

# WESTERN EXPRESS

RESEARCH JOURNAL OF EARLY WESTERN MAILS

NO. 127 VOL. XXXI, NO. 4

Western Cover Society  
Unit No. 14 - American Philatelic Society

OCTOBER, 1981

AWARDS — Vermeil - PRENFIL '80; Large Silver - ROCPEX '78 - and CAPEX '78

Express  
Ocean Mail  
Overland  
Post Offices



Territorial  
Statehood  
Postal Rates  
Postal History

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### EDITOR'S ARENA

**SESCAL  
OCT. 16 - 18  
&  
WESTERN  
COVER  
SOCIETY**

Sponsored by the Federated Philatelic Clubs of Southern California, SESCAL '81 will be held October 16, 17 and 18 at the Ambassador Hotel, Los Angeles. Last year the informal luncheon-meeting of our Society was so successful that it is to be repeated during SESCAL '81. The luncheon will be held on Saturday October 17. Member Jerry Schwimmer is rounding up Southern California members to increase attendance, and we hope that out of state members who may be taking in SESCAL will reserve Saturday for the luncheon.

**THE  
COLORADO  
SAN JUAN**

Those of our readers who have been avidly following Ray Newburn's magnificent story of the Postal History of the Colorado San Juan, will note a void in this issue of WESTERN EXPRESS. It seems Ray's work (the kind that pays the bills!) is beginning to interfere more intensely with his pleasures! Work such as a flight to Heidelberg, West Germany for a business meeting; home for a few days; and then off to Padua, Italy for a high level inter-governmental meeting in connection with our Space programs — and so it goes. These are a long way from Colorado, and we wish Ray good luck. He will return to the concluding chapters and Index as time permits.

**ARIPEX '82**

In the January 1981 WESTERN EXPRESS our report of the special Western Cover Society luncheon in connection with SESCAL '80 ended with the hope that such regional meetings might be a feature of more national shows. ARIPEX '82 — which is being held January 22-24, 1982 in Tucson, Arizona will have such a regional meeting. Since ARIPEX '82 is hosting the Spring Meeting of the American Philatelic Society we should have a good attendance at the luncheon-meeting.

**BONUS**

With this issue of WESTERN EXPRESS you will receive an excellent booklet "From the Ground Up". This booklet was issued by the Phelps Dodge Corporation as part of their celebration of 100 years in Arizona as that state's leading copper producer (and the second largest in the United States). Former Governor Jack Williams provided the content of the booklet — giving a variety of accounts of Arizona mines and early mineral discoveries.

Our member Dr. Rorke first called this booklet to our attention, and we thank him for this lead. We are also grateful to the Phelps Dodge Corporation for their generosity in providing copies of the booklet for our members.

**AWARDS**

From time to time these pages have given the names of our members who have been ribbon winners at the various stamp shows around the country. As these shows grew to almost weekly affairs, and information on award winners was too spasmodic to be complete, the practice was abandoned. However, we attended NEVPEX '81 at Reno recently so can report that members Al Greene and Joe Arce, gambled and won. Jo exhibited 19th Century Express covers and Al presented the Postal History of California and Nevada.

### SECRETARY'S REPORT

- New** #761 - Monte Lawton, 2235 Avila Ave., Santa Clara, CA 95050  
(Collects Territorials, Western Towns, RPO's and Expresses)
- Members** #762 - Vern Youngman, 1320 Parkwood Drive, Fort Collins, CO 80525  
(Collects DPOs of Nebr., Colo., Idaho, Montana, Washington, as well as Centennials of existing PO's west of Mississippi)
- #763 - Charles Waller, P.O. Box 272, Hayward, CA 94543  
(Collects Territorials)
- #764 - Mark D. Bacon, 609 TCS, Box 1199, APO, New York, 09669  
(Collects Expresses, Towns, Old Fort Letterheads)
- #765 - Michael A. Rainier, P.O. Box 3443, Santa Ana, CA 92703  
(Collects City of Los Angeles Postal History)
- Change of Address** William H. Bauer, P.O. Box 1449, Spring, Texas 77373  
Jeff Forster, 110 Oak Rim Ct., Los Gatos, CA 95030  
Mark Metkin, 1495-29th Ave., San Francisco, CA 94122



### COVER REPAIRS

by John H. Williams

This article presents my personal opinion and is in no way meant to be instructive or advisory. It is merely my thoughts and observations, of a very controversial subject. That is, should we repair or restore such precious possessions as our covers? Or, should they be left in their acquired condition? There are those purists who have no room for doubt. Never touch a cover! If they look bad, so be it! They would never repair nor purchase a repaired cover. Worthless covers would be destroyed so that repair material is not available. I have no criticism of this point of view. I merely do not share it.

Beauty definitely is not a repaired cover. However, an expertly repaired cover certainly is more beautiful than a philatelic mess. Ever see a lovely cover beginning to discolor because some ill-advised person closed a tear with transparent tape? Without some help the cover will probably be worthless in fifty years. A bit of soaking, scraping and pressing might preserve it. So why not correct the situation. This is restoration and there is little controversy here.

How about repairs? Quite a lot of noise with this subject. Add a corner, close a tear, or, heaven forbid, replace a stamp. Careful friends, you may improve its appearance or even increase its desirability and value. I can offer a piece of advice here. "If you don't know how, don't attempt it." Covers can be easily damaged or even destroyed without proper knowledge. And nothing looks worse than a poorly repaired cover. Conversely, I find nothing quite as satisfying as a disaster turned into a thing of beauty. Wonderful things can be done (forgive me). Tears closed, dirt removed, corners, ends, backs and flaps added, paper strengthened and wrinkles removed. In all fairness and honesty, and so forth, such repairs must be noted on your cover's backside. Remember too, that no repair is perfect. Many are obvious; others require close inspection, and the rare ones, almost invisible.

Philatelic food for thought, isn't it?

## THE MANY KILLERS OF TUCSON TERRITORIAL TYPE NINE

Robert B. Bechtel, Ph. D.<sup>1</sup>

A holiday in cork. How else to describe the many variations in design for the killers of Tucson Territorial Type Nine? <sup>2</sup> No less than twenty distinct variations have been discovered so far, some perhaps in use for as little as four days. There seems to be little evidence to account for why this killer design explosion took place in the sunny town of Tucson in the early 1880s.

The earliest reported date for Tucson Territorial Type Nine is March 3, 1880 and the latest is January 31, 1884. None of the other Tucson types either preceding or following had such variety in the use of killers. All designs except one are geometric and a close examination shows that no one killer type served as the basis for another.

Figure One shows the earliest killer variety, a bull's eye with two rings. This theme is repeated only for the last type known, type twenty, giving a curious symmetry to the whole design adventure. The second type does not have a theme similar to any of the others, except perhaps type five which is a series of repeated rectangles. Type three appears quite similar to type ten but the thickness of lines shows that type ten could not have been cut from it. Of the remaining types there seems to be little rhyme or reason as to why the designs were chosen. Only type 19 shows a non-geometric theme and seems to be a heart within concentric rings. It is possible that this type was used through Valentine's Day of 1882.

Types 11 and 12 were only four days apart in usage. Types nine and ten and 12, 13 and 14 were five days apart. Longer periods like those between two and three (110 days) and 18 and 19 (154 days) may be illusory because more types could yet be discovered. . . Note also that nearly all of the types are crowded into the 1880-1882 period with none reported for 1883.

**TABLE ONE**

### Tucson Territorial Type Nine Killer Use Dates 1880-1884

Killer Type	Dates	Killer Type	Dates
1	November 30, 1880	11	October 12, 1881
2	December 21, 1880, January 1, 1881	12	October 16, 1881
3	April 10, 1881	13	October 21, 1881
4	April 20, 1881	14	October 26, 1881
5	May 25, 1881, June 6, 1881	15	November 1, 1881
6	June 23, 1881	16	November 10, 1881
7	July 1, 1881	17	November 25, 1881
8	September 12, 1881	18	December 14, 1881
9	September 21, 1881	19	May 17, 1882
10	September 26, 1881	20	May 25, 1882

1. Thanks are due Charles L. Towle for providing the excellent drawings of the killer types and to The Western Postal Museum for providing 17 of the specimens.

2. Type nine is classified in the Kriege catalogue, 3rd edition, 1980 as a CDS type.

TUCSON TERRITORIAL TYPE NINE (Continued)

What possible motive could have prompted this killer design extravaganza? There are no clues in the local history. We don't even know the identity of the designer. Was he a clerk under postmaster Dr. Charles H. Lord? Lord served from September 24, 1869 to January 8, 1884. During that time at least one employee did things that Lord was unaware of. His deputy postmaster, G.W.B. Lovejoy was convicted of selling two money orders and pocketing the money. But that was in 1877, years before the holiday in cork.

All the killer types are highly collectible and among the most available of territorial cancellation. While prices should be under \$5, an example of the type two killer sold for \$85 at Henry Spelman's auction in April of 1981.

Readers having examples of new types are urged to contact the author through the Western Postal History Museum, Box 40725 Tucson, Arizona 85717.

TUCSON - Geometric Killers on  
Type 9 - Mar. 3, 1880 - Jan. 31, 1884



Type One



Type Two



Type Three



Type Four



Type Five



Type Six



Type Seven



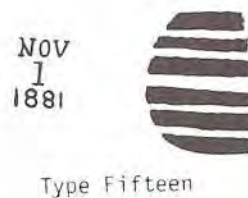
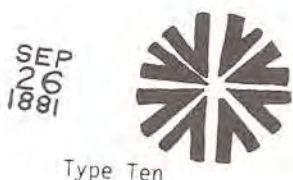
Type Eight



Type Nine

TUCSON TERRITORIAL TYPE NINE (Continued)

TUCSON - Geometric Killers on  
Type 9 - Mar. 3, 1880 - Jan. 31, 1884



References

- Kriege, Owen H. **Arizona Territorial Postmark Catalogue**, third edition, 1980  
 Spelman, Henry M. III, **41st Postal History Auction**, April 25, 1981, prices realized.  
 Theobald, John and Theobald, Lillian **Arizona Territory Post Offices and Postmasters Arizona**  
 Historical Foundation, Phoenix, 1961.

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## CONTENTS OF A LETTER

Submitted by Len McCabe

A clipping from the San Francisco *Morning Call* of December 19, 1875, which was pasted to the bottom of the second page of the following letter, mailed at Sierra City, California, and addressed to Alexander Holmes, Victoria, British Columbia:

“Should this meet the eye of Alexander Holmes, who left Paisley, Scotland about 23 years ago for California, and was last heard of about 13 years since, as engaged in mining operations at Nevada City, Nevada County, and Camptonville, Yuba County, he is earnestly desired to communicate with his mother and brothers at 55 Roslea Drive Dennistown, Glasgow; or if anyone who knows of his whereabouts would be so kind as to communicate the same to the above address, it would be esteemed by his anxious friends a lasting obligation.”

Sierra City, Sierra Co.  
December 27, 1875

Mr. Alexander Holmes

Dear Sir, inclosed find an advertisement hunting for you. This is too bad Alex to have your widowed mother in such a fix or anxiety of mind. Write immediately and see you never do the like again. Always remember your mother Both by Writing and means if she requires it. I wish I had one to write to. I think sometimes I would not have been here 24 long years. I just happened to see this advertisement yesterday and I thought it was my duty as a Paisley Callan. Pretty old Callan. But no difference about that. Just now there is no Lasses here that flashes me so it makes no difference. i am glad to hear you are doing well, How many kids have you got. Jim dont say any thing about that in His Letter to me. Write up some time when your customers has got all the Beef they want for the day. For instance Friday would be a very good day to Write. i suppose some of your Customers stuffs their old bags with fish on that day so Write just on friday. I am goin to Write to your mother just right off. No Paisley mother will have any trouble if i can remedy it, not by a cog full.

Yours respectfully  
Adam Muir

P.S. Write soon. Send me up your photograph. if I had one I would send you mine. Good bye, be a better Callan to your good mother in the future you will find more real joy in writing to her than all others combined. dont Write to me till you do your duty to her.

Adios senior

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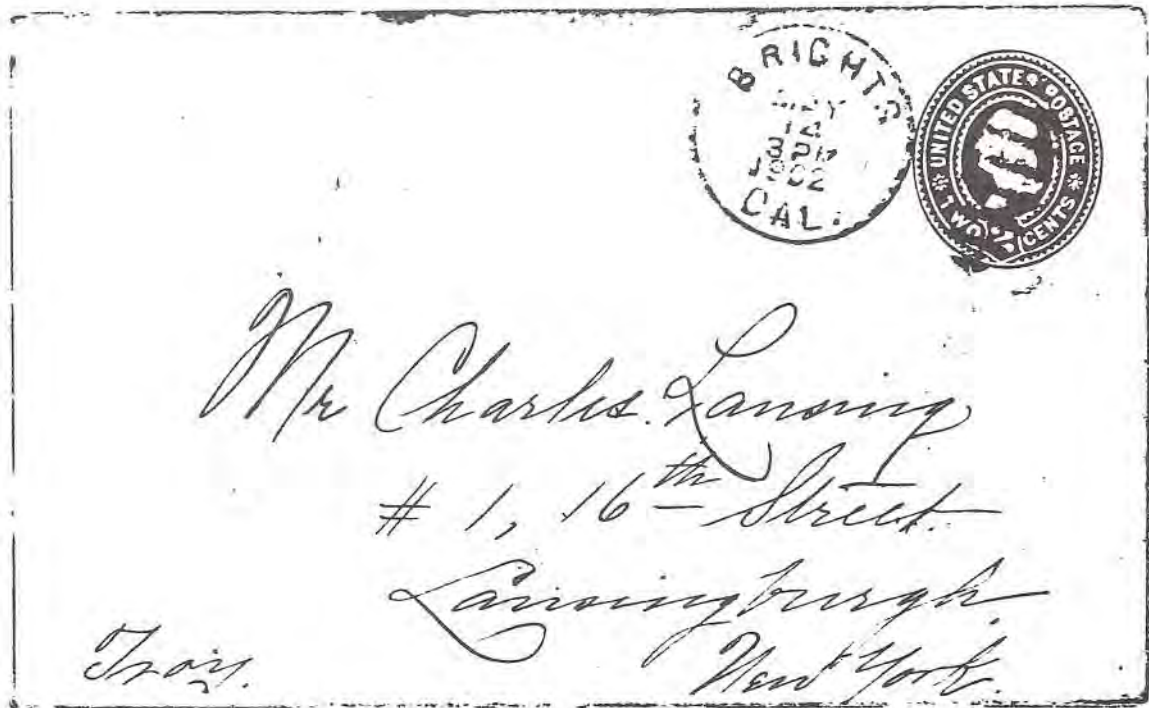
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LOST OR STRAYED — ONE CALIFORNIA TOWN  
by King Parker III



The cover, as shown above, appears to be unlisted anywhere. It is not mentioned in Salley, Frickstad, or Gudde; and, in fact, none of the "experts" who regularly attend the Western Cover Society luncheons have any idea where the town was located.

The cover with the CDS "Brights", dated May 14, 1902, appears to be genuine in every respect, and there is no question as to the spelling.

The reverse shows a receiving stamp:

Troy, N.Y.  
May 19  
8:00 a.m.  
1902  
Recd

No correspondence was enclosed.

We would like to solicit the help of the members, and would appreciate hearing from anyone who knows where, in California, this town may have been situated. Even the name of the County would be helpful.

Replies to your Editor would be greatly appreciated.

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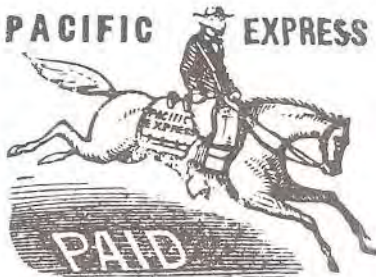
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## LOS ANGELES COVERS

by Jerome Schwimmer

## WELLS FARGO RETURNS — ODDS &amp; ENDS

At the time of this writing, we look forward to the return to Los Angeles of the Wells Fargo stage. As I understand it, it will be stopping at 5th and Flower, where us Angelenos can look and admire, sometime shortly after the New Year. This information, and more, was learned at the Wells Fargo Office where we were treated fine by the Count and his sidekick, Joan, who are seein' to it that the Coach gets here on time.

Seriously, we welcome the coming of the Wells Fargo Bank's Museum to Los Angeles. We truly hope that, with time, it might develop into something as fine as the History Room in San Francisco; that the Los Angeles-related materials might find their way down here, and that, eventually, it might serve as a catalyst and as a focus for development of interest in Western history in this area. I've written about Los Angeles Wells Fargo covers in two previous articles in this series. This will deal in random fashion with the general topic and some additional related items from my collection will be illustrated.

The History Department of Wells Fargo Bank has provided me with the following information listing the various locations of the Wells, Fargo & Co. express offices in Los Angeles as compiled from Wells Fargo official directories by Joan Salz of the Bank's History Room:

1859	Bella Union Hotel
1870	Pico House
1875	Temple Block
1878	Corner of Main and Market
1883	Main and Court
	Corner of Market and Main (L.A. City & Co. Directory 1883)
1887	248 Main (Maxwell's Directory of L.A. City & Co. 1887)
1889-1892	Corner No. Main and Arcadia
1890	S.E. Corner Main and Arcadia (L.A. City Directory 1890)
1893-1904	N.W. Corner W. 3rd & So. Main
1905-1907	445 So. Main
1909-1915	609-11 So. Main
1916-1918	So. Broadway

Photographs of examples of Wells, Fargo & Co.'s early office locations in Southern California and photographs of three of its well-known agents are illustrated at pages 261 and 262 of W. Turrentine Jackson's "Stages, Mails and Express in Southern California: The Role of Wells, Fargo & Co. in the Pre-Railroad Period," reprinted from the **Historical Society of Southern California Quarterly**, Fall 1974. William Pridham was the most prominent of the Company's Los Angeles agents. He was in charge of the Los Angeles office for twenty years from 1868 to 1887. With respect to the move of the Express Office from the Old Bella Union location to its new quarters in 1870, the Los Angeles **Star** reported in its June 25, 1870 edition that the new quarters in the Pico House building were larger and more convenient and were divided into three sections, one being for the archives and unclaimed packages. It was further reported that a 6,000 pound Kittridge safe was being shipped from San Francisco for use in the new office. The old Wells Fargo office was to be used by the Overland Stage Company.

**LOS ANGELES COVERS (Continued)**

Fitting my mood this morning (a bit lazy and disorganized), this article will proceed to the illustration of a few random Wells Fargo Los Angeles items from my collection.

Every Wells Fargo cover collection must have its "Chips" cover. My Los Angeles Wells Fargo cover addressed to "Chips, San Francisco, Cal." is illustrated in Figure 1.



Figure 1

And on the theory that a misplaced frank is also called for, such a cover from Los Angeles is shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2

LOS ANGELES COVERS (Continued)

A Los Angeles (Cal.) Depot money package label is shown on the cover in Figure 3. The wax seal on the back of the cover reads "For Public Use Los Angeles (Cal.) Depot."

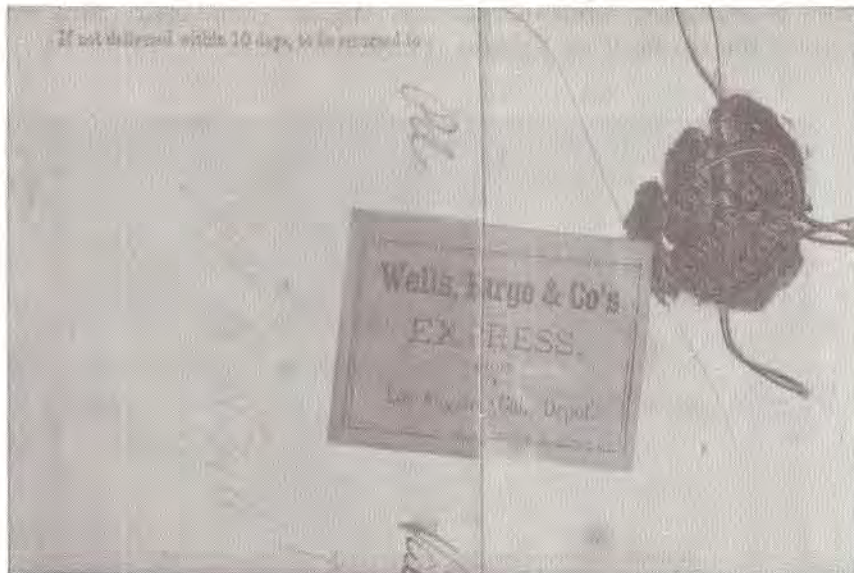


Figure 3

A portion of the legal size envelope containing this Yellow Aster Mine's March-April, 1903 bank statement and cancelled checks is shown as Figure 4. The package was carried outside the mails by Wells, Fargo & Co. Express from the Los Angeles Bank to the Mine's office in Randsburg for a 25¢ charge, and the envelope bears a handstamp of the Los Angeles Wells Fargo Money Department.

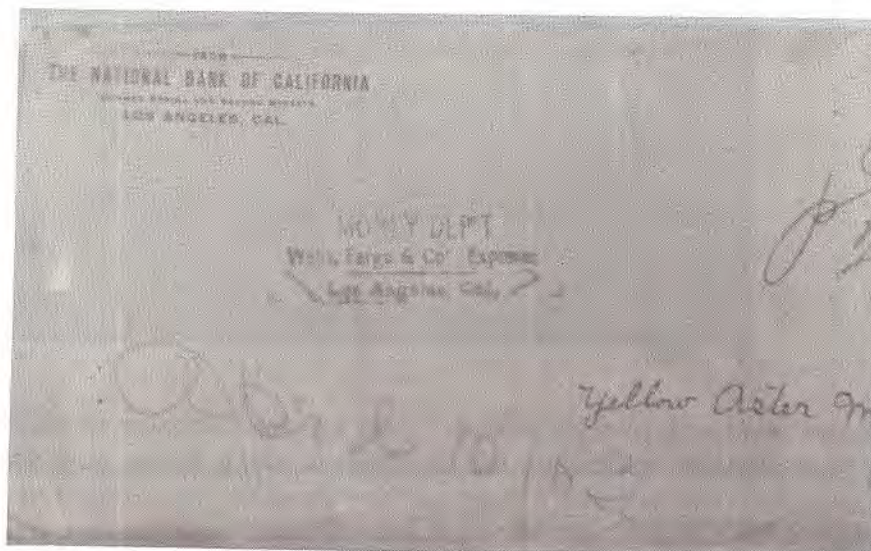


Figure 4

**LOS ANGELES COVERS (Continued)**

The handstamp used in 1913 by the Delivery Department of the Express Company's Los Angeles Office is shown in Figure 5 on the reverse side of the Company's C.O.D. envelope. The printing is entirely in red, while the handstamp is in purple ink. The front side of the envelope is addressed to the shipper, bears 2¢ stamp and is postmarked Los Angeles. (Note instruction printed on reverse, calling for return of the envelope by Express if cash is enclosed.)



Figure 5

The partly printed standard form of envelope used for Company business is shown in Figure 6, with the Company's oval Los Angeles handstamp and addressed to the Banking Department of the Express Company in San Francisco.

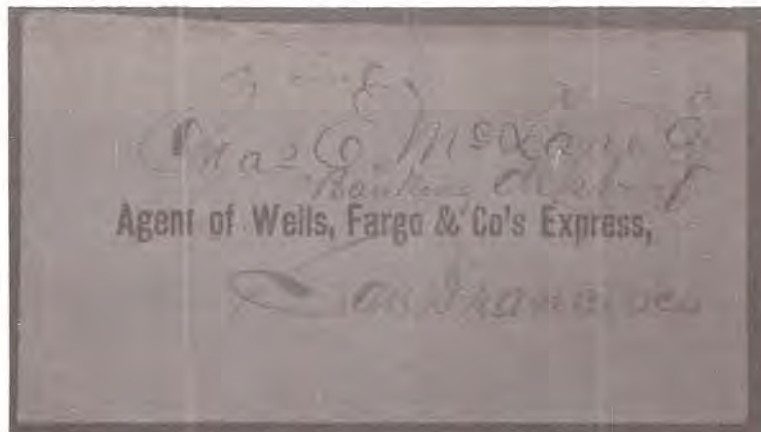


Figure 6

A most unusual cover with oval handstamp "Paid" as the Company frank and a rectangular handstamp "Los Angeles" cancelling the Government entire stamp, together with the usual Company Los Angeles oval is shown as Figure 7. The use of the rectangular Los Angeles marking is not otherwise known.

Another cover which could be unique is shown as Figure 8. On this cover two different types of the Express Company's oval Los Angeles handstamps are found — the earlier type used as the frank and the later type used to cancel the stamp.

## LOS ANGELES (Continued)

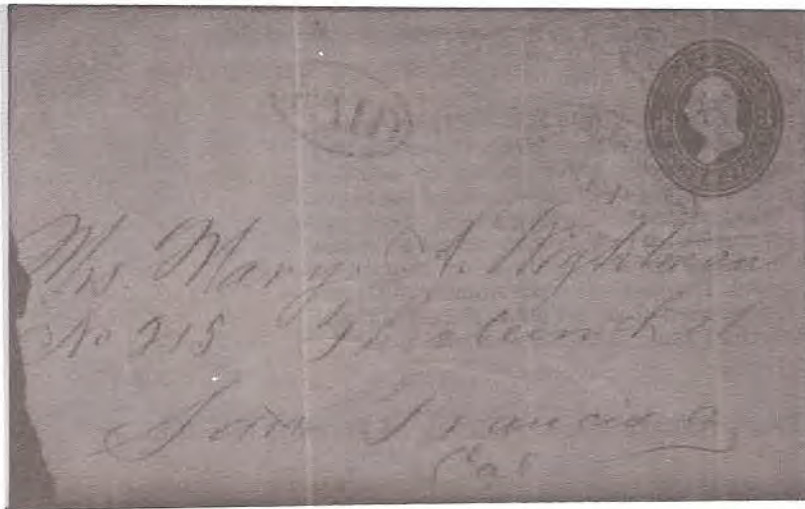


Figure 7

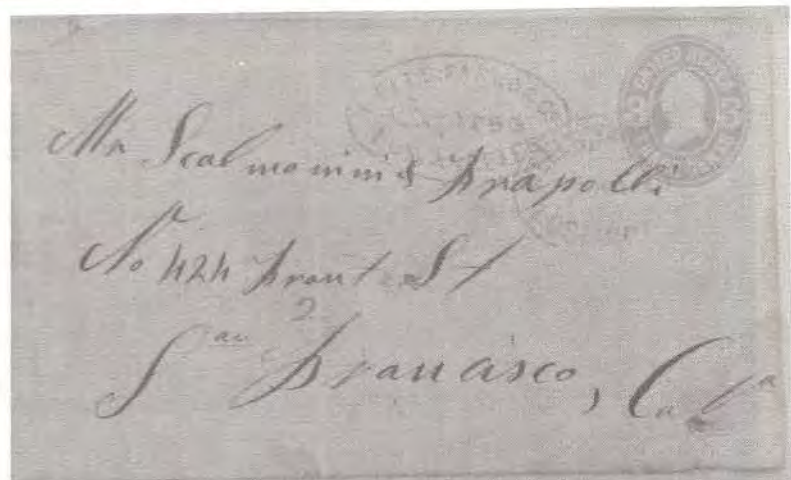


Figure 8

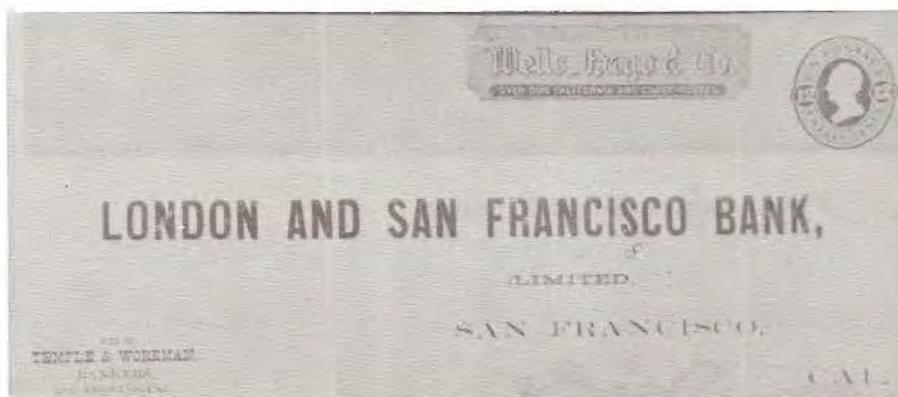


Figure 9

For no better reason than that I can't think of any other place to show it, Figure 9 shows unused 12¢ Reay envelope with Wells Fargo printed frank and printed corner card of Temple & Workman, early Los Angeles bankers. Their bank opened in elaborate quarters in November, 1871 and its doors closed in failure in 1875. Both had mortgaged their property to "Lucky" Baldwin in an unsuccessful attempt to save the Bank. Workman committed suicide soon after the Bank's failure.

And so, good friends, we close. Remaining unexhibited Los Angeles Wells Fargo covers shall await another day.

### 100 YEARS AGO

JAN. 22, 1881

**CLOSING THEIR OFFICES** - "The frequent attacks of highwaymen upon Wells, Fargo and Co's Express, has caused the company to adopt a method by which they will be relieved of the heavy losses they are constantly incurring. They are closing a number of their branch offices on routes where in stages are frequently being stopped by road agents. The services from Auburn to Greenwood, Georgetown, Todd's Valley, Forest Hill and Michigan Bluff was ordered discontinued.

From the MOUNTAIN DEMOCRAT, courtesy of Frank Q. Newton, Jr.



Photo courtesy David L. Jarrett

