

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter

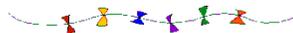


Vol. 80, No. 2, February 2012

Neal E. Danielson  
Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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Some interesting Postal History regarding John Dillinger

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**DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF** by Neal E. Danielson & J R VanCleave

This is the 32<sup>nd</sup> in a series of articles relating to small post cards and small covers so if you have any in your collection that you would like to share please let us know.

**Airmail**—these two covers were given to me by **J R VanCleave** years ago, so since they fit the category it's appropriate to present in this article on Airmail. Both covers are advertising envelopes and were not produced for mailing, although I have seen a couple in the past at Stamp Shows that had been postally used.



Figure 2-Miniature Air Mail Cover

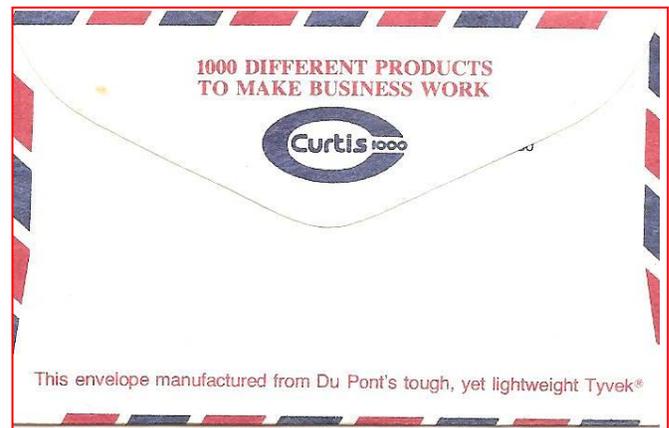


Figure 1-Reverse Miniature Air Mail Cover

The first cover (Figures 1 & 2) was used by the company representative as his business card and measures 3 ½ inch by 2 ¼ inch. Curtis 1000 is a company that produces envelopes and are a forms specialists, making 1000 different products to make business work. This particular advertising miniature airmail cover is made of Du Pont's tough, yet lightweight Tyvek®

The second miniature airmail cover (Figure 3) is an advertising cover for the Justrite Line Airline Specialist, a complete envelope service company. They even imprinted the cover with a facsimile metered 0.6¢ stamp and postmark from Chicago and New York on Jan-1-50. The cover measures 3 ¾ inch by 2 1/8 inch. No advertising is noted on the reverse side of the cover.



Figure 3-Miniature Air Mail Advertising Cover

Small envelopes of this nature can be purchased from a variety of companies. Go to the Internet and put in your search engine “miniature envelopes” or “miniature envelopes airmail”.

The United States Post Office Department was intrigued with the idea of carrying mail in the skies and by 1911 authorized its first experimental flight to carry mail at an aviation meet on Long Island in New York. Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock swore in Earle Ovington as the pilot and began making daily flights between Garden City and Mineola, New York where the mail bags would be dropped from the plane and picked up by the Mineola postmaster. Today most of our first class mail goes by air, although Air Mail per say as separate domestic airmail service was finally abolished on May 1, 1977.

References:

*History of the United States Postal Office* from the USPS website.

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## TRAVEL KANSAS—EAST TO WEST—NORTH TO SOUTH by Neal E. Danielson



Figure 1  
Bourbon Ca. Railroad Map ca

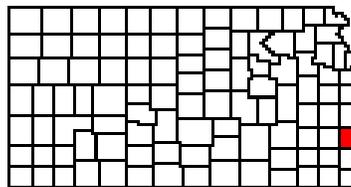


Figure 2  
Bourbon County

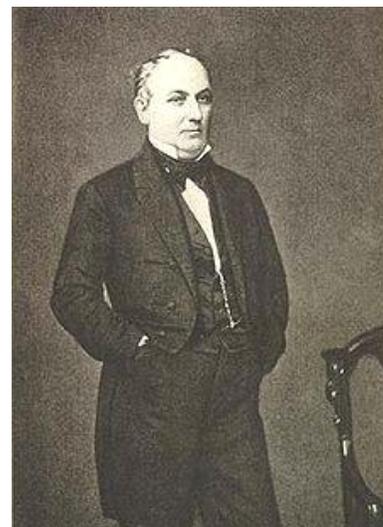


Figure 3  
James Henry Hammond

**Travel Kansas—Hammond** located in Bourbon County (Figures 1 & 2) along the Kansas and Missouri border. Bourbon County was named for Bourbon County Kentucky that received its name back in 1785 before Kentucky was admitted as a state, by the Virginia legislature. The Bourbon dynasty was on the throne in France and a prince of that family felt that the American colonies were important and rendered men and money in their fight for independence. When it came time to organize a county in the southeast part of the Kansas Territory a Colonel Samuel A. Williams from Bourbon County Kentucky was a member of the House in 1855 from Fort Scott and requested that the name be given to the county. The Colonel entered the Civil War as a Captain of Company I, Second Kansas Cavalry, November 22, 1861 and resigned from the service March 28, 1862. Colonel Williams died at his home in Fort Scott in August, 1873.

The town of Hammond is located about seven miles north of Ft. Scott in Osage Township. The first Post Office in Hammond opened on April 18, 1877 and F. M. Allen was appointed the first Postmaster. The town of Hammond was named after the Honorable James Henry Hammond (Figure 3) of South Carolina. He is best known for his speech before the United States Senate on the admission of Kansas, under the Lecompton Constitution on March 4, 1858, titled "Cotton is King". Hammond was the 60<sup>th</sup> Governor of South Carolina from 1842 to 1844 and served in the House and later in the Senate (1857 to 1860). He was considered a defender of slavery and states rights. In his speech he extolled the South's ability to produce more goods and services than the North and that the South exported more goods than the North and even if Kansas and Minnesota were to be admitted the North would still not be as large as the South.

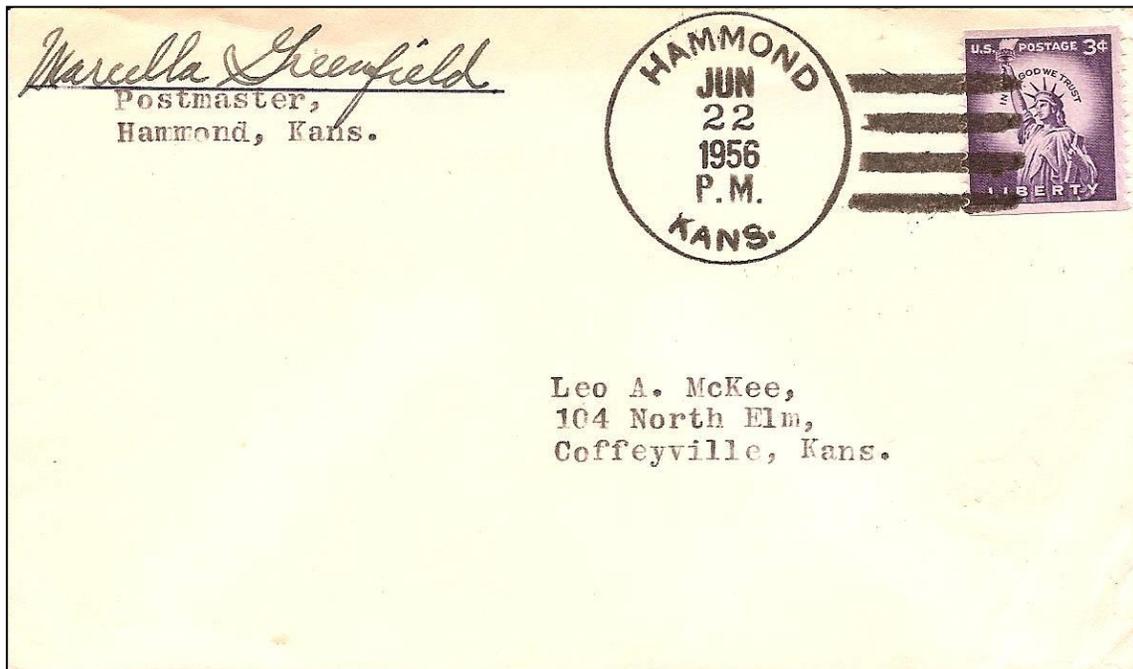


Figure 4—Cover Postmarked from Hammond, Kansas 1956

From reading his rather lengthy speech before the Legislature one gets the impression that it was not about admitting Kansas to the Union, but rather that the South should become a nation (country) separate from the North (United States) and how slave labor helped form the South to become independent

*“On this fine territory we have a population four times as large as that with which these colonies separated from the mother country, and a hundred, I might say a thousand fold stronger. Our population is now sixty percent grater than that of the whole United States when we entered into the second war of independence.”*

Hammond goes on to talk in detail about the dollar amount the United States exported in domestic produce and that the South produced more than 50 percent of the produce. Of the produce exported from the South the main product was cotton, not only to foreign countries, but cotton was required to keep the North viable.

*“What would happen if no cotton was furnished for three years? I will not stop to depict what every one can imagine, but this is certain: England would topple headlong and carry the whole civilized world with her, save the South. No, you dare not make war on cotton. No power on earth cares to make war upon it. Cotton is king. Until lately the Bank of England was king; but she tried to put her screws as usual, the fall before last, upon the cotton crop, and was utterly vanquished. The last power has been conquered. Who can doubt, that has looked at recent events, that cotton is supreme? ....Thirty-five million dollars we, the slaveholders of the South, have put into the charity box for your magnificent financiers, your “cotton lords,” you “merchant princes.”*

*“...the greatest strength of the South arises from the harmony of her political and social institutions. This harmony gives her a frame of society, the best in the world, and an extent of political freedom, combined with entire security, such as no other people ever enjoyed upon the face of the earth. Society precedes government; creates it, and ought to control it; but as far as we can look back in historic times we find the case different; for government is no sooner created that it becomes too strong for society, and shapes and moulds, as well as controls it.”*

*“The Senator from New York [William Seward] said yesterday that the whole world had abolished slavery. Aye, the name, but not the thing; all the powers of the earth cannot abolish that. God only can do it when he repeals the fiat. “the poor ye always have with you;” for the man who lives by daily labor, and scarcely lives at that, and who has to put out his labor in the market, and take the best he can get for it; in short, you whole hireling class of manual laborers and “operatives,” as you call them, are essentially slaves.” The difference between us is, that our slaves are hired for life and well compensated; there is no starvation, no begging, no want of employment among our people, and not too much employment either.”*

We all know the rest of the story—with the end of the Civil War slavery was abolished.

One would think that most Kansans were against slavery following the Civil War and would look at naming their town after a Union soldier or an Indian Tribe, but Hammond chose to use a name associated with the South. A cover postmarked from Hammond, Kans. on Jun 22 1956 is from the Postmaster of Hammond, Marcella Greenfield (Figure 4) The cover is franked with a 3¢ Statue of Liberty stamp (Scott #1057c) and tied to the cover with a 4-bar balloon cancel. The Post Office closed on July 26, 1968.

References:

Blue Skyways website: <http://skyways.lib.ks.us/>

“Cotton is King” by Sen. James Henry Hammond (D-SC): <http://teachingamericanhistory.org/library/index.asp?document=1722>

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## NO FORWARDING ADDRESS by Neal E. Danielson

John Herbert Dillinger, Jr. was born June 22, 1903 the second child of John Wilson Dillinger and Mary Ellen “Molly” Lancaster. His father was a church-going small businessman who operated a small grocery store and owned some rental property in the Oak Hill section of Indianapolis, Indiana. As a small boy he went by the name of “Johnnie”, but as he grew older he was nicknamed “Jackrabbit” for his quick get away and graceful move to elude the police. In his younger days he even formed a gang called “the Dirty Dozen” from his neighborhood and they were usually in trouble with the law. His mother passed away when he was four years old and his older sister raised him until his father remarried in 1912 to Elizabeth “Lizzie” Fields in Morgan County, Indiana. Johnnie was frequently in trouble during his teenage years for fighting and petty theft and would often “bully” smaller children. He quit school when he was 16 years of age as he wanted to get out and make money on his own. He went to work in an Indianapolis machine shop and although he was a hard worker he also would stay out all night at parties. His father felt like the city was corrupting his son so he sold his business and rental property and moved to the county near Mooresville, Indiana in 1920. Johnnie would become rebellious despite his new rural life and in 1922 he was arrested for auto theft and his relationship with his father went down hill. He would enlist in the U. S. Navy and assigned to the *USS Utah*, but he deserted shortly after when the ship was docked in Boston. He eventually was dishonorably discharged. He would return to Mooresville where he met Beryl Ethel Hovious whom he married on April 12, 1924. He was unsuccessful in holding down a job and in his marriage which ended in divorce on June 20, 1929.



Figure 1  
John Dillinger Poster

Unable to find a job, Dillinger began planning a robbery with his friend Ed Singleton. They robbed a grocery store resulting in only \$50. When they left the store a minister spotted them and called the police and they were arrested. Singleton pleaded not guilty, but Dillinger’s father convinced him to confess and plead guilty in hope of obtaining a lighter sentence. He was sentenced to 10 to 20 years in prison for his crimes. His father later said he regretted he persuaded him to plead guilty. Dillinger was sent to the Indiana State Prison in Michigan City where he befriended other criminals such as Harry Pierpont and Russell “Boobie” Clark who taught him how to be successful and would plan several heists that they would commit once released. Dillinger successfully planned a prison break for his new found outlaws; they would become “The First Dillinger Gang”. During an attempt to free Dillinger from a Lima, Indiana jail the ‘Gang’ shot the sheriff which was the gang’s first police killing. The Bureau of Investigation (BOI, a forerunner to the FBI) was brought in to help with the investigation which was not their jurisdiction, but they did use their fingerprinting technology to successfully identify the suspects and issued national bulletins offering rewards for their capture (Figure 1)

The Dillinger Gang proceeded to rob numerous banks in Indiana, the first being The National Bank in New Carlisle, Ohio of \$10,600 on June 10, 1933. They would go on to robbing banks in Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, South Dakota, Illinois and Iowa. The Gang would travel to Florida, Texas and Arizona. When they were in Tucson, Arizona the hotel they were staying had a fire break out and as a result members of the Gang were recognized and subsequently arrested. Dillinger would be sent back to Indiana and held in the Lake County Jail in Crown Point and the others sent to Ohio to stand trial for the murder of the sheriff and Dillinger was charged with murder of a police officer in East Chicago.

Dillinger’s attorney was able to sneak a wooden gun into the prison and in the hands of Dillinger, which he subsequently tricked a guard into opening his cell and he fled. Dillinger stole the sheriff’s new Ford car and traveled to Chicago and in doing so he broke a federal Motor Vehicle Theft Act in taking it across state lines. This allowed the BOI to enter the picture legally and took over the case. Dillinger began living with his girlfriend Evelyn “Billie” Frechette. He traveled to Saint Paul, Minnesota and met up with “Red” Hamilton and the two created a new gang that included Lester “Baby Face Nelson” Gillis, Homer Van Meter, Tommy Carroll, Joseph Fox, Joe Burns, James Jenkins,

John Paul Chase, Charles Fisher, and Eddie Green. On March 30, 1934 after the landlord became suspicious and informed the federal agent. The apartment building was placed under surveillance and as one member of the gang tried to enter the building he was approached by an agent, he opened fire and fled out the back. Dillinger was wounded in the escape and ended up traveling back home to Mooresville with his girlfriend and remained until his wound healed.

In April 1934 the Dillinger gang was in a lodge hideout called Little Bohemia Lodge in northern Wisconsin. However this did not last long as when the Division of Investigation out of Chicago got wind of the gangs' hideout and federal agents, under the leadership of Hugh Clegg and Melvin Purvis approached the lodge early one morning. Following a gun battle where federal agents mistakenly shot a local resident and two innocent workers as they were driving away that the Dillinger gang was alerted and managed to escape by various means. By July 1934 Dillinger had dropped completely out of sight, and so happened to be hiding out in Chicago the home of the center of federal agents special task force created by the Division of Investigation chief J. Edgar Hoover.

On July 21, 1934 a madam known as Anna Sage, contacted the police and wanted to exchange information if they would intervene so she would not be deported as she was a Romanian immigrant of 'low moral character'. The federal agency was contacted and the agency agreed to intervene if the information on Dillinger turned out to be beneficial. Anna Sage informed the agency that Dillinger was living with another prostitute and that the couple would be going to see a movie together the following day. She agreed to wear an orange dress, which appeared to be red in the lights of the theater, so they could easily recognize her in a crowd. She didn't know exactly which of two theaters they would be attending, the Biograph (Figure 2) or the Marbro. The federal agents and police from outside of Chicago formed two teams; one was placed at the Marbro Theater on the city's west side and another team placed at the Biograph on the city's north side. Once they determined that Dillinger was inside the Biograph Theater they contacted J. Edgar Hoover for instructions. He recommended that the agents wait outside rather than risk a gun battle in the theater. When the movie let out, Special Agent Melvin Purvis waited by the exit door so he could light a cigar to signal that Dillinger was exiting the theater.



Figure 2-Biograph Theater, Chicago

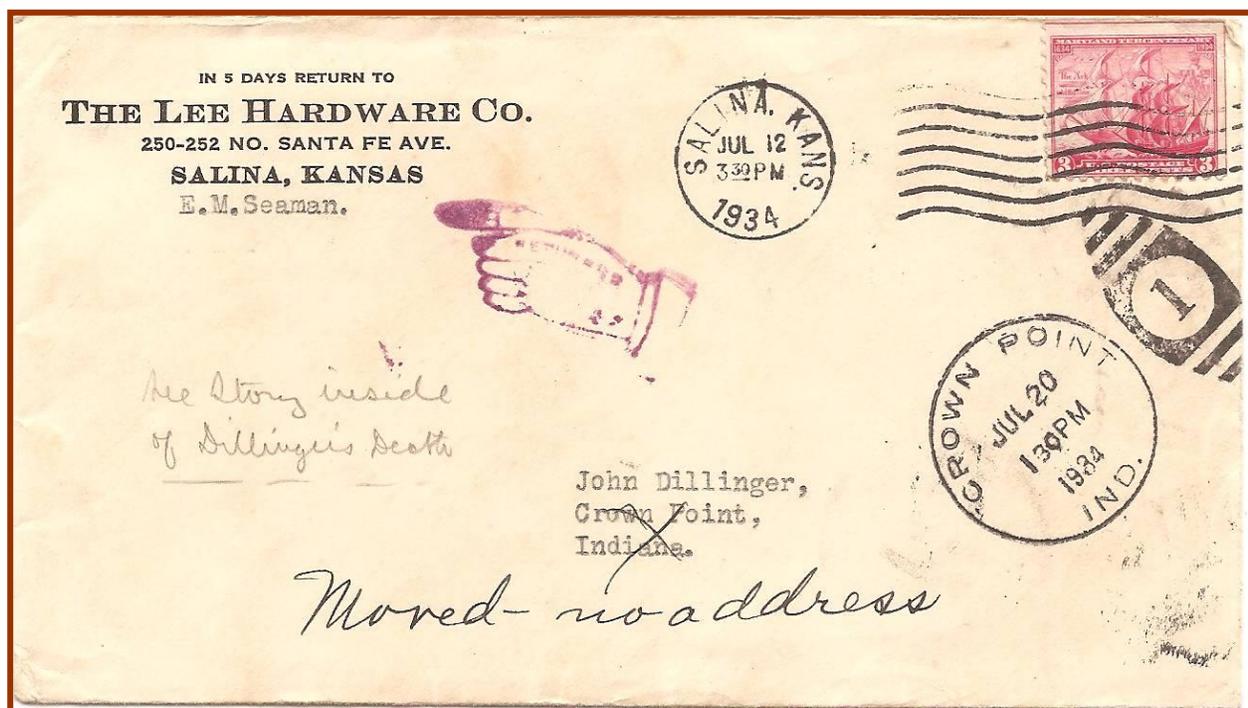


Figure 3-Cover mailed to John Dillinger and returned to sender (Cover courtesy of J. R. VanCleave)

When Dillinger left the theater he turned and looked directly at the agent and glanced across the street. As he moved ahead of his two female companions he reached into his pocket but did not pull out his gun, but ran into a nearby alley. Three agents opened fire and Dillinger was hit from behind and he fell to the ground. An ambulance was summoned, but the agents knew that Dillinger was dead. At 10:50 p.m. on July 22, 1934, John Dillinger was pronounced dead at Alexian Brothers Hospital. Dillinger was buried at Crown Hill Cemetery in Indianapolis.



Figure 4-Reverse side of cover showing cancellation dates

It's not often that someone takes a chance of sending a letter to an outlaw on the run for fear of being investigated by the law. However, E. M. Seaman of Salina, Kansas took the chance just to see what would happen according to a Salina Newspaper article and the actual cover sent (Figure 3). The cover was mailed to John Dillinger, Crown Point, Indiana on July 12, 1934 according to the postmark on the cover. The article indicated that Mr. Seaman of Lee Hardware, Salina mailed an envelope, containing a blank sheet of paper. Strangely enough he received it in return this morning marked, "Moved, No Address." The returned letter was received a few moments after he read the morning news telling of the capture and killing of Dillinger at Chicago Sunday. The reverse side of the cover (Figure 4) has a balloon cancel from Crown Point, Ind. on Jul 14, 1934 and a couple double circle purple cancellations from Salina, Kans on Jul 23, 1934, one day following Dillinger's death.

References:  
Wikipedia Free Encyclopedia website: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John\\_Dillinger](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/John_Dillinger)  
bio website: <http://www.biography.com/people/john-dillinger-9274804>  
Salina Newspaper, Salina, Kansas July 1934

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