

In our U.S. Stamp News and Mekeel's & Stamps magazines we are bringing back these brief "100 Years Ago" articles from Mekeel's Weekly. This is just one small example of the content you can enjoy in either or both publications. To subscribe to M&S or USSN, see page 2 of this pdf.

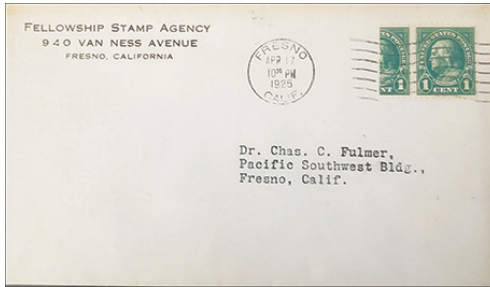
100 Years Ago in Mekeel's: May 4, 1925:

THE FRESNO BEE.
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 1925

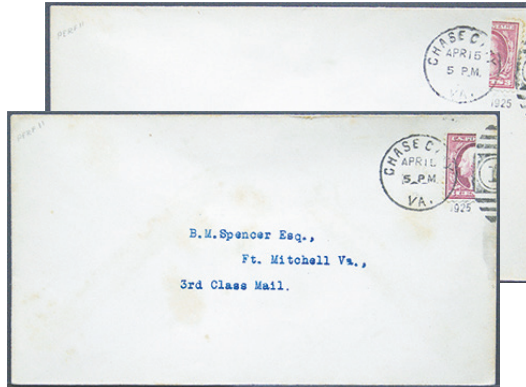
Stamps Cut In Half Legally Used

Many Fresnoans have not acquainted themselves with the new postal rate schedule and consequently ignorance of the rates is working a hardship on the Fresno Postoffice, according to Postmaster George W. Turner. Since the new schedule went into effect Wednesday many persons have been mailing newspapers and postcards at the old rate.

Because the postal department has failed to forward half-cent stamps to the local office, it has been found necessary to cut the one-cent stamps in half for use on circulars and similar matter which require 1½ cent stamps for two ounces. This system also is being followed out in many large cities, Turner said.

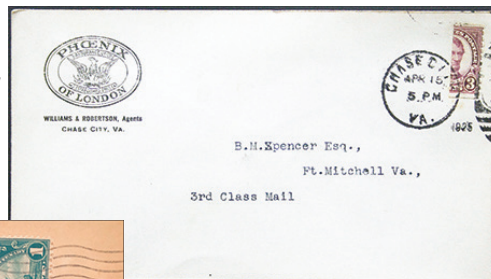


1923 1¢, Scott 552, single and a half, to pay the 1-1/2¢ rate, along with a clipping from the Fresno Bee explaining the lack of availability of 1/2¢ stamps.



Two covers with Chase City, Va., April 15, 1925 circular date stamps tying what appears to be both portions of a 3¢ Washington stamp, bisected to pay the 1-1/2¢ rate.

Another cover, with the 1924 3¢ coil, Sc. 600. Note that all three of these covers are to the same addressee, and cancelled on the same date, suggested they were



1924 1¢ Huguenot-Walloon, Scott 614, single and a half, to pay the 1-1/2¢ rate. Using a window envelope, this would suggest it was a commercial usage.



1923 1¢, Scott 552, single and a half, to pay the 1-1/2¢ rate, this commercial usage to a local address with manuscript notation "Second Class Matter"



United States.

Unofficial Provisionals

On April 15th, the new postal regulations changing the rates of postage on certain matter went into effect, and as was to be expected, the department was unable to distribute the ½c stamps to all post offices in time to be used in accordance with the new requirements. As a result, numerous collectors have sent through the mail halves of the 3c stamps used as 1½c and half of the 1c stamps to pay the new ½c rate.

Mr. Olaf J. Olson kindly sends a circular communication from St. Paul, wherein the postage is paid by the 1c envelope plus half of a 1c stamp. In addition, I find rubber stamped, "½c stamps not available." At this writing I cannot state as to whether this was applied personally by Mr. Olson, or whether the rubber stamp was used by the Post Office Department.

Mr. A. F. Robertson kindly sends me a similar communication from Chase City, Va., posted under a half of the 3c stamp used as a cent and a half. He states that he sent out numerous circulars on the first day, and that when he called at the post office for the new stamps, there were no ½c or 1½c stamps available. I have written to the Department to ask their opinion upon the subject in order to see if such use meets with their approval. If this happens to be the case, it looks as if these provisionals should be more or less recognized. I really would like to see a copy, however, that was sent out by a firm in the regular course of business, wherein philately was not a factor.

Under date of April 17th the Post Office Department announced that while all postmasters throughout the country were supplied with the ½c stamps (?), made necessary by the postage rates which went into effect on April 15th, because of their great demand and owing to the limited time given to furnish them, it was necessary to reduce the amounts of postmasters' requisitions.

As a consequence some of the postmasters have promptly exhausted their supplies and in order that the public might not be inconvenienced, particularly at distant points from Washington, Postmaster General New announced on April 17th that a special mail plane will leave Bolling Field Saturday morning with additional supplies of the half cent stamps. Five hundred pounds or approximately three and a half million stamps will be carried in the plane.

The first allotment is destined for Denver and will be dropped off the plane at Salt Lake City. The plane will then go on to San Francisco, where allotments for Los Angeles, Seattle and Portland as well as San Francisco will be distributed from that city.

Another plane with a like supply of stamps will leave Bolling Field Monday for other western cities.



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