

One Of Nation's Oldest And Smallest Post Offices Gives Way To Space Program

LOGTOWN, Miss. (UPI) — One of the nation's oldest and smallest post offices, a faded frame building furnished with a wood stove, a rolltop desk and a rocking chair, is giving way to America's space program.

Mrs. Lollie B. Wright closed the office recently after serving 36 years as postmistress in the 200-square foot building here in the backwoods of southwest Mississippi.

The building will be demolished or moved to make sure it is not used as a dwelling within the huge buffer zone set up for testing Saturn space boosters. It is just one of many old buildings being torn down or hauled away to clear a 141,500-acre area for the static firing of moon rockets.

Logtown, once a thriving lumber community on the Pearl River, is one of five towns that will be wiped out to make way for the test firings. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) wants to make sure no dwelling units remain in the buffer zone because vibrations from the tremendous firing noises might shatter the buildings.

NASA officials say noises from the static firings will be greater than from actual launchings because the rockets will be bolted to the pad and will not be released, confining all noise to the ground.

All persons living in the buffer zone must be evacuated by next July, but Mrs. Wright decided on an early closing of the post office.

Waiting until next year would reduce her retirement benefits. "Anyway, I don't look forward to another Christmas mail rush," the little white-haired postmistress said.

Her last day at the post office was Mrs. Wright's busiest in years. Collectors flooded her with specially printed envelopes and stamps to be cancelled on the last day of existence for the 80-year-old post office.

When Logtown was a booming lumber town after World War I the post office handled hundreds of letters daily. But the depression and dwindling lumber supplies ended the boom and mail volume in recent years was as little as 30 pieces per day.

Closing day was different. "I cancelled about 200 stamps that day," Mrs. Wright said. "They wanted me to cancel about 500, but I said I couldn't," she added, her hands still shaking from the excitement of the closing day.

In its last days, the post office was a study in contrasts between the days of the wood stove and the age which is bringing millions of dollars of new roads, new buildings, new canals and moon rockets to these sparsely populated pine woods.

Next to dust-covered books from the 1930s were the post office's new zip number promotion leaflets. On bare old boards

on the post office porch was a poster advertising a K-O polo campaign.

The post office had one room for Mrs. Wright to work in and a small foyer for residents to pick up their mail. A wood stove remained in use for heat or burning trash. A rolltop desk contained books that went back to 1935. A rocking chair provided a place for Mrs. Wright to read mail order catalogs and her Bible.

On the wall was a huge framed certificate signed by President Calvin Coolidge, dated Jan. 27, 1927, it named Mrs. Wright postmistress of Logtown.

Behind the frame rested a Bay St. Louis newspaper, dated Aug. 12, 1938. It carried the story of the death of Mrs. Wright's sister.

The bottom of the rolltop desk was faded badly, a result of a 1961 flood that brought more than a foot of Pearl River water into the post office and forced Mrs. Wright to distribute mail elsewhere for three days.

That flood was one of the biggest disasters in Logtown history. But it took the 1947 hurricane to halt Mrs. Wright's mail service for one day—the only time it was interrupted in her 36 years.

"The hurricane hit on Friday and I was told not to open on Saturday," she said. "By Monday the water was gone but the place was filled with mud from that old black river."

Mail once was delivered to the post office directly from the river. At one time it was delivered twice a day.

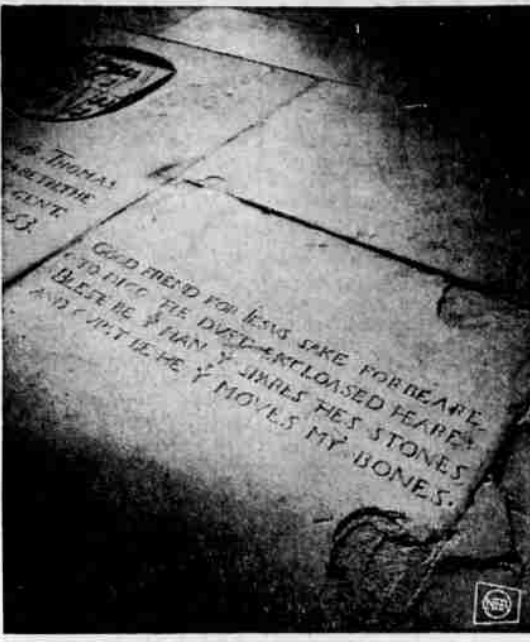
"That was wonderful for a place like this," she said. Old green shades, each full of holes, hang over the three windows in the building. "Don't pull them, the whole thing might come down," Mrs. Wright cautioned.

Attached to the front of the building and extending above the rusty tin roof was a painted tree branch — the post office flag pole. Raising and lowering the flag was another of Mrs. Wright's jobs.

"This was a meeting place for Logtown," she said. "Everybody came here."

Well, not everybody. Mrs. Wright personally delivered mail to residents who were too old or ill to get to the post office.

"People depended on me for a lot of things," she said. Now Mrs. Wright is moving to nearby Pearlington, where she was raised. She appeared to be taking in stride the closing of the post office, her retirement and the condemning of Logtown.



Shakespeare's grave.

Giant Celebration Set In Shakespeare Town

By TOM A. CULLEN
Newspaper Enterprise Assn.
STRATFORD-UPON-AVON, England (NEA) — This sleepy market town is getting ready for the biggest Shakespeare orgy in history, the celebration of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 1664.

"Orgy" is the only word to describe the preparations that are afoot here. Whole streets are being restored to their original Elizabethan appearance by the removal of billboards and other eyesores.

The souvenir shops are stocking vast quantities of drinking mugs bearing Shakespeare's image, and the visitor can now buy tea towels with the bard's balding dome embroidered on them.

Hotels are stocking wine cellars to cater to the million visitors expected next year. The Judith Shakespeare Tearoom, named after the poet's daughter, who lived there for 40 years, has been turned into a hamburger bar as a concession to modern appetites.

Shakespeare, is the nearest thing to a major industry that

Headaches Greatest Joy Killer

NEW YORK (UPI) — Psychiatrists worry about holiday emotional outbursts they refer to as the "Christmas Syndrome." The victims claim they hate Santa and all else connected with the holiday.

But a survey of family physicians points to the headache as the greatest joy killer.

Contrary to popular belief, the kinds of headache likely to disrupt festivities are not necessarily related to over-indulgence in food and drink. Most of the victims are women in the prime of life.

Physicians specializing in headache research collaborated for survey purposes with scientists in the laboratories of Saner, N.Y.

They reported that migraine and other vascular type headaches are the chief culprits. They classified them as follows: classic migraine, common migraine, menstrual migraine, cluster headache.

Practicing physicians cooperating in the research effort said the victims of migraine and similar headache have such a long acquaintance with severe pain they may attempt to take the holiday headache in stride, convinced that "nothing can be done about it."

Something can be done, particularly in preventing headache onset, according to the researchers.

Avoidance of activities which cause anxiety and exhaustion are basic recommendations. Also there's now available a tablet, via doctor's prescription, for preventing recurrent migraine and other vascular headaches.

The tablet does not relieve pain, however, once it starts.

As for holiday headaches resulting from too much of good things, even the scientists rely on aspirin and the ice pack.

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| | 9 Snell |
| | 10 Gaseous element |
| | 11 Pigeon peas |
| | 17 Graven image |
| | 18 Botanical term |
| | 23 Tumults |
| | 24 Countenance |
| | 25 Asiatic lake |
| | 26 Fable teller |
| | 27 Prolific |
| | 28 Plexus |
| | 29 Summers (Fr.) |
| | 31 Staid |
| | 33 Fish |
| | 38 Mother or father |
| | 40 Culls |
| | 41 Speechless ones |
| | 42 Church part |
| | 43 Stetch |
| | 44 Biblical word |
| | 46 One time |
| | 47 Not any |
| | 48 Assam |
| | 50 — Moines, Iowa |

German GI's Bolster NATO Force

EDITOR'S NOTE: In mid-August, 1944, hundreds of thousands of American troops were pushing east across France, fighting fiercely against stubborn German resistance. Today, some of the same American soldiers who fought against the Germans in that campaign — and others — are helping to train a peacetime German army. This dispatch was written by a member of the UPI Washington bureau who recently toured U.S. military bases in West Germany.

By GEORGE WEEKS
United Press International
MUNICH, Germany (UPI) — "These guys are just like most of us—they want to serve their time and get out."

That was an American GI talking. The "guys" he was referring to were Germans, members of the grenadier, panzer, mountain and airborne divisions which are now partners in safeguarding the peace with United States and other NATO soldiers.

Today, West Germany's 28,000-man navy helps protect the NATO flanks in the North Sea and the Baltic. Its air force is a vital link in NATO defenses. And the army, the real German bulwark, has more than 240,000 men, with a planned peak strength of 12 divisions.

On the 20th anniversary of the American Army's entry into Western Europe, the inevitable question still comes up about the wisdom of the re-birth of military forces which once terrorized Europe.

An American two-star general has this to say: "You can say what you want to about the revival of the German military, but we're damned lucky to have them on our side this time," he said. "NATO would be lost without them."

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