fortunately, or this story couldn't be told.

SOURCES:

Beecher, Henry W. and Wawrukiewicz, Anthony S., US Domestic Postal Rates, 1872-1893, The Traditions Press, Shawnee-Mission, KS 1994 p 191.

Local History Room, Corpus Christi Central Library - 1870 and 1880 census records of Live Oak and San Patricio Counties, Texas.

Province Archives Center, Indiana Province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, Notre Dame Indiana.

The Archives of the University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame Indiana -- Archive policy does not usually permit copying or publishing archival material in whole or in part. However this author gratefully acknowledges special permission to show pertinent excerpts illustrated herein.

Keith Guthrie, San Patricio County historian. Personal communication.

Monsignor Michael Howell, Rector, Corpus Christi Cathedral/Personal communication.

TEXAS BLACKJACK CENSUS

by *Durward Mommsen*

Reported below is an updated list of known Texas "Blackjack" covers. There are 24 as of January 1, 1999. No claim is made that this is a complete listing. Note that covers to Texas which originated out of state are not tabulated. Please contact the author if you know of additions, preferably with a photocopy, at 10625 Countess Drive, Dallas, Texas 75229-5106.



ORIGIN/DESTINATION	DATE	STAMPS	DESCRIPTION	SOURCE
Belton/Cana Joharie, N.Y.	6/27/--	87	CDS, tied tgt	Gatjens
Belton/Palmetto, Georgia	12/7/--	73-2	CDS, tied cork	Leissner
Brazos Santiago/Litchfield, Conn.	7/5/--	63:73	CDS, tied grill cancels	??
Brazos Santiago/??	??/??/??	63:73	fancy dotted cork: may be same cover as above	Siegel 2/94-518
Brazos Santiago/Effingham Kansas	7/16/--	73-3	CDS, tgts: yellow cover	Siegel 2/94-518
Galveston/Bremen, Germany	3/--/67	73	CDS, cork: prices current	Christies 10/87-390
Galveston/Halifax, N.S.	11/13/69	93-3	tied CDS, corks: ms date on front, rcvg mk on bk	Mommsen
Galveston/New York	12/22/(66)	73	tied CDS, crk: folded prices current	Mommsen
Galveston/St Catherine's Canada	--/--/--	63:73(3):3c	CDS, tied corks	Mommsen
Galveston/??	--/--/--	73	tied CDS, cork: Irving Williams, gen aft c/c	Bennett 5/98-272
Houston/Anderson	6?/24/66	73	CDS, tied qcrk: folded prices current	TPHS 8/93-25
Houston/Anderson	7/11/66	73	CDS, tied grid: folded prices current	Mommsen
Houston/Brenham	--/--/--	73	tied CDS, qcrk: PAID partly under stamp	Mommsen
Huntsville/(NY)	4/1/--	63:87	CDS, tied grids	Sotheby 4/80-452
Indianola/??	??/??/??	73-2	no details available	Siegel 2/94-518
Ladonia/Spartanburg, SC	2/27/6-	73-2	ms postmark, cancel	Austin S&C
Millican/Corsicana	--/--/--	73	tied CDS: Haswell & Son Central RR c/c	Austin S&C
Mount Pleasant/Portland, Maine	2/12/--	73-2	CDS, tied cork: ms Via Boston Mass	Austin S&C
San Antonio/Cambridge, Mass	11/22/--	73-2	CDS, tied tgts	Leissner
San Antonio/(Prussia)	3/17/--	92-2:93:94:95	CDS, tied qcrk: on 3 cent entire	Amer Phil 10/77
San Augustine/??	??/??/??	63:73	no details available	Siegel 2/94-518
Sequin/Albany New York	3/6/(67)	73-2	CDS, tied crk: docket "Rec March 20th 1867"	Metzger
Waco/France	4/8/68	68:78b:87:88-2CDS, tied sqtk: on US8 3c entire: NY exch Cds		Siegel 10/96-2185
Wesley/Oldenburger, Germany	8/24/69	93:94-4	CDS: hs NEW YORK PAID ALL DIRECT, BREMEN FRANCO	Austin S&C

MORE ABOUT ANTHONY

by Thomas K. Todsén

Figures 2 and 3 are illustrations for a continued discussion about the cover on the August 1999 *Journal*.

Figure 2 is a postcard showing last day cancellation of Anthony, N. Mex. on April 30, 1940 and first day of Anthony, N. Mex. - Tex. on May 1 1940. Figure 3 shows the last recorded use of a cover with the NM-TX designation, Oct. 15, 1976.

The Anthony post office was in New Mexico this entire time and continued to serve the Texas and New Mexico customers until the Postal Service opened the Texas post office Nov. 2, 1981. The earliest recorded use of a postmark of just Anthony, NM again (after NM-TX) is May 6, 1976.

Regarding the Anthony, Texas post office authorized May 17, 1884 and discontinued April 1, 1884, it is doubtful the office was ever operated.

Anthony was always in both states, the bars on the New Mexico side owing to the Texas blue laws and other businesses on both sides. Anthony, New Mexico probably covers the most area and Anthony, Texas has the most people. The railroad siding in Anthony was called La Tuna. There was a La Tuna post office 1932-65 although that was probably at the prison.

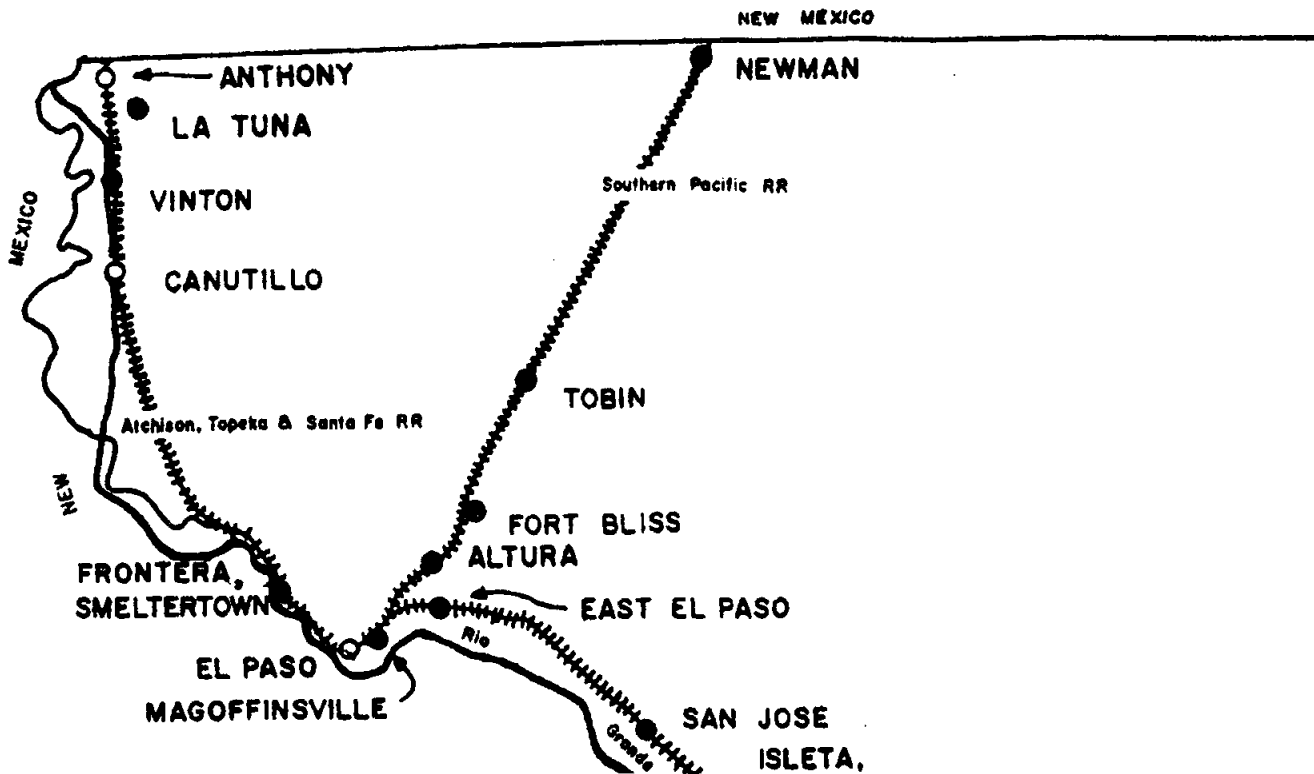


Figure 1. Portion of El Paso County Map showing Anthony and La Tuna. (Map base courtesy of John Germann and Myron Janzen.)

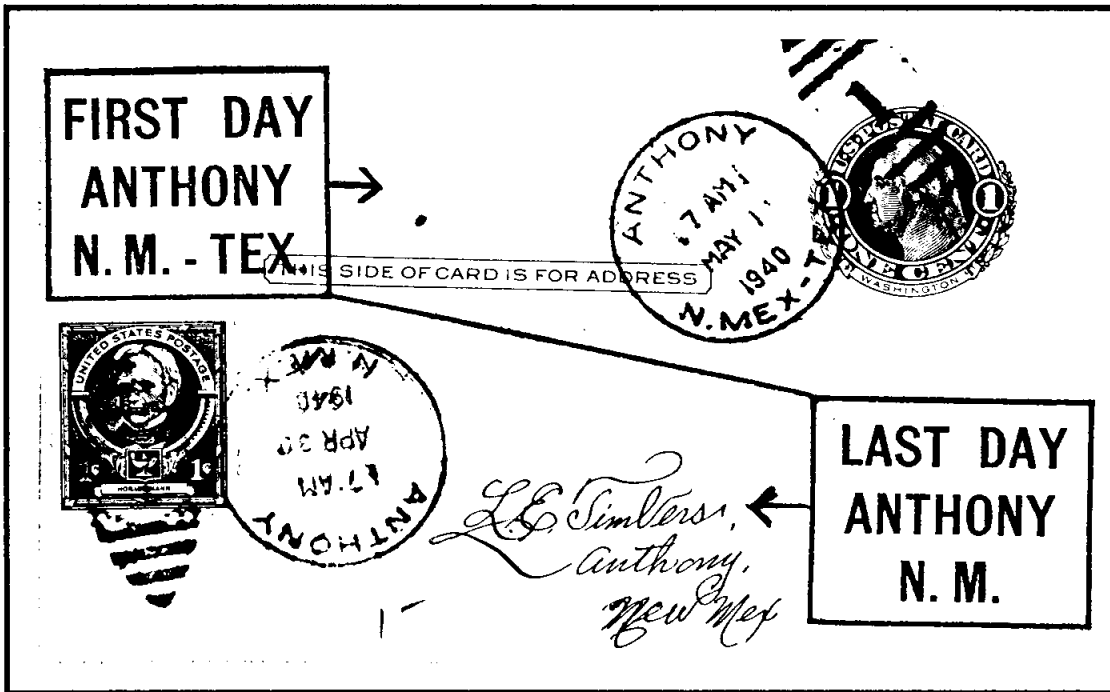


Figure 2.

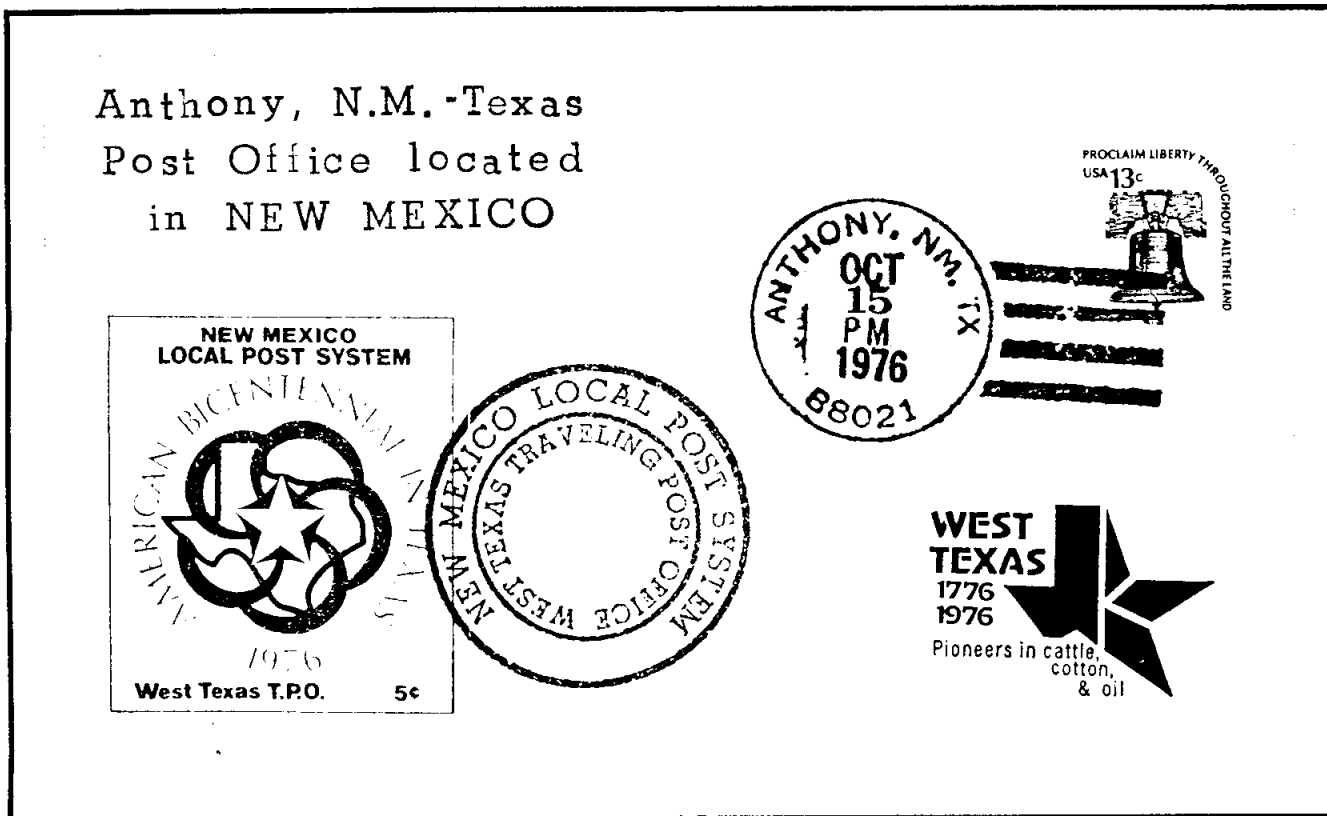


Figure 3.

DAYS GONE BY

by John J. Germann

(Material provided by James Alexander and Royce Walston)

The largest number of independent post offices registered in the United States in any one year was in 1901. It was not very complicated or expensive to acquire one. And to do so might very well add much needed revenues to the coffers of owners of small general stores who sold small sums of merchandise to customers scattered far and wide in the country's rural areas. One such store and office was located in Ryan, Texas - fourteen miles west of Waco near Hog Creek in McLennan County. Like many, the venture did not prove as profitable as had been hoped and, like most, it didn't last very long. According to official records the office opened on May 3, 1890 and closed on December 15, 1902. In its short life span it was operated by four different postmasters. The founder and store owner, Harley Otis Mason, bowed out in February, 1899. He was obviously the heart and soul of the operation, for within the next four years no fewer than three different individuals tried to fill his shoes. Samuel A. Herring lasted until January 1901. Then came two females, perhaps because it was not a sufficiently rewarding proposition to occupy the family breadwinner; Kate A. Maxwell left in November 1901, and Laura M. Walker oversaw the final year of operation for the office. At its height the community could boast of two flour mills, a cotton gin, and Baptist and Methodist churches - all centered around the nucleus, the post office/general store. Many of the applications for offices such as this listed "rural neighborhood" as the population to be serviced; this was certainly the situation for Ryan, since the town's population at this time stood at a mere twenty-one.

A delightful turn-of-the-century photograph (Figure 1.) tells much of what there was to know about Ryan. It shows the unostentatious, quaint, but certainly functional clapboard structure inside of which the postmasters plied their trade. The first postmaster's name, H. O. Mason, boldly graces the shingle for his general merchandise store and the post office. The exterior certainly seems roomy enough to adequately handle the groceries and letters for the local clientele, and towards the bottom left of the storefront is a letterbox for when it wasn't open for business. But the building also served as a bulletin board for some of the ubiquitous "snake oil" nostrums of the time. Strung across both the upper left and right of the building's front are strips advertising the wares offered by William Lafayette Tucker. Tucker was a native of Louisiana who served as a cavalry commander for the Confederacy. He came to McLennan County in the 1860s to try his luck at farming and then lit upon the idea of establishing his own pharmaceutical firm - the W. L. Tucker Simple Remedy Company in Waco. He also would double as tax collector of McLennan County. So much for professionalism and full time commitment in the dispensation of medicines! The ads on the post office building extol Tucker's "Simple Remedies" (on the right and his "Baby Colic Drops" (on the left) - "sold here" just inside the door. The photograph also captures a couple of much less substantial paper flyers, just below Tucker's ad on the left, announcing the existence of some curiosity (monstrosity?) called "Wild Goose Oil"!

Not a lot of mail went in and out of Ryan, but shown here as further documentation are the front (Figure 2.) and back (Figure 3.) of a cover sent in 1900 from a George W. Jackson of Waco to a J. E. Maxwell of Ryan, backstamped at Ryan on the following day - pretty nice service by a pretty nice horse. Maxwell was surely a relative, perhaps husband, of the Kate

Maxwell who took over the post office five months later. There was not much time left for the office at this point. It was not, as many like it would be, a victim of the establishment of the Rural Free Delivery system; those wholesale closures would occur a couple of years down the road. Most likely it closed for much the same reason as it opened - business, or in this case the lack of business.

Ryan, Texas is gone now - gone from sight, gone from maps, and gone from people's memories. But the photo and the postmark remind us, rather romantically, of the place and its people in an earlier and much different time. It certainly seems like much more than a century should have passed between that time and now.

Sources: Germann, John J. and Janzen, Myron R. Texas Post Offices by County Houston: Privately Published, 1986-1999.
The New Handbook of Texas. 6 vols. Austin: Texas State Historical Association, 1996.
Kelley, Dayton (ed.). The Handbook of Waco and McLennan County. Waco: Texian Press, 1972.

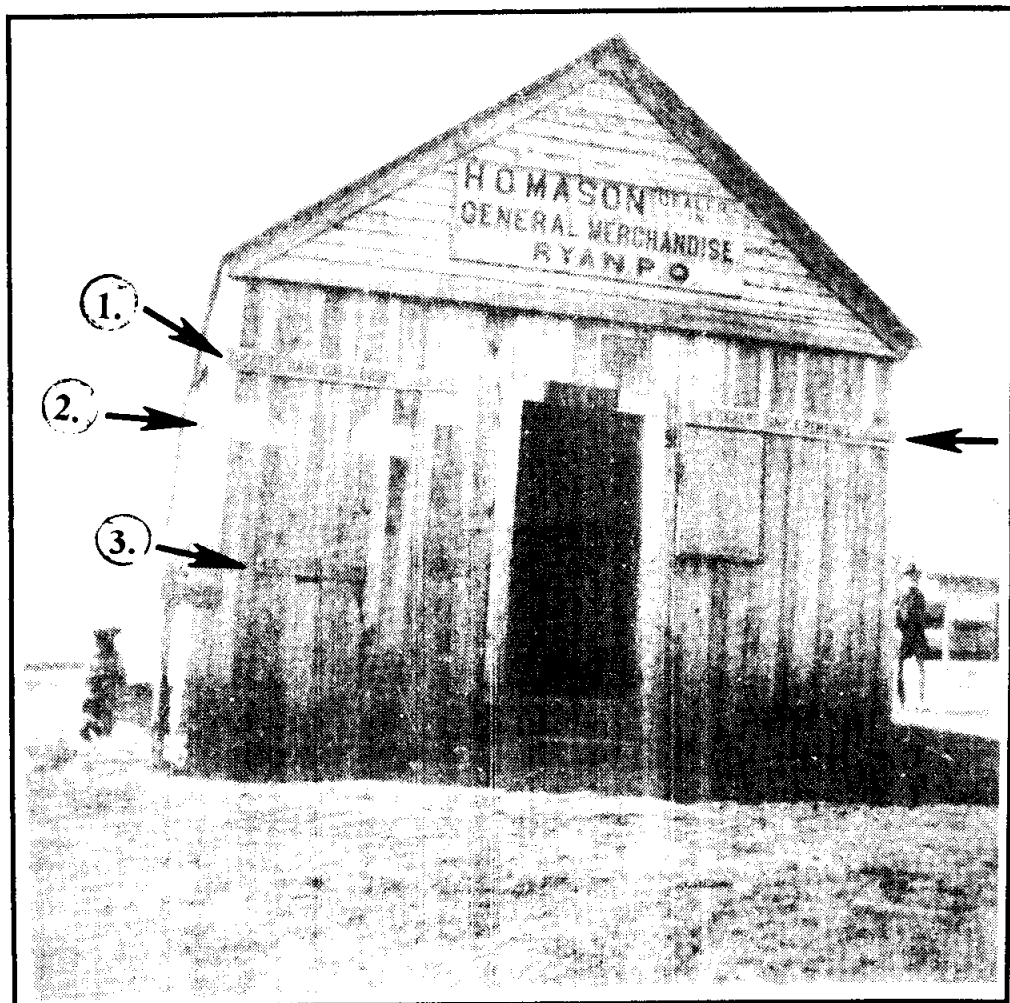


Figure 1. Photo of the post office et cetera in metropolitan Ryan about 1900. Difficult to read wooden signs are numbered with explanations below: (Photo by Royce Walston)
No. 1 - "Tucker's Baby Colic Drops" sold here No. 2 Wild Goose Oil
No. 3 Letter box No. 4 - "Tucker's Simple Remedies" sold here

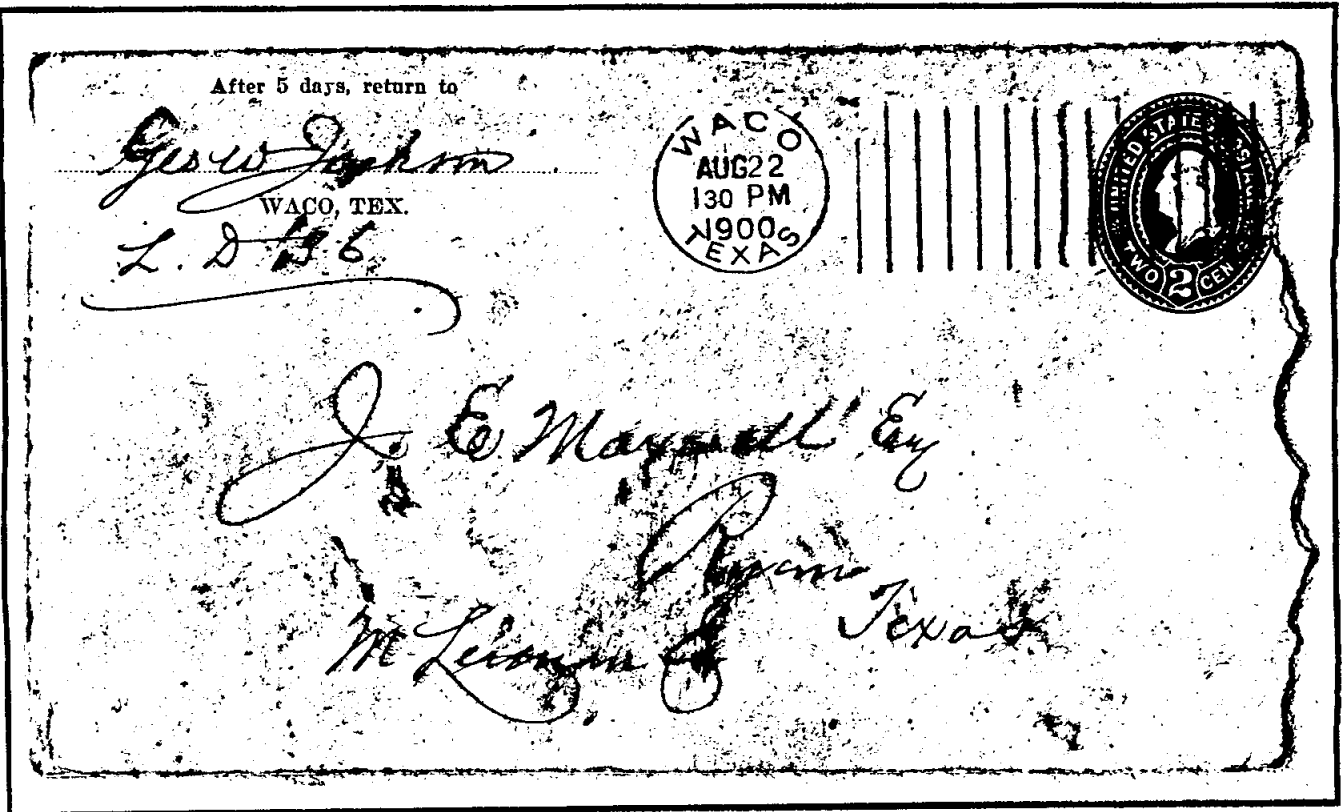


Figure 2. Doremus Type E cancellation on a Waco cover dated August 22, 1900 addressed to Ryan, Texas, McLennan Co. Speculation abounds on the meaning of sender Geo. W. Jackson's "L. D. 36." in the return address.

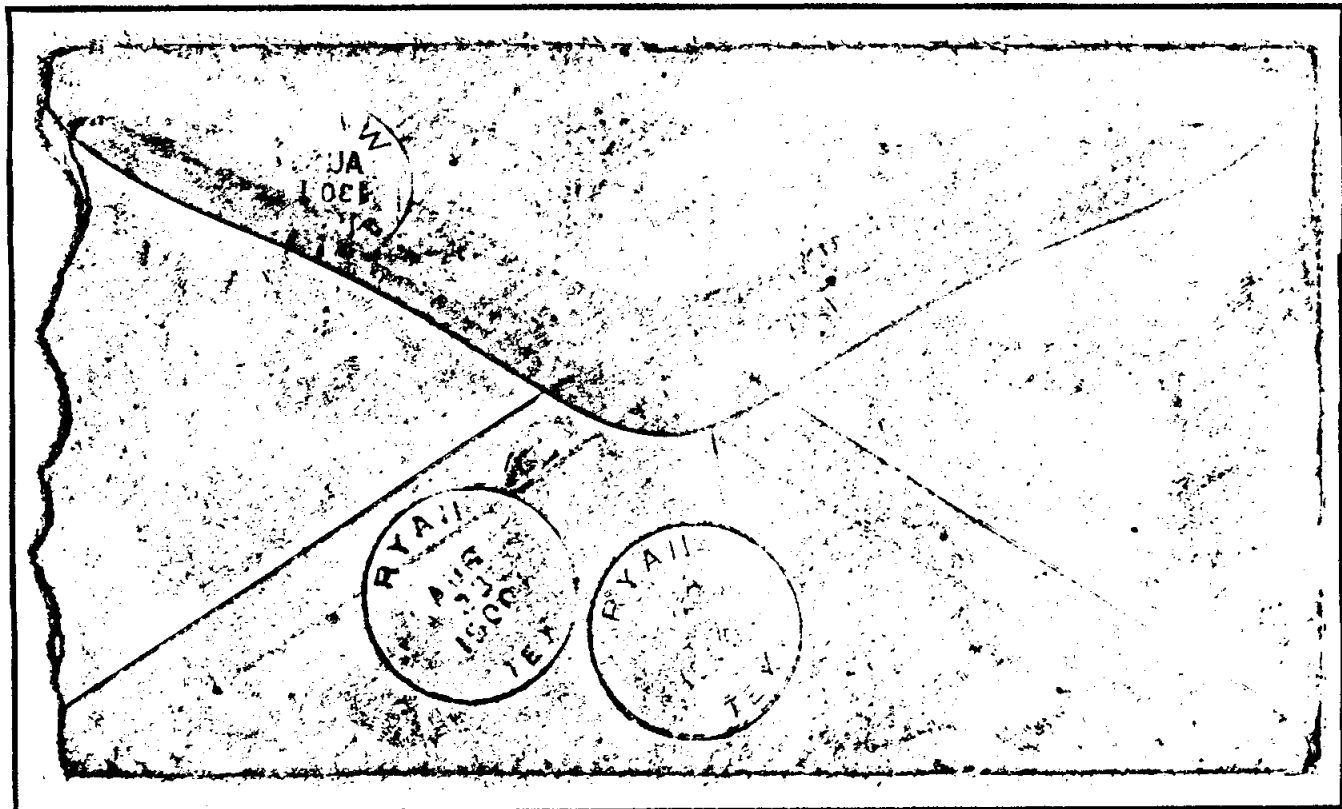


Figure 3. Reverse of Figure 2 cover showing Ryan backstamps.

CUT-N-SHOOT

by Maybelle Summers, Postmaster

The community of Cut-N-Shoot is located in the northeastern part of Montgomery County. It had its unusual beginning and acquired its peculiar name in July 1912.

Prior to 1912 the Missionary Baptist, Hardshell Baptist, and Methodist citizens of the community went together and built a combination church and school. They erected the structure with the understanding that all denominations were privileged to preach there except the Mormans and Apostolics. This building was called the community house.

In 1912, it happened that a Preacher by the name of Stamps of the Apostolic belief appeared in the community. Some of the local brethren invited him to hold a meeting at the community house.

Preacher Stamps seemed not to have been a very reputable person since it was claimed by some of the citizens that he occasionally visited saloons and went dancing. When the people heard of Preacher Stamps intention, they paired off into two sides, those who thought the community house should be used for all denominations, and those who thought the house should be closed to the Apostolics.

One side declared their intentions to have the meeting, and the other side claimed the meeting would not be held. On the morning of July 21st, the group who wanted to hear the preacher gathered at the community house. They had come in their wagons and buggies and brought their lunches with the intention of staying and having all day preaching and dinner on the grounds. Under their wagon seats they had their guns and knives rolled up in quilts. They found the doors of the building locked. Soon the anti-Apostolic group arrived and declared the lock was jammed, whereupon all grabbed their guns and a hot argument pursued. While the accusations flew back and forth, an eight year old boy of one of the men, became frightened at the disturbance and said, "I'm scared!" "I'm going to cut around the corner and shoot through the bushes in a minute!" Thus the name of Cut-N-Shoot was coined. Actually there was no cutting or shooting that day. The arguments continued, however, and to avoid a shooting scrape the meeting was held under the shade trees. The next day both sides appeared in Conroe (county seat) and indicted each other on charges of disturbing the peace, assault, and the use of obscene language. Both received fines, and this dispute was carried on between two of the men for over a year, each indicting the other on the smallest pretense. In one such trial a witness, upon being asked by the judge where the fuss had taken place, replied, "I suppose you would call it the place where they had the cutting and shooting scrape." This was the first indication

that the new community might be called Cut-N-Shoot. At any rate the name stuck to the community.

That was 1912 and 1913. Later, on April 5, 1969 an election was held to incorporate the town of Cut-N-Shoot. On May 17 city officials that were elected included a Mayor, five Councilmen and a Town Marshall. The population at that time was approximately three hundred. Figure 1 shows a cover posted at Cut-N-Shoot on June 29, 1992 at which time the population had grown to 565.

A contract post office was established in August 1958. If you look up Cut-N-Shoot in Deaton, Schmidt or John Germann/Myron Janzen you will not find it listed. That's because contract offices are located in privately operated businesses such as general stores, cafes, etc. whereas classified offices are government-operated. That situation has possibly changed since 1992 when Figure 1 was posted. With a population over 500 a full service post office is surely warranted.

The early history noted above is from the Legend of Cut-N-Shoot -- A History of Montgomery County, Texas by William Harley Gandy.

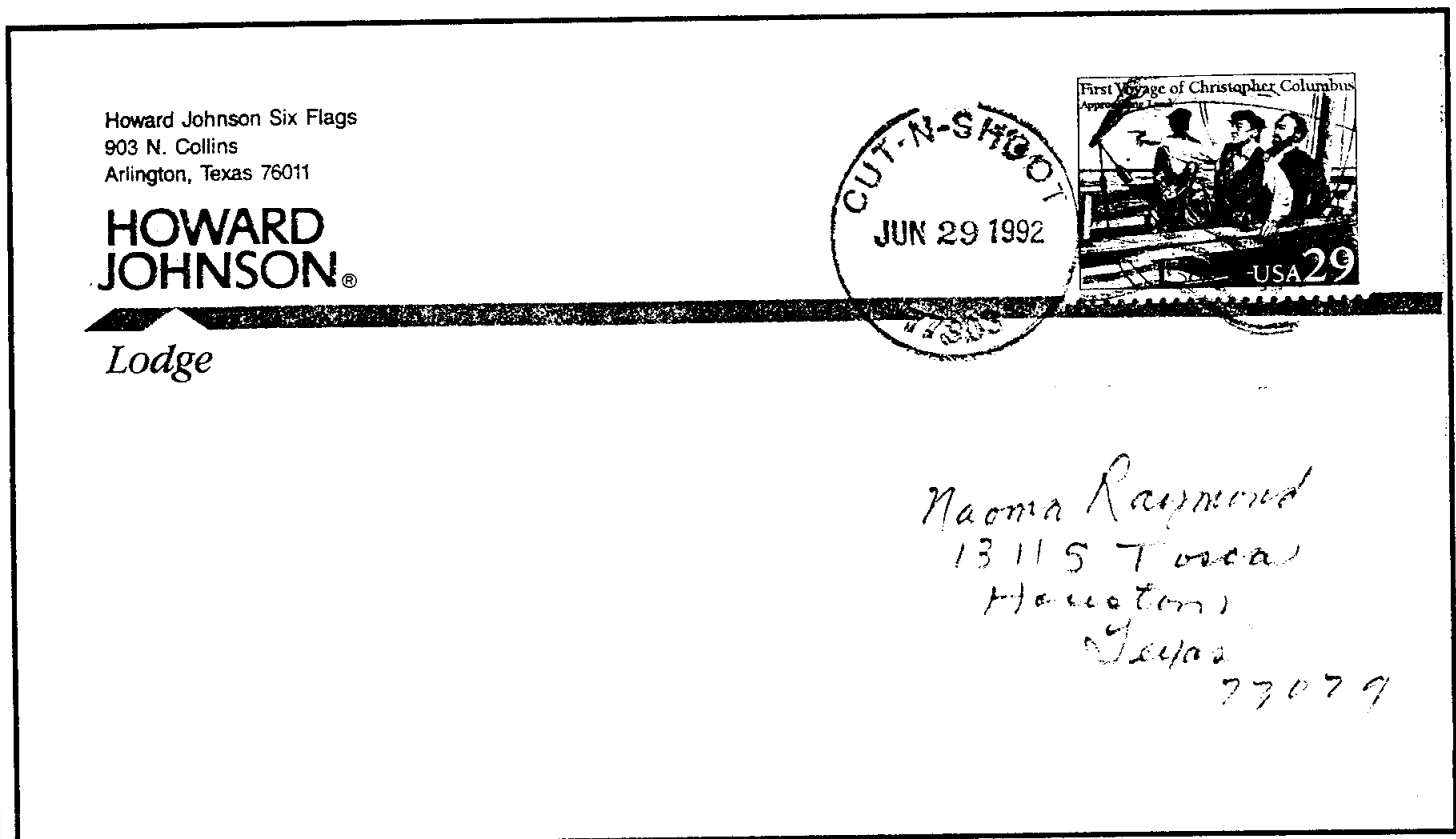


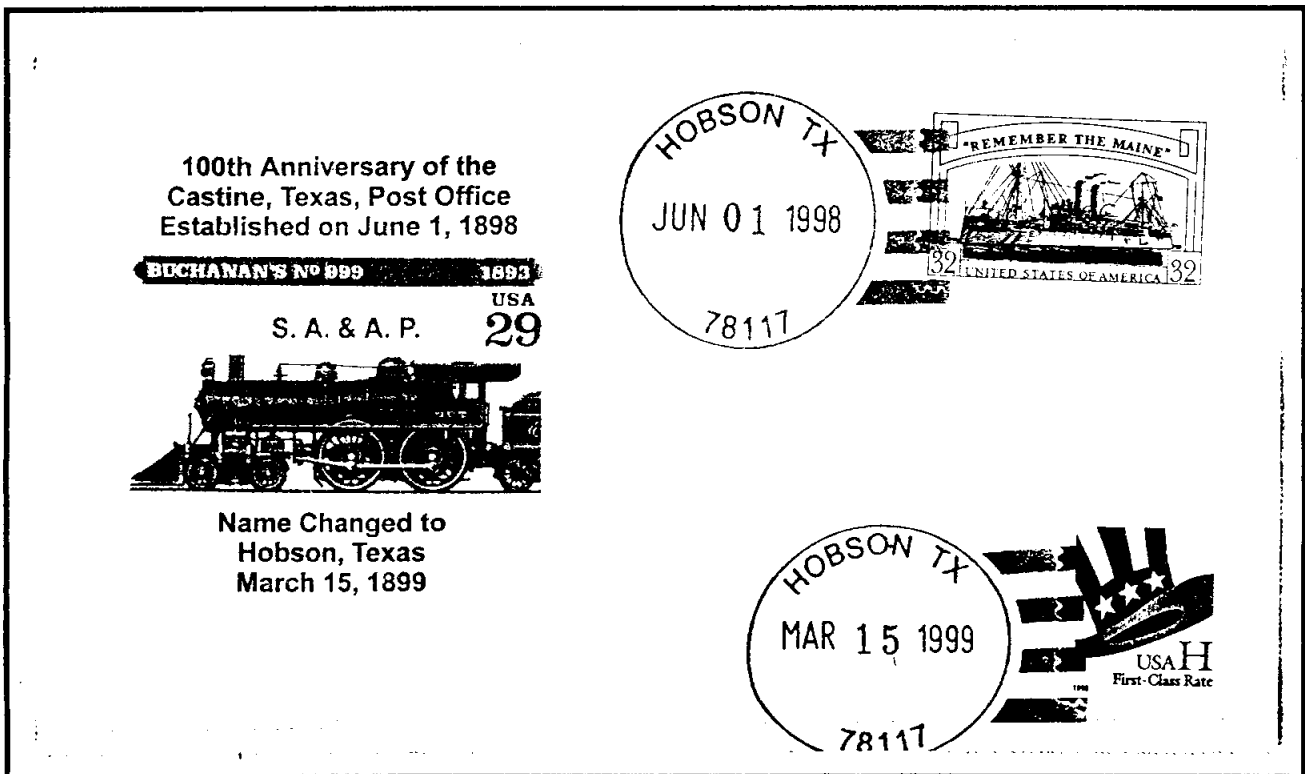
Figure 1.

\$10 PAY YOUR DUES EARLY \$10

HOBSON, TEXAS
by Robert H. Thonhoff

Hobson is on U.S. Highway 181 and Farm Road 81 near Indian Crossing on the San Antonio River, three and one-half miles south of Falls City in Karnes County. During the 1890's the town was founded under the name Castine on the San Antonio and Aransas Pass Railway by the Mitchell Brothers firm of Hallettsville. A post office was established there in 1898. Shortly thereafter the Spanish-American War hero Capt. Richmond Pearson Hobson made a railroad tour of Texas and spoke at Castine. Local citizens renamed their town Hobson in 1899. R. J. Polasek operated the first Hobson business, a store and post office, in a small frame building. Later he added a general store, a cotton gin, a lumberyard and a gristmill. A. W. McCall built a brick kiln there and a Dr. Simon practiced medicine and built a hospital that was later used as a parochial school. Another thriving business was Kowalik's General Store. Hobson was composed largely of people of Czech, German and Polish descent. In 1915 the community had seven businesses and a population of 100. The town reached a peak reported population of 175 in the early 1950's. In 1990 it reported a population of 135. At that time Hobson had St. Boniface Catholic Church, a post office, a community hall, and four businesses.

From the author's History of Karnes County, M. A. thesis, Southwest Texas State College, 1963.



Commemorative envelope with Hobson cancels 100 years after establishment of the Castine post office and 100 years after the town changed its name to Hobson. Actual commercial envelopes postally used at Castine are very rare.

TEXAS

POSTAL

HISTORY

- STAMPLESS
- CONFEDERATE
- D.P.O.
- ADVERTISING
- 1936 CENTENNIAL - AND RELATED
- ETC.

**WE BUY AND SELL A FULL LINE OF TEXAS, U.S. & WORLD
POSTAL HISTORY. COPIES OF MATERIAL FROM YOUR
COLLECTING AREA SENT UPON REQUEST.**

THE RIGHT STAMP COMPANY

(Formerly Austin Stamp & Coin)

VANCE RIGHTMIRE

P.O.Box 5280

Ph. 512-4789581

Austin, Texas 78763-5280