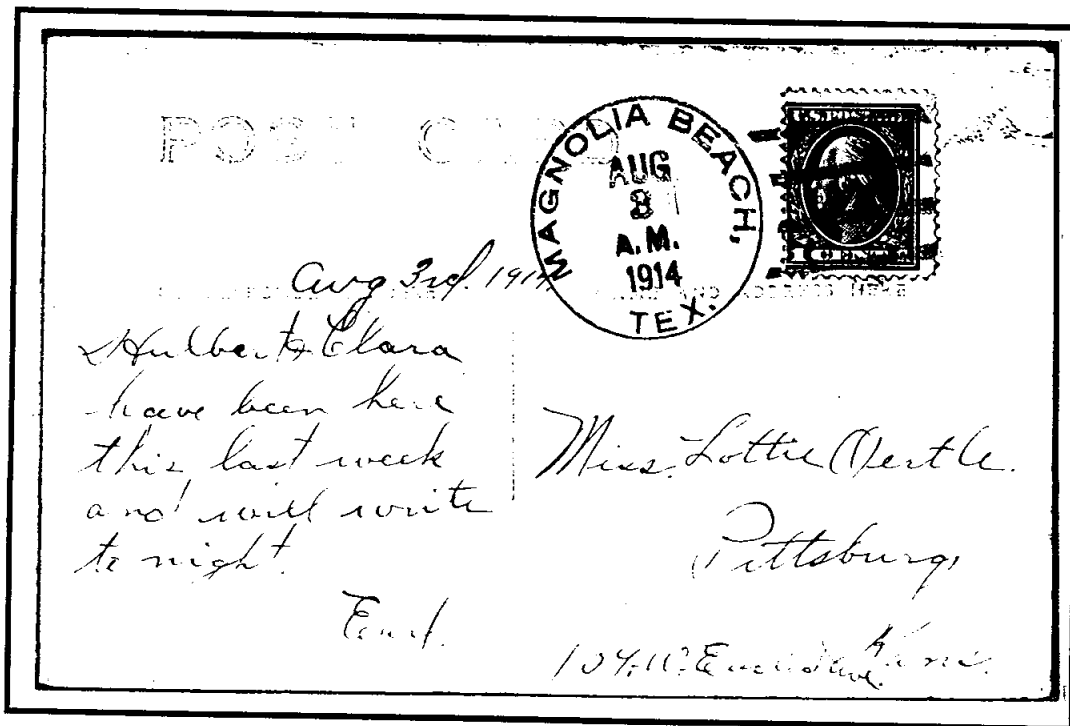
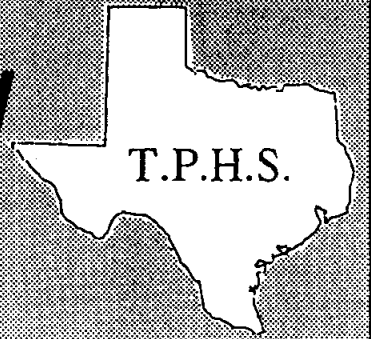


The
Texas Postal History Society
Journal



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On the Cover ...

Address side of a picture postcard bearing a CDS of Magnolia Beach, Calhoun County, Texas dated August 3, 1914. The stamp is a one-cent green Washington head of the 1912 issue cancelled by a 4-bar killer. The post office here was established May 6, 1910 with Gunther Heinroth as postmaster and closed September 15, 1945. Magnolia Beach was a natural beach area which began as a project of northern capitalists to sell land. The initial plan failed to materialize but the summer cottages that were built proved to be quite successful. The name "Magnolia" was used by developers in an effort to portray "something beautiful". This specie of tree does not grow along the Texas coastline. (Submitted by a member who got the information from the Germann - Janzen county study, Walter Schmidt's post office encyclopedia, and the Handbook of Texas.)

Magnolia Beach is located on the southwest shore of Lavaca Bay and occupies what was once the northwest tip of the abandoned community of Indianola. See page 12 of this Journal.

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From the President ...

In January of 1992, I took over as President of the Texas Postal History Society. My initial Presidents page for the Journal was the 1992 February issue. How time goes by. This Presidents Message fills out my ten year term.

It's been a rewarding time and I've made new friends and learned a lot of Texas Postal History. I also acquired some nice Texas covers.

But enough of this old news. I'd like to introduce our new President who is taking over the reigns for the society. He is Tom Koch of DeSoto, Texas.

Tom is a native of Dallas. He began collecting stamps by ordering packets from the small ads on the back of comic books in the 1950s. He was first attracted to Texas Postal History in the early 1980s when his late uncle researched the family history and linked them to the "Father of German Immigration to Texas, Frederick Ernst, who settled in Austin's Colony in 1831 and organized the settlement of Industry, Texas. That lineage qualified the family to become members of the Sons of the Republic of Texas.

A logical next step followed in 1983. He joined the T.P.H.S.

Tom states that "Texas Postal History has provided the most enjoyment I've received out of philately and is my foremost collecting passion—the routes, rates, and various markings make for fascinating stories. And no two covers are alike!"

Tom has worked in professional journalism for major newspapers, been the manager of a minor league hockey team, and served as Editor of a business Journal. He is currently the Public Relation Coordinator and Program Manager for the McDermont Library at U.T. at Dallas (including the Wineburgh Philatelic Research Library).

Tom holds these other memberships and positions in Philately.

Member A.P.S.-T.P.A.-V. President T.P.H.S.

Director, Universal Ship Cancellation Society National Board.

Chairman, TEXPEX APS World Series of Philately Show 2002 & 2003.

Member, Collectors Club of Dallas.

Member, Dallas Stamp Day Committee.

Jane Koch is Tom's wife of 27 Years. She collects First Day Covers of Authors and is head of the English Dept. at DeSoto High School. They have a daughter Kristin who last year graduated from the U. of North Texas.

Best wishes to our new President Tom Koch.

And don't forget that our Journal Editor still needs articles of Texas postal history for the Journal. I'll see you around some local stamp shows.

Good Collectin',

Ed

PIERCE STATION, WHARTON COUNTY , TEXAS

by Norma Watz

The history of Pierce Station began with Abel Head Pierce, who was born in Rhode Island in 1834 where he attended a one-room school and worked in his uncle's general store. In 1854, he stowed away on a schooner bound for Indianola, Texas. He began working as a ranch hand for Richard Grimes in Matagorda County and slowly began to acquire cattle on his own. His first brand was "AP" and later he used "B" and "U" type branding marks. His land holdings totaled 250,000 acres.

In 1881, the New York, Texas and Mexican Railway came through Wharton County and Pierce wanted the trail to stop there, so he built a station himself and named it "Pierce Station". Cover shown as Illustration No. 1 bears the postmark of Pierce Station, July 2, 1887. The odd killer is likely a reproduction of his cattle brand. The envelope with two-cent brown has corner card of Pierce and is addressed to Ira Eddleman as Doan's P.O., a location in Wilbarger County known as Doan's Crossing, being near the main ford across Red River on the Dodge Trail where a Post Office had been established in 1879.

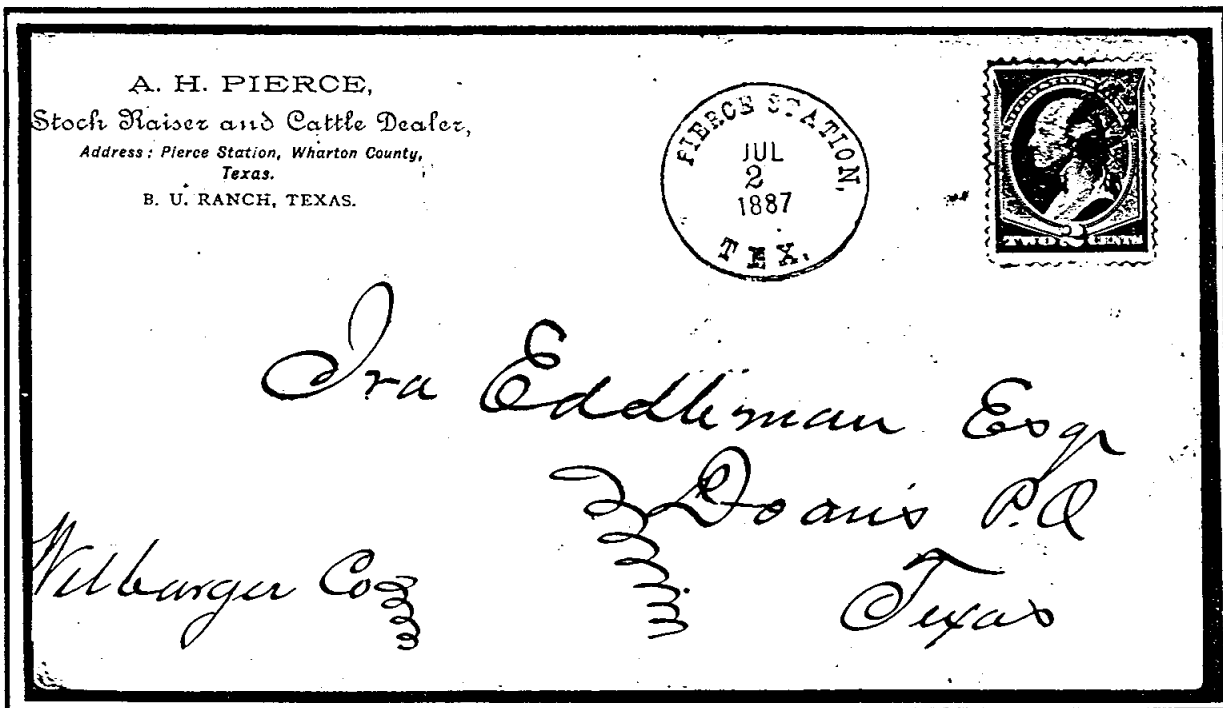


Figure 1. A Fort Worth received back stamp was applied at 11 pm on July 3, 1887.

Located nearest the geographical center of Wharton County, the town of Pierce was envisioned by its founder to become the county seat, and he accordingly had 160 acres surveyed to become the Pierce Townsite, built a church and a 22-room three-story hotel. He was best known as "Shanghai"- a nickname he acquired from his appearance resembling an old shanghai rooster on the Grimes Ranch. Once when registering at a Tulsa hotel (then Indian territory), he answered the clerk's query of "What's the name, please?" by loudly saying, "Shanghai Pierce from Texas, the Noah Webster of the cow business."

First Postmaster of Pierce Station was George S. Hamilton, appointed November 15, 1886. The second and last Postmaster was Abel P. Borden, appointed April 4, 1890. Name changed to Pierce June 18, 1895 and Borden continued duties until May 10, 1921 when Henry A. Gloeckner became Postmaster. Card postmarked Pierce, December 18, 1917, was struck during Gloeckner's tenure. (Illustration No. 2) Since 1921 seven additional postmasters have served at Pierce Post Office which remains open to date.

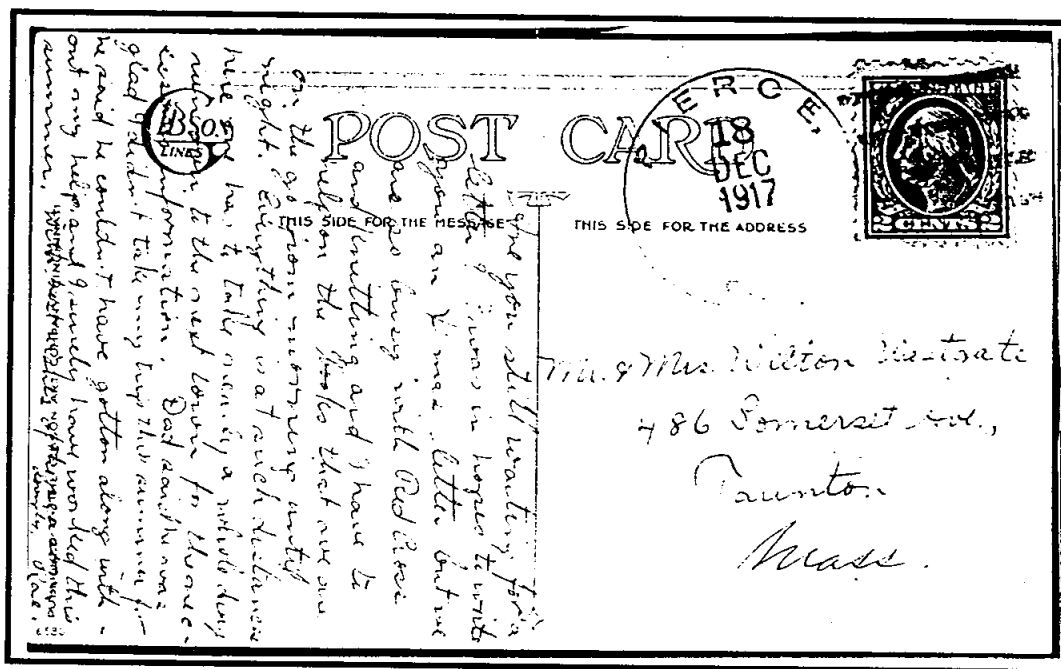


Figure 2. Postcard struck at Pierce December 18, 1917 during World War I. Author notes Red Cross work, possibly war related.

Shanghai Pierce died in 1900 after losing \$1,250,000 in the hurricane which devastated Galveston and adjoining areas. He was buried in Hawley Cemetery in Matagorda County where a life-size statue of him marks his gravesite. One of his most creditable achievements was importing Brahman cattle from India, a breed immune to ticks. Pierce was truly a legendary Texan.

References:

- “The History of Wharton County” - Annie Lee Williams
- Handbook Of Texas - Vols. I and II
- Personal files, collection, letters.

\$14 DUES ARE DUE \$14

The treasurer needs dues money to pay for printing and mailing of the Journal and the editor needs articles so there is something to print and mail.

C. O. D. STATIONS IN TEXAS

by Michael M. Ludeman and David Lyman

In the early 1920s, the USPOD began to establish what were known as C. O. D. Stations in many post offices in larger towns. These were not true stations in the sense that they occupied a separate building and provided the normal range of services like the collection and delivery of letter mail and the sale of postage supplies. They were typically a separate window at the local post office where postal patrons would go to pick up packages, usually with merchandise ordered by mail, and for which the merchant had not been paid in advance.

To fully comprehend the need for these stations, one must first understand that prior to 1950, few individuals used checking accounts, and credit cards were even more uncommon. Shopping malls had not been "invented", and large department stores with a selection of merchandise were found only in the larger cities. Most rural and small town residents did much of their shopping by mail through the large nationwide catalog companies such as J. C. Penny, Sears, Roebuck & Company, and Montgomery Ward. These mail order catalog purchases required either payment in advance with the order, or were placed "C.O.D." (Cash on Delivery or Collect on Delivery). Payment in advance was probably awkward because one would not know if all items would be available at the time of the order, nor the additional cost of shipping and handling. So it made sense to wait and pay for the merchandise when it was received.

The Postal Guide does not define the C. O. D. Station, but does provide some guidelines as to their operation. From the 1930 Postal Guide...

"When incoming mails are opened, C.O.D. parcels shall be segregated and turned over to the employee who will be designated as the C.O.D. Recording clerk. The recording clerk and the C.O.D. delivery section shall transfer daily to the money order division all C.O.D. funds, together with the receipted C.O.D. tags, receipt being taken therefore on Form 3815, showing the total sum turned over for the issuance of money orders, and the total number of parcels represented thereby. When the money orders are issued, which shall be the same day, if practicable, they should be turned over together with the C.O.D. tags to the recording clerk or the C.O.D. delivery section for verification with the entries on Form 3815, before they are actually mailed. The receipts should be detached from the money orders and attached to the Form 3815, to which they relate, as evidence that money orders have actually been issued for all C.O.D. parcels delivered, and the C.O.D. tags should be returned to the money-order section for filing as applications for money orders."

As can be seen from this description, the postal customer is effectively purchasing a money order after the fact to send to the merchant to pay for his purchase. But he does not have to wait and do all the paperwork. This is done by the C.O.D. Station clerk.

Several advantages to this appear obvious. First a money order transaction done at the regular window would probably take more time than typical purchase of mail transaction, and in post offices with only one window, other patrons would have to wait, thus resulting in a line of dissatisfied customers. But by establishing the separate C.O.D. Station window, these postal customers are separated from the regular window line, and it would appear that since the C.O.D. Station clerk handles most of the paperwork, even the money order transaction would be faster. The C.O.D. Station clerk could probably complete the paperwork during the idle period between customers.

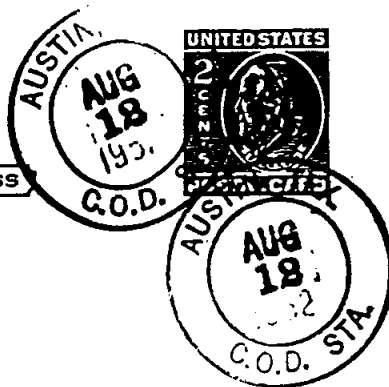
One of the authors (Ludeman) recalls a conversation with a retired Dallas window clerk some years ago, who when asked about the C.O.D. Stations, noted that while they were before his time, he remembered that the older clerks who were around when he started his career in the early 1960s,

Table 1
C.O.D. Stations in Texas
by year of Appearance in the Postal Guide

1924	1931	1945	1951
Dallas	Cuero	Alice	Bellaire
Houston	Kingsville	Bastrop	Colorado City
Marshall	San Benito	Bay City	Crockett
San Antonio	Victoria	Beeville	Graham
Waco		Childress	Hereford
Wichita Falls	1932	Cleburne	Jasper
	Denison	Dalhart	Levelland
1925	Lufkin	Denton	Littlefield
Amarillo		Edinburg	Pharr
Austin	1933	Greenville	Rosenburg
Corsicana	No new listings	Jacksonville	Snyder
Lubbock		Kerrville	Sulphur Springs
Mexia	1934	Killeen	Terrell Wells
Vernon	Beaumont	Mission	
	Gladewater	Monahans	1953
1926	Kilgore	Pecos	All C.O.D.
Abilene	Longview	Sweetwater	Station
Brownwood	Overton	Texas City	listings
El Paso			deleted
Ennis	1935	1947	
Galveston	No new listings	Brownfield	
Plainview		Conroe	
Temple	1936	El Campo	
Waxahachie	No new listings	Goose Creek	
		Hondo	
1927	1937	Huntsville	
Borger	Fort Worth	Kermit	
McCamey	Odessa	Lamesa	
Port Arthur		Mercedes	
San Angelo	1939	Pasadena	
	Big Spring	San Marcos	
1928	Tyler	Seguin	
Brownsville		Stamford	
Laredo	1941	Uvalde	
	No new listings	Welasco	
1929		Wharton	
Bryam	1943		
Cisco	College Station	1949	
Del Rio	Freeport	Arlington	
Nacogdoches	Gainsville	Baytown	
Wink	Henderson	Brenham	
	Orange	Cameron	
1930	Palacios	Carthage	
Corpus Christi	Palestine	Falfurrias	
Harlingen	Paris	Gonzales	
McAllen	Sherman	Grand Prairie	
Midland		Liberty	
Pampa		Mount Pleasant	
		New Braunfels	
		Raymondville	
		Weatherford	
		Yoakum	

THIS SIDE OF CARD IS FOR ADDRESS

Austin



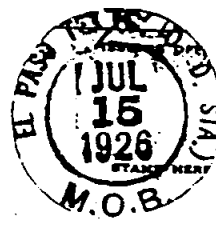
Amarillo



Brownfield



Dallas



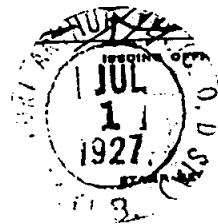
El Paso



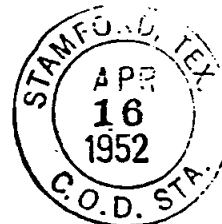
Houston



Lubbock



Port Arthur



Stamford



Waco



Wichita Falls

Figure 1

Examples of C.O.D. Station postmarks from Texas

would comment that the C.O.D. Station window was a prized position. It was usually bid for and won by the senior clerk at the post office, favored because it was not a strenuous job, and that the C.O.D. Station clerk was not required to fill in at the regular window except in an emergency. He was responsible for the C.O.D. Station window and was to keep it manned during regular post office hours.

There were at least 121 of these C.O.D. Stations established in Texas in the years between 1923 and 1953, and these were reported in the Postal Bulletin and Postal Guide along with other classified and contract stations and branches. However, beginning with the Postal Guide of 1953, C.O.D. Stations were no longer listed, and it is presumed that they were phased out about this time. Table 1 lists these 121 post offices with C.O.D. Station by the year they appeared in the Postal Guide.

Some of the C.O.D. Stations had their own date stamp device, which was used to date the money order receipts. Because these devices are known from only a few of the 121 post offices, it is possible that not all post offices had a separate "C.O.D. Station" device, but simply used the regular window date stamp for their operation. These were not used on regular mail, although they may occasionally be found on postal cards of a philatelic nature. A few examples of the postmarks are shown in Figure 1. (These are from Dave Lyman's collection).

As a complementary note, at least one of the large mail order catalog firms: Sears, Roebuck & Company, had sufficient outgoing parcel mail volume to justify the USPOD establishing a classified station within several of the Sear's mail order facilities located across The United States, including one in Dallas. The Dallas unit, known as Station B, at the Sears warehouse facility located on Lamar Street, south of downtown Dallas, operated from Nov. 1, 1920 until July 31, 1956. There was an order to discontinue this unit July 31, 1926 in the Postal Bulletin, but this order was rescinded before the unit was closed.

No postally used examples of the postmark from Dallas Station B are known to the authors. Figure 2 illustrates a philatelic favor postmark on the reverse of a postcard. While it is apparent that all parcel mail was processed at this station, it is not known if Sear's business first class mail went through this station, or if it were routed through another unit of the Dallas post office. If the latter were the case, this could explain why mail with the Dallas Station B postmark is so scarce.

The authors would be interested in learning of other Texas C.O.D. Station postmarks or Dallas Station B postmarks between 1920 and 1956. Please send photocopies only to the author or Editor.

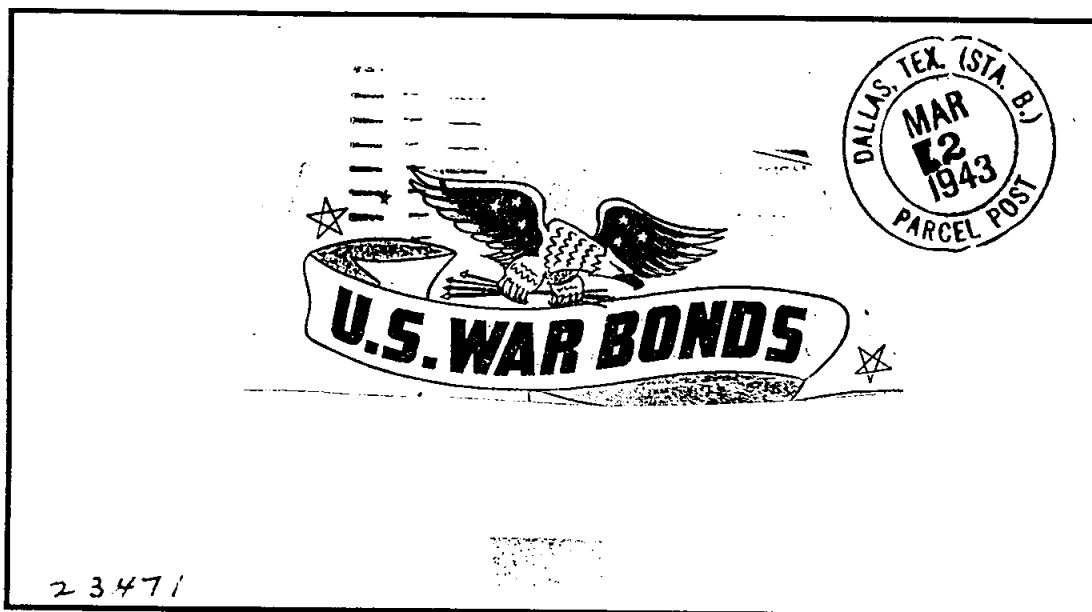
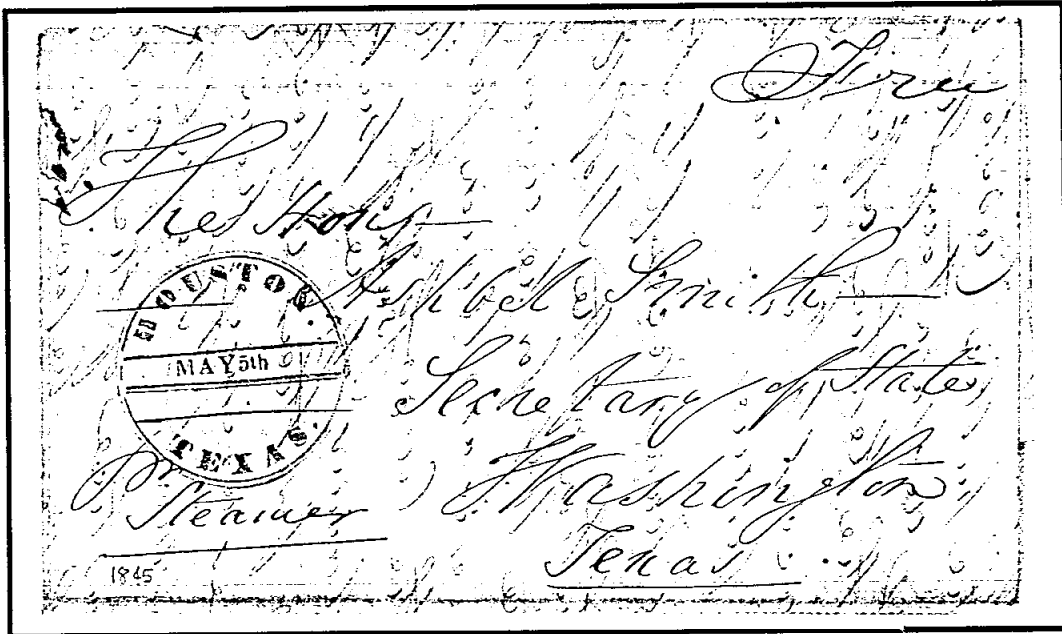


Figure 2

HE WORKED FOR TEXAS

By R. H. Stever

The illustrated letter was written by James Hamilton in 1845. Ever heard of him? Probably not. Yet he was an important person in early Texas History.



A 4-page folded letter hand carried to Houston where it entered the Texas mail system on May 5, 1845. Addressed to Dr. Ashbel Smith, Secretary of State at Washington, Texas, it traveled free.

Hamilton was a native of Charleston, South Carolina, educated in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, and onetime Governor of South Carolina. The letter was written at Charleston on April 16, 1845. That was only six weeks after U. S. President John Tyler signed the legislation which authorized the annexation of Texas and prior to the Texas referendum vote set by President Anson Jones for July 4th. Texas government officials could send and receive mail free. Quite naturally the letter discussed annexation which Hamilton opposed but predicted would pass in the Texas vote. He offered suggestions on entry terms Texas should seek and also advised that Texas seek security and protection by the U.S. That's exactly what happened as Anson Jones requested military protection and the U. S. responded by ordering General Zachary Taylor's U.S. Army forces to Texas later that year.

When the Texas Revolution commenced in 1836 Hamilton was very much in favor of the Texas cause—so much so that he loaned the Texas Army money to purchase arms and ammunition and pay the volunteers. He also realized that the fledgling Republic needed operating capital. Hamilton proposed to float a \$5 million loan to the Texas government. He had banking connections in New York and in Europe and felt he would succeed in getting such a loan. Professionally, Hamilton was an attorney well-versed in negotiating financial arrangements. However, the financial panic of 1837 stalled his early efforts.

Beginning about March of 1837, Hamilton kept up a steady correspondence with Mirabeau B. Lamar concerning the proposed loan. Apparently he had considerable influence over Lamar in both financial and political matters. He pointed out to Lamar that all of the potential lenders were concerned about Texas' stability. Hamilton was worried that the Mexican navy could blockade Texas ports, especially Galveston. So he made arrangements for Texas to purchase an armed vessel, the Charleston, at a bargain price. This vessel would be quite capable of keeping Texas ports open.

The Texas Congress passed an act during Sam Houston's administration on May 16, 1838 authorizing the proposed loan. Later that year Lamar was a candidate for President of the Republic and was elected to succeed Sam Houston. Hamilton offered to go to Europe to negotiate the loan but solicited an appointment as commissioner or agent of the Texas government. He did not want an official diplomatic appointment but rather a letter showing he had Lamar's confidence and was in possession of the President's view on all points. Hamilton advised Lamar that Texas should withdraw its application for annexation to the U. S. and solicit statements of confidence by the American President and Congress that Texas could maintain its independence etc. He thought this would bring recognition of Texas' independence in Europe.

As it turned out, Hamilton was able to get diplomatic recognition of Texas by England and the Netherlands. He worked with J. Pinckney Henderson for French recognition and thought France would also recognize Texas but was having difficulty with the Belgians. All of these diplomatic maneuvers were made to impress European bankers—potential lenders of a loan to Texas—with the stability and future strength of the Texas Republic. These preliminary efforts were on the verge of success when Sam Houston was again elected President in 1841.

Houston, who favored the loan in 1838, now disapproved the loan.. Rather than the Republic incurring additional indebtedness Houston favored putting the Texas government on an economy program. He repudiated Hamilton's loan efforts. Texas owed Hamilton over \$210,000 in gold. Repeated attempts to collect his money were unsuccessful and a source of great embarrassment. Hamilton moved to Texas and bought substantial property in Texas. However he was in Washington in 1857 when he got word that Texas was ready to make a settlement. He booked passage to New Orleans from where he secured passage on another vessel to Galveston. On November 15, 1857 James Hamilton drowned in the Gulf of Mexico when the ship was rammed and he gave his life preserver to a woman and her child.

References:

Tyler, Ron, The New Handbook of Texas, The Texas State Historical Association, Austin, 1996, Volume 3, pp 428-29.

The Lamar Papers, Pemberton Press, Austin and New York, 1968. Volume II, Several letters from Hamilton to Mirabeau B. Lamar.

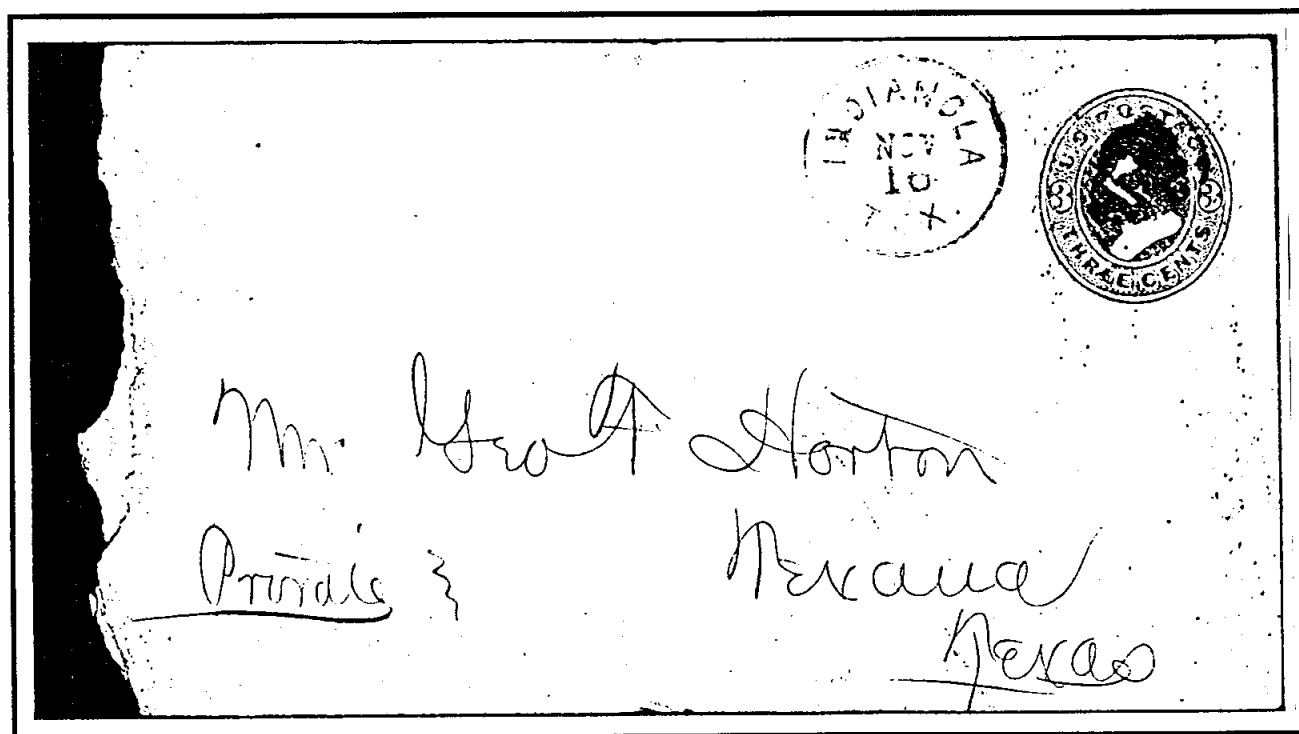
**INDIANOLA
THE MOTHER OF WESTERN TEXAS**

by Brownson Malsch

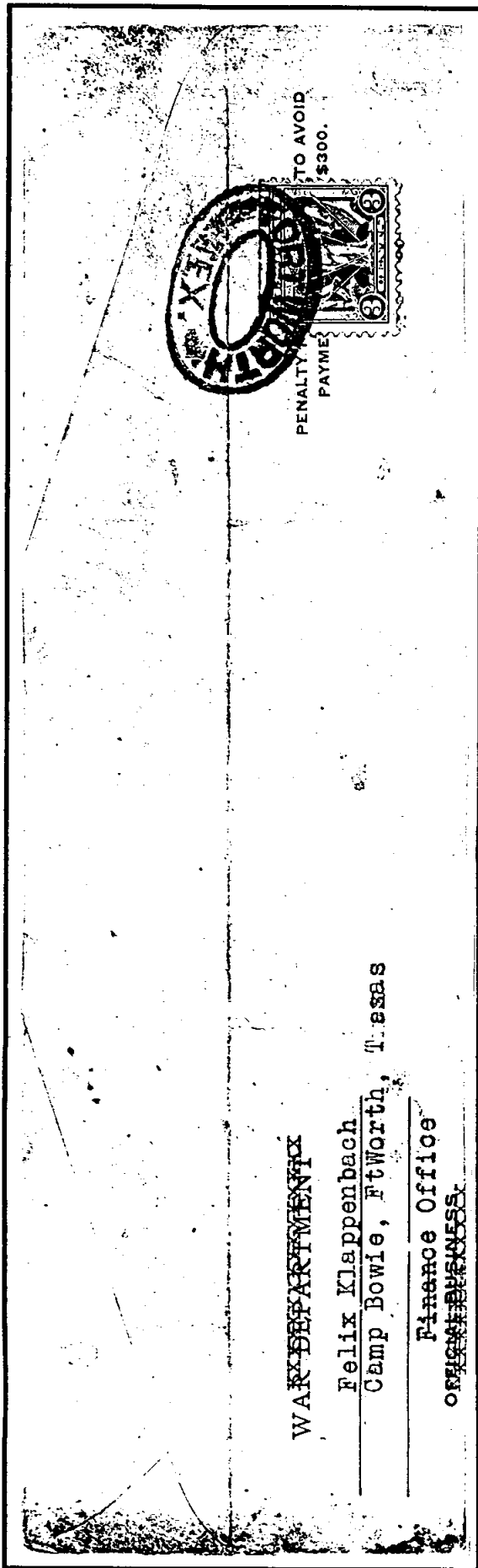
Editor's note: The title above is of a 1977 book by Mr. Malsch, now deceased. It is the definitive work on Indianola and was published by Shoal Creek Publishers, Inc. of Austin Texas. The cover shown is from Mr. Malsch's personal collection of Indianola documents and the caption below is a verbatim report of his description of the enclosed letter.

In the mid-19th Century Indianola and Galveston were the two most important ports on the Texas coast. Each city had a United States Signal Service (U.S. Army) reporting station. These stations were established in 1872 for weather observation and were required to dispatch to Washington by telegraph daily observation of atmospheric conditions including temperature of the water in the bay. Weather changes could effect shipping, commerce and agriculture. The Indianola station was manned by Sergeant C. A. Smith in 1875 and Isaac A. Reed in 1886.

Indianola, which once had a population of over 6000, no longer exists. It was ravaged by a terrible hurricane in mid-September, 1875. Many survivors moved out of town. Those that remained rebuilt the town, only to witness an even more devastating storm in August, 1886. All but a handful of diehards moved away. This time the town was not rebuilt. The Indianola post office closed for good in October 1887.



This envelope, from one ghost town to another, contained a letter dated October 4, 1875 from Sgt. C. A. Smith, U.S. Signal Service Station at Indianola. In it, he asked Texana Postmaster George Horton for information on the hurricane: wind directions, length of time, velocity, whether a period of calm was observed, and other data for use in a supplemental report he was preparing to the Chief Signal Officer in Washington. Smith sent similar letters to all other towns in or near the path of the hurricane as it moved inland across Texas. (From the author's personal collection.)



AN UNUSUAL ITEM

by Barbara Stever

Shown at left is a War Department penalty envelope converted into a newspaper wrapper, possibly a camp newspaper. However, TPHS member Bill Henderson, who is currently studying Camp Bowie archives, has found no evidence that there ever was a camp newspaper. Privately used by an employee in the finance office at Camp Bowie, Texas, date unknown. Printed "War Department" and "Official Business" x'd out by typewriter and a 3¢ "Victory Stamp" placed over penalty postage. Postmarked with "Fort Worth, Texas" undated black double oval cancel and sent to wife or mother in New Braunfels, Texas (address on back not shown).

Camp Bowie was opened August 1, 1917 and closed August 15, 1919. (It was reactivated November, 1940 prior to World War II.) There was no post office at the camp. Thus the sender, with no advice as to a newspaper rate, probably opted to pay first class postage. The Victory Stamp was issued March 3, 1919 when the World War I 3-cent "war tax" rate was still in effect. The prewar first class rate of two cents was restored July 1, 1919. Therefore the date when this unusual item was sent can be narrowed to sometime in a March through June 1919 time frame. It was apparently hand carried to Fort Worth where it entered the mails.

WWII SERVICEMAN'S FRANKING PRIVILEGE

by Tom Koch

On Dec. 7, 1941 the United States entered World War II. From that time until April 1, 1942 personal mail from military personnel was subject to standard post office rates (three cents for a first class letter). The feature cover here was sent from Louisville, KY. (Fort Knox) from Amon Carter Jr. to John Sparks at the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

Carter, of course was the son of Fort Worth civic leader, philanthropist and newspaper publisher Amon Carter Sr. who changed his birth name to match that of his son so they could be junior-senior. Carter Jr. was stationed at Fort Knox as a lieutenant in the 91st Field Artillery. Since Sparks was the stamp columnist at the Star-Telegram owned by his family, Carter Jr. wanted him to have a sample of the military free mail on the first day. Carter marked "FREE" in the upper right corner (Figure 1). Apparently, the policy caught postal clerks in Louisville by surprise. It was struck with purple straight-line rubber stamp markings, "Held For Postage, due 3 cents" and "April 2 1942." These were later marked through lightly by pencil and eventually the letter reached Sparks. In the note inside Carter tells Sparks that he sent the letter on "the first day that we were able to mail letters without stamps." (Figure 2) He likely posted it on April 1, but the confused clerks did not process it until the next day.

Dave Kent of the Military Postal History Society said, "The simple answer is that it was late March 1942 before someone realized we should grant the franking privilege to servicemen, so it was attached to one of those messy 'omnibus' bills and slipped quickly through Congress. Legally the first day it could take effect was April 1, 1942 but we found 'predate' covers in late March (presumably encouraged by radio news announcements), and covers as late as June 1942 with postage still paid (hadn't got the word yet)."

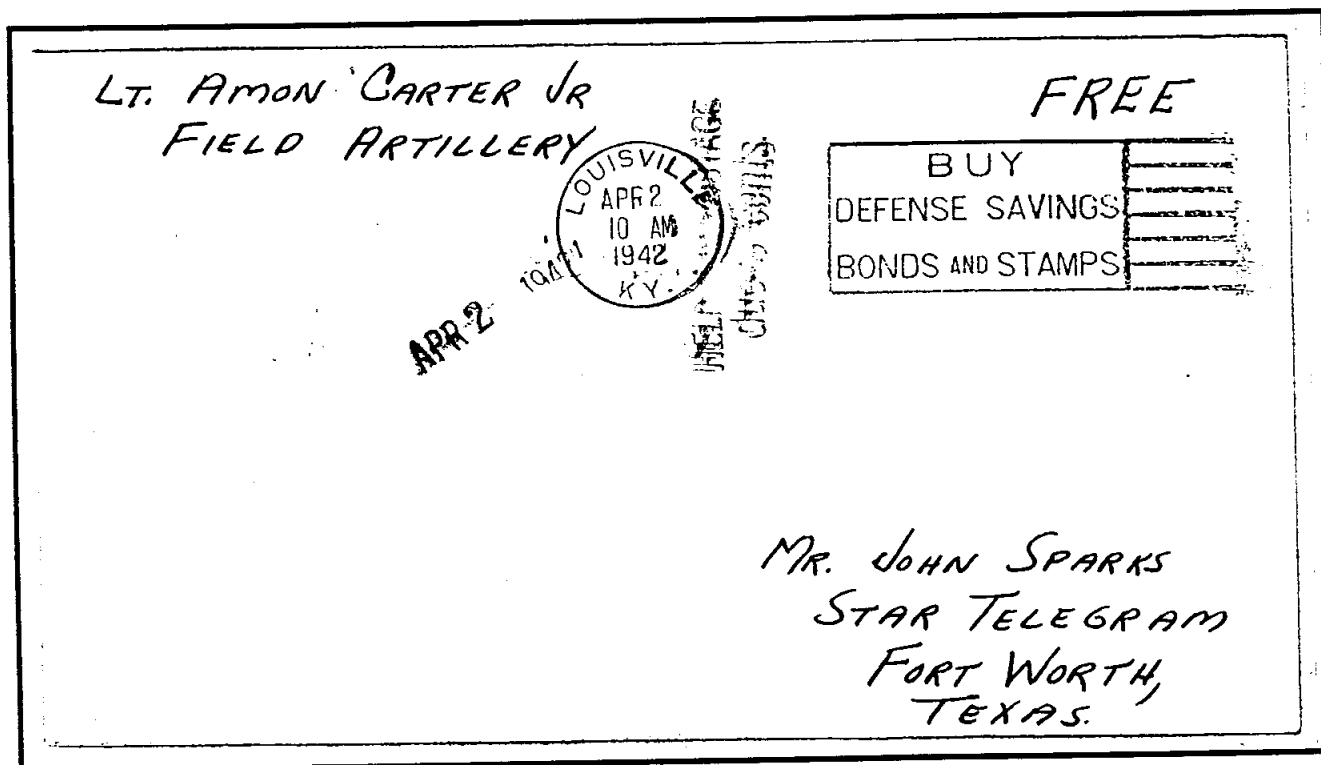


Figure 1. Cover front showing proper franking requirements plus purple straight-line markings by Louisville postal clerks apparently unaware of new wartime franking law.

According to postal regulations, members of the U.S. armed services who sent personal letters had to apply the word "FREE" in their handwriting in the upper right corner of the cover. Handstamps franks occasionally made it through but were not regulation. The April 1, 1942 Postal Bulletin (information and guidelines for postal employees) noted a March 27 "Amendment to the Postal Laws and Regulations" concerning letters from members of the U.S. Military and Naval Forces, The letters "shall bear in the upper right corner the word "FREE" and in the upper left hand corner the name of the sender together with his rank or rating and the designation of the service to which he belongs..."

The letters were accepted "when deposited in the mails in the United States or its possessions or at any place outside the continental United States where the United States mail service is in operation." Post cards were accepted but packages or parcels and airmail service were not.

Carter graduated from Culver Military Academy (Indiana) in 1938. While serving in the Army he was captured by the Germans in North Africa in 1943. He was imprisoned for more than two years at a German POW camp named Oflag 64 Camp near Szubin, Poland. It was a special camp for "celebrities." The German's hope was to ransom these people off, but this never came about. Carter's father offered a reward to anyone who could rescue his son. Upon the chaos that ensued when German military began to collapse, Carter ventured his way through small European towns, many of them devastated by Allied bombs. He always checked the local post office and on many occasions found some nice philatelic "souvenirs."

He returned home, graduated from the University of Texas and then took over as president of the Star-Telegram from his father in 1955. He became a successful civic leader, philanthropist and publisher in his own right. Carter was more known as a numismatist than philatelist. So in early July 1982 I interviewed Carter by telephone about his philatelic interests for the weekly stamp column I wrote for the Dallas Times Herald. The column did not run that next week and before it did on July 24, 1982 Carter died of a heart attack in Dallas in his black Cadillac while on his way to Love Field. The column was posthumously dedicated to Carter the following week. He was 62 years old.

*This is the first day that we
are able to mail letters without
stamps.*

Amor Jr.

Figure 2. Note inside Figure 1 Cover. (Reduced)

THE CLOSING OF CAMP HULEN

by Ruby Penland

This text submitted by TPHS member Louis Germer of San Antonio.

Camp Hulen, in Matagorda County about two miles west of Palacios, had grown from a “city of tents” to one of comfortable hutments, wooden frame buildings, and modern service buildings, where many thousands of soldiers had lived and been trained and shipped out to win the war for their country. An Army inventory of June 1944, listed the troops at Camp Hulen as 11,536, hospital beds as 551, with 714,214 square feet of storage space and 1625 acres of land leased. In October the Women’s Army Company Housing Area was declared surplus, It contained a beauty shop, but it is not certain that any WAC was stationed there. By December 1944, most of the training and other programs by the Army were being discontinued at the camp with less and less activity.

The soldiers that were stationed at Camp Hulen wrote letters home to friends and families. A post office was opened March 1, 1941 (Figure 1). It was apparently a branch of the Palacios office and as such is not listed in Deaton, Schmidt or the Germann-Janzen study. However, as Figure 1 shows, Camp Hulen’s post office had its own CDS with six-line wavy postage stamp killer. After April 1, 1942 stamps weren’t needed.

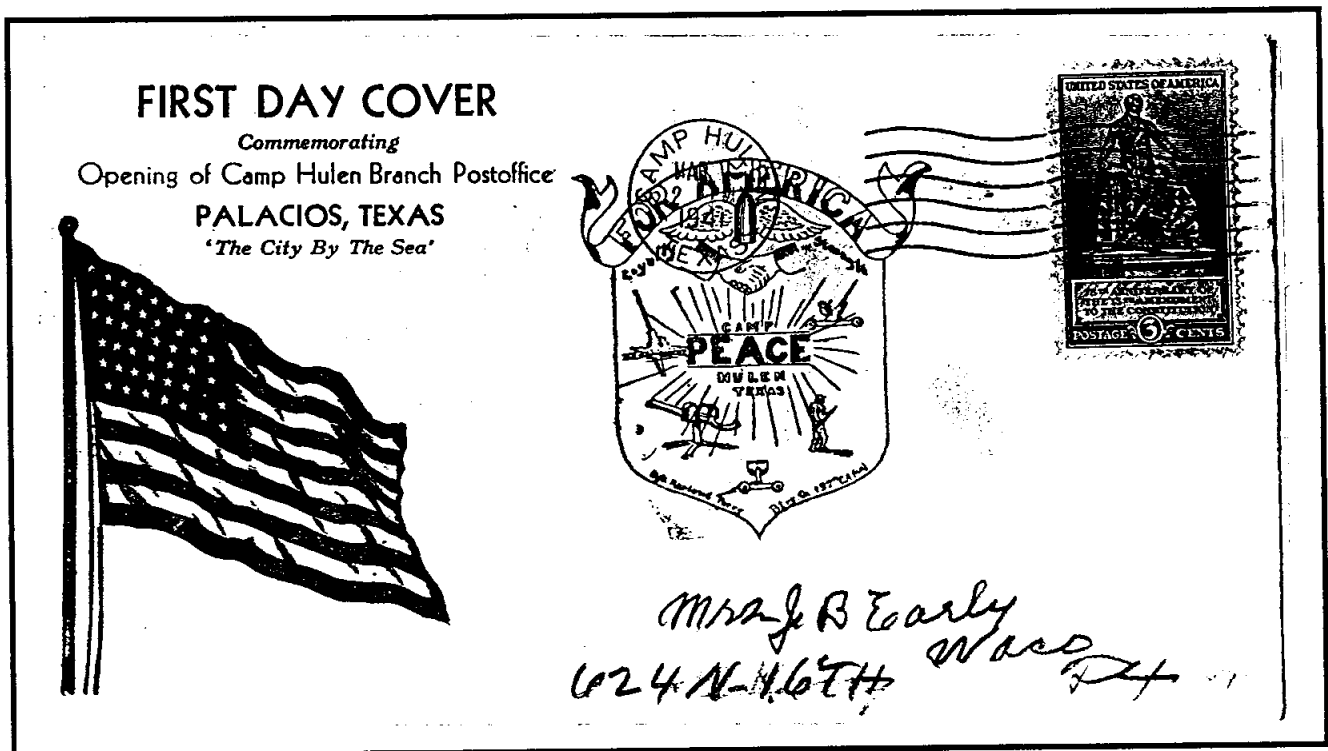


Figure 1. Opening of the Camp Hulen Branch Post Office, March 1, 1941.

Figure 2 illustrates a Camp Hulen free-franked soldier’s letter posted March 27, 1943. The printed corner card below the space for soldier’s name and unit is indicative of Camp Hulen principal wartime role as an antiaircraft training facility. It should be noted that there were about 250 German POWs at Camp Hulen.

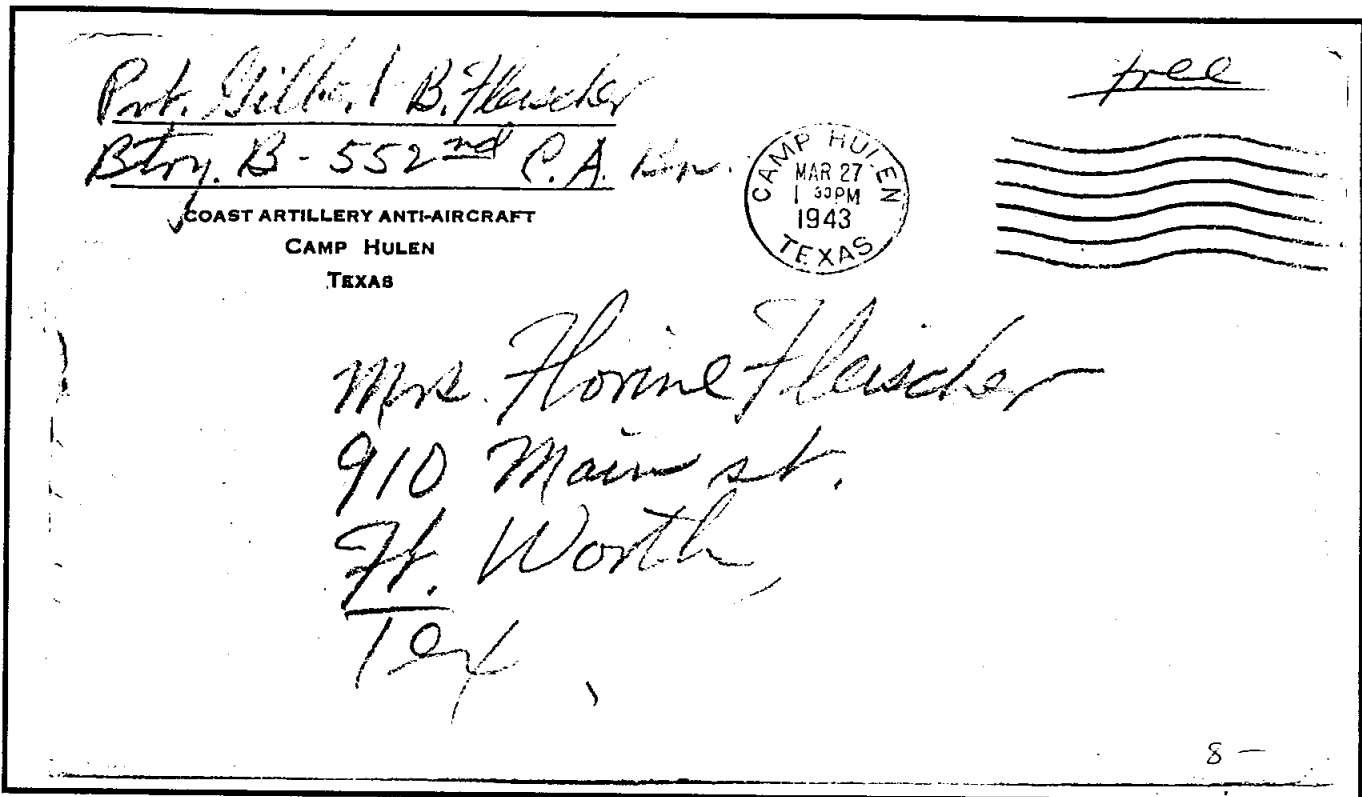


Figure 2. Free-franked letter. The Camp Hulen CDS and killer remained the same throughout the war years.

Figure 3 is an example of service person's mail that could not be sent free. Airmail letters were required to have full postage. The return address reads "Nurses Quarters A, Camp Hulen, Texas." There may not have been WACs stationed at Hulen but there were Army Nurses.

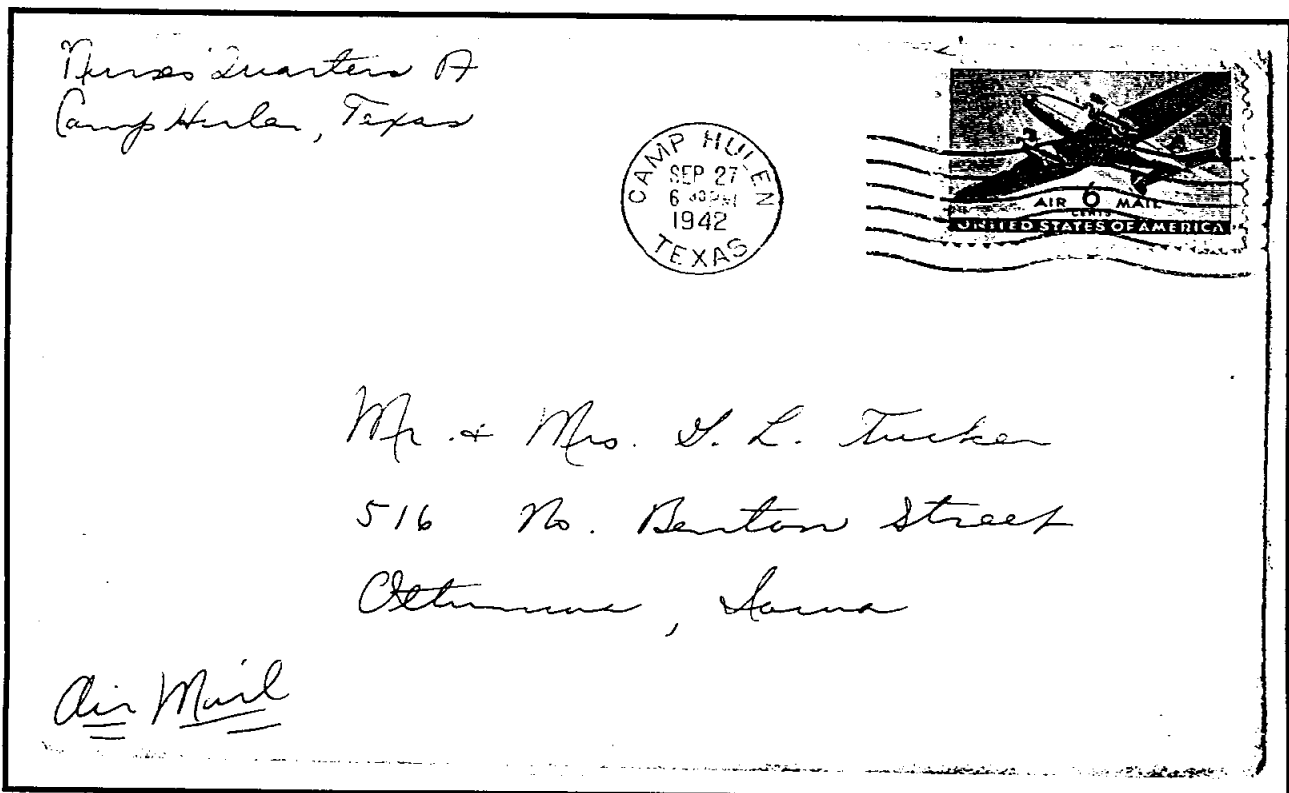


Figure 3. Posted at Camp Hulen Sept., 27 1942 addressed to Ottumwa, Iowa bearing a 6-cent airmail stamp. Note "Air Mail" written at lower left.

In February 1945 THE CAMP HULEN SEARCHLIGHT received an honorable discharge. Like an old soldier it had served its time. Established as the camp's official newspaper, it started out as a stenciled and mimeographed paper and was later printed at the Bay City Tribune in Bay City, Texas. The last issues were also stenciled and mimeographed papers while the publication kept the pace of the camp. The staff always met its deadlines even under difficult conditions such as a gulf storm. The indefinite status of the camp in 1945 no longer made it practical to continue the publication.

The Wells Point Rifle Range and the Wells Point Anti-Aircraft Range were declared surplus by the Government in early 1945 and the leases on the land were not renewed (332 acres). The land leased at nearby Indianola was also declared surplus and the lease canceled. Camp Hulen's government-owned land (20 acres) and leased land (1199.05 acres) were placed in an inactive status in July 1945. A government inventory dated December 31, 1945 listed 295 mobilization buildings, 9508 hutments for a total of 9,803 surplus buildings at the campsite.

The USO Association discontinued their services at the center in Palacios and although the club remained open for a while, the building and property was eventually sold to The City of Palacios and later became Bay View Hospital.

The Garden Club of Palacios established a Service Tree Memorial on Bay Shore Drive of palm trees. A "Living Memorial" to the men in the service. Trees were also planted along the highway, in yards and other places. Their beauty has been a lovely reminder of all of the soldiers who were once stationed at Camp Hulen.

In May, 1945 the city quietly observed V-E Day at the city park and gave thanks that their friends, sons and daughters would soon be coming back home. Again in August a large crowd gathered quietly in the park for a Victory Program by the Ministerial Association. The City declared it a holiday and almost every business in the city was closed for the day as all Americans gave thanks for the wars end. Some of the soldiers who trained at Camp Hulen would not be coming home, some had been Nazi POWs returning from a terrible war to resume their lives. Many reunions of service companies are held each year around the country, giving once young soldiers a chance to remember the "good old days at Hulen".

The war was won, but Palacios had lost its wonderful soldier boys. The U.S. War Department returned jurisdiction of the campsite to the Adjutant General of Texas, K.L. Berry, who had been a prisoner of war of the Japanese during the war. The War Department agreed that if the State of Texas would keep the camp in readiness for housing an Army Division for 5 years after the end of the war that the camp would be turned back to The Texas National Guard with all buildings and installations. All hope of the National Guard returning to the camp as its summer home soon vanished. Caretakers were stationed at the camp and over the next five years their duty was keeping all buildings, utilities and the premises in good condition. At the end of the five year period the camp was salvaged for material that the National Guard needed all over the state. Other governmental establishments and charity organizations were given what they could use. Then the rest was sold to the public. Many of those buildings are still in use in the Palacios area.

Over the next few years, the city and the citizens of Palacios, had many discussions with the Texas Adjutant General's Department over the future of the surplus campsite. In March 1955, House Bill 623 went before the Hearing Committee which proposed that Camp Hulen property be transferred to the city of Palacios. Delegations from Palacios traveled to Austin many times to confer with the Adjutant General about the campsite. Finally in 1965 this property was sold to various corporations plus a group of citizens from Palacios. The purchase price for 1199 acres of land, more or less, was reported as \$299,405 with the City of Palacios receiving ten percent of the sales price as agent. The balance of the sale went to the Texas National Guard Armory Board for the use and benefit of the National Guard. A third called session authorized the sale with the stipulation that the property would be sold as an industrial site.

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