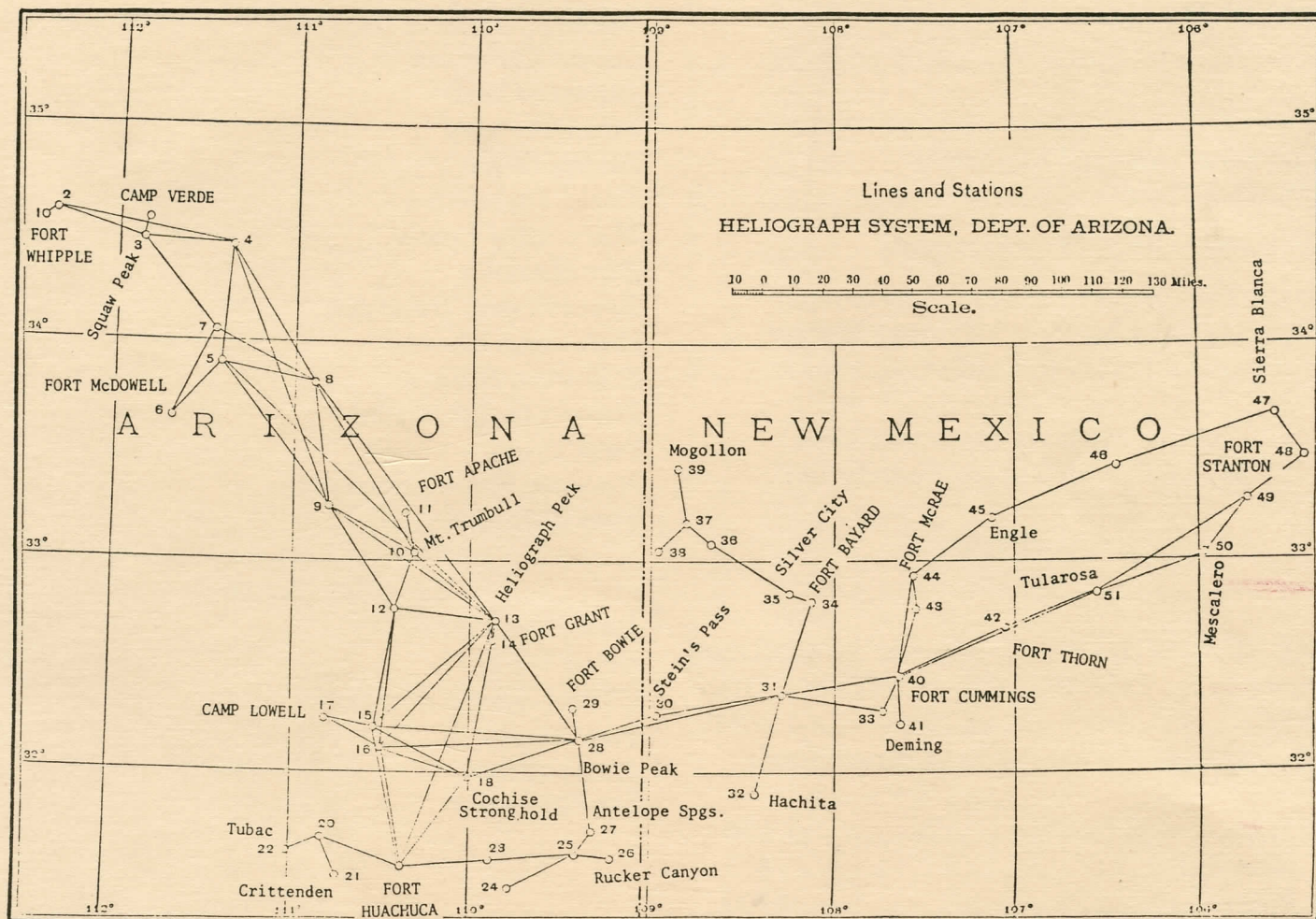


THE HELIOGRAPH



Postal History
Foundation
Newsletter

Winter 1998

THE HELIOGRAPH

VOLUME 1, NUMBER 1

Winter 1998

Contents

Helio News	1
Letter from Ironwood Elementary School	1
Editorial	2
The Postal History Foundation Youth Education Program	4
The Story behind <i>The Heliograph</i>	5
On the Employment of Dromedaries in Transporting Mail and Express Matter Across the Plains to California, 1884	6

Entire contents copyright 1998
by the Postal History Foundation.

Paul Tyler
Editor

THE HELIOGRAPH Newsletter is published quarterly by THE POSTAL HISTORY FOUNDATION, P.O. BOX 40725, Tucson, AZ 85717. Subscriptions are available by membership:

Annual membership	\$20
Sustaining	\$35
Patron	\$100
Donor*	\$500
Benefactor*	\$1,000

* Member, Arizona Camel Corps

Memberships are on a calendar year basis. Prepayment of dues several years in advance is greatly appreciated.

Articles for, and correspondence to, the editors can be addressed to: ATTN: Editor, P.O. Box 40725, Tucson, AZ 85717

The Postal History Foundation Board of Directors

Robert Bechtel, Chairman
Louise Christian
Richard Corwin
Mimi Crowley
Warde Dixon
Carl LeMar John
Mary Anne Lewis
Ray Mariella
Robert Peck, Treasurer
Hon. John Rhodes
F. Burton Sellers
Donald N. Soldwedel
Paul Tyler
Norman Vivian, Secretary
Paul Zatulove

Ex Officio Members

John Birkinbine
Betsy Towle
Clifton Bloom, Attorney
Jim Bruns
Arnold Elias
Jerrold Lyons

The Postal History Foundation is an Arizona non-profit corporation chartered to be used exclusively for historical, research, scientific, and education purposes in the advancement of postal history, including, but not limited to, the collecting, assembling, preserving, recording and publication of postal history. Membership donations over that for annual membership, and donations of cash, acceptable stamps, covers, books, postcard, periodicals and postal history material are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes and are most gratefully received. The Foundation is an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

Helio News

By *Betsy Towle*

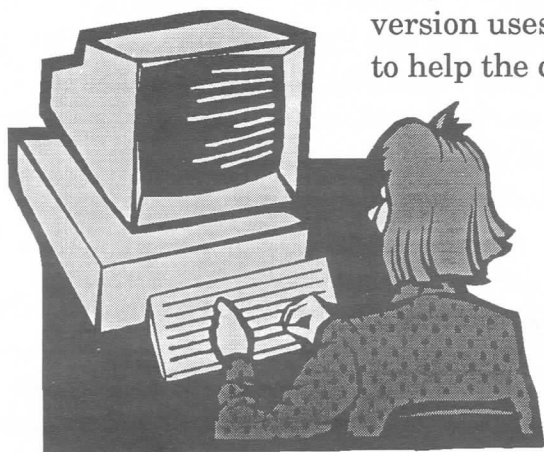
In changing the format of THE HELIOGRAPH to the HELIOGRAPH NEWS, I felt that perhaps our readers would like to hear more of what is happening here at the Foundation. In the



Phyllis Ashwood

almost 40 years of our existence the Foundation has changed in many ways. In size of facilities alone, we have grown from one room in the basement of the Arizona Historical Society to almost 11,000 sq. ft. in two buildings. We even made a bid on additional space for future growth. We have changed names to more correctly reflect our functions and mission. The one thing that has not changed over the years is our commitment to youth philatelic education. This past month we lost one of our longest and most steadfast teachers, Phyllis Ashwood. Phyllis was a volunteer in our program for over 30 years, teaching thousands of children the hobby of stamp collecting. She spent 20 to 30 hours a week working in the classroom, using stamps to reinforce the regular instruction. For those skeptics who doubt, let me assure you that Phyllis's children knew all the philatelic terms, how to read a catalog, and how to be a stamp collector. Many of you who attended ARIPEX have seen little Phyllis dashing over the show floor with a trail of children behind her like the Pied Piper. I include a letter written by a group of her teachers in tribute to Phyllis Ashwood. (See inside of the back cover)

With the successful completion of the computerized games developed by the PHF education department for use in the USPS Stampers Youth program, we will begin to work on a computerized version of "Arizona History on Stamps." The original version uses stamps issued to commemorate events in Arizona history to help the children learn this fourth grade curriculum subject. While



we teach many other subjects using stamps, this is our most popular course. In an effort to reach more children we will be working on presenting the material through the new media of the computer. We will still provide the stamps whenever possible, but the possibilities for reaching more children are endless. Imagine if each state had such a program made available to them in the school. Supported by stamp collectors, think how many children that we could introduce to the hobby!

EDITORIAL

The Heliograph has come to a crossroads in its publication. It was first issued in 1987 with a Winter issue. Since that time it has seen several editors come and go and at the same time there has been a marked decline in postal history articles submitted for publication. This decline was to such an extent, that the last editor resorted to publishing photocopies of postal history exhibits in order to have something to print.

In looking back at the first issue, I think the first editor had an excellent editorial policy with high ideals and an well balanced set of goals of what he would have liked to accomplish with the Heliograph. For members who have not seen or remember the first issue, I would like to republish the Editorial Policy as published in Volume I no.1 and then discuss ramifications of the recent decline in submitted articles.

“The Editorial Policy for this New Publication:

The Western Postal History Museum now believes that its economic health and future growth necessitates a new policy of having Museum members of various classes, and the commencement of publication of a regular medium to communicate with, determine the interests of, and hopefully to assist our members and recruit new members. This, therefore, is the reason for THE HELIOGRAPH, of which this is the first issue.

Your Editors feel that it is only proper at this time to outline our aims, goals and beliefs that will serve as a guide in starting this first Museum bulletin from an organization that has never had a regular publication of any nature. We will try not to be provincial in our views of our readers' interest, as is so alarmingly evident these days, but will report broadly on postage stamps, revenue stamps, post cards, covers, postal stationery, philatelic books and “Cinderella's”. We will also report on various collectibles connected with postal history. Our mail box is always open and we hope to hear from our members and readers on their suggestions, desires and areas of interest.

A recent statement from Herman Herst, Jr. certainly confirms our belief that the growth of postal history, both past and modern, will be a future trend. Mr. Herst stated, “I foresee greater and greater interest in postal history. Already we see this trend. Two generations ago exhibits at our International Exhibitions featured stamps; already covers and postal history are outnumbering pure stamp exhibits. Perhaps modern postal history, (almost) totally ignored by today's collectors will become greatly sought in the future.”

This trend is most certainly evident and is no doubt caused by the never-ending flood of wallpaper emanating from microscopic stamp issuing localities, encouraged by greedy promoters. We hope to assist collectors following the postal history trend by featuring areas that have been overlooked, or slighted in the past. We will feature ALL postal history, but naturally, emphasis will be on the United States, and particular emphasis on the 13 Western States. At the present time there are only a few general purpose postal history publications for the everyday collector of average means, such as “PS” and LA POSTA.

Some postal history publications have unfortunately followed a retrograde trend towards specializing in collecting fields involving stamps and covers so excessively priced, that 95% of our postal history enthusiasts are economically excluded from participation. The new growth of regional and state postal history groups is a healthy development, but one which needs assistance both from subscribers and writers. THE HELIOGRAPH supports this trend and will report on its progress, needs and advancements.

We invite articles from writers on philatelic and postal history subjects that will interest many of our readers and point the way towards developing collecting fields of interest spanning a broad range of economic availability and research.

THE HELIOGRAPH will review books primarily on subjects of postal history interest, but will not neglect other collectible areas. We will not cover new issue stamp news, or news of stamp shows, exhibits and items regularly and capably reported by the weekly philatelic press. We will report on the issuance of cachet covers which we believe may be of interest to Western postal historians.

Incidentally, the Western Postal History Museum intends to expand its publication of postal history monographs and books on topics of interest. We presently have two books in the course of preparation, one of which should be going to press in the near future.

We pledge to use large type sizes whenever possible to ease the common problem of philatelic eyestrain. Due to economic factors our first issues will be computer produced and printed mostly by offset. However, as circulation improves and finances permit, we will be able to consider typeset production. At the present juncture it is highly possible that the so-called "Desktop Publishing", now under intensive development by many electronic firms, may shortly offer the most attractive product and at the same time eliminate the error problems so inherent in typesetting."

The goals and ambitions of the editors in 1987 are to be commended, but between then and now many things have changed. The Heliograph has been in competition with other postal history journals, who have a stronger subscriber and contributor base. Journals can only publish those articles they receive, unless the editor him/herself is willing and has the time to write articles. If this is the case then the editor might as well write a book, publish it and at least maybe be able to receive a little compensation for his/her efforts instead of continuing writing articles for a journal without compensation.

The one prediction of the original editorial to come true is the use of Desktop Publishing for *The Heliograph*. This Newsletter is assembled using PageMaker 6.5 in 12 point Century Schoolbook typeface.

The last Editor had a very difficult time in obtaining articles. When the editorship changed last fall, notices of the change were sent to all philatelic publications. The article also asked for potential contributors of articles to contact either the Postal History foundation of the new editor. Almost six months later, not one inquiry has been received concerning potential postal history articles for The Heliograph.

It is with this background that it has been decided to change The Heliograph to a Newsletter type of publication for the members of the Postal History Foundation. We plan to report on the activities of the foundation, provide advance information to our members on coming events at the Foundation, highlight interesting events and happenings within the philatelic community. The editor will still welcome articles on postal history and publish all that are received.

The editor encourages comments, suggestion and other input of the readers and members of the Foundation. I would like to make this your Newsletter and can only do so with your interest, cooperation, and most of all newsworthy notes and articles that would be of interest to other members. ☐

The Postal History Foundation Youth Education Program

The Postal History Foundation Youth Education programs consists of using used US and World wide stamps to facilitate learning in the classroom. We have been successful in this area for over 35 years. While teaching subject matter, we encourage and teach children to become stamp collectors.

The volunteers of the Foundation work with teachers in the local school districts and nation wide in this project. We have some curriculum guides already developed as they are used on a regular basis. Some teachers use their imagination to create their own guides and work sheets.

The program is completely free to all children. We provide to the extent possible to schools in our program:

1. A folder for each child with quadrille lined paper, hinges, and some philatelic material such as a first day cover
2. Used stamps, the same stamp for every child if possible, to be used in the classroom to reinforce the classroom instruction. The stamps are selected for each lesson by the PHF staff. When there are not sufficient stamps available to provide one for every child, then the staff provides at least one per class for study.
3. Explanation of Philatelic terms, and examples of the various types of stamps. Volunteers sort and file examples of the various types, such as perfins, overprints etc. and provide each child with an example.
4. Copies, upon request, of the various curriculum guides available, plus suggestions and ideas for the individual teacher.
5. Classes are held on Saturdays and after school, in some cases, to children who wish to prepare an exhibit for ARIPEX. The children are permitted to select material from the PHF philatelic stock at no charge.

We do not send out stamps or other philatelic material without a planned project. We need to know, or discuss with the teacher what subject matter or Scott Catalog numbers the teacher needs, and how many children are in the classroom.

Our teachers are available as their time permits. Our teachers are all experienced, and for the most part, are retired public school instructors. We do on occasion have personnel that are not professional educators, but those instructors serve an apprenticeship with the education department until both the Director of Education and the Executive Director are confident that the apprentice is capable of representing the PHF in the classroom. ☐

The Story behind *The Heliograph*

The Map on the cover was used for the first issue of the Heliograph in 1987. The following story was also published in this issue to explain the significance of the Heliograph to Arizona and why the name was picked for the publication.

With many new members, who may not know the story of the Heliograph use and its relationship to Arizona, the article is reprinted. My apologies to those members who still have the first issue and or remember this article.

Using information from the "Personal Recollections of General Nelson A. Miles", published by Werner Co. in Chicago in 1896, we find that General Miles reported that the heliograph had performed its last and best work in connection with the surrender of the two great chiefs at Skeleton Cañon, Arizona Territory., Sept. 4, 1886, and hence is worthy of recognition as an Arizona tradition.

General Miles was placed in command of the Dept. of Missouri in July 1885 by President Cleveland and one-quarter of the Army was also placed at his disposal. At this time, the Chiricahua Apaches were terrorizing Arizona, New Mexico and Northern Mexico. After a period of relative quiet, the Apaches had gone on the warpath May 1885. The Army in the southwest had great communication difficulty and could not keep up with the rapidly moving Indian raiding parties. Gen. Miles requested help from General Hazen, Chief Signal Officer, to send corps of skilled officers and men with best heliograph instruments obtainable. Miles had the Engineers block out the country so that a network of points of observation and communication could be established over an entire area two hundred miles east and west, and three hundred miles north and south, most frequented by the Apache. On high mountain summits of the region strong posts of infantry guards were stationed with water and provisions to withstand a siege of 30 days. Two to three operators were placed, with from one to five guards. They were given the very best field glasses and telescopes and heliostats mounted on tripods. The heliostat had first been used by the British forces in India, and had been used before by Gen. Miles on a small scale in Montana and the Dept. of Columbia, but he determined to utilize the heliograph fully in the Dept. of Arizona.

Within a short time the system was fully operational. In tests 25 word messages were sent from the most easterly point to the most westerly and return, a round trip of 800 miles, in 4 hours. The heliostat alternately interposes and removes an object in front of a mirror that is mounted on a tripod. The sun's rays, so interrupted, can thus show long or short flashes of light which can be used to create letters and words, somewhat similar to a telegraph code. Lt. R.M. Fuller was placed in charge of Arizona Division with 14 stations, and Lt. E.E. Dravo in charge of New Mexico Division with 13 stations. Records were kept and soldiers quickly adopted to the new system, especially those from the Signal Corps and telegraph service. The stations, on 6 to 7 thousand foot peaks were placed against a dark background when possible. Some only communicated with one other, but several such as Bowie Peak, Arizona. reached five other stations. The average distance between stations was 25 to 30 miles. 2264 messages were sent in Arizona from May 1 to Oct. 1, 1886. The greatest number of messages (807) was from Fort Bowie. Messages averaged about 50 words in length, but 200 words occurred.

The Apaches never did understand the flashes of light from the mountain peaks, but thought they were from the Great Spirits and carefully avoided them. When Geronimo was brought in to Skeleton Cañon, to talk about his surrender General Miles explained the heliostat to him. He was dubious at first, but after the heliograph sent a message to his captive brother at Fort Bowie, 65 miles away, and an answer came right back to Geronimo, he was impressed.

Continued on page 6

So great was his astonishment that he sent a messenger to Natchez to come to the camp and see the heliostat, and how the soldiers talked with each other. Chief Natchez soon appeared with his followers, and was also greatly Impressed by the device. Their surrender followed soon after and hence came General Miles' belief that the heliograph contributed to the Apache surrender.

Apparently, the last use made of the heliograph in Arizona was during the Department of Arizona field exercises in Sept.-Oct. 1887. A similar device is still in use by the Navy for communication between ships at sea. We decided to adopt this name for our new Western Postal History Museum quarterly publication with the hopes that the sun's rays from our sunny native state can be figuratively utilized to bring postal history and philatelic news to our members in other portions of this extensive philatelic world. ☐



Geronimo and the Heliograph

* * * * *

Editor's note: Prior to "Joe Camel" making Camels politically incorrect in today's world, there was thoughts of using camels as beasts of burden in the Southwest desert. It was suggested that one of the main uses would be to carry the U.S. mail from the mid-west to California. The following article appeared in the *Heliograph* Vol. 4 No.4, 1990.

On the Employment of Dromedaries in Transporting Mail and Express Matter Across the Plains to California, 1884

By *Gwinn Harris Heap*

One of the first evils which would be experienced in the event of a war with a maritime power, would be the immediate interruption of intercourse between our Atlantic and Pacific ports, and therefore no enterprise by which a safe, rapid and regular means of overland Communication may be opened with the Pacific will be viewed with indifference or fail to meet with encouragement.

Should the present hostile attitude of the Indians in Texas, New Mexico, Utah and Oregon render military operations against them necessary, the value of a rapid and reliable means of

Communication with the troops cannot be rated too high.

The following notes have been prepared with a view of showing that a mail line to California (the most distant point) by Dromedaries, would not only be quite feasible, but also as rapid as the mail arrangements by the Isthmus of Panama, and vastly Superior in speed to the present mail service with New Mexico and Utah. It is believed that with the exception of Steam, there is no mode of locomotion by land as rapid, as reliable and as economical- as that by Dromedaries, but it is a prevailing mistake that Camels and Dromedaries will neither live nor thrive on this continent if used for the ordinary purpose of labor.

This subject, however, has been carefully investigated by persons practically familiar with their nature and habits, and they are fully convinced that this prejudice is unfounded, and that it originates in the impression that these animals are used in Africa and Asia only upon dry, sandy, and burning deserts. While in reality they are in common use in regions which present in a remarkable degree a similarity to the main features of our Western plains in soil, productions, face of the country, climate and temperature.

In the countries where they are domesticated, they are considered the most valuable and reliable animals subjected to the use of man, and there is every reason to believe that the breeds will not only thrive on this Continent, but improve under the better treatment they will receive here.

The points between which the Mail and light Express matter might - be transported rapidly, securely and regularly by Dromedaries are the following, viz:

- 1st-Corpus Christi in Texas and Santa Fe, in New Mexico.
- 2d-Independence, Missouri and Santa Fe, New Mexico.
- 3d-Santa Fe, New Mexico and Great Salt Lake City, Utah.
- 4th—Great Salt Lake City and Los Angeles, California
- 5th-Independence, Missouri and Los Angeles, California

The number of Dromedaries required for this service will depend upon the number of mails to be carried, as well as upon the speed of the trips, and the relays to be established at convenient points on the different routes.

The Dromedary can travel at its greatest speed with a burden of three hundred (300) pounds, and it is entirely within bounds to estimate its rate of travel on long journeys at an average of eighty miles per day. A comparatively small number will therefore be required to perform the entire mail service on these several routes.

In the itinerary, they are estimated to travel an average of only 60 miles a day, though 150 for 5 or 6 consecutive days is not an uncommon rate of travel for a good Dromedary.

It would be advisable to commence with an experimental trip between the two most important points, Independence and San Diego or Los Angeles, - touching at Northern New Mexico and the Mormon settlements near Little Salt Lake both ways in order to establish the feasibility of the undertaking and its superiority even in point of time over the mail route by the Isthmus of Panama.

The country between these two extreme points offers every variety of difficulty and obstacle to be encountered on all the other routes, and a successful trip would at once give the enterprise

great eclat and remove all doubts as to its practicability.

Annexed is an Itinerary of this route and the stages where it is proposed to have relays of Dromedaries. I would premise by stating that having travelled this route last year [1853], this itinerary is for a summer route; - the one for winter avoids the mountains when heavy snows are to be apprehended, and taking a more Southerly course, is somewhat longer. The two routes, after separating on the Arkansas 252 miles from Independence meet near Little Salt Lake in Utah. The points where the establishment of relay stations are indicated, are selected not only with regard to the actual distance, and to the nature of the intervening country, but also with a view to their being suitable for Settlements. In mountainous regions it will be seen that the stages are considerably shortened.

Only two or at the most three relay stations will be required between the two termini, and as they can be conveniently selected at points which will be found in every respect suitable as resting places for emigrants to California and Utah, it would not be long before a population sufficient for their protection and support would cluster around them.

From Independence to the eastern base of the Sangre de Cristo mountains (a portion of the great Rocky Mountain Range), the road is over an undulating country which presents no obstacle whatever to traveling at the highest speed that the dromedary is capable of. The mountains can be crossed in a few hours. This is more than one third of the entire distance to the Pacific. The distances are estimated by the usually travelled or emigrant route, which keeps along the margin of streams and near timber, and can be materially shortened by taking a more direct course, for when travelling with dromedaries it will not be so necessary to seek for water between the Stations.

A portion of the section from the western base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, to the crossing of Grand River (East Forks of the Colorado?), is over a hilly country, including the Sahwatch Range and its foothills.

The only mountains in the section from Grand River to Cedar City in Utah Territory are the Wahsatch Ranges which offer no serious obstacle. The last section is from Cedar City, or Parawan, near Little Salt Lake in Iron County, Utah Territory, through the Cajon Pass to Los Angeles, and the country is with but few exceptions, level, but extremely dry and forbidding.

The whole distance by the present traveller route may be set down at 1870 miles, which it is believed will be found a liberal estimate, and it can be materially shortened by avoiding unnecessary deviations from the direct line.

The camel is the only animal not found in a wild state—and there is no mention of when or where the species was first domesticated. With the exception of the camel, all animals, if left to themselves, will soon become as wild as if they had never been domesticated. It may be abandoned to itself for any length of time, and will lose none of its gentleness and docility. Its patience is remarkable, and it seldom, if ever, acquires habits of viciousness which render other beasts of burden sometimes so difficult to control. It crouches on the ground to be loaded and unloaded, and never exhibits obstinacy unless it is loaded with more than its customary burden, when it refuses to rise and only replies by screams to the blows it may receive. It knows its power, however, and will use it with terrible effect if its patience is exhausted by long ill treatment. ☐



IRONWOOD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3300 W. Freer Drive, Tucson, Arizona 85742 (520)616-4100

Fax (520)616-4149

Believe it Achieve it!

February 26, 1998

Postal History Foundation
920 North First Ave.
Tucson, AZ 85719

Dear Betsy,

We are writing this to you to express our deep sadness at the death of Phyllis Ashwood, and to share our sympathies for your loss, as well. Phyllis was a great personal friend to us and a respected professional colleague.

We wish to donate funds to the Postal History Foundation to honor Phyllis for over eighteen years of service to the students of Marana Schools, and to thank you for the teaching of history through stamps program, which you provide. We have seen many students grow to love history and become stamp collectors, as a result of this effort. Over the eighteen years, Phyllis brought stamps to eight Marana schools, the U of A's Seek Program at Sam Hughes, and the Nanini Library. This contribution to education cannot be measured.

We hope these donations will support your efforts!

Sincerely,

Marjorie DeJong

Barbara Dennis

Robert Dennis

Diana Edeline

Dianna Hill

Karen Gabino

Marjorie B. DeJong
Barbara Dennis
Robert Dennis
Diana Edeline
Dianna Hill
Karen Y. Gabino