

Post Office Explores Ways to Hasten Mail Delivery

By HARRY FERGUSON
United Press International
Washington — UPI — The U.S. Post Office department would like for you to believe that the best buy in the nation today in terms of value received is a five-cent stamp. It supports the argument by citing the fact that a letter going from one state to another passes through 16 separate processes and the address on the envelope must be correctly read by at least eight persons.

Unless each of the eight persons is operating at 100 per cent efficiency, there is going to be a snafu. Every human being is fallible at some time and that is why it occasional-

ly takes a week for a letter from New York City to be delivered across the Hudson river in Jersey City.

When you drop a letter into a mail box, you set in motion this intricate process. A truck rushes the letter to the central post office. It is run what is called a "stacker" which turns all the envelopes right side up and post marks them. Then the mail is "cased" by states.

Cased by Cities

Then it is "cased" by cities, meaning that all the mail destined for one city is placed in the same case. This is where trouble can occur. If a Milwaukee letter gets in the Minneapolis case, it may take a week to straighten things out.

Mail for each city then is "tied out" — put into a big bundle and then into a huge pouch. It goes to the appropriate trains or airplanes and here, too, a slight error can cause chaos. A letter mailed from the northeast section of Washington to the northwest section went to San Francisco and back the other day.

Trucks are waiting at the destination city to carry the mail to the central post office. There takes place a "primary separation" — letters are sorted according to postal substations. Then there is a "secondary separation," meaning the same letters are sorted according to carrier routes.

A Cumbersome Process

Trucks carry the mail to the appropriate sub-station post offices where the letters are sorted again according to individual addresses. Then the postman picks up the letters and delivers them.

This is a cumbersome process, subject to human error, and the Post Office department is seeking short cuts. One of them is the ZIP code, which works like this — you address a letter as follows:

Mr. John Doe
3300 North Dinwiddie st.,
Arlington, Va. 22207.

The five numbers are the ZIP code. The 7 indicates the postal zone. The first 2 identifies the national postal area, which in this case consists of six states. The second 2 indicates the subdivision postal area, northern Virginia. The third 2 identifies the post office, Arlington. The 07 points out the sub-station from which the mail is to be delivered to North Dinwiddie st.

With the ZIP code a postal clerk can tell at a glance precisely where the letter is going. It also opens up the possibility that eventually mail can be sorted by machines capable of reading code numbers. The ZIP code originally was designed for corporations with heavy mailing lists, but anybody can get a number by applying to his postmaster.

The Post Office department says 80 per cent of the letters reacting to the ZIP code have been favorable. But an angry minority has been writing to newspapers and magazines protesting that if this keeps up we are all going to become numbers rather than persons.

"ZIP, schmp!" wrote J. Paul Hunter of Williamstown, Mass., to Time magazine in an angry letter, which he signed:

"208-24-6254 (Social Security), 413-4583560 (telephone), 319 (college), 92167 (ZIP). Time's editors replied sympathetically, but said they were honor bound to tell Hunter that on their subscription list he was 00000711342014. That ended the correspondence and time marches on. A large headache to the

Post Office Department is that 80 per cent of the day's mail is deposited after 5 p.m. In New York City alone seven million pieces of mail — more than the daily mail volume of all Canada — goes into the slots after 5 p.m. The Post Office Department is fighting this bottle-neck by trying to persuade big corporations to deposit their mail at intervals throughout the day.

Another device for speeding delivery is called ABCD (accelerated business collection and delivery). It works only inside the business districts of cities. If you drop a letter in a box marked ABCD before 11 a.m., the Post Office Department will guarantee to deliver it by 3 p.m. of the same day. This was tried out last year in Lansing, Mich., worked well and is now used in more than 40 cities.

Postmaster General J. Edward Day, who has just resigned to return to private business, is an imaginative fellow and he kept coming up with ideas for speeding up the mails. One day he got to thinking about the plight of the postman who has to deliver mail in tall buildings and he came up with VIM (vertical improved mail). It is now being tried in the 20-story

Crown-Zellerbach building in San Francisco.

VIM is a system of dumb waiters operating from the building's central mail room. Each tenant has a big locked box which is sent up periodically to his floor. He opens the box with his key, takes out the mail and puts in the outgoing letters. You can have as many deliveries per day as you choose and get rid of the outgoing mail at the same time.

Next: Problems of the postman — biting dogs and amorous women.

SECTION B PAGES 1 to 8
MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE
MEDFORD, OREGON, TUESDAY, AUGUST 27, 1963

STAR GAZER

By CLAY R. POLLAN

Your Daily Activity Guide
According to the Stars
To develop message for Wednesday, read words corresponding to numbers of your Zodiac birth sign.

ARIES	Taurus	Gemini	Cancer	Leo	Virgo
4-21-30-44 47-52-74	1 You're 2 Fair 3 Careful 4 Easy 5 Bad 6 In 7 Good	8 Aspects 9 On 10 Cautious 11 Ideal 12 Good 13 Drive 14 Kero 15 Bear 16 In 17 Guard 18 Money 19 Contact 20 Na	21 What 22 Results 23 Pa 24 Friends 25 Personal 26 Girls 27 Time 28 Win 29 To 30 You	31-10-12-24 31-60-75	1 You're 2 Fair 3 Careful 4 Easy 5 Bad 6 In 7 Good

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PURSUED BY DETECTIVES — Scotland Yard detectives last week end pursued a fast-living driver, Roy John James, 28, known in the underworld as "The Weasel," in their efforts to solve Britain's \$7,300,000 train robbery. Police flashed an alert for James, who was believed driving north in a British-made miniature car capable of speeds up to 100 miles per hour. —(UPI).

The Medical Roundup

by *Walter Alvarez*

Emeritus Consultant in Medicine
Mayo Clinic
Emeritus Professor of Medicine
Mayo Clinic
(Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1963)

CANCER IN BOTH BREASTS

A number of women have been writing to ask if when one breast is found to be cancerous, what is the chance that the other one also has cancer in it or what can be done to make sure that the other breast hasn't cancer in it?

As one woman says, now after removal of her left breast she feels discomfort in the right one, and she wonders if this is due to nervousness or anxiety, or to the growth of a new cancer, or to a scattering into the remaining breast of cancer cells that arose in the breast that was removed. These women complain that they cannot get a clear answer to their questions.

I have seen a very few diseased breasts in which the cancer was so highly malignant that it made the breast swollen and reddish, as if it were inflamed. In some of these cases the cancer cells had already spread into the other breast. Sometimes when there was cancer in one breast and much "cystic mastitis" (enlargement of the chains of milk-secreting glands) in the other breast, the surgeon wisely advised the woman to have both breasts removed — if only to give her peace of mind, or to avoid a series of small operations in which every so often a large cyst would have to be removed for microscopic study (biopsy).

Not infrequently I see a woman who has a marked and perhaps painful cystic mastitis, in both breasts. These breasts feel as if they were full of beef shot. Perhaps every so often a surgeon has to cut in and remove one of the cysts (little sacs) that has become alarmingly large.

In these cases I now recommend that a cut be made through the fold under each breast, so that the breast can be lifted up. Then the surgeon can scoop out all the breast tissue, leaving the skin, the fat under it and the nipple. This operation immediately puts an end to worry; it puts an end to pain; it puts an end to a series of "biopsies"; and it removes the danger of cancer. I much wish that more surgeons would use this operation; it can give such great comfort to the woman.

Usually, an expert physician or surgeon can say, "I am practically certain that all you have in your breasts is cystic mastitis, but I cannot be absolutely sure." In hundreds of these cases the tiny bags of fluid are harmless, and can safely be left, but always there is the rare possibility that one of the bigger

Picture of Plane Recognized Here

The photograph of an old B17 Flying Fortress which recently appeared in the Mail Tribune held particular interest for several Medford families.

The plane, which was being used as a borate bomber to drop borate on a grass, brush and timber fire near Redding, Calif., is one of a group owned by two former Medford residents, Dale P. Newton and Dick Foy, whose relatives here recognized the plane.

Newton and Foy started the Aero Union Corporation at Redding and have nine planes and a shop building on property leased at the Redding airport. Last fall they bought a DC3 which was damaged in the Oct. 12 windstorm and repaired it.

Charles Swingle of Fern Valley rd. works for the two during the summer as a copilot to earn money for college.

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