

CALGARY PHILATELIST

Issue 144

October 2016



Canada Post is introducing a new style of supermailboxes into Calgary, with a maple leaf pattern in muted colours.

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The CPS mailing address is Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6. The Web site is: www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

Articles or advertisements for Calgary Philatelist should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 2E7. Small ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Display ads are \$10 per full page per issue for hardcopy, jpeg, or pdf format only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word 1997 format only. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email to opuntia57@yahoo.ca Please do not email club business to this address.

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 pdf copy can be had for free at www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com.

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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

POSTAL HISTORY OF ALBERTA: WHISKEY TRADER POST OFFICES. PART 2

by Dale Speirs

Whiskey Gap.

Just inside the Alberta border from Montana is a long range of hills running parallel to it, the Milk River Ridge. All the water that falls on the south face of the hills flows to the Gulf of Mexico, and all the water that falls on the north face eventually winds up in the Arctic Ocean. There is a break in the hills that was a natural travel route for aboriginals and white folk alike.

The whiskey traders also used this route, and the origin of the place name is obvious. Their fort was dealt with in the usual way by the Mounties. By the time organized homesteading began in the 1890s, the fort was three decades into history and few were left who had actually seen it.

A post office opened on 1918-03-01 in the ranch house of James H. Faulkner [5]. He considered the name Whiskey Gap to be undignified, and called the post office Fareham, after his ancestral home in England. Faulkner only lasted a month as postmaster, departing the job on April 8 with his family and never returning. The post office then moved to the ranch house of his brother-in-law William P. Harper, who served until 1925-09-02. His wife Esther actually ran the post office. Two more postmasters came and went, and the post office was shuffled from one ranch to another.

A dramatic change occurred in 1929, when the railroad from Cardston was extended to Whiskey Gap, although it never went any further. At once, a hamlet sprang up at the railway siding. Alvin Edward Knight took over the post office on 1930-01-15, moving it into his general store. Figure 10 is the proof strike of the Fareham CDS just after the move. He also applied for a name change, and on 1931-07-01 the post office was henceforth known as Whiskey Gap. Figure 11 shows the proof strike of the registration marking, made in anticipation of the change.



Figure 10

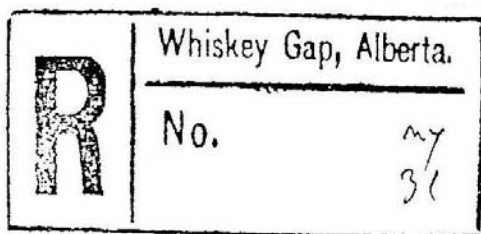


Figure 11

As the railhead for the border area, Whiskey Gap generated considerable economic activity, and for a brief period the district prospered. Figure 12 on the next page shows both sides of a 1935 remittance card sent to Whiskey Gap from the Cardston bank that handled its financial accounts. Knight gave up the post office on 1938-03-14, sold the store, and moved his family to central Alberta, where he got into the petroleum business [7].

Post-war, good roads began taking away traffic from the railway, and Whiskey Gap went into a long slow decline. After Knight left, there were twelve postmasters until the post office finally closed on 1967-09-15. This worked out to an average of a different postmaster every two years. Closure was due to lack of a suitable replacement. By then, the land was almost completely empty. The hamlet is long gone, and the rails were lifted in 1978. Mail service today is a rural route out of Cardston. Figure 13 is a photo I took in June 2016 of Whiskey Gap; the Montana border is on the opposite side of the far hills.



Figure 13

References.

- 1] Speirs, Dale (2014) Postal history of Alberta: Fort Macleod and district. CANADIAN PHILATELIST 65(6):354-359
- 2] Gardner, Don (1975) NORTH WEST MOUNTED POLICE OUTPOSTS OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA 1874 TO 1904. Published by the Alberta-RCMP Century Celebrations Committee, Calgary. Pages 71 to 83, 314 to 331, 484, 565
- 3] Dempsey, Hugh A. (1953) The story of the Blood Reserve. ALBERTA HISTORICAL REVIEW 1(3):27-36
- 4] Denny, Cecil (1958) Traders of the early West. Part 2. ALBERTA HISTORICAL REVIEW 6(3):20-26
- 5] National Library of Canada (downloaded 2016-05-30) POST OFFICES AND POSTMASTERS www.bac-lac.gc.ca/eng/discover/postal-heritage-philately/post-offices-postmasters/Pages/search.aspx
- 6] various authors (1976) SONS OF WIND AND SOIL Published by Nobleford and Monarch History Book Club, Nobleford, Alberta. Pages 9 to 10, 375 to 376, 389 to 390
- 7] various authors (1981) HERITAGE OF THE HIGH COUNTRY Published by Del Bonita Historical Society, Alberta. Pages 44 to 48, 62, 330, 366 to 367, 409 to 411
- 8] Mackie, James A.N. (1993) PIONEER FAMILIES OF SOUTHERN ALBERTA, published by Southern Alberta Pioneers, Calgary, Alberta. Pages 149, 169

O. H. M. S.



THE POSTMASTER

Whiskey Gap
Alta

ACKNOWLEDGMENT
OF REMITTANCE

\$ 40.00

The Royal Bank of Canada
BANK OF

Date Stamp
FEB 26 1935

Received on Post Office Account from the Postmaster named
on the other side of this card, the sum also named on the other
side, which amount will appear at the Receiver General's credit
with this Bank.

BANK 17.-200,000-14-11-33

Figure 12

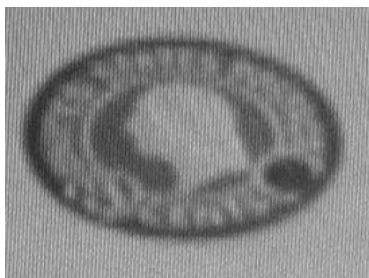
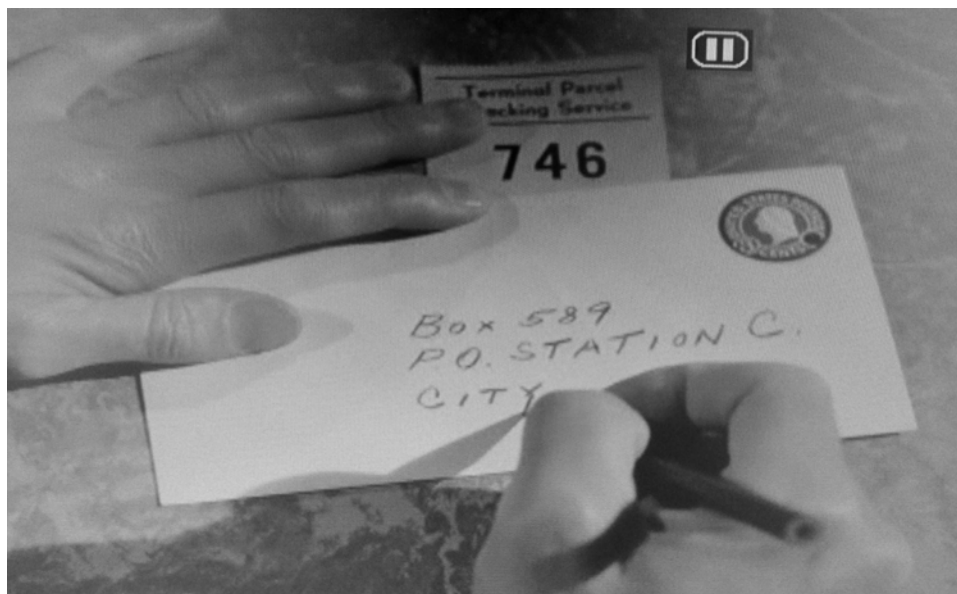
FAKE COVERS IN HOLLYWOOD: PART 4

by Leanteri Polvikoski

[Parts 1 to 3 appeared in CALGARY PHILATELISTs #113, 127, and 132.]

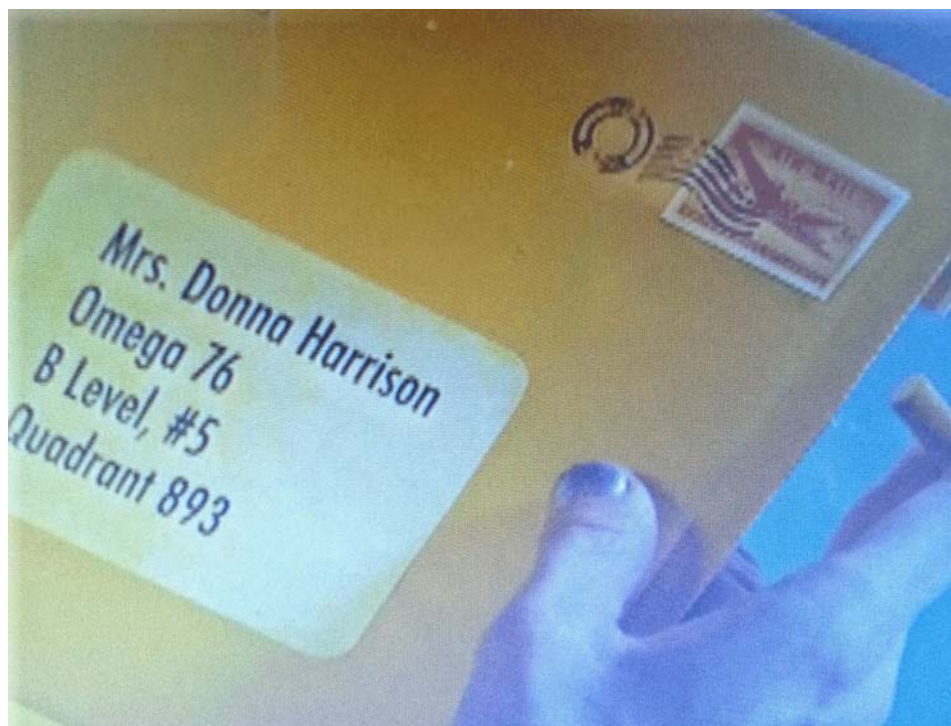
DVDs are wonderful for freeze-framing and looking in detail at things that would have otherwise gone unnoticed. The first example in this latest installment of fake postal history is from the famous 1940 Humphrey Bogart movie *THE MALTESE FALCON*. He played the role of Sam Spade, hired to retrieve a missing statuette of a falcon. He succeeds but doesn't want the bad guys to get it, so he checks it as baggage at a railway station. He then buys a pre-stamped envelope and mails the baggage check to himself so that if he is waylaid, they won't find the check.

The close-up shows him addressing the envelope to Box 589, Station C, City (which is San Francisco). I searched briefly on the Internet and there was a Station C there at the time, although today all the stations appear to be named, rather than lettered. I couldn't find out if Station C had a Box 589, and if it did, who the box holder was.

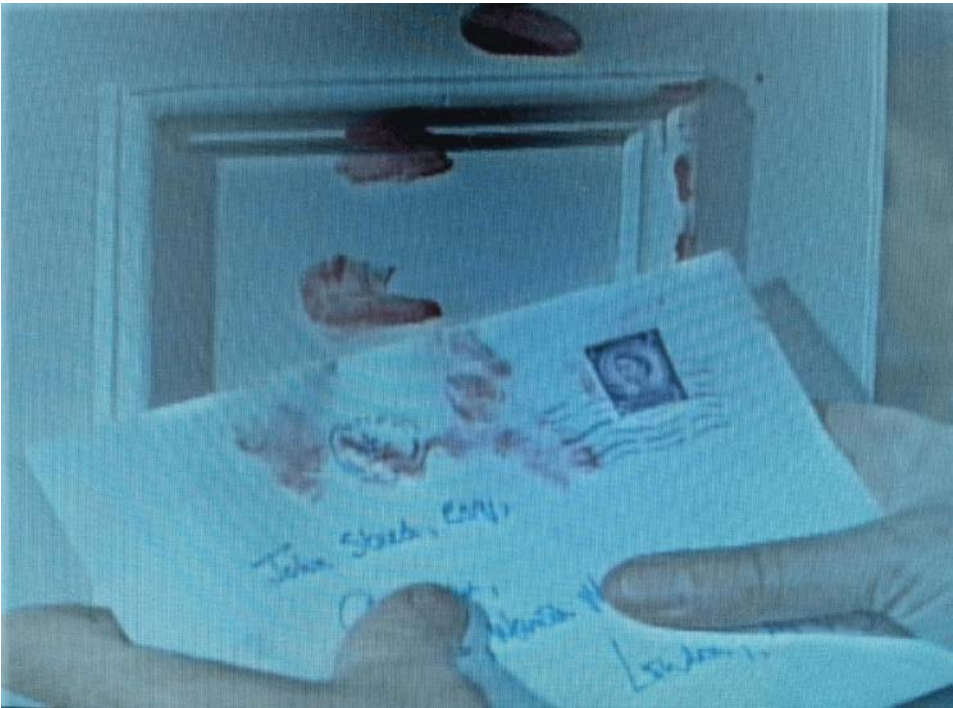


One of the numerical value tablets on the imprint has been blacked out. Presumably the studio did that to avoid legal complications from reproducing the image, even though the movie was in black-and-white.

SPACE STATION 76 was a 2014 science fiction movie which supposed that instead of humans retreating from the Moon in the 1970s and never building those wonderful space stations we saw in 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY, that it all actually happened. The movie takes place on board the space station Omega 76. One of the characters is shown receiving letter mail, a joke on all those SF writers who failed to predict email. Even funnier, the envelope is franked with a very obsolete airmail stamp, considering the movie was set in the late 1970s. The postmark is an obvious fake.



Not actually a Hollywood fake but arising from England is a cover that appeared in a 1967 episode of THE AVENGERS titled “Dead Man’s Treasure”. The television series was about two agents, John Steed and Emma Peel, who worked for an unnamed British Ministry. Steed gets a blood-stained letter from a dying man who was trying to pass on valuable information. The stamp looks legitimate, but the postmark is an obvious fake, with the circular die far out of alignment with the killer bars.



CALGARY POSTAL NEWS

by Dale Speirs

New RePOs.

Woodbine: The retail postal outlet (RePO) changed hands in June 2016 when the existing RePO in the HC Pharma drugstore closed in the shopping plaza at 24 Street SW and Woodview Drive. Shoppers Drug Mart had built a standalone building on the same plaza and took over the RePO. Below are photos of the old and new RePOs, taken by me in 2009 and 2016 respectively, and a sample postmark of the new RePO (top of next page).





Way Down Yonder.

The South Trail post office was a short-lived operation run directly by Canada Post in the boonies of deep southeast Calgary, just off Deerfoot Trail SE at 126 Avenue SE and 50 Street. Why it was ever established in what was uninhabited land at the time is a mystery. It opened on 2010-07-05 and closed on 2011-11-10. I mailed the August 2010 issue of this bulletin from there and it received the South Trail CRO postmark shown below, now a great rarity.

Cecil Coutts was kind enough to give me a sample of a letter carrier depot serving the area now that it is built up, which uses the word Depot. I illustrate it here for the record. Thanks Cecil!



PRESIDENT'S REPORT

by Murray Bialek

I would like to thank the CPS membership for electing me as your president at our AGM this September. It will be an honour representing you for the rest of this year and especially in 2017, during the 95th anniversary of the Calgary Philatelic Society and Canada's 150th anniversary since Confederation.

As many of you may be aware, I have been heavily involved on the administrative side of our Society over the past few years as a CPS Board Director, Bylaw Committee Chairman, Website Committee Chairman, Vice-President, and current Co-chair for the 69th annual BNAPS Convention and CALTAPEX 2017 Stamp Show.



By the time this report appears I'm hopeful that we might have our new Website up and running. Some of the new features of our Website will be the ability for new members to join online, and for all members to pay dues online, review a complete listing of our library holdings, and have access to a "member's only" section.

The collective strength of this organization resides within the individual strengths of its dedicated members. The inherent love of stamps is the glue that binds us together, whether one is a specialist or a generalist collector.

One of the highlights for me as a CPS member, as I'm sure it is for many of you, is the twice-monthly auctions. Since I joined the CPS, I have purchased boxes and boxes of stamps at our auctions. I have yet to examine most of these boxes, but I know I can look forward to countless hours of pure enjoyment in the years to come!

CALTAPEX 2016

Don't forget to mark CALTAPEX 2016 on your calendars. for the weekend of October 15 and 16. Once again it will be in the main gymnasium of the Calgary Philatelic Society. Show setup is on Friday evening at 17h00. The more people who turn out, the faster the setup will be done. Likewise for teardown at 16h00 on Sunday.

The show opens at 10h00 on Saturday and will feature the usual dealer bourse, exhibits, and club activity tables. There will be an auction on Sunday. Lots must be submitted at 10h00 and the auction will be called at 13h00.

SELECT STAMPS AND COVERS

#901 Westview Heights,
825 - 8 Avenue SW
(403)264-1551 or selstamp@telus.net

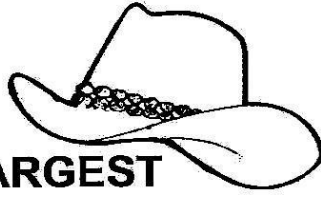
Canada and Worldwide
Stamps and Covers
20% discount on foreign stamps and collections for
CPS members

NEW !!!

CPS members can take collections home on approval.



Phil Wolf, proprietor, in the store



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R.D. MINER PHILATELICS

STAMPEDE CITY STAMPS

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rdminer@telus.net

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Open Monday thru Saturday.

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**Looking for good
quality material.**

**Bring it into our shop
and we'll make an offer.**



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.

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: Queen Elizabeth Machins, stamps and strips of four VFNH, about \$100 face value. WANTED TO BUY: Early German and British Colonies stamps to George VI. Call Godfrey at 464-3252.

WANTED: Pilot-signed First Flight covers and also any signed material by Canadian notables. Contact Glenn at pgdaze@gmail.com

FOR SALE: Current Canadian stamps, very fine used. Contact Michael Teekens, 83 Headingley Road #1, Mount Waverley, Victoria 3149, Australia, or michateekens@gmail.com

WANTED: We volunteer at the MCC thrift store in Calgary. They raise money for worldwide disaster relief and are looking for donations of old albums and pages, covers, and bulk stamps. Contact Greg Lang at 282-1644 or Gerry Vader at 293-0158.

WANTED AND FOR SALE: Wanted: stamps of India. For sale: Stamps of Egypt, Ceylon, and Burma (advanced collection). Contact jay_chahal@shaw.ca

FOR SALE: Extensive collection of Alberta postmarks uniquely filed in 28 binders. Supplemented with historical data items of postal relevance. Contact Al at 282-1030 or dorandal@shaw.ca

WANTED: Used GB Machin Queen stamps with any selvage attached. Cash or trade (many countries). Call Georg at 547-0409.

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

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

CLUB NEWS

The August bulletin was mailed from Drumheller by the Editor at the Shoppers Drug Mart RePO on Railway Avenue. The 2016 dinosaur stamps were used.

At the Royal 2016 Royale convention in Waterloo, Ontario, held August 19 to 21, Dave Bartlet won Silver for his exhibit on the 1913 Winnipeg Stampede.

Published CPS members included Hugh Delaney, whose lengthy article on the quarantine station at Grosse Ile, Quebec, appeared in the September 2016 issue of AMERICAN PHILATELIST. In that same issue, Dale Speirs had a letter to the editor about the Canadian Star Trek stamps and the Vulcan cancel.

At the September meeting, the President's Pot was awarded to Murray Bialek for his work on the new CPS Website.

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society meets monthly except July and August. Two members of this group were recently elected to high positions in the parent organization. Eldon Godfrey was elected President of BNAPS for the 2016-18 term, while Dave Bartlet is now Vice President for Regional Groups.

DUES ARE DUE!

If you haven't already, please send in your 2016-17 dues to Julius Szekrenyes, c/o CPS, Box 1478, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2L6, or see him at the general meetings.

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	Gerry Vader	293-0158
Membership	Julius Szekrenyes	282-7982
Programmes	Penny Borrowman	686-2662
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	829-3580

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2016

September		NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! NEW! Vehicles in both Kerby lots must have licence plate numbers registered inside the building at the computer terminals. This is a 24/7 policy and the CPS is not exempt. Otherwise your vehicle will be towed or clamped.
	21	Auction
	28	CAPE meeting
October	5	General meeting
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	14	CALTAPEX - show set-up 17h00
	15 to 16	CALTAPEX 2016
	16	CALTAPEX - auction lots submitted 10h00 auction called 13h00
	19	Auction
	26	CAPE meeting
November	2	General meeting
	2	Deadline for December bulletin
	9	BNAPS Regional Group meeting
	16	Auction
	23	CAPE meeting
December	7	Christmas social

MEETINGS and AUCTIONS are at the Kerby Centre, Room 205 (Lecture Room), 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow viewing. If you park in either of the two Kerby lots, don't forget to register your vehicle's licence plate at the computer terminals in the building.

CALTAPEX 2016 will be held in the Kerby Centre gymnasium. Details from Walter Herdzik at 238-7845. If you park in either of the two Kerby lots, don't forget to register your vehicle's licence plate at the computer terminals in the building.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets second Wednesdays. For details, contact Dave Bartlet at 829-3580.

JUNIOR CLUB meets monthly on Saturdays. Information from Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Jim Taylor at 238-3698.