

U.S. Postal Service holiday mailing tips

Over miles. Over continents. Overnight. No matter where gifts are being shipped this holiday season, the U.S. Postal Service has a way to get them there.

Santa won't be the only one making deliveries on Christmas. Express Mail delivery to most major American cities is scheduled for Christmas Day this year.

The peak mailing day is expected to be Monday, Dec. 19, when an estimated 280 million cards and letters will be mailed, nearly three times that of an average day. The peak delivery day will be Wednesday, Dec. 21, followed closely by Wednesday, Dec. 14.

Shipping options include:

- Express Mail service delivers overnight, guaranteed, 365 days a year to most U.S. cities.

- Priority Mail service delivers in two to three business days. The Postal Service also offers flat rate priority boxes and envelopes. Customers pay one price regardless of weight or destination.

- Global Priority Mail service is designed for delivery in four to six days to more than 50 countries. Economical way to send packages weighing up to 4 pounds.

- Global Express Mail service

is guaranteed to be delivered in three to five days to nearly anywhere in the world. Now available to businesses in the Pacific Rim through an agreement with postal administrations for Australia, China, Hong Kong, Japan, the United States and the Republic of South Korea.

- Global Express Guaranteed service delivers in one to three days to more than 190 countries.

MILITARY ADDRESS TIPS

- Use the service member's full name (with or without rank or rating), military organization or unit, and APO/FPO address.

- Do not include the country name in any part of the address.

- Programs that allowed the general public to send mail addressed to "Any Service Member" are no longer available.

INTERNATIONAL ADDRESSING TIPS

- Place the city or town name and the province or state name on the next line after the street address information.

- Put foreign postal codes, if known, in front of the city or town name and on the same line.

- Write the name of the foreign country in capital letters on the last line of the address.

MOMENTS IN TIME

The History Channel

- On Dec. 10, 1830, poet Emily Dickinson is born in Amherst, Mass. Although she wrote 1,775 poems, only seven were published in her lifetime.

- On Dec. 6, 1907, in West Virginia's Marion County, an explosion in a network of mines kills 361 coal miners - the worst mining disaster in American history. Nationwide, a total of 3,242 miners were killed in mine accidents in 1907.

- On Dec. 7, 1925, future Tarzan actor Johnny Weissmuller sets the world record for the 150-yard freestyle swim. MGM later cast Weissmuller to play the title role in "Tarzan the Ape Man" (1932).

- On Dec. 5, 1933, the 18th Amendment is repealed, bringing an end to the era of national prohibition of alcohol. Some states continued Prohibition by maintaining statewide temperance laws. Mississippi, the last dry state in the Union, ended Prohibition in 1966.

- On Dec. 11, 1941, Buick lowers its prices to reflect the absence of spare tires in its new cars. Widespread shortages caused by World War II had led to many quotas and laws designed to conserve America's resources, including prohibiting spare tires in new cars.

- On Dec. 9, 1958, the right-wing John Birch Society is established. Founded with only 11 members, by the early 1960s its membership had grown to nearly 100,000. The Society remains active today, and its members seek "to expose a semi-secret international cabal whose members sit in the highest places of influence and power worldwide."

- On Dec. 8, 1969, at a news conference, President Richard Nixon says that the Vietnam War is ending. Nixon's pronouncement proved premature, however. In April 1970, he expanded the war by ordering U.S. and South Vietnamese troops to attack communist sanctuaries in Cambodia.

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STRANGE BUT TRUE

- The invention of the electric light brought about many changes in society, but not all of them are obvious. For example, it's not very well known that people sleep less than they once did. Before 1910, people slept an average of nine hours a night, and since then it's been about seven and a half. Sleep researchers have shown in the laboratory that if people are deprived of electric light, they will go back to sleeping nine hours a night.

- Controversial radio personality Howard Stern was fired from his job as a college deejay.

- This may seem like an odd question, but can you sing and cry at the same time? Someone can, evidently, because there's a word for it: chantedleure.

- Famed conqueror Alexander the Great had quite an ego (perhaps unsurprisingly). He named a total of 20 cities after himself -- including Alexandria, Egypt -- and even named one after his horse, Bucephalus.

- You may be surprised to learn that famed author John Steinbeck majored in marine biology when he was in college.

- It was noted humorist and essayist P.J. O'Rourke who made the following sage observation: "Humor is a terrific tool for explaining things, especially when what you're explaining is frightening or dull and complicated."

- Studies show that 40 percent of all tornadoes occur between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

- America is quite a watery country, so it seems. According to the Coast Guard, the United States has 95,000 miles of shoreline, and there are 290,000 square miles of lakes, rivers and bays.

- In ancient Greece, mushrooms were considered to be food only for the wealthy.

Thought for the Day: "A critic is a man created to praise greater men than himself, but he is never able to find them." - R. Le Gallienne
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FOR THE POST/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK

Like signal flags in a construction zone, these last golden leaves send a message that winter is drawing near. Be cautious, be warned - winter weather is just around the corner. And you don't want to be caught just hanging around.

Public invited to attend annual Open House at library



The Back Mountain Memorial Library will hold its annual Open House from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 21 and Thursday, Dec. 22 at the library on Huntsville Road in Dallas. The public is welcome to attend and partake of refreshments.

For more information, call the library at 675-1182.

In recognition of the holidays,

CAROL KING

LIBRARY NEWS

the library will be closed on the following dates: Saturday, Dec. 24; Monday, Dec. 26; Saturday, Dec. 31; and Monday, Jan. 2.

A reminder to everyone who ordered fruit during the annual citrus fruit sale: pick-up hours are from 4-6 p.m. Friday, Dec. 9; and 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 10. You can pick up the fruit at the library.

Fred Krohle, manager of the Slightly Read Bookshop at the library, needs volunteers to help to sort books. Anyone who can help should call the library at 675-1182.

Fred suggests that you watch for the announcement of a pre-renovation clearance sale some time soon, and adds a request that donations of books not be left outside the bookshop door.

Members of book discussion group No. 1 were expected to discuss the book "Queen Noor" at

our Nov. 12 meeting. Instead, discussion group member and in-house Middle East expert Iran Fahmy spoke about the history of the region and the problems which trouble it now.

Members are reminded that our next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Feb. 27, 2006. The book is "The Devil in the White City" by Erik Larson.

Carol King is a longtime volunteer at the Back Mountain Memorial Library. Her library news column appears every other week in The Post.

70 YEARS AGO Dec. 6, 1935

EARLY MAILING URGED BY POSTMASTER

A plea for early shopping and early mailing to relieve postmen and carriers of the annual last-minute rush was delivered this week by George T. Kendall, Dallas postmaster.

ONLY YESTERDAY

During holiday time, the volume of mail in the local office increases approximately 200 percent and it is a physically impossibility to handle this great mass of mail efficiently and promptly within a few days. Therefore, to assure delivery of Christmas presents, cards, and letters by Christmas Day, the public is urged to mail early.

Only one local football player was selected on the West Side Squad which will play a team from East Side of the Susquehanna River on Saturday in the annual Shrine game for crippled children. Ted Loveland, a Kingston Township High School star who was out of the Thanksgiving Day game because of injuries, has been selected as one of the backfield men for the West Side team.

Homer Nelson, former member of Dallas Borough High School's faculty and coach of borough athletic teams, visited friends in town last Friday. Mr. Nelson is teaching now at Cochran, near Meadville, his hometown, and is making intensive plans for a stiff basketball schedule. Basketball, not football, is the most popular sport there. His football team had only two games on its schedule

60 Years Ago
Dec. 7, 1945

DALLAS BORO H.S. PRESENTING PLAY

The senior class of Dallas Borough High School will soon present its annual Senior Class Play entitled "Stranger in the Night," a comedy mystery in three acts.

The cast has been selected as follows: Elizabeth Stoner, Helen Stoekel, Mary Lou Race, Betty Wagner, Estella Ide, Dolores Stark, Harold Niemeyer, James Waters, Harold Shaver, Jack Roberts, Eugene McCarthy and Alice Pavlick.

The chimes, a gift to Dallas Methodist Church by members of the Jessie Brickel class, will be dedicated and played for the first time at the Sunday evening service, 7:30. Mrs. Fred Welsh, president of the class will present the chimes in honor of their late teacher. Ray Shiber, president of Board of Trustees, will accept them.

An illness causing 160 pupils and four teachers to be absent from their school at Lehman High School yesterday forced supervising principal Howard Hendricks to cancel all classes until Monday morning. All substitute teachers, with the exception of one, were reported to be ill.

50 YEARS AGO Dec. 2, 1955

SHOE POLISH LEADS FUND-RAISER

A Back Mountain YMCA youth member may be asking you, in the next few weeks, to buy a can of shoe polish to help them raise in their effort to raise some funds to support the YMCA's program of World Service.

Annually, all YMCA youngsters put forth a special effort to send such funds to the deserving and needy children around the world. Some years they sell soap, other years its candy or Christmas cards. But this year, it's different.

Laddie, the devoted collie watch-dog which piloted bind Oliver Ellsworth from house to barn and around the Hays Hill place, was shot by a hunter Friday afternoon. Laddie was left lying for dead in a ditch, his muzzle pointed hopefully toward the house he was trying to reach when his strength failed.

Dedication of a bronze plaque in memory of Mrs. Letha Byrne and Mrs. Catherine Engelman was made at a Noxen grade school assembly program Friday afternoon, Nov. 18. Noxen High

School students attending the Lake Township building were dismissed at 2:30 p.m. and transported by bus.

40 YEARS AGO Dec. 2, 1965

HAYFIELD HOUSE TO BE EXPANDED

Back Mountain residents responded to the invitation of Pennsylvania State University's main campus to view the mansion at Hayfield Farms, which will soon resound to the voices of students in its once quiet halls.

In September 1966, Penn State hopes to have abandoned its outgrowth and outmoded quarters on North Washington Street in Wilkes-Barre and install them at Hayfield House. The house's acreage invites even further expansion.

Members of the Holy Name Society of Gate of Heaven Church in Dallas and Our Lady of Victory Church scored a first on Sunday, Nov. 14, when they became the initial group to visit the inmates of Chase Correctional Institution for a day of fellowship.

It's a sixth daughter for the Raymond Tag family, former resident of Huntsville Road. Jean Esther, a small package weighing six and one quarter pounds, was delivered Sunday, Nov. 21, in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

30 YEARS AGO Dec. 4, 1975

DALLAS TWP. TAXES REMAIN UNCHANGED

A tentative budget released at Monday night's meeting of the Dallas Township board of supervisors left the tax rate at three mills. The \$200,700 budget included an allocation of \$27,000 as an "in and out" item earmarked to pickup delinquent sewer rental fees in the township.

An additional \$7,100 was also set aside in the budget for estimated 1976 delinquent fees.

The orchestra which will accompany the chorus and soloists in Sunday's concert by Wyoming Valley Oratorio Society is made

up of 42 professional instrumentalists, the majority of them residents of Luzerne and Lackawanna counties, including a number from the Back Mountain.

George Albright, associate director and horticulturist at the Wilkes-Barre Area Vocational Technical School has begun work on an outdoor classroom. The site is adjacent to the Vo-Tech School and makes an excellent site due to the diversity of the area.

20 YEARS AGO Dec. 4, 1985

DALLAS BAND WINS AWARDS

The Dallas High School marching Band has had a year full of competition. Among that competition is a first placed among five Group II bands in Nanticoke where the Marching Mountaineers won Specialty Awards in music, marching, and percussion. The band also won first place among six Group II bands in the Arthritis Foundation Band Competition held in Wilkes-Barre. There, they received specialty awards for music and band front, while also soloist Mark Steinkirchner was so cited.

"Love Came Down," a cantata depicting the birth of Jesus, will be presented by the combined choirs of the Idetown and Lehman United Methodist Churches of Dallas. The choir is directed by Shirley A. Mahle, with accompaniment by Elaine St. Clair as pianist and Virginia Swanson as organist.

Members of the Lake-Lehman Education Association voted to make a \$1,000 donation to the Back Mountain Memorial Library's building campaign. According to LLEA president Jane M. Morris, the association wanted to do so in "recognition of the Back Mountain Memorial Library's importance and contribution to the students in the Lake-Lehman School District."

State Lt. Governor Ted Wiaterowski was the guest speaker during a meeting of the Back Mountain Kiwanis Club at the Irem Temple Country Club.

THE POST

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