

For Stamp Collectors

by Earl P. L. Apfelbaum

Few people have ever stopped to think of the many methods that have been used to carry mail. They receive the letter delivered to their door as a matter of course. If it was mailed in New York or Harrisburg its route to Philadelphia and its suburbs is known and is probably uninspiring. But how about mail that comes from the Canadian Arctic, or Peru's mountain areas or the villages of India? What of the mail collecting system in the widely scattered Gilbert Islands of the Mid-Pacific? Climate, geography, custom, economic conditions and form of government are all likely to affect mail service. Conditions of war, blockade or siege destroy conventional post office systems and provisional ones are then devised. Natural calamities such as earthquakes, floods, fires, avalanches and storms continually alter the mail service in some part of the world.

We all know of the pony express riders who in the early days of our West galloped across plains and mountains in their daring daily mail carrying rides. Indians, snow storms, drought and bad men were ever-present harrassments, but the mail went through and usually on schedule.

The old paddle wheel river steamers made famous by Mark Twain were in the post office employ for many years before roads and swifter transportation methods brought faster service to thousands of towns and villages.

There were times when even pigeons were impressed into the mail service. The best known use of these dependable birds were the siege of Paris in 1871 and the service from off-shore islands to New Zealand in 1899.

Germany sent mail to the United States in the "Deutschland," a submarine, during World War I at the time of the Allied blockade. The Spanish government once again used this transportation method during the Civil War of 1937. Airplanes have been carrying mail since about 1910. At first it was an experimental service, but from 1917 on the world's nations adopted air mail as the fastest possible way of carrying on the post office service.

The earliest known mail services date back three or four thousand years. They were the king's court runners or riders who carried royal messages and notices over the roads of Babylon, Assyria and Egypt. The messages were in cuneform or hieroglyphic writing on clay tablets. Until comparatively modern times mail service was a monopoly of royalty. The carrying of messages was limited in most countries to government messages. Private people had to devise their own means of communications. It is only one hundred years since the post office service of most of Germany was farmed out by royal edict to the houses of Thurn and Taxis.

Andy and His Fox



A fox is a timid creature. Few people have the patience to tame them to the point where they have no fear of humans.

Andrew Preslopsky, holder of the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze stars and one Silver Service Star, has that ability.

Maybe you have seen Andy and his fox. They are frequent Dallas visitors.

Ready For The Holidays



Tony-the-Barber gives Andrew Preslopsky, Back Mountain philosopher, his annual hair cut at Gregory's Barber Shop.

There are few in the area who do not know Tony's happy sense of humor or who haven't been touched by Andy's love of all living creatures.

Andy is the man who raises chickens at DeMunds and who has a fox that he has tamed from puppyhood that never touches them. He has a way with animals and with men and the courage to live simply and close to nature.

Andy holds the Marine Corps Medal for his service during the Nicaraguan Campaign. During World War II he was a corporal with the 67th Fighter Squadron. An American Red Cross Safety Instructor, he was cited by his commanding officer at Drew Field, Tampa, Florida, for saving the lives of two men from drowning off the St. Petersburg Pier without regard for his own safety. He applied artificial respiration before the ambulance arrived.

Westmoreland Takes Wyoming

Adds To Impressive String Of Victories

Coach Clint Brobst used the entire squad in beating Wyoming Tuesday night 69-49 at Wyoming.

Taking the first period by a 19-13 advantage, the 'Golden Hawks' really poured it on in the second quarter by a 17-7 margin, to leave the court at the conclusion of the half with a 36-20 lead.

Returning for the second half the starters for the most part riding the bench, Westmoreland continued its supremacy by taking the third stanza 18-12, and only in the fourth period was the Wyoming "Cowboys" able to excel to the tune of two points, 17-15.

This was a game for the entire squad and they all made the most of it.

Box score table showing points for Dallas and Wyoming players.

Summary table of game statistics for Dallas and Wyoming.

Hit-Run Driver

A car owned by John J. Judge, R. D. 1, Trucksville, was one of two parked cars damaged by a hit-run driver Saturday night at 7:24.

The officer who investigated reported the hit-run car, which was traveling south on North River Street, sideswiped the two parked vehicles.

Storm Does Very Little Damage In This Area

Tree branches came down at Harveys Lake at the height of Friday night's storm, but very little damage was experienced in the Back Mountain. Cars had trouble holding the road at the height of the gusts. The downpour caused closing of certain roads in the Poconos.

On Route 11 beyond Danville, where the road travels along the foot of the mountain, and beyond Northumberland, there were many slides from steep slopes where earth was loosened during the extremely mild rainy spell following a heavy freeze.

We have made great progress and are now on the threshold of a still newer and faster transport means. Rockets are experimentally proving feasible for mail service. The time of one or two hour service from New York to London isn't too far distant. New wonders are in store for all of us soon.

Sportlights

With exhibition basketball for the most part out of the way, it will be easier to write this column for this week.

It was nice to see that most of the games played by Back Mountain teams resulted in wins.

When regular play begins they should be ready for all comers. There is a long lay-off between now and the resumption of play. I hope it will in no way hurt the teams. Next year your writer hopes that something may be done to take up the slack of the holiday period in the way of a tournament.

Some of the boys who are away to school are home for the holidays. It is nice to see them. Among the first to return is Joe Sekera of Valley Forge Military Academy.

Skating Rink Fifty-two thousand gallons of water were pumped into the skating rink on Memorial Highway. As soon as we get a freeze, it will be scraped and flooded again with seven thousand gallons to make a smooth surface for the young set to enjoy over the winter season.

This is a big undertaking. Benches will be installed for the convenience of the skaters.

Norti Berti, Joe Sekera, Jack Richardson, Granville Sowden, Jack Landis, Lloyd Williams, Lem Troster, Tom Gauntlett, Jim Besecker, Dale Parry, Red Ambrose, George McCutcheon and some others deserve a lot of credit for making a go of this venture.

Season tickets will be available soon for about a dollar. What a bargain!

Girls' Basketball Received the following communication:

"What has happened to girls' basketball? To date there has been no practice, no schedule made up and nothing to make anyone think of girls' basketball."

Frankly, the answer to this does not come under this column. Better try the School Authorities. They are the only ones who can give you the information.

It does seem that some provision could be made for the girls. The schools aren't for the boys alone. Some of the best games we ever watched were played by girls.

Have been told that Bill Strausser will continue his education at Bloomsburg State next year. We hope others will do likewise. We certainly need these young men and women to get all the education they can. Good luck Bill.

Peg Houlihan, president, and members of Dallas Area Boosters Club have been busy making money to purchase jackets for the senior athletes, and are doing a bang up job.

Your support and cooperation is greatly appreciated. Now—if only some organization would make its next project a united sports banquet for all the athletes, cheerleaders, managers and bands to be held in the spring!

Shortly after the holiday season, we should be getting some Little League Baseball news and also news of its affiliate "Baseball for Boys." (Teen age and Senior Teeners.) These organizations need your support. They have done a wonderful job, and they have a playing field second to none in Northeastern Pennsylvania. The All Star team has never been eliminated in the

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Junior Varsity Tastes Defeat

Sloppy Ball Handling Contributing Factor

Playing sloppy ball, Westmoreland JV's lost to Wyoming Tuesday night by a convincing margin. Whether it was a case of the "Cowboys" having too much (four varsity players played JV ball for Wyoming), or just one of those nights, your writer has been unable to tell.

Westmoreland certainly did not look like the same team that had won all its previous starts; and perhaps this is for the best, as now they know they can be beaten. A lot more passing would have paid off. There were too many wasted shots at the basket.

first round. Some of our best high school players received their early baseball schooling in Little League.

Have plans been made for a track team this spring? Thought for the week: It shouldn't make any difference who makes the points, so long as one of your teammates makes them.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

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