

CALGARY PHILATELIST

March 2023

Issue 200



Cheer up! Winter is almost over.

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

Articles or advertisements should be sent to the Editor, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, 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 only. Small ads and articles as hardcopy, plain text file, WordPerfect, or MS Word format only. No Apple formats such as .page can be used. Mail to Box 6830, Calgary, T2P 2E7, or hand to Dale Speirs at meetings, or email to opuntia57@yahoo.ca Please do not email other 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 can be downloaded as a free pdf from www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com

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COMMITTEES - see page 15 for list of committee chairpersons.

POSTAL HISTORY OF MOUNTAIN HOUSE - MOOSE RIDGE, ALBERTA

by Dale Speirs

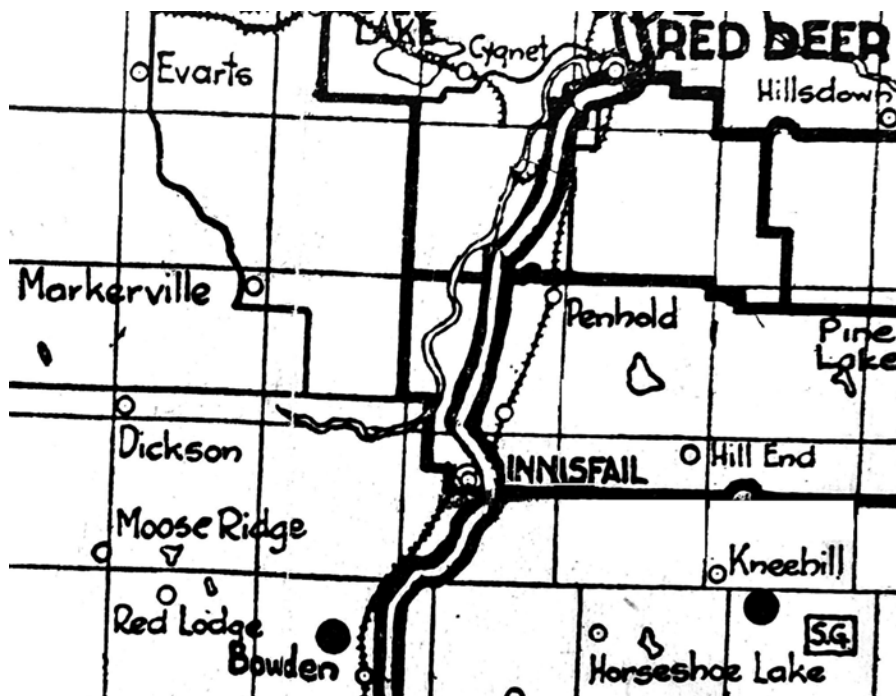
In the early 1900s as homesteaders flooded into what is now Alberta, there were no roads, just muddy trails meandering across the countryside. To travel 10 km in a day was good progress, and far less when rain turned the trail into a linear mud hole. As a consequence, most of the rural post offices were in farmhouses.

Neighbours came by to collect their letters any time of day. The post office would be a cupboard or rolltop desk with pigeonholes. Often the postmaster would spread the letters across a table on mail days for friends to sort through and pick out their own. If the post office was lucky the mail courier would come by twice a week.

Mail call was a social occasion. Local residents would arrive hours early and trade gossip while waiting for the courier. If, as often happened, the courier was late, they stayed on with patience.

An example was Mountain House, west of Bowden near Red Lodge Provincial Park. Mail service was originally from Red Lodge [3]. As more homesteaders arrived, a farmhouse post office opened. The name later changed to Moose Ridge, as seen below on a 1933 map.

Mountain House post office opened on 1905-12-15 with Augustus Caldwell as the first postmaster [2]. The proof books of postmarks do not have any strikes for Mountain House. Caldwell stayed until 1907-10-25 when he resigned and the post office moved to the Laird homestead.



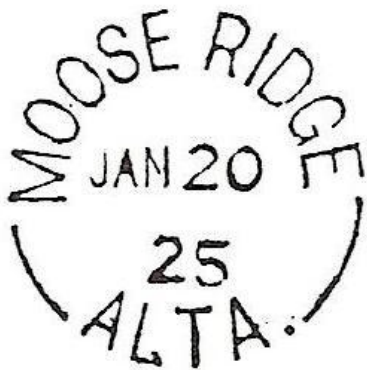
Pioneer photographer Bob Hoare took a photograph circa 1905 to 1910 of the Mountain House post office [4]. Both shacks are labeled as post offices. I'm guessing the shack on the left was the current post office at the time the photograph was taken because a buggy was backed up to it.





James Alexander Laird homesteaded in the district in 1903. His wife, parents, and two brothers accompanied him. James Laird Sr was the second postmaster for a decade until his death. On 1918-11-05 his son James Alexander took over.

The son had been Secretary-Treasurer of Poplar Grove, now Innisfail. The combination of farming, postal duties, and county administration was too much. He gave up the first two and moved into Innisfail to become a full-time administrator [3].



The third and final postmaster from 1919-05-15 was H.W. Grundy [2]. The district had become known as Moose Ridge and on 1925-03-01 he changed the name [1].

The proof strike of the postmark is shown here. Grundy retired on 1934-06-30 and the post office permanently closed.

By then good roads had done away with most farmhouse post offices. Moose Ridge post office was replaced by Rural Route #3 out of Innisfail [2]. What was once a full day's travel there and back became a 15-minute drive.

References.

- 1] Hughes, Neil (1998) ALBERTA POST OFFICES 1876-1998. Privately published by the author, Edmonton, Alberta.
- 2] National Library and Archives of Canada (downloaded 2023-01-16) Post offices and postmasters. <https://library-archives.canada.ca/eng/collection/research-help/postal-heritage/pages/post-offices-postmasters-canada.aspx> (In the search field, type RG3, then the name of the post office. RG3 is the database of post offices and postmasters.)
- 3] various authors (1973) CANDLELIGHT YEARS Published by Innisfail and District Historical Society. Page 215
- 4] Photo courtesy of Bowden Pioneer Museum, provided by Dale Lenting on 2023-02-16.

SHIPLEY PARCEL TAGS: PART 11

by Dale Speirs

[Parts 1 to 10 appeared in issues #152 to 155, 158, 161, 163, 167, 184, and 185.]

Stamps: Straight-Edge Varieties.

I did not check any of the stamps for shades, perforation varieties other than straight edges, ultraviolet reaction, paper type, or engraving variations such as retouches or line breaks. Only what was immediately obvious to the eye without a magnifying glass or some instrument was segregated, such as straight edges or strongly off-center stamps..

The QE2 Wilding stamps were produced as regular sheets with selvedge, coils, two-rowed booklet panes, and Cello-Paq miniature sheets. If the stamps on a Shipley tag had a straight edge, I was often able to tell which format it came from. I did not find any coils.

A block of 5-cents Wildings is shown at the top of the next page, mailed from Turner Valley in the early 1960s. The block has straight edges along the bottom and right side, but the top side is perforated. Therefore it came from a Cello-Paq. If it was from a sheet, it would have selvedge, and if from a booklet, the top edge would be straight as well.

The middle illustration is a strip of four 2-cents Wildings that could only have come from a Cello-Paq. The stamps are straight-edged along the bottom, and the righthand stamp is straight-edged on the side.

The bottom tag has two singles from a Cello-Paq, mailed from Eckville in 1962. The lefthand stamp is straight-edged on its top and left sides, only possible if it came from a Cello-Paq miniature sheet. The righthand stamp is straight-edged along its top. That configuration is possible with a booklet stamp, but it is improbable that the sender tore a stamp of a Cello-Paq sheet, but then got out a booklet for the second stamp.



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ECKVILLE JEWELERS.
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The tag stamps at left (graphically cropped) are an L-shaped piece of 5-cents booklet stamps with a 1-cent sheet stamp added to make up the postage.

The three 5-cents stamps are still connected, not merely placed together. The top and bottom of the piece are straight-edged, but the sides are perforated, which is possible only in a booklet.

Stamps: Off-Centre Oddities.

Canada Post specified standards in its stamp printing contracts for allowable variations in the production of the stamps.

Major printing errors were not condoned, but items that didn't affect the usability of the stamps were ignored.

I found about a dozen Karsh and Wilding QE2 stamps that were noticeably off-centre but still okay for selling across the post office counter. These are not errors. Minor faults such as these are at best oddities and command no premium in the marketplace. The off-centres shown here are all graphically cropped from the tag scans.

The tag at right has a reasonably spaced 3-cents Wilding and a 4-cents Wilding with an obvious downward shift.

The Eckville roller cancel is undated, but the tag has a 1958 printer's job order number on the other side.





The tag at left was mailed from Gleichen in 1956.

All three Karsh stamps have the same off-centre shift, indicating that they came from one sheet.



This tag came from Bellevue. The printer's job number on the other side was 1955.

The shifts in the stamps are different than the Gleichen stamps, indicating that off-centres were an ongoing product of the printing press.

[to be continued]

SPRING STAMP BOURSE 2023

by Walter Herdzik

herdzikw@shaw.ca or (403) 238-7845

The Spring Bourse will be held April 15 and 16, Saturday and Sunday, at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, in the main floor gymnasium. There will be display exhibits on a non-competitive and non-judged basis. This is to provide the public and philatelists of various levels to view what other philatelists are doing with their material. Exhibit frames are limited to one frame holding sixteen 8.5 x 11 pages in four horizontal rows of four pages each.

The display exhibits are not judged by a panel of judges, but attendees at the bourse can vote using a Peoples' Choice ballot for what they like best. Entry forms must be received no later than April 12 to the 2023 Exhibits Committee, c/o CPS, Box 1478, Calgary T2P 2L6, or herdzikw@shaw.ca

Setup will be from 09h00 to 10h00 on Saturday, April 15. Takedown at 15h00 on Sunday, April 16. Friday, April 14, evening set-up is NOT available. Collectors who have never exhibited are encouraged to participate with any topic. This entry is open to CPS members and non-CPS members alike.

SPRING BOURSE AUCTION

by Jim Senecal

jsenecal@telusplanet.net or (403) 547-7681

There will be an auction on Sunday, April 16, at 16h00 at the Kerby Centre. Viewing will be from 15h00 to 16h00. Individual members may consign up to 10 lots. Sellers may present these lots as of 14h30. Registration for bidding will be from 14h30 until 16h00.



BNAPS

The Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society held its regular monthly meeting on February 8 via Zoom. Dave Bartlet was the host and there were 18 participants. The meeting began with a review of forthcoming stamp shows in Canada and then moved to the theme of aerophilately.

Dale Speirs began by showing Alberta pictorial postmarks and illustrated permits relating to aircraft in this province. Ray Villeneuve then showed early airmail special delivery covers from 1928 to the 1940s. Herb Robertson displayed aircraft on stamps.

Dave Piercey presented Little Norway covers and stamps used in Ontario during WW2 by exiled Norwegian forces. He also showed military covers used in Alberta at airbases in Calgary, Vulcan, and Penhold. Dave Freeman showed airmail covers from the Calgary Stampede. Yet another Dave, Bartlet by name, showed early airmails from 1918 to 1930s.

Doug Lingard showed a strange cover that was sent from the 1939 Royal Train to England by airmail and then bounced back to Canada. Arnie Janson presented varieties on Canadian airmail stamps as well as various covers. Mark Oakley finished up the evening by showing a 1938 cacheted airmail cover from Lt. Oakley Kelly to famed aviator Eddie Richenbacher.

CAPE

The Calgary Association of Philatelic Exhibitors held its monthly meeting via Zoom with Dave Russum moderating and 10 participants. Dave began by reviewing forthcoming stamp shows in Canada.

Some members will be car pooling to the Edmonton show March 25 and 26. If you are interested in going and want to split gas money with someone, check with a CAPE member.

Dave Russum mentioned how exhibiting is changing. Examples include virtual exhibits, one-frame and one-page exhibits, frequent use of 11x17 pages, and acceptance of postcards and cinderellas.

Jim Taylor gave a presentation on the Marianne de Gandon stamps of postwar France, with sidelights about how such an exhibit would have been judged back when and nowadays. The standards of judging have shifted since the 1950s from rarity and price of the stamps to how well an exhibit tells a story.

Murray Bialek discussed the possibility that CALTAPEX, normally a regional level show, might become a national level show in alternate years.

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These ads are free to paid-up CPS members. Mail your ads to Dale Speirs, Box 6830, Calgary, Alberta, T2P 2E7, or email to opuntia57@yahoo.ca. Unless stated otherwise, telephone numbers are area code 403. Alberta is on Mountain Time.

WANTED: I am using Peter Spencer's books concerning the 5-cent Numeral issue. I would like to purchase used copies of the 5-cent Numeral issue. Send me an email with what you have to offer and an asking price. Alain Gauthier at ag250649@yahoo.ca

FOR SALE: Australia used. Jim Heather 430 Centre Street, Vulcan, Alberta T0L 2B0 or jheath01@telus.net

FOR SALE: Danish West Indies. Call Henning at 271-2596

WANTED: Helper to prepare eBay listings for stamp store. Contact Philip Wolf at 264-1551 or selstamp@telus.net

WANTED: "A Beginner's Stamp Album" with letters in a black frame on a blue background. Produced by Hilroy 1960s. Call Milton at 403-797-6644.

WANTED: Calgary Stampede covers, letterhead and collections. Please contact Dave Freeman at 403-281-0500 or email at dfreeman@latitude.ca

WANTED: Italian or French colonies pre-independence, Western Europe pre-1940, British colonies pre-QE2, Australian States. Call Jim Senecal at 547-7681.

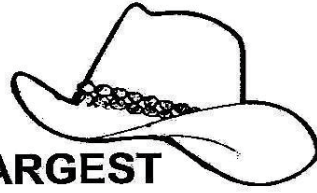
WANTED: Canadian perfin covers and Canadian military covers and postcards. Contact Jon Johnson at 253-8411 or jcjperfins@hotmail.com

FOR SALE: Current Canadian stamps, very fine used. Contact Michael Teekens, 912 Olympia Crescent SE, Calgary, T2C 1G7, or michateekens@gmail.com

ZOOM MEETINGS

Zoom software is free and can be viewed on laptops, smartphones, or tablets, regardless of operating system. It is best to view the meeting on Wifi. If you use your data allowance, a typical meeting consumes about 200 megabytes per half-hour. For technical assistance, please contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

If you have not been taking part in Zoom meetings, email Dave so that he can put you on the mailing list. A day or two before the meeting, you will receive an email containing a link to the meeting. About five minutes before the meeting, click on the link and Zoom will automatically connect you.



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CLUB NEWS

The February bulletin was mailed on February 6 from the Shawnessy Shoppers Drug Mart, using the Canadians In Flight (Series 2) stamps.

At the March 1 general meeting, the President's Pot was presented to Ray Villeneuve for his past work on shows. Ray then presented a talk on Canada and the United Nations, showing UN stamps designed by Canadians and related stamps and covers.

CIRCUIT BOOKS

The April Spring Bourse is fast approaching. Larry Tweedale will have the circuit books there, which will present them to non-club members and outlanders. If you want to sell your duplicates to a greater audience, now is the time to mount them in blank books. The books cost \$1 each and can be had from Larry. Contact him at (403) 282-9726.

CPS HISTORY

A reminder that a history of organized philately in Calgary for the past century is available from www.calgaryphilatelicsociety.com as a free pdf to anyone, not just CPS members. Look for the link that says "Club History" .

This 222-page book was written by Dale Speirs and covers the period from 1922 to 2022. If you downloaded the previous version, please be aware that this new edition was substantially updated.

COMMITTEES

Archives	Dale Speirs	opuntia57@yahoo.ca
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- 3 rd Wednesday	Jim Senecal	547-7681
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Life Members	Janice Brookes	251-1769
Membership	Murray Bialek	241-2006
Programmes	Dave Russum	284-4775
Show Committee	Walter Herdzik	238-7845
Webmaster	Dave Bartlet	dave.bartlet@shaw.ca

MEETINGS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

2023

March	8	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15	Auction - Kerby Centre
	22	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
April	5	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	5	Deadline for April bulletin
	12	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	15 to 16	Spring Bourse - Kerby Centre
	19	Auction - Kerby Centre
	26	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
May	3	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	3	Deadline for May bulletin
	10	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	17	Auction - Kerby Centre
	24	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
June	7	General meeting - Kerby Centre
	7	Deadline for June bulletin
	14	BNAPS Regional Group meeting - via Zoom
	21	Auction - Kerby Centre
	28	CAPE meeting - via Zoom
July	5	Deadline for July bulletin
August	2	Deadline for August bulletin

Vehicles in both Kerby parking 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 clamped or towed.

Meetings and **Auctions** are at the Kerby Centre, 1133 - 7 Avenue SW, Room 205 (Lecture Room), at 19h30. Auction lots should be in before 19h30 to allow viewing.

BNAPS (Calgary Regional Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) meets via Zoom on second Wednesdays. Contact Dave Bartlet at dave.bartlet@shaw.ca.

CAPE (Calgary Association Of Philatelic Exhibitors) meets via Zoom on fourth Wednesdays. For details, contact Dave Russum at russumd@telusplanet.net

Junior Club meetings information from Jim Senecal at 403-547-7681.