

# Fred Schmitt's Postal History

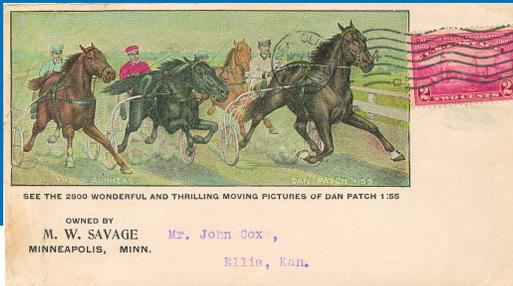
# Treasures

Winter 2006 • No. 9

Resourceful information for the collector and seller of the world's 19th and 20th century mail communications, autographs, manuscripts and historic documents

This Issue's  
Special Treasure...

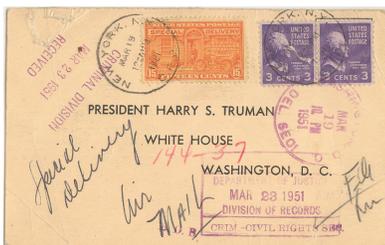
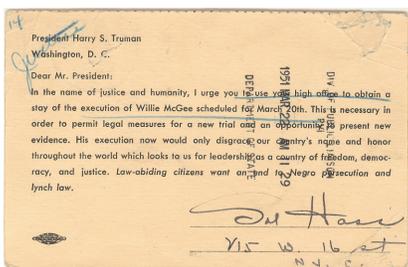
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**Souvenirs from early in the century** are often kept by folks who, after decades, sometimes forget they even have them around. In the beginning years of the 20th century, there was great national fascination with the famed trotting horse, Dan Patch. Memorabilia of him, like this cover here, can turn up in an old scrapbook. It is a valuable piece of American horse racing culture.

## How long has it been since you looked? Could there be valuable rarities in your attic?

A very unusual 1951 postcard to President Harry S. Truman saved by someone who once worked in the White House. From a philatelic viewpoint, it is highly unusual to see a "Special Delivery" usage on a card. But wait! It was forwarded to the Dept. of Justice.

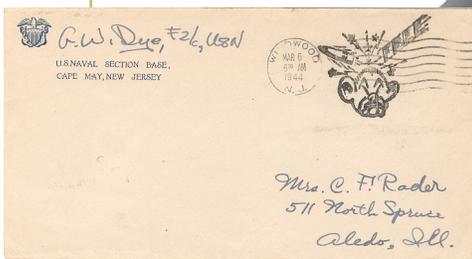


The reverse of the card is a printed message urging President Truman to stay the execution of Willie McGee, convicted in Mississippi of rape (wrongly, many claim). The card is a souvenir of a very famous criminal case and valuable from both a historic and philatelic standpoint.

**Got a war veteran in your family? Have him check some of his old correspondence. You might be surprised!**

Fred Schmitt's

**PERSPECTIVE**



Military personnel could, of course, send their mail home free of postage during World War II. The "FREE" handstamp, though, was illegal and thus, rare.

**We've spoken with many a family who has shown us their accumulations of old love letters and other kinds of mail from World War II, and the Korean War. Sometimes, such holdings contain some VERY valuable material.**

Take the cover shown above, for instance. Special handstamps made for use by soldiers to imprint "Free" on their mail were illegal. But some of them somehow were used. (Continued on p. 2)



**Philatelists who collect stamps used on envelopes** (called "covers" by collectors) are now realizing that many usages from the early to mid 20th century—once considered quite common—are becoming rare, valuable and highly desirable. Take a look at the large cover shown above. At first glance, it bears some very ordinary stamps—but its destination to Tannou Touva, a little known now defunct country in Outer Mongolia, makes it virtually unique—and worth hundreds of dollars. Found in an old correspondence, this cover is considered a mid 20th century classic. (Continued on page 3)

An occasional bulletin from...



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