THEHELIOGRAPH



The Postal History Foundation

WINTER 1993 ISSUE VOLUME 7 NO. 4

THE HELIOGRAPH

VOLUME 7 NUMBER 4 (Whole Number 28) Winter 1993

Contents

Editor's Message......Inside Back Cover

Entire contents copyright 1993 by the Postal History Foundation.

Dane S. Claussen, Editor

Editorial Staff: Robert Bechtel and Thomas Todsen

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

Annual membership	\$18
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. The Postal History Foundation Board of Directors

Robert Bechtel, Chairman
Phyllis Ashwood
James Bruns
Richard Corwin
Fred Frelinghuysen
Peter Iber
Carl LeMar John
Ferd Lauber
Ray Mariella
F. Burton Sellers
Norman Vivian
Eileen Weisbard

Ex-Officio Members

John Birkenbine Jerrold M. Lyons Elizabeth G. Towle

The Postal History Foundation is an Arizona non-profit corporation chartered to be used exclusively for historical, research, scientific, and educational 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, postcards, 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.

Across the Continent

(Continued from Heliograph #26) Exhibit of George Jay Kramer

TO SHIP VAUDALIA
UPPER CALIFORNIA

FEBRUARY 29, 1844



USPO BOSTON FEBRUARY 29 - PROBABLY TO NEW YORK
CARRIED PRIVATELY TO PANAMA - FORWARDED BY ERREST ZACHRISSON
"TO THE CARE OF JOHN PARROTT, CONSUL OF THE UNITED STATES, MAZATLAN"
ADDRESSEE "ON BOARD SHIP VAUDALIA UPPER CALIFORNIA"

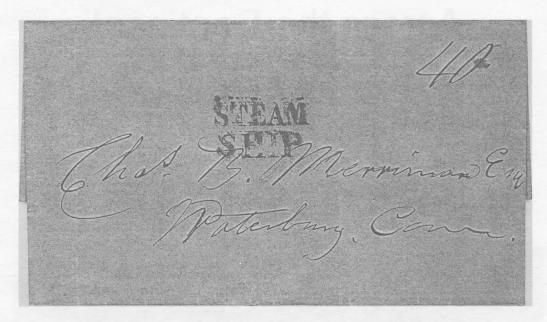
RATE: PREPAID 37 1/2 CENTS. FROM 1825 UNTIL JULY 1, 1845, THE DOMESTIC RATE BETWEEN 150 AND 400 MILES WAS 18 3/4 CENTS; THIS LETTER WAS CHARGED 37 1/2 CENTS BECAUSE THERE WERE TWO PIECES OF PAPER. WHY THIS LETTER DOES NOT HAVE ANY OTHER OFFICIAL MARKINGS IS A MYSTERY. PERHAPS, ZACHRISSON OR SOMEONE OF HIS DIRECTION, WAS IN THE (NEW YORK ?) POST OFFICE AT THE TIME THE LETTER ARRIVED AND WAS GIVEN THE LETTER TO CARRY. "2" IS PENNED ABOVE THE FORWARDER MARKING; ADDITIONALLY, ".50" IS LIGHTLY MARKED IN PENCIL IN THE UPPER RIGHT CORNER.

THE ADDRESSEE, WILLIAM HOWARD OF BOSTON WAS SENT TO SEA AS A CABIN BOY IN 1839. FROM 1843 UNTIL 1845 HE WAS SUPERINTENDENT OF THE "SHIP VAUDALIA". IN 1845, HE AND A PARTNER OPENED A STORE IN SAN FRANCISCO AND EVENTUALLY HAD BRANCHES IN SACRAMENTO AND SAN JOSE; HE SOLD OUT IN 1850 AND RETIRED A AS RICH MAN AT AGE 31. THERE IS A STREET NAMED AFTER HIM IN SAN FRANCISCO.

FORWARDED BY
ERNEST ZACHRISSON
PANAMA

STEAM SHIP

JANUARY 30, 1850



LV SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 1 PER PMSS "PANAMA" PROBABLE LV CHAGRES MARCH 13 PER USMSS "OHIO" WATERBURY, CONNECTICUT

ARR PANAMA FEBRUARY 23 ARR NEW YORK MARCH 25

THE "STEAM SHIP" MARKING WAS PLACED UPON MAIL GIVEN TO AN AGENT AT THE LEVEE OR ON BOARD SHIP.

THIS UNPAID LETTER FOLLOWED THE SAME ROUTING AS THE "BENECIA STRAIGHTLINE" COVER SHOWN EARLIER.

NEW YORK CIRCULAR UNPAID MARKING



NEW YORK

VIA PANAMA

SAN FRANCISCO

TO U.S. SHIP SAVANNAH PACIFIC STATION

NOVEMBER 12, 1849



USPO PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA NOVEMBER 12 - NEW YORK LV NEW YORK NOVEMBER 13 PER EMPIRE "CRESCENT CITY" - ARR CHAGRES NOVEMBER 25± LV PANAMA DECEMBER 6 PER PMSS "CALIFORNIA" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 28 M/S "REC - DEC 31ST 1849" ... "FROM BROTHER ALFRED"

THE BLUE "PHILADA Pa." + "40" + BOXED "PAID" STRIKES ARE NOT COMMON AS A COMBINATION.

RERATED 40 CENTS UNPAID

JUNE 3, 1849



M/S USPO RICHMOND DALE, OHIO JUNE 7 LV NEW YORK JUNE 28 PER USMSS "FALCON" LV PANAMA JULY 29 PER PMSS "PANAMA"

NEW YORK ARR CHAGRES JULY 19 ARR SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 18

BOSTON & ALBANY RAILROAD

NOVEMBER 26, 1850



BOSTON & ALBANY R.R. NOVEMBER 26 LV NEW YORK DECEMBER 11 PER USMS "GEORGIA" PROBABLE LV PANAMA JANUARY 3, 1851 SACRAMENTO CITY

NEW YORK ARR CHAGRES DECEMBER 24 ARR SAN FRANCISCO JANUARY 20

THIS COVER WAS FIRST RATED AS 5 CENTS PAID (RED "5" UNDER "40"); LATER, REALIZING IT WAS TO CALIFORNIA, THE USPO RERATED IT AS 40 CENTS UNPAID.

CONNECTICUT MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY

MAY 22, CIRCA 1850



HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT VIA PANAMA

NEW YORK SAN FRANCISCO

ARCTIC OCEAN

OCTOBER 9, 1850



ARCTIC OCEAN OCTOBER 9 - ABOARD THE "CINCINATI" - "SANDWICH ISLAND" OCTOBER 17 CARRIED PRIVATELY -- USPO STONINGTON, CONNECTICUT APRIL 7, 1851 - MANSFIELD, CONNECTICUT

"SHIP 7" RATE: THIS LETTER WAS PROBABLY CARRIED BY A WHALER FROM HAWAII ON ITS WAY HOME AROUND CAPE HORN; THE CAPTAIN POSTED IT AT STONINGTON PO AND RECEIVED 2 CENTS; AN ADDITIONAL 5 CENTS U.S. INLAND POSTAGE WAS DUE.

"THEY ARE CALLED BOWHEADS OR POLAR WHALES .. AS QUICK AS THEY ARE STRUCK THEY WILL GO DOWN AND RUN ABOUT A MILE AND THEN COME UP AND LAY STILL BUT WHEN THOU DO RUN YOU HAVE TO TY YOUR HEADS ON. I HAVE STRUCK 8 AND SAVED 7. THE FIRST ONE I STRUCK RUN UNDER THE ICE AND THEN WE HAD TO CUT LINE."

OKHOTSK SEA

JULY 30, 1854



ABOARD A WHALER CARRIED PRIVATELY VIA PANAMA

SHANTER BAY, OKHOTSK SEA (NEAR SIBERIA) JULY 30, 1854 VIA HAWAII - SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 18 USPO NEW YORK - WESTERLY, RHODE ISLAND

SHIP 12 RATE: 2 CENTS PAID TO SHIP CAPTAIN PLUS 10 CENTS U.S. TRANSCONTINENTAL DUE.

"WE HAVE TAKEN 16 WHALES THEY WILL MAKE 1450 LBS. LAST SEASON THERE WAS BUT 30 TO 40 SHIPS IN HERE . . THERE IS AT LEAST 100 SHIPS HERE THIS SEASON."

SECTION II

U.S. 6 CENT PREPAID, 10 CENT UNPAID RATE VIA NICARAGUA

1851 - 1855

6 CENT PREPAID 10 CENT UNPAID U.S. DOMESTIC RATE

FROM JULY 1, 1851 UNTIL APRIL 1, 1855.

RATES PER 1/2 OUNCE:

UNDER 3000 MILES OVER 3000 MILES

3 CENTS PREPAID 5 CENTS UNPAID 6 CENTS PREPAID 10 CENTS UNPAID

EARLIEST USE FROM CALIFORNIA

OCTOBER 1, 1851



LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 1 PER PMSS "OREGON" ARR PANAMA OCTOBER 20 PROBABLE LV CHAGRES OCTOBER 23 PER USMSS "EMPIRE CITY" ARR NEW YORK NOVEMBER 1

SING SING, NEW YORK

THE ONE CENT STAMPS WERE ISSUED JULY 1, 1851; IT IS BELIEVED THAT THEY DID NOT REACH THE WEST COAST UNTIL LATE SEPTEMBER. STANLEY ASHBROOK RECORDS THIS COVER AS THE EARLIEST USE OF THE ONE CENT STAMP FROM CALIFORNIA.

THE STAMPS ARE: TYPES II - IIIA - III - IIIA - IIIA - IIIA POSITIONS 14 - 19 R1E

FIRST DAY COVER 10 CENTS UNPAID

JULY 1, 1851



LV SAN FRANCISCO JULY 1 PER PMSS "PANAMA" LV CHAGRES JULY 25 PER USMSS "EMPIRE CITY" ARR PANAMA JULY 19± ARR NEW YORK AUGUST 6

FROM THE WRECK OF THE "WINFIELD SCOTT"

NOVEMBER 27, 1853



COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA NOVEMBER 27 - SAN FRANCISCO BOUND FOR PANAMA - LOST IN THE SANTA BARBARA CHANNEL DECEMBER 2, 1853

THE PMSS "WINFIELD SCOTT" WAS THE ONLY CONTRACT STEAMSHIP TO HAVE ITS OWN HANDSTAMP. IT RAN BETWEEN PANAMA AND SAN FRANCISCO FROM APRIL 1852. THIS COVER HAD TO BE 1853 BECAUSE THE "COLUMBIA" STRAIGHTLINE IS KNOWN ONLY IN 1853 AND 1854...

AFTER FOOD AND SHELTER, THE MOST IMPORTANT THÍNG TO A MINER WAS

"LETTERS FROM HOME"

DECEMBER 6, CIRCA 1853



FORBESTOWN, CALIFORNIA DECEMBER 8
VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO NOX CORNERS, NEW YORK

PREPAID 6 CENT RATE

"PROSPECTING MINERS"

MAY 26, CIRCA 1853



DOWNIEVILLE, CALIFORNIA VIA PANAMA

NEW YORK

SAN FRANCISCO WELLSBURG, VIRGINIA

THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL

THE CALIFORNIA TRAIL WAS LATER TO BE CALLED THE CENTRAL OVERLAND ROUTE. MAIL CONTRACTS EXISTED FROM JULY 1, 1850 ALONG THIS ROUTE WHICH FIRST RAN BETWEEN THE MISSOURI RIVER AND SALT LAKE CITY, AND EVENTUALLY WAS EXTENDED TO THE PACIFIC COAST. FROM APRIL 1, 1855 - FEBRUARY 27, 1861, THE THREE CENTS RATE WAS APPLIED TO MAIL CARRIED LESS THAN 3000 MILES.

CENTRAL OVERLAND TRAIL ROUTE NO. 8911

THE WILLIAM. F. McGRAW CONTRACT

FEBRUARY 25, 1855



ST. LOUIS

TO "GOV B. YOUNG

"VIA, INDEPENDENCE MO"

B. YOUNG SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERY

RATE: 3 CENTS

WILLIAM F. McGRAW SECURED A FOUR YEAR U.S. GOVERNMENT CONTRACT TO CARRY THE MAILS ONCE A MONTH BETWEEN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI AND SALT LAKE CITY FOR \$14,400 PER YEAR. THE TRIP WAS VERY DIFFICULT BECAUSE OF INDIAN ATTACKS AND WEATHER PROBLEMS. IT IS REPORTED THAT ONLY THREE ROUND TRIPS WERE COMPLETED DURING THE FIRST CONTRACT YEAR OF JULY 1, 1854 - JUNE 30, 1855.

McGRAW IMMEDIATELY FORMED A PARTNERSHIP WITH JOHN E. REESIDE, BUT IT WAS DISSOLVED IN NOVEMBER 1854; JOHN HOCKADAY THEN JOINED AS A PARTNER. THE LINE FAILED IN 1856 AND THE CONTRACT WAS LET TO THE MORMON COMPANY, KIMBALL & CO. THIS CONTRACT WAS RESCINDED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN 1857 WHEN THE "MORMON WAR" BEGAN.

NEW MEXICO

THE SANTA FE TRAIL

NOVEMBER 30, 1855



SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY - INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI - WASHINGTON, D.C.

THIS LETTER WAS MARKED" 5"c COLLECT, A RATE WHICH HAD ENDED APRIL 1, 1855. AS THE "5" IS PENCILLED OUT, IT WAS PROBABLY CARRIED FREE TO THE ASSISTANT POSTMASTER GENERAL ("A.P.M.G.") AS "OFFICIAL BUSINESS"

THE SANTA FE TRAIL RAN FROM INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI GENERALLY ALONG THE CENTRAL OVERLAND ROUTE THROUGH HOSTILE INDIAN LANDS TO SANTA FE. IT WAS A SHORTER DISTANCE THAN THE BUTTERFIELD ROUTE.

TO FORT UNION AND BACK

MAY 10, CIRCA 1854



ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND - "VIA INDEPENDENCE MISSOURI" FORT UNION, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY - RETURNED -

- SANTA FE TRAIL ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND

RATE: THREE CENTS PREPAID TO NEW MEXICO. IT ALSO APPEARS TO BE MARKED "FOWD 5", A COLLECT MARKING.

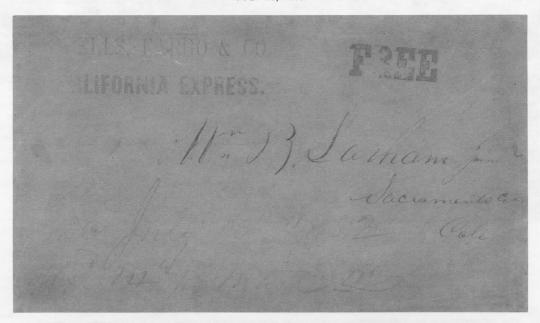
PRIVATE WESTERN EXPRESS COMPANIES

DURING THE EARLY GOLD RUSH DAYS, THE U.S. POSTAL DEPARTMENT IN CALIFORNIA WAS LIMITED TO SERVICE BETWEEN POST OFFICES. EXPRESS COMPANIES WERE PRIVATELY EMPLOYED FOR DIRECT SERVICE AS WELL AS TO AND FROM POST OFFICES. AS THE EXPRESS COMPANIES HAD LIMITED ROUTES, THEY FREQUENTLY HAD TO FORM WORKING ARRANGEMENTS WITH OTHER EXPRESS COMPANIES IN ORDER TO COMPLETE A DELIVERY.

> WELLS, FARGO & CO. WAS TO BECOME THE LARGEST EXPRESS CARRIER IN THE WORLD. IT OPERATED FROM 1852 UNTIL 1895 WHEN IT BECAME UNECONOMICAL TO CARRY THE MAIL.

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

JULY 13, 1852



LV NEW YORK MAY 24 PER USMSS "CHEROKEE" LV PANAMA JUNE 24 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" SAN FRANCISCO

ARR ASPINWALL JUNE 11± ARR SAN FRANCISCO JULY 10 SACRAMENTO JULY 13

REUBEN H. WASHBURN CARRIED THIS COVER ON HIS INITIAL JOURNEY TO SAN FRANCISCO WHERE HE ESTABLISHED A BRANCH ON JULY 13, 1852. ON THAT DAY, THIS COVER WAS CARRIED FREE TO WILLIAM R. LATHAM, JR., SACRAMENTO AGENT FOR ADAMS EXPRESS COMPANY.

IT IS THE ONLY SURVIVING FIRST DAY COVER AND PROBABLY THE ONLY "CALIFORNIA EXPRESS" MARKING.



JUNE 30 1852

THIS IS ONE OF THE NEW YORK ADVERTISEMENTS HERALDING THE OPENING OF THE COMPANY

WELLS, FARGO & CO.

MARCH, 1855





WELLS, FARGO, NEW YORK

VIA PANAMA

REC SAN FRANCISCO, APRIL 10

THE VERTICAL M/S SHOWS RECEIPT ON "APRIL 10, 55". THEREFORE, THIS SIX CENT PREPAID COVER WAS SENT JUST BEFORE THE TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE INCREASE ON APRIL 1, 1855.

CARRIED BY WELLS, FARGO & CO AGENT "GREENFIELD", IT WAS THE "DUPLICATE" OF AN IDENTICAL LETTER SENT VIA OTHER TRANSPORTATION TO INSURE RECEPTION OF THE MESSAGE.

THE HERETOFORE UNRECORDED "RED SHIELD" IS PERHAPS THE RAREST OF WELLS, FARGO CANCELS.

MARCH, 1854



WELLS, FARGO, SAN FRANCISCO USPO

VIA PANAMA

NEW YORK ALBANY, NEW YORK

STOLP'S EXPRESS

JUNE 26, 1854



STOLP'S EXPRESS, WASHINGTON, CALIFORNIA
SAN FRANCISCO - VIA PANAMA

- USPO NEVADA CITY JUNE 26 NEW YORK - ORISKANY, NEW YORK

ALL TEXT BOOKS SHOW STOLP'S EXPRESS TO HAVE OPERATED FROM NEVADA CITY TO RED DOG, LITTLE YORK AND GOUGE EYE MINING DISTRICTS ONLY IN 1851; THIS 1854 LETTER DISCLOSES A LATER PERIOD AND A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT AREA.

"INTEND TO START FOR HOME ON THE FIRST OF JULY. I DO NOT KNOW WHICH ROUTE WE SHALL TAKE (PANAMA OR NICARAGUA) UNTIL WE GET TO SAN FRANCISCO"

NEVADA CITY C.D.S. "5" IN ERROR; RESTRUCK "10" CENTS DUE. STOLP'S EXPRESS PAID IN CASH.

W.H. ROBINSON EXPRESS AGENT

SEPTEMBER 10, CIRCA 1853



JONESVILLE, NEW YORK W.H. ROBINSON, SACRAMENTO

VIA PANAMA

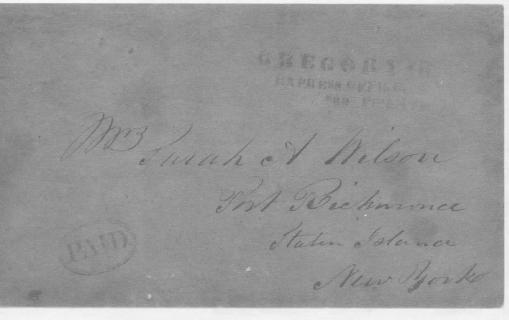
SAN FRANCISCO ADDRESSEE

W.H. ROBINSON OPERATED FROM SACRAMENTO TO MURPHY'S 1852 - 1853; THE ADDRESSEE HAD HIS MAIL DIRECTED TO SACRAMENTO AND HAD HIRED W.H. ROBINSON TO PICK UP AT THE POST OFFICE AND DELIVER TO HIM.

RATE SIX CENTS PREPAID - W.H. ROBINSON PAID IN CASH.

GREGORY'S EXPRESS

CIRCA 1852



GREGORY'S EXPRESS, SAN FRANCISCO NEW YORK

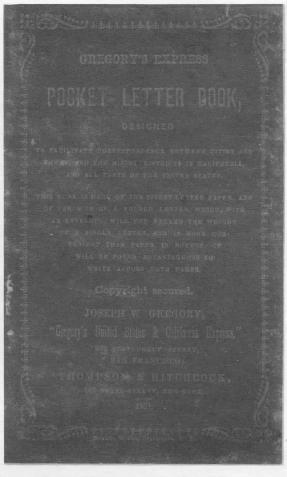
VIA PANAMA STATEN ISLAND

GREGORY'S EXPRESS OPERATED FROM 1850 UNTIL EARLY 1853. "DISPATCHED MESSAGES BY EVERY STEAMER LEAVING NEW YORK AND SAN FRANCISCO . . . BEING INVARIABLY AHEAD OF THE MAILS"

THE "PAID" OVAL INDICATES SIX CENTS POSTAGE PLUS EXPRESS CHARGES BOTH PREPAID.

GREGORY'S EXPRESS BOYD'S CITY EXPRESS

MARCH 1, 1852



1851 LETTER WRITING BOOK (WITH ENVELOPE)



GREGORY'S EXPRESS, LV SAN FRANCISCO MARCH 2 PER PMSS "NORTHERNER" - ARR PANAMA MARCH 18 FIRST STEAMER MAIL TRIP ON "PANAMA RAILROAD" - LV ASPINWALL MARCH 26± PER USMSS "EMPIRE CITY" ARR NEW YORK APRIL 4

BOYD'S OPERATED FROM 1844 FOR FORTY YEARS IN AND AROUND NEW YORK. ALL ABOVE CHARGES WERE PREPAID.

"THE MAIL FOR TOMORROWS' STEAMER BEING CLOSED, I AVAIL MYSELF OF GREGORY'S EXPRESS \dots "

F. RUMRILL & CO.'S NORTHERN EXPRESS CONNECTING WITH WELLS, FARGO & CO.

FEBRUARY 7, 1854



USPO GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY (PAID 6) - ADDRESSEE NOT THERE
F. RUMRILL & CO. -

VIA PANAMA

- MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA WELLS, FARGO & CO. NELSON CREEK (COLLECT \$1.00)

F. RUMRILL & CO. OPERATED FROM 1853 - 1855 FROM GIBSONVILLE TO DOWNIEVILLE AND LATER TO MARYSVILLE.

THIS OVAL HANDSTAMP WAS USED BETWEEN JANUARY AND APRIL, 1854.

CRAM, ROGERS & CO. EXPRESS BLOOD'S DESPATCH

CIRCA 1854



BLOOD'S DESPATCH OCTOBER 29, PHILADELPHIA
VIA PANAMA - SAN FRANCISCO
CRAM, ROGERS & CO., SHASTA.

USPO PHILADELPHIA OCTOBER 29
- SHASTA, CALIFORNIA
YREKA CITY

CRAM, ROGERS & CO. OPERATED IN THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA MOUNTAINS BETWEEN 1851 - 1855.

D.O. BLOOD & CO. OPERATED IN PHILADELPHIA BETWEEN 1848 - 1855; THE STAMP WAS ISSUED IN 1854.

USPO RATE: 10 CENTS UNPAID. BOTH EXPRESS CHARGES WERE PAID IN CASH.

HUNTER & COS EXPRESS

DECEMBER 25, 1851



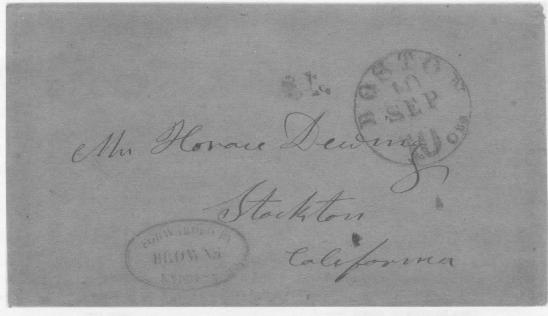
USPO FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT DECEMBER 25 - LV NEW YORK JANUARY 6, 1852 PER USMSS "CHEROKEE"
ARR CHAGRES JANUARY 16± LV PANAMA JANUARY 26 PER PMSS "OREGON"
ARR SAN FRANCISCO FEBRUARY 11 - SACRAMENTO CITY, CALIFORNIA
HUNTER & COS EXPRESS, SACRAMENTO CITY "IN. BAR" M/S "REC FEB 11, 1852"

HUNTER & COS EXPRESS OPERATED BETWEEN 1851 - 1854 FROM SACRAMENTO TO THE SURROUNDING MINES.

RATE: TEN CENTS UNPAID - HUNTER & COS. "1.25" COLLECT

BROWN'S EXPRESS

SEPTEMBER 10, 1851



USPO BOSTON SEPTEMBER 10 - PROBABLE LV NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 13 PER "USMSS "OHIO" ARR CHAGRES SEPTEMBER 22± LV PANAMA OCTOBER 1 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" ARR SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 17 STOCTON, CALIFORNIA BROWN'S EXPRESS, STOCKTON - ADDRESSEE

BROWNS EXPRESS OPERATED FROM EARLY 1850 - APRIL, 1853 FROM STOCKTON TO THE SOUTHERN MINES.

RATE: TEN CENTS UNPAID - BROWNS EXPRESS "\$1" COLLECT

NOISY CARRIERS

CIRCA 1853



NOISY CARRIERS

NEW YORK

USPO SAN FRANCISCO, JUNE 16 WILMINGTON, DELEWARE

NOISY CARRIERS OPERATED FROM 1849 UNTIL THE LATE 1850'S. DURING THIS PERIOD, THEY DELIVERED MAIL TO THE USPO FROM THEIR STATIONERY STORE; THE LABEL IS MOST UNCOMMON. RATE: 6 CENTS PREPAID.

JANUARY 15, 1854



NOISY CARRIERS

- NEW YORK

USPO SAN FRANCISCO, JANUARY 16 ORLAND, MAINE

RATE: 10 CENTS UNPAID.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

for Important.—How beautiful are the feet of those who stand at the Post Office amid a splendid shower of dust—the owners clasping their letters tightly in their hands, and thinking of the beauties of Uncle Sam's Post Office Law while eyeing the little man behind the window. Be it known to ye, O ye desolate and forsaken ones! that the NOISY CARRIER'S BOOK AND STATIONERY COMPANY will furnish Stamps at PAR, as they have always done, and will take ALL YOUR LETTERS TO THE POST OFFICE free of charge—being just as easy to take one thousand as one letter.

CHAS. P. KIMBALL, President.

All the Steamer Papers at the regular rates. a30tf

SAN FRANCISCO HERALD MAY 3, 1855

THE NICARAGUA ROUTE

CORNELIUS VANDERBILT OPENED A ROUTE ACROSS NICARAGUA IN 1851 TO COMPETE WITH THE USMSS AND THE PMSS WHICH HELD THE U.S. MAIL CONTRACT VIA PANAMA; THE NICARAGUA ROUTE WAS OVER 1000 MILES SHORTER AND IN A MUCH MORE HEALTHY CLIMATE.

FROM APRIL, 1852 UNTIL MARCH, 1853, A COMPETITOR, THE NY&SF WHICH BECAME THE NY&CAL FOR FOUR MONTHS UNTIL IT CEASED OPERATIONS, WAS VERY ACTIVE. MEANWHILE, VANDERBILT ESTABLISHED THE NICARAGUA SS CO. PLUS THE "INDEPENDENT" LINE WHICH OPERATED THRU PANAMA. (CONFUSING!)

FIRST SAILING OF THE "CORTEZ"

AUGUST 1, 1853



LV SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 1 PER NIC SS "CORTEZ" - PROBABLE ARR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 9 PER "STAR OF THE WEST"

VIA NICARAGUA USPO

UNUSUAL SILVER STRIKE. RATE 6 CENTS PREPAID

MISSED THE BOAT!



THE SECOND VOYAGE OF THE "CORTEZ" WAS SEPTEMBER 16, 1853. THIS COVER EVIDENTLY ARRIVED TOO LATE; THE M/S "VIA NICARAGUA" WAS STRUCK OUT AND THE COVER HAD TO WAIT FOR THE NEXT PANAMA SHIP.

UNRECORDED "VIA NICARAGUA" STRIKE

SEPTEMBER 1853

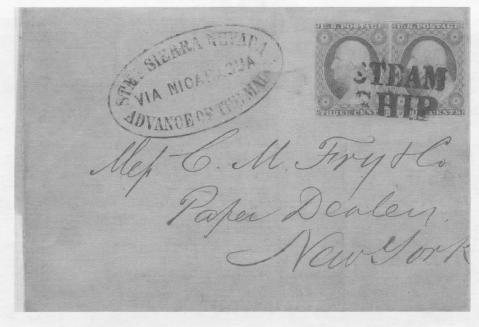


PROBABLE TAKEN ON BOARD "PACIFIC" LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 1 - " VIA NICARAGUA" ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 27 PER NY&CAL "NORTHERN LIGHT" - USPO - ATHENS, NEW YORK

CARRIED "FREE" TO A "GENL. NICHOLS" AND PLACED IN THE MAIL AT NEW YORK 5 CENTS UNPAID UNDER 3000 MILES. NO PANAMA SHIPS ARRIVED IN NEW YORK ON OCTOBER 27.

STEAMER SIERRA NEVADA

OCTOBER 23, 1854



LV SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 24 PER NIC SS "SIERRA NEVADA" - VIA NICARAGUA PROBABLE ARR NEW YORK NOVEMBER 14 PER NIC SS "STAR OF THE WEST"

THE "STEAM SHIP" MARKING WAS PLACED UPON MAIL GIVEN TO AN AGENT AT THE LEVEE OR ON BOARD SHIP.

BISECT NOT ACCEPTED

SEPTEMBER, 1853



TAKEN ON BOARD BETWEEN SAN FRANCISCO AND PANAMA

PROBABLE NIC SS "BROTHER JONATHAN" LV SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 1

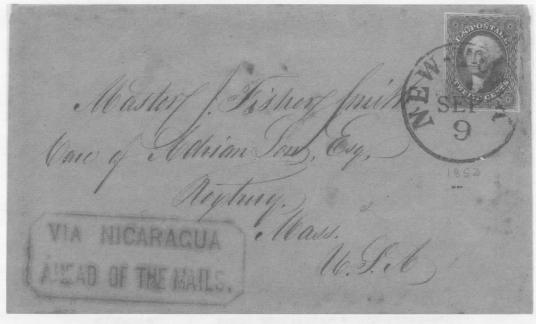
VIA NICARAGUA - ARR NEW YORK OCTOBER 9 PER NIC SS "STAR OF THE WEST"

USPO NEW YORK OCTOBER 10 BOLTON, MASSACHUSETTS

RATED "NEW YORK SHIP 12": 10 CENTS POSTAGE UNPAID + 2 CENTS SHIP FEE TO NON CONTRACT STEAMER.

DOUBLE WEIGHT

AUGUST 16, 1853

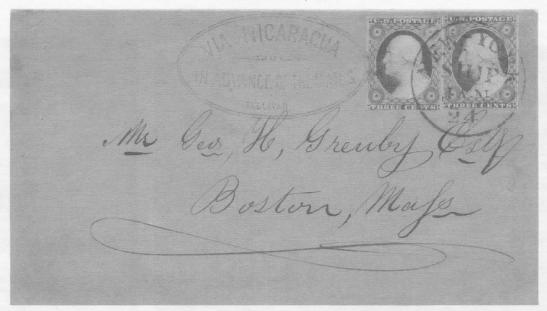


LV SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 16 PER NIC SS "SIERRA NEVADA" VIA NICARAGUA ARR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 9 PER NIC SS "STAR OF THE WEST" USPO SEPTEMBER 9 ROXBURY, MASSACHUSETTS

PREPAID AND PLACED IN MAILS AT NEW YORK; SHIP FEE PAID IN CASH

NEW YORK SHIP

DECEMBER 31, 1854



LV SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 31 PER "BROTHER JONATHAN" - VIA NICARAGUA
ARR NEW YORK JANUARY 24 PER "NORTHERN LIGHT" - USPO NEW YORK - BOSTON
RATE: SIX CENTS PREPAID - NON CONTRACT SHIP

"SULLIVAN" WAS A SAN FRANCISCO NEWS AGENCY WHICH FORWARDED "VIA NICARAGUA" MAIL.

NICARAGUA LINE

PENNY POST CO.

AUGUST 20, 1855



LV NEW YORK AUGUST 20 "PER NORTHERN LIGHT"

ARR SAN FRANCISCO SEP (EMBER 14 PER "UNCLE SAM"

VIA NICARAGUA

ON APRIL 1, 1855 THE RATE WAS CHANGED TO TEN CENTS AND PREPAYMENT WAS MADE COMPULSORY.

THE STAMPS WERE AFFIXED BY THE SENDER AND ARE UNTIED BECAUSE THIS LETTER WAS TAKEN DIRECTLY BY THE PENNY POST CO. UPON ARRIVAL AND DELIVERED TO THE ADDRESSEE.

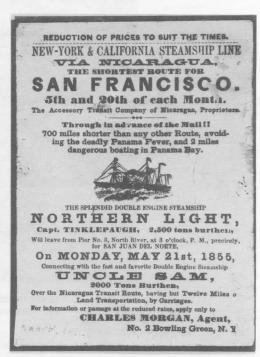
NEW YORK & CALIFORNIA STEAMSHIP LINE "THE ACCESSORY TRANSIT COMPANY OF NICARAGUA, PROPRIETORS"

APRIL 11, CIRCA 1855



USPO COLUMBIA, CALIFORNIA NEW YORK PROBABLE VIA PANAMA BANGOR, MAINE

THIS COVER WAS PLACED IN THE REGULAR MAILS; RATE: 6 CENTS PAID



PER "UNCLE SAM"

SEPTEMBER 1, 1854



LV SAN FRANCISCO SEPTEMBER 1 PER INDEPENDENT LINE "UNCLE SAM"

VIA PANAMA - ARR NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 27

Contents of the "per 'Uncle Sam'" letter

San Francisco, Cal. Sep 1st. 1 o'clock P.M. 1854

Dear Father:

As the opposition steamer "Uncle Sam" does not leave until 3 o'clock this afternoon, I again write you in regard to the matter alluded to your last. I think you had best to say nothing to the party for the present for reasons that will be obvious to you. I will decide before another steamer sails what course to pursue in regard to the party in Illinois. I am waiting for a letter from ? which should be here before this. You are right. That party would be my first choice. After her, no one in particular. I would like a personal description of the party in Rochester, age, position, both social & religious. Whether an orphan or with a whole family of sisters and brothers, disposition, occupation of if you think proper her name, if not, why it is of no moment and perhaps it is better that I do know her name. ? as you please in the matters. My friend at ? Falls has I think given up all claims for she has not written me for near in quite a year. The last memo was from her sister, who informed me she talked of getting married. Which is I suppose the fact at any rate she would not be my choice were she free.

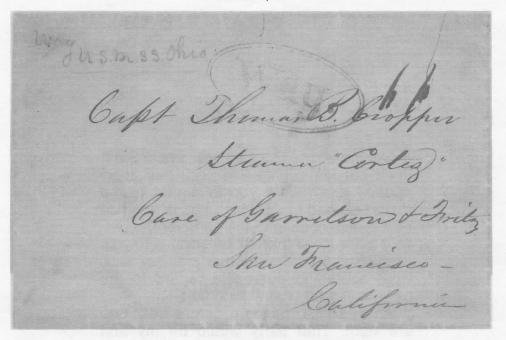
I have my doubts about being able to come home this fall. As there is some business affairs that will require my attendtion I am looking for a large job of government building. Should I succeed it would be a matter of impossibility for me to leave. Should I not, I may come. I can only say, expect me when you see me and not before.

Yours in haste, Wm. J. Moses

Shuyler Moses, Esq. Rochester

WAY

MARCH 6, 1854



LV NEW YORK MARCH 6 PER USMSS "OHIO"

VIA PANAMA

SAN FRANCISCO

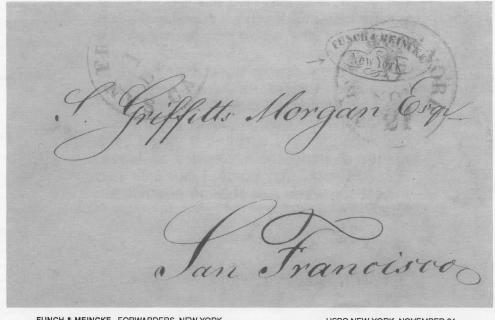
THIS LETTER WAS ADDRESSED TO THE CAPTAIN OF THE "CORTEZ", A VANDERBILT SHIP ON THE NICARAGUA - SAN FRANCISCO ROUTE. SINCE THE VANDERBILT SHIP "NORTHERN LIGHT" HAD LEFT NEW YORK MARCH 4, IT WAS PRIVATELY CARRIED ABOARD THE "OHIO"

"WAY LETTERS ARE SUCH AS RECEIVED BY A MAIL CARRIER ON HIS WAY BETWEEN POST OFFICES...
THE WORD ' WAY' IS TO BE WRITTEN ON EACH WAY LETTER" - POSTMASTER GENERAL HABERSHAM (1795 - 1801).

IF THE REGULATIONS WERE FOLLOWED, THIS "WAY" MARKING WAS APPLIED BY THE SAN FRANCISCO POST OFFICE (AND TEN CENTS WAS DUE FROM THE RECIPIENT) TO MAIL RECEIVED BY A SHIP CARRYING MAIL UNDER CONTRACT, IN LOCKED POUCHES, WITH NO ROUTE AGENT ABOARD TO WORK THE MAILS. GENERALLY, AN ADDITIONAL WAY FEE WOULD HAVE BEEN COLLECTED. THIS IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST TRANSCONTINENTAL "WAY" LETTERS KNOWN.

FUNCH & MEINCKE

NOVEMBER 18, 1853



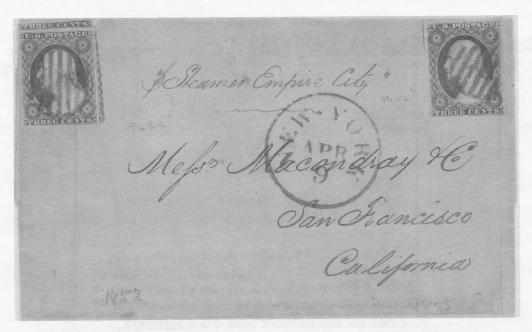
FUNCH & MEINCKE, FORWARDERS, NEW YORK VIA PANAMA

USPO NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 21 ARR SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 18

RATE: SIX CENTS PREPAID. FUNCH & MEINCKE PAID IN CASH.

OCEAN MAIL 6 CENTS PREPAID

APRIL 9, 1852



LV NEW YORK APRIL 9 PER USMSS "EMPIRE CITY" - ARR NEW ORLEANS APRIL 20 TO ASPINWALL BY SHIP AND THEN PANAMA CITY BY RAILROAD WHICH OPENED MARCH 15 LV PANAMA APRIL 25 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO MAY 10

"THE ONLY COVER KNOWN WHERE A GRID WAS USED WITH THIS POSTMARK.

ALL OTHER COVERS SHOW THE POSTMARK ITSELF AS A KILLER." (S. ASHBROOK LETTER 11/24/49)

OCEAN MAIL DOUBLE RATE PREPAID

AUGUST 15, 1852



LV SAN FRANCISCO AUGUST 15 PER PMSS "PANAMA" VIA ASPINWALL - NEW YORK

ARR PANAMA AUGUST 31 CLEVELAND, OHIO

Contents of the "Ocean Mail 6 Cents Prepaid" letter

Duplicate

New York March ?, 1852 Messr Macondray & Co. Dear Sirs:

We last had this pleasure on the 23rd? Duplicate of which? and you annexed, and to which please refer.

Since then we have received yours of 30th January with its enclosures, amongst which were a/c sales of shipment per "Comet" net proceeds \$1452.30 & Draft on P. Edes for the amount less 4% Exchange.

We were much disappointed that our letter of 23rd December limiting our Tobacco, had not reached you before you sold shipment per Comet at the prices at which you sold, the loss is heavy.

We must again confirm our limits on the shipments per "Celestial" at 45 Cents on the 50 Cases Myers Superior 12 #s by her. and on the Shipment per "Hurricane" 50 Cents on the same kind, and 60 cents on the Tinfoil 10# Boxes. These prices we have no doubt you will be able to get very soon, inasmuch as no one can ship them from the Atlantic pots to sell at a less price without losing considerable money. All we want is to be saved from loss. Enclosed we beg leave to hand you Duplicate Invoice ? for shipment per Hurricane. If those two last shipments can be sold at our limits, we shall be able to give you a fresh supply. We are Dear Sirs.

Very Respect. Yours--P.C. Von Schaick & Co.

3 CENTS PART PAYMENT NOT ACCEPTED

NOVEMBER 19, 1851



USPO CARRIER - USPO PHILADELPHIA - NEW YORK - VIA PANAMA - SAN FRANCISCO

THE SENDER MUST NOT HAVE BEEN FAMILIAR WITH THE 10 CENT TRANSCONTINENTAL RATE; APPARENTLY NEITHER WAS THE USPO WHICH ORIGINALLY RATED "DUE 5 α ". THE M/S "10" (DUE) WAS EVENTUALLY APPLIED.

6 CENTS PART PAYMENT ACCEPTED - 10 CENTS DUE

JUNE 19, 1853



PHILADELPHIA - NEW YORK

VIA PANAMA -

SAN FRANCISCO

THIS COVER WAS CONSIDERED AS DOUBLE RATE BY THE SAN FRANCISCO PO.

1 CENT PART PAYMENT ACCEPTED

JANUARY 20, CIRCA 1854

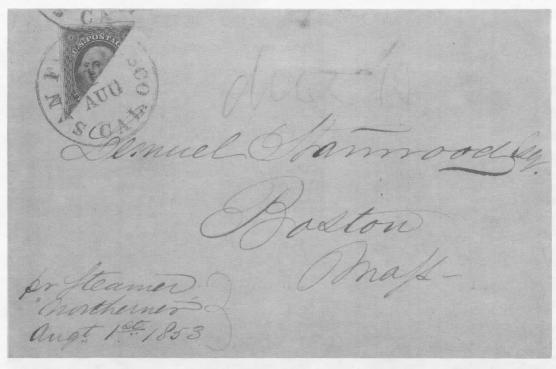


SAN FRANCISCO - VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK - NEWPORT, RHODE ISLAND

THE 1 CENT STAMP ON THIS FOLDED LETTER WAS ACCEPTED AS PART PAYMENT IN NEW YORK; "DUE 9"

BISECT NOT ACCEPTED - CONTRACT MAIL

AUGUST 1, 1853



SAN FRANCISCO PER "NORTHERNER" - VIA PANAMA - NEW YORK - BOSTON

THE BISECTED 12 CENT STAMP WAS NOT ACCEPTED AS PART PAYMENT IN NEW YORK; "DUE 10".

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THIS COVER AND THE "VIA NICARAGUA" BISECT WHICH HAD 12 CENTS DUE (ILLUSTRATED A FEW PAGES EARLIER) IS THAT THE "NORTHERNER" WAS UNDER A MAIL CONTRACT WITH THE USPO AND THEREFORE NO 2 CENT "SHIP FEE" WAS DUE.

EARLIEST RECORDED TRANSCONTINENTAL TELEGRAPH COVER

SEPTEMBER 18, 1852



BY TELEGRAPH TO BAIN'S EASTERN TELEGRAPH, BOSTON - USPO BOSTON, SEPTEMBER 18, 1852 PROBABLE LV NEW YORK SEPTEMBER 20 USMSS "ILLINOIS" - ARR ASPINWALL OCTOBER 2 ± LV PANAMA OCTOBER 6 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO OCTOBER 19

BAIN'S EASTERN TELEGRAPH OPERATED IN NEW ENGLAND FROM 1848 - 1853

RATE: SIX CENTS PREPAID TELEGRAPH CHARGES PREPAID

U.S. EXPRESS MAIL

OCTOBER 24, 1851



U.S. EXPRESS MAIL, BOSTON OCTOBER 24

PROBABLE LV NEW YORK OCTOBER 25 PER USMSS "ILLINOIS" - ARR CHAGRES NOVEMBER ±

LV PANAMA NOVEMBER 28 PER PMSS "TENNESSEE" - ARR SAN FRANCISCO DECEMBER 14

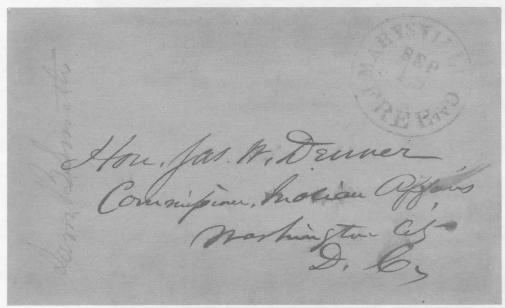
THIS U.S. MAIL SERVICE WAS OPERATED BY THE USPO FROM 1842 - 1856 TO COMPETE WITH PRIVATE EXPRESS COMPANIES

TRANSCONTINENTAL FREE FRANKS



EX PRESIDENT JOHN TYLER

NEW YORK - VIA PANAMA SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



COMMISIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS JAMES DENVER MARYSVILLE FREE

SEPTEMBER 19, CIRCA 1854

MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA SAN FRANCISCO - VIA PANAMA NEW YORK - WASHINGTON, D.C.



"M.C." - (MEMBER OF CONGRESS) TO BENJAMIN STARK

JANUARY 16, 1853

WASHINGTON, D.C. - NEW YORK VIA PANAMA - ASTORIA, OREGON PORTLAND, OREGON Eliza Worden

FROM TWO SISTERS

APRIL 14, CIRCA 1854

Htr. Hezekiah Hale South Glastenbury Con

MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA -

VIA PANAMA - SOUTH GLASTENBURY, CONNECTICUT

RATE: TEN CENTS UNPAID.

DOUBLE RATE UNPAID

MARCH 31, 1855



MARYSVILLE, CALIFORNIA - VIA PANAMA - GAP CIVIL, NORTH CAROLINA

RATE: TWENTY CENTS UNPAID. THIS WAS THE LAST DAY BEFORE PREPAYMENT BECAME COMPULSORY.

Contents of the "From Two Sisters" letter

Sunday? January the 15th, 1854

My Dear Husband it is with a great deal of pleasure that I take my pen to address you and let you know you we get along. Ann goes to school this winter. Her health is first rate but mine is not. I have had a very bad cold it leave me with a cough. I hope this letter will find you in good health. We have been looking for you home this winer. You don't know (sic) I how disappointed I feel when I don't get no letters. I feel about discouraged sometimes if we get a letter once a month it would be some consolation to us but we want you to come home. You sed (sic) when you went away that you would not stay more than two years at the longest. The Holmeses has got home they have done very well. I have not seen them yet. It seems as if I did not want to for it makes me feel so bad. I had rather live poor and have you come home and live with us. We should be happy. It seems to me there is no enjoyment for me. I have been to meting (sic) today. I went twise (sic) last Sunday but I don't enjoy it. My mind is on you. It seems to be as if I can see you there in California sometimes. I fancy you are a suffering and sometimes you are enjoying your self first rate and I hope that you do it as more than I do while you are there if you aren't coming home. I wish that you would send me the means to get us a home for I am tired of moving. We have got to move this spring and where we

are going to I don't know. For my part I want a home if it aint more than 10 foot square so that I haven't got to move every six months and no (sic) not where to go. I wish you would send means to get us a home. I think a year from next spring that Ann will be able to teach school if she has good luck. I want to keep her in school next summer if I am able to. Last summer I had to keep her to home. I was so unwell part of the time. When she is able to help her self I shall be glad enough but you have always sed (sic) we had but one and we would take care of her. I do try to do the best that I can but there aint mutch (sic) that I can get to do here. I could get work by the week if I could leave Ann but I don't want to do that in my cold days if I can help it. I saw Mrs. Paine today. She sed (sic) she got a letter yesterday with five dollars in it and her dang? got one with the same. I wish that there sutch (sic) good luck for me and Ann. I used to think that you thought as mutch (sic) of your family as any man and I can't think your long absence will make you forget them for it don't make us forget you. We don't now (sic) how to wait any longer for you to come. Our lamp has been trimmed and burning so long it has allmost (sic) gone out. Our oil is allmost (sic) spent so good night. This is from your ever true and loving wife to my dear beloved and faithful husband, DW.

Don't forget ? want to hear from you in the worst way.

Editor's Message

Executive Director Betsy Towle attended the Mega-Show in New York City in early November to give a seminar on getting children involved in philately. Ten frames of youth exhibits "in progress" were on display at the show, being the products of children who work with Foundation volunteers to prepare exhibits. The finished exhibits will be at ARIPEX 95 in Mesa in January.

In other important news, after almost 30 years of service as a volunteer and department head, Hilde Nelson has retired from the active program at The Postal History Foundation. During the time that Hilde was with the Foundation, more than 25,000 children were introduced to the hobby. Hilde and the rest of the Youth Education staff each devote 20 to 30 hours per week working with children in the area schools and libraries using stamps to reinforce the classroom instruction and the library reading programs.

One of the classes in the Foundation's schools program is working very hard to get a stamp issued honoring Charles Curtiss. The Foundation will sponsor a bus to take these children from Tucson to ARIPEX '95, where they will meet with a member of the U.S. Postmaster General's Citizens Stamp Advisory Committee to plead their case. This same group of children will speak in front of the Arizona legislature to ask for a resolution in support of their project. The Postal History Foundation believes that Youth Philatelic Education comes in all forms and are therefore supportive of these children's efforts and their education in this area.

In this issue of *The Heliograph*, we are pleased to continue the serialization of George Jay Kramer's "Across the Continent" exhibit (started *Heliograph* #26), fresh from the international exhibition in Bangkok. As before, we have augmented the publicly shown exhibit by transcribing the contents of selected letters. Members and philatelic literature fans might also be interested to know that our serialization of George's exhibit prompted Ken Lawrence, editor of *The Philatelic Communicator* for the APS Writers Unit #30, to ask me to write an article on our decision to serialize an exhibit in a periodical. It will appear shortly, if it has not already done so by the time you receive this *Heliograph*.

Finally, I would ask Foundation members to keep in mind that we have expanded the content of *The Heliograph* to include all U.S. postal history; rough or finished drafts of articles, article ideas or outlines and suggestions are always welcome. Thank you for your support--Dane S. Claussen.

In Memoriam

Robert A. Siegel 1913-1993

This issue of *The Heliograph* is dedicated to the lifetime achievements of Robert A. Siegel, long time friend and supporter of The Arizona Philatelic Rangers and The Postal History Foundation.

Bob was elected a Deputy Sheriff in the Ranger organization in 1964, and several years later was made a Sheriff in appreciation for his outstanding contributions and service to the then Western Postal History Museum. He was elected to the Board of Directors of the Arizona Philatelic Rangers and served in that capacity until his death.

Bob was very supportive of the Postal History Foundation Youth Philatelic program, and, with his help and that of his long time friend, Raymond Weill, many more children have had the opportunity to be introduced to the philatelic hobby.