

Scribblings



...from the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library

Mike Milam, Editor

Ellengail Beuthel, Librarian

Vol. 23 - No. 1
www.rmpldenver.org

2038 South Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224
303.759.9921

January - February 2015
Email - rmpl@qwestoffice.net

IN THIS ISSUE

From a new RMPL publication ...

Collecting Our National Parks	1
2014 State of the Library	5
Help Wanted: Webmaster	6



Bulk Lots = \$ 19,400 ..	7
2015 Elections	8
Candidate Statements	
Ballot Enclosed	
Vote Now	15
The Prez's Observations	15
What's New on the Shelves	16
About the Author: Parks, Postmarks and Postmasters....	18



2nd Saturday Programs	19
RMPL Videos	19
Board Meeting Summary	20
Volunteer Party	21
Show News	22
New Members	23
Donations	23
Library Calendar	24

Collecting Our National Parks

by Paul Lee

RMPL Recording Secretary

Most people know that Yellowstone was our country's first national park. Established in 1872, it was not only the first national park in the United States, but the first park of its type in the world!



An undated photo shows troops at Yellowstone. Before 1916, the Army was running the parks system, protecting the nation's natural resources.

Initially, the national parks were managed by the U.S. Army, but in 1916 the National Park Service was created within the Department of the Interior.

Today, there are 401 areas of the National Park System, including a wide variety of designations. Each NPS unit protects and preserves special places related to our nation's history, its cultures, and special environments. Many opportunities are also provided for people to visit, enjoy, and learn.

Collecting philatelic material about national park areas can take many different forms.

With stamps, you could begin with the series issued in the 1930s. This was the first set of postage stamps specifically designed to depict national parks.

Actually, the first U.S. postage stamp showing what is now a unit of the NPS was issued in 1869. It illustrates the signing of the Declaration of Independence in Independence Hall. The Hall is now part of Independence National Historical Park.



Our first national park.



The first stamp to show a national park is from the US 1869 series.



The Lincoln Memorial and Valley Forge are part of the national park system now, but they were on stamps first.

Many other stamps also honored places long before they became units of the national park system. These include the Lincoln Memorial stamp of 1923 and the George Washington at Valley Forge stamp, issued in 1928.

(continued on page 2)



National park areas are seen in the background of these two stamps.



An example of an event cover with connections to the National Park Service.



This cover was canceled in an area that later became part of the parks system.

Since the creation of the National Park Service, many other parks have been honored by postage stamps. Some, while intended to honor a person or a non-park event, may actually contain background images of NPS areas. The 1954 stamp commemorating the Nebraska Territory centennial also shows Scotts Bluff National Monument in the background. The 1947 three-cent stamp honoring Joseph Pulitzer contains an image of the Statue of Liberty behind the quote.

In 1972, to commemorate the Yellowstone National Park centennial, a special park-related stamp album was published. Copies of this album are still fairly easy to find. Another national park stamp album can be downloaded for free at the American Philatelic Society web site. Or, you can develop your own criteria, and create your own album.

First day covers are another popular field for collecting NPS postal items. There often is a wide variety of plain and cacheted covers to choose from, and you can even get involved in creating your own cachets.

Similar to first day covers, event covers are created to honor a person, an anniversary, a dedication, or some other special activity. Many event covers have been produced for areas of the National Park Service.

The Floyd Bennett Municipal Airport in Brooklyn, NY was dedicated in 1930. The site is now part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

Mailed from Letterman Hospital in the Presidio of San Francisco, a 1944 cover honors the Army Nurse Corps. The Presidio has since been transferred to the National Park Service.

Each NPS unit protects and preserves special places related to our nation's history, its cultures, and special environments.

One somewhat unusual National Park Service collecting area involves Navy ships. While the NPS actually owns or helps to manage a number of ships such as the *USS Cassin Young*, the U.S. Navy has named a number of other vessels, like *USS Haleakala*, after NPS units.

(continued on page 3)



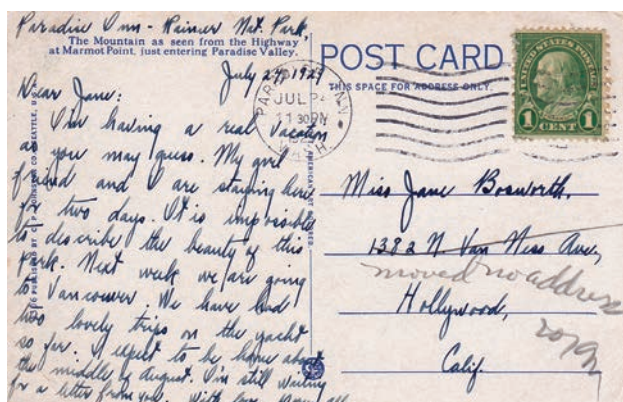
These two ships have connections to the National Park Service. Far left, the *USS Cassin Young*. Left: the *USS Haleakala*.



National Park Service photo by Jim Peaco



The post offices in Yellowstone National Park (top) and in the Paradise Inn in Mount Rainier National Park (bottom).



Mount Rainier and Mesa Verde National Parks.



Two stamps from the 1934 parks set.

Yet another interesting and challenging way to collect national park material is to focus on postmarked covers from the many post offices that operated, or in some cases continue to operate, within NPS boundaries.

The main post office in Yellowstone National Park operates year round. The Paradise Inn Post Office in Mount Rainier National Park is only open in the summer. For much of the rest of the year the building is buried in snow.

In Grand Teton National Park, the former ranching community of Grovont once thrived within view of the spectacular mountain peaks. From 1899 to 1950, this Mormon settlement had a post office that would move from one ranch to another. Mrs. Elizabeth Moulton was the postmaster from 1926 to 1928.



Mrs. Elizabeth Moulton's house. She was the postmaster of Grovont from 1926 to 1928.



This much-worn postcard was mailed from Grovont in 1907.

The industrial community of Jaite, Ohio was developed in the early 1900s to provide housing for workers at the nearby paper mill.

The mill was very successful until shortly after World War II. Unable to compete with larger mills, it eventually closed, but it had a post office from 1917 to 1955.

Jaite is now within Cuyahoga National Park, and the former post office is now part of park headquarters.

During World War II, the U.S. government forced over

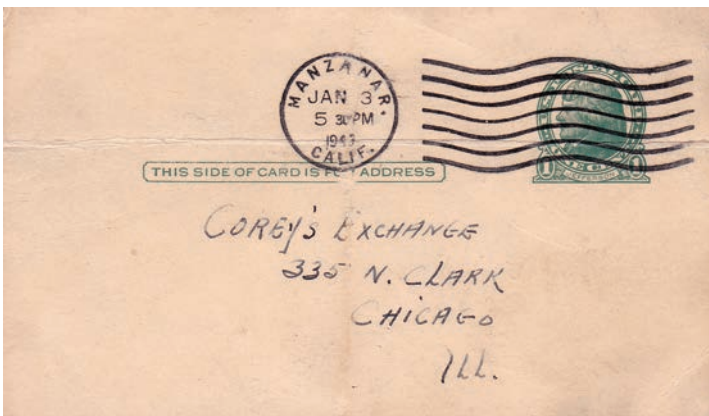
(continued on page 4)



The site of the Manzanar relocation center as it looks today.



Sorting mail at Manzanar.



Much of the shopping by internees was done by mail order.

Parks, Postmarks & Postmasters
Post Offices within the National Park System

by Paul Lee
Now available!
See page 18 for details.

110,000 Japanese American citizens to live in 10 newly created relocation centers.

One, located in Inyo County, California, was named Manzanar. The people were forced from their homes and could only bring what they could carry. In trying to make a home in the camps, many relied on mail order businesses to supply items they could not get locally. Each center had a post office that was operated by both internees and people hired by the War Relocation Authority. Today the site is managed by the National Park Service as Manzanar National Historic Site.



A letter from Harpers Ferry to Washington City, D.C.

Located at the junction of the Shenandoah and Potomac Rivers, Harpers Ferry National Historical Park is probably best known as being the site of John Brown's raid to end slavery in 1859. The town is also famous for the U.S. Armory established there in the late 1790s, and for its importance during the Civil War. Its long history also includes a post office that started operating in Virginia in 1799. In 1863, the town became part of the new state of West Virginia, and the post office continues in operation.



A flood in Harpers Ferry.

Over time, the post office has been in many different locations near the rivers, and subject to frequent flooding. Today, it is located on high ground outside the park.

While collecting postal items related to our national park system can be fun and sometimes challenging, it also uncovers many little known facts about these treasured places.

Scribblings is published bimonthly by the Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library, Mike Milam, Editor, 2038 S Pontiac Way, Denver, CO 80224. The Rocky Mountain Philatelic Library is a chartered Colorado nonprofit corporation and an IRS designated 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Membership subscriptions over that for the regular membership, and donations of appropriate philatelic materials, are deductible for U.S. income tax purposes.

RMPL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Sergio Lugo - Operations Manager: Don Beuthel - Vice President: Jim Kilbane
Corresponding Secretary: Roe Emery - Recording Secretary: Brian Kramer - Treasurer: Bob Blatherwick
Directors: John Bloor - Steve McGill - Dalene Thomas - David Weisberg. Director Emeritus: Don Dhonau.