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Record Group/Collection: George H.W. Bush Presidential Records
Collection/Office of Origin: Speechwriting, White House Office of
Series: Grant, Mary Kate, Files
Subseries: Subject File, 1988-1991

OA/ID Number: 13884
Folder ID Number: 13884-010

Folder Title:
United Postal Workers Union, 11/13/89

Stack:	Row:	Section:	Shelf:	Position:
G	18	29	1	2

1. Confirm if Baker & Eagleburger are attending opening ceremony

2. Conflicting facts - 1897 in DC fifth Congress of UPU - was it at the Corcoran or the Renwick?

3. How many letters per day/per year so far does POTUS recieve from public? Can we get a copy of a letter from a kid commenting on this?

4. Who will be on stage w/ POTUS. I have list of officials present, but how far do we go?

5. POTUS to speak before or after PMG Frank? 1st/

2:00 P.M. NEWS UPDATE

DRUG COUNCIL/PRESIDENT (Reuter) -- President Bush, in a move designed to enlist the private sector in the war on drugs, announced Monday the formation of advisory council made up of 27 members. Bush told a White House gathering that the council would recommend and advise on ways to encourage the private sector to implement national drug control policy. "This council will recommend ways to involve all elements of the private sector in the war against drugs," Bush said.

(Christopher Connell, AP) -- President Bush today named 27 citizens, including medical pioneer Dr. Jonas Salk, former Attorney General William French Smith and ex-Dallas Cowboys coach Tom Landry, as advisers for the war on drugs. "All share my goal of ridding America of illegal drugs," Bush said at a White House ceremony where he signed an executive order creating the Presidential Drug Advisory Council.... Bush...said, "The scourge of illegal drugs upon the lives of many Americans is simply devastating, and with the help of this advisory council, I look forward to stopping this devastation and guiding our nation toward an intolerance of illegal drug use."

POSTAL WORKERS/PRESIDENT (UPI) -- President Bush honored the nation's postal workers Monday as a "noble profession" that "touches the heart" with mail to Santa Claus and soldiers and up to 60,000 letters a week to the White House. In an address before the Universal Postal Union Congress, Bush said letters link "the peoples and nations of this world" and often convey "many noble enterprises." He cited among them the advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science "and the encouragement of peace and good will."

way to go MK!

PANAMA/SANCTIONS (Reuter) -- The U.S. is considering new sanctions against Panama, including banning entry of Panamanian ships to American ports, U.S. officials said Monday. Secretary Baker has stressed U.S. determination to maintain pressure on Panamanian strongman Gen. Noriega in an effort to oust him from power and clearly the port call ban "would be an obvious option," one official told Reuters.... Officials said the port ban was one of a number of options being discussed. No decision has been taken but one could come soon, they said.

PANAMA/OAS/BAKER (Headline News) -- Secretary Baker is expected to deliver a tough speech on Panama at a meeting of the OAS.... U.S. officials say that Baker will call for a decisive hemispheric stand against Panama's de facto ruler, Gen. Noriega. The OAS usually meets just once a year, but the Panama crisis has led to four special sessions since May. Also on the agenda: Admitting Canada as the group's 32nd member and discussing Nicaragua's scheduled February elections.

SALVADOR/REBELS (San Salvador/UPI) -- The Salvadoran government claimed Monday it had recaptured rebel-held positions in the capital after more than two days of heavy fighting that left up to 130 people dead and scores wounded. A spokesman for the Salvadoran armed forces said the rebels of the FMLN "have now been dislodged from the city." He said, however, that sporadic fighting continued for a third day on the outskirts of the capital.... The Salvadoran Red Cross said the number of the civilians injured in the two days of fighting is 122.

-more-

Grant/Martin
November 3, 1989
Draft two
A:postal

REMARKS: OPENING CEREMONY
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

Good morning. ((Acknowledgements))

Welcome to the United States. It is a pleasure to address the Universal Postal Union, because it brings to mind so many images from our history. From the appointment of our first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, to the trails blazed by the riders of the Pony Express, to the convenience of modern post offices, the story of the postal service is tied to the story of our country.

And the mail itself reflects the American adage.

~~And the stories contained in our mail contain the story of our country.~~ In 1814, Dolly Madison wrote her sister to describe her escape ~~tell of running~~ from the burning White House. Alexander Hamilton sent a farewell letter to his wife before his duel with Aaron Burr. Harry Truman wrote the folks back home about his first night as President. I'm sure there are similar letters in the history of every nation assembled here today.

But only once before in our history has the United States had the honor of hosting a Congress of the U.P.U. -- the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates from 55 countries gathered in the Renwick Gallery, which stands on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House.

The world has changed much since the last time your Congress met in Washington. The delegates to that Fifth Congress had never heard of radio ~~and~~ or television, much less computers, airplanes, space shuttles, or satellites, which now seem commonplace.

In 1897, the employees of the U.S. Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed ~~the first American Postmaster General~~. Today, the United States Postal Service has made great strides in the use of automated equipment -- some capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 350,000 pieces an hour.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. From ((international place)) to ~~Dublin, Ireland~~ Hammerfest, Norway ~~Katmandu, Nepal~~ Alice Springs, Australia in the Outback or the Arctic Ocean ((international place)) and from Nome, Alaska to Key West, Florida, ~~the~~ Postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that the mail always gets through, ~~no matter what.~~

Stories abound of amazing deliveries through the mail system: In 1916, a 40,000-ton brick building was mailed across Utah, brick by brick, because it was cheaper than the freight charges. This year, 120 live bees were mailed from Hawaii to Virginia, but were en route when the airplane crashed ~~over Iowa~~. The bees survived, and were delivered in a thick envelope with a note from the Sioux City Postmaster explaining the delay. And a 50-pound midget once mailed **himself** from New York to Los Angeles

on a $500 bet. ((However, after the eight hour flight in a styrofoam crate, the man decided to stay out of the mail in the future.)) While these stories are out of the ordinary, Americans are proud of the extraordinary job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,00 employees.

I am ~~especially~~ but, also proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large part, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln. ~~His many innovations and changes had already revolutionized mail service domestically; yet he went on to lead the movement to international postal order despite the ravages of the U.S. Civil War.~~

At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians describe national postal systems in those days as total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations were forced to maintain bilateral agreements with every ~~single~~ country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory.

Much wisdom, eloquence and effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal

collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples.

Written letters conveyed through the mails, linking the peoples and the nations of this world, often convey many noble enterprises: the advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the ~~maintenance~~ encouragement of peace and good will.

~~For example, the meeting I will be holding with President Gorbachev at sea next month was arranged entirely through a series of letters between us.~~ And I understand that here at your World Stamp Expo, a new set of **Soviet** stamps will be unveiled which portray **American** astronauts -- something I'm sure no one would have believed possible at the last U.P.U. Congress.

The need to communicate by mail across national frontiers -- despite the march of time and advent of telecommunication -- has remained constant to this very day. The expansion ~~in~~ of the world's postal systems, represented by ~~some~~ the 170 nations ~~forming~~ of the UPU, staggers the imagination. For even our latest technology and instant delivery services cannot do what the postal system alone can do: get the mail through, anywhere on earth, to any recipient at very small cost.

Every week, I receive up to 60,000 letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children ~~asking questions about government and the Presidency; from young people telling me their concerns about~~

to our oldest citizens.

world peace and the drug war; and from elderly citizens about health care and foreign policy. The mails represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their concerns.

But for all the numbers and machines, the importance of the mails comes from its very form -- the written word. "Letters mingle souls," the poet John Donne wrote. The individual voice contained within the message of a letter can convey more beauty and more power than any other form of long distance communication.

In a world of faxes, overnight delivery, and fiber optic phone lines, nothing beats the expectation of opening up that letter from home. There's the determination of a young child, crayon in hand, as he writes a letter to Santa Claus ... or the anticipation of a soldier at war sending loveletters to his sweetheart at home ... or the optimism of a college student adding "P.S. Please send money" to the letter home. Scenes like these ennoble your profession, for they touch the heart and improve the human condition.

So many times, the mail is the messenger of love, hope and comfort ... and for that I salute your hard work over the many years. Good luck in your endeavors over the next five weeks of this Congress. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

# # #

(1) In a world of hopes and fiber optics, still

(2) Whether it's writing

(3) dreams --

(4) waiting for a special letter from home -- years

Keep your efforts, the written word stirs the imagination, improves the human condition and touches the heart.

Grant/Martin
November 8, 1989
Draft three
A:postal

REMARKS: OPENING CEREMONY
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

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The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. From Hammerfest, Norway on the Arctic Ocean to Alice Springs, Australia in the Outback, postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that the mail always gets through.

Stories abound of amazing deliveries through the mail system: In 1916, a 40,000-ton brick building was mailed across Utah, brick by brick, because it was cheaper than the freight charges. This year, 120 live bees were mailed from Hawaii to Virginia, but were en route when the airplane crashed. The bees survived, and were delivered in a thick envelope with a note from the Sioux City, Iowa, Postmaster explaining the delay. And a 50-pound midget once mailed **himself** from New York to Los Angeles on a $500 bet. ((However, after the eight hour flight in a styrofoam crate, the man decided to stay out of the mail in the future.))

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At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians describe national postal systems in those days as total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations were forced to maintain bilateral agreements with every country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory.

Much wisdom, eloquence and effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples.

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Every week, I receive up to 60,000 letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children to our oldest citizens. In a world of faxes and fiber optics, the mails still represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their dreams -- whether it's a young child, crayon in hand, writing a letter to Santa Claus ... or a soldier waiting for a special letter from home.

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Grant/Martin
November 3, 1989
Draft two
A:postal

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# # #

Grant/Martin
November 3, 1989
Draft one
A:postal

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UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

Good morning. ((Acknowledgements))

Welcome to the United States. During your travels here, you'll see the diversity of our great "melting pot," and our working democracy in which every citizen contributes to the common good. Likewise, the diversity of nations united under the Universal Postal Union contributes much to the common good.

On only one previous occasion has the United States had the honor of hosting a Congress of the U.P.U. -- the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates from 55 countries gathered in the Renwick Gallery, which stands on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House.

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In 1897, the employees of the U.S. Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General. Today, the United States

Postal Service has made great strides in the use of automated equipment -- some capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 350,000 pieces an hour.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. Postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that "neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor dark of night can keep these messengers from their duty" -- with a continuity of service unparalleled by any other form of communication since. I know Americans are proud of the job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,00 employees.

I am especially proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large part, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln. His many innovations and changes had already revolutionized mail service domestically; yet he went on to lead the movement to international postal order despite the ravages of the U.S. Civil War.

At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians estimate that national postal systems in those days faced total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations maintained bilateral agreements with every single country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General

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Now, thanks to the international postal network embodied by the UPU, no political or national boundaries obstruct the flow of mails, a flow that conveys news and information while solidifying peace and prosperity. Those boundaries have, in fact, been crossed here at your World Stamp Expo -- with the unveiling of a new set of Soviet stamps portraying U.S. astronauts.

Written letters conveyed through the mails, linking the peoples and the nations of this world, often convey many noble enterprises: the advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the maintenance of peace and good will. For example, the meeting I will holding with President Gorbachev at sea next month was arranged entirely through a series of letters between us.

Sr. admin Oct 31-26

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staggers the imagination. For even our latest technology and instant delivery services cannot do what the postal system alone can do: get the mail through, anywhere on earth, to any recipient at a very small cost. John Dunne once wrote that "no man is an island," and nothing could be truer with the mail systems of today.

But for all the numbers and machines, the importance of the mails comes from its very form -- the written word. The individual voice contained within the message of a letter can convey more beauty and more power than any other form of long distance communication. In a world of faxes, overnight delivery, and fiber optic phone lines, nothing beats opening up that letter from home.

up to 40-60,000

Every week, I receive more than xxx letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children asking questions about government and the Presidency; from young adults stating their concerns about world peace and the drug war; and from elderly citizens commenting on health care legislation and foreign policy. The mails represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their concerns.

correspondence
2304
7610
Patsy

And so I salute your hard work over the many years, and wish you good luck in your endeavors over the next five weeks of this Congress. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

# # #

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER / NOVEMBER 13, 1989 / 10:45 A.M.

GOOD MORNING. THANK YOU, POSTMASTER GENERAL ANTHONY FRANK, FOR YOUR INTRODUCTION; THANKS ALSO TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE CONGRESS, ED HORGAN; THE DEAN OF THE CONGRESS, MR. K. R. MURTHY ((MUR-TEE)); AND THE DIRECTOR GENERAL, MR. A.C. BOTTO DE BARROS ((BOE-TOE DE BAH-ROS)). ((ALSO, I'D LIKE TO WELCOME OUR DISTINGUISHED REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS, AMBASSADOR PICKERING.))

MEMBERS OF THE CONGRESS, WELCOME TO THE UNITED STATES. IT IS A PLEASURE TO ADDRESS THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, BECAUSE IT BRINGS TO MIND SO MANY IMAGES FROM OUR HISTORY. FROM THE APPOINTMENT OF OUR FIRST POSTMASTER GENERAL, BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, TO THE TRAILS BLAZED BY THE RIDERS OF THE PONY EXPRESS, TO THE CONVENIENCE OF MODERN POST OFFICES, THE STORY OF THE POSTAL SERVICE IS TIED TO THE STORY OF OUR COUNTRY.

AND THE MAIL ITSELF REFLECTS THE AMERICAN SAGA. IN 1814, DOLLY MADISON WROTE HER SISTER TO DESCRIBE HER ESCAPE FROM THE BURNING WHITE HOUSE. ALEXANDER HAMILTON SENT A FAREWELL LETTER TO HIS WIFE BEFORE HIS DUEL WITH AARON BURR. HARRY TRUMAN WROTE THE FOLKS BACK HOME ABOUT HIS FIRST NIGHT AS PRESIDENT. I'M SURE THERE ARE SIMILAR LETTERS IN THE HISTORY OF EVERY NATION ASSEMBLED HERE TODAY.

BUT ONLY ONCE BEFORE IN OUR HISTORY HAS THE UNITED STATES HAD THE HONOR OF HOSTING A CONGRESS OF THE U.P.U. -- THE FIFTH CONGRESS, WHICH TOOK PLACE IN 1897, HERE IN WASHINGTON, D.C. AT THAT MEETING, 106 DELEGATES FROM 55 COUNTRIES GATHERED IN THE RENWICK GALLERY, WHICH STANDS ON PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE ACROSS FROM THE WHITE HOUSE.

THE WORLD HAS CHANGED MUCH SINCE THE LAST TIME YOUR CONGRESS MET IN WASHINGTON. THE DELEGATES TO THAT FIFTH CONGRESS HAD NEVER HEARD OF RADIO OR TELEVISION, MUCH LESS COMPUTERS, AIRPLANES, SPACE SHUTTLES, OR SATELLITES, WHICH NOW SEEM COMMONPLACE.

IN 1897, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE U.S. POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT WERE STILL SORTING MAIL BY HAND, MUCH AS THEIR PREDECESSORS HAD SORTED MAIL IN 1775, WHEN BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WAS APPOINTED.

TODAY, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAS MADE GREAT STRIDES IN THE USE OF AUTOMATED EQUIPMENT -- SOME CAPABLE OF SORTING LETTERS AT SPEEDS OF UP TO 35,000 PIECES AN HOUR.

THE POSTAL SYSTEMS OF THE WORLD, TOO, HAVE CHANGED THROUGH THE ADVANCES OF TECHNOLOGY. FROM HAMMERFEST, NORWAY ON THE ARCTIC OCEAN TO ALICE SPRINGS, AUSTRALIA IN THE OUTBACK, POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS HAVE CONSISTENTLY ADAPTED TECHNOLOGY TO THEIR OPERATIONS TO ENSURE THAT THE MAIL ALWAYS GETS THROUGH.

STORIES ABOUND OF AMAZING DELIVERIES THROUGH THE MAIL SYSTEM: IN 1916, A 40,000-TON BRICK BUILDING WAS MAILED ACROSS UTAH, BRICK BY BRICK, BECAUSE IT WAS CHEAPER THAN THE FREIGHT CHARGES. THIS YEAR, 120 LIVE BEES WERE MAILED FROM HAWAII TO VIRGINIA, BUT WERE EN ROUTE WHEN THE AIRPLANE CRASHED. THE BEES SURVIVED, AND WERE DELIVERED IN A THICK ENVELOPE WITH A NOTE FROM THE SIOUX CITY, IOWA, POSTMASTER EXPLAINING THE DELAY.

AND THE MAN WHO ONCE MAILED HIMSELF FROM NEW YORK TO LOS ANGELES ON A $500 BET. ((HOWEVER, AFTER THE EIGHT HOUR FLIGHT IN A STYROFOAM CRATE, HE DECIDED TO STAY OUT OF THE MAIL IN THE FUTURE.)) WHILE THESE STORIES ARE OUT OF THE ORDINARY, AMERICANS ARE PROUD OF THE EXTRAORDINARY JOB BEING DONE BY OUR UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AND ITS 800,000 EMPLOYEES.

BUT, I AM ALSO PROUD OF THE CONTRIBUTION THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS MADE, AND CONTINUES TO MAKE, TO THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION. THE FIRST ATTEMPT AT ORGANIZING A WORLDWIDE POSTAL UNION WAS, IN LARGE PART, THE INSPIRATION OF MONTGOMERY BLAIR, POSTMASTER GENERAL DURING THE FIRST ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

AT HIS INVITATION, DELEGATES FROM 15 COUNTRIES MET IN PARIS IN 1863 TO PROPOSE REGULATIONS GOVERNING THE INTERNATIONAL MAILS. HISTORIANS DESCRIBE NATIONAL POSTAL SYSTEMS IN THOSE DAYS AS TOTAL CHAOS -- AT LEAST 1,200 SEPARATE POSTAL RATES WORLDWIDE. NATIONS WERE FORCED TO MAINTAIN BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WITH EVERY COUNTRY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF MAIL.

POSTMASTER GENERAL BLAIR, ALONG WITH MANY OTHERS, ENVISIONED A UNIVERSAL SYSTEM THAT WOULD CONSIDER THE ENTIRE WORLD AS ONE UNIFIED POSTAL TERRITORY. MUCH WISDOM, ELOQUENCE AND EFFORT WERE DEVOTED TO THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION. THE ORIGINAL FOUNDATION WAS NOT THE WORK OF ANY ONE MAN OR ANY ONE NATION, BUT RATHER THAT OF MANY MEN FROM MANY NATIONS.

THE IDEA OF UNIVERSAL COLLABORATION, BOLD IN DESIGN AND DARING IN CONCEPT FOR ITS DAY, GAINED IMPETUS FROM A WORLD THAT RECOGNIZED INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND INCREASING INTERDEPENDENCE OF ALL PEOPLES.

WRITTEN LETTERS CONVEYED THROUGH THE MAILS, LINKING THE PEOPLES AND THE NATIONS OF THIS WORLD, OFTEN CONVEY MANY NOBLE ENTERPRISES: THE ADVANCEMENT OF CIVILIZATION, THE EXPANSION OF COMMERCE AND TRADE, THE PROMOTION OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE, AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PEACE AND GOOD WILL.

IN FACT, I UNDERSTAND THAT HERE AT YOUR WORLD STAMP EXPO, A NEW SET OF SOVIET STAMPS WILL BE ISSUED -- TWO OF WHICH PORTRAY AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS.

THE NEED TO COMMUNICATE BY MAIL ACROSS NATIONAL FRONTIERS -- DESPITE THE MARCH OF TIME AND ADVENT OF TELECOMMUNICATION -- HAS REMAINED CONSTANT TO THIS VERY DAY. THE EXPANSION OF THE WORLD'S POSTAL SYSTEMS, REPRESENTED BY THE 170 NATIONS OF THE U.P.U., STAGGERS THE IMAGINATION.

FOR EVEN OUR LATEST TECHNOLOGY AND INSTANT DELIVERY SERVICES CANNOT DO WHAT THE POSTAL SYSTEM ALONE CAN DO: GET THE MAIL THROUGH, ANYWHERE ON EARTH, TO ANY RECIPIENT AT VERY SMALL COST.

EVERY WEEK, I RECEIVE UP TO 60,000 LETTERS FROM EVERY STATE IN THE UNION AND FROM NEARLY EVERY COUNTRY IN THE WORLD. LETTERS ARRIVE -- FROM CHILDREN TO OUR OLDEST CITIZENS.

IN A WORLD OF FAXES AND FIBER OPTICS, THE MAILS STILL REPRESENT THE MOST INTIMATE MEANS BY WHICH THE PEOPLE OF THIS NATION AND OTHER NATIONS REVEAL THEIR THOUGHTS, THEIR HOPES, AND THEIR DREAMS -- WHETHER IT'S A YOUNG CHILD, CRAYON IN HAND, WRITING A LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS ... OR A SOLDIER WAITING FOR A SPECIAL LETTER FROM HOME.

"LETTERS MINGLE SOULS," THE POET JOHN DONNE WROTE.

YOURS IS A NOBLE PROFESSION, FOR THROUGH YOUR EFFORTS, THE WRITTEN WORD STIRS THE IMAGINATION, IMPROVES THE HUMAN CONDITION AND TOUCHES THE HEART. GOOD LUCK IN YOUR ENDEAVORS OVER THE NEXT FIVE WEEKS OF THIS CONGRESS. GOD BLESS YOU, AND GOD BLESS AMERICA. THANK YOU.

# # #

20e CONGRÈS UPU
Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

Postal Service to Host UPU Congress

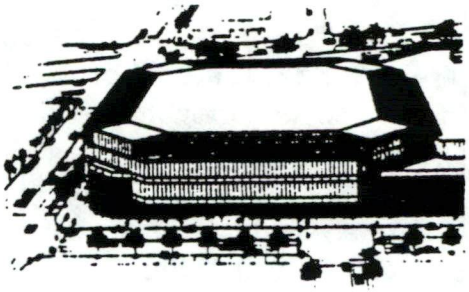
For only the second time in nearly a century, the United States will host the world's postal administrations during an international business meeting known as the Universal Postal Congress, November 13 to December 14, 1989.

Nearly 1,700 individuals representing 170 member administrations of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) are expected to participate in the five-week-long business session at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center.

As host administration, the United States Postal Service is responsible for coordinating all logistical arrangements for this complex global gathering. (See attached "Postscripts" for more specific information.)

"As host administration, the U.S. Postal Service is responsible for coordinating all logistical aspects of this complex global gathering."

A specialized agency of the United Nations since 1947, the UPU advances the goals of the world postal system by providing technical assistance to postal administrations of developing countries, serving as a clearinghouse for settling financial differences and disseminating information of interest to member nations.



The Washington Convention Center

Undoubtedly though, the most important aspect of the UPU's work takes place during Congress, which is the supreme, decision-making authority of the organization. Held every five years in a different country, the Universal Postal Congress resembles the General Assembly of its parent organization -- the United Nations.

Business sessions are interpreted into French (the UPU's official language), English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, German, Chinese and Portuguese.

During Congress, members will consider nearly 1,000 proposals within the context of the UPU Acts, that set of rules and regulations governing the exchange of mail between member nations.

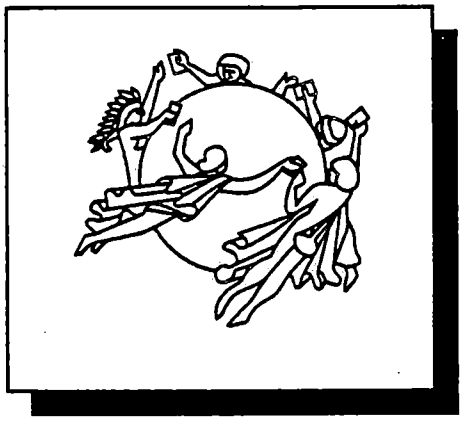
Just as in the United States Congress, much of the work of the Postal Congress is done in

various committees. The ten Congress Committees deal with such diverse areas as parcel post to postal technology.

By tradition, the Chairman of Congress is selected from the host administration. Edward E. Horgan, Jr., Associate Postmaster General - International, is the designated Chairman for the Washington Congress.

In his difficult position, Horgan must ensure that all business discussions are conducted as objectively as possible while ensuring that proper protocol is followed.

The invitation to host the 20th Postal Congress was made by former Postmaster General William F. Bolger during the 1984 Congress in Hamburg, Federal Republic of Germany.



Since that time, a USPS Headquarters team has been planning both the business and logistical side of this enormous undertaking.

The first major step toward hosting the event was the selection of Washington's 780,000-square-feet Convention Center as Congress site. Located in the heart of the Capital City's business district, this modern facility has been the venue for many national and international business meetings and conventions.

Throughout this initial planning process, the Postal Service planning staff has been coordinating efforts with the UPU's administrative headquarters in Bern, Switzerland -- the International Bureau (IB).

In October 1987, executives for the Postal Service and the International Bureau signed the official agreements outlining specific responsibilities of each group.

An abundance of challenging projects confront postal planners. For the 32-day business meeting, the USPS will: arrange for nearly 1,500 Washington hotel reservations (rooms paid for by delegates); transform the Washington Convention Center into an international meeting hall within a brief period; coordinate an efficient transportation network of buses, vans, automobiles and semi-trailers; manage a sophisticated electronic voting board and simultaneous interpretation system; and coordinate the operations of a document copy center which reproduces 100,000 pages daily of multi-language documents. (Of course, much more is planned than this. You may wish to refer to the attached "Postscripts" for further information.)

Traditional ceremonies, dinners and excursions are a part of Congress as well.

In that vein, the U.S. Postal Service plans to arrange a wide array of social events which will provide welcome relief to delegates after hours of serious contemplation and debate in the business halls. (For more specifics, see "Postscripts.")

Hosting a Universal Postal Congress affords the USPS with a unique opportunity to improve postal collaboration on the international front, while showcasing our American culture and history. A successful 20th Congress paves the way for advances in our global postal system as we approach the challenges of the 21st Century.

20e CONGRÈS UPU
Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

USPS Employees Will Play Major Role at 20th Universal Postal Congress

To ensure a productive and memorable Universal Postal Congress, 101 bilingual U. S. Postal Service employees known as Guides will assist delegates in virtually every aspect of the five-week business meeting.

Guides will help delegates during arrivals to and departures from the United States, at the registration counter, and in the business halls of the Washington Convention Center. Social functions – tours of postal facilities, museum trips, weekend excursions, sporting events and concerts – will also receive Guide support.

Competency in one of eight foreign languages was a key requirement in selecting Guides, since many of the 2,000 postal officals and their guests cannot speak English. Guides were recruited with proficiency in French, Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and of course, English.



According to James P. Wade, Director of Universal Postal Congress Operations, the Guides will contribute greatly to the overall impression that postal delegates and their spouses form about the United States and the U.S. Postal Service.

Though a Guide's work will be rewarding, the job will also be extremely difficult. "While Guides will enjoy the excitement of meeting people from the world over," says Wade, "our employees will work long hours, as well as evenings, weekends, and the Thanksgiving holiday."

Competition for the Guide positions was fierce. More than 2,600 postal employees nationwide applied for the 101 vacanices when they were announced back in November 1987. Screening took nearly a year and involved testing in more than 100 U.S. cities.

Applicants were graded on listening comprehension and speaking proficiency in one or more of the eight languages. Individuals were also evaluated on their cultural awareness, poise, and relevant work experience.

With the selection process completed, the 20th Congress planning team will now concentrate on preparing the Guides for their challenging task ahead.

Training is divided into two phases, one involving a general curriculum and the second which includes more specific instruction.

During the first phase, a two-week extensive session at the William F. Bolger Academy in Potomac, Maryland, Guides will study cross-cultural differences, the history of the UPU, plans for the 20th Congress, Washington's geography, stress management and personal image tips.

Three weeks prior to the November 13 opening ceremony, Guides will be brought back to Washington for specific training in their Congress job assignments.

Of the 101 individuals selected to serve as Guides, 60% are female, 40% male. Ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s, Guides represent nearly every imaginable line of postal work including clerks, letter carriers, mail handlers, mail processing supervisors and postmasters.

No matter what region of the country they come from or what type of postal function they perform back home, all Guides anxiously await the beginning of the 20th UPU Congress and the experiences of a lifetime.

20e CONGRÈS UPU
Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

America's Victorian Era Postal Congress

The last time the United States hosted a Universal Postal Congress was back in 1897, when, as in 1989, Washington was the site of the international meeting.

Between May 5 and June 15, 1897, 102 delegates representing 56 nations, free states and territories convened in the specially decorated hall of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.



Postmaster General James Albert Gary's report of the Fifth Congress planning activities proudly notes that Post Office Department employees "cleansed the floors, walls and ceilings; hung the walls with handsome draperies; covered the floors with velvet carpets and rugs; furnished the various rooms with desks, tables, chairs and articles of luxurious furniture and adorned them with growing plants, to such an extent that the accommodations offered to the Postal Congress of Washington were, at least, equally elegant to the accommodations offered to any previous Postal Congress."

Though General George Batcheller was the well-liked Chairman for the 1897 Congress, PMG Gary was integrally involved early on. In opening remarks, Gary welcomed the assembled delegates with eloquent remarks still appropriate today. "You come as the messengers of peace and goodwill," he said, "as the visible embodiment of international comity, as the advocates of international commerce, as the bearers of friendly messages between communities widely separated yet closely united; and I salute you as the representatives of advanced and advancing civilization."

According to published reports of the day, delegates made considerable progress on the business front in such areas as money orders, C.O.D.s, parcels and periodicals.

Congress attendees were also treated to that particularly American form of hospitality during specially arranged visits to nearby Washington landmarks.

On a trip to Mount Vernon, British delegate Spencer Walpole placed a wreath on the First President's grave in a symbolic gesture of goodwill. During a visit to Fort Monroe, delegates met the Commandant who treated them to a regimental parade by U.S. troops.

But, perhaps the most memorable visit was to the White House, where delegates were astounded by the lack of security. "That would never do with us," a British delegate was heard to say. (Ironically, it did not do for U.S. President McKinley either, who was assassinated four years later.)

For the delegates, undoubtedly the most exciting part of the 1897 Congress was a nine-day excursion along the east coast and midwest on a train of nine Pullman cars.

Stops were made in Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Boston, Atlantic City and Philadelphia. At all points, reported **The New York Times**, Americans welcomed the international postal dignitaries with enthusiastic receptions, elaborate ceremony and dinner galas.

In his final report, PMG Gary reflected the sentiments of his American postal colleagues: "A person who has not had a similar experience cannot understand the strain involved in arranging all the details for a Congress composed of representatives of every nation of the world."

List of Countries Expected to Attend 20th Universal Postal Congress

The following 170 countries and commonwealths comprise the entire membership of the Universal Postal Union. Members choosing not to send a formal delegation to the Washington Congress may choose to appoint another country as their representative with full voting rights.

Afghanistan (Democratic Republic of)
Albania (Socialist People's Republic of)
Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of)
Angola (People's Republic of)
Argentine Republic
Australia
Austria (Republic of)
Bahamas (Commonwealth of)
Bahrain (State of)
Bangladesh (People's Republic of)
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Benin (People's Republic of)
Bhutan (Kingdom of)
Bolivia (Republic of)
Botswana (Republic of)
Brazil (Federative Republic of)
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria (People's Republic of)
Burkina Faso
Burundi (Republic of)
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cameroon (Republic of)
Canada
Cape Verde (Republic of)
Central African Republic
Chad (Republic of)
Chile
China (People's Republic of)
Colombia (Republic of)
Comoros (Islamic Federal Republic of the)
Congo (People's Republic of the)
Costa Rica (Republic of)
Cote d'Ivoire (Republic of)
Cuba (Republic of)
Cyprus (Republic of)
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
Denmark (Kingdom of)
Djibouti (Republic of)
Dominica (Commonwealth of)
Dominican Republic
Ecuador (Republic of)
Egypt (Arab Republic of)
El Salvador (Republic of)
Equatorial Guinea (Republic of)
Ethiopia (Socialist)
Fiji
Finland (Republic of)
French Republic
Gabonese Republic
Gambia (Republic of the)
German Democratic Republic
Germany (Federal Republic of)
Ghana (Republic of)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala (Republic of)
Guinea (Republic of)
Guinea-Bissau (Republic of)
Guyana
Haiti (Republic of)
Honduras (Republic of)
Hungarian People's Republic
Iceland (Republic of)
India
Indonesia (Republic of)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq (Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan

UPU Members (continued)

Jordan (Hashemite Kingdom of)
Democratic Kampuchea
Kenya (Republic of)
Kiribati
Korea (Democratic People's Republic of)
Korea (Republic of)
Kuwait
Lao People's Democratic Republic
Lebanese Republic
Lesotho (Kingdom of)
Liberia (Republic of)
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya (Socialist People's)
Liechtenstein (Principality of)
Luxembourg
Madagascar (Democratic Republic of)
Malawi
Malaysia
Maldives (Republic of)
Mali (Republic of)
Malta
Mauritania (Islamic Republic of)
Mauritius
Mexico (United Mexican States)
Monaco (Principality of)
Mongolian People's Republic
Morocco (Kingdom of)
Mozambique (People's Republic of)
Myanmar (formerly Burma)
Nauru (Republic of)
Nepal
Netherlands
Netherlands Antilles and Aruba
New Zealand
Nicaragua (Republic of)
Niger (Republic of the)
Nigeria (Federal Republic of)
Norway
Oman (Sultanate of)
Pakistan
Panama (Republic of)
Papua New Guinea
Paraguay (Republic of)
Peru (Republic of)
Philippines (Republic of the)
Polish People's Republic
Portugal
Qatar (State of)
Romania (Socialist Republic of)
Rwandese Republic
Saint Kitts and Nevis
Saint Lucia
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
San Marino (Republic of)
Sao Tome & Principe (Democratic Republic of)
Saudi Arabia (Kingdom of)
Senegal (Republic of)
Seychelles (Republic of)
Sierra Leone (Republic of)
Republic of Singapore
Solomon Islands
Somali Democratic Republic
Spain
Sri Lanka (Democratic Socialist Republic of)
Sudan (Republic of the)
Suriname (Republic of)
Swaziland (Kingdom of)
Sweden
Swiss Confederation
Syrian Arab Republic
Tanzania (United Republic of)
Thailand
Togolese Republic
Tonga (Kingdom of)
Trinidad and Tobago (Republic of)
Tunisia
Turkey
Tuvalu
Uganda
Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics
United Arab Emirates
United States of America
Uruguay (Eastern Republic of)
Vanuatu (Republic of)
Vatican City State
Venezuela (Republic of)
Vietnam (Socialist Republic of)
Western Samoa
Yemen Arab Republic
Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of)
Yugoslavia (Socialist Federal Republic of)
Zaire (Republic of)
Zambia (Republic of)
Zimbabwe



postscripts. . .

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UPU structure

Just as with any international organization, the Universal Postal Union has its own unique organizational structure. This list should provide you with a better understanding of the UPU and its far-reaching impact.

Congress

Congress is the Universal Postal Union's supreme authority, convened every five years in a different member country. Its main function is to study and revise the Acts of the Union (Convention), using as a basis the proposals presented by member countries. The decisions reached during Congress govern the actions of the global postal system for the following five-year period.

Executive Council

Composed of 40 members elected by Congress with regard for equitable geographic distribution, the Executive Council (EC) meets each year at UPU Headquarters in Bern, Switzerland. The EC ensures continuity of UPU work between Congresses and has temporary legislative power to settle urgent matters. The United States Postal Service is a member of the Executive Council.

CCPS

Thirty-five members elected at Congress comprise the Consultative Council for Postal Studies (CCPS). Responsible for coordinating studies into major postal problem areas, the CCPS has published more than 160 technical, operational and economic reports since its inception in 1957. The United States Postal Service is a member of CCPS.

Intl. Bureau

Since the UPU was established in 1874, a central administrative headquarters known as the International Bureau (IB) has functioned in Bern, Switzerland. Between Congresses, the IB disseminates information to all member countries, serves as a clearinghouse for the settlement of financial disputes and prepares for the work of Congress.

Restricted Unions

Within the framework of the UPU are nine restricted unions comprised of member countries sharing similar regional or cultural problems. Though not permitted to participate in Congress deliberations, restricted unions can attend as observers. The USPS is a member of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) consisting of Canada, Mexico, Latin and South America and Spain.

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congress **2** leadership

During a Postal Congress, the leadership plays an important role by ensuring objectivity and thorough treatment of all proposals. The list below includes the major Congress executives and decision-makers.

Honorary Chairman

During Congress, the host administration selects an Honorary Chairman, generally a high-ranking government official affiliated with the postal system of that country. Though not officially presiding during Congress, the Honorary Chairman does host and/or attend important social events and provides an added degree of prestige to all activities.
The 20th Congress Honorary Chairman is PMG Anthony M. Frank.

Chairman

Perhaps the most important position at a Universal Postal Congress is that of the Chairman, who must direct the activities of the five-week business meeting. Generally, the Congress Chairman is a high-ranking postal executive with an international postal affairs background. 20th Congress Chairman: Edward E. Horgan, Jr., Assoc. Postmaster General - International.

Chief of Staff

The Congress Chief of Staff assists the Chairman with all business matters by serving as a key liaison with the UPU's International Bureau (Congress Secretariat), meeting with delegations to resolve problems outside the Congress floor, handling diplomatic matters, and troubleshooting on key issues. The Chief of Staff for the 20th Congress is Thomas E. Leavey, Assistant Postmaster General for International Postal Affairs.

Dean

Generally, a retired, high-ranking postal executive from a UPU member country is selected as Dean (or Doyen), a non-legislative, ceremonial position. For the 20th Congress, the former Postmaster General of India – Mr. K. R. Murthy – will serve as Dean.

Secretary General

The UPU's Director General of the International Bureau serves as Secretary General during Congress. This facilitates a smooth transition of authority. For the 20th Congress, the UPU Director General Mr. Adwaldo Cardoso Botto de Barros of Brazil will be Secretary General.

Bō tō de Bah-rōs

Committee Chairmen

The UPU's work is done through committees that study topics such as postal operations, mail processing, service quality and rates. During Congress, Committee Chairmen must perpetuate objective discussions for proposals presented before their group. Most proposals are resolved in committee without ever having been considered by the entire UPU membership.

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congress

3

logistics

By tradition, the Congress host country organizes all logistical aspects of the meeting. Below are some of the challenging tasks confronting Washington's Congress planning team.

Meeting Site

For five weeks, Congress delegates will conduct their business at the Washington Convention Center located in the center of the nation's capital. In just four days, the USPS general services contractor -- Hargrove -- will transform this 780,000-square-foot hall into a friendly and functional setting with 300 delegation offices, a special post office, two large meeting halls with electronic voting boards and simultaneous interpretation equipment, and much more.

Delegate Services

Delegates will be provided a level of American hospitality extended to all foreign dignitaries. Nearly 1,700 hotel reservations will be made (delegates pay for their own rooms); a computerized registration counter will ensure speedy check-in; an efficient arrivals and departures program will assist delegates at airports; a Congress bank will offer competitive exchange rates for foreign currencies, along with many other services.

Special Programs

Traditional ceremonies, dinners, tours and excursions provide delegates with an opportunity to learn more about each other and the host country. During the 20th Congress, delegates will visit the historic cities of Charlottesville and Baltimore, tour Mount Vernon, and see many other uniquely American sights. Also planned are an opening ceremony at Kennedy Center and dinners at Union Station and the National Building Museum.

Security

The United States Postal Inspection Service, the nation's oldest law enforcement agency, will provide appropriate security for the 20th Congress. Washington's local authorities, along with federal law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service will assist the USPS Inspection Service as needed.

WORLD STAMP EXPO '89

An international philatelic exhibition, "WORLD STAMP EXPO '89," will occur from November 17 through December 3 in Hall D of the Washington Convention Center. Though the stamp show will be open to the public, the areas of the building designated for Congress use will be closed to anyone without proper credentials.

VIP LIST

OPENING CEREMONY

1. Anthony M. Frank - Postmaster General
2. Michael S. Coughlin - Deputy Postmaster General
3. Kenneth J. Hunter - Associate Postmaster General
4. Edward E. Horgan, Jr. - Associate Postmaster General-International
5. Thomas E. Leavey - Assistant Postmaster General International Postal Affairs
6. Robert Setrakian - Chairman Board of Governors
7. Susan E. Alvarado - Member Board of Governors
8. John N. Griesemer - Member Board of Governors
9. Ira D. Hall - Member Board of Governors

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10. James A. Baker - Secretary of State
11. Lawrence S. Eagleburger - Deputy Secretary of State
12. A. C. Botto de Barros - Director General International Bureau
13. Felix Ciceron - Deputy Director General International Bureau
14. El Mostafa Gharbi - Assistant Director General International Bureau
15. Jaime Ascandoni - Assistant Director General International Bureau
16. Moussibahou Mazou - Assistant Director General International Bureau
17. K. R. Murthy - Dean of Congress
18. Vice Chairman - USSR
19. Vice Chairman - France
20. Vice Chairman - Zambia
21. Vice Chairman - China

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

November 8, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

THROUGH: CHRISS WINSTON CW

FROM: MARY KATE GRANT MKG

SUBJECT: Opening Ceremony of the Universal Postal Union Congress

I. SUMMARY:

On Monday, November 13, 1989, you will address the opening session of the Universal Postal Union Congress in the Kennedy Center Concert Hall. You will be introduced by Postmaster General Frank, and you will speak for 8 to 10 minutes from speechcards.

II. DISCUSSION:

The remarks you will deliver to an international audience of 1,500 people will cover the history of UPU, the value of the mail in the hi-tech age, and the importance of the written word.

The UPU Congress is convened once every five years among the highest-ranking postal officials of 170 nations. Their decisions, made over the next five weeks, will govern international mail delivery until the next Congress.

Grant/Martin
November 9, 1989
Draft four
A:postal

REMARKS: OPENING CEREMONY
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

Good morning. ((Acknowledgements))

Welcome to the United States. It is a pleasure to address the Universal Postal Union, because it brings to mind so many images from our history. From the appointment of our first Postmaster General, Benjamin Franklin, to the trails blazed by the riders of the Pony Express, to the convenience of modern post offices, the story of the postal service is tied to the story of our country.

And the mail itself reflects the American saga. In 1814, Dolly Madison wrote her sister to describe her escape from the burning White House. Alexander Hamilton sent a farewell letter to his wife before his duel with Aaron Burr. Harry Truman wrote the folks back home about his first night as President. I'm sure there are similar letters in the history of every nation assembled here today.

But only once before in <u>our</u> history has the United States had the honor of hosting a Congress of the U.P.U. -- the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates from 55 countries gathered in the Renwick Gallery, which stands on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House.

The world has changed much since the last time your Congress met in Washington. The delegates to that Fifth Congress had never heard of radio or television, much less computers, airplanes, space shuttles, or satellites, which now seem commonplace.

In 1897, the employees of the U.S. Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed. Today, the United States Postal Service has made great strides in the use of automated equipment -- some capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 35,000 pieces an hour.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. From Hammerfest, Norway on the Arctic Ocean to Alice Springs, Australia in the Outback, postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that the mail always gets through.

Stories abound of amazing deliveries through the mail system: In 1916, a 40,000-ton brick building was mailed across Utah, brick by brick, because it was cheaper than the freight charges. This year, 120 live bees were mailed from Hawaii to Virginia, but were en route when the airplane crashed. The bees survived, and were delivered in a thick envelope with a note from the Sioux City, Iowa, Postmaster explaining the delay. And the man who once mailed **himself** from New York to Los Angeles on a $500 bet. ((However, after the eight hour flight in a styrofoam crate, he decided to stay out of the mail in the future.))

While these stories are out of the ordinary, Americans are proud of the extraordinary job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,000 employees.

But, I am also proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large part, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln.

At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians describe national postal systems in those days as total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations were forced to maintain bilateral agreements with every country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory.

Much wisdom, eloquence and effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples.

Written letters conveyed through the mails, linking the peoples and the nations of this world, often convey many noble enterprises: the advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the encouragement of peace and good will. In fact, I understand that here at your World Stamp Expo, a new set of **Soviet** stamps will be issued -- two of which portray **American** astronauts.

The need to communicate by mail across national frontiers -- despite the march of time and advent of telecommunication -- has remained constant to this very day. The expansion of the world's postal systems, represented by the 170 nations of the U.P.U., staggers the imagination. For even our latest technology and instant delivery services cannot do what the postal system alone can do: get the mail through, anywhere on earth, to any recipient at very small cost.

Every week, I receive up to 60,000 letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive -- from children to our oldest citizens. In a world of faxes and fiber optics, the mails still represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their dreams -- whether it's a young child, crayon in hand, writing a letter to Santa Claus ... or a soldier waiting for a special letter from home.

"Letters mingle souls," the poet John Donne wrote. Yours is a noble profession, for through your efforts, the written word

stirs the imagination, improves the human condition and touches the heart. Good luck in your endeavors over the next five weeks of this Congress. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

# # #

As President of the United States of America, I extend a warm and hearty welcome to you, the delegates and representatives, who have journeyed from far and near, to assemble in Washington, D.C., for the 20th Plenipotentiary Congress of the Universal Postal Union. My fellow Americans and I are honored and pleased that this great international meeting has been convoked in the capital of our nation for the second time since the founding of the Universal Postal Union in 1874.

During your stay in the United States, I am confident that the door of hospitality will be open to you. I encourage you to visit the monuments that chronicle the history of this great nation, and enjoy the sites that celebrate the present American way of life. Wherever you travel, you will discover a proud multicultural heritage as you meet and talk to the citizens of this nation. The strength of American society lies in its openness and its pluralism. The democratic ideal has flourished here because we recognize that people from all cultures have much to contribute to the common good.

In a larger sense, the diversity of people and nations united in a joint effort under the banner of the Universal Postal Union has similarly been able to move forward and achieve great progress through a series of periodic Congresses. On only one previous occasion has the United States been honored as the host country to a Congress of the Universal Postal Union. That Congress was the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates and representatives from 55 countries gathered in the Renwick Gallery, which still stands on Pennsylvania Avenue, one block west of the White House.

The world has changed swiftly within the 92 years separating that Fifth Congress from the one in which you now deliberate. The delegates at the Fifth Congress in 1897 knew nothing of computers, atomic energy, airplanes, space rockets, or satellites, nor did they have access to forms of communication such as radio and television, which now seem commonplace.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed with every technological advance. Postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to postal operations to ensure an unbroken continuity of service unparalleled by any other form of communication yet devised.

In 1897, the employees of the United States Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General. Today, the United States Postal Service has made great strides in the employment of automated equipment capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 35,000 pieces an hour.

In addition, new services and products are being introduced to benefit not only large commercial concerns but also the individual postal customer. As one of the largest postal administrations in the world, the United States Postal Service continues to share its knowledge with the postal administrations of other nations in the best spirit of the Universal Postal Union.

The conveyance of the mails, which links the peoples and nations of the world, constitutes a noble enterprise, one that touches nearly every human endeavor. The advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the maintenance of peace and good will have been well attended by postal services down through the ages. In our own day, the mails have served such causes as the preservation of global ecology, the improvement of human health and nutrition, and the wider extension of literacy and education.

sympathy cards - letters from kids in college
letters home from war front - sweepstakes winners

The need to communicate by mail across national frontiers—despite the march of time and the advent of telecommunication—has remained constant to this very day. The expansion in the world postal systems, represented by some 170 nations forming the Universal Postal Union, staggers the imagination.

literary quote

In consequence, no corner of the world remains isolated from the rest of the world. Thanks to the present international postal network embodied by the member nations of the Universal Postal Union, no political or national boundaries obstruct the flow of the mails, a flow that conveys news and information while solidifying peace and prosperity.

As an American, I am especially proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large measure, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln. At the invitation of Postmaster General Blair, delegates from 15 countries assembled in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations for the reform of a complicated and chaotic system of international mail then prevailing. Historians estimate that national postal systems in those days confronted at least 1,200 separate rates worldwide.

Postal administrations were therefore compelled to maintain bilateral agreements with every country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory. The outcome of the International Postal Commission of Paris of 1863 summoned by Postmaster General Blair resulted in an agreement having 31 articles, many of which were adopted or modified when the present Universal Postal Union came into existence 11 years later.

Much wisdom, eloquence, and earnest effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples.

For all the numbers, for all the machines, and for all the phenomenal progress made by the Universal Postal Union, the importance of the mails comes from its very form—the written word. The individual voice contained within the message of a letter can convey more beauty and more power than any other form of long-distance communication. As President of the United States, I value highly the mails, which represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their concerns.

Every week, I receive more than [The White House to supply figure] letters from every state in the United States and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children asking questions about the government, from young adults stating their anxiety about world peace and ecology, and from elderly citizens commenting on legislation and world affairs. A written letter delivered through the mails not only carries news or raises questions, but also forms a bond between the sender and the receiver.

In closing, I salute you, the members of the 20th Congress, as you commence your earnest work involving this time-honored organization, still strong and vigorous after more than a century. The success of the Universal Postal Union has been derived from the collective thinking of many delegates, from many nations, seeking the common goal of improved postal services throughout the world. Your achievements from past Congresses bear ample witness thereof. Nevertheless, your deliberations at this Congress are not those of the past, but those of the present and of the future.

# # #

Finley Peter Dunne
Amer. political satirist

John Donne
English Poet.

John Dunne

John Donne

Bhojpur, India - Mt Everest

Alice Springs, Australia
(nowhere ville)

Barcelos, Brazil
on Negre River / Amazon

Abancay, Peru
in Andes.

347 9282
Mr. Hoobing

Hammerfest, Norway
on Artic Ocean

~~Lott~~

Lauterbrunnen,
Switzerland - Alps

Magnitogorsk
Uchaly
USSR

Beni Abbes - Algerian
desert

Kariba, Zimbabwe

Al Hillal - Saudi Arabian
desert

CM -

UPU says no post office in Katmandu. Here's their other suggestions. I vote "Hammerfest Norway on the Artic Ocean to Alice Springs Australia on the outback" - your comments?

MK



Michael J. Lilly

Research Associate, Postal History
Office of the Postmaster General

WASHINGTON, DC 20260-0012 / (202) 268-2507

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OFFICE OF RESEARCH
WHITE HOUSE

REGISTER, December 23, 1980, New Haven, Connecticut

Reach out and write someone

By JAY NEWQUIST
Staff Reporter

Ma Bell tells us to "reach out and touch someone." And we do — to the glee of American Telephone and Telegraph.

An AT&T long distance call is still a bargain compared to the price of the red-eye airplane flight to take you in person to Los Angeles.

But there's another price.

We use the telephone so much, say critics, that we have made an art form extinct: what ever happened to letter writing?

The momentous news of life is now communicated cheaply by phone after 5 p.m. And the thick envelopes we do receive in the mail invariably are bills.

The great letter writers of antiquity provide a model, says Herman Liebert of Yale, that we have chosen not to emulate in the 1980s.

"Any experience is wasted if it is not written down," says Liebert in a paraphrase from Boswell. "The recording of an incident is a natural part of that experience."

Apparently the telephone has done to the classic letter what television has done to the printed word, Liebert says. Liebert, librarian emeritus at Yale's Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, says that Cicero's letters are worthy models.

"He wrote about formal matters dealing with politics and literary subjects," Liebert says. "His letters were not personal. He knew he was writing for the sake of history."

Liebert says our distinguished letter writing ancestors range through temperaments and social changes from Cicero, Johnson, Boswell, Walpole, Mme. de Sevigne, Virginia Woolf, John O'Hara and so on.

"I don't think there is one characteristic that makes people write letters," Liebert says, "but some letters are more revealing than others, depending on the era."

Dr. Johnson wrote business-like letters in his day, according to Liebert, while the romantic legacy of Rousseau influenced Mme. de Sevigne to write gushing sentimental letters to her uncaring children.

Liebert says that in most cases we don't know the few scribblers who may be penning artistic letters today.

"We won't know until they are dead," Liebert says. "Most collections of letters are published posthumously."

At Yale there are now more than 1,100 personal letters of novelist George Eliot in the permanent collection in the Beinecke Library. A sampling of letters is on display through Dec. 31 to mark the 160th anniversary of the author's birth.

Her letters describe events both great and small — arrivals, departures, holidays, and all kinds of family matters — penned in an unwavering script.

Nothing is too insignificant to escape an entry.

Gordon Haight, Eliot's biographer, says laid paper (watermarked with fine lines running across the grain) that existed in George Eliot's era did not deteriorate with time while acid-based paper used at the end of the 19th century did disintegrate.

Haight, a Yale professor emeritus, laments the advent of the telephone and advises those unfamiliar with the letter writing art to consult the masters.

"You should look at Virginia Woolf's letters," he says. "There are six volumes."

If the public isn't penning classic letters which describe the human condition, then what kind of letters are most people writing?

Letters of commerce of one sort or another, say local stationers, including business letters and invitations written on personalized stationary.

These letters are invariably short and rather superificial, say experts like Liebert and Haight, and substance and style is often sacrificed for speed.

A patron at The Write Approach on Whalley Ave can dash off notes on good paper bought by the pound — a half-pound (60 sheets) for $3.

The shop does its own printing in four print styles and personalized stationery may cost as little as $5 or as much as $150.

"We saw a crop of shops popping up or over New York," says store owner Marsha Shiff, "and we thought there was a market here in New Haven."

Shiff says that the purchase of stationery reflects the style of the buyer more than ever before, even if the customer merely wants stationery for more mundane uses like party invitations.

At Printemps in Westport and The Write Approach, the customer usually seeks out stationary for a functional purpose, including the lucrative wedding invitation trade.

Is personalized stationery strictly for the carriage trade?

No so. "We see all kinds of customers," Shiff says, "and we can satisfy all pocket books."

The price of a wedding invitation package may range from $100 to $600.

Sandra Rosenburg says that Printemps also does a brisk business in complete printing services.

"We do a bit of everything — printing, engraving, calligraphy, corporate logos," the owner says.

Printemps and its competition and also sell Crane stationery — the Mount Olympus of the trade.

Paquette says that Crane, a subsidiary of Excelsior Printing Co. in North Adams, Mass., offers engraved stationery (the customer keeps the engraving for future orders) and stationary letterheads by a heat process called thermography

Paquette says that Crane customers are well-to-do, but there is a recent rise in orders from people who had never ordered personal stationery before.

Marsha Shiff agrees that the number of first-time customers is on the rise.

"I think it's clear that people would not support the market (for personalized stationary) if they didn't want and need it."

The telephone is relatively cheap, says Herman Liebert, but so is a 15¢ stamp. A phone call must inevitably end, however, and its details may not be remembered.

"A letter is for keeps," Liebert says.

MORNING CALL Allentown, Pa., Mar. 9, 1989

Post office moves belongings to Alaska for $1 a pound

By M.L. ELRICK
Of The Morning Call

Some chiropractor in Sitka, Alaska, is going to see business from postal workers increase in about two weeks when a former Allentown nurse gets her mail.

The last of Janet Roach's 75 packages were dropped off at the Allentown Post Office at 5th and Hamilton streets yesterday, bringing her total shipment to more than 1,500 pounds, postal workers said.

The cost of shipping and insuring the 75 packages of clothing and household items, which averaged 20 pounds each and were charged by weight and the distance of their destination, was about $1,500, said Anita Rutt, post office superintendent of window services.

The packages should arrive in about two weeks by parcel post, which is the cheapest rate. They must be transported to Sitka by either air or boat.

Mel Miller, a post office window clerk with relatives in Alaska, said the packages will be taken by ferry from Seattle along the coast to Alaska.

A U-Haul salesman estimated it would cost $4,400 to rent a truck large enough to transport the packages, and added that he had heard there was a year's advance notice required for space on the ferry to Alaska.

The monster shipment filled eight loading carts and took three days to get together, Rutt said.

"All at one time, that was one of the largest [shipments] that we've had here," she said.

Other large shipments have come from people moving to Puerto Rico.

"They move their families through the post office — literally," she said.

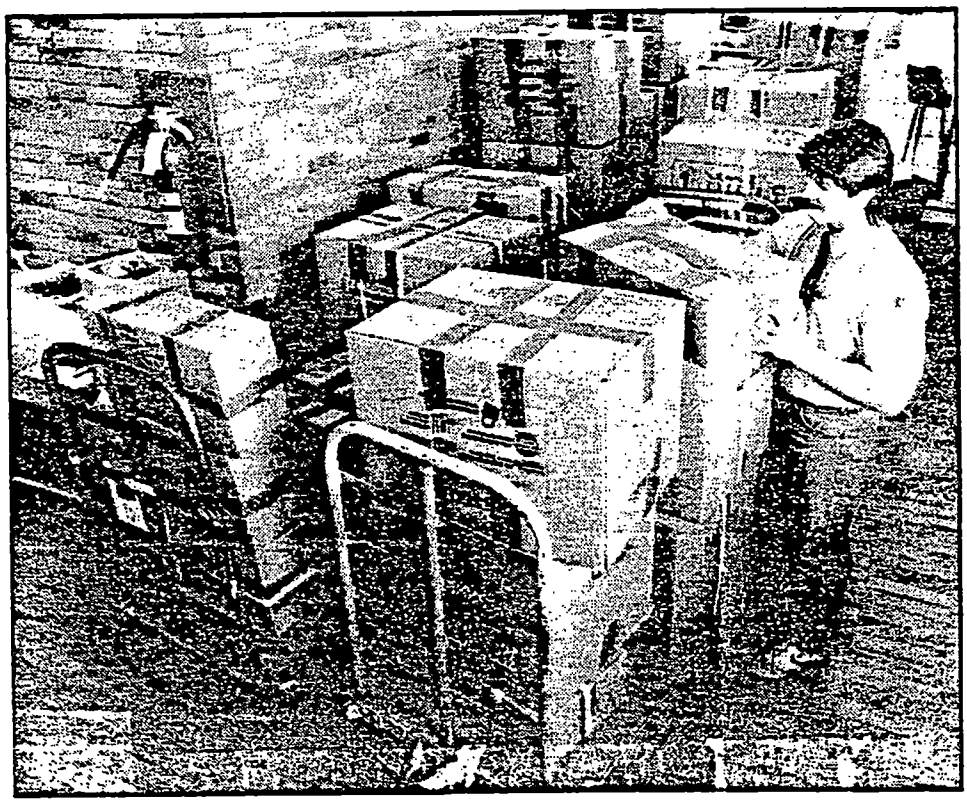
Roach's packages started coming in on Monday, but had not been packed correctly and had to be retaped, Rutt said. Yesterday, the final load had been delivered to the building's back dock and wheeled up to window services where they were processed.

Completing the paperwork on the packages, which could not exceed 70 pounds and 108 inches in length and girth (twice the width by twice the height), took about four hours.

To arrange the massive mailing, Rutt said the post office staff worked with Roach to simplify the process.

"They're always willing to do that extra whatever it takes for the customer so that they know that their packages ... will reach their destination," Rutt said.

She added that the post office does not mind such voluminous mailings, but advises contacting the window service superintendent in advance to make things go smoothly.



Postal clerk John Pintande checks Janet Roach's packages, which she is mailing to Sitka, Alaska. The 75 packages weighed about 1,500 pounds, and cost about $1,500 to mail. The packages should arrive in about two weeks.

JOHN F. SMITZ
The Morning Call

Memories are made of this

Letter writing is becoming a lost art, perhaps at the price of lost knowledge of ourselves and our history

Letters have been called the world's oldest form of communication. For centuries they have linked people and nations together. People put their innermost thoughts in letters, professing their loves and fears in the written word. Marriages have been proposed, lives have been changed, and history has been made through the mail.

"Letters give you special memories you can't replace," says Rose M. Gossett, general supervisor in Portland, OR. "When my first child was born, I wrote him a letter. Now that he's grown, reading that letter brings back so many memories. The world doesn't stand still, but a letter can give you a small piece of the past that does. You can see what life was like for a moment in time."

Writing letters was once an important part of people's lives. Quiet evenings were spent writing to a sweetheart, acquaintances, friends, an old school chum, military buddies, or someone recently met with whom you would like to be friends.

But today, letter writing is on the decline—personal letters make up less than 6 percent of the mail the Postal Service handles. Telephone ads pronounce, "reach out and touch someone," and computers zap messages around the world. "Don't forget to write!" and "Drop us a line," are phrases fast disappearing from our culture. "Letter writing is becoming a lost art," says Sue Ann Craine of the Educational Resources and Information Center in Urbana, IL. "And it's a shame. Much is lost without letter writing. It helps you organize your thoughts. And letters give you pieces of the past that you can save and re-read."



In honor of the Universal Postal Union's 100th birthday in 1974, the Postal Service issued a group of eight stamps, each one featuring a detail from the work of a master painter relating to letter writing. Four of the stamp designs bear John Donne's poetic words, "Letters mingle souls," expressing the timeless ability of letters to convey thoughts and feelings. From the top, "La Belle Liseue," by Swiss artist Jean Etienne Liotard; "Mrs. John Douglas," by British artist Thomas Gainsborough; "Old Time Letter Rack," by John Fredrick Peto, American.

Nine billion letters

Before counting letter writing completely out, we have to realize that there are still a lot of letter writers out there. After all, 6 percent of 150 billion pieces of mail is still nine billion letters. Letter writing is still an important means of communication for many people, and delivering letters is an important part of our service to the American people.

Letters are often a lifeline for families who are far apart. Graciela Farah, a distribution clerk for more than 11 years at the Portland Division, left her nativ Cuba 20 years ago, leaving behind her parents and a brother and sister. "We communicate mainly by writing letters,"

FALL 1985

Worldwide trend

The trend toward writing fewer letters is not peculiar to the United States. Michael Schmonck of the Federal Republic of Germany's embassy said West Germany has the same problem. However, he pointed out that "quite some time ago" a campaign was launched by the post office to encourage people to write more personal letters. Posters can be seen in railway stations, airports, and public places saying, "Schreib mal wieder!"—loosely translated as "start writing again."

Japan also has a "write more often" program. The 23rd of each month is set aside by the government as letter writing day. People, especially children, are urged to "write to someone—relative, acquaintance, friend." The 23rd was chosen through the language itself. In Japanese "fu" means "two," and "me" means "three." Put together as "23"—"fume"—they also spell the Japanese word for "letter." In addition, emphasis is given to this theme once a year with special stamps being issued.

Asked why Japan puts forth so much effort to promote letter writing, a spokesman said, "It brings our people closer together....promotes our unity....brightens people's spirits."

Other countries have programs to encourage letter writing. Both Great Britain and Australia have yearly

promotions to emphasiz
take the time to write.

Lost history
There is a p
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longer
tim

History Without Letters

by Walter Isaacson

Pity the poor historian. The wonders of modern technology have combined with the dynamics of government scandals to make his task next to impossible.

First came the telephone, which replaced the letter as the preferred means of business and social discourse. Letter writing, like keeping faithful diaries, became a lost art. The advent of the tape recorder offered some hope, until Watergate made taping one's own phone for posterity seem both sordid and self-incriminating. Anointing a personal Boswell to hang around the house also turned out to be troublesome, as shown by the ill-conceived rumblings about summoning Edmund Morris, the President's designated biographer, to testify before the Iran-contra probers. Not even silicon chips offer much promise anymore. Those electronic messages that national-security staffers zapped to one another's computer screens, which were fortunately recorded in deep memory for future scribes, violated the cardinal rule of modern government: never leave footprints. Electronic memory shredders will, no doubt, be a feature of the next generation of DELETE keys.

As a result, historians may be left with nothing more than cabinets filled with memos designed more to obscure than illuminate the origins of critical decisions. "It's a real problem," says Morris. "There is more paper now, but its value declines in inverse proportion to its bulk."

One of the great troves for students of 20th century American diplomacy



Letters mingle souls
Donne

Terborch

10c US

was left by Henry Stimson, a tireless diarist and letter writer who served a number of stints as Secretary of War and State from 1911 until 1945. Stimson was the man who ordered the dismantling of a government code-breaking outfit, later explaining, "Gentlemen do not read other people's mail." This mind-set led to some very frank and revealing letters and diary entries. Historians piecing together the momentous decisions of World War II have the luxury of comparing personal writings in which Stimson and Navy Secretary James Forrestal describe the same set of events.

Of course, some letters are a bit dry and impersonal, like those of General George Marshall. But others impart an intimate texture to the tide of history. The candid correspondence between Franklin Roosevelt and Winston Churchill, for example, casts vivid light on the minds of these two great men and the depth of the wartime alliance that they were able to forge. Likewise, Eleanor Roosevelt wrote letters every day. "They provide a diary of the movement of her psyche," says Joseph Lash. "Without them, *Eleanor and Franklin*, and *Eleanor: The Years Alone* could not have been written."

In a satiric essay called "Igor Stravinsky: The Selected Phone Calls," the humorist Ian Frazier pretends to rummage through old telephone bills for clues to the composer's life. For serious historians, the situation seems less funny. "I know more about the Kennedy assassination than anyone," says William Manchester, author of *The Death of a President*, "but I know more about the Dardanelles in 1915 than I do about the assassination. In 1915, people put everything on paper. Now, it's all done over the telephone." Notes Historian Barbara Tuchman: "Phone bills won't tell you much, and as a result, contemporary history has less perspective."

The last president to leave a cache of candid correspondence was Harry Truman, who wrote more than 1,200

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promotions to emphasize the need to take the time to write.

Lost history

There is a price to be paid for the decline of letter writing. People no longer leave a history of their lives and times (see "History Without Letters," below). The wife of a retired Air Force Colonel who had flown B-17s during World War II realizes the historic value of letters. "I saved every ►



Photo by Robert Groff

Larry Humphrey, mail handler in Portland, OR, lets his political leaders know his opinions on the issues through letters.

letters just to his wife. Not only do they reveal his delightful personal style, they provide convincing insights on matters ranging from his dealings with Stalin to his decision to drop the atom bomb. There is even a book filled with letters that Truman wrote in moments of pique, then wisely filed away unmailed....

Robert Caro, now at work on the second volume of his definitive biography of Lyndon Johnson, says the historical record abruptly changes in the early 1940s, when people began to rely on the telephone more than the mail. "Through Johnson's detailed correspondence with his patron Alvin Wirtz and others, you could trace the most intricate deals and such matters as his stormy relationship with Sam Rayburn," says Caro. "Then, at a crucial moment, just when you want to know what someone is thinking, you'll run into a telegram or note saying 'Phone me tonight.' That's when you feel the impact of the telephone right in your gut." In researching LBJ's role in the passage of the 1957 Civil Rights Bill, Caro says he has been reduced to deciphering scrawls at the bottom of telephone message slips.

Back when the telephone was a relatively new contraption, people often regarded it as too ephemeral for important communications. Averell Harriman and Robert Lovett, two great statesmen who had been Wall Street partners, talked on the phone regularly when they were apart and then would exchange letters the same afternoon, putting to paper what they had said. "As I told you over the telephone this morning...," they would typically begin....

Their successors, on the other hand, abandoned letters in favor of obfuscating memos when it came to discussing, say, the Vietnam War. Some of the most candid records of that period come from times when a few of the old statesmen were called in for counsel and then, as was their wont, exchanged letters about what they had discussed....

The national penchant for exposing as quickly as possible everything done by public officials, which is codified by the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), is, on balance, a good thing for democracy. But it is not the best thing for history. It has taught statesmen to be very careful about what they put on paper. "For all its advantages, the FOIA inhibits people from writing," says Robert Donovan, whose noted biographies of Truman depended heavily on letters and frank memos. "Officials shred it all now. A lot of serious history is vanishing."

Future historians will no doubt find different source material. Instead of rummaging through the Beinecke Library at Yale, they will spend their time in video archives watching old segments of Nightline and the MacNeil-Lehrer report. "So much is preserved in audio and visual these days," says Morris, "that it gives you much of a person's life and demeanor." Well, yes, the historians of the next century will be a lot more accurate in their portrayal of how people looked and spoke. But it is naive to believe that the way Caspar Weinberger answers a Ted Koppel question about America's stake in the Persian Gulf could provide the same candid insight that is available in Dean Acheson's letter to his daughter on the same subject during the Iranian crisis 41 years ago.

One solution would be to make it once again respectable—perhaps even mandatory—to tape important discussions and phone conversations for the historical record. The tapes would become the property of the National Archives and could be tightly sealed from all scrutiny for at least two decades, the way that sensitive diplomatic cables were generally treated before the Freedom of Information Act came along. But aside from the legal and practical questions involved, such an idea would face philosophic objections: it could be seen as both an unwarranted invasion of privacy and a dangerous attempt to preserve the privacy of important exchanges.

Then again, preserving such a record may not be worth the vast effort, expense or constraints involved. After all, only history is at stake. But if top officials knew in the back of their minds that future generations were listening in, it might have a salutary effect on the present. Had the judgment of history been hovering over their shoulders, the architects of the Iran-contra affair, for example, might have reflected a moment longer on the long-term implications of their actions. Indeed, the dulling of our historical sense could be one reason that the U.S. needs so many special prosecutors these days. ■

one of his letters," she said. "They were so informative and just packed with excitement."

The Colonel says, "You know, I read some of those letters now and then. And it's funny how the feelings I had at the time I wrote them sometimes come flooding back in waves. And it's exciting. I can relive the adventure and strangeness....the fear....all that. Why, sometimes I'm able to recall little insignificant things that I'd long forgotten. Letters add depth—a third dimension—to the memory."

The 45-year-old V-Mail letters, written by sailors on a ship during World War II and found unmailed in 1986 in a North Carolina attic, bring home the point that letters endure where other means of communication do not. Some of the writers never came home from the war, and their loved ones had another memory of them through the letters.

Expressing feelings

Writer, philosopher Leo F. Buscaglia thinks that letters give us the opportunity to say exactly what we feel. "We have time to reflect and say things the way we want them said," he writes. "I'm all for face-to-face communication, but, for whatever reason, we don't always say in person what we really feel. Sometimes it helps to sort out our feelings in quiet, then capture them on paper."

Portland mail handler Larry Humphrey agrees. He thinks letter writing is perfect for someone who is shy. "I can take the time to compose my thoughts," he says. "I can take my time and be more eloquent in a letter than I can in person. I like to sit down with a cup of coffee and think about what I am going to say."

For high school English teacher Leah Wendt, love came through the mail. Her husband, Roy Wendt, a postal clerk in Kalamazoo, MI, proposed through letters. "The mail is a wonderful way of taking the edge off introductions or first meetings," she says. "If the lover of your dreams doesn't answer the letter, at least it isn't as humiliating as a face-to-face confrontation. The Postal Service does a wonderful job of shortening the distance and bringing potential friends and sweethearts together."

Photo by Lynne Worth



Photos by Carol Reich





Katherine Kiser, (top) consumer affairs representative, Debbie Westerdahl, PTF clerk, and Cheryl Hart, PTF clerk, agree that letter writing isn't what it used to be.

Lee Iacocca, president of Chrysler says, "Writing a letter makes you organize your thoughts," he says. "In an era of instant and sometimes garbled communications, letter writing is still a most effective way of getting your ideas and feelings across."

New age

Some experts see the day coming when people will be sending full color video letters to each other. They will routinely use home video cameras and tape decks to correspond. The family will be seated comfortably together, and members will take turns being taped as they "visit" the friends to whom they'll send the tape. Family birthdays and special events will be taped and shared with far-away family and friends.

But when we are all busy "writing" to each other via video, some small grace will be lost, another notch etched in a society that no longer values the written word. A letter becomes a permanent record of our feelings, opinions, likes and dislikes. It is both a link with our past, a hands-on piece of history that tells us something about the way we were, and a link with our present, a way to communicate with our friends and family.

As the English poet John Donne wrote: "More than kisses, letters mingle souls; for thus friends absent speak." ■

Humorist Garrison Keillor still writes letters. *See pp. 20-21 for his tips on "How to write a personal letter."*

UNUSUAL POST OFFICE NAMES

PECULIAR, MISSOURI
BOWLEGS, OKLAHOMA
TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, NEW MEXICO
ZAP, NORTH DAKOTA
INTERCOURSE, PENNSYLVANIA
SANTA CLAUS, INDIANA
BROKEN ARROW, OKLAHOMA
PAINT LICK, KENTUCKY
NOTREES, TEXAS
DIME BOX, TEXAS
LUCK, WISCONSIN
LUCKEY, OHIO
COARSEGOLD, CALIFORNIA
BULLFROG, UTAH
DOGPATCH, ARKANSAS
WHAT CHEER, IOWA
WATERPROOF, LOUISIANA

(names run alphabetically from AARON, KENTUCKY, to ZWOLLE, LOUISIANA)

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT'S LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT IN 1956

Just after the United States declared war on Japan on December 8, 1941, America's Captain Colin Kelly, Jr. became the first hero to give his life for his country. Besieged on all sides, with Germany and Italy declaring war and Japan swiftly invading American territory in the Pacific, Roosevelt still found time to address a letter to the man who would be President in 1956. Roosevelt asked that Colin P. Kelly III be given an appointment to West Point "as a token of the nation's appreciation of the heroic services of his father."

The President in 1956, Dwight D. Eisenhower, did not forget. Colin P. Kelly III received his appointment, signed by the former Commander-in-Chief.

December 17, 1941

To the President of the United States in 1956:

I am writing this letter as an act of faith in the destiny of our country. I desire to make a request which I make in full confidence that we shall achieve a glorious victory in the war we are now waging to preserve our democratic way of life.

My request is that you consider the merits of a young American youth of goodly heritage--Colin P. Kelly III, for appointment as a candidate in the United States Military Academy at West Point. I make this appeal in behalf of this youth as a token of the nation's appreciation of the heroic services of his father who met his death in the line of duty at the very outset of the struggle which was thrust upon us by the perfidy of a professed friend.

In the conviction that the service and example of Captain Colin P. Kelly, Jr., will be long remembered, I ask for this consideration in behalf of Colin P. Kelly III.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

ALBERT EINSTEIN TELLS WHY HE PERSUADED ROOSEVELT TO MAKE THE ATOM BOMB

"...Frightful to Imagine"

John Napier was a Scottish mathematician who died in 1617. He is said to have invented a "devastating contrivance" that could "wipe out every living being for miles." J. J. Perling wrote an article telling how Napier kept his discovery secret and refused to reveal it, even on his deathbed. Reading the article, Albert Einstein felt conpelled to write the author and explain why he had urged President Roosevelt to develop the atomic bomb, although he wished that it had been possible for the bomb's inventors to die with their discovery unknown, as had John Napier. J. J. Perling released Einstein's comments for publication shortly before the death of the great scientist whose equation $E=MC^2$ laid the basis for atomic fission.

J. J. Perling to the editor of Newsweek

Wilmington, Del.
May 9, 1955

Sirs:

Prof. Albert Einstein's sudden death brings to mind his role in persuading Franklin D. Roosevelt to authorize the development of the atomic bomb. What is not so generally known is Einstein's deep regret that it was necessary for American scientists to invent this engine of destruction. This abhorrence he expressed in a letter to me in 1949.

What prompted his expression was an article which I had written regarding a devastating contrivance invented 300 years ago by the famous mathematician John Napier who had originated the science of logarithms. Napier's machine, contemporary writers said, could "destroy a whole army or enemy fleet at once," and could wipe out every living being for miles. Napier on his deathbed was urged to reveal the secret of his infernal invention, but he refused.

Einstein - cont'd.

This is what Professor Einstein wrote me:

"The unrevealed invention of Napier interested me very much. I am firmly convinced that Napier did the right thing, not to make his idea public. The same would have been the case with the atomic bomb if those physicists who were working in this field would not have had to fear that the Germans would be the first to produce such a bomb. It is frightful to imagine what a disaster it would have been for the world if Hitler would have come into possession of this weapon, and in such a way would have been able to subjucate humanity and mold it in his image"....

J. J. Perling

JOHN ADAMS WOULD CELEBRATE JULY 2ND

"The most memorable epocha in the history of America"

Bursting with a sense of history-in-the-making, John Adams tells his wife, Abigail, why July 2nd should be celebrated throughout history as Independence Day. A Resolution of Independence was adopted by the Continental Congress on July 2nd, but the final wording of the famous Declaration was not approved until July 4th. Except for the change in date, the country enthusiastically adopted John Adams' suggestion. Independence Day was established after the independence of America was recognized by the Treaty of Paris in 1783. It took the place of Massacre Day which had been observed in several of the colonies until that time.

John Adams to his wife, Abigail

3 July 1776

My Dear,

Yesterday the greatest question was decided which ever was debated in America, and a greater, perhaps, never was nor will be decided among men. The second day of July 1776 will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forevermore.

You will think me transported with enthusiasm, but I am not. I am well aware of the toil and blood and treasure that it will cost us to maintain this Declaration and suport and defend these States. Yet, through all the gloom, I can see the rays of ravishing light and glory. I can see that the end is more than worth all the means. And that posterity will triumph in that day's transaction, even although we should rue it, which I trust in God we shall not.

Yours,
John Adams

was a vast, silent wilderness, inhabited primarily by Indians.

Transportation across this area on a year-round basis was generally believed impossible because of extreme weather conditions. Russell, however, believed it was feasible year round and was ready to organize his own express, with or without a mail contract, to prove it.

As a first step, Russell and his two partners, Majors and Waddell, formed the Central Overland California and Pike's Peak Express Company. They went on to build new relay stations and to ready existing ones for use. The country was combed for good horseflesh, animals hardy enough to challenge deserts and mountains and to withstand thirst in summer and ice in winter. Riders were recruited hastily, but before being hired had to swear on a Bible not to "cuss," fight, or abuse their animals and to conduct themselves honestly.

Starting on April 3, 1860, the Pony Express ran through parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California. On an average day, a rider made 75 to 100 miles. He changed horses at relay stations, set about 10 or 15 miles apart, transferring himself and his "mochila," (a saddle cover with four pockets or cantinas for mail), to the new mount, all in one leap.

The first mail by Pony Express via the Central Route from St. Joseph to Sacramento took 10½ days, cutting the Overland Stage time via the Southern route by more than half. The fastest delivery time was in March 1861, when the inaugural address of President Lincoln was carried in seven days and 17 hours.

From April 1860 to July 1861, the Pony Express operated as a private enterprise. After July 1, 1861, it was operated under contract as a mail route until October 24 that same year when the transcontinental telegraph line was completed and the Pony Express became a legend. Although the Pony Express operated less than 19 months, they were heroic and dramatic months that compressed into a few pages the romance and essence of America's pioneer history, an actual venture that eclipses any western fiction published since.

2. Railway Mail Service

At least three decades before the Pony Express galloped into postal history, the "iron horse" made a formal appearance in August 1829, completing the first locomotive run in the United States on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company road at Honesdale, Pennsylvania. One month later, the South Carolina Railroad Company adopted the locomotive as its tractive power and in 1820 the Baltimore & Ohio's "Tom Thumb" or "Teakettle," America's first steam locomotive, successfully carried over 40 persons at more than 10 miles an hour. This beginning was considered somewhat less than auspicious when a stage driver's horse outran the "Tom Thumb" on a parallel track in a race at Ellicotts Mills, Maryland, on September 18, 1830. Later, however, a steam locomotive reached the unheard-of speed of 30 miles an hour in an 1831 competition in Baltimore and the dray horses used to power the first locomotives gradually were eased into history.

The Post Office Department recognized the use of this new mode of transportation for mail as early as November 30, 1832, when the stage contractors on a route from Philadelphia to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, were granted an allowance of $400 per annum "for carrying the mail on the railroad as far as West Chester (30 miles) from December 5, 1832." Although the Department apparently entered into a number of contracts providing for rail transportation of some part of the stage routes in succeeding years, the Postmaster General listed only one railroad company as a contractor during the first six months of 1836, i.e., "Route 1036 from Philadelphia to Mauch Chunk, Pennsylvania."

After passage of an Act of July 7, 1838, constituting all railroads in the United States as post routes, mail service by railroad increased very rapidly. The Post Office had appointed a clerk in charge of the mails on a railroad in 1837, and in June 1840 two mail agents were appointed to accompany the mail from Boston to Springfield "to make exchanges of mails, attend to delivery, and receive and forward all unpaid way letters and packages received."

At this time, mails were distributed in the larger post offices, and the only mail sent to the cars to be handled by the route agents was that intended for delivery at local points on the various lines. The agents opened the pouches from the local offices, separated the mail for other local points on the line for inclusion in pouches for those offices, and sent the balance into the terminal office for general distribution. Gradually, the clerks began to make up mail for connecting lines, as well as local offices, and the idea of distributing all transit mail on the cars slowly evolved.

The first experiment in distributing mails in so-called "post offices on wheels" was made in 1862 by William A. Davis between Hannibal and St. Joseph, Missouri,

Medals take postal route back to man

By Wade Fowler/Patriot-News

Michael Carlos Jones was reunited yesterday with the medals he won 20 years ago in Vietnam, and the tears of joy flowed without shame.

The Postal Service is joyful, too. Shrugging off its reputation as a loser of mail, it found some.

After years of pestering the Army, Jones, 41, finally received his two campaign ribbons and a Bronze Star by mail Tuesday at his home in the 2900 block of Sixth Street in Harrisburg.

On his way to show them off at work, Jones placed the medals — still in their original package from the Department of the Army — on the top of his car, but forgot them there and drove off for work. By the time he realized his mistake, they were gone.

Enter Chip Stoyer. The letter carrier, moving about his appointed rounds on Wednesday, was approached by an employee of Thermotech Inc. of the 2200 block of Susquehanna Street. The man said he'd found a package in an alley nearby and wondered what to do with it, Stoyer said.

Stoyer turned the package over to his supervisor, Charles M. Griffith, who read about Jones in yesterday's editions of The Patriot-News.

"I was going to have the package redelivered," Griffith said. "But then I started reading the paper and I said, 'Hey this must be that guy's medals.' "

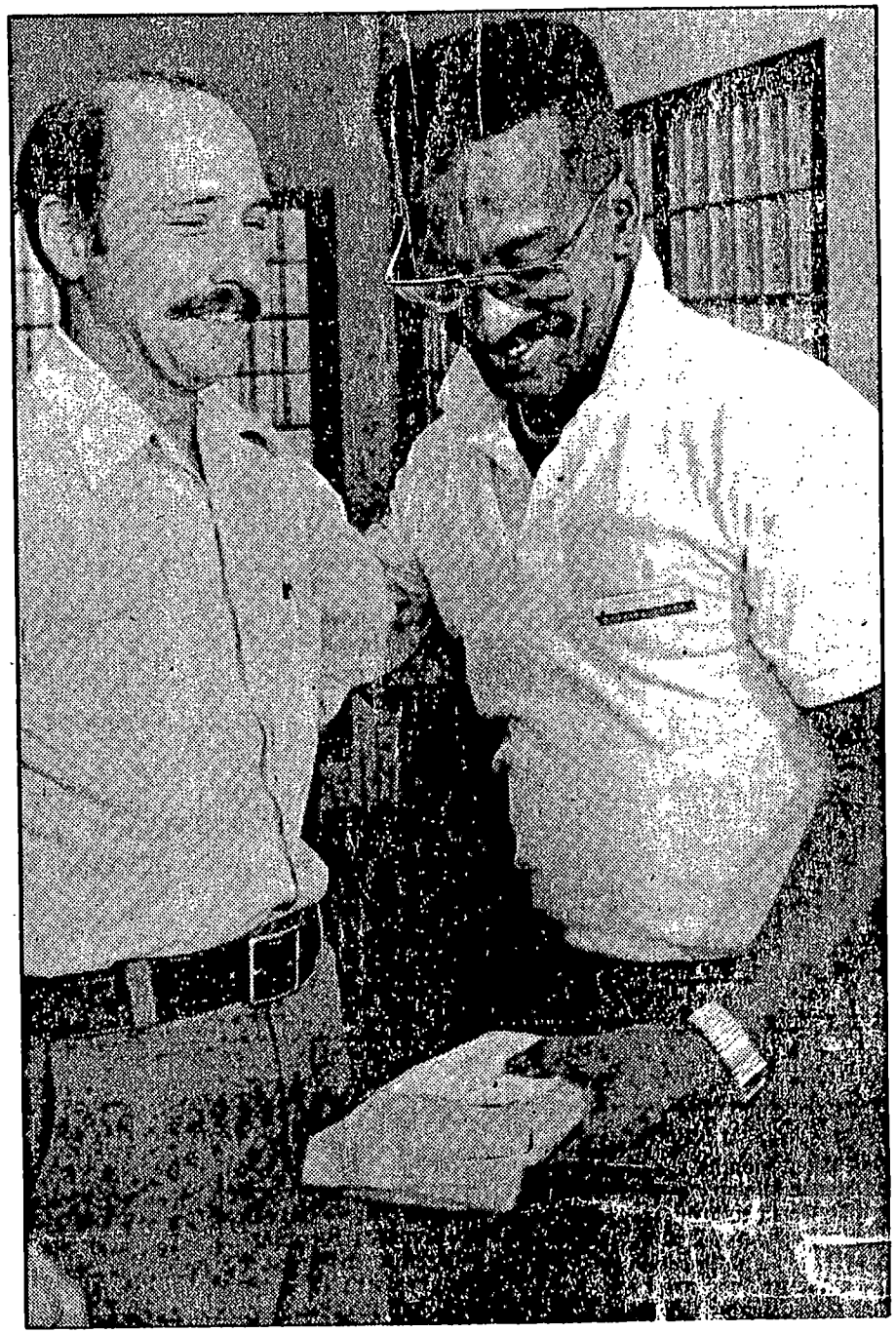
Stoyer, a former staff sergeant in the Air Force Reserve, has a few medals of his own and knows what they can mean to a veteran. So he didn't shy away from Jones' hearty hug when the medals were given back to him in a brief ceremony at the Postal Service's Uptown Station.

During the time his medals were missing, Jones said he thought long and hard about where they might have been.

"I thought some kid probably has them on his cap or something and has started a new style," Jones said, with a relieved smile.

That smile brightened Stoyer's day as well.

"It's nice to see someone smiling," Stoyer said. "That's one of the biggest rewards you can get from this job."



Patriot-News/T.J. Tristan

'THEY MEAN A LOT' — Michael Jones, right, celebrates the return of his medals with postman Chip Stoyer, who got them while making a delivery.

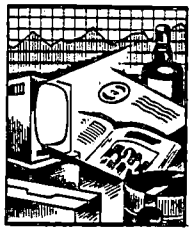
PATROIT NEWS
Harrisbur, PA
August 7, 1989

ADVERTISING / By CYNTHIA CROSSEN

If You Are What You Eat, They've Got Your Number

Those people out there who know how much you earn and how much you borrowed to buy your house—not to mention where you live and when your baby's due—will soon know what you eat in the privacy of your own home.

They'll know because you, hoping to reduce your grocery bills, joined a frequent shopper program at your local supermarket. In exchange for saving $100 or more a year, you agreed to allow your purchases to become part of an electronic data base on shoppers' grocery-buying habits. A computer will keep track of how often you (name, address, phone number, household income) buy Ding Dongs and how often pork rinds. That's information lots of companies will pay for.



A few discount-for-data programs are already up and running, and several more are scheduled to begin testing in supermarket chains this fall. For the supermarkets, these programs supposedly encourage customer loyalty. But for some manufacturers, retailers and direct marketers, the programs will create increasingly narrow consumer profiles to be used in target marketing.

"This is data that's never been captured before," says L. Norman Howe of **L. Norman Howe Associates**, developer of a supermarket discount-for-data system. "You can't get this information from the census or regular mailing lists. The consumer has to spit it out himself."

The programs, which have been made possible by electronic scanners at checkout counters, raise some troubling privacy issues about companies marketing personal information about people's grocery preferences. The sponsors note that the programs are voluntary and that people who don't want others to know what they buy at the grocery store simply won't join. But that means customers sensitive to privacy will, in effect, pay higher prices on some items than those who aren't.

The potential for abusing this kind of data exists, says Fred Milman, senior consultant at David Shepard Associates, a direct-marketing and data-base marketing consulting firm. Hypothetically, he says, consumers could get "Big Brotherish" personal letters saying that they hadn't bought enough groceries lately or spent too much on their eggs last week. But Mr. Milman believes the companies involved in these programs are reputable, and will be "as sensitive about their data as some credit bureaus are about theirs," he says. "These aren't people on the fringe."

Next month, **Advanced Promotion Technologies**, a joint venture of Donnelley Marketing, **CheckRobot** and **Procter & Gamble**, will begin testing a discount-for-data program in Dahl's supermarkets in Des Moines. Seven manufacturers, including **Kraft**, **Campbell Soup**, Del Monte, **Ralston Purina**, Procter & Gamble, General Foods and Oscar Mayer, are participating in a club, in which shoppers will accumulate points toward merchandise in exchange for letting the computer accumulate records of their grocery habits. "We'll know that Jane Smith, a frequent shopper, buys diapers, so we know she has a baby," says Kathy Robinson, marketing communications coordinator for Advanced Promotion Technologies. "Then we can target market to her."

Citicorp POS Information Services Inc., a unit of **Citicorp**, will also begin testing a frequent shopper program this fall. Members will get cash rebates on certain products in exchange for allowing a computer to assemble data about them. Among the participants is Pathmark, a unit of **Supermarkets General**.

Although these frequent-shopper programs are marketed to retailers as a way of increasing customer loyalty, Robert Wunderle, economist and vice president of public affairs for Supermarkets General, says they're actually "just another thing to complicate the running of our business." Mr. Wunderle says Pathmark is testing the Citicorp system because "it's a marketing distinction, another way a customer can do better shopping with us."

For Citicorp, however, the system will provide a customer diary, which can be marketed in a variety of ways. For instance, a dog food manufacturer could eliminate direct-mail promotions to the 50% of Americans who don't own pets. "Direct marketing is a very expensive form if you're using it as mass advertising," says Mr. Howe. "But when you eliminate all the people who aren't prospective customers, then it becomes very effective."

Jim Ukrop, president of Richmond, Va.-based **Ukrop's Super Markets**, another chain that will be testing the Citicorp program, says his store's arrangement with Citicorp is that customers' names can't be used, nor may the telephone be used for direct-marketing efforts. But Ukrop's uses the 190,000 names and addresses it has collected in its own frequent-shopper program to send monthly newsletters, and occasionally personalized letters, to customers.

While most of these discount-for-data programs are electronic, Mr. Howe's system works through the mail. Customers receive a catalog filled with rebate offers and advertising from manufacturers. Included in the catalog is a market research survey with questions about spending habits, credit cards, annual household income and more than a dozen other questions. When Mr. Howe's customers return evidence of their purchases, so they can collect their rebates, 90% of them complete the questionnaire.

Mr. Milman says the applications for data collected this way are almost limitless. "The opportunities are mind-boggling," he says. "With this kind of data, you're not mass communicating, you're individually communicating."

Saturn-esque Sales Meeting

Hal Riney & Partners, the agency handling the launch of **General Motors** Corp.'s new Saturn car division, got quite a crowd this week when it invited media advertising sales representatives to "help Hal Riney spend $100,000,000."

The agency rented the auditorium at the Palace of Fine Arts in San Francisco and packed in some 600 ad sales people hungry for information about how Riney and Saturn will spend a huge wad of advertising cash.

Riney senior vice president Patrick Sherwood called Tuesday's gathering an "unprecedented" event in the advertising business. But holding one meeting for 600 people, instead of hundreds of separate meetings, is "a very Saturn-esque way of doing business," Mr. Sherwood said.

Also Saturn-esque was a lack of specifics about Saturn's product—a U.S.-designed and built compact car aimed at recapturing ground lost to Japanese auto makers—and its marketing strategy. Those attending didn't see any clear pictures of the car or learn much about how Saturn will position itself in its ads.

Such details are "premature, since the car will not be out until late fall next year," said Mr. Sherwood.

Instead, Saturn and Riney officials—but not Mr. Riney himself—urged the assembled media people to "think like they've never thought before" about how Saturn ads could be presented.

Meanwhile, Saturn and Riney are still puzzling over some basic questions, such as how closely should Saturn tie itself to GM in its ads. Saturn's cars are supposed to woo Honda and Toyota buyers back to the domestic fold. But, as Mr. Sherwood says, "GM and Ford don't have good reputations with that consumer."

THE COLUMBUS COUNTY NEWS/TIMES
Chadbourn, NC
July 6, 1988

'Neither Rain Nor Sleet ...'

The old cliche about postmen delivering the mail proved to be true in Chadbourn last week but it was not rain or sleet nor dark of night that presented the challenge. It was the lack of an address. Although the letter was addressed simply to "Route 410" it was delivered to its rightful recipient Saturday morning.

"The" letter was received at the Chadbourn postoffice in another envelope addressed to the postmaster. A note attached read as follows:

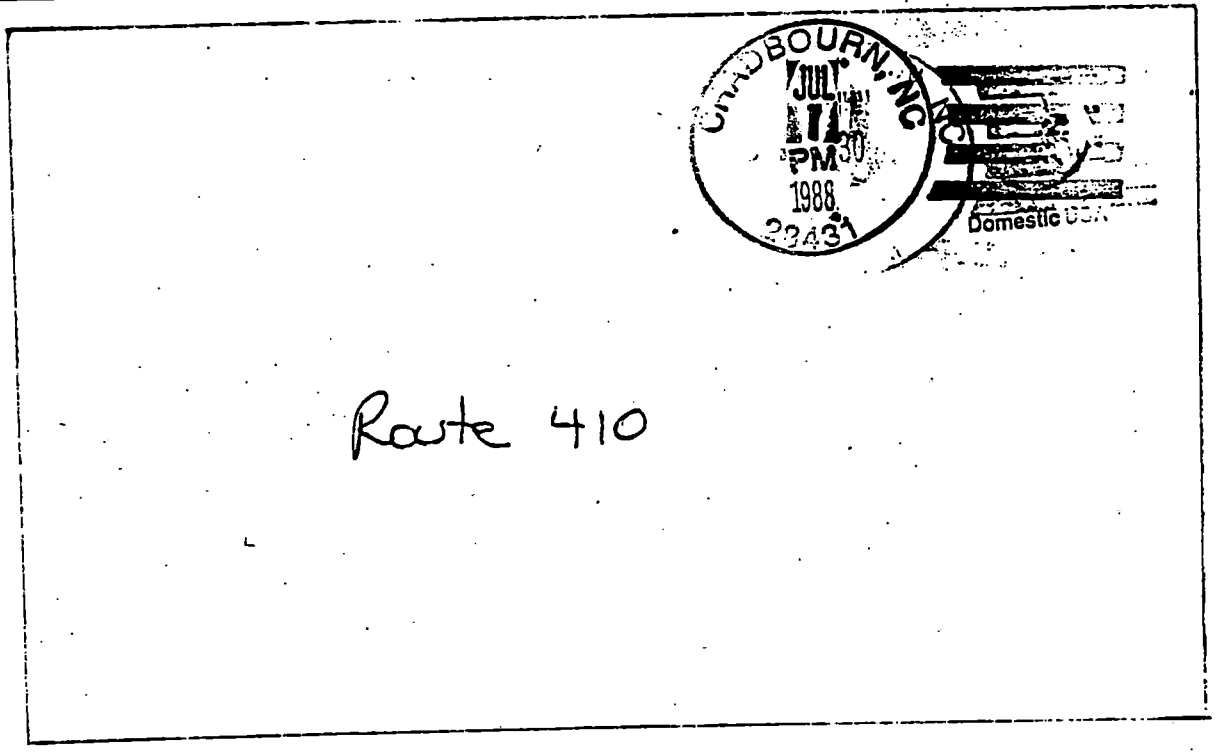
"While passing thru North Carolina I saw a '69 red Mustang on Route 410 going south of Chadbourn, on the right hand side on of the road. It was parked under an open air part of a barn near the road.

"I don't have a name or address of the people that own the car. I was hoping one of your mail carriers could deliver this letter to the house next to where the car is parked. The car is very visible from the road.

"I am interested in purchasing the car and any help in delivering this would be greatly appreciated. If this can't be delivered, please return in the enclosed envelope."

Chadbourn postmaster Billy Martin said his staff is not one to turn down challenges of this type and the search was on. Rural Route One covers the area along Hwy. 410 south of Chadbourn and that is rural carrier Marvin McPherson's territory. A check with McPherson caused him to recall seeing the '69 Mustang. Another quick check revealed the owner. On Saturday morning McPherson delivered the letter.

In the interest of privacy Martin would not reveal the specific address nor the name of the recipient but he seemed quite proud of the fact that fact that the letter, with practically no address, was delivered as intended. One thing about this, one has to wonder if the man was able to buy the '69 red Mustang. Perhaps a follow-up story is in order.



WATERTOWN DAILY TIMES, July 18, 1988, Watertown, N.Y.

Stamp Hike on Way?

No Time for Public To Be Complacent

Getting used to the 25-cent charge for first-class postage?

Finally decided that the E-stamp has cushioned the transition from 22 cents to 25 cents for a letter?

Well, don't become too complacent.

The F-stamp already is in the wings.

The nondenominational F-stamp, foreshadowing the next postal rate hike, is being stored in a humidity-free cave near Kansas City, Mo., much as its predecessor, the E-stamp, was.

For up to three years 6 billion E-stamps were stored in the Missouri cave awaiting the moment when the Postal Rate Commission and the board of governors of the Postal Service would decide that a rate hike was necessary.

The cave is more like an underground industrial park than a cave. It has a two-lane roadway, streetlights, offices, warehouses and loading docks, all in a humidity-free environment carved from limestone.

It took 57 tractor-trailer loads to remove all the E-stamps from the cave. So, with postal rate boosts averaging about one every three years, it is no wonder that the Postal Service is plowing ahead, printing F-stamps and storing them.

SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER JUL 27 1988

Perot's good deal

SPI A-6

The unusual contract recently agreed to by the U.S. Postal Service and Texas billionaire H. Ross Perot deserves a close look by Congress.

The General Accounting Office has concluded the contract does not adequately protect the interests of the government, according to the New York Times.

It was awarded without competitive bidding and departs from standard procurement practice in allowing Perot to negotiate the amount of cost savings his company would reap from each project and to retain exclusive ownership of the ideas developed under the contract. The Postal Service also gave up — why is unclear — its customary right to cancel the contract any time; after 90 days the agency is stuck.

No one would disagree that the post office could use some help in stepping into the 20th century. And as a quasi-governmental body, the service has certain liberties to operate in a more businesslike way than regular government agencies.

Still, the contract has an unfortunate smell about it and could profit from a good airing — and perhaps some modification — by Congress.

THE NEWARK STAR LEDGER MAY 18 1989

It's mailmen in a cakewalk

The U.S. Postal Service takes the cake -in this case more than 200 miles, without messing the frosting, even though it was packaged only in a shallow cardboard box with a flimsy cellophane covering

The turquoise-frosted birthday cake traveled from Dumont, in western Minnesota, and arrived in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington in time for Angie Wold's 22d birthday Tuesday.

"My mother . . .," Wold sighed happily when she received the 9-by-13-inch chocolate cake

Lorene Wold, postmistress at Dumont, mailed the cake Monday with $4 15 of first-class priority postage stamps stuck to the cellophane It survived transfers at four post offices en route.

"I thought if everyone could see what was inside, they'd be more careful," she said. "I just wanted her to have a cake on her birthday You know how mothers are"



THE WASHINGTON POST
THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1989

Postal Service Has Cake And Delivers It Too

Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn., May 17—The U.S. Postal Service takes the cake—in this case more than 200 miles, without mussing the frosting, even though it was packaged only in a shallow cardboard box with flimsy cellophane covering.

The turquoise-frosted birthday cake traveled from Dumont, in western Minnesota, and arrived in this Minneapolis suburb in time for Angie Wold's 22nd birthday Tuesday.

Lorene Wold, Angie's mother and postmistress at Dumont, mailed the cake Monday with $4.15 of first-class priority postage stamps stuck to the flimsy cellophane. "I thought if everyone could see what was inside, they'd be more careful," she said.

ST. LOUIS POST DISPATCH MAY 18 1989

A Sweet Greeting From Post Office

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. (AP) — The U.S. Postal Service takes the cake — in this case more than 200 miles — without messing the frosting, even though it was packaged only in a shallow cardboard box with flimsy cellophane covering.

The turquoise-frosted birthday cake traveled from Dumont, in western Minnesota, to Bloomington, a suburb of Minneapolis, in time for Angie Wold's 22nd birthday Tuesday.

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The Washington Times

THURSDAY, MAY 18, 1989

Postal Service takes birthday cake

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"My mother . . .," sighed Miss Wold when she received the 9-by-13-inch chocolate cake.

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"I thought if everyone could see what was inside, they'd be more careful," she said. "I just wanted to her to have a cake on her birthday. You know how mothers are."

The cake survived transfers in Dumont, Willmar, Minneapolis and Bloomington.

DATE May 18, 1989
TIME 6:00-7:00 AM
NETWORK ABC
PROGRAM World News This Morning

ACCOUNT NUMBER 63/3543-NX
NIELSEN AUDIENCE 1,677,540

Forrest Sawyer, co-anchor:

And you've heard complaints about the Postal Service. Well, here is a laud for--or a praise for them. A Minnesota mother and her twenty-two-year-old daughter--no complaints about the Postal Service. On Monday Mom baked and frosted a birthday cake and packed it in a shallow cardboard box with a cellophane top, put four dollars' worth of stamps in the cellophane and mailed

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM 10/30/89

TO: DAVID BATES/SIG ROGICH

FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

EVENT: Attend Opening Session of the Universal Postal Union Congress

DATE: November 13, 1989 - Monday

TIME: 10:30 am

DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: Kennedy Center Concert Hall

ATTIRE: Business Suit

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

FIRST LADY PARTICIPATION: No

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

CONTACT: Ed Horgan, _____

TELEPHONE: OFFICE 268-2360 HOME _____

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

Ed Rogers	Marlin Fitzwater	David Bates
James Cicconi	David Demarest	David Valdez
Fred McClure	Jean Lamb	USSS - PPD
Susan Porter Rose	Sig Rogich	Gary Walters
Patty Presock	John Keller	WHCA Audio/Visual
Chriss Winston	Tim McBride	WHCA Operations
Laurie Firestone	J. Bonnie Newman	C. Boyden Gray
William Kristol	Paul Bateman	John Herrick
Jackie Kennedy		

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Contact Gary Stevens
208-6898

draft speech

5 wk. conference
170 nations to discuss
international mail

last time we hosted the U.P.U.
was in 1897.

804 499 7996

PAGE #1's

Grant/Martin
November 3, 1989
Draft one
A:postal

REMARKS: OPENING CEREMONY
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

Good morning. ((Acknowledgements))

Welcome to U.S. ~~understand trips to Virginia, md etc.~~ ~~See~~ the United States. During your travels here, you'll see the diversity of ~~the~~ melting pot, americans moving forward; our ... you'll see ~~American~~ citizens building a better America; you'll see our working democracy in which every one contributes to the common good. ~~democratic ideal from every contributing to common good.~~

← Likewise, ~~In a larger sense~~, the diversity ~~and~~ of nations united under the UPU banner ~~has~~ has also been able to move forward together. ~~has brought it strength~~ has led to many accomplishments & achievements. On only one previous occasion has the United States ~~been honored as a host country to~~ had the honor of hosting a Congress of the UPU. ~~That Congress was the~~ the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates from 55 countries gathered in the ------ Gallery, which ~~still~~ stands on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House.

The world has changed much since the last time your Congress met in Washington. The delegates to that Fifth Congress in 1897 knew nothing of computers, atomic energy, airplanes, space shuttles, or satellites -- nor even radio and television, which now seem commonplace.

In 1897, the employees of the U.S. Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General. Today, the United States

Postal Service has made great strides in the employment of automated equipment capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 350,000 pieces an hour.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. Postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that "~~through~~ rain, ~~through~~ sleet, ~~through~~ snow ..." -- continuity of service unparalleled by any other form of communication since. I know Americans are proud of the job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,00 employees.

I am especially proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large part, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln. His many innovations and changes had already revolutionized mail service domestically, yet he recognized the ~~need for~~ international postal sanity ~~even in the midst~~ of the U.S. Civil War.

At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians estimate that national postal systems in those days faced total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations maintained bilateral agreements with every single country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General

Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory.

Much wisdom, eloquence and effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples. (now an arm of the UN; also bring in developed-developing relations)

Now, thanks to the international postal network embodied by the UPU, no political or national boundaries obstruct the flow of mails, a flow that conveys news and information while solidifying peace and prosperity. Those boundaries have, in fact, been crossed here at [illegible] World Stamp Expo -- with the unveiling of a new set of Soviet stamps portraying US astronauts.

~~(literary quote)~~ ~~(somewhere: Soviet stamps of U.S. astronauts)~~

The conveyance of the mails, which links the peoples and the nations of this world, constitutes a noble enterprise, one that touches nearly every human endeavor. -- The advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the maintenance of peace and good. ~~will have been well attended by the postal services down through the years~~. ~~(Gorbachev summit decided through letters between the two)~~ In our own day, the mails have served such causes as the ~~preservation of the global ecology, the improvement of human health and nutrition, and the wider extension of literacy and education.~~

INSERT

Incidentally, the meeting we'll be holding w/ President Gorbachev at sea next month was arranged entirely through a series of letters between us.

The need to communicate by mail across national frontiers -- despite the march of time and advent of telecommunication -- has remained constant to this very day. The expansion in the world postal systems, represented by some 170 nations forming the UPU, staggers the imagination. For even our latest technology and instant delivery services cannot do what the postal system alone can do: get the mail through, anywhere on earth, to any recipient at a very small cost.

But for all the numbers and machines, the importance of the mails comes from its very form -- the written word. The individual voice contained within the message of a letter can convey more beauty and more power than any other form of long distance communication. In a world of faxes, overnight delivery, and ~~long-distance phones~~, nothing beats opening up that ~~envelope with a~~ letter from home ~~inside~~.

Every week, I receive more than xxx letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children asking questions about government and the Presidency; from young adults stating their concerns about world peace and the drug war; ~~to~~ elderly citizens commenting on health care legislation and foreign policy. ~~A written letter delivered through the mails not only carries news or raises questions, but also forms a bond between the sender and the receiver.~~

The mails represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their concerns.

THE TIMES, May 29,1986, Gainesville, Ga (FRONT PAGE)

Post office moves family

By Don Reece
of The Times

Someone in Central America is going to get a lot of mail.

Sylvia Fox and her four teen-age children boarded a plane bound for Panama yesterday. Ms. Fox lived in Panama for 35 years before moving to Gainesville a few years ago — and recently has been offered a job at the U.S. Embassy there.

Her household goods, however, were not crated and transported by a moving company. She mailed them to Panama from the post office in Gainesville.

"There's about 175 packages total," she said, while her 18-year-old son George hefted boxes from a station wagon to the loading area behind the post office. "It's clothes and appliances, shoes and cameras and silverware . . . . The post office is really making some money on me, huh?"

Although the post office charged $975 to transport her packages, Ms. Fox estimates the cost of packing and shipping her belongings to Panama with a commercial moving company at about $5,000. And, she said, "I have shipped over 200 packages to this post office, and not one package was damaged, nor did I lose a package."

Gainesville's postmaster grinned during her testimonial. "She's my best salesman," Postmaster Ken Hopkins said. "You can't argue with results."

While Hopkins and Ms. Fox beamed with pride at the clever plan, George hefted another box.

"I've never shipped entirely through the U.S. mail," Ms. Fox said. "We came Saturday and I mailed 53 packages." She mailed about 100 packages Tuesday and 20 more packages Wednesday morning. All were addressed to a friend in Panama.

Hopkins said her method of moving was "very unusual," but not a problem for the post office to handle.

"We don't get this kind of customer very often," he said. "We appreciate the trust she has in our service and dependability."

As George lifted a box — marked "#89" — onto the loading dock he was asked his opinion on the moving-by-mail operation.

"Don't ask," he said.



The Times/Bret Williams

Packed and ready: Sylvia Fox unloads her possessions to be mailed to her new home in Panama. Her scheme saved about $4,000 in moving expenses

SOUTH HILL ENTERPRISE, June 24, 1987, South Hill, Va.

Unusual "Package" Received Undamaged

(Continued from Front Page)

delivery," Mrs. Crowder said, "but this shows the post office can deliver almost anything."

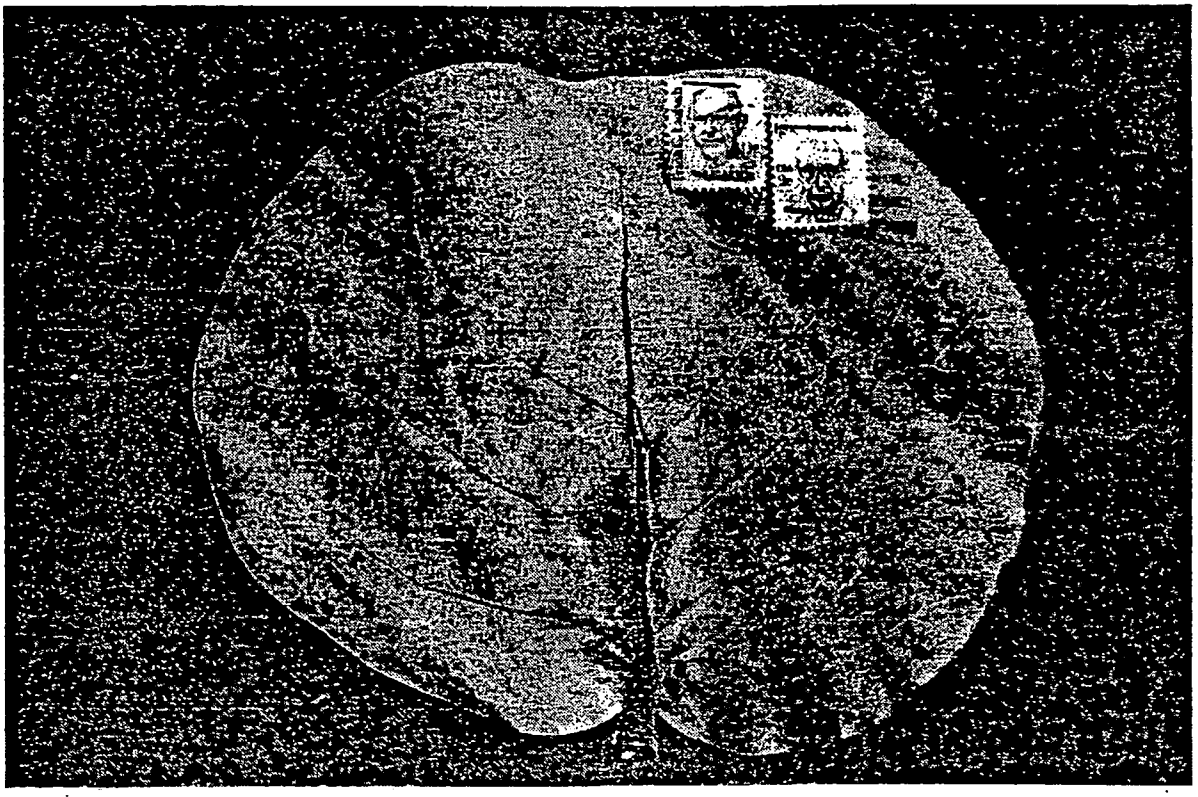
The sea grape leaf was sent by Mrs. Ferrell's daughter, Betty, from Captiva Island, Florida. It made its trip in three days undamaged and in no special package to protect it. "It came just like you see it," Mrs. Crowder said. "It had no special handling and was just stuck in a mail sack like any other mail," she said.

Mrs. Ferrell's letter, or post (grape) card, created quite a stir as residents came to pick up their mail, and Mrs. Ferrell gladly showed it off, even asking friends if they could read it.

Mrs. Ferrell even offered the photographer an apology, saying she thought it all was some kind of joke and that the girls at the post office just wanted her to come down and open the "unusual package" she was expecting so they could see what was in it.

Mrs. Crowder said she just wanted people to know that the Post Office can deliver something as fragile as a grape leaf unharmed and from Florida in three days when you can hardly read the address. "It took some special effort on somebody's part along the way to read the address and keep the grape leaf on its way," she said.

The leaf had 32 cents in stamps attached, the normal first class stamp plus a 10-cent stamp because it had to be hand-stamped.



THIS SEA GRAPE LEAF carries a message for Mrs. Mabel Ferrell in La Crosse. Despite its address and message was hard to read, it was delivered from Florida to La Crosse in three days, and undamaged. (Enterprise Photo)

SOUTH HILL ENTERPRISE, June 24, 1987, South Hill, Va.

(FRONT PAGE)



Mrs. Mabel Ferrell, left, receives her sea grape leaf post card from La Crosse Postmistress Judy Crowder. (Enterprise Photo)

Unusual "Package" Received Undamaged

LA CROSSE — When Mrs. Mabel Ferrell of La Crosse received a telephone call last Thursday morning from La Crosse Postmistress Judy Crowder saying a special package had arrived for her and she wanted to set up an appointment for an Enterprise photographer to take a picture of Mrs. Ferrell receiving the package, she thought it all was a joke.

When she received a second call later that morning, again from Mrs. Crowder, saying the photographer was at the post office and waiting, she again thought it was a joke and at first said she would be down later.

But Mrs. Crowder's persistence won out and Mrs. Ferrell drove to the post office because she was expecting a package from her daughter. In fact, her daughter had told her she was sending something special and to call her and let her know if it arrived.

Mrs. Ferrell was shocked to see a photographer really at the post office waiting to take her picture. But she was even more shocked to see her "package" — a sea grape leaf on which a message was written.

The ink had faded into the leaf, making it almost impossible to read. Some words could be made out with the naked eye, but Mrs. Crowder had to use a magnifying glass to make out the name and address and then the message.

"We get a lot of abuse about mail

(Continued)

Nashville Banner, Thursday, December 22, 1988

Archives held ashes 73 years

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The ashes of union legend Joe Hill — what's left of them 73 years after he was executed by a Utah firing squad — are back in the hands of the heirs to his legacy, who are looking for a fitting way to dispose of them.

"I've got them right here in the safe," said Brian Myers of the Industrial Workers of the World.

The union got the ashes in November from the National Archives, which had held them as part of a file handed over by federal agents who had seized them at a post office in Chicago.

Hill was cremated in Chicago after he died before a Utah firing squad for killing a Salt Lake City grocery store owner.

His final wish was to have his body taken out of Utah and cremated with his ashes to be scattered in every state but the one that killed him.

The union, whose members were known as the Wobblies, now is considered something of a curiosity but it once was regarded as a serious threat to the established order during its heyday in the first two decades of this century. Its membership now is about one-tenth of the 100,000 it had around World War I.

After Hill's death, portions of his ashes were mailed throughout the country, in accordance with his wishes.

One of those envelopes, carrying the union's imprint and a picture of Hill, was snagged by a machine in the Post Office in 1917 and the contents began to spill out. The ashes were considered seditious and were seized by federal agents under a World War I espionage law.

"The archivists who dealt with these records knew they were there," said Jill Brett, a spokeswoman for the National Archives. "They came to us in 1944, so we knew that we had them."

Virtually nobody else knew the ashes were there until mention of them popped up in a United Auto Workers union magazine feature on strange items kept by the archives. Myers said from the IWW's Chicago headquarters.

The union asked for them back, and after some deliberation the archives, which is more in the habit of keeping things than giving them away, decided to part with Hill's ashes — but decided to keep the envelope they were found in.

"We could certainly turn over the ashes because they weren't records," Ms. Brett said.

The ashes were handed over with little fanfare and were taken back to Chicago. Myers said having the ashes in the safe is not as spooky as the portrait of Hill that hangs above his desk.

The union has formed a committee to decide how to dispose of Hill's ashes, and Myers says there have been plenty of suggestions, "ranging from silly requests, such as they should be injected in Michael Dukakis' arm, to very heartening requests."

While no decision has been made, some ceremony probably will be held next May Day, he said.

Post Office at Kaktovik

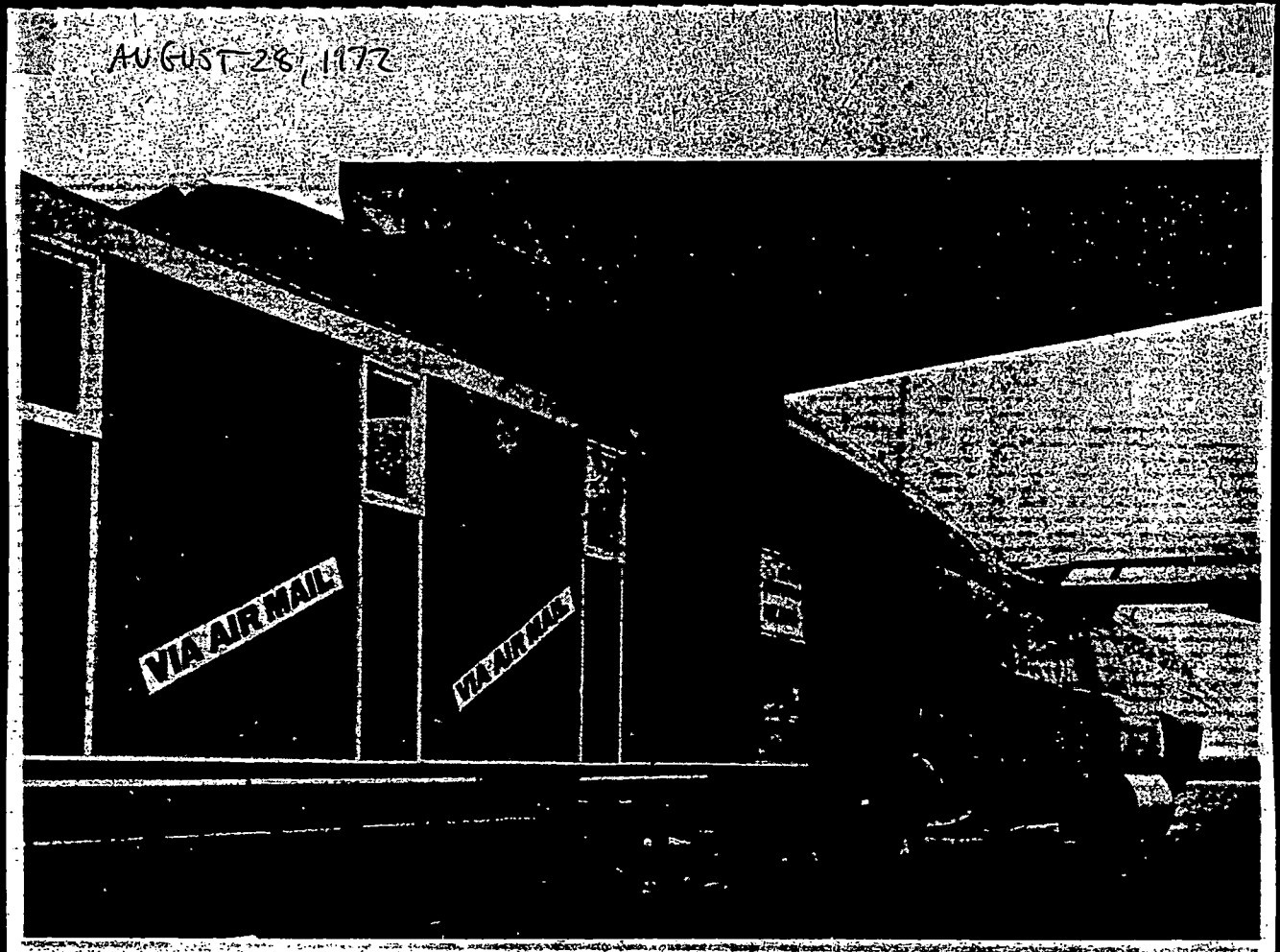
By The Associated Press

Kaktovik will receive a new post office next Wednesday — by airmail.

A spokesman for the regional office of the U.S. Postal Service in San Francisco said the pre-constructed 876-square-foot building would be airmailed in two sections from Fairbanks to Kaktovik, the first time in memory that an entire building has been airmailed.

The spokesman said the building, built by ATCO Structures Inc. of Anchorage, will be put on airplanes Wednesday at Fairbanks and flown to Barter Island, where it will be unloaded and transported about one mile to the new location.

AUGUST 28, 1972



START DELIVERY OF LARGEST AIRMAIL PACKAGE

Wednesday by fog, but Kaktovik got its new ... tire post office was delivered by air. (News-Min... postoffice on Friday. It was the first time an en... er Photo)

Alaska Supplier Finds Novel Use for Mails

By J.P. Mackley

An Alaska building material supplier has figured out how to mail most of a new house and have the U.S. Postal Service pay most of the bill.

Sam Krogstad of Bush Consolidators, an Anchorage firm specializing in shipping construction material to communities in rural Alaska, is taking advantage of a loophole in regulations to mail 6,000 concrete blocks and 4,600 bags of cement mix. The building materials are going to Wainright, a Native American village about 700 miles northwest of Anchorage.

Each bag and block falls within the postal service's 70-pound weight limit.

The individually addressed concrete blocks cost Krogstad $4.33 each in postage. However, according to USPS estimates, it would normally cost the postal service $50.94 to deliver the blocks. That means the cost to the postal service was to be about $500,000 and $45,000 to Krogstad.

But after stories about the shipment appeared in the press, postal officials decided to use an unusual method to ship Krogstad's materials a little less expensively. Instead of flying the material the entire distance, as is usually done under the bypass mail system unique to Alaska, it will be trucked to a mail facility at Dead Horse and flown from there.

But the postal service still will lose about $135,000 on the deal.

Bypass mail is a special Alaskan fourth-class mail containing such diverse items as groceries and building materials. It is handled entirely by air carriers at a rate far cheaper than that charged for air freight going to rural Alaskan communities.

Under the concept of universal mail rates, customers nationally subsidize USPS air transportation losses on Alaskan mail for $60 million a year, according to James Orlando, postal service director of transportation.

Recently, the postal service and customers were saddled with increased costs for operation of the Alaskan bypass mail system when Sen. Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, tacked a rider onto budget legislation that will benefit several airlines.

Stevens' legislation altered an almost exclusive postal service contract with Northern Air Cargo. The legislation opened the bypass mail business up to other airlines serving those communities.

Officials say the Stevens legislation will use mail revenue to subsidize the price of passenger fares to remote villages. That move is expected to increase USPS Alaska air transport losses by $4 million a year.

Evangelists' Postal Practices Cited

Panel Investigating Possible Non-Profit Permit Abuses

By J.P. Mackley

A congressional subcommittee may take action against television evangelists who use taxpayer subsidized non-profit mailing permits for political or commercial purposes.

The House Post Office and Civil Service subcommittee on postal operations is nearing the end of a three-month investigation focused on the mailing practices of the Rev. Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson, Jimmy Swaggart and four other prominent television evangelists.

A subcommittee report, compiled with the aid of the General Accounting Office and postal employees, to be released after July 4, will show that the televangelists make massive mailings subsidized by congressionally appropriated revenue forgone.

For example, non-profit permit holders pay 8.7 cents for the same mailing that would cost a commercial account 10.6 cents.

The question is whether they violated the conditions of their third-class mailing permits. According to subcommittee staff director Louis Delgado, Congress is concerned about whether evangelist solicitations for money violate the mail fraud statutes.

The GAO reported that in one 12-month period the following volumes were mailed:

- Jerry Falwell, 18,768,904 pieces.
- Pat Robertson, 18,608,462 pieces.
- Jimmy Swaggart, 7,395,823 pieces.
- Oral Roberts, 16,111,000 pieces.
- Robert Schuller, 11,828,615 pieces.
- Peter Popoff, 247,525.

The combined mailings amount to about 75 million pieces.

Originally the investigation included Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker's PTL Club, but that part was dropped by the subcommittee in order to avoid interfering with a separate criminal investigation being conducted by postal inspectors.

The purpose of non-profit permits is to allow educational, scientific, philanthropic and religious organizations to operate at the lowest possible cost. The postal service still collects the full amount of postage, but the difference between what the non-profit groups pay and the actual cost is made up by congressional appropriation.

Delgado said that organizations mailing under the non-profit permits must not run profit-making enterprises.

A catalog received at home by Delgado from the Jimmy Swaggart Ministries in Baton Rouge, La., is, he said, "clearly an example of a commercial enterprise."

The catalog features such items as $15 compact disc recordings of "Holy, Holy, Holy," a six-tape package titled "The Balanced Faith Life," by Jimmy Swaggart.

Delgado said the subcommittee is equally concerned with Falwell's political mailings. He said Falwell has made numerous mailings furthering his political causes under the non-profit permit of the Old Time Gospel Hour. He said those mailings included the defense of retired Marine Lt.

Grant/Martin
November 3, 1989
Draft one
A:postal

REMARKS: OPENING CEREMONY
UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS
KENNEDY CENTER/WASHINGTON D.C.
NOVEMBER 13, 1989
10:45 A.M.

Good morning. ((Acknowledgements))

Welcome to the United States. During your travels here, you'll see the diversity of our great "melting pot," and our working democracy in which every citizen contributes to the common good. Likewise, the diversity of nations united under the Universal Postal Union contributes much to the common good.

~~On~~ only ~~one previous occasion~~ has the United States had the honor of hosting a Congress of the U.P.U. -- the Fifth Congress, which took place in 1897, here in Washington, D.C. At that meeting, 106 delegates from 55 countries gathered in the Renwick Gallery, which stands on Pennsylvania Avenue across from the White House.

The world has changed much since the last time your Congress met in Washington. The delegates to that Fifth Congress ~~knew~~ ~~nothing~~ of computers, ~~atomic energy~~, airplanes, space shuttles, or satellites -- ~~nor even~~ radio and television, which now seem commonplace.

In 1897, the employees of the U.S. Post Office Department were still sorting mail by hand, much as their predecessors had sorted mail in 1775, when Benjamin Franklin was appointed the first American Postmaster General. Today, the United States

From ~~the~~ The days of our first PMG, BF,
(to the riders of the Pony Express) to ~~the~~
~~printing of~~ our first set of stamps issued in 1847
w/ the face of GW on it, the history of America
is tied to the history of our postal service.

Postal Service has made great strides in the use of automated equipment -- some capable of sorting letters at speeds of up to 350,000 pieces an hour.

The postal systems of the world, too, have changed through the advances of technology. Postal administrations have consistently adapted technology to their operations to ensure that "neither rain, nor sleet, nor snow, nor dark of night can keep these messengers from their duty" -- with a unparalleled continuity of service ~~unparalleled by any other form of communication~~. I know Americans are proud of the job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,000 employees.

I am especially proud of the contribution that the United States has made, and continues to make, to the Universal Postal Union. The first attempt at organizing a worldwide postal union was, in large part, the inspiration of Montgomery Blair, Postmaster General during the first administration of President Abraham Lincoln. His many innovations and changes had already revolutionized mail service domestically; yet he went on to lead the movement to international postal order despite the ravages of the U.S. Civil War.

At his invitation, delegates from 15 countries met in Paris in 1863 to propose regulations governing the international mails. Historians ~~estimate that~~ describe national postal systems in those days ~~faced~~ as total chaos -- at least 1,200 separate postal rates worldwide. Nations ~~maintained~~ were forced to bilateral agreements with every ~~single~~ country for the exchange of mail. Postmaster General

Blair, along with many others, envisioned a universal system that would consider the entire world as one unified postal territory.

Much wisdom, eloquence and effort were devoted to the creation of the Universal Postal Union. The original foundation was not the work of any one man or any one nation, but rather that of many men from many nations. The idea of universal collaboration, bold in design and daring in concept for its day, gained impetus from a world that recognized international obligations and increasing interdependence of all peoples.

Now, ~~thanks to the international postal network~~ embodied by the UPU, ~~no political or national boundaries obstruct the flow of mails, a flow that conveys news and information while solidifying peace and prosperity.~~ Those boundaries have, in fact, been crossed here at your World Stamp Expo -- with the unveiling of a new set of Soviet stamps portraying U.S. astronauts.

Written letters conveyed through the mails, linking the peoples and the nations of this world, often convey many noble enterprises: the advancement of civilization, the expansion of commerce and trade, the promotion of industry and science, and the ~~maintenance~~ encouragement of peace and good will. For example, the meeting I will holding with President Gorbachev at sea next month was arranged entirely through a series of letters between us.

The need to communicate by mail across national frontiers -- despite the march of time and advent of telecommunication -- has remained constant to this very day. The expansion in the world postal systems, represented by some 170 nations forming the UPU,

staggers the imagination. For even our latest technology and instant delivery services cannot do what the postal system alone can do: get the mail through, anywhere on earth, to any recipient at very small cost. John Dunne once wrote that "no man is an island," and nothing could be truer with the mail systems of today.

But for all the numbers and machines, the importance of the mails comes from its very form -- the written word. The individual voice contained within the message of a letter can convey more beauty and more power than any other form of long distance communication. In a world of faxes, overnight delivery, and fiber optic phone lines, nothing beats opening up that letter from home.

Every week, I receive ~~more than xxx~~ up to 60,000 letters from every state in the Union and from nearly every country in the world. Letters arrive from children asking questions about government and the Presidency; from young ~~adults stating~~ people telling me their concerns about world peace and the drug war; and from elderly citizens ~~commenting on~~ about health care ~~legislation~~ and foreign policy. The mails represent the most intimate means by which the people of this nation and other nations reveal their thoughts, their hopes, and their ~~concerns~~ dreams.

And so I salute your hard work over the many years, and wish you good luck in your endeavors over the next five weeks of this Congress. God bless you, and God bless America. Thank you.

# # #

Nearly anything can be sent through U.S. Mail

Birthday cakes are permitted.

So are scorpions — although you're not supposed to mail a tarantula, a spider, or a snake. Coconuts are fine, as long as they're clearly addressed. Fuel oil should be packaged so that it won't leak.

Those are only a few of the items people have tried to put stamps on and drop off at the post office. "You'd be surprised at some of the things we get," says Meg Harris, media relations officer for the U.S. Postal Service.

Take the contents of a house. The Postal Service does just that occasionally, when people figure out that they can wrap their belongings and mail them for less than it would cost to pay a commercial mover.

"There are certain common-sense restrictions, but basically we accept most anything as long as it doesn't weigh over 70 pounds in one parcel, and it's properly wrapped," Ms. Harris tells National Geographic News Service.

Sylvia Fox of Gainesville, Ga., recently mailed her household goods to Panama, where she had just been hired by the U.S. Embassy. The clothing, appliances, shoes, cameras, and silverware all went into 175 packages that cost her $975 to mail. A commercial moving company would have charged about $5,000.

Notwithstanding popular gibes about how the post office mangles mail, Ms. Fox noted that her packages all arrived in Panama City promptly and in good condition.

A woman in Blacksburg, Va., carved a pumpkin for her daughter's Halloween party in Fairbanks, Alaska. She scribbled the address on the side and mailed it without wrapping. Although the Postal Service discourages mailing unwrapped objects, the pumpkin arrived three days later in perfect condition. The Priority Mail bill was $10.

They're still shaking their heads at postal headquarters in Washington about the contractor who mailed 6,000 concrete blocks and 4,600 bags of cement to a remote Eskimo village. Sam Krogstad's bill for stamps came to about $45,000; the Postal Service figured the cost of delivering the material came to about $180,000.

Although the shipment was legal, postal officials felt unfair advantage was taken of their duty to serve all comers.

"We have a universal service and will take the mail anywhere," says Ms. Harris, "whether it's down the street or to an Indian tribe living in a canyon. Nobody in this country is penalized for where they live."

Officials do occasionally draw a line. It's been illegal to mail entire buildings since 1916, when a man sent a 40,000-ton brick house across Utah by mail because it was cheaper than the freight charges.

This year the Postal Service is unhappy about handling disease germs and toxins, no matter how carefully they are packaged. Officials are proposing a regulation that would keep contagious bugs out of mailbags.

Don't try to mail kittens or puppies. Mailmen may brave rain, sleet, and snow with never a whimper, but they won't feed the cargo.

It's perfectly fine to send baby chicks, ducks, and bees. Newly hatched fowl won't starve for the couple of days it takes to get them from one place to another. Bees seem to go into hibernation when they travel — a fact that mail carriers sometimes discover the hard way when they assume the insects are dead.

Lizards are OK if they aren't poisonous. Also on the approved list are baby alligators, salamanders, tadpoles, toads, goldfish, worms, leeches, snails, and eggs. Just be sure to pack the eggs carefully.

A 28-year-old, 50-pound midget once mailed himself from New York to Los Angeles on a $500 bet. It cost him $68.15, compared to the first-class fare of over $400. However, after the eight-hour flight in a styrofoam-lined crate, the wee man vowed to stay out of the mail in the future.

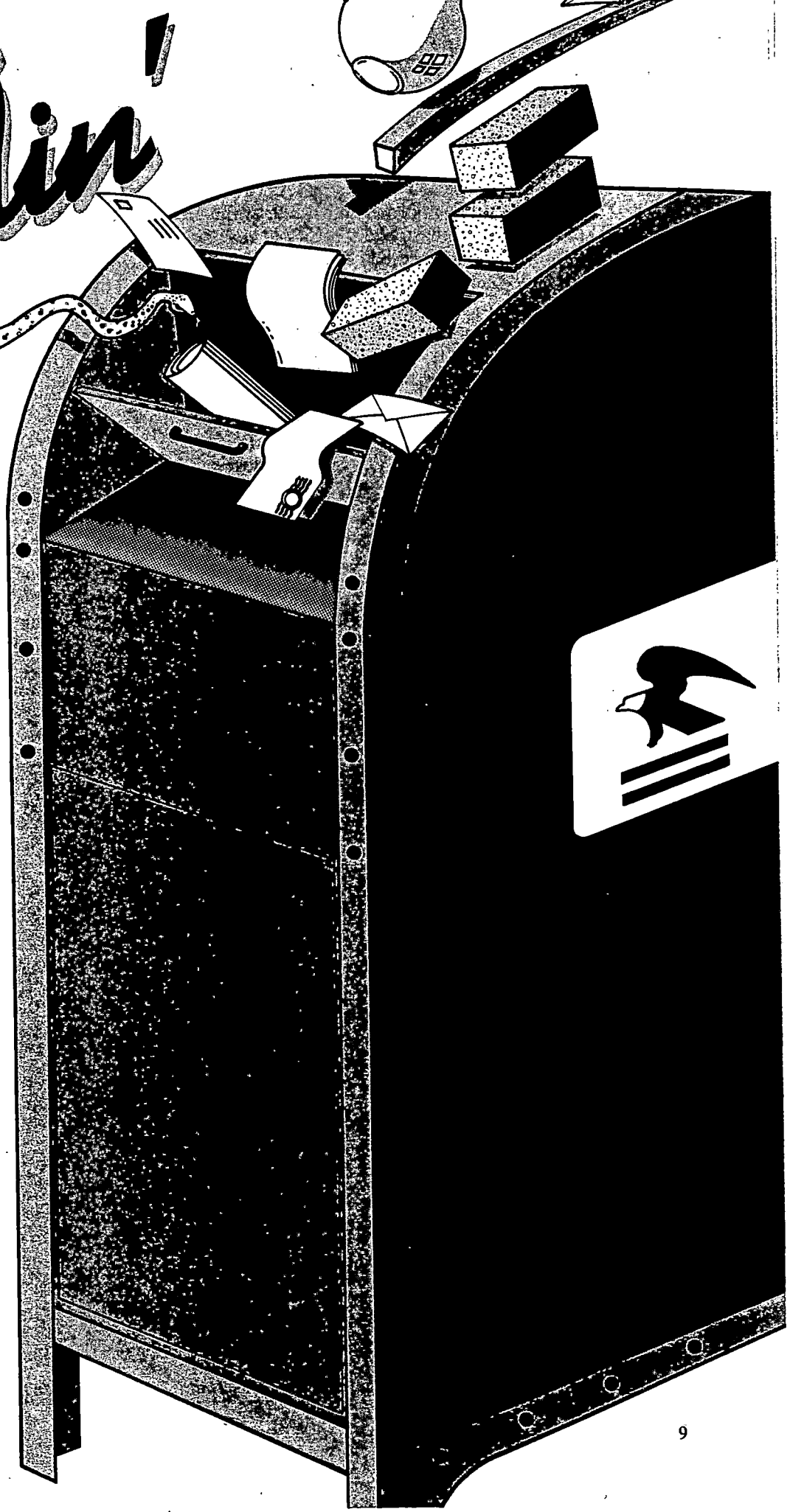
Ms. Harris recently had a question for Francis E. Gardner, the postal official in charge of deciding close calls. Ms. Harris had heard from a Baltimore columnist who was running a contest for gardeners. The winners would receive quantities of manure from King Tut, a visiting circus elephant.

The columnist wanted to know if he could drop them off at the post office.

"I called Gardner," Ms. Harris says. "I'm hysterical. He just says, 'Oh, elephant manure. I've been asked that question before.' "

No problem, Gardner told her. Not if it's well-wrapped. □

April foolin'



What's this?

People send the strangest things

"It is not the intent of the United States Postal Service that buildings should be shipped through the mail."

—Statement by Postmaster General revising postal regulations, 1916

The package you deliver today may follow in a long tradition of mail that is strange but true—including a building sent parcel post.

That building-by-mail is perhaps the most unconventional example of posted peculiarities. Or perhaps not. In 1889 a popular stamp collector's guide complained that—along with poodles, unboxed glassware and hewn lumber—the nation's mail also included packages of nitro-glycerin, which "can make great confusion when they are stamped."

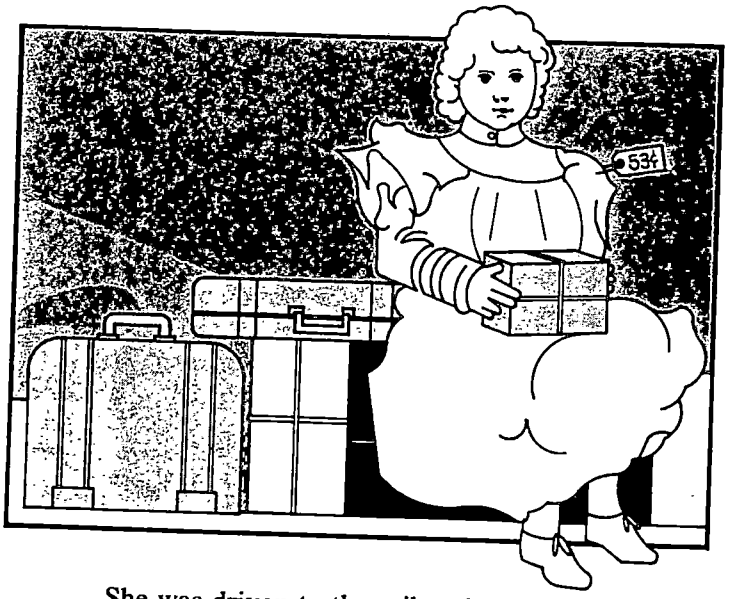
Beware of long, skinny parcels. From time to time live snakes are sent through the mail—illegally. To quote a clerk at the Detroit post office when a snake slithered out of its box on a conveyor belt in 1970, "When it started moving, everybody started leaving."

A woman in Ohio was charged in 1973 with sending a dead snake through the mail, gift wrapped as a birthday present. She was feuding with the addressee, who had a lifelong fear of snakes.

continued on page 10

Female mail

In 1912, in the early days of parcel post, an Idaho family took advantage of the rates and mailed their four-year-old daughter to a town 100 miles away. The postmaster ruled that the girl met the requirements for sending baby chicks, and affixed 53 cents postage to her coat.



She was driven to the railroad station, seated in the baggage car and delivered to the post office at her destination—where her grandmother claimed the young "chick."

The Bank of Vernal, Utah, remains the biggest package deal in the history of the USPS. When W. H. Coltharp was erecting a new bank building in 1916, he needed 80,000 bricks from Salt Lake City. There were no roads between the two towns, and all freight had to travel an expensive and circuitous route of 427 miles via rail, four-horse teams and cable ferry.

Brick by brick

But as the crow flies, Salt Lake City is less than 150 miles away—putting Vernal in the second postal zone for parcel post. The only postal requirement was that each parcel weigh 50 pounds or less. The price was right and the scheme was legal—so he had the brick company send his order parcel post, brick by brick.

Naturally, the bricks had to travel the same rickety route to Vernal. Naturally, there were delays in delivery. Every week the railroad was required to file a report of any mail which was not delivered within seven days. Suddenly the report listed eight tons of undelivered parcel post.

When there were 30 tons of bricks somewhere in the mail, the postmaster general sprang into action. He issued new regulations limiting to 200 pounds the total weight that one party could send to a single other party in one day.

But Coltharp had ten tons of bricks yet to be mailed. Rallying public support, he circumvented the new rule by instructing the brick company to address individual 200-pound shipments to a long list of Vernal merchants and ranchers. The bricks came through; the bank was built.

And NALC is proud to report, not a single brick was lost in the mail.



Shana Alexander:

"Letters are expectation
packaged in an envelope."

p 218 : 9

Memories are made of this

Letter writing is becoming a lost art, perhaps at the price of lost knowledge of ourselves and our history

Letters have been called the world's oldest form of communication. For centuries they have linked people and nations together. People put their innermost thoughts in letters, professing their loves and fears in the written word. Marriages have been proposed, lives have been changed, and history has been made through the mail.

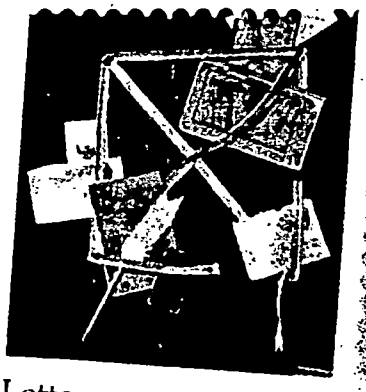
"Letters give you special memories you can't replace," says Rose M. Gossett, general supervisor in Portland, OR. "When my first child was born, I wrote him a letter. Now that he's grown, reading that letter brings back so many memories. The world doesn't stand still, but a letter can give you a small piece of the past that does. You can see what life was like for a moment in time."

Writing letters was once an important part of people's lives. Quiet evenings were spent writing to a sweetheart, acquaintances, friends, an old school chum, military buddies, or someone recently met with whom you would like to be friends.

But today, letter writing is on the decline—personal letters make up less than 6 percent of the mail the Postal Service handles. Telephone ads pronounce, "reach out and touch someone," and computers zap messages around the world. "Don't forget to write!" and "Drop us a line," are phrases fast disappearing from our culture. "Letter writing is becoming a lost art," says Sue Ann Craine of the Educational Resources and Information Center in Urbana, IL. "And it's a shame. Much is lost without letter writing. It helps you organize your thoughts. And letters give you pieces of the past that you can save and re-read."







In honor of the Universal Postal Union's 100th birthday in 1974, the Postal Service issued a group of eight stamps, each one featuring a detail from the work of a master painter relating to letter writing. Four of the stamp designs bear John Donne's poetic words, "Letters mingle souls," expressing the timeless ability of letters to convey thoughts and feelings. From the top, "La Belle Liseue," by Swiss artist Jean Etienne Liotard; "Mrs. John Douglas," by British artist Thomas Gainsborough; "Old Time Letter Rack," by John Fredrick Peto, American.

Nine billion letters

Before counting letter writing completely out, we have to realize that there are still a lot of letter writers out there. After all, 6 percent of 150 billion pieces of mail is still nine billion letters. Letter writing is still an important means of communication for many people, and delivering letters is an important part of our service to the American people.

Letters are often a lifeline for families who are far apart. Graciela Farah, a distribution clerk for more than 11 years at the Portland Division, left her native Cuba 20 years ago, leaving behind her parents and a brother and sister. "We communicate mainly by writing letters,"

she says. "Letters link us together. It is very difficult, and very expensive, to reach my family by telephone, so we rely on letters to keep us close. We send pictures and tell each other how we are doing. My parents know my children only through letters."

The family of Cheryl Hart, a part-time flexible (PTF) clerk in Muskego, WI, doesn't live as far away as Cuba, but they do live in other states, and she finds letters are the best way to keep in touch with them. "I usually write letters to my family, most of whom live out of state. It's cheaper than the phone, and I can say more."

PTF clerk Debbie Westerdahl, Hart's co-worker in Muskego, agrees with her. "I write letters to family and friends who don't live within the local phoning area. I can relay much more information in a letter for my money than I'd be able to in a long distance call."

The fast lane

Even though letter writers are not yet extinct, we can't deny that they aren't what they used to be. The fast pace of today's lifestyles is often the culprit blamed for the decline in letter writing. Larry Humphrey, a mail handler for 17 years in Portland, OR, who writes regularly to congressmen, the president and other political leaders, says, "In this world of television, video games, instant communication and quick remedies, few people have the time or inclination to write personal letters anymore."

Katherine Kiser, consumer affairs representative for the Milwaukee Division, admits that she seldom writes letters. "As a working woman with a family," she says, "my leisure time is very limited. At least that is the excuse I like to use for not writing when I should."

A customer account representative who wished to remain unnamed said, when asked if he wrote letters, "No, siree! When I get home I'm tired and I want to lean back and read or watch my favorite TV programs. We're living in a fast-lane society now. We've got fast foods, microwave ovens, fast cars, and people can get to Europe by Concorde in a couple hours. Writing letters doesn't fit in. It's easier to telephone."

David Spitzer, superintendent, postal operations, Muskego, WI, says that he has never been big on letter writing. "During the past 10 years, I haven't written more than two letters," he says. "That's partly because my family and friends live within my local area, so I talk to them in person, but it's also because I'm just not a letter writer."

Changing values

Clinical psychologist Dr. Christopher Cummins, of Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, DC, says, "I believe the main reason people don't write letters as often anymore is because we're living in an era of complete sociological and cultural change. Today, people want things done quickly, and, it seems, with less intimacy. There's less willingness to take the time to read and write because pleasure has a different shade today and is measured on a different scale. The telephone has supplanted letters as the primary means of communication."

Even though she writes letters regularly, Portland supervisor Rose Gossett agrees that our lifestyles have changed our letter-writing habits. "The world is moving too fast," she says. "Letter writing takes too much time for most people today. We have lost the personal touch.

"I still write letters because you can articulate things in a letter that you might not be able to in person. You can tell people how you feel. And letter writing lets you think more clearly about what you want to say. I know one thing. You have to write letters to get letters. But many of the people I know don't write letters anymore, so I don't always get an answer." ►



Photo by Robert Groff

Rose M. Gossett, a general supervisor in Portland, OR, still writes letters because "letters give you special memories you can't replace."



Right: **Portrait of Michelangelo, detail from "The School of Athens," by Raphael, Italian, 1483-1520; next page "Lady Writing a Letter" by Dutch artist Gerald Terborch.**

The Bank That Was Sent by Mail

photos courtesy of Bank of Vernal



In 1916 mail carriers like these hauled the Bank of Vernal across the mountains—brick by brick.

by LEE REAY

(Maudie Mae Marsh, Sacramento, California, POSTAL LIFE correspondent, sent this piece from NRTA Journal. John E. Jones, Vernal's postmaster today, obtained the photographs.)

"Yep! This is the parcel post bank—the only building ever to be shipped through the United States mail."

A contagious Irish smile crinkled the sun-tanned face of Nicholas J. Meagher, 91-year-old patriarch of Western bankers. He relaxed in his brown leather chair at the Bank of Vernal, Utah, and recounted the hectic summer of 1916, when his bank earned its unique title.

Bustling Vernal, he recalled, had outgrown his old bank with the single, small safe and cashier's cage overwrapped with many layers of fine mesh steel wire, intended to stop 44-caliber bullets.

W. H. Coltharp, a prominent merchant, was erecting the building which would house the expanded Bank of Vernal. He had promised it would be the most modern building between Salt Lake City and Denver. While homemade red brick from the local kiln was good enough for the inside wall, Coltharp planned to face the entire building with textured brick from the Salt Lake Pressed Brick Co., 427 long, tiresome miles away.

By July, Coltharp was ready to order 80,000 face bricks. But the cost of bringing them by wagon freight was four times as much as the bricks were worth. Undaunted, he looked for a better way. He found it at the post office.

Vernal was in the second postal zone from Salt Lake City, less than 150 miles—as the crow flies. In fact, there were no roads between Salt Lake City and Vernal.

Freight and mail had to go to Mack, Colorado, 100 miles south of Vernal, by Denver & Rio Grande Western trains, then be transferred to the wobbling, narrow-gauge Uintah Railroad, which hauled gilsonite ore from the mines at Watson, Utah. At Watson, goods and mail were loaded onto freight wagons drawn by four-horse teams, then hauled north another 65 miles over the Book Cliffs mountain range and across the treacherous Green River by cable ferry to Vernal.

Actually, the mail had to travel the same 427 tortuous miles as wagon freight—and on the same set of wheels. But it cost less than half as much to ship 40 tons of bricks by parcel post.

Postal regulations limited the weight of a single parcel to 50 pounds. But there was no restriction on the number of packages or total weight.

POSTAL LIFE MARCH/APRIL 1971

Coltharp ordered 40 tons of bricks, to be shipped in 50-pound packages.

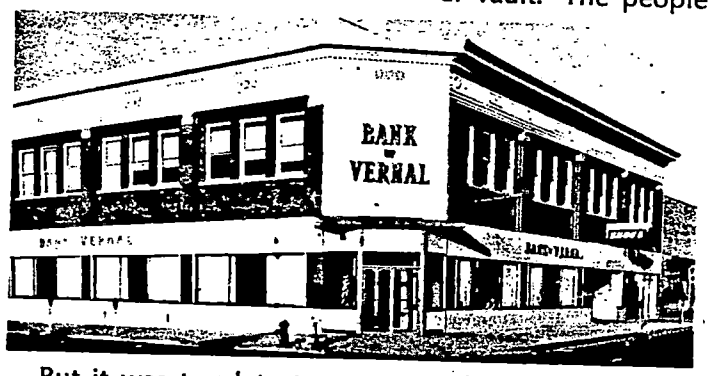
The brick company started shipping the bricks, individually wrapped in newspaper and overwrapped in lath-wire crates weighing 50 pounds. They mailed them a ton at a time. The first shipment of 40 crates startled the Salt Lake City postmaster and triggered a chain of events which reverberated all the way to Postmaster General Albert S. Burleson in Washington.

The D. & R. G. W. Railroad normally carried the mail sacks for Vernal on the non-stop Salt Lake City express to Denver. At Mack, the train slowed and the mail sacks were kicked off. Suddenly, without notice, there was a 2,000-pound shipment of parcel post brick and the train had to stop a half-hour to unload it. Schedules over the entire line were upset.

The Uintah Railroad had even worse problems. Their contract called for delivering the mail from Mack to Vernal within seven days. Their wagon freight outfits were not geared to handle 40 tons of bricks. Each week, they were required to report to the post office all mail undelivered longer than seven days. There was seldom anything to report. Suddenly, the report listed two tons of undelivered parcel post . . . then five tons . . . then eight tons. The toiling horses and cumbersome freight wagons were doing their best, but the avalanche of bricks was too much for them.

The frantic postmaster at Vernal was in urgent communication with the alarmed postmaster at Salt Lake City. Postal inspectors from Denver were assigned to see that the mail-carrying contractor delivered the mail in the best tradition of the postal service.

Their startling reports of the growing mountain of undelivered bricks at the end of the railroad were rushed off to the Postmaster General. He called a top level staff meeting which hurriedly rewrote postal regulations limiting to 200 pounds the total weight of parcel post which one consignor could send to one consignee in one day. His letter announcing the revised regulations appeared in every post office. It concluded: "It is not the intent of the United States Postal Service that buildings should be shipped through the mail."



Parcel post bank today

But it was too late to stop the flood of bricks. Already some 30 tons were somewhere in the mail system. There were 10 tons more to come. At Vernal, Coltharp was trying desperately to get the bricks in before winter.

The new postal regulation was a stunning blow. But Coltharp was not easily discouraged. Merchants and ranchers rallied to his support. Dozens of them volunteered to receive the 200-pound shipments of bricks.

Now the matter was complicated even more. The Vernal postmaster not only had to receive the bricks, but also deliver them to consignees as much as five miles out on rural routes. Through a flurry of official protests and sweating post office workers, the bricks kept coming and the consignees added them to the growing mountain of crates beside the new building.

Finally, the job was finished. The trains of the D. & R. G. W. went back on schedule. Tired wagon freight horses of the Uintah Railroad rested. Whiskered drivers quit cursing. The Bank of Vernal opened three new tellers' windows and N. J. Meagher stacked the bullion in a stouter vault. The people of Vernal were proud of their new bank. W. H. Coltharp was satisfied.

The United States Post Office Department wiped its brow all the way to Washington, D. C. The tradition of the postal service had been upheld and 40 tons of bricks had been delivered without losing a single one. ■

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Bees survive United crash

TIMBERVILLE, Va. (UPI) _ A beekeeper said it was "amazing" that all but one of the 120 bees he ordered from Hawaii survived the fiery crash of United Airlines Flight 232 on July 19.

Warren Showalter said he suspected the bees were on the flight when they failed to arrive last week as expected. On the Monday after the crash, the bees arrived in a thick, torn envelope taped up by the U.S. Postal Service.

Inside was a note from the Sioux City, Iowa, postmaster explaining that the bees had been on the plane, which crashed during an emergency landing after an engine failed. More than 100 people were killed but even more survived.

"It's amazing that they came through like that," Showalter said.

Showalter said he ordered 10 queen bees, each with 12 attendants, from Hawaii because they do not have mites. One attendant bee died.

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LOS ANGELES TIMES JUL 29 1989

House Passes $18.4-Billion Spending Bill

From Times Wire Services I 19

WASHINGTON—The House approved an $18.4-billion appropriation bill Friday that includes money to give most federal employees a 3.6% pay increase effective Jan. 1.

The bill, passed 376 to 26 and sent to the Senate, also includes a provision to delay for one year a business-opposed tax rule designed to encourage companies to expand the number of employees covered by health insurance.

The pay hike will go to all federal civilian employees except for members of Congress, federal judges and top officials of the executive branch. Congress may consider separate legislation later this year to increase pay for those groups.

The 3.6% pay increase was authorized earlier when Congress adopted the budget resolution for 1990.

Funds for the increase were included in the appropriation bill for the Treasury Department, Postal Service and general government.

The bill appropriates $5.6 billion for the Internal Revenue Service to fund 115,210 workers, an increase of 1,389 over the current staffing level.

It also includes $148 million for the new Office of National Drug Control Policy, headed by former Education Secretary William J. Benhett, most of which he is to disperse to law enforcement agencies.

The health insurance provision concerns Section 89, which was enacted in 1986 and requires employers to demonstrate that their health plans do not favor higher-paid workers.

Some business groups have lobbied Congress to drop the rule, claiming that it is so complicated, time-consuming and expensive that it ends up having an effect that is the opposite of what was intended.

"Many of them [employers] may cancel their health insurance plans for employees rather than go through all the red tape of Section 89," said Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-N.Y.).

The rule was to take effect last Jan. 1 but became so controversial that the Treasury Department delayed its implementation until Oct. 1.

The bill also contains $2.1 million to upgrade security at Vice President Dan Quayle's official residence at the Naval Observatory in Washington and an additional $200,000 to help remodel and renovate the third floor of the residence, which is used by Quayle's three children.

TRUMAN'S FIRST NIGHT IN THE WHITE HOUSE

"Some Birthday Present"

Franklin D. Roosevelt had died suddenly on April 12, 1945. A stunned Harry Truman found himself President of the United States. The war was still on, but the fighting in Europe was nearing the end. Truman moved into The White House on May 7. The following day he sent a letter to "Dear Mama & Mary" telling of his first night in The White House and a wonderful present he was about to receive on his 61st birthday. Other Presidents' letters are more eloquent, but none is more human and lively than Harry's personal letters to his folks back home in Independence.

Harry Truman to His Mother and Sister

May 8, 1945

Dear Mama & Mary:

I am sixty-one this morning, and I slept in the President's room in the White House last night. They have finished the painting and have some of the furniture in place. I'm hoping it will all be ready for you by Friday. My expensive gold pen doesn't work as well as it should.

This will be a historical day. At 9:00 o'clock this morning I must make a broadcast to the country: announcing the German surrender. The papers were signed yesterday morning and hostilities will cease on all fronts at midnight tonight. Isn't that some birthday present?

Have had one heck of a time with the Prime Minister of Great Britian. He, Stalin and the U. S. President made an agreement to release the news all at once from the three capitals at an hour that would fit us all. We agreed on 9 A.M. Washington time which is 3 P. M. London and 4 P.M. Moscow time.

Mr. Churchill began calling me at daylight to know if we shouldn't make an immediate release without considering the Russians. He was refused and then he kept pushing me to talk to Stalin. He finally had to stick to the agreed plan--but he was mad as a wet hen.

Things have moved at a terrific rate here since April 12. Never a day has gone by that some momentous decision didn't have to be made. So far luck has been with me. I hope it keeps up. It can't stay with me forever however and I hope when the mistake comes it won't be too great to remedy.

We are looking forward to a grand visit with you. I may not be able to come for you as planned but I'm sending the safest, finest plane and all kinds of help so please don't disappoint me.

Lots & lots of love to you both.

Harry

ALEXANDER HAMILTON'S FAREWELL LETTER BEFORE HIS DUEL WITH AARON BURR

-- To His Wife Eliza

The Presidential election of 1800 ended in a tie between Thomas Jefferson and Aaron Burr. This threw the election into the House of Representatives. Hamilton considered his rival, Jefferson, the lesser of two evils. Jefferson "is by far not so dangerous a man; and he has pretension to character," Hamilton wrote. "As to Burr, there is nothing in his favor. His private character is not defended by his most partial friends...He is truly the Catiline of America." With Hamilton's support, Jefferson was elected President and Burr Vice President.

Four years later, when Burr was running for the governorship of New York, Hamilton cast similar aspersions to the character of Burr. Burr challenged him to a duel. Hamilton did not approve of duels, but felt he would be dishonored if he refused. After writing this farewell letter to his wife, Hamilton met Burr on the field. Hamilton fired harmlessly into the air, but Burr's shot was fatal. The killing of this "architect of a more perfect union" was a tragic loss for America.

Hamilton's Farewell to His Wife

My dear Eliza—

> This letter, my dear Eliza, will not be delivered to you, unless I shall first have terminated my earthly career, to begin, as I humbly hope, from redeeming grace and divine mercy, a happy immortality. If it had been possible for me to have avoided the interview, my love for you and my precious children would have been alone a decisive motive. But it was not possible, without

sacrifices which would have rendered me unworthy of your esteem. I need not tell you of the pangs I feel from the idea of quitting you, and exposing you to the anquish I know you feel. Nor could I dwell on the topic, lest it should unman me. The consolations of religion, my beloved, can alone support you; and these you have a right to enjoy. Fly to the bosom of your God, and be comforted. With my last idea I shall cherish the sweet hope of meeting you in a better world. Adieu, best of wives--best of women. Embrace all my darling children for me.

A. H.

DOLLY MADISON TELLS OF FLEEING BEFORE WASHINGTON BURNED

How The White House Got Its Name

After defeating a hurriedly organized American militia at nearby Bladensburg, British forces entered Washington on August 24, 1814. They arrived at the Presidential Mansion just in time to enjoy an uneaten dinner prepared for President Madison and forty guests. Then, the British General Ross ordered all the furniture to be piled up and the Mansion set on fire. Soon the half-finished Capitol and all other public buildings were ablaze.

Amid all of the panic, Dolly Madison wrote her sister, telling of her last-minute escape. In her hurry, she left behind many of her possessions, but refused to leave without saving Gilbert Stuart's famous portrait of George Washington.

After burning the city, the British withdrew. The Madisons shortly returned to find the interior of their home burned out and the walls scorched but intact. The interior was rebuilt, and the walls were painted white to cover the smoke stains. -- ever since the Presidential Mansion has been known as The White House.

Dolly Madison to Her Sister

Tuesday, August 23, 1814

Dear Sister,—

My husband left me yesterday morning to join General Winder. He inquired anxiously whether I had courage or firmness to remain in the President's house until his return on the morrow, or succeeding day, and on my assurance that I had no fear but for him, and the success of our army, he left, beseeching me to take care of myself, and of the Cabinet papers, public and private. I have since received two despatches from him, written with a pencil. The last is alarming,

because he desires I should be ready at a moment's warning to enter my carriage, and leave the city; that the enemy seemed stronger than had at first been reported, and it might happen that they would reach the city with the intention of destroying it. I am accordingly ready; I have pressed as many Cabinet papers into trunks as to fill one carriage; our private property must be sacrificed, as it is impossible to procure wagons for its transportation. I am determined not to go myself until I see Mr. Madison safe, so that he can accompany me, as I hear of much hostility towards him. Disaffection stalks around us. My friends and acquaintances are all gone, even Colonel C. with his hundred, who were stationed as a guard in this inclosure. French John (a faithful servant), with his usual activity and resolution, offers to spike the cannon at the gate, and lay a train of powder, which would blow up the British, should they enter the house. To the last proposition I positively object, without being able to make him understand why all advantages in war may not be taken.

Wednesday Morning, twelve o'clock.--Since sunrise I have been turning my spy-glass in every direction, and watching with unwearied anxiety, hoping to discover the approach of my dear husband and his friends; but, alas! I can descry only groups of military, wandering in all directions, as if there was a lack of arms, or of spirit to fight for their own fireside.

Three o'clock.-- Will you believe it, my sister? we have had a battle, or skirmish, near Bladensburg, and here I am still, within sound of the cannon! Mr. Madison comes not. May God protect us! Two messengers, covered with dust, come to bid me fly; but here I mean to wait for him....At this late hour a wagon has been procured, and I have had it filled with plate and the most valuable portable articles, belonging to the house. Whether it will reach its destination, the "Bank of Maryland," or fall into the hands of British soldiery, events must determine. Our kind friend, Mr. Carroll, has come to hasten my departure, and in a very bad humor with me, because I insist on waiting until the large picture of General Washington is secured, and it requires to be unscrewed from the wall. This process was found too tedious for these perilous moments; I have ordered the frame to be broken, and the canvas taken out. It is done! and the precious portrait placed in the hands of two gentlemen of New York, for safe keeping. And now, dear sister, I must leave this house, or the retreating army will make ame a prisoner in it by filling up the road I am directed to take. When I shall again write to you, or where I shall be tomorrow, I cannot tell!

Dolly

Cedar Rapids Gazette, July 19, 1989, Cedar Rapids, IA



Neighbors photo by S. Maus Bettenga

AROUND THE TOWN

Family shows its true colors with mailbox decor

Darren Lewis, 14, Jeremy Lewis, 16, and their father, John Lewis, Kirkwood Community College baseball coach, display their idea of a properly decorated mailbox. Darren plays baseball with the Jefferson High School freshman team, Jeremy plays on Jefferson's varsity team.

It may sound a little "batty," but what else would you expect from an enthusiastic baseball family?

A recent mishap with the family van gave the Lewis family, who lives at 3934 Rollingwood Dr. NW, a chance to show its true colors. The mailbox was destroyed when the van rolled over it, **Kirkwood Community College baseball coach John Lewis** explains.

"We wanted to do something a little different when we replaced it."

John grew up cheering for the Yankees as did his sons, Darren and Jeremy. One way they figured they could show their spirit was by displaying it on their mailbox.

The family mailbox, described by one neighbor as the most unusual in the neighborhood, has half of a Dave Winfield model Louisville Slugger bat and half of a baseball nailed to each side.

The Lewises also have plans to decorate one of their home's bathrooms with a Yankee motif — complete with Mickey Mantle posters and pinstriped wallpaper.

PHILADELPHIA ENQUIRER
July 25, 1989

The kitchen sink is in the mail

A German postal obsession comes unwrapped

By Roddy Ray
Knight-Ridder News Service

NUREMBERG, West Germany — How many times have you looked at a liverwurst and wondered, "If I addressed that, put a few stamps on it and dropped it in a mailbox, would it get delivered?"

Well, wonder no more. Let it be known that stamped and addressed wursts do reach their destination. At least, in West Germany they do.

For 2½ years, law student Jan Grinsemann, 22, has been mailing all sorts of things, sans envelopes or other packaging, to Volkmar Hammer, 21, just to see if they would be delivered. About 90 percent have.

It started with Grinsemann's mother's sunglasses, stamps on one lens and address on the other, and became an obsession. He has mailed nearly 1,700 things so far, according to records kept by the two friends.

"Everything I see, I want to mail," Grinsemann said at his Nuremberg apartment, where he sat last week at a table piled with stamped and addressed things that had been through the mail. Such as ...

Item 843: A page from the phone book, Hammer's name and address highlighted with yellow marker.

Item 1179: A slab of granite a foot long, four inches wide and an inch thick. Postage — arbitrary, as usual — about $1.75. "Printed matter," Grinsemann had stamped on it. "Small package," countered the Deutsche Bundespost with its own stamp.

Item 1477: A gingerbread cookie. "Regrettably, this item has been damaged, and therefore has been provided with a protective cover," said a label on the plastic bag in which it arrived, crumbling.

A fox head from a fur collar. Toy cars. A five-deutsche-mark bill (worth about $2.70). A license plate.

The postal service at one point responded with 20 pages of regulations saying what can be considered a postcard and what cannot. Grinsemann made each page into a large postcard and mailed it to Hammer.

One that didn't make it was an unaddressed envelope containing a cassette on which Grinsemann had recorded Hammer's address.

Most of the items were sent to Hammer's home in the city of Rothenburg ober der Tauber. He became so well known at the Rothenburg post office that if you simply sent a letter marked, "To Volkmar," in care of the town, he would get it.

Hammer recently moved to London to study engineering. The stovepipe hat should be arriving any day.

OHIO NEWS BUREAU INC., May 21, 1986, Columbus, Ohio

Rock cast at postal regulation

By Lee Stratton
Dispatch Staff Reporter

Some U.S. Postal Service rules are not written in stone. There's the rule that says a parcel must be properly packaged, for example.

"Unwrapped?" a Columbus postal spokesman said. "We wouldn't take it," he insisted.

That's what Jonathan Gilbert thought, too, until he opened the door of his Italian Village home Monday. There stood a mail carrier, straining to hold a 60-pound rock.

No crate.

No wrapping.

Not even handles.

Just a rock with Gilbert's name and address penciled on the surface and a $6.67 postage-paid sticker slapped on one side.

Gilbert, 33, a professional sculptor, had sent for the sample of soapstone from a quarry in Charlottesville, Va.

"I have a rock for you," the mail carrier said.

"I was surprised," Gilbert said. "The postman who brought it was surprised. His boss was surprised." None of them had ever seen anything in the mail like that before, Gilbert said.

"They just sent the raw material," he said. "It was like someone had mailed an anvil.

"It was so out of the norm. I'm really surprised the post office didn't want a string around it."

The stone didn't gather any moss in the post office. It arrived Monday morning, seven days after mailing.



Jonathan Gilbert and his rock Dispatch photo by Ray Owens

Gilbert is the artist who created *Over the Rapids* outside the Dublin Rd. water plant, and *Tree of Knowledge* at Heritage Village, 1151 College Ave. He also sculpted the portrait of Columbus businessman John W. Galbreath at the Ohio Theatre.

Gilbert ordered the $20 sample-sized soapstone three weeks ago "to see how the surface is going to polish up and how it would carve for me." Soapstone is a soft, massive variety of talc.

Local postal officials delivered the rock in a station wagon.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Contact Gary Stevens
268-6898
draft speech fact sheet

5 wk. conference
170 nations to discuss
international mail

last time we hosted the U.P.U.
was in 1897.

10 minutes
5-7 minutes

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEMORANDUM 10/30/89

TO: DAVID BATES/SIG ROGICH

FROM: JOSEPH W. HAGIN

SUBJECT: APPROVED PRESIDENTIAL ACTIVITY

EVENT: Attend Opening Session of the Universal Postal Union Congress

DATE: November 13, 1989 - Monday

TIME: 10:30 am

DURATION: 30 minutes

LOCATION: Kennedy Center Concert Hall

ATTIRE: Business Suit

REMARKS REQUIRED: Yes

MEDIA COVERAGE: TBD

FIRST [illegible]Y
P[illegible].CIPATION: No

ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:

CONTACT: Ed Horgan _____

TELEPHONE: OFFICE 268-2360 HOME _____

NOTE: PROJECT OFFICER, SEE ATTACHED CHECKLIST

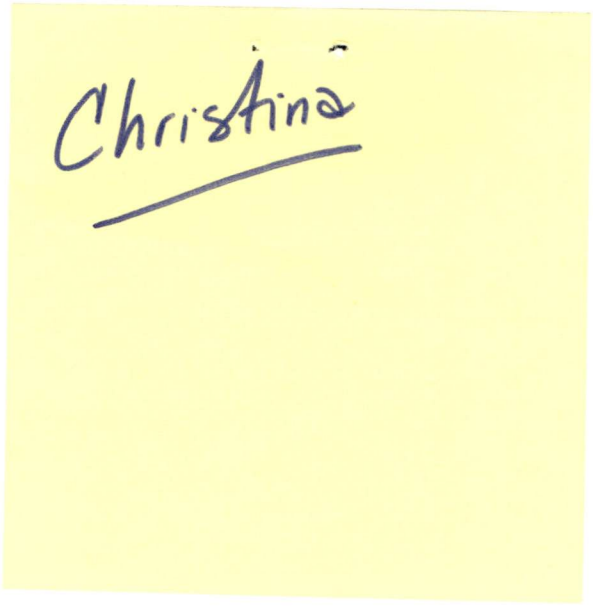
Ed Rogers	Marlin Fitzwater	David Bates
James Cicconi	David Demarest	David Valdez
Fred McClure	Jean Lamb	USSS - PPD
Susan Porter Rose	Sig Rogich	Gary Walters
Patty Presock	John Keller	WHCA Audio/Visual
Chriss Winston	Tim McBride	WHCA Operations
Laurie Firestone	J. Bonnie Newman	C. Boyden Gray
William Kristol	Paul Bateman	John Herrick
Jackie Kennedy		

Photocopy-Preservation

20e CONGRÈS UPU



Washington DC 1989


Christina

0308b

ADDITIONAL POINTS REGARDING PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE TO UPU DELEGATES DURING OPENING CEREMONY

1. USPS REFERENCE: President's speech should include a reference to the United States Postal Service, such as: "Americans are proud of the job being done by our United States Postal Service and its 800,000 employees."

2. INTRODUCTION: Postmaster General Frank will introduce the President. A "double introduction" might be appropriate, such as: "Mr. President, the people in this audience have come here from every corner of the globe. They are in the business of facilitating communications to the five billion people on earth. And, delegates of the 20th Universal Postal Congress, may I introduce the President of the United States, George Herbert Walker Bush." The "double introduction" is meant to compliment both the delegates and the President.

3. THANK YOU/GIFTS: Following the President's speech, Postmaster General Frank could say something like: "Thank you, Mr. President. One of the traits you have become well-known for is writing brief congratulatory and thank you messages. In fact, during your brief tenure as Chief Executive, you have probably generated more personal correspondence than any other President. And so, because of your personal interest in maintaining an efficient postal system, we would like to present to you this U.S. Postal Service letter carrier's cap and mail satchel. Mr. President, you will note the wording on the mailbag: "George Bush, Honorary Letter Carrier of the World."

   Another idea for a gift: PMG Frank could present the President with a miniature version of the Universal Postal Union statue which is located in Bern, Switzerland. It features a globe encircled by natives from each continent. The natives are passing letters to each other as a representation of the UPU's ability to link the world together through the posts.

OPENING CEREMONY

Delegates/Guests

From Washington Convention Center

8:30 Buses Arrive WCC

8:45 Buses Available for boarding

9:00 Buses leave WCC in Convoy of 16

9:20 Arrive Kennedy Center

9:30 Arrive Foyer in front of Concert Hall

9:30 Next 16 Bus Convoy leaves WCC

9:50 Arrive KC

10:00 Arrive Foyer

10:00 Doors Open

10:10 Wives of VIPs seated

10:20 Everyone else seated

10:30 Program begins

VIPs

8:00 Coffee for VIPs in the Latrobe Room of the Grand Hyatt

8:35 Depart Latrobe Room

8:45 Leave Hyatt in 2 Buses

9:05 Arrive Kennedy Center and escorted through special entrance, to Chinese Room for reception (Spouses will be shown their seating and then escorted to the Foyer to join the other attendees for refreshments. When doors open, they will take the seats they were shown.)

9:15 Arrive Chinese Room
(Other VIPs will arrive by car and are also escorted to Chinese Room)

10:00 VIPs leave Chinese Room escorted via elevator to Green Room through rear entrance

10:20 Arrive Green Room. Form receiving line

10:30 President arrives

President introduced to VIPs by Mr. Frank with assist from Mr. Leavey. Pictures taken (individual and group)

10:30 National Symphony Orchestra Conducted by Rafael Fruhbeck de Burgos plays William Schuman's New England Triptych (15 min.)

10:43 VIPs leave Green Room escorted to marked seats as soon as NSO completes selection
Mr. Frank and Mr. Murthy go to seats on stage

10:45 NSO completes selection (Will try to shorten)

10:45 "Ruffles and Flourishes"
Announcement off stage
Hail to the Chief
President enters and is seated

10:50 Mr. Frank introduces the President
The President speaks (for about 8-10 minutes)

11:00 President completes speech and leaves
(Handshakes all around)

11:05 Mr. Frank welcomes delegates and introduces Mr. Murthy

11:15 Mr. Murthy acknowledges Mr. Frank and thanks the United States on behalf of the delegates for hosting the Congress

11:25 The NSO plays the second selection

12:00 Mr. Frank declares the Congress offically open.

12:05 Mr. Wade makes announcement reminding delegates of 3 p.m. Opening Session of Congress, and that transport back to the WCC is now ready outside

20e CONGRES UPU
Washington DC 1989

NEWS RELEASE

FACT SHEET
20th UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

GENERAL

DATES: November 13 through December 14, 1989

SITE: Washington Convention Center, Washington, D.C.

UPU: The Universal Postal Union, established in 1874, is the second oldest continuous international organization in the world today. With a current membership of 170 postal administrations worldwide, the UPU exists to facilitate the exchange of mail among nations and to secure the improvement of postal services through international collaboration. Its functions include providing technical assistance to postal administrations of developing countries, serving as a clearinghouse for settling financial differences, and disseminating information to member nations. Since 1948 it has been affiliated with the United Nations as a specialized agency.

CONGRESS: The UPU's supreme legislative authority is convened every five years to establish policy and revise the Acts of the Union, using as a basis the proposals presented by member postal administrations. The decisions reached during Congress govern international mail exchange for the following five-year period. The Acts of the Union -- consisting of a constitution, general regulations, and a convention supplemented by detailed regulations -- are binding on all member nations. The Congress also establishes the organization's budget ceiling for the succeeding five years.

OTHER UPU BODIES

Executive Council (EC) -- Composed of 40 members elected by Congress. Meets once a year. Implements UPU policy as determined by Congress, coordinates and supervises UPU activities, studies problems, formulates proposals. The U.S. Postal Service is a member.

Consultative Council for Postal Studies (CCPS) -- Composed of 35 members elected by Congress. Meets once a year. Studies technical, operational, economic, and technical cooperation

(more)

problems encountered by member postal administrations. It has issued over 160 reports on the results of its findings since its inception in 1957. The U.S. Postal Service is a member.

International Bureau -- The administrative arm of the UPU is permanently located in Berne, Switzerland, and is staffed by 146 officials from 53 countries.

THE 1989 CONGRESS

ATTENDANCE: 1,500 including support staffs from individual postal administrations, the International Bureau and U.S. Postal Service support staffs. Delegates: Approximately 900. For list of nations, see addendum.

KEY PERSONNEL

Honorary Chairman -- Anthony M. Frank, U.S. Postmaster General
Chairman -- Edward E. Horgan, Jr., U.S. Associate Postmaster General - International
Chief of Staff -- Thomas E. Leavey, U.S. Assistant Postmaster General of International Postal Affairs
Secretary General -- Adwaldo Cardoso Botto de Barros of Brazil, Director General, International Bureau of the UPU
Dean of Congress -- K. R. Murthy, former Director General of Posts of India
Vice Chairmen -- Designees from France, China, the Soviet Union, Zambia
U.S. Delegation -- Michael S. Coughlin, U.S. Deputy Postmaster General, heads delegation, assisted by John G. Mulligan, Senior Assistant Postmaster General Operations Support Group

PROPOSALS: 800 to be considered, compared with over 1,000 at the 1984 Congress in Hamburg, reflecting a sharper focus on issues of the most general interest.

FORMAT: The Congress begins and ends in a series of plenary sessions with the middle half devoted to committee work. Proposals are assigned to the appropriate committee from among the following eight:

Finance -- Chaired by Japan; the vice-chairmen are Bolivia, Turkey, Zaire
General Affairs -- Chaired by Switzerland; vice-chairmen: Colombia, Sri Lanka, Togo
Letter Post, regulatory -- Chaired by Finland; vice-chairmen: Angola, Pakistan, Venezuela
Letter Post, rates and payments -- Chaired by India; vice-chairmen: Czechoslovakia, Ghana, Italy
Airmail -- chaired by New Zealand; vice-chairmen: Barbados, Ireland, Poland

(more)

Parcel Post -- chaired by Hungary; vice-chairmen: Bangladesh, The Netherlands, Senegal
Financial Services -- Chaired by Austria; vice-chairmen: Chile, Gabon, Indonesia
Technical Cooperation -- Chaired by Cote d'Ivoire; vice-chairmen: Brazil, Bulgaria, United Arab Emirates

There are two other committees:

Credentials -- Chaired by Argentina; vice-chairmen: Nigeria, Portugal, Syria
Drafting (of documents) -- Chaired by Algeria; vice-chairmen: Belgium, Canada, Congo

VOTING: Based on one postal administration/one vote regardless of mail volume handled or population served. An electronic voting system similar to the United Nation's will be employed. A postal authority may be represented by another delegation by proxy.

LANGUAGES: Simultaneous interpretation of plenary and committee sessions are offered in Arabic, Chinese, English, French (the official UPU language), German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, and Spanish. Of the member postal administrations, there are 74 in the English language group and 20 each in the Spanish and Arabic language groups.

ISSUES

Organizational -- In response to the rapid pace of commercial and technological developments in postal communications, there is a need for the UPU to take action between Congresses. Proposals include transferring legislative authority for detailed regulations from Congress to the Executive Council, and giving the EC authority to update rates once between Congresses. Other elements include strengthening the UPU in improving the quality of service worldwide, and in technical assistance for developing countries.

Postal -- Terminal dues (the payments the origin country makes for the cost of delivering its mail to the destination country) is a focal point. One proposal would establish a new terminal dues structure with separate rates for letter items and for printed matter, and to relate rate levels more closely to costs. The new structure would apply to mail flows above a 150-metric ton threshold. The threshold concept would permit most of the developing countries (75 percent of the UPU membership) to retain the revenues and simplified accounting system associated with the traditional single rate structure, while the developed countries (85 percent of the world mail volume) could apply the new structure. Other proposals include new optional mail classification systems by priority/speed and by envelope size; conversion of Article 19 rates into guideline rates, and standardization of the weight limit for letter post items (except books, catalogs) at

two kilograms; requirement of service targets for international air and priority mail and steps to attain targets; and approval to permit use of bar codes in international services.

CONGRESS
HIGHLIGHTS

Nov. 13 -- Ceremonial opening at Kennedy Center (morning); President Bush invited
-- Opening business session, Washington Convention Center (afternoon)
-- Opening Dinner, National Building Museum (evening)

Nov. 16 -- General Debate (all day)

Nov. 25 -- "Be Our Guests" program where U.S. Postal Service employees invite foreign delegates to their homes to have dinner with an American family

Dec. 14 -- Treaty signing during the day
-- Closing dinner, Union Station

GENERAL DEBATE: "Caring for the Customer" is the theme of the day-long General Debate, November 16. The purpose is to allow senior postal officials a chance to step back from the legislative and technical focus of the Congress to assess the world postal scene and to exchange views and recommendations about priorities for the next five years. The discussion will be broken into three topics.

Knowledge of the Market -- Great Britain serves as panel discussion leader. Other participants include Malaysia, Belgium, Brazil, Japan, Pakistan, Sweden, Tanzania

Commercial and Operational Strategies of the Post -- France serves as panel discussion leader. Other participants include Burkina Faso, Australia, Argentina, Canada, German Democratic Republic, India, Morocco

Management Structure and Systems at National and International Levels -- Colombia serves as panel discussion leader. Other participants include Jordan, Finland, The Netherlands, New Zealand, Senegal, Switzerland, the Soviet Union

Mr. Horgan will open the debate. U.S. Associate Postmaster General Kenneth Hunter will be the moderator and make the summary remarks. Based on recommendations arising from the General Debate and decisions made in the committees, an Action Plan, reflecting UPU priorities for the next five years, will be developed.

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UNITED STATES AS HOST: The United States offer to act as host for the 1989 Congress was accepted at the 1984 Hamburg Congress. In 1897 Washington, D.C. was also the site of the Congress which was attended by 106 delegates and representatives from 56 member countries. As a result of its role as host this year, the United States not only chairs the Congress, but also will chair the Executive Council for the next five years.

OBSERVER STATUS: Among the entities which hold non-voting observer status at the Congress are the United Nations and the 10 Restricted (regional) Unions of the Universal Postal Union. The United States is a member of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain. The others include the European Conference of Postal and Telecommunications Administrations, the African Posts and Telecommunications Union, the Conference of Posts and Telecommunications Administrations of Central Africa, Nordic Postal Union, Pan-African Postal Union, Asia-Pacific Union, African Postal Union, Arab Postal Union, and the Postal Union of the South and West of Asia.

ELECTIONS: In addition to voting on the Action Plan and proposed regulations, the delegates will elect the UPU Director General and Deputy Director General, who will serve for the next five years, as well as the member countries which will comprise the membership of the Executive Council and the Consultative Council for Postal Studies over the same period. They also will decide on the site for the 1994 Congress.

PRESS CENTER: A Press Center will be operational every weekday, 8 a.m. to 7 p.m., throughout Congress at the Ramada Renaissance Hotel, directly across Ninth Street from the main entrance to the Washington Convention Center. The Press Center (Room 2, Meeting Room Level) will provide interview/briefing room and work room facilities for media representatives who have filed and been approved for accreditation for the event. Direct questions to Bob Hoobing (telephone Area Code 202 268-6975 through October and Area Code 202 347-9282 on November 1 and thereafter. Traditionally this Congress is a closed event but this year properly accredited media will be permitted to attend several events. Interviews and briefings will be conducted in the Press Center.

PREPARATIONS: James P. Wade, Director, Congress Operations, heads a corps of 30 employees who have worked on the massive task of preparing for the Congress in numerous categories. By the time the 1989 Congress opens, the Congress Operations staff will reach approximately 200. One of the areas involved is that of security, supplied by the USPS Postal Inspection Service, the oldest law enforcement agency in the nation. Other federal law enforcement agencies will assist in providing appropriate security.

WORLD STAMP EXPO '89: Concurrent with, but separated from the Congress, will be the first international philatelic show ever hosted by the U.S. Postal Service, running November 17-20 and November 24-December 3. WORLD STAMP EXPO '89 will be open to the

(more)

public in the Washington Convention Center (Hall D), but the areas of the building designated for Congress will be closed to anyone without proper credentials. The philatelic show will include 11 first day of issue ceremonies, one of which, a tribute to space exploration on November 24, will feature Soviet cosmonaut Gherman Titov and former U.S. astronaut Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin, Jr. Philatelic sales, displays, exhibits and auctions will also be included in the EXPO program. Media inquiries concerning WORLD STAMP EXPO '89 should be directed to Margot Myers (268-6894).

HISTORY

UPU: By 1860, international mail, where available, was in a state of chaos, encumbered by conflicting laws/regulations and dozens of bilateral treaties. U.S. Postmaster General Montgomery Blair, whose many innovations and changes revolutionized mail service domestically, recognized the need for international postal sanity even in the midst of the U.S. Civil War. His letter to the Secretary of State in 1862 resulted in a conference in Paris in 1863 at which 15 nations discussed ideas and principles to serve as a basis for future international agreements. Spurred by the persistent statesmanship of Dr. Heinrich von Stephan, head of the postal administration of the Confederation of Northern Germany, 22 states met at Berne, Switzerland, in 1874 and established the General (later Universal) Postal Union which drew up a constitutive treaty. The UPU has since become the first international organization to use arbitration as a means of settling international disputes.

CONGRESS: Since its organization, the UPU Congress has met in Paris in 1878, Lisbon in 1885, Vienna in 1891, Washington, D.C. in 1897, Rome in 1906, Madrid in 1920, Stockholm in 1924, London in 1929, Cairo in 1934, Buenos Aires in 1939, Paris in 1947, Brussels in 1952, Ottawa in 1957, Vienna in 1964, Tokyo in 1969, Lausanne (Switzerland) in 1974, Rio de Janeiro in 1979, and Hamburg in 1984. The Congress in 1947 created the Executive Council and in 1957 established the Consultative Council for Postal Studies (CCPS). The 1897 Congress in Washington was held at the old Corcoran Art Gallery. The 1989 Congress, spanning 32 days, will be the shortest in history.

GENERAL DEBATE: The General Debate originated at the Rio de Janeiro meeting in 1979. As a result of the two-day General Debate in 1984, the Congress adopted the Declaration of Hamburg which instructed the UPU to take action which would ensure the improvement of international services, and launched a process whereby the Executive Council, Consultative Council for Postal Studies and International Bureau evaluate developments and recommend solutions.

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ADDENDUM

Following is a list of the postal administrations which belong to the Universal Postal Union.

Afghanistan; Albania; Algeria; Angola; Argentina; Australia; Austria; Bahamas; Bahrain; Bangladesh; Barbados; Belgium; Belize; Benin; Bhutan; Bolivia; Botswana; Brazil; Brunei; Bulgaria; Burkina Faso; Burundi; Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic; Cameroon; Canada; Cape Verde; Central African Republic; Chad; Chile; China; Colombia; Comoros; Congo; Costa Rica; Côte d'Ivoire; Cuba; Cyprus; Czechoslovakia; Denmark; Djibouti; Dominica*; Dominican Republic; Ecuador; Egypt; El Salvador; Equatorial Guinea; Ethiopia; Fiji; Finland; and France.

Also, Gabon; Gambia; German Democratic Republic; Germany (Federal Republic of); Ghana; Great Britain; Greece; Grenada; Guatemala; Guinea; Guinea-Bissau; Guyana; Haiti; Honduras; Hungary; Iceland; India; Indonesia; Iran; Iraq; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Jamaica; Japan; Jordan; Kampuchea*; Kenya; Kiribati; Korea (Democratic People's Republic of); Korea (Republic of); Kuwait; Laos; Lebanon; Lesotho; Liberia; Libya; Liechtenstein*; Luxembourg; Madagascar; Malawi; Malaysia; Maldives; Mali; Malta; Mauritania; Mauritius; Mexico; Monaco; Mongolia; Morocco; Mozambique; Myanmar (formerly Burma); Nauru*; Nepal; The Netherlands; Netherlands Antilles and Aruba; New Zealand; Nicaragua; Niger; Nigeria; and Norway.

And, Oman; Pakistan; Panama; Papua New Guinea; Paraguay; Peru; The Philippines; Poland; Portugal; Qatar; Romania; Rwana; St. Kitts and Nevis; St. Lucia*; St. Vincent and the Grenadines*; San Marino; São Tomé & Príncipe; Saudi Arabia; Senegal; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Singapore; Solomon Islands; Somalia; Spain; Sri Lanka; Sudan; Suriname; Swaziland; Sweden; Switzerland; Syria; Tanzania; Thailand; Togo; Tonga; Trinidad and Tobago; Tunisia; Turkey; Tuvalu; Uganda; Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic; Union of Soviet Socialist Republics; United Arab Emirates; United States of America; Uruguay; Vanuatu; Vatican City State; Venezuela; Vietnam; Western Samoa; Yemen Arab Republic; Yemen (People's Democratic Republic of); Yugoslavia; Zaire; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

* These postal administrations have indicated they will not attend the 1989 Congress.

DRAFT

DRAFT

Remarks by Anthony Frank,

Postmaster General of the United States,

at the opening ceremony of

the 20th Universal Postal Congress

-o-

Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts
Washington, D.C.
November 13, 1989

-- 10/18/89 --

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished delegates, honored guests, friends and colleagues:

As Postmaster General of the United States, it is my privilege and great pleasure to welcome you to the opening of the 20th Universal Postal Congress.

On behalf of the U.S. Postal Service, I wish to thank you for having made the long journey here from every corner of the world. We are grateful for your having chosen the United States as the place for this important event, and we are honored by your presence.

I am especially pleased that the President of the United States, the Honorable George Bush, [or Vice President Quayle or Secretary of State Baker] is with us today to open this Congress officially and extend greetings to you from the American people and government. Mr. President, [or Mr. Vice President or Mr. Secretary] we thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to be with us.

It is also a distinct honor to welcome the Dean of the Congress, Mr. K. R. Murthy, former Director General of Posts of India.

The Dean serves, of course, as the spokesman for all delegates, but to a large extent, he also embodies the very spirit of a Congress. And I know you share my view that Mr. Murthy will be a force for friendship and cooperation and thus enhance all our proceedings.

Mr. Murthy's warmth and good will, his integrity and professionalism, and his dedication to fairness and public service are well-known. Further, as the first Dean from outside

Europe or North America, he adds a new and welcome measure of universality to our history.

We thank you, sir, for the contribution you have already made to the UPU during your distinguished career, and we look forward to working with you these next five weeks.

It is especially appropriate that this Congress is taking place in Washington, for it was in this city that the first proposal for worldwide postal cooperation originated.

In 1862, the Postmaster General of the United States, Montgomery Blair, observed the lack of a system for exchanging international mail and concluded that the postal administrations of the world should act in a more coordinated way. And, being a man of action, he extended an invitation through our Department of State to other governments to discuss the matter.

This led to an historic meeting of fifteen countries in Paris on May 11, 1863, and resulted in adoption of the first guidelines for the world's exchange of mail.

This collaboration proved so useful that later, in 1874, under the leadership of Heinrich von Stephan of Germany, the countries of the world met again and this time formalized their arrangement by founding the Universal Postal Union.

At the time of his international initiative, Montgomery Blair had already proved to be an outstanding administrator, and we in the United States owe much of the foundation of our modern service to him.

At any time the reforms and advances he introduced would have been noteworthy, but the amazing fact is that they occurred

while the United States was engaged in a Civil War between the North and the South.

Indeed, during the time of the Paris meeting, the fortunes of war were going terribly for the North and the permanent division of the country seemed a real possibility. Yet, work toward a better international mail system went forward.

As part of the philatelic commemoration of this Congress, we will soon issue an aerogram honoring Montgomery Blair, and we hope that when you see it, you will appreciate the history behind it.

Later in the 19th Century, Washington again played an important part in UPU history. It was the site of the Fifth Universal Postal Congress, in 1897. Therefore, this occasion marks the second time the United States has been the proud host of a Universal Postal Congress.

One hundred and three delegates from 56 countries attended the earlier Washington Congress, and, in a display in the Convention Center, you will see photographs of them. They look out at us from their time, faces from the past, like us in many ways, yet truly of a different world.

The 1897 delegates came here by steamship and train, not jetliner, and their trip took days and even weeks, not hours.

Since their time, man has split the atom, walked on the moon, fought two devastating world wars, witnessed the birth of many proud new nations, and expanded his knowledge in every field of human endeavor.

But despite all these changes, one thing has remained constant: The need -- the urgent need -- of mankind to communicate.

The delegates of 1897 met to address that need and so, too,

do we. It is our biggest bond both with the past and with each other.

When that Fifth Congress met, the mails reigned supreme. The only rival worldwide communications medium was the telegraph, but many of the trans-oceanic cables were still being laid at that time and the telegraph's reach was limited.

Today, of course, mankind has many more means of communications available to it, and we can only delight in this fact, for these new mechanisms have helped bring the world closer and in doing so have made it better.

But let no one think that because the mail system is now only one among many communications systems, its importance has in any way diminished. The mails are today as indispensable as ever.

Specialty delivery firms currently abound, and they, too, serve a need. But they are selective about who and where they serve and, despite their usual reputation for efficiency, they could not handle our workload for even a day.

Only the postal system can reach and serve every man, woman and child on this planet every day and do so at a price that is in their reach.

Every day our administrations collect and deliver hundreds of millions of letters, newspapers, magazines, books, catalogues, parcels, circulars, and so on -- most of these, items that private companies usually find unprofitable to handle -- and think what the world would be like if this flow were ever to be seriously disrupted. The economic consequences would be

horrendous, and people's lives would also be poorer in many other ways.

I am very pleased that the theme, "Caring for the Customer," has been set as the focus of our general debate on Thursday, for that is the heart of the matter. Indeed, I hope that the question What do our customers want? will remain at the center of our thinking for the whole of this Congress.

The hallmark of any good organization, be it large or small, government or private, is flexibility -- a recognition that conditions always change and a willingness to adapt to meet this change.

We in the Universal Postal Union quite rightly pride ourselves on our long history and our noble traditions. Yet, at the same time, recognizing the changed environment in which we operate, we must not fear to forge <u>new</u> traditions to wed with the old.

We must, in other words, modernize -- both in the way we handle the world's mail and in the way we relate to each other within this venerable organization. And to do so, we must be prepared to be bold, imaginative and, yes, even daring.

Modern management demands improved management structures, increased use and mastery of technology, responsiveness to the marketplace, research, skill in setting prices and fashioning desired new services, sensitivity to public and governmental attitudes, and a restless desire at all times to do things better.

These are the qualities we must increasingly cultivate -- both within our individual administrations and in our joint

international activity.

To make up for the distinct limits on our resources, we must draw on our creativity and resourcefulness -- and on help from one another.

While respecting each other's differences, we must work toward greater unity of purpose and singleness of action.

And because the world will not wait for us and our time at this Congress is limited, we must act with dispatch.

We can do all these things, and I am confident we will.

Our task will be greatly assisted if we get to know each other better, and in this connection I wish to issue a personal challenge to each of you: I want to urge that every delegate make a conscious and concerted effort every day to make at least one new friend from another country and exchange postal views.

If we do this, we will generate a dialogue that will not only multiply the quality of our personal experience, but we will also increase our professional knowledge and our ability to act as one unified organization.

I hope that everyone will take me up on this challenge and spur his or her colleagues to do the same.

For our part, we of the host administration have worked hard and long to create an hospitable environment in which the business of the Congress can be conducted. And we have arranged a schedule of social activity and excursions that we hope will enable you to relax, to enjoy yourselves, and to get to know each other and the United States better.

We Americans are very proud of our country, and we hope

that during your time with us, as you sample aspects of our national life, you will begin to understand the reasons why.

One of the chief reasons is not hard to find. Indeed, you can see it on any street in America. It is the diversity of our people -- one of our greatest sources of strength.

The citizens of this land came from, or can trace their roots to, every country of the world. So as you walk our streets and mingle with our people we hope you will experience a sense of kinship and feel at home -- and that your experience will make you want to revisit our country many more times.

Again, and in conclusion, I wish to express my joy at having you here and my fervent wish that you will find this time both memorable and productive. Thank you.

# # #

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS OPERATIONS

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20°CONGRÈS UPU Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

Postal Service to Host UPU Congress

For only the second time in nearly a century, the United States will host the world's postal administrations during an international business meeting known as the Universal Postal Congress, November 13 to December 14, 1989.

Nearly 1,700 individuals representing 170 member administrations of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) are expected to participate in the five-week-long business session at the Washington, D.C. Convention Center.

As host administration, the United States Postal Service is responsible for coordinating all logistical arrangements for this complex global gathering. (See attached "Postscripts" for more specific information.)

"As host administration, the U.S. Postal Service is responsible for coordinating all logistical aspects of this complex global gathering."

A specialized agency of the United Nations since 1947, the UPU advances the goals of the world postal system by providing technical assistance to postal administrations of developing countries, serving as a clearinghouse for settling financial differences and disseminating information of interest to member nations.



The Washington Convention Center

Undoubtedly though, the most important aspect of the UPU's work takes place during Congress, which is the supreme, decision-making authority of the organization. Held every five years in a different country, the Universal Postal Congress resembles the General Assembly of its parent organization -- the United Nations.

Business sessions are interpreted into French (the UPU's official language), English, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, German, Chinese and Portuguese.

During Congress, members will consider nearly 1,000 proposals within the context of the UPU Acts, that set of rules and regulations governing the exchange of mail between member nations.

Just as in the United States Congress, much of the work of the Postal Congress is done in

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Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

USPS Employees Will Play Major Role at 20th Universal Postal Congress

To ensure a productive and memorable Universal Postal Congress, 101 bilingual U. S. Postal Service employees known as Guides will assist delegates in virtually every aspect of the five-week business meeting.

Guides will help delegates during arrivals to and departures from the United States, at the registration counter, and in the business halls of the Washington, Convention Center. Social functions – tours of postal facilities, museum trips, weekend excursions, sporting events and concerts – will also receive Guide support.

Competency in one of eight foreign languages was a key requirement in selecting Guides, since many of the 2,000 postal officials and their guests cannot speak English. Guides were recruited with proficiency in French, Arabic, Chinese, German, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, and of course, English.

TM
UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

According to James P. Wade, Director of Universal Postal Congress Operations, the Guides will contribute greatly to the overall impression that postal delegates and their spouses form about the United States and the U.S. Postal Service.

Though a Guide's work will be rewarding, the job will also be extremely difficult. "While Guides will enjoy the excitement of meeting people from the world over," says Wade, "our employees will work long hours, as well as evenings, weekends, and the Thanksgiving holiday."

Competition for the Guide positions was fierce. More than 2,600 postal employees nationwide applied for the 101 vacanices when they were announced back in November 1987. Screening took nearly a year and involved testing in more than 100 U.S. cities.

Applicants were graded on listening comprehension and speaking proficiency in one or more of the eight languages. Individuals were also evaluated on their cultural awareness, poise, and relevant work experience.

With the selection process completed, the 20th Congress planning team will now concentrate on preparing the Guides for their challenging task ahead.

Training is divided into two phases, one involving a general curriculum and the second which includes more specific instruction.

During the first phase, a two-week extensive session at the William F. Bolger Academy in Potomac, Maryland, Guides will study cross-cultural differences, the history of the UPU, plans for the 20th Congress, Washington's geography, stress management and personal image tips.

Three weeks prior to the November 13 opening ceremony, Guides will be brought back to Washington for specific training in their Congress job assignments.

Of the 101 individuals selected to serve as Guides, 60% are female, 40% male. Ranging in age from their 20s to their 60s, Guides represent nearly every imaginable line of postal work including clerks, letter carriers, mail handlers, mail processing supervisors and postmasters.

No matter what region of the country they come from or what type of postal function they perform back home, all Guides anxiously await the beginning of the 20th UPU Congress and the experiences of a lifetime.

20th CONGRESS UPU
Washington DC 1989

information

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL CONGRESS

America's Victorian Era Postal Congress

The last time the United States hosted a Universal Postal Congress was back in 1897, when, as in 1989, Washington was the site of the international meeting.

Between May 5 and June 15, 1897, 102 delegates representing 56 nations, free states and territories convened in the specially decorated hall of the Corcoran Gallery of Art.



Postmaster General James Albert Gary's report of the Fifth Congress planning activities proudly notes that Post Office Department employees "cleansed the floors, walls and ceilings; hung the walls with handsome draperies; covered the floors with velvet carpets and rugs; furnished the various rooms with desks, tables, chairs and articles of luxurious furniture and adorned them with growing plants, to such an extent that the accommodations offered to the Postal Congress of Washington were, at least, equally elegant to the accommodations offered to any previous Postal Congress."

Though General George Batcheller was the well-liked Chairman for the 1897 Congress, PMG Gary was integrally involved early on. In opening remarks, Gary welcomed the assembled delegates with eloquent remarks still appropriate today. "You come as the messengers of peace and goodwill," he said, "as the visible embodiment of international comity, as the advocates of international commerce, as the bearers of friendly messages between communities widely separated yet closely united; and I salute you as the representatives of advanced and advancing civilization."

According to published reports of the day, delegates made considerable progress on the business front in such areas as money orders, C.O.D.s, parcels and periodicals.

Congress attendees were also treated to that particularly American form of hospitality during specially arranged visits to nearby Washington landmarks.

On a trip to Mount Vernon, British delegate Spencer Walpole placed a wreath on the First President's grave in a symbolic gesture of goodwill. During a visit to Fort Monroe, delegates met the Commandant who treated them to a regimental parade by U.S. troops.

But, perhaps the most memorable visit was to the White House, where delegates were astounded by the lack of security. "That would never do with us," a British delegate was heard to say. (Ironically, it did not do for U.S. President McKinley either, who was assassinated four years later.)

For the delegates, undoubtedly the most exciting part of the 1897 Congress was a nine-day excursion along the east coast and midwest on a train of nine Pullman cars.

Stops were made in Pittsburgh, Indianapolis, St. Louis, Chicago, Niagara Falls, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, Boston, Atlantic City and Philadelphia. At all points, reported **The New York Times**, Americans welcomed the international postal dignitaries with enthusiastic receptions, elaborate ceremony and dinner galas.

In his final report, PMG Gary reflected the sentiments of his American postal colleagues: "A person who has not had a similar experience cannot understand the strain involved in arranging all the details for a Congress composed of representatives of every nation of the world."

List of Countries Expected to Attend 20th Universal Postal Congress

The following 170 countries and commonwealths comprise the entire membership of the Universal Postal Union. Members choosing not to send a formal delegation to the Washington Congress may choose to appoint another country as their representative with full voting rights.

Afghanistan (Democratic Republic of)
Albania (Socialist People's Republic of)
Algeria (People's Democratic Republic of)
Angola (People's Republic of)
Argentine Republic
Australia
Austria (Republic of)
Bahamas (Commonwealth of)
Bahrain (State of)
Bangladesh (People's Republic of)
Barbados
Belgium
Belize
Benin (People's Republic of)
Bhutan (Kingdom of)
Bolivia (Republic of)
Botswana (Republic of)
Brazil (Federative Republic of)
Brunei Darussalam
Bulgaria (People's Republic of)
Burkina Faso
Burundi (Republic of)
Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic
Cameroon (Republic of)
Canada
Cape Verde (Republic of)
Central African Republic
Chad (Republic of)
Chile
China (People's Republic of)
Colombia (Republic of)
Comoros (Islamic Federal Republic of the)
Congo (People's Republic of the)
Costa Rica (Republic of)
Cote d'Ivoire (Republic of)
Cuba (Republic of)
Cyprus (Republic of)
Czechoslovak Socialist Republic
Denmark (Kingdom of)
Djibouti (Republic of)
Dominica (Commonwealth of)
Dominican Republic
Ecuador (Republic of)
Egypt (Arab Republic of)
El Salvador (Republic of)
Equatorial Guinea (Republic of)
Ethiopia (Socialist)
Fiji
Finland (Republic of)
French Republic
Gabonese Republic
Gambia (Republic of the)
German Democratic Republic
Germany (Federal Republic of)
Ghana (Republic of)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Channel Islands and Isle of Man
Greece
Grenada
Guatemala (Republic of)
Guinea (Republic of)
Guinea-Bissau (Republic of)
Guyana
Haiti (Republic of)
Honduras (Republic of)
Hungarian People's Republic
Iceland (Republic of)
India
Indonesia (Republic of)
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq (Republic of)
Ireland
Israel
Italy
Jamaica
Japan

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Just as with any international organization, the Universal Postal Union has its own unique organizational structure. This list should provide you with a better understanding of the UPU and its far-reaching impact.

1 UPU structure

Congress

Congress is the Universal Postal Union's supreme authority, convened every five years in a different member country. Its main function is to study and revise the Acts of the Union (Convention), using as a basis the proposals presented by member countries. The decisions reached during Congress govern the actions of the global postal system for the following five-year period.

Executive Council

Composed of 40 members elected by Congress with regard for equitable geographic distribution, the Executive Council (EC) meets each year at UPU Headquarters in Bern, Switzerland. The EC ensures continuity of UPU work between Congresses and has temporary legislative power to settle urgent matters. The United States Postal Service is a member of the Executive Council.

CCPS

Thirty-five members elected at Congress comprise the Consultative Council for Postal Studies (CCPS). Responsible for coordinating studies into major postal problem areas, the CCPS has published more than 160 technical, operational and economic reports since its inception in 1957. The United States Postal Service is a member of CCPS.

Intl. Bureau

Since the UPU was established in 1874, a central administrative headquarters known as the International Bureau (IB) has functioned in Bern, Switzerland. Between Congresses, the IB disseminates information to all member countries, serves as a clearinghouse for the settlement of financial disputes and prepares for the work of Congress.

Restricted Unions

Within the framework of the UPU are nine restricted unions comprised of member countries sharing similar regional or cultural problems. Though not permitted to participate in Congress deliberations, restricted unions can attend as observers. The USPS is a member of the Postal Union of the Americas and Spain (PUAS) consisting of Canada, Mexico, Latin and South America and Spain.

MR. K. R. MURTHY (muhr'-te)

At the time of his retirement at the end of 1986, Mr. Murthy was Director General of Posts of India, a position comparable to that of Postmaster General.

He has wide experience in Universal Postal Union work, dating back almost 20 years. He headed India's International Operations from 1969 to 1974 and chaired the Finance Committee at the 1974 Lausanne Congress of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

He has led India's delegation to numerous meetings of the UPU's Executive Council and Consultative Council for Postal Studies.

He has also carried out postal technical assistance missions sponsored by the UPU, and since his retirement has taken on other technical assistance projects. His most recent assignment was in Tanzania.

Mr. Murthy is highly respected throughout the international postal community, among both industrialized and developing countries -- a very distinct asset in his role as Dean of the Washington Congress. In his capacity as Dean, he serves to facilitate the entire progress of the Congress. He acts as a sounding board and elder statesman, providing guidance and helping to mediate controversies that might arise during the Congress.

He is sincere and genuinely dedicated to his role as Dean and to helping achieve a successful Washington Postal Congress.

DRAFT

ADDRESS BY DOYEN, 20TH CONGRESS
INAUGURAL FUNCTION, NOVEMBER 1989.

SPEAKING ON BEHALF OF THE DELEGATES FROM DIFFERENT POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS WHO ARE PARTICIPATING IN THIS THE 20TH CONGRESS OF THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, I HAVE THE GREAT HONOR AS THE DOYEN OF THIS CONGRESS, OF EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR INVITING OUR UNION TO HOLD ITS CONGRESS HERE IN WASHINGTON. WE HAVE ALL BEEN GIVEN A WARM AND AFFECTIONATE WELCOME ON OUR ARRIVAL HERE, AND WE DEEPLY APPRECIATE THE FRIENDLINESS THAT HAS BEEN SO SPONTANEOUS AND OVERWHELMING.

WE ARE HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE OF THE PRESENCE HERE TODAY OF THE HONORABLE GEORGE HERBERT WALKER BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. HE HAS BESTOWED ON OUR UNION A GREAT HONOR BY AGREEING TO ATTEND THE INAUGURATION OF THIS 20TH CONGRESS OF THE UNION. THE CLOSE INTEREST OF THE POSTAL ADMINISTRATION OF THIS COUNTRY IN THE PROGRESS OF THE UNION IS WELL KNOWN. IT HAS OVER THE YEARS BECOME A TRADITION. MANY OF US HERE

CAN RECALL THE CONSTANT INTEREST SHOWN BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, IN THE MODERNIZATION OF THE POST, IN EFFORTS TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF SERVICE, IN FURTHERING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, AND IN ENSURING THE CLOSER INTEGRATION OF THE WORLD POST.

HAVING THE UNIQUE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE BIGGEST POSTAL ADMINISTRATION IN OUR UNION, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE HAS CONSTANTLY ENDEAVOURED TO FURTHER THE CAUSE OF THE POST, AND ASCERTAIN AND SERVE THE NEEDS OF ITS CLIENTS. ITS EFFORTS AND EXPERIENCES IN THESE AREAS HAVE ALSO BEEN OF INESTIMABLE VALUE TO THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE UNION.

IT IS NOT THE FIRST TIME THAT THE UNION IS HOLDING ITS CONGRESS IN THIS COUNTRY. IN 1897, THE ADMINISTRATION OF THIS COUNTRY HAD THE HONOR OF ORGANIZING THE CONGRESS WHEN WE LOOK BACK ON THE EFFORTS OF THOSE TIMES, WE REMEMBER THE PIONEERING EFFORTS OF HEINRICH VON STEPHAN OF THE GERMAN POSTAL ADMINISTRATION, WE SEE THE IMAGE AND RECALL THE IDEAS OF MONTGOMERY BLAIR, FORMER

POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES, FOR AN INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT, AND MANY OTHERS WHOSE EFFORTS HAVE HELPED TO MOLD US INTO A STRONG AND PURPOSEFUL UNION OF POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS, DEVOTED TO THE SERVICE OF THE MEMBER COUNTRIES, AND TO THE ENRICHMENT OF OUR LIVES, SOCIALLY, CULTURALLY, AND ECONOMICALLY.

ON BEHALF OF ALL POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS OF THE UNION, I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN THANKING ANTHONY M. FRANK, THE POSTMASTER GENERAL OF THIS COUNTRY, FOR HIS KIND WORDS OF WELCOME. ORGANIZING A CONGRESS IS A HIGHLY SKILLED UNDERTAKING. IT HAS ENTAILED CONSIDERABLE STUDY AND PREPARATORY WORK, LIAISON WITH A NUMBER OF OTHER DEPARTMENTS AND UNDERTAKINGS, AND APPRECIABLE COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AS WELL.

TO START WITH, THE ADMINISTRATION HAS SET UP WHAT HAS PROVED TO BE AN EFFICIENT AND ENERGETIC TEAM TO ORGANIZE THE CONGRESS. THE SMOOTH PROGRESS IN THE ORGANIZATION OF THE CONGRESS HAS BEEN POSSIBLE AS A RESULT OF EXEMPLARY TEAMWORK, ADEQUATE DELEGATION OF POWERS AND DUTIES, AND CONSTANT MONITORING AS WELL.

I AM CONFIDENT THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL HELP TO MAKE OUR STAY HERE IN WASHINGTON COMFORTABLE, AND OUR WORK HERE AT THIS CONGRESS, INTERESTING, AND SUCCESSFUL. ON BEHALF OF ALL THE DELEGATES, I HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN EXPRESSING OUR GRATITUDE TO OUR HOSTS, THE UNITED STATES POSTAL ADMINISTRATION. I WOULD ALSO LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS OUR APPRECIATION TO THE AUTHORITIES OF THE CITY OF WASHINGTON FOR THE MANY FACILITIES MADE AVAILABLE FOR THE HOLDING OF THE CONGRESS.

THE 20TH CONGRESS IS BEING HELD AS THE 21ST CENTURY IS FAST APPROACHING US WITH ITS PROMISE OF IMMENSE TECHNOLOGICAL PROGRESS. IN SUCH AN ERA OF CHANGE, THE FRUITS OF PROGRESS SHOULD BE AVAILABLE TO ALL SECTIONS OF THE COMMUNITY. AS PARTNERS IN AN INTERNATIONAL EFFORT, THERE IS NEED FOR US GETTING CLOSER TO EACH OTHER FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING, AND COMMON, AND UNITED EFFORT. IF THE WORLD POST HAS TO PROGRESS AS AN ORGANIZATION, THERE IS NEED FOR THE PROGRESS OF ALL ITS CONSTITUENT UNITS. FOR THE POST HAS NO FRONTIERS, AND

THE STRENGTH AND WEAKNESS IN AN ADMINISTRATION IS TRULY REFLECTED IN THE QUALITY OF SERVICE OF NOT ONLY ONE'S OWN ADMINISTRATION BUT IN A NUMBER OF OTHERS AS WELL.

WE THE MEMBERS OF THE UNION COME FROM DIFFERENT GEOGRAPHICAL AREAS, AND OUR NATIONAL GOALS AND NEEDS VARY GREATLY. CONSISTENT WITH OUR NEEDS, SOME OF US WILL HAVE TO TAKE GREATER ADVANTAGE OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY BECOMING AVAILABLE. SOME OTHERS AMONG US WILL HAVE TO ENSURE THAT OUTDATED METHODS OF WORK ARE GIVEN UP, AND TAKE STEPS TO EFFECT SIMPLIFICATION AND RATIONALIZATION OF WORK PROCEDURES. THE CHARACTER AND COMPOSITION OF OUR CLIENTELE IS CONSTANTLY CHANGING. THE NEEDS OF THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND OTHER NEW GROUPS OF CUSTOMERS WILL HAVE TO BE CONSTANTLY REVIEWED AND IDENTIFIED. BETTER TRAINING METHODS AND MOTIVATION FOR THE STAFF ARE OTHER AREAS THAT WILL DEMAND OUR ATTENTION.

SOME ASPECTS OF THIS CHANGING SITUATION HAVE BEEN APPARENT TO US AND HAVE BEEN ENGAGING OUR ATTENTION FOR SOME TIME. BUT AS WE APPROACH THE TURN OF THE CENTURY,

WE SUDDENLY FIND MANY RURAL COMMUNITIES AND HITHERTO PREDOMINANTLY AGRICULTURAL NATIONS NEWLY INVOLVED IN INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND COMMERCE IN EVER INCREASING MEASURE. POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS IN DEVELOPED AS WELL AS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, FACE A WIDE VARIETY OF DEMANDS FROM AN ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXACTING CLIENTELE.

TOWARDS ASSESSING THE OVERALL SITUATION, WE WILL BE ENGAGING OURSELVES IN A CLOSE EXAMINATION OF THE EFFORTS ALREADY UNDERTAKEN. WE WILL BE IN THE MIDST OF A DEBATE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS TO ASSESS FUTURE TRENDS, TO OUTLINE THE NEED FOR ACTION, AND DRAW UP THE WORK PROGRAM FOR THE NEXT FIVE YEARS. THIS DEBATE SHOULD HELP US TO SEE THE EMERGING SITUATION IN SOME OF THE DEVELOPING AND DISADVANTAGED POSTAL ADMINISTRATIONS. BURGEONING QUANTITIES OF MAIL, CHALLENGES FROM NEW COMPETITORS, A DISCERNING CLIENTELE, NEED FOR CONSTANT EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN THE QUALITY OF SERVICE AT A HIGH LEVEL, ARE OTHER ASPECTS WHICH WILL ENGAGE OUR ATTENTION.

THE UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION, WHICH WAS FOUNDED IN 1874, HAS BEEN GROWING IN STRENGTH. WE HAVE 170 MEMBERS TODAY. WE HAVE WELDED OURSELVES INTO A TRULY INTEGRATED ORGANIZATION, AND THE EXCHANGE OF TECHNICAL INFORMATION, AND OPERATIONAL EXPERIENCES BETWEEN US THE MEMBER COUNTRIES HAS HELPED TO STRENGTHEN EACH OF OUR ADMINISTRATIONS. THIS CLOSE KNIT UNITY AND OUR JOINT EFFORTS IN THE SERVICE OF OUR CLIENTS IS OUR STRENGTH AND OUR FUTURE AS WELL. I AM CONFIDENT THAT IN THE YEARS TO COME, THIS STRENGTH WILL GROW FURTHER AND HELP TO MAINTAIN OUR TRADITION OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD.

CONCLUDING, I WOULD LIKE THROUGH YOU, POSTMASTER GENERAL FRANK, TO EXTEND ON BEHALF OF POSTAL OFFICIALS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD, OUR GREETINGS TO THE POSTAL OFFICIALS OF YOUR COUNTRY. I ALSO HAVE GREAT PLEASURE IN EXTENDING GREETINGS, TO ALL OUR GUESTS OF HONOUR WHO ARE HERE THIS MORNING.

UNIVERSAL POSTAL UNION CONGRESS OPERATIONS

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congress 2 leadership

During a Postal Congress, the leadership plays an important role by ensuring objectivity and thorough treatment of all proposals. The list below includes the major Congress executives and decision-makers.

Honorary Chairman

During Congress, the host administration selects an Honorary Chairman, generally a high-ranking government official affiliated with the postal system of that country. Though not officially presiding during Congress, the Honorary Chairman does host and/or attend important social events and provides an added degree of prestige to all activities.
The 20th Congress Honorary Chairman is PMG Anthony M. Frank.

Chairman

Perhaps the most important position at a Universal Postal Congress is that of the Chairman, who must direct the activities of the five-week business meeting. Generally, the Congress Chairman is a high-ranking postal executive with an international postal affairs background. 20th Congress Chairman: Edward E. Horgan, Jr., Assoc. Postmaster General - International.

Chief of Staff

The Congress Chief of Staff assists the Chairman with all business matters by serving as a key liaison with the UPU's International Bureau (Congress Secretariat), meeting with delegations to resolve problems outside the Congress floor, handling diplomatic matters, and troubleshooting on key issues. The Chief of Staff for the 20th Congress is Thomas E. Leavey, Assistant Postmaster General for International Postal Affairs.

Dean

Generally, a retired, high-ranking postal executive from a UPU member country is selected as Dean (or Doyen), a non-legislative, ceremonial position. For the 20th Congress, the former Postmaster General of India – Mr. K. R. Murthy – will serve as Dean.

Secretary General

The UPU's Director General of the International Bureau serves as Secretary General during Congress. This facilitates a smooth transition of authority. For the 20th Congress, the UPU Director General Mr. Adwaldo Cardoso Botto de Barros of Brazil will be Secretary General.

Committee Chairmen

The UPU's work is done through committees that study topics such as postal operations, mail processing, service quality and rates. During Congress, Committee Chairmen must perpetuate objective discussions for proposals presented before their group. Most proposals are resolved in committee without ever having been considered by the entire UPU membership.

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congress 3 logistics

By tradition, the Congress host country organizes all logistical aspects of the meeting. Below are some of the challenging tasks confronting Washington's Congress planning team.

Meeting Site

For five weeks, Congress delegates will conduct their business at the Washington Convention Center located in the center of the nation's capital. In just four days, the USPS general services contractor -- Hargrove -- will transform this 780,000-square-foot hall into a friendly and functional setting with 300 delegation offices, a special post office, two large meeting halls with electronic voting boards and simultaneous interpretation equipment, and much more.

Delegate Services

Delegates will be provided a level of American hospitality extended to all foreign dignitaries. Nearly 1,700 hotel reservations will be made (delegates pay for their own rooms); a computerized registration counter will ensure speedy check-in; an efficient arrivals and departures program will assist delegates at airports; a Congress bank will offer competitive exchange rates for foreign currencies, along with many other services.

Special Programs

Traditional ceremonies, dinners, tours and excursions provide delegates with an opportunity to learn more about each other and the host country. During the 20th Congress, delegates will visit the historic cities of Charlottesville and Baltimore, tour Mount Vernon, and see many other uniquely American sights. Also planned are an opening ceremony at Kennedy Center and dinners at Union Station and the National Building Museum.

Security

The United States Postal Inspection Service, the nation's oldest law enforcement agency, will provide appropriate security for the 20th Congress. Washington's local authorities, along with federal law enforcement agencies such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Secret Service will assist the USPS Inspection Service as needed.

WORLD STAMP EXPO '89

An international philatelic exhibition, "WORLD STAMP EXPO '89," will occur from November 17 through December 3 in Hall D of the Washington Convention Center. Though the stamp show will be open to the public, the areas of the building designated for Congress use will be closed to anyone without proper credentials.

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

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1979

DONNE

Prisons of flesh.
vii

1 So, of a lone unhaunted place possesst,
Did this soul's second inn, built by the guest,
This living buried man, this quiet mandrake, rest.
xvi

2 Is any kind subject to rape like fish?
xxix

3 Nature's great masterpiece, an Elephant,
The only harmless great thing...
Still sleeping stood; vexed not his fantasy
Black dreams; like an unbent bow, carelessly,
His sinewy proboscis did remissly lie.
xxxix

4 She knew treachery,
Rapine, deceit, and lust, and ills enow
To be a woman.
li

5 When my grave is broke up again
Some second guest to entertain,
(For graves have learnt that woman-head
To be to more than one a bed)
And he that digs it spies
A bracelet of bright hair about the bone,
Will he not let us alone?
The Relic

6 On a huge hill,
Cragged, and steep, Truth stands, and he that will
Reach her, about must, and about must go.
Satyre III, l.79

7 Sweetest love, I do not go,
For weariness of thee,
Nor in hope the world can show
A fitter Love for me;
But since that I
Must die at last, 'tis best,
To use my self in jest
Thus by feigned deaths to die.
Song

8 Go, and catch a falling star,
Get with child a mandrake root,
Tell me, where all past years are,
Or who cleft the Devil's foot.
Song, Go and Catch a Falling Star

9 And swear
No where
Lives a woman true and fair.

10 Though she were true, when you met her,
And last, till you write your letter,
Yet she
Will be
False, ere I come, to two, or three.

11 Busy old fool, unruly Sun,
Why dost thou thus,
Through windows, and through curtains call on us?
Must to thy motions lovers' seasons run?
The Sun Rising

12 Love, all alike, no season knows, nor clime,
Nor hours, days, months, which are the rags of time.

13 This bed thy centre is, these walls thy sphere.

14 Send me not this, nor that, t'increase my store,
But swear thou think'st I love thee, and no more.
The Token

15 I am two fools, I know,
For loving, and for saying so
In whining Poetry.
The Triple Fool

16 I have done one braver thing
Than all the Worthies did,
And yet a braver thence doth spring,
Which is, to keep that hid.
The Undertaking

17 So let us melt, and make no noise,
No tear-floods, nor sigh-tempests move,
'Twere profanation of our joys
To tell the laity our love.
A Valediction Forbidding Mourning

18 Thy firmness makes my circle just,
And makes me end, where I begun.

19 But I do nothing upon my self, and yet I am mine own *Executioner.*
Devotions upon Emergent Occasions. **Meditation XII**

20 No man is an *Island,* entire of it self; every man is a piece of the *Continent,* a part of the *main;* if a *clod* be washed away by the *sea, Europe* is the less, as well as if a *promontory* were, as well as if a *manor* of thy *friends* or of *thine own* were; any man's *death* diminishes *me,* because I am involved in *Mankind;* And therefore never send to know for whom the *bell* tolls; It tolls for *thee.*
Meditation XVII

21 John Donne, Anne Donne, Un-done.
Letter to his Wife

22 Man is but earth; 'Tis true; but earth is the centre. That man who dwells upon himself, who is always conversant in himself, rests in his true centre.
LXXX Sermons (1640), v, Christmas Day, 1627

23 It [Death] comes equally to us all, and makes us all equal when it comes. The ashes of an Oak in the Chimney, are no epitaph of that Oak, to tell me how high or how large that was; It tells me not what flocks it sheltered while it stood, nor what men it hurt when it fell. The dust of great persons' graves is speechless too, it says nothing, it distinguishes nothing: As soon the dust of a wretch whom thou wouldest not, as of a Prince whom thou couldest not look upon, will trouble thine eyes, if the wind blow it thither; and when a whirlwind hath blown the dust of the Churchyard into the Church, and the man sweeps out the dust of the Church into the Churchyard, who will undertake to sift those dusts again, and to pronounce, This is the Patrician, this is the noble flower, and this the yeomanly, this the Plebeian bran.
xv, 8 March 1621/2

24 There is nothing that God hath established in a constant course of nature, and which therefore is done every day, but would seem a Miracle, and exercise our admiration, if it were done but once.
xxii, Easter Day, 25 March 1627

25 Poor intricated soul! Riddling, perplexed, labyrinthical soul!
xlviii, 25 Jan. 1628/9

26 A day that hath no *pridie,* nor *postridie,* yesterday doth not usher it in, nor tomorrow shall not drive it

out. *Methusa*
but a mushro
all the four M
years, and al
Queens of th
some gathere
All in one M
lxxiii, 30 Apr.

1 I throw myse
and invite Go
are there, I n
of a fly, for t
a door.
lxxx, 12 Dec. 1

2 A memory o
tomorrow's d
mine ear, a li
a fancy, a Ch
prayer. So ce
spiritual thin

3 They shall a
Surely the L
but the house
that gate they
dwell, where
darkness nor
nor silence, b
but one equa
equal commu
beginnings, b
XXVI Sermon

LORD ALF

4 I am the Lov
Two Loves

BISHOP GA

5 And all smal
Welcum the
Eneados, bk.xi

JAMES DO

6 Here lies he
Of John Knox,
Preedy, *Life of*

KEITH DO

7 If at times m
through whic
constellation
my ears yield
admit princes
into the mind
I have a beas
Fragment from

8 And all my e
come back, a
the specimen
still spring in
but time, tim
to find them,
On a Return f