

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 118

February 2013



Canada Post painted some of its street boxes for the 2012 Christmas season.

Is this the start of a trend to redecorate for major holidays? If so, the serious postal historian will want to keep watch and photograph the custom paint jobs for the record.

This box was at MarketMall but there were many others like it throughout Calgary.

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Membership dues for the season are \$15, plus an initiation fee of \$10 for new members. Send to the CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta T2P 2L6. Notice of address changes or enquiries about missing copies should be sent to the Membership Chairman, not the Editor.

The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com All articles as hard copy only, mailed to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or handed to Dale Speirs at meetings.

The CPS was founded in April 1922 by Dr. Edward George Mason. It is Chapter 66 of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, Chapter 1360 of the American Philatelic Society, and Chapter 91 of the American Topical Association.

A cumulative subject index from issue #1 to date for the CALGARY PHILATELIST exists but because of its length is too long to be published in this bulletin. A copy can be had for free from the editorial address at Box 6830.

2012-2013 EXECUTIVE

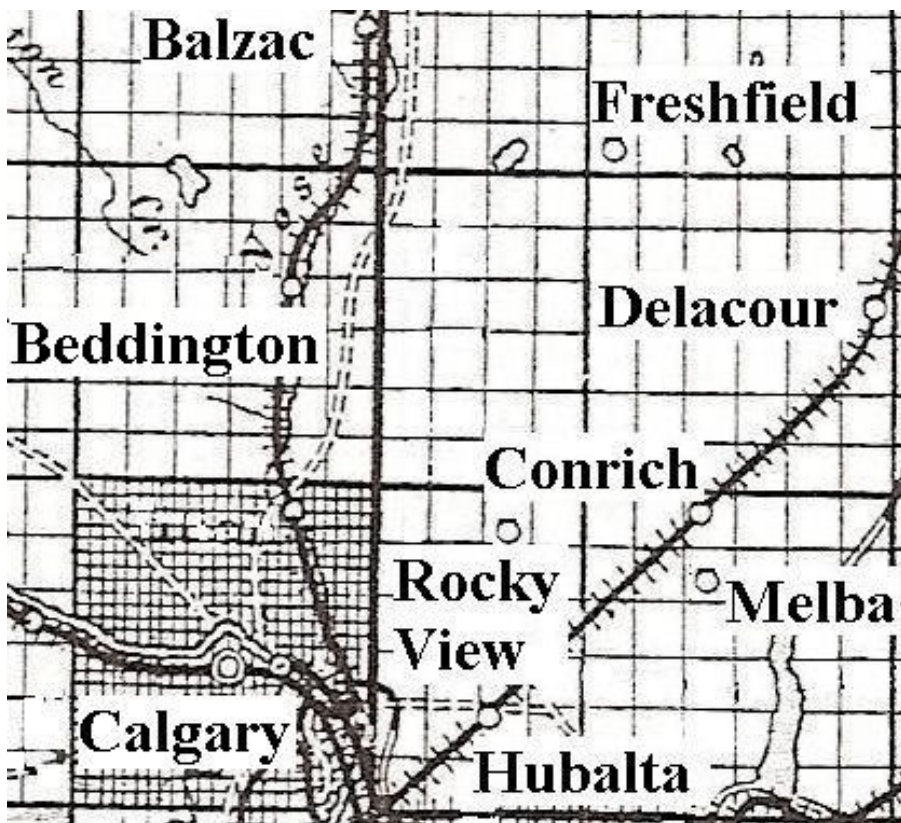
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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons

RANCH HOUSE POST OFFICES OF CALGARY: NORTH EAST

by Dale Speirs

Before World War One, bad roads made it difficult to travel, so the Canadian Post Office established outlets in ranch houses, in the corner of a kitchen or living room. There was no Rural Free Delivery, and neighbours came in to pick up their mail from the postmaster. Way out yonder, in the Conrich-Delacour area just past the present-day suburbs of northeast Calgary, there were several ranch house post offices, long since vanished. The map below is modified from a 1922 map to show these extinct post offices and a much smaller Calgary. Today's Calgary has long since expanded overtop Beddington and Hubalta, although Conrich and Delacour are still semi-rural.



Melba.

I previously discussed the Hubalta and Weno post offices, which were hamlets at the extreme east end of present-day Calgary. From there, the road, or linear mudhole as it often was, turned northeast.

Victor Ellis, who had relatives at Weno, kept a post office in his ranch house a few kilometres northeast of Weno and named it Melba. I have not been able to find out why. He did not have a wife or daughter by that name. I suspect he named it after the Australian coloratura Dame Nellie Melba, the most celebrated singer of her time, who sang in all the major opera houses. Two foods that we still have today, Peach Melba and Melba Toast, are named after her.



Ellis was the only postmaster, and operated it from 1913-12-01 to 1916-08-23, when rural mail delivery started. Twice a week he would haul milk and cream into Calgary, stopping along the way at Weno, Hubalta, Forest Lawn, and Albert Park post offices to distribute and receive mail, repeating the process on his return [1]. The proof strike for Melba is shown at left.

Rocky View.

This ranch house was where the Monterey subdivision in northeast Calgary is today. The name should not be confused with today's hamlet of Rocky View, located further north on McDonald Lake where the Turbo oil refinery used to be. The only postmaster was John Redmond, who operated the post office from 1906-01-01 until 1916-05-31 when he resigned [2].

Freshfield.

Freshfield was named after the English alpinist Sir Douglas Freshfield, who also has a mountain and icefield on the Alberta-B.C. border named after him. This seems rather amusing as the post office was on the flatlands far from the Rockies. Joseph H. Johnson was the only postmaster, running it at his house from 1908-08-15 until 1919-06-30. He also had the contract to haul mail to and from Calgary, which was quite lucrative, such as \$321.49 for fiscal 1910, good money in those uninflated days [3]. During that same time period, the gross revenues of Freshfield post office totalled \$22.95. Not much of a cost-benefit ratio!

Delacour and Conrich.

Strictly speaking, these were not ranch house post offices, but as they were intermixed in the same townships as the above post offices, and as neither was ever more than a cluster of three or four houses, they are included here.

Delacour was founded in 1914 as a railroad siding and the post office opened in a general store the next year. It is named after the railroad section foreman, whose



surname was De Lacour. This means the correct pronunciation should be “day-la-coor”, not the common “dell-ah-coor”. The major business was the grain elevator, and when it closed in 1981, the hamlet might have died instantly but for all the acreages in the area owned by Calgary commuters [4]. Mrs. Mabel McKinnon was the first postmaster from 1915-11-15 until 1920-04-16. Wellington Cleveland then took over until 1932-01-28.

He was succeeded by Percy David Scott until 1941-01-21. There were then two revolving-door temps, but John Alden Wallace took over on 1942-02-01 and stayed more than three decades until 1976-02-27. He was succeeded by his widow, then two more postmasters until the office closed on 1991-06-05.

Conrich was named after two real estate developers during the pre-World War One boom, Connacher and Richardson. It started as a railroad siding in 1913 for farmers to haul in their grain. The post office didn't open until quite late, when Frank Mogensen began it on 1925-08-15 and served until 1929-07-12. Henry Thomas Protheroe lasted a few months as the second postmaster until Mogenson returned from 1930-12-10 to 1946-05-20. The final postmaster was Leith Fraser McLean until the post office closed on 1960-12-12. Today it is semi-rural, with lots of acreages for commuters.



References.

- 1] Chestermere Historical Society (1971) SADDLES, SLEIGHS, AND SADIRONS. Page 408
- 2] Library and Archives Canada (downloaded 2011-08-06) Post offices and postmasters. <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/databases/post-offices>
- 3] Canadian Post Office (1885 to 1923) Report of the Postmaster General. SESSIONAL PAPERS OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA, Appendices C and D
- 4] Read, Tracey (1983) ACRES AND EMPIRES: A HISTORY OF THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICT OF ROCKY VIEW NO. 44. Published by Tall-Taylor Publishing, Irricana, Alberta. Pages 67 and 71.

CANADA POST TURTLES MAILER



Beginning 2012-11-01, Canada Post retail outlets and post offices had counter displays of Turtles chocolates in ready-to-go mailers. Each package contained four pieces of chocolates, and was prepaid with a Picture Postage stamp depicting the Turtles mascot. All the customer had to do was print the address on the package and drop it in any letterbox. The cost was \$4.99, of which \$1.29 covered the postage and the rest was reasonably fair value for the chocolates. The stamp was a legitimate peel-and-stick, so this mailer wouldn't be classified as postal stationery, but it is genuine philately since it was sold in post offices. It is the only Picture Postage stamp issued at a rate other than the domestic first-increment.



CANADIAN STAMPS OF REMEMBRANCE: PART 8

by Gordon Demke

Tribute is paid to Canada's war dead, veterans and Armed Forces personnel through postage stamps. "Stamps of Remembrance" are another reminder of the sacrifice by fellow-Canadians so that we may enjoy freedom and peace. The following are Canadian stamps which I have identified as having "Remembrance" as their theme. All of the italicized quotes are from the Canadian Postal Archives Database (historical notices) for the particular stamp or stamp series.

20 March 1995. Veterans Return Home (Sc 1541), Freeing the POW (Sc 1542), Liberation of Civilians (Sc 1543) and Crossing the Rhine (Sc 1544), from the series The Second World War, 1945, Peace.



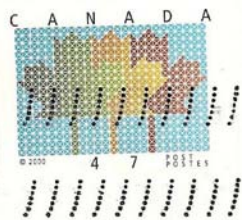
"While Canadian forces were preparing for war in the Pacific, the war against Japan abruptly ended. After atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima August 6, and Nagasaki August 9, Japan surrendered on

August 14, ending the Second World War. The end of hostilities brought a return to civilian life for a million Canadians. The vets began their return in early summer of 1945, and during the winter of 1945-1946, 3,000 men and women were discharged daily. By November 1946, the veterans were home."

049 M4L 9T0 011114 09:08

Veterans' Week - Semaine

des anciens combattants





“During the course of the Second World War, approximately 9,000 Canadians fell into enemy hands. As the end of the European war approached, conditions worsened. To avoid the Red Army, forced marches in mid-winter moved Allied

captives in and out of increasingly overcrowded camps. Some of the POW camps were liberated by Americans, others by the British. In the Pacific, liberation came quietly for the 1,418 surviving Canadian prisoners of the Japanese.”

Canada participated in the liberation of the Netherlands, which was experiencing food shortages bordering on starvation.

“The Rhineland campaign necessitated frontal assaults against three successive fortified zones . . . The crossing of the Rhine by Canadian and British troops began on March 23.”



[to be continued]

CURRENT POSTMARKS OF CALGARY: PART 25

by Dale Speirs

Closed RePOs.

Downtown: Bow Valley Square, second floor, 5 Avenue SW. Noteworthy Cards closed on 2012-10-06, taking the retail outlet with it.

Postmark Errors.

Sunridge Mall: Shoppers Drug Mart had a postmark with the wrong postal code on it (that of the Village Square RePO on 52 Street NE) but it has since been corrected. The postmarks shown are the error (2009) and the correction (2012).



Bridlewood: 162 Avenue SW and 24 Street, 7-Eleven. This is a new rectangular postmark and was used to mail out the December 2012 bulletin. Take a close look at your copy and you'll see that this is an error postmark, with the name of the outlet misspelled as "Bridewood", with no L. Be sure to note this on the back of the envelope (not the front!) for the benefit of future collectors.





ACCEPTING LOCATION LIEU D'ACCEPTATION

Lake Bonavista: Lake Bonavista Drive SE, Bonavista Cleaners. This postmark hasn't been reported here; it has the RePO name on the bottom whereas the previous one had it on the top. Of interest is that the upper edge of the rubber stamp is failing and has peeled away from the rim.

New Postmarks.

Altadore: 33 Avenue SW and 20 Street, Marda Loop Registry. This RePO was using a rectangular cancel but now has a round one. Marda Loop, by the way, is the name of the business district along 33 and 34 Avenues between Crowchild Trail and 14 Street SW.



Canyon Meadows: Elbow Drive SW and Anderson Road shopping plaza, Rexall Drugs. This postmark has the outlet name along the bottom rather than the top as with the previous one.

Westbrook: 37 Street SW and 16 Avenue, Paragon Pharmacy. New RePO number after a change in ownership.



CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The December 5, 2012, meeting was the annual CPS Christmas party. Norma Nielson compered a new event, Stump The Experts, in which images of various stamps, some very obscure, were shown, and the experts had to identify them. Dwayne Miner triumphed over his fellow experts Janice Brookes and Keith Brown, with the audience having fun second-guessing them.

Jim Taylor, as Show Chairman of BNAPEX 2012 CALTAPEX held this past Labour Day weekend, presented CPS President Peter Fleck with a cheque for \$2,500 from the show profits, for the use of the Society.

Various awards were then presented. Two new Honourary Life Members were announced: Donna Trathen and Gerry Vader. Donna has been Secretary of the CPS for many years, and has worked on the Show Committee. Gerry is Past-President of the club, was a familiar face behind the Private Treaty sales table for years, and has worked in many capacities behind the scenes.

The Founders' Award for contributions to the running of the club during the 2011-2012 season went to Dave Freeman. He worked hard on the dealer bourses at our shows this past year, and did behind-the-scenes work as well.

The Dr. E.G. Mason Award for long-time service to the CPS went to Jim Senecal. He is a familiar face behind the auction table, and has been helping with the junior club meetings for years. Jim has also worked on the Show Committee, particularly with security, and done assorted other jobs in the club.

After the formal programme, we sat down to eat lots and lots of good food and to enjoy good conversation with each other. About 50 people attended and the proverbial good time was had by all.

JIM TAYLOR APPOINTMENT

The Royal Philatelic Society of Canada has announced that Jim Taylor has been appointed as their International Liaison Officer. As such, he will represent Canadian international exhibitors' interests in competition around the world. Jim is an experienced international exhibitor at the gold medal level and is an accredited national and international level judge. He has made presentations to the Royal Philatelic Society in London, England, and is known to many in the European and North American circuit of international shows.

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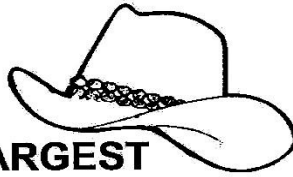
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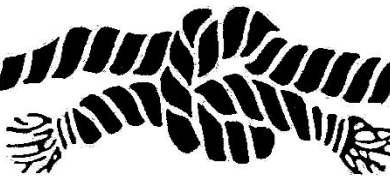
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SMALL ADVERTISEMENTS

These ads are free to paid-up CPS members, and will also appear on the CPS Website at no additional cost. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or hand them to me at meetings.

NOTE TO INTERNET VIEWERS: Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time. Any advertiser can be reached through the CPS e-mail at calphilso@shaw.ca, but please allow time for forwarding to offline members.

FOR SALE: Recent Canadian stamps and miniature sheets, all very fine postally used. Stamps and miniature sheets from around 2003. Fine used stamps are very hard to come by these days. I use the Unitrade Canada specialist catalogue of 2010 numbers. I can send scans of material for clarity and postmarks. Please contact Michael Teekens by email at: michateekens@gmail.com or in writing at #1, 83 Headingley Road, Mt. Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia.

FOR SALE: Lightly used Lighthouse album binders with protective slipcases. \$20 for one, \$36 for two, five or more for \$15 each. Contact Peter Fleck at 590-1574 or peterfleck@telus.net

FOR SALE: Four-volume collection of Canadian stamps in Unity albums. Price negotiable. Phone Al at 282-1030 or e-mail dorandal@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: USA mint sheets from 1967 to 1995 (Scott #1331 to 2979). Asking face value plus exchange rate and GST. Contact Peter at peterhay@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: various QE2 Canada plate block sets between Scott #727 and #1070, various QV to KGV Canada VFNH singles and pairs between Scott #51 and #300. Contact Les at 278-3511.

FOR SALE: Large accumulation used off-paper, mostly pre-1990s commemoratives. Canada, USA, GB, Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and kiloware. Phone Roland 243-1637 or decaenr@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Major collections of many countries at liquidation prices. Call John at 474-1212.

FOR SALE: British colonies KGV to QEII, New Zealand and Australia, very reasonable. All mint, LH or NH. Phone Felix at 464-3252.

WANTED: Owl stamps worldwide. Cash or trade. Call Pat at 238-3435.

WANTED: Canadian military covers and postcards with hospital ships (white with red crosses). Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Used stamps of Australia and New Zealand. Also have Canada mint both singles and plate blocks. Call Craig Allison at 281-3852.

EDMONTON SPRING SHOW

The weekend of March 22 to 24 will be the annual show of the Edmonton Stamp Club, with the usual dealer bourse and exhibition. Calgary philatelists always do well in the exhibits and no doubt there will be a herd of Cowtowners heading north again this year. More details either from Ed Dykstra (780-421-0930) or at www.edmontonstampclub.com

IN MEMORIAM: ROBERT TRAQUAIR

Only a few older members will recall Bob Traquair, who died in Toronto at age 82 on 2012-11-02 while still active in philately. He worked for Royal Trust and as a consequence was frequently transferred around the country, finishing up in Toronto. Bob was Secretary of the CPS from 1956 to 1960 and again for 1965-66, ran the club auctions from 1956 to 1960, was President for 1960-61, a Director for 1961-62, and edited the CPS NEWSLETTER (predecessor of this bulletin) from 1961 to 1963. During his time in Cowtown he was also active in the Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society. At the time of his death, he was active in Toronto philately in the Philatelic Specialists Society of Canada, and was Chairman of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada's Philatelic Research Foundation.

AUTHOR OF THE YEAR

The 2012 Author Of The Year went to Jim Taylor, for his article on petroleum philately. The presentation was made at the January meeting. Congratulations, Jim!

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Auctions - regular	Doug Kollar	547-3838
- silent	Jim Senecal	547-7681
Bulletin - Editor	Dale Speirs	701-0174
Circuit books	Larry Tweedale	282-9726
Library	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Life Members	Jim Taylor	238-3698
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Private Treaty books	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Sergeant-At-Arms	Dave Russum	284-4775
Webmaster	Jan van Staden	285-1874

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2013

January	16	Auction
February	6 20	General meeting Auction
March	6 6 20	General meeting Deadline for April bulletin Auction
April	3 17	General meeting Auction
May	1 1 15	General meeting Deadline for June bulletin Auction
June	5 19	Election meeting Auction
August	1	Deadline for September bulletin
September	4 4 18	General meeting Deadline for October bulletin Auction
October	2 16	General meeting Auction
November	6 6	General meeting Deadline for December bulletin

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, 2nd floor, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow bidder viewing.

CALGARY REGIONAL GROUP of the BRITISH NORTH AMERICA PHILATELIC SOCIETY meets second Wednesdays. For details about meeting places and times, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

CALGARY ASSOCIATION OF PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.