

U.S. Post Offices Process 180 Million Pieces Of Mail Daily

WASHINGTON (UPI)—"I could easily do without the post office," wrote Henry David Thoreau. "I have never received more than one or two letters in my life that were worth the postage."

Most Americans violently disagree with Thoreau, a 19th century nature lover and philosopher who once broke off a conversation with the abrupt statement that he had a date to go commune with a tree. Americans are the world's greatest letter writers and the United States Post Office processes more than two-thirds of all the mail in the world.

Every working day the Post Office delivers 180 million pieces of mail—almost one for every

person in the nation. It claims to be the world's biggest business with more than 500,000 employees and an annual budget of \$4.9 billion. That claim is correct in the sense that the Post Office Department is engaged in

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The first man to try to set up a city delivery mail service was named De Velay who built boxes for the street corners of Paris in 1633.

A rival put live mice into De Velay's mail boxes and he chewed the letters until nothing was left but scraps. It was 100 years before anybody else was brave enough to try to set up a Paris mail delivery system.

—It takes longer for a letter to get from the Bronx in New York to Manhattan than it does for one to get from Boston to the same address. That happens, all right, and for this reason: a clerk in the Bronx Post Office makes a mistake and tosses the letter in the West Side Manhattan slot instead of the East Side. It's fairly rare.

—The postman stuffs the mail box with "junk mail." This is a highly controversial question which we shall examine in detail, but a brief explanation is that the Post Office Department merely delivers the mail; it doesn't originate it. Congressional action would be necessary to eliminate "junk mail," and Congress itself is one of the worst offenders.

—A letter sometimes will be in transit for years. Example: On April 9, 1923, a store in a Kansas town mailed a letter to a man in a Missouri village. On Aug. 30, 1962, the letter was delivered to the man in Stockton, Calif. What had happened was that on July 31, 1962, the letter was found under the platform of a weighing machine in the Missouri village post office where it had been slip through cracks in the post office floor and remain there until the building is torn down or renovated.

—The Post Office Department is reluctant to criticize the public, but it does have some things to chide us about: —Last year there were 22,300,

117 Americans who addressed letters and packages in such crazy fashion that nobody could read them. All that mail ended up in the Dead Letter Office. The worst part of it was that, not only was the address illegible, but there was no return address or if there was one it, too, was unreadable.

—Americans are restless people and 30 million of us change addresses every year. This makes things tough for the Post Office, but they realize nothing can be done about it and carry on the best they can.

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The American Telephone and Telegraph Co., is the nation's largest user of the United States mails.

It sends out about 5 billion pieces of mail each year. The mail consists of telephone bills, advertisements, corporate reports, dividend checks and special reports to stockholders.

—There is a heavy traffic in "Bing" mail was delivered fairly quickly to Bing Crosby who was at the height of his radio popularity. This is called "puzzle mail" and the Post Office wishes you would stop it.

Advertisements Are Problem —Advertisers are a problem when they send samples by first class mail. Some of the things sent through the mail are tops of tin cans, nails ("nail down your future with life insurance"), tops of soft drink bottles, bleaches and detergents in thin cakes that look like candy. These things make it difficult for the Post Office to put letters through the automatic machines.

—Women estranged from their husbands have a habit of taking all their bills on the first of the month, sticking them in an envelope carrying a five cent stamp and mailing it to him. The five cent stamp isn't enough postage and the weight of the bills frequently breaks the envelope and spills everything.

—There is a heavy traffic in newspaper reports about weddings, deaths, promotions, debuts and births. Many people try to mail the whole newspaper instead of clipping the item, thereby incurring a delay because of insufficient postage.

Has Many Enterprises —If the Post Office Department had nothing to do except pick up and deliver the mail, life would be easy and it would not incur an annual deficit of \$233 million. But it is in all sorts of enterprises. It is a giant detective agency with 1,500 postal inspectors in 400 cities; it registers 3 million aliens each year; it distributes income tax forms and census blanks; its rural deliverymen take a census of wild life; it is one of the world's biggest auctioneers of articles that cannot be delivered; it is an enormous bank selling postal money orders and taking in postal savings accounts; it merchandises \$3.3 million a year worth of special stamps to philatelists.



MANY HAZARDS — Postman Theodore Wilson, left, uses dog biscuits to make friends with pooch, while Chicago mailman Glenn Thomas, right, ducks robin that has nest above his route. These are just two of the many hazards that beset the man that makes his daily rounds with your mail. —UPI Telephoto

California Solons Differ On Mexican Labor Program

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Rep. Charles M. Teague, R-Calif., said today that he hopes for extension of the Mexican farm labor program had "definitely" been improved.

But Rep. Harlan Hagen, D-Calif., expressed doubt there would be a "useful" extension of the program for bringing braceros into the United States to help harvest crops.

The California, both members of the House Agriculture Committee, were asked for comment on the Senate's action in voting to extend the program for one year.

The senate voted 63 to 24 to extend the program but tacked on an amendment requiring farmers to offer housing, transportation and other benefits to domestic workers before being allowed to use bracero labor.

December Deadline —The house earlier this year turned down a simple two-year extension of the program. Unless extended, the program will die December 31.

Both Teague and Hagen, interviewed separately, agreed that the amendment by Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy, D-Minn., might make the program "unworkable."

Teague said congressmen from bracero-using states probably would meet early this week to plan their course of action. He said they might push for a bill calling for a simple one year extension. If successful, he said, this would force a House-Senate conference on the differing versions.

Hagen said any effort in the House probably would be on the basis of a simple one year extension, but said he was not optimistic that it could pass since the House already had rejected a two year extension.

Farmers Must Plan —On the other hand, Hagen said, the bill with the Senate amendment might be unacceptable to most growers. Even a simple one year extension, he said, would be "relatively useless" because farmers had to plan their crops far in advance.

The McCarthy amendment calls for domestic workers to get women's compensation, housing, transportation and a guarantee of a minimum amount of work—all benefits now granted to the Mexican workers.

Teague said the amendment had even gone beyond changes asked by the Kennedy Administration in requiring farmers to guarantee U. S. workers a minimum number of days of work.

Another problem, he said, was the requirement for "comparable" housing. The Mexicans, are provided barracks-type housing, while domestic workers are expected to demand family housing. The department of labor presumably would have to determine what would be "comparable" in such cases.

"Slave Labor" charged —Teague said supporters of the McCarthy amendment were "well-intentioned but inconsistent" in voting for continuation of the program. Teague said they had branded the bracero program as "slave labor" but then had voted to provide the same conditions for American workers.

"If they thought braceros were being treated as slaves," he said, "they should have voted against final passage instead of voting for similar treatment of domestic workers."

The McCarthy amendment was approved by a one vote margin during a seesaw battle. After the amendment was agreed to, several senators supporting it joined in voting to extend the program.

Sen. Gordon Allott, R-Colo., who introduced the bill for a one-year extension, voted reluctantly for the amended bill but expressed hope the house would make a "good bill" out of it by eliminating the McCarthy amendment.

Narrow Victory Will Stop Call For British Elections

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Analyst

Notes from the foreign news cables:

British Elections: —The narrow margin by which the Conservatives squeaked through to victory in the Stratford-by-election virtually has ended speculation that Prime Minister Macmillan will risk a general election this fall. This means the election almost certainly will come next spring, with Macmillan gambling that a mild winter will put voters in a good mood. The near-draw at Stratford made no difference to Macmillan's own position. He has outmaneuvered the young Turks who sought his ouster and now will quit only when he himself decides. With Parliament in recess, Macmillan will use the breathing spell to prepare for the Conservative party congress in October—the only really threatening cloud on his immediate horizon.

Moscow Quiet: —The remainder of August is expected to be quiet in Moscow after the momentous events of past weeks, including the signing of a nuclear test ban treaty and the unsuccessful Sino-Soviet talks. Premier Khrushchev's trip to Yugoslavia will further demonstrate to Peking that the Soviet Union has given up any immediate

ate hope of reconciliation with the Communist Chinese. Khrushchev's absence from Moscow means that diplomatic activity will mark time until his return.

Expanded Contracts: —West Germany is expected to move rapidly in its campaign to establish contacts with the Soviet Union's East European satellites. Bonn's next goal is an agreement to exchange trade missions of ambassadorial rank with Communist Hungary, as has already been agreed upon with Poland. Government sources say a West German negotiating team will go to Budapest next month to start the bargaining.

Austerity: —Despite talk in Western Europe about increased trade with Communist China, the facts are that there will be no torrent of Western goods flowing into Peking. The Chinese must pay for their large purchases of grain from Canada and Australia and after that won't have much money left. A British delegation which staged an industrial fair in Peking has come back empty handed. The Chinese were interested but didn't buy. Japan may be in a better position for Chinese trade because she can use raw materials which can be shipped more cheaply from China than from the West.

CCPT Plans Workshop —DUNSMUIR — Mrs. Everett Barr of Yreka will be among the representatives of the California Congress of Parents and Teachers attending the ninth annual teacher education workshop.

The workshop, cosponsored by the CCPT with the California Association of School Administrators, California Teachers Association and State Department of Education, will be Aug. 20-23 at College of Notre Dame in Belmont.

Mrs. W. W. Wood, Marysville, CCPT president, and other state PTA officers will be among the workshop participants with officials of the other sponsoring groups.

Principally for professional people in state colleges and private institutions involved in the teaching of students who are preparing to teach, the workshop will provide an opportunity for cooperative planning of teacher education programs under the new certification law.

One of the original cosponsoring groups, the California Congress of Parents and Teachers established a teacher education in 1958. Since then, the CCPT has allocated \$700 annually for 14 scholarships of \$50, for which any teacher or administrator in public education or in a college or university may apply.

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Canada Signs Missile Pact

OTTAWA (UPI)—Canada has removed its biggest potential threat to good relations with the United States with the signing of a bilateral nuclear warheads agreement.

The general terms of the agreement, made public Friday by Prime Minister Lester Pearson, brought to an end diplomatic haggling over the warheads which has plagued both Washington and Ottawa for the past three years.

The door is now officially open for the stockpiling of U.S. warheads for Canadian weapons systems at home and overseas. In Canada, it covers the Bomarc anti-aircraft missile bases and F101 Voodoo interceptors of the North American Air Defense Command (NORAD), and in Europe the F104 Starfighter strike reconnaissance aircraft and Honest John artillery rockets within the NATO alliance.

The warheads will be maintained under a system of joint control giving President Kennedy sole custody of them and Pearson authority to decide upon their use by Canadian forces after release by the U.S. Technicians are already at work on an instantaneous communications system between Kennedy and Pearson.

Under this system Pearson said the control provisions satisfied both the protection of "Canada's national policy of non-dissemination of nuclear weapons."

In the case of other NATO allies who have similar arrangements with the U.S., "They don't consider themselves nuclear powers and nor do we," Pearson said.

State Calls For Bids On Big Project —SALEM (UPI)—Bids on one of the state's largest single parks contracts, estimated to total \$350,000 will be opened here Aug. 27, the State Highway Commission announced.

The contract will cover the relocation of the present Cove Palisades park to higher ground at two separate locations. The present site will be covered by more than 200 feet of water after completion of the Round Butte Dam and water is backed up into the deep canyons this winter.

The Round Butte Dam is being built by the Portland General Electric Co. The pool will be called Lake Chinook, and its three arms will be formed by the Deschutes, the Crooked and the Metolus rivers.

The new park will have two sites. The park area on the east bank of the Crooked River will have a boat ramp and day-use facilities. The other area will have facilities for both day use and overnight camping. It will be located on the eastern bank of the Deschutes arm of Chinook Lake.

The day-use area will have boat ramps and parking, and the overnight camp will have 48 trailer, and 44 tent sites.

Other facilities will include picnic areas, two rest stations, two utility buildings with laundry and showers, a bathhouse, and a park maintenance building.

Portland General Electric Co. will pay the cost of relocating the park.

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