

# Wichita Stamp Club Newsletter



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Editor



*"Go Fly A Stamp"*



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## DON'T SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF—PART 1 by Neal E. Danielson

This is the 73rd 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.

This Small Stuff comes to you from San Francisco, California, thanks to **Hal Ross**. This Small Stuff discussion will be presented in two parts due to several covers relating to an event held in San Francisco in 1915 (Figure 1). The first Small Stuff Cover measures 3 5/8 inches by 2 13/16 inches and is franked with a 2¢ George Washington stamp (Scott #406) and tied to the cover with a Promotional Slogan “World’s Panama-Pacific Exposition 1915” with a dot in each corner of the slogan box and a break in the top of the slogan frame and 7-horizontal bars. #SF1509 # 1b was in use from October 31, 1912 through September 29, 1913. The cover carries a circular date postmark from San Francisco, California of June 25, 1913.



Figure 1



Figure 2

A second Small Stuff comes to you from San Francisco, California by way of Santa Clara, California and back to San Francisco, California to you, thanks to **Hal Ross** (Figure 2). The cover is franked with a 2¢ Pedro Miguel Locks from the Panama-Pacific Exposition Issue (Scott #398) to be held in San Francisco, Cal. Feb. 20 through Dec. 4, 1915 (Figure 3). This Small Cover measures 4 1/4 inches X 2 15/16 inches. The Small Stuff cover received a Promotional Slogan Cancellation boxed slogan with 7 horizontal bars “World’s Panama-Pacific Exposition in San Francisco 1915” which was in use in San Francisco from March 14, 1913 through September 24, 1913 #SF15-09 #10 when “San Francisco” was added to the slogan box and has an added circular-date-stamp postmarked San Francisco, Cal. on Jun 25 1913 (Figure 2). Since it has a different Promotional Slogan but the same postmark date as the Small Stuff in Figure 1 it was apparently posted from a different Post Office located in San Francisco. Once the Small Stuff arrived in Santa Clara, California it was returned to the individual in San Francisco and the cover received another 13 star 7-wavy line flag cancel and circular-date-stamp postmarked Santa Clara, Calif. Jun 25 1913. The handwriting in the two Small Stuff covers is different.



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

The commemorative set of stamps for the World's Panama-Pacific Exposition event was issued in 1913 and included a 1¢ Vasco Nunez de Balboa (Scott #397); the 2¢ stamp (Scott #398); 5¢ Golden Gate (Scott 399) and a 10¢ Discovery of San Francisco Bay (Scott #400). The stamps were reissued in 1914-15 (Scott #401 through 404).

Promotional slogan cancellations were used in the United States from 1899 through 1940 and was the eventual result of the first mechanical postal canceling device used on January 27, 1863 in the New York City post offices. A variety of other machines were used until November 1884 when a rapid canceling machine was introduced in the Boston Post Office manufactured by American Postal Machine Company. It had been suggested that special messages could be incorporated into the cancellation die in 1899 to accommodate low cost advertising or promotional slogans. In the United States the promotional dies appeared on the right side of the postmark to deface the postage stamp. The special canceling dies were for advertising a special event that were intended to be national in scope, regional, or for a local event of public interest and of general importance and for limited duration. The special dies used for mail in the United States required the approval of the Post Office Department. The sponsors of the promotional slogan were required to pay all cost in the die preparation. The Post Office Department regular die was provided to mate with the special slogan. Once the special slogan was no longer used the Post Office Department retained it as their property. During the promotional slogan cancellations era from 1899 through 1940 they were produced on the majority of the cancellation machines in the United States.

The World's Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1915 was two-fold; one being the completion of the Panama Canal (Figure 4). The Panama Canal initially began being constructed in 1881 by a French company that eventually went bankrupt in 1889. It was then taken over by another French company that never really got started. Then in 1902 the United States purchased the land around the incomplete canal that was owned by Colombia, including Panama. The 48 mile stretch of land was called the Isthmus of Panama. The United States supported a revolution that led to the Independence of Panama from Columbia in 1903.

The Panama Canal took almost 10 years to construct. The Canal was supposed to be constructed at sea level canal from the Atlantic to the Pacific. It became obvious to the engineers that that feat was not possible, resulting in several locks being constructed to raise and lower vessels to make the passage.

The most challenging was the excavation and removal of hard rock that was the continental divide (Figure 5). The divide was about 100 feet above sea level and was known as the Culebra Cut that was completed in 1907 (Figure 6). After some false starts the Canal was completed by the end of 1913 and officially opened on August 15, 1914, cutting some 7,800 miles off the sea journey from New York to San Francisco around the tip of South America. A diplomatic negotiation between the United States and Panama in 1977 was to turn over the Panama Canal to Panama, which transpired in 1999. The Panama Canal is currently under remodeling to expand the Canal for larger vessels to navigate through the waters.

The World's Panama-Pacific Exposition provided San Francisco an opportunity to showcase the city during the event held between February 20 and December 4, 1915. The event was classified as a World's Fair and gave San Francisco an opportunity to recover from the devastation that transpired during the 1906 earthquake and fire. The fair was constructed on what is now known as Marina District consisting of 635 acres along the northern shore. Exhibits at the Exposition consisted of the C. P. Huntington, the first steam locomotive owned by the Southern Pacific Railroad. A telephone line from New York City across the continent to the World's Fair was installed so people could hear the Pacific Ocean. The Liberty Bell traveled by train from Philadelphia to attend the exposition, and after the trip back to Philadelphia it has not made any more trips. The 1915 American Grand Prize and Vanderbilt Cup auto races were held during the event on February 27th and on March 6th on a 3.84-mile race track around the Exposition grounds.



Figure 6

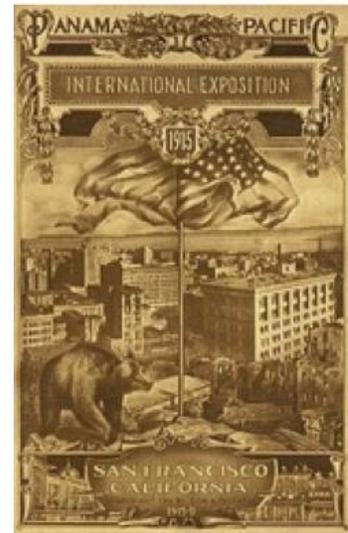


Figure 7

Postcards were produced that depicted new buildings in San Francisco, buildings damaged by the earthquake and a bear in the foreground (Figure 7) as well as a couple of the buildings from the Exposition shown at the bottom of the card. Congress authorized the San Francisco mint to issue five Panama-Pacific coins. The mint produced a 1915-S silver 50¢ coin and four gold coins in denominations of \$1, \$2 1/2 (quarter eagle) and two types of \$50 coins (one round and one unusual octagonal coin). These coins were the first commemorative coins to bear the motto "In God We Trust" and the first to be struck at a branch mint.



Figure 8



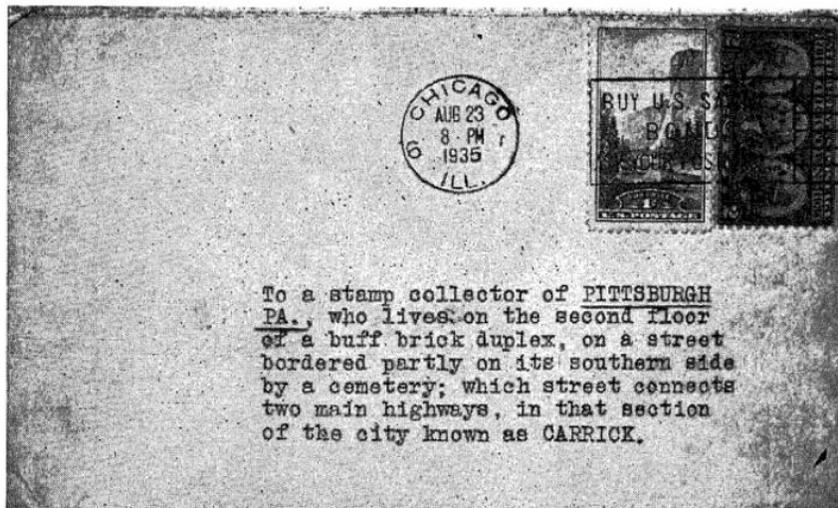
Figure 9

The World's Panama-Pacific Exposition included exhibits from 31 nations from around the world along with many U. S. states that constructed exhibit halls. All this was connected by a 47 mile walkway. The opening of the World's Panama-Pacific Exposition included a parade down the Avenue of Palms (Figure 8). The focal point of the Exposition was the Tower of Jewels that extended 435 feet in the air and consisted of 100,000 cut glass Novagems. The 1/4 by 2 inch colored "gems" sparkled when the sunlight beamed down on it throughout the day and the Tower was illuminated at night by 50 plus powerful electrical searchlights. A Souvenir Booklet was produced called "The Jewel City" San Francisco 1915 (Figure 9). Part 2 of the World's Panama-Pacific Exposition will appear in next month's newsletter.

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An interesting way to address a letter.



In the *Weekly Philatelic Gossip* of September 26, 1953 Harry Weiss reported that the letter was delivered.

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## The Philatelic Truck. By Jeff Lough

The Philatelic Truck was a custom built truck belonging to the United States Post Office Department that was active just before World War II. It was a heavily armored vehicle with an exhibit of all U. S. postage stamps that had been issued in specially mounted stands. The truck also had a miniature stamp press and souvenir engravings showing the White House. It toured the United States from May 9, 1939 until December 13, 1941. The Philatelic Truck stopped at schools, libraries, and downtown areas. Visitors got special souvenir labels printed by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.



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## Touring Lyon County. Part II *by Jeff Lough*

**Waushara** was on the Santa Fe Railroad and the old State Mail Road on the northern Lyon county line. It was located approximately eight miles northwest of Admire. No trace of the town remains. The first postmaster was Miner Palmer and the post office was established January 25, 1858. The town was named for a county that used to be in Wisconsin where the Sac and Fox Indian tribes had lived. Waushara had a school, a church and a small mercantile where the daily stage stopped. Waushara had one of Kansas first and most active chapters of the Grand Army of the Republic in Kansas. It was known as the Jayhawker Chapter.

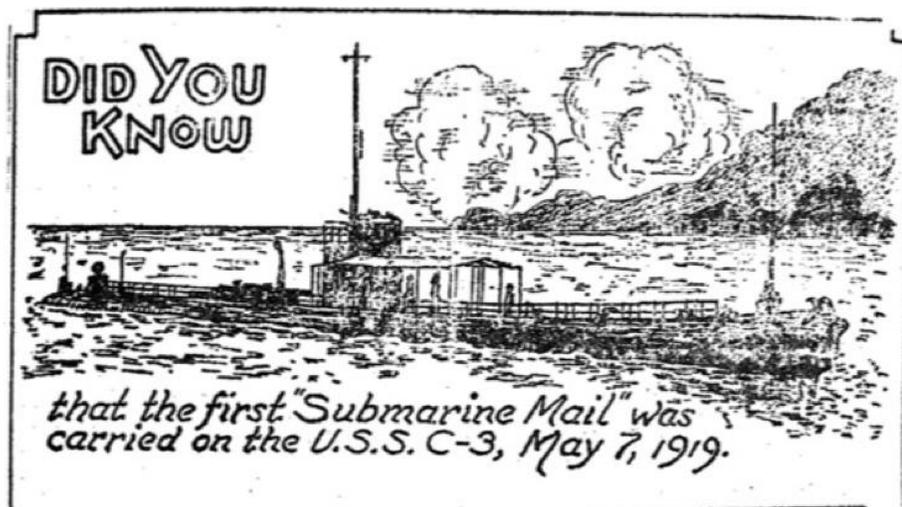


**Plymouth** was founded in 1857 and was a station on the Santa Fe Railway. At the time it was the furthest west of any European- American settlement in Kansas. It was incorporated in 1860 by the first state legislature. Plymouth was named for Plymouth, Massachusetts. Its post office opened in 1858, and remained in operation until 1930. In 1910 it was a money order post office. The first postmaster was David McMillan. The first was established in 1859 and the town had a sawmill and a grist mill and the community served a fairly large farming area. Plymouth was a station and shipping point on the Santa Fe Railway. It had an express office and a telegraph office. Nowadays nothing remains of Plymouth in its former location 8 miles to the west of Emporia along Highway 56.



Americus Post Office

**Americus** is a city in Lyon County, Kansas, United States. With the 2010 census the city population was 896. Americus was laid out in the fall of 1857. It has been a prosperous farming community due in part to the rich river bottom land along the nearby Neosho River. It was named for Amerigo Vespucci. Americus was a station and shipping point on the Missouri–Kansas–Texas (KATY) Railroad. Its post office was first established in 1859, was served by Sheridan's post office for seven years until a post office was re-opened in Americus in 1866. Its first post master was Joseph A. Brown. The cover sent to the meat packing plant in Kansas City, Kansas was mailed in an “albino” piece of postal stationery, there was no coloring of the embossed stamp. It had been marked as being “OK” by a postal worker and the envelope postmarked with a typical dual canceler with a date/ time/ city postmark with an attached 7-bar oval killer. Americus has one of those small post offices that is open only a few hours a day sharing its post master with the neighboring town of Admire, also in the northern part of Lyon County. Americus is a quiet bedroom community primarily for Alta Vista to the north and Emporia to the southeast.



From the *Kaw Chief Stamp Journal*, published in Lawrence, Kansas in the 1940s.

## **Abstract Expressionism, the Spanish Civil War and the Stamp as Art.** *by Jeff Lough*

Robert Motherwell was one of the key American artists in the middle part of the twentieth century. He was one of the earliest of those artists that have been referred to as Abstract Expressionists. Motherwell, as well as several other Abstract Expressionists, have comparatively recently been honored with a U. S. souvenir sheet containing stamps illustrating their paintings. Motherwell was known as a keen intellectual who relied heavily on philosophy, psychology and history in developing his art and in helping others to understand art in general. He gave many talks and wrote many articles. Some of his talks are available online through YouTube. The recent U.S. stamp commemorating Motherwell's work is based on his famous series of paintings of the Spanish Civil War, "Elegy to the Spanish Republic" in which he uses heavy black bars and ovals and vertical white stripes that partially obscure colors that refer to the Spanish flag. Motherwell had opposed the "Spanish State" of Francisco Franco. Many years after this series was finished Motherwell made a collage painting in which Spanish stamps played a role. The block of stamps that is partially covered with the same type of heavy black lines as the earlier paintings has a design reminiscent of the earlier Motherwell pieces except that instead of the Spanish flag being covered a block of postage stamps illustrating the recent king of Spain that more or less replaced Franco is pictured on the stamps and covered with the black forms.



King Juan Carlos I

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## **News from Hutchinson, Kansas.** *by Jeff Lough*

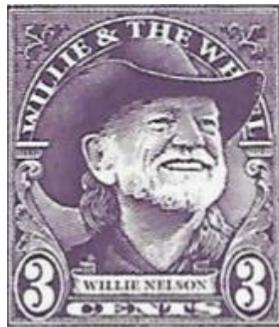
The *Hutchinson News* of April 21, 1981 reveals an interesting set of observations about a “Big Stamp Collection Auctioned at St. John.” St. John is a city to the west/ northwest of Hutchinson about 45 miles or so. An insurance man, Raymond Budge, had been collecting stamps for many years. Several years after he passed away his wife decided to sell the collection and to give the results of the auction to the local library. The *News* noted “It was not a typical sale for the small farming community. Most sales are dominated by blue-jeaned buyers in cowboy hats or caps advertising the local co-op. The buyers at the stamp auction were clad, for the most part, in business suits or sports jackets. The number of spectators and buyers was also lower, totaling near 50.” George Lambros, buyer and appraiser at St. George Stamp Exchange, Wichita, said the Monday night sale was the first he had attended in the area. Lambros, who moved recently from Buffalo, N. Y., said there were stamp auctions every week for a month in cities in the East. “I’m finding stamp collecting is not a small thing in the Midwest either.” Another Wichita man, Hugh Smiley, came to look over the collection. Smiley, formerly of Stafford, has been collecting stamps for 55 years. “There’s history in the stamps,” Smiley said. “I expect I learned more history out of stamps than I did in school.” Smiley said his specialty was pre-cancelled stamps from towns in Kansas. However, Smiley didn’t get to add to his collection of pre-cancelled stamps. Most of the Budge collection stamps were in plate blocks or panes. Bob Benignus, Hoisington, has been collecting stamps for 40 years. At age 14, his uncle, who was a collector got him started. “This is the first sale of its kind around here in eons,” Benignus said. “I collect mostly plate blocks, but not any special scene. Lots of people collect birds, or flowers or Indians, but I’m not that serious about it. I just like to look at them.” There were reportedly 135,000 stamps in the collection and they sold for \$10,720.

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**Some Fun Cinderellas.** by Jeff Lough

About six years ago a CD was released that had a sheet of 8 perforated labels containing photos of its individual musical performers. Asleep at the Wheel is a popular Western-style Swing band and its album *Willie and the Wheel* featured the great classical country western performer Willie Nelson. Members of the band itself were illustrated on the remaining seven stamps. The stamp design reflects the design used in the U.S. Regular Issue of 1922-25. One of the stamp designs is tied to the CD package by a 1947 postmark. Those years bracket the height of popularity of Western Swing. The cinderellas are essentially the result of removing the Lincoln and Garfield vignettes from the three cents and six cents stamps and replacing them with photos of the musical performers. The names are changed as well and instead of “United States Postage” “Willie and the Wheel” is used. In the lower right margin of the sheet is the notation: “Hold on Trigger, this ain't real postage.” Trigger is the name of Willie's favorite guitar. It is interesting that a series of old- time looking picture postcards were included with the package.



**2. SWEET JENNIE LEE**

This swingin' up-tempo version of a Cab Calloway tune is the perfect example of what the early Western Swing bands were doing. They took this song, originally slow and horn laden, and fitted it with fiddles and guitars, moved the tempo up for the dancers and voila, a Western Swing classic!



The Western Philatelic Exhibition, WESTPEX, is one of those annual stamp gatherings that sponsors special celebratory souvenir labels for the show. In 2007 WESTPEX distributed a sheet of 4 labels “Commemorating the One Hundred and Fortieth Anniversary of the Arrest & Apologetic Release of Emperor Norton I of San Francisco.” The story goes that Joshua Norton, born in London in 1819 arrived in San Francisco with a large sum of money that he lost by unsuccessfully trying to corner the rice market. On September 17, 1859 he released a proclamation that was printed in the local newspapers declaring “*At the peremptory request of a large majority of the citizens of these United States, I Joshua Norton....declare myself the Emperor of these United States.*” He was subsequently arrested after proclaiming that it was a fineable misdemeanor to refer to San Francisco as “Frisco.” and commanding that the Golden Gate Bridge be built. The cinderella is based on a private issue revenue stamp originally issued by John F. Henry of College Place, New York.

In the early 1940s the Old American Insurance Company of Kansas City, Missouri issued a series of large stamps that were to be used to lick and place over quarters on an insurance policy application to pay for the temporary issuance of a life insurance policy for individuals aged 50 to 85...Old Americans. The stamps were deliberately large (1.5” X 2”) in order to hold a quarter. Even though these stamps have gum on the back they are seldom thought of as “Never Hinged” since they were glued on the



original advertising letter. The labels appear imperforate or perforated in a variety of colors and shades.

In the 1920s there was a comparatively widespread interest with being able to hear many different or distant radio stations on one's home radio receiver. Companies began to print “Radio Stamps” with the call letters of individual radio stations printed on them. One company was Ekko. Radio stations in the United States were represented by stamps that had their call letters at the bottom with the upper vignette having an eagle. Canadian stamps had beavers. When a station was heard, the time of reception and the program heard would be filled in on a card sold by the Ekko company and the card would be sent to Ekko with ten cents. Ekko would send a verification slip and a stamp to be placed in a special album. 947 different radio stations have had their special stamps documented by cinderella collectors.

Old Home Week was a type of celebration begun towards the end of the nineteenth century in the northeastern United States. It was started in New Hampshire to encourage prosperous, middle-aged former residents to return home for a visit and to contribute to the local economy by purchasing their

former homes. The first Old Home Week celebration took place from August 26 through September 1, 1899. Special bonfires atop hills and mountains lighted up New Hampshire on the first night. The idea spread to other states and Canada. A wide variety of stickers were issued for folks to affix to envelopes that they mailed to advertise the celebrations. In some cases the stamps were used across a state. On other occasions they were issued for specific towns. The issuance of these seals extended into the 1930s. A modern version of the celebration has been an Old Home Day in one community. A wide

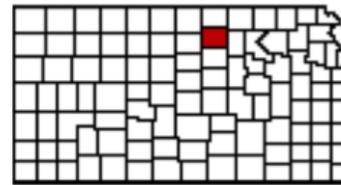
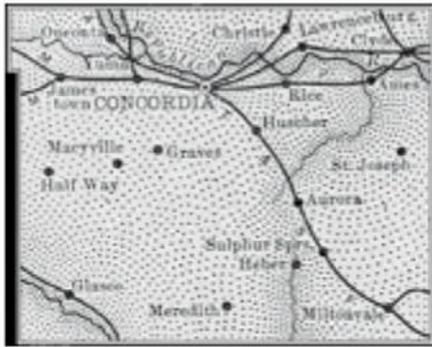


variety of other souvenirs and keepsakes were also manufactured to celebrate Old Home Week.

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



**Travel Kansas—Glasco** is located along the Union Pacific Railroad and the Solomon River in the southwest corner of Cloud County, Kansas. The town was originally called Dell Ray. It was laid out and platted in 1870 and Glasco was adopted by the Kansas legislature officially in 1878 and the town was incorporated as a third class on April 14, 1886. The Post Office in Glasco was established on December 13, 1869 and a stockade built. The town folks lived in the stockade the first year due to frequent Indian raids. The first inhabitants in the area were Pawnee Indians that lived on the banks of the Solomon River. The first settlers to arrive were John Hillhouse, Robert Smith and John Hendershot in 1865. Others began to arrive the following year.

Cloud County was originally named “Shirley”, but civic leaders didn’t like the name as it sounded too much like the name of a prostitute. The county was renamed in honor of Colonel William F. Cloud and was legally organized on September 6, 1866. Concordia was selected as County Seat (Figure 1) and has the distinction of being identified as such even before the town was built.

A couple of Picture Post Cards by an individual “Verne” were sent to an individual by the name of “Hazel” over an eight year span. The first post card (Figure 2) is franked by a 1¢ George Washington Stamp (Scott #405, perf 12) and tied to the card with a foot print killer cancel and circular-date-stamp postmarked from Glasco, Kans. on Oct 24 1914 and mailed to an individual in Miltonvale, Kans., located in the southeast portion of Cloud County. Apparently Verne is telling Hazel that her mother is feeling better and she is catching up on her school work (arithmetic). Miltonvale was founded on December 1, 1881 and was named for Milton Tootle a landowner. Miltonvale was home to Miltonvale Wesleyan College from 1909 to 1972. The railroad opted to build a narrow gage railway through the neighborhood. A narrow gauge railway is defined as a railway where the track gauge is narrower than the standard gauge of 1,434 mm (4 ft. 8 1/2 inches). Most narrow gauge are 1 ft. 11 5/8 inches and 3 ft. 6 inches. They are considered less expensive to build, equip and operate particularly in difficult terrain or mountainous areas. They are usually built in low traffic areas and cost less than building a standard gauge line.



Figure 1

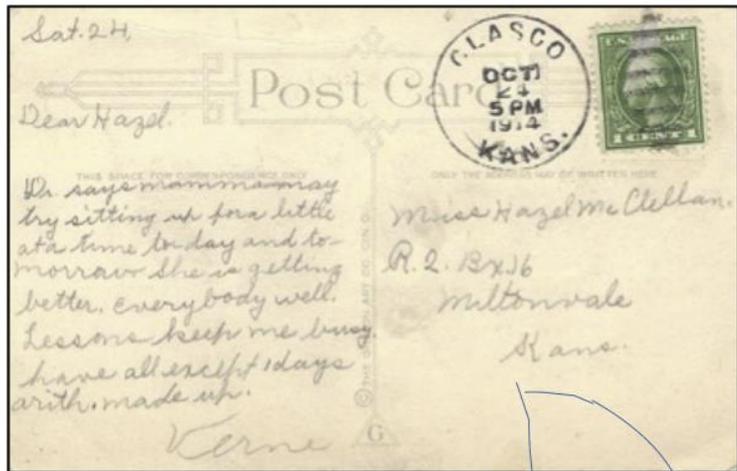


Figure 2

The second Picture Post Card (Figure 4) is franked with a 1¢ George Washington Stamp (Scott #543, perf 10) and tied to the card with a foot print killer cancel and circular-date-stamp postmarked from Glasco, Kans. on Feb 26 1923 and mailed to the same person as the first Post Card, but she now lives in Abilene, Kansas. Abilene is located in Dickerson County, Kansas founded in 1857. Abilene's beginning was a result of a stage coach stop established by Timothy Hersey and named Mud Creek, but changed to Abilene in 1860 and located along the Solomon River and the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad. The Post Office was established on December 6, 1860 with Charles H. Thompson as Postmaster. At the time the Post Card was mailed Pitt H. Halleck was Postmaster being appointed November 9, 1921 and served until January 15, 1934. Abilene is home to the Dwight D. Eisenhower Library and Museum. Will Bill Hickok even served as Marshal for a short period of time in 1871.

Apparently the individual sending the Picture Post Cards enjoyed the 'sayings' associated with the Dutch personalities presented in the cards as shown in Figures 3 and 5. Their being an eight year span between the two cards she may have maintained a stock or knew of an outlet from which to purchase them. The 1914 card expresses the following thought to the recipient "I bet you, I tink you vouldt like to get dis card." The 1923 card expresses the following thought to the recipient "Ye can't haf a tirty-horse power automobeel rhit a von-horse income". In my research I could not determine if there were families that came from Holland to settle in Glasco or Cloud County, which would shed more light on the history of the Picture Post Cards. "Dat's all foks."

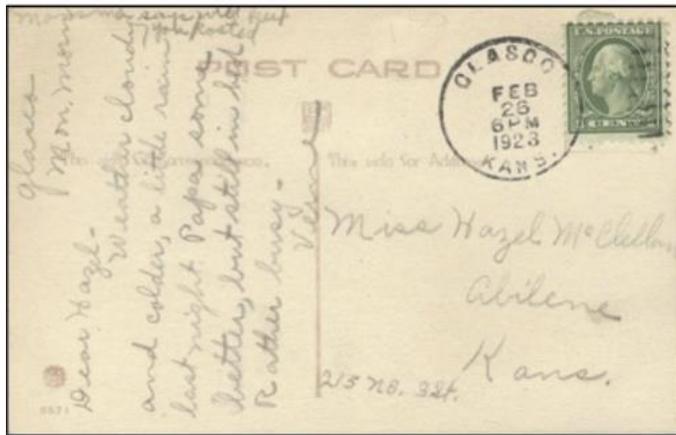


Figure 4

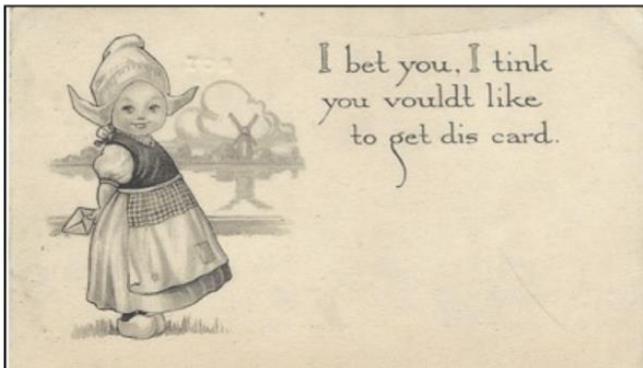


Figure 3

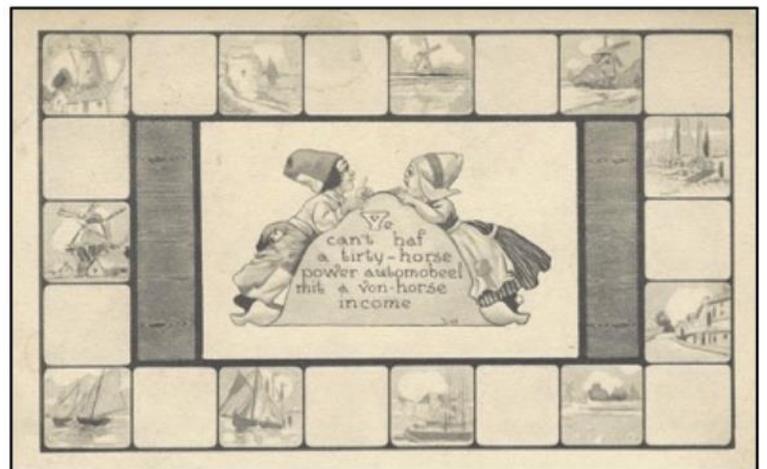


Figure 5

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