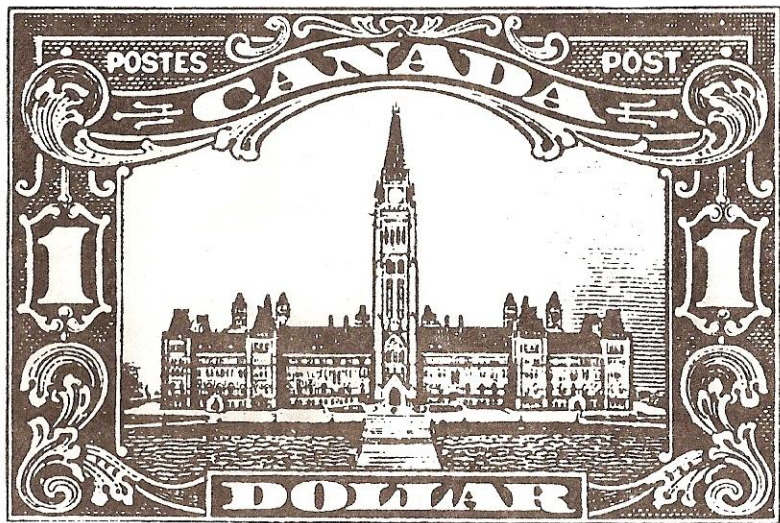


Calgary STAMPede

Volume 8, Number 4

October 1988



IN THIS ISSUE ...

As we go to press, the pundits have worked themselves into a frenzy speculating on when the Prime Minister will call an election. In other news, Dale Speirs writes in this issue about a wife-murderer who nonetheless was an enthusiastic philatelist. Perry Holinshead discusses some northern Alberta postal history, and there are lots of announcements and ads.



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Articles or ads should be submitted to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up members of the C.P.S.; maximum ten lines including name and address. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue, for camera-ready copy. No partial-page display ads accepted.

The Calgary Philatelic Society was founded in 1922. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, and Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society. The C.P.S. may be contacted at Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

1988-89 EXECUTIVE

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THE REAL J.R.: HOW A WIFE-MURDERER SPENT A FEW YEARS IN WINNIPEG
PUBLISHING A STAMP BULLETIN
by Dale Speirs

There are those who say that Canadians and the history of this country are boring. Setting aside the fact that our first prime minister habitually spoke in the House of Commons while under the influence, the personalities of this country are not all dull people. One such character that I would like to write about is John Reginald Hooper, who was heavily involved in early Canadian philately, and lived in Winnipeg for a number of years.

The detailed history of early Canadian philately has been covered in a number of recent articles by Ralph Mitchener, published in Canadian Philatelist (1987, issues 3 and 4); the life and times of Hooper were discussed in CAPEX 87 Bulletin #2. I briefly summarize Hooper's life here before dealing with his Winnipeg years. He was born in Port Hope, Ontario, and died aged 85 in Los Angeles in 1944. He began collecting stamps about 1870, and in subsequent years published extensively in the philatelic press under his own name (sometimes modified to J.J. Hooper) and pseudonyms such as 'Canadensis' and 'Roger Kinnersley'. He was married in 1883, had his wife committed to an asylum in 1891, and after a long and complicated series of legal proceedings, was convicted in 1894 of murdering her after taking her out of the asylum the previous year. Released from prison in 1902, he remarried, and lived in Winnipeg from 1906 to 1918, where he published a stamp bulletin called 'The Hobbyist'. He then dropped out of sight but was probably in the U.S.A., where he finished his life. In 1936, he is reported as having made a tour of Alberta and British Columbia. I have searched the archives of the Calgary Philatelic Society for 1936 but find no mention of him.

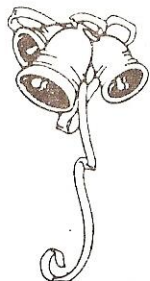
Hooper's life in Winnipeg can be tracked in part by reference to Henderson's Directory, an annual publication produced in most cities across North America. Of great value before telephone directories came into use, Henderson's directories can be used to find people, what they did for a living, and where they lived. Hooper first appears in the 1906 edition, living in rooms at 454 Spence. The following year, he moved to 183 Walnut and stayed until 1918. He appears to have left Winnipeg in that year, as the 1919 Henderson's lists 183 Walnut as being occupied by William Newman.

His second wife, Lucy Charlotte, is listed at 183 Walnut from 1913 to 1916. She was secretary-treasurer of his publishing company.

Hooper was involved in editing or writing for a number of non-philatelic publications, including 'Western Canada Contractor', 'Canadian Lumberman', 'Retail Lumberman', and 'Western Builder'. In 1907, he was listed as manager of the C.H. Mortimer Publ. Co., headquartered at his house, but by 1911 was president of Hooper Publ. Co., at 606 Builders Exchange. Hooper Publ. Co. moved once and is last listed in 1917 at 307 - 322 Donald. 'The Hobbyist' ran to fifty issues in five volumes, from January 1909 to April 1913, and was printed by O.K. Press, O. Kendall prop.. The editor listed himself as J.J. Hooper, not J.R.. The periodical in its first year became the official publication of the Hobby Club, an exchange packet run by Kendall, and also of the Canadian Philatelic Society and the Winnipeg Philatelic Association. Lucy Hooper and Kendall each had their own stamp dealerships.

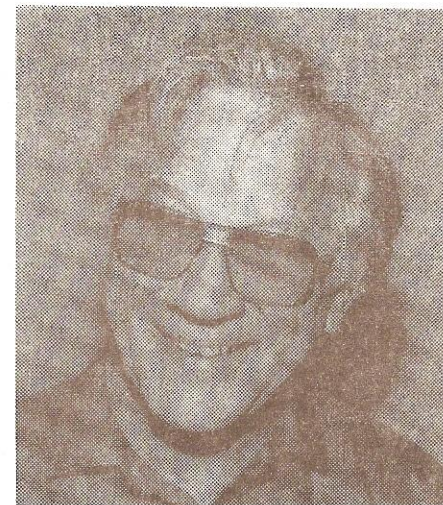
(continued next page)

JANUARY, 1909



We hope to have a prosperous year for the Hobbyist and will with your co-operation. Not otherwise. We realize that by experience with

The Treasurer of this Society is John Van Staden Sr.. His duties include budgets, memberships (with Membership Chairwoman Lane Peters), and paying out expenses of the club.



POSTAL HISTORY OF FORT VERMILION, ALBERTA

by Perry Holinshead

In 1889, Senator Richard Hardisty inspected this post as Chief Factor of the Hudson's Bay Company. The name of this fort is said to stem from the red ochre deposits on the banks of the Peace River. The post office established on September 1, 1905, is one of two in Alberta with a River Lot legal description. (The other one was Fort Fitzgerald).

Before roads were developed in the Peace River country, the mail service was by river steamer during open water season. With ice on the river, the alternative would have been by dog team or horse-and-sleigh.

During the 1930s, the contractor used four-horse teams with canvas-covered sleighs for passengers and freight. Stations were maintained every fifty miles, with cabins, barns, and feed for a change of horses. The round trip of 600 miles from Peace River Crossing took a week.

References.

MacGregor, JC 'Senator Hardisty's prairies 1840/1889. Western Producer Prairie Books. Saskatoon, Sask.

Hughes, Neil 'Post offices of Alberta 1876-1986'

Robinson, WG 'Post offices of Alberta'

Christianson, CJ 'My life on the range' Southern Printing Company, Lethbridge, Alberta.

Two types of cancels are reported by Robinson for Fort Vermilion, a split circle, and a closed circle with small letters.



SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paidup C.P.S. members. Mail your ads to the Editor, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, T2P 2E7. Next deadline is October 26, for the bulletin appearing in late November.

WANTED: Soccer or ice hockey stamps, mint or used, plus covers. Contact G. Bakehouse at 248-4696.

FOR SALE: OLYMPLEX 88 show catalogue. Professionally printed, illustrated digest with many articles on Olympic philately and Calgary postal history. Price is \$6 each postpaid from C.P.S., Box 1478, Stn M, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6.

BUY/SELL/TRADE: Canada CDS and split-ring 'socked on the nose' cancels. Contact Mike Reid at 281-6062.

WANTED: Bicycle stamps worldwide, single mint or used. Any depiction of bicycles, riders, wheels, etc. Phone Denis Hoddinott at 288-4557.

WANTED: Town-dated singles, blocks, and plate blocks of Canada, especially pre-WW2. Phone Ed Harris at 274-0021.

BUY/TRADE: Philatelic items pertaining to Calgary Olympic Winter Games. Stamps, meters, envelopes, cancels, slogans, mail to and from OCO and CODA. Write John Van Staden Jr., Box 604, Stn J, Calgary, or telephone 285-1874.

WANTED: Worldwide stamps picturing owls. Single mint or used stamps required. Call 239-7774 and ask for Clive or Kathryn.

WANTED: Clean, unmarked copies of the following philatelic periodicals; no ads cut out, underlining, water stains, or massive tears. Write first to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Stn D, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or telephone 243-1752 anytime and leave message on answering machine. American Philatelist - 1963 Aug, 1956 Feb, 1955 Sept to Dec, 1953 Jan to Mar, 1952 Oct to Dec, 1949 July, 1946 Dec, 1945 all except Sept and Dec.

Philatelic Literature Review - whole numbers 27 to 51 inclusive.

BNA Topics - whole numbers 1 to 31, 33 to 79, 83, 85 to 99, 103

Maple Leaves - 1958 Dec, 1957 Jan to Oct, 1956 Dec, 1955 Dec, 1954 all except July, 1953 all issues needed, 1952 all except Nov, 1951 all except July, 1950 all issues needed, 1949 Feb to Dec

Canadian Philatelist - 1959 Jan, Feb, 1958 Jan, Feb, Jul, Aug, 1957 Jan to Aug, 1956 all issues needed, 1955 Jan to Aug, Oct to Dec, 1948 to 1954 all issues needed.

Popular Stamps - 1955 Jul to Sept, 1954 May, Jul, Aug, 1953 Jan, Jul, Aug, 1952 Jan to Oct, 1951 Dec, 1949 Apr, Sept, Oct, Dec, 1947 Jan to Apr.

SPA Journal - 1982 Mar, Aug, 1981 Jan to Mar, 1980 Mar to May, Aug, Nov, Dec, 1979 Mar, 1977 Aug to Oct, Dec, 1976 Jan, Apr, May, Jul, Aug, 1975 Jan to Oct, Dec, 1971 to 1974 all issues needed, 1970 Jun to Dec. Topical Time - 1987 Jul to Dec, 1986 Jan/Feb, 1985 all issues needed, 1984 Mar/Apr, Jul to Oct, 1981 Jan to Aug, 1980 Sept to Dec, 1978 Jan to Oct, 1974 Jan to June

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS IN 1988

Oct	5		General meeting
	14		CALTAPEX 88 - 5 pm to 9 pm
	15		CALTAPEX 88 - 10 am to 5 pm
	16		CALTAPEX 88 - 10 am to 5 pm
	19		Auction
	26		Auction
	26		Deadline for November STAMPede
Nov	2		General meeting
	16		Auction
	23		Auction
Dec	7		Wine and cheese party

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, second floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 730 pm. Auction lots should be in before 730 pm to allow bidder viewing.

CALTAPEX 88 is at the Marlborough Inn, 1316 - 33 Street NE.

AUSTRALASIAN STUDY GROUP meets third Wednesdays. For information, contact Leanna Johnson at 282-9775.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY, Calgary Chapter, meets second Wednesdays. For information, contact Phil Wolf at 251-4109.

IRELAND AND BRITISH EUROPE STUDY GROUP meets every second month. For information, contact Steve Davis at 237-5806 or David Warren at 253-7342.

If the police arrested you for being an active member of a philatelic society, would the Crown Prosecutor have enough evidence to convict?