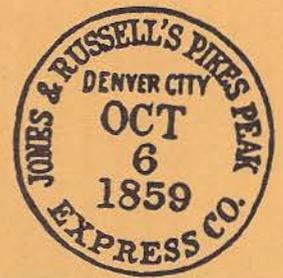


Western Express

News-Letter of the Western Cover Society



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This issue consists *
of 19 pages *
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* Vol. VII No. 4 *
* OCTOBER 1957 *
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PLEASE ADDRESS all communications intended for WESTERN EXPRESS to the Editor, M. C. Nathan, 15 Manderly Road, San Rafael, Calif. But note that advertising copy and payment therefor, should be sent to Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Ave., Berkeley 5, Calif., and inquiries regarding membership should be sent to Dr. Sheldon H. Goodman 323 Geary St., San Francisco 2, Calif.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings and salutations! This has been a very hectic summer for me, with one death and one marriage in the family. So please forgive the fact that I accomplished little for the Society. One or two matters have come up which require action on the part of the membership, as more fully covered below:

First is the matter of dues, which is closely tied in with the new format of "WESTERN EXPRESS". Mel Nathan has done a beautiful job; and WE is decidedly more pleasing to the eye than it used to be. But that change has resulted in a substantial increase in cost, which in turn necessitates higher dues. Hence you are being asked to vote upon an increase from \$5 to \$6 per annum, effective January 1, 1958. In connection therewith, please also consider the following items.

As regards cost of printing WE, I refer you to the January 1957 issue, page 19 -- publication expense \$667 for 1956. That covered 4 issues which averaged about 17 printed pages plus two photo pages, with each issue costing \$167 on average. By way of comparison, the first 3 issues of 1957 averaged about 21 printed pages plus 2 photo pages, with each issue costing \$259.44 on average. Admittedly, some of the printed pages contained cuts, which are not counted as photo pages; but even so, that's a substantial difference. We should also bear in mind the possibility of reducing some of the present printing costs to some extent, without appreciably affecting WE's appearance.

Now before you cast your vote, there is one more matter to consider -- incorporating the Society. For some time, several of us have thought it would be best to incorporate in order to reduce certain risks. I'm not a lawyer, so I don't know all the legal ins and outs -- but if you want a rough idea, just ask any good insurance man the difference in risks between an informal society and a corporation. So I have asked our fellow member, Earl Oakley's opinion. Earl says the cost might run to \$25, and that he will donate his services free.

Assuming WCS incorporates, our next step is to request a ruling from the Director of Internal Revenue to the effect that we are a non-profit educational organization, and that the dues we pay are deductible for income tax purposes. While I feel confident that we can secure such a ruling, there is no way of guaranteeing such an outcome at this stage of the game. But if we are fortunate in that respect, then our dues are automatically reduced by the tax saving involved.

In conclusion, I urge each one of you to vote FOR the increase in dues to \$6, and to vote FOR the incorporation of Western Cover Society. Hope you all had a nice summer. Hasta la vista!

Henry H. Clifford

Editor's comments: See Editor's Corner for explanation of his costs.

THE EDITOR'S CORNER

When I was drafted as your editor last fall, as a result of a lack of volunteers, I told you that this was my first attempt at editing. I accepted the job with the understanding that I would do my utmost to make our magazine appealing to all of the members. Your enthusiastic replies to the questionnaire and your many subsequent letters of approval indicated that I have been working in the right direction. However, there have been a few comments that publication is costing too much and that we should cut down to stay within our means. And right here, before controversy becomes widespread, I want to set the record straight.

When I took over, I started from scratch - no addressograph plates, not enough paper for even one single issue, no envelopes - yea, "no nothing". I also discovered that I was not only editor but publisher as well. I took up the matter with my printer who has had much experience in this type of work and arranged to have him take complete charge of publication so I could devote my spare time to writing and editing. I am sure you will agree that this was both a practical and sensible approach.

Now a relatively minor, but friendly, controversy over cost of publication has arisen. Out of the \$902.78 spent for the first three issues of WESTERN EXPRESS, \$124.46 was non-recurring. This latter amount was for addressograph plates, master sheets for four years and envelopes. This left a balance of \$778.32 as the representative cost of the three issues, or \$259.44 per issue. On January 1, 1957 our treasurer reported a balance on hand in the treasury of \$1,041.96 before payment of 1957 dues. Our operating expenses are well under \$200 per year. We have no paid employees. So what better can we do with this money than spend it gradually on a better magazine that reaches all of the members and through its medium gives them a contact with the Society they could not have otherwise on account of widespread residence.

True enough, the treasury will be gradually depleted at the present rate of income. There are several alternatives to prevent this. Either dues should be raised to meet increased costs, the quality of the magazine reduced, or a drive made for more members. I judge from the many letters I have received that the vast majority do not want quality reduced. As a matter of fact, I would be reluctant to serve under such circumstances. I would, however, have no objection to confining my activities to writing and editing and leave the publishing to someone else who could shop around and attend to all the details. I doubt that such a person is available among the membership. A dollar per year increase in dues, therefore, seems to be the only solution.

We should go forward, not backward!

NOTICE

There is enclosed with this issue a return postcard - please vote and return the card promptly so we can be guided as to your wishes.

WESTERN COVER SOCIETY MEETINGS

In keeping with our constitution and by-laws, meetings were held, with several resolutions and recommendations being adopted.

August 10, 1957, Leamington Hotel, Oakland, California.

Edgar B. Jessup, Vice-President, presided in the absence of President Clifford. There were 36 members in attendance, including directors Jessup, Johnson, Chaloner and Goodman. Results were as follows:

1. The directors' recent decision to abolish a free list to others than the Library of Congress, the National Philatelic Museum, The Philatelic Foundation and the Iowa Historical Society (on exchange basis), was reconsidered by those present. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that the directors' action be approved. There were only two dissenting votes.
2. A committee, composed of Tracy Simpson, Chairman, Robert A. Hanson and Dr. W. Scott Polland, was appointed by Mr. Jessup to see what could be worked out to publish Walter Frickstad's and E.W. Thrall's compilation of Nevada postoffices. A report will be made at a later date.

August 18, 1957, Convention Hall, Long Beach, California.

Henry H. Clifford, President, presided. There were 21 members present, including directors Clifford, Jessup, Chaloner and Goodman. Results were as follows:

1. The matter of the Society's finances were discussed. In order to remain solvent and keep the present standard of WESTERN EXPRESS, it was recommended unanimously by those present that dues be increased from \$5 to \$6 per year, and back issues be increased to \$1.50 each. It was regularly moved, seconded and carried that our membership should be circularized and if a majority agree, the new rates will be adopted.
2. It was also suggested that a study be made of advertising set-up and rates in WESTERN EXPRESS. This will be given diligent consideration by the directors.
3. President Clifford and Earl Oakley (attorney) agreed to meet in the near future to look into the advisability of incorporating the Society.

Oakland 8, Calif.

hydraulic mining in 1855, its sole industrial support was gone; and practically deserted, it fell an easy prey to forest fires, so that its obliteration became complete.

But at least we have those well-known covers that are always sought after, partly because of its unusual euphonious name.

—ERNEST A. WILTSEE.

GHOST TOWNS

YANKEE JIMS

AFTER the discovery of gold, as the miners pushed higher up from the original camps near the valleys, the rich and extensive gravels of the high Forest Hill Divide, between the middle and

Yankee Jims is celebrated in the mining industry as the camp in which was invented the process of mining gravel by throwing a stream of water under pressure against a bank, which in its development was

afterward termed "Hydraulic mining." Some labor saving individual, weary of exhausting work with pick and shovel, conceived the idea of using a hose with a nozzle attached to give it force, to undercut the bank. This led ultimately to the Giant "Monitors"

which threw a six-inch stream under three feet head, and moved as high as three thousand cubic yards of gravel per day.

The camp grew and thrived. In 1857 a weekly newspaper flourished, the "Placer Courier," whose files are now entirely lost.

Its gravels were rich but somewhat limited. So Forest Hill gradually asserted its supremacy over the region. After the suspension of



The Well-Curb stands at the intersection of the former two main streets.

north forks of the American River in Placer County were soon discovered, and several prominent camps arose. Among these were Birds Valley, Michigan Bluff, Yankee Jims, Sarahsville (later Bath) and Forest Hill. With Todds Valley and its valuable meadows as a base camp nearby.

But in 1852, Yankee Jims easily led the rest. Now entirely "ghost" with not one human habitation, no one would realize that the meadows to which it has returned, were covered by one of the most active and prosperous camps in the foothills. Nothing remains but a well-curb, over the old well that served the camp, at the intersection of the two main streets. No brick store remains to mark the spot where once a city stood.

"Yankee Jim" was a celebrated horse thief who rendezvoused here in 1849 just before the discoveries of rich placers made it a pulsing hive of mining industry. An excellent lithograph exists of Yankee Jims, made by Kuchel in 1856. It shows the camp in a large central view with details of the principal stores and hotels around it.

Editorial Comment:

Here is a region of wild, rugged mountain ridges and yawning canyons -- "Shirt-Tail Canyon" and its branches, Brimstone Canyon, Brushy Canyon, Grizzly Canyon, Refuge Canyon and Devil's Canyon -- the very names are significant of their wilderness. Yankee Jim's with its sister camps were all built in a region crossed by the famous "Blue Lead Channel", the gravel bed of an ancient river, which was fabulously rich in gold. The miners of these towns washed out many millions of dollars in gold bullion but as the gold petered out the old towns were forsaken and slowly crumbled to ruin.

The two covers on the next page originated in Yankee Jim's at the height of the glory of that great camp.

One (Fig. I) undoubtedly went by the regular ocean mail via Panama about 1856. It bears a beautiful specimen of the 10¢ Type III, 1855 issue, and the customary clear impression of the postmark.

The other cover (Fig. II) carried out of Yankee Jim's by private post -- Wells Fargo & Co. -- indicates a hidden story to us. It was brought down out of the high Sierra from Yankee Jim's by Wells Fargo Express and undoubtedly delivered to the Daily Overland Mail which had just been inaugurated July 1, 1861. It contained a letter dated December 1861 and reached Atchison on the 14th of January 1862. This trip was made in the dead of winter over a freshly built mountain road. It was an extremely stormy winter described in the January 1862 issue of the Alta Calif. "the most severe in a decade." During 1861 and 1862 the great daily overland mail was the outstanding stage-coach service to the west. Financially the picture was quite the reverse. In May and June of 1861 Russell,

California Stage Company.

Office at the Orleans Hotel, Sacramento.

 STAGES leave regularly for the following places: Nevada, Ophir, Auburn, Yankee Jim's, Georgetown, Placerville, Mormon Island, Coloma, Drytown, Jackson, Mokelumne Hill, Stockton, Sonora, Marysville and Shasta, and all parts of the Northern and Southern Mines, every morning, as follows:

Nevada and intermediate places, at 5½ o'clock A. M.

Georgetown " " 6 " "

All other places 6½ " "

Accommodation line for Mormon Island, 1½ o'clock P. M.

All passengers will be called for at their residences, and the utmost attention and care paid to them and their baggage.

Stages arrive in time every day for the San Francisco boats.

JAS. HAWORTH, President C. S. Co.

J. P. DEIGHAN, Secretary.

v3-4tf

Above notice describing mail service to Yankee Jim's taken from the California Farmer (S. F.) March 8, 1855. This is the stage line that brought Fig. I cover out of Yankee Jim's.

Majors and Waddell had begun to borrow money from Ben Holladay to secure better equipment. On July 5, the directors ordered a mortgage placed upon the entire line and its equipment. Ben Holladay continued to advance loans as the line was not making expenses. On November 21 the firm executed a deed of trust for payment of four hundred thousand dollars. In December an attempt was made to sell all the property of the COC & PP Co. Creditors attempted to secure an injunction but a Kansas Circuit Court judge ordered a delay in the date of sale. Coaches were running as usual in January 1862 regardless of the severe winter. However, in February, less than a month after this letter was carried, the stage line was again advertised for sale at Atchison and the auction was held on March 21. Ben Holladay, the Stage Coach King, acquired the line by qualifying as the highest bidder.

Fig. I

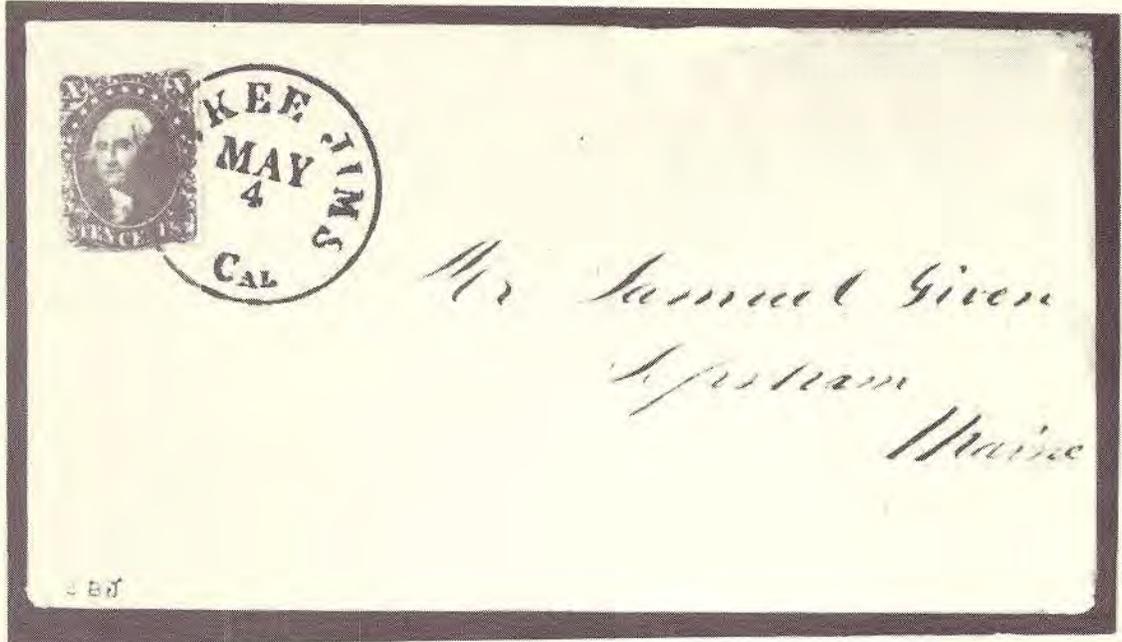


Fig. II



Was this cover carried all the way from Yankee Jim's in the Mother Lode country, bypassing all the post offices en route, and first placed in the U. S. Mails at the Atchison, Kansas, Post Office?

WILLIAM T. GIBBS
MINER - MERCHANT - POSTMASTER - EXPRESSMAN - POLITICIAN

By M. C. Nathan

In my continuous search for more information on the pioneer expressman, who so courageously braved weather and other hardships to deliver mail to the miners during the gold rush, I motored up to the quaint little town of Georgetown last Spring. Georgetown is located in El Dorado County in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains of California. In making inquiries amongst the townspeople, I was directed to the residence and office of the local Justice of the Peace, Mrs. Amy Drysdale. Here I had the honor and privilege of becoming acquainted with a most interesting and vivacious lady of very high intelligence. On explaining my mission, she most generously offered to supply me with any information that would be helpful to my research. I soon found out that she had a complete file of the Georgetown Gazette during the time her grandfather, H. W. Hulbert, was editor. Owing to the fragile condition of the papers, Mrs. Drysdale was rightfully reluctant to have anyone handle them for fear they would become torn or disintegrate. However, she did bring out the notes she personally had made from the files of newspapers and offered to let me take them with me for study at my leisure and then return them to her. I took advantage of her gracious offer and from these notes I was able to glean most interesting data on one of our previously little known pioneer expressmen.

In carefully going over the notes, there were many pages devoted to William T. Gibbs. On closer examination, I found that these were his personal "Recollections of Georgetown and Vicinity from 1850 to 1879", written in 1903 at the age of seventy-four, especially for his friend Mr. Hulbert of the Georgetown Gazette. It is from this first hand authority that we now know more about this unusual man. Space does not permit giving all of the interesting details of his experiences, so I will touch only on the highlights of his mining days career.

In order to fully appreciate the nature of the country in which Gibbs lived and worked for many years, it would not be amiss to briefly state a few facts about Georgetown. This was and still is beautiful but rugged country. Originally called Growlersburg, it started during the gold rush in 1849 at the head of Empire Canyon. It was built of logs, shakes and canvas. The name of the town was soon changed to Georgetown, after one George Phipps, a sailor who took to mining for gold rather than sailing. By 1850 trade and travel increased and the town spread rapidly. "The sound of pick was heard in every gulch and canyon." Georgetown Divide produced \$60,000,000 in gold during the first ten years of her prosperity, from 1850 to 1860, and another \$15,000,000 from 1860 to 1880. Gibbs also states, "It was in Georgetown and vicinity that such notables as Cornelius Cole, John Conness and Leland Stanford, all later United States Senators, found that experience and competence which was the beginning of their fame". When gold petered out, Georgetown became another sleepy village, a mere reminder of the hectic rush for gold. Then too, fires in 1852, 1856, 1865 and 1879 took their toll; but each time the indomitable spirit of its citizens rebuilt and strived for better existence. Georgetown again is coming to the fore, not with finding gold as such, but getting gold for its lumber, which today is a thriving industry.

WILLIAM T. GIBBS (Continued)

William T. Gibbs arrived in Georgetown from the east, coming overland, on August 25, 1850, at just about the time that El Dorado County had been duly organized. He immediately went to Horseshoe Bar on the middle fork of the American River to mine for gold. He states there were 1500 miners there. He returned to Georgetown on September 3rd, locating in Oregon Canyon just above Sailor Slide, where he took out much gold. Among the many other places that he mined were Hudson Gulch, Georgia Slide, Red Gulch, Devine Gulch, Stud Horse Flat, Pepper Box Flat, Bottle Hill, Jones Hill, Cement Hill, Mamaluke Hill, Spanish Dry Diggins, Volcanoville, Johntown (later called Garden Valley), Alabama Flat and Dry Creek. Fascinating names with interesting histories.

Just how much gold Gibbs took out he does not say. However, in 1851 he became quite active in other pursuits. In April 1851 he was back in Georgetown where he bought out a grocery store. He was elected recorder of the district of Georgetown township and served in that capacity for many years. It was during this time that he helped organize several companies to go into mining on a bigger scale, but from his reminiscences, one would infer that many difficulties were incurred, leaving doubt as to their eventual success. Also in 1851, his was the first marriage in Georgetown. All of his children were born here and attended public schools. On October 7, 1851 a post office was established at Georgetown, with Gibbs as its first postmaster. He served in that capacity until 1853. At that time there were 600 people in Georgetown, yet only six families.

In 1852 Gibbs relates that a stage office opened in Georgetown at the boarding house. The stage left at 2 A.M. daily for Sacramento, arriving there at 2 P.M. The fare to Sacramento was \$15 plus \$1 toll for each person on the road. An additional \$20 was required to go by boat from Sacramento to San Francisco. Compare this to today's trip of from three to four hours by motor for only a nominal amount of gasoline. During this year Gibbs was made a member of the election board of the county for the presidential election in November. He also was an unsuccessful candidate for supervisor on the Whig ticket, having been defeated by the Democratic candidate. It was also on July 14, 1852 that Georgetown experienced its first fire. "The new town was built up - a new Masonic Hall, a large hotel consisting of about fifty rooms, several stores, saloons, etc. A large two story building was erected with three stores, an express and post office on the first floor and living rooms on the second." Gibbs further comments, "three days later (after the fire) I had a shanty with a post office in front."

Gibbs says very little about his express business. In speaking of rich strikes at Bottle Hill, he states, "in 1854 and 1855 the hill was a lively camp with two grocery stores, boarding house and saloons. I had in connection with Sol M. Jinerson, a branch book store and the express office. We run the express from Georgetown daily. When the eastern papers arrived they were sent to all the mines in the vicinity. Newspapers sold for 25 cents and Harpers Magazine for \$1." No mention is made for the cost of delivering the mail. It is also evident that Gibbs served the surrounding mines only as long as they were active. He was merely a feeder line for the larger expresses and the U.S. mail when the Post Office Department couldn't get postmasters to operate the offices. The rewards of mining and merchandising were far more attractive and tempting than the meager

WILLIAM T. GIBBS (Continued)

salary of a postmaster in those days. The first express to serve Georgetown from afar was Grammer's Express. Grammer picked up the mail for the miners at San Francisco post office in 1850 and carried it to Sacramento and thence to Georgetown and other large mining centers. He charged \$1 to \$2 per letter and the miners were quite happy to pay almost any price to hear news from home. After Grammer, came Hunter, Adams and later Wells Fargo.

It is further evident from Gibb's notes that he left Georgetown when mining was on the wane, probably in the early 1880's, and settled in Oakland, California. It does not appear likely that he left in prosperous circumstances, for we learn that at the time he wrote his "Recollections" he was running a news stand there. He was asked, "how is it that you have seen and handled so much gold that you have but little of this world's goods now?" He replied, "that is just what I have been trying to find out these many long years but have not been able to do so. Like thousands of others, I did the very best I know how."

And so another pioneer expressman passes into oblivion. The Gazette stated, "he will be remembered by many of the older residents of Georgetown as a man who was respected and very prominent in business, political and fraternal circles." So thanks again to that lovely lady, Mrs. Amy Drysdale, for her help in identifying this interesting character, whose express franks are relatively scarce and a pride to anyone's collection.



This interesting cover by courtesy of Edgar B. Jessup. Gibbs called at Spanish Flat but Wells Fargo did not at the time. Possibly Wells Fargo handed this cover to Gibbs at Georgetown for mailing at Spanish Flat post office. Has anyone any different ideas?

CALIFORNIA COUNTY AND/OR POSTMASTER POSTMARKSBy Hervey A. Dobson

A Checklist is herewith presented of California postmasters' postmarks known to me. It has been compiled from several sources. Only the earliest known has been listed. Please report additions, changes or corrections to H.A. Dobson, Dept. 2, 1475 Powell Street, Oakland 8, California.

<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>
Acampo, San Joaquin Co.	1886	Clements, Cal./J.R. Christy, PM	1886
Agua Caliente, Sonoma Co.	1887	Chino, San Bernardino Co.	1882
Alila, Tulare Co.	1887	Clipper Gap, Placer Co.	1886
Alleghany, Sierra Co.	1884	Clipper Mills, Butte Co.	1880
Alta, Placer Co.	1881	Coloma, El Dorado Co./J. Tracy, PM	1885
Amalie, Kern Co.	1895	Comptche, Mendocino Co.	1892
American P.O., Sonoma Co.	?	Copperopolis, Calaveras Co.	1891
Anderson, Shasta Co.	1888	Cordelia, Solano Co.	1887
Antelope, Sacramento Co.	1884	Cottonwood, Shasta Co.	1875
Aptos, Santa Cruz Co.	1886	Cuffy's Cove, Mendocino Co.	1887
Arcata, Humboldt Co.	?	Dana, Shasta Co.	1889
Avon, Butte Co.	1892	Danville, Contra Costa Co.	*1887
Baird, Shasta Co.	1880	Darwin, Inyo Co.	1880
Bakersfield, Kern Co.	1882	Davenport, Cal./W.R. Pinkham, PM	1895
Ball's Ferry, Shasta Co.	1881	Davisville, Yolo Co.	1880
Beckwith, Plumas Co.	1882	Del Mar, Cal./T. M. Loop, PM	?
Bennettville, Mono Co./Tioga Mining Dist.	1883	Deredwood, Santa Cruz Co.	1882
Bertha, Lake Co.	1881	Dobbins, Yuba Co.	1883
Bertha P.O., Lake Co.	1893	Donner, Placer Co./Jos. Goulden, PM	1881
Beswick, Siskiyou Co.	1883	Donner, Placer Co.	1887
Big Bend, Butte Co.	1887	Downieville, Sierra Co.	1882
Big Dry Creek, Fresno Co.	?	Duncan's Mills, Sonoma Co.	1882
Biggs, Butte Co.	*1886	Dunsmuir, Siskiyou Co.	1889
Biggs Station, Butte Co.	*1880	Durham, Butte Co.	1879
Brownsville, Yuba Co.	1879	Eldorado, Cal./H.F. Tracy, PM	1886
Brush Creek, Butte Co.	1888	Elk, Mendocino Co.	1890
Burson, Calaveras Co.	*1887	Elk Creek, Cal./Wm. Pyle, PM	1879
Cahto, Mendocino Co.	1881	Elk Grove, Sacramento Co.	1885
Callahan's Ranch, Siskiyou Co.	1882	Elmira, Solano Co.	1886
Camolos, Ventura Co.	1887	El Modena, Orange Co.	1889
Camp Grant, Humboldt Co.	1887	El Monte, Cal./John T. Maddox, PM	1884
Campo, San Diego Co.	1882	Eureka, Humboldt Co.	1870
Camptonville, Yuba Co.	1880	Fairfield, Solano Co.	1871
Capay, Yolo Co.	1878	Felton, Santa Cruz Co.	1889
Casper, Mendocino Co.	1880	Firebaugh, Fresno Co.	?
Cathay, Cal./J. M. Redman, PM	1889	Fisks Mill, Sonoma Co.	?
Cayton, Shasta Co.	1889	Forbestown, Butte Co.	*1884
Cazadero, Sonoma Co.	1890	Forest City, Sierra Co.	1879
Cerro Gordo, Inyo Co.	1882	Forest Hill, Placer Co.	1878
Cherokee, Butte Co.	1878	Fort Bidwell, Modoc Co.	1888

<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>
Fort Ross, Sonoma Co.	*1879	Kibesillah, Mendocino Co.	1878
Fout's Springs, Colusa Co.	1898	King City, Monterey Co.	*1890
Fowler, Fresno Co.	1885	Knights Ferry, Stanislaus Co.	1886
Fresno Flats, Fresno Co.	1880	La Canada, Los Angeles Co.	1885
Frohm, Santa Clara Co.	1891	La Grange, Stanislaus Co.	1892
Georgetown, Cal./		Lime Kiln, Tulare Co.	1885
B. F. Shepherd, P.M.	*1889	Linden, San Joaquin Co.	1896
Gibsonville, Sierra Co.	1882	Live Oak, Sutter Co.	1878
Gilta, Siskiyou Co.	1898	Loma Portal, San Diego Co.	1911
Glamis, San Diego Co.	1886	Los Banos, Merced Co.	1891
Golden Gate, Alameda Co.	1889	Los Gatos, Santa Clara Co.	1882
Gold Run, Placer Co.	1883	Lotus, Cal./G. W. Gallanas, P.M.	1882
Goleta, Santa Barbara Co.	1881	Lotus, El Dorado, Co.	1887
Goodyear's Bar, Sierra Co.	?	Lovelock, Butte Co.	1883
Grangeville, Tulare Co.	1881	Lumpkin, Butte Co.	1893
Graniteville, Nevada Co.	1883	McPherson, Los Angeles Co.	1886
Greenwich, Kern Co.	1884	Madera, Fresno Co.	1880
Greenwood, Cal./		Madison, Yolo Co.	1881
G. Winkelman, P.M.	*1886	Mark West, Sonoma Co.	1887
Gridley, Butte Co.	1879	Marysville, Yuba Co.	1885
Grimes, Cal./E. C. Peart, P.M.	1884	Matheson, Shasta Co.	1923
Guerneville, Cal./G. Dietz, P.M.	1881	Maxwell, Colusa Co.	1881
Guerneville, Sonoma County,		May, Amador Co.	1891
Cal./G. Dietz, P.M.	*1892	Maybert, Nevada Co.	*1881
Halleck, San Bernardino Co.	1883	McKinney, Lake Tahoe, Cal.	1888
Hamburgh, Siskiyou Co.	1894	Mendocino, Mendocino Co.	1883
Happy Camp, Del Norte Co.	1882	Mesa Grande, San Diego Co.	?
Happy Camp, Siskiyou Co.	1887	Milford, Cal./M. Harrison, P.M.	1878
Harrisburg, Alameda Co.	1875	Milford, Cal./S. A. Doyle, P.M.	1882
Havila, Kern Co.	1879	Mills Ferry, Shasta Co.	1879
Henley, Siskiyou Co.	1884	Millville, Shasta Co.	1884
Henleyville, Tehama Co.	?	Monalto, Ventura Co.	1896
Hermosa, Los Angeles Co.	1883	Mountain Ranch, Cal./B. Dughi, PM	1880
Hopkins, Nevada Co.	1886	Mountain Ranch PO, Calaveras Co.	1885
Howley, Siskiyou Co.	1891	Mountain House, Sierra Co.	*1879
Hurleton, Butte Co.	1884	Mountain View, Santa Clara Co.	1867
Igo, Shasta Co.	1879	Mokelumne Hill, Cal./B. Dughi, PM	?
Inglennook, H. Lockhart, P.M.	1882	Mulberry, San Benito Co.	1887
Inskip, Butte Co.	1891	Murphy, Calaveras Co.	1894
Irving, Alameda Co.	1885	Murphys, Calaveras Co.	1895
Irvington, Alameda Co.	1888	Napa Soda Springs, Napa Co.	1887
Jackson, Cal./C.M. Meek, P.M.	1879	Natoma, Sacramento Co.	1887
Jamison, Plumas Co.	1881	Navarro, Mendocino Co.	1889
Johnsville, Cal./J. H.		Nellie, San Diego Co.	1884
Fletcher, P.M.	1885	Calvin R. Clarke, P.M./Cala./	
John Adams, Butte Co.	1891	Nevada City	1888
Julian, San Diego Co.	*1888	Wallace J. Williams, P.M./Cala./	
Keeler, Inyo Co.	1885	Nevada City	1886
Kelseyville, Lake Co.	1885	Newport, Los Angeles Co.	1870
Kennett, Shasta Co.	1892	Novo, Mendocino Co.	?

<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>	<u>Place</u>	<u>Earliest Date</u>
Nuevo, San Diego Co.	1883	Suisun City, Solano County	1884
Oak Grove, San Diego Co.	1886	Summit, Plumas County	1888
Ocean View, Cal., San Francisco Co.	1882	Sumner, Kern Co.	1880
Oliphant, Placer Co.	1889	Sunol Glen, Alameda Co.	1888
Ophir, Placer Co.	1882	Susanville, Lassen Co.	1881
Oren, Fresno Co.	1901	Sutter City, Sutter Co.	1889
Orland, Colusa Co.	1879	Sweetland, Cal./J.M. Wood PM	1884
Oroville, Butte Co.	1881	Taison, San Joaquin Co.	1886
Osgood, San Diego Co.	1884	Three Rivers, Tulare Co.	1889
Palermo, Butte Co.	1890	Todd, Placer Co.	1888
Palo Cedro, Shasta Co.	1893	Topaz, Cal., Mono Co.	1893
Pasadena, Los Angeles Co.	1880	Towle, Placer Co.	1893
Petaluma, Sonoma Co., Cal. Reg B	1883	Traver, Tulare Co.	1884
Petaluma, Cal./A. Morse, P.M.	1881	Tremont, Solano Co.	1890
Pino, Placer Co.	1885	Turlock, Stanislaus Co./ G.F.	
Pinole, Contra Costa Co.	1882	Lander, P.M.	1884
Plainsburg, Merced Co.	1882	Turlock, Stanislaus Co.	1888
Porterville, Tulare Co.	1880	University, Los Angeles Co.	1887
Port Kenyon, Humboldt Co.	1887	Upper Lake, Lake Co.	1889
Port Wine, Sierra Co.	*1880	Vallejo, Cal./J. Wright, P.M.	1880
Prattville, Plumas Co.	1880	Valley Springs, Cal./A. Sinks, P.M.	1882
Raymond, Fresno Co.	1890	Verdugo, Los Angeles Co.	1887
Redding, Shasta Co.	*1886	Visalia, Tulare Co.	1878
Roberts, Shasta Co.	1885	Volcano, Amador Co.	1880
Rohnerville, Cal., Humboldt Co.	1879	Walkers Landing, Sacramento	
Round Top, Amador Co.	1885	Co. & P.M.	1877
Routiers Sta., Sacramento Co.	1886	Walnut Grove, Sacramento Co.	1884
St. Louis, Sierra Co.	1894	Warren, San Diego Co.	1886
Salida, Stanislaus Co.	1881	Weimar, Placer Co.	1888
San Fernando, Los Angeles Co.	1885	Weldon, Kern Co.	?
Sanger, Fresno Co.	1891	Westminster, Los Angeles Co.	1879
Santa Anita, Cal./C. Anderson PM	1897	Wheatland, Yuba Co.	*1868
Sawyer's Bar, Siskiyou Co.	1889	Whitesboro, Mendocino Co.	1882
Scales, Sierra Co.	1890	Willows, Colusa Co.	*1879
Scott River, Siskiyou Co.	1888	Woodbridge, Cal./James S.	
Sea View, Sonoma Co.	1887	Gerard, P.M.	1880
Selby, Contra Costa Co.	1887	Wyandotte, Butte Co.	1880
Sheep Ranch, Cal./Joseph		Yountville, Napa Co.	1881
Raggio, P.M.	1881		
Sierra City, Sierra Co.	1879		
Sierra Madre, Los Angeles	1886		
Sierra Valley, Sierra Co.	1881		
Smartsville, Yuba Co.	1880		
South Butte, Sutter Co.	1887		
State Prison, Sacramento Co.	1888		
Stella, Shasta Co.	1885		
Strawberry Valley, Yuba Co.	*1865		
Sturgeon, Merced Co.	1889		

* Postmark exists in two or more types.

CALIFORNIA R.F.D. CANCELLATIONS ON COVER

By Hervey A. Dobson

Acampo
 Anaheim
 Auburn*
 Campbell*
 Carpenteria
 Chico
 Chino
 Cupertino^o
 Dos Palos
 Edenvale
 El Monte
 Escondido
 Folsom
 Fort Jones
 Fresno
 Fullerton
 Galt
 Gilroy
 Halfmoon Bay
 Haywards
 Healdsburg
 Hollywood
 Lathrop
 Laton
 Lodi*
 Loomis
 Los Gatos
 Martinez
 Merced
 Mokelumne Hill
 Mountain View*
 Napa
 Newcastle
 Norwalk

Oleander
 Palms
 Penryn
 Redlands
 Redwood City
 Riverside
 Sacramento
 San Jacinto
 San Jose
 San Leandro
 Santa Barbara*
 Santa Cruz
 Santa Maria
 Santa Paula
 Santa Rosa (on piece)
 Saratoga
 Sebastopol
 Stockton
 Suisun City
 Sunnyvale
 Upland
 Visalia

* - Have been seen in two types.

^o - Also seen without "R.F.D."

All towns listed are of the standard straight-line type of cancellation.

Editor's Note: Sharing knowledge with your fellow collectors is the most important contribution to the successful progress of WESTERN EXPRESS. When a non-member of our Society is so interested in our field of endeavor to contribute some of his research, we are both grateful and complimented. It is my pleasure and privilege to know Mr. Dobson. He is a collector of California town covers, a keen student of his hobby and a fine gentleman. We would be further complimented by having him as a member.

AUCTION ACTION

By James E. Berry

As most of you may know, there was more than somewhat of a scarcity of Western Covers up for auction these past few months so you will find that our listings are a little like Mother Hubbard's famous cupboard. Of course, there are some dealers who let us down every now and then and there are some who ignore us altogether. As a matter of fact, most of the dealers whose names you see mentioned throughout this and earlier listings are either dealers who sell me an item every now and then or dealers who had my patronage in the past. All of which underlines one important fact, i. e., for the price of a little old postal card you can help this column continue and to expand. If YOU know of an auction with some nice western material in it just drop the dealer a card and tell him what you want, why you want it and where to send it. And for those of you who may have forgotten, my name is Jim Berry, I live at 1921 Franklin Ave., Las Vegas, Nevada, and I need auction catalogues and their price lists!!

B. EXPRESS OTHER THAN W.F. & CO.

1. THE CENTRAL OVERLAND CALIFORNIA & PIKES PEAK EXPRESS CO., ST. JOSEPH, MO., DEC. 18, hndstmp on F cvr #26 with PACIFIC CITY, IOA. pmk. Addressed to Mountain City, K.T. H.R. Harmer 7/57 \$160.00.
2. TRACY & CO. EXPRESS in poor oval hndstmp with blk PAID/TRACY & CO. OREGON EXPRESS frank in UL on VF #65. Harmer, Rooke 6/57 \$92.50.

C. TERRITORIAL POST OFFICE COVERS.

1. LEAVENWORTH CITY, MAY 21, 1859, K.T. a VF pmk on a F cvr with a good #25. H.R. Harmer 7/57 \$12.00.
2. COLORADO CITY, K.T. on F cvr. #65. H.R. Harmer 6/57 \$21.00.
3. FORT YATES, DAKOTA, 1880 in blue dbl circ on F 3¢ green stamp. Paige 6/57 \$11.00.
4. PEMBROKE, DAK., 1886 in blk octagon on VF #209 & 210. Paige 6/57 \$12.50.
5. CAMP SUPPLY, IND. TER. in blue dbl circ on VF 3¢ green stmp. Paige 6/57 \$25.00.
6. FORT RENO, IND. T. in blk circ on VF 3¢ green stamp. Paige 6/57 \$17.50.
7. FORT KEOGH, MONT., 1882 in blk dbl circ on VF 3¢ green. Paige 6/57 \$16.00.
8. FORT KEOGH, MONTANA, 1883 in blk box on VF 3¢ env. Paige 6/57 \$11.50.
9. CHEYENNE, WYO. pmk on F 3¢ green with square and compass hndstmp. Paige 6/57 \$25.50.

D. NON-TERRITORIAL POST OFFICE COVERS.

1. SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. on VF #11 with blue shield corner card W.F. & Co. H.R. Harmer 6/57 \$26.00.
2. CONSULATE USA ACAPULCO in blue dbl circ hndstmp on faulty U10 with W.F. & Co. typ 5 frank. Addressed to Peekskill, N.Y. with mss VIA ACAPULCO. Tied by N.Y. STEAMSHIP. H.R. Harmer 6/57 \$75.00.
3. GOODTHUNDER, MINN. pmk with blue INDIAN OFFICE HNDSTMP on F cvr. #147 & 163. Harmer, Rooke 6/57 \$30.00.
4. WELLINGTON, LYON CO., NEV. in blue st. line pmk (3 lines) 1903 date. Harry Gray 8/57 \$22.00.

ADDENDA...Harmer, Rooke had in their June '57 sale some ten or twelve stampless covers from Hawaii with various markings and the average price was a little over \$20.00, with a high of \$37.00 going for one with a Spencer-Forwarding handstamp. Personally I do not collect Hawaii although most anything in the philatelic or postal history line does interest me. Once I had a fair sort of a stampless collection going, so anything in that field catches my eye, and I am wondering if anyone would care to venture an opinion as to whether or not they want Hawaii material listed in this column. Again, a postal card to me or Mel Nathan will get you results.

SOCIETY OF PHILATELIC AMERICAN NATIONAL CONVENTIONLONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA, AUGUST 15 - 18, 1957

From reports by Dr. Sheldon Goodman, Henry Chaloner and Robert Myerson

Due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Emily Moorefield, General Chairman, the annual convention of the Society of Philatelic Americans was a huge success. It was through her efforts too that "Western Covers" were, for the first time at a National show, given a breakdown in classification, with awards in each class. The Western Cover Society is very grateful for the recognition of this important type of philately and we hope it will encourage more of our members to show their interesting collections. A move is on foot now to have the American Philatelic Society, of which we are a unit, follow suit.

The following members of Western Cover Society were in attendance at the Convention:

Henry H. Clifford	Harry Gray
Edgar B. Jessup	G. N. Ponnay
Henry Chaloner	Robert A. Hanson
Dr. Sheldon Goodman	S. L. Herbruck
Dr. W. Scott Polland	Luther Little
Joseph M. Clary	Ernest G. Meyers
William R. Parker	Earl Oakley
William C. Aichele	Edwin R. Payne
G. M. Hackett	J. R. Pemberton
Marden F. Ross	Theodore Reinhardt
Jack R. Hughes	E. W. Thrall
Leo C. Trueblood	Barrett S. Hindes
Elmer T. Tvedt	Robert Myerson
Robert W. Baughman	

Section C. Western Covers - Awards were as follows:

Class 1.	Express	- Gold Medal	- G. M. Hackett
		- Silver "	- Henry Chaloner
		- Bronze "	- Dr. Sheldon Goodman
Class 2.	Towns	- Gold Medal	- Robert A. Hanson
		- Silver "	- Mrs. Ruth Goodman
		- Bronze "	- Nat Levy
Class 3.	Territorials	- Gold Medal	- Duane C. Rosselot
		- Silver "	- Edwin R. Payne
		- Bronze "	- Joseph M. Clary

QUESTIONS - WHO HAS THE ANSWERS?

Editor's Note: Since inaugurating a "Question and Answer" section of WESTERN EXPRESS, I have been able to supply the answers from local sources. I am now confronted with some questions and have had several conflicting opinions thereon. So please give me the answers if you can and we will publish them.

From member Robert D. Haines comes the following:

"Recently there came into my possession a rather mysteriously worded printed notice of Wells, Fargo & Co. Printed on a slip of paper 4-1/2 by 3 inches, the complete text reads:

Office of
WELLS, FARGO & Co.
San Francisco, Sept. 15, 1864.

"To our Agents:

Purchase from Post Office all three cent Government envelopes you can get and send them to this office, "ADVANCED CHARGES," to Zander. Pay in Legal Tender Notes-Gold if necessary.

GET THEM sure and quietly.

WELLS, FARGO & CO."

No one seems to have any information as to why the hush-hush business, why the "sure and quietly". If Wells, Fargo had heard rumors of a raise in postage rates and such a raise went through the old envelopes would be of no use. Were they running short of printed franks and wanted to assure themselves of an adequate supply of envelopes to frank? Has anyone seen a duplicate of this notice, or have any information concerning it?"

Members Basil C. Pearce and Edgar B. Jessup ask a question on page 6 of this issue.

Was this cover (Fig II) carried all the way from Yankee Jim's in the Mother Lode Country, bypassing all the post offices enroute, and first placed in the U.S. mails at the Atchison, Kansas, post office?

Member Edgar B. Jessup would like to have more ideas on how his cover illustrated on page 9 was routed. Where did it originate? Why wasn't it mailed at Georgetown? Did the postoffice burn down or was the town without a postmaster at the time?

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to Western Cover Society

- #305 Kenneth H. Priestley, P. O. Box 128, Vassar, Michigan
(Michigan D & G & Stampless)
- #306 Warren R. Howell, 434 Post St., San Francisco, Calif.
(Dealer - rare books)
- #307 Frank W. Samuels, M. D., 1431 Mark Twain, Reno, Nevada
- #308 Frank A. Zid, 2929 So. 13th Ave., Broadview, Illinois

RE-INSTATED

- #243 Bennett N. Levison, 742 Fine Ave., Fresno, Calif.
(Postal history 24 & any covers.)

DECEASED

- #22 C. Corwith Wagner, 314 N. Broadway, St. Louis, 2, Mo.

DROPPED FOR NON-PAYMENT OF DUES

- #153 Marcel Levy
- #180 Howard C. Fruit

CORRECTION

- #286 Warren H. Colson, Proctorsville, Vermont.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

- #83 Sgt. Wm. A. Frye, Jr. - R.A. 6576321, 556 th Ord. Co. (D.S.) APO 696, N.Y., N.Y.
- #16 Frank W. Scheer, Box C, Hudson Heights, New Jersey
- #85 E. N. Sampson, 1508 Waverly Place, Lynchburg, Va.
- #155 S. L. Herbruck, 2470 Glen Canyon Road, Altadena, Calif.
- #229 M/Sgt. Jos. J. Cavagnol, 3970th Air Base GP, APO 283, New York, N. Y.
- #232 David New, 10655 West 47th Ave., Wheatridge, Colorado

NEW BOOKS AND PUBLICATIONS

"The Saga of Lake Tahoe" by Edward B. Scott. A complete documentation of Lake Tahoe's development over the last one hundred years. Published by Sierra-Tahoe Publishing Co., Crystal Bay, Lake Tahoe, Nevada. 519 pages of wonderful data such as mail routes; also beautiful illustrations and well indexed. Well worth the price of \$12.50.

ARTICLES TO READ

"Suggestions from a Cover Collector" - by Robert A. Hanson. Weekly Philatelic Gossip, August 3, 1957. A mighty fine article by one of our prominent members who said he couldn't write - traitor!

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* GENERAL STORE *
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Rates are two cents a word per insertion, with a minimum charge of 50 cents. Send payment with copy, unused commens 3¢ acceptable. Mail direct to the Treasurer, Henry Chaloner, 2612 Ashby Avenue, Berkeley 5, California.

WESTERN COVERS WANTED: Expresses, Ships, Territorial Packets, Postmarks, Covers of all types during 1845-70 period. Letter Sheets and other Collateral material also desired. We can supply Western Material for the Collector who is first beginning to accumulate Western Covers, and we can add rare and choice items to enhance the albums of a well known collection, anything from a Ghost Town Cover to a rare Pony Express Cover. Write and let us know your wants or ask for our auction catalog which often contains fine Western items.

JOHN A. FOX
110 West 42nd Street
New York 36, N.Y.

WANTED: New Mexico and Arizona Territorial markings. Send with price. If you have such material that is not for sale, I would like to make records of it. Prompt returns and postage both ways, of course.

Dr. S. H. Dike
1611 Bayita Lane, N.W.
Albuquerque, N.M.

WELLS FARGO SPECIALIST:
Would like to buy, trade or sell Express Covers. Also Collect Oregon and other Western States Postmarks. Correspondence invited.

HOWARD A. MADER
633 Brenner Street
Salem, Oregon
W.C.S. #221

WANTED TO BUY: Civil War Patriotic Covers from or to Nevada, also Nevada Express and Black Jack Covers for cash or trade.

THEODORE REINHARDT
P. O. Box 2314
Las Vegas, Nevada

WANTED: Arizona Territorial Covers, Books, Documents regarding early Arizona, New Mexico 1864 and prior. Check or answer by return mail.

JOHN O. THEOBALD
95 Encanto
Phoenix, Arizona

WANTED TO BUY: Montana Express Covers and Fort Laramie. Have some duplicate Montana material for trading.

HARRY L. FINE
2324 Spruce Street
Billings, Montana

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