

HIGHWAY POST OFFICE (HPO)

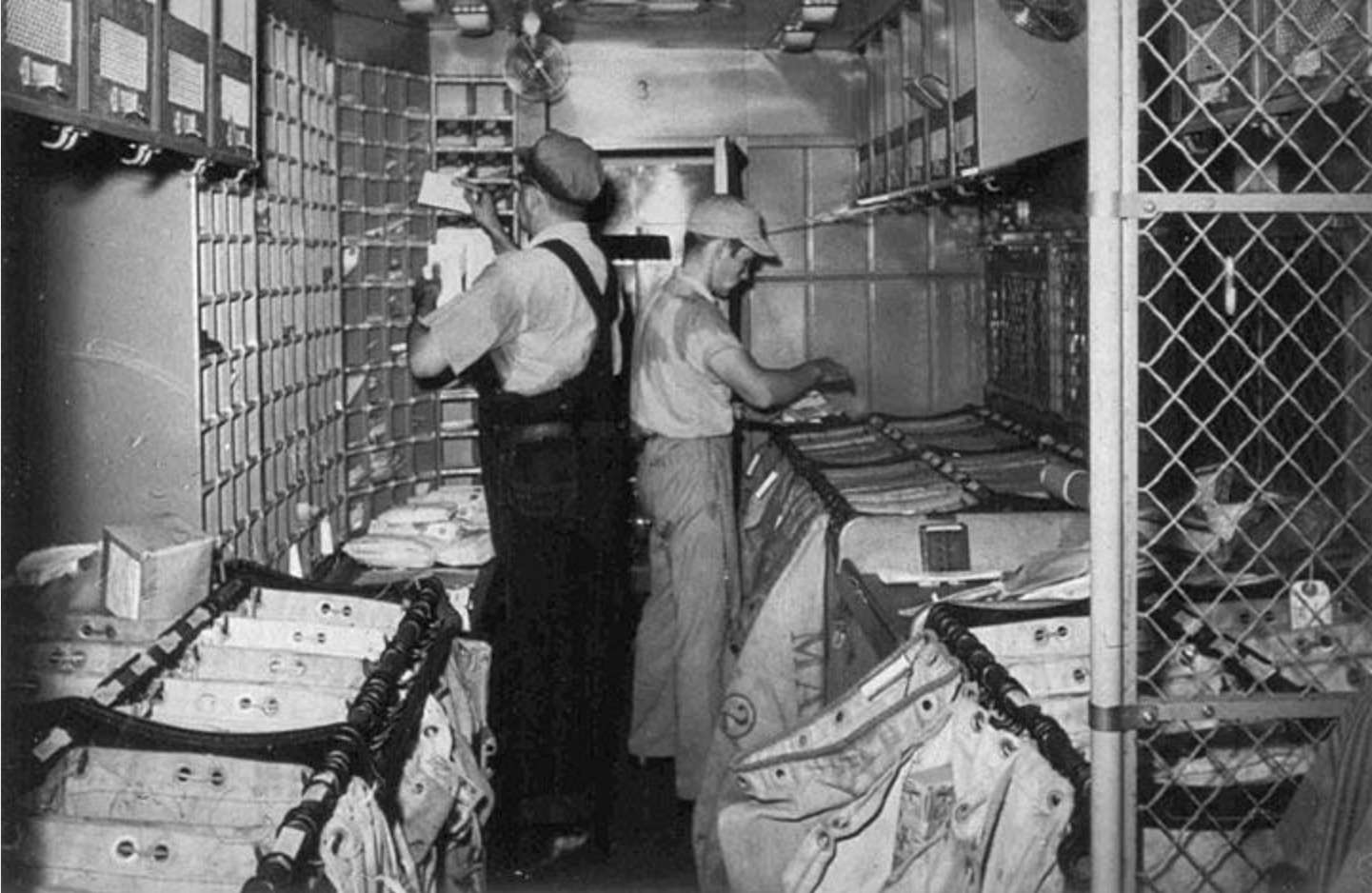


HPO bus on the road. [Source: US Postal Museum site]

SETUP AND PROCESS

- Feb. 1941 to Oct. 1975 . . . 317 Routes.
- U.S. Post Office Dept . . . Cabinet level position.
- Reduction in Railway Post Office (RPO) coverage.
- Trip 1 and Trip 2 (“in and out”).
- Mail pickup & delivery along the route.
- The only mail canceled on the inaugural trip of a highway route was philatelic mail.

TYPICAL SORTING AREA



Working on the HPO bus. [Source: US Postal Museum site]

FIRST ROUTE

- First trip . . . February 10, 1941.
- From Washington, D.C. to Harrisonburg, VA.



L. W. Staehle cachet

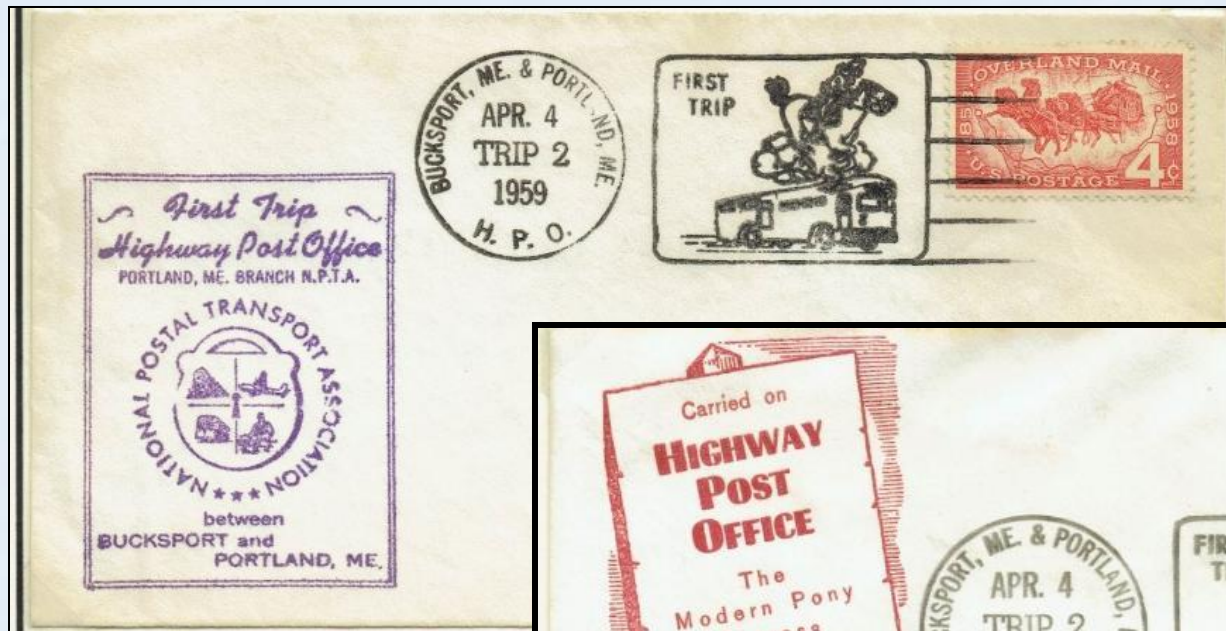
BUS SERVICE



FDR mails a letter at the HPO bus. [Source: US Postal Museum site]

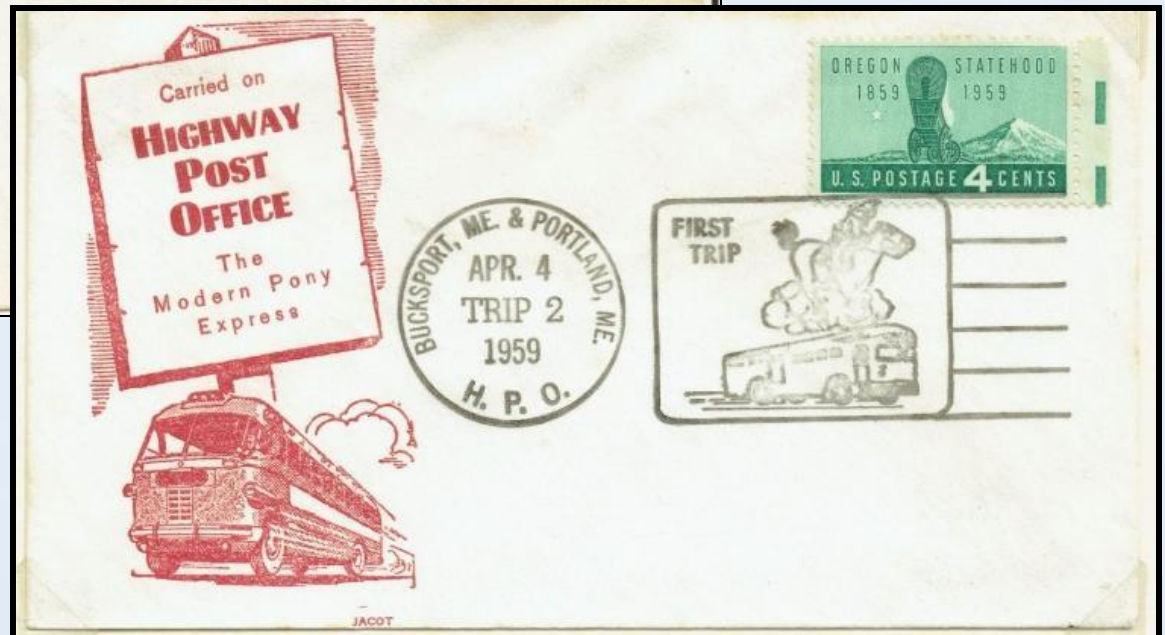
COVER CACHETS

Route 219 . . . Between Bucksport, ME and Portland, ME



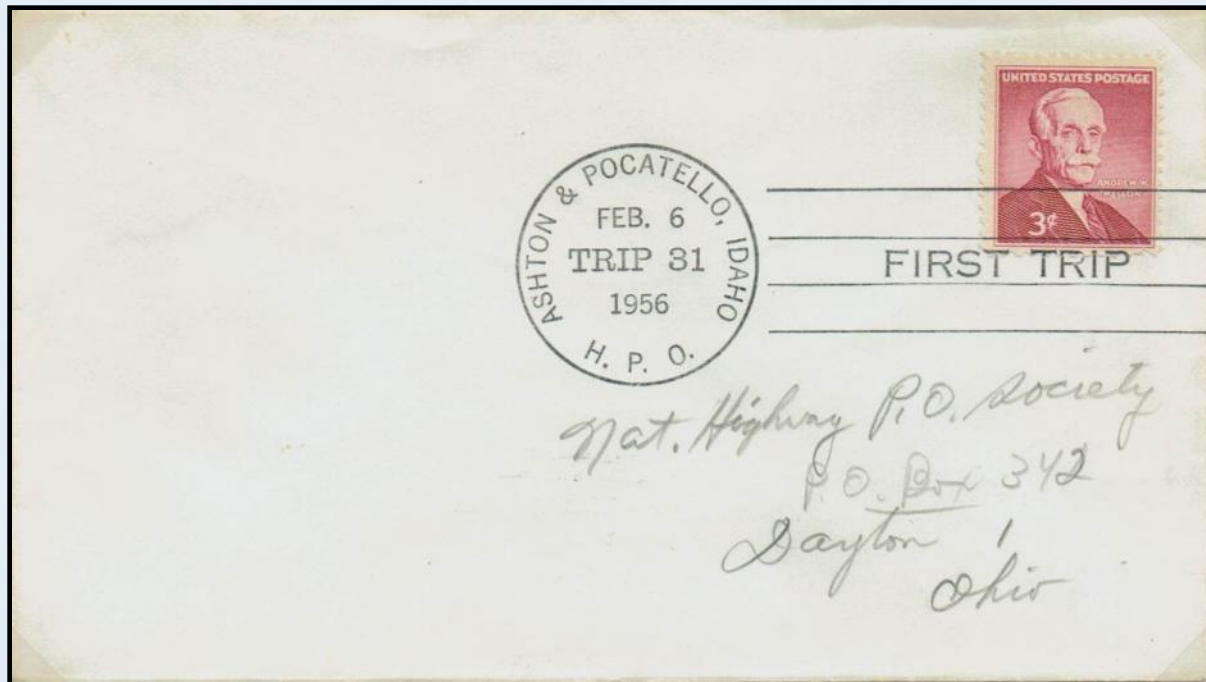
Rubber Stamp

**Philatelic Design
(Jadot)**



COMMERCIAL MAIL

- Route 177 . . . Ashton, ID & Pocatello, ID.
- Addressed with NO cachet.



ROUTE SET (TRIPS 1 & 2)

- Route 163 . . . Aberdeen, SD & Baker, MT.
- Rubber cachets (USPOD) on both trips.



FINAL RUN

- Route 303 . . . Cleveland & Cincinnati, OH.
- “FINAL RUN” cachet . . . June 30, 1974.

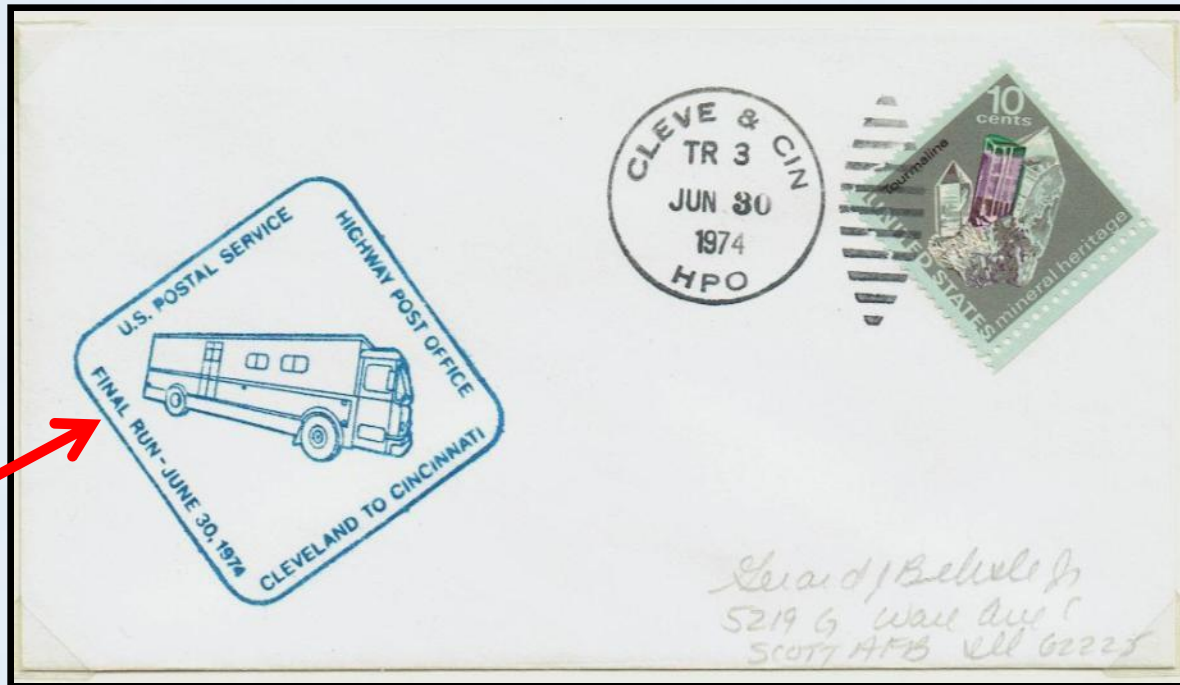
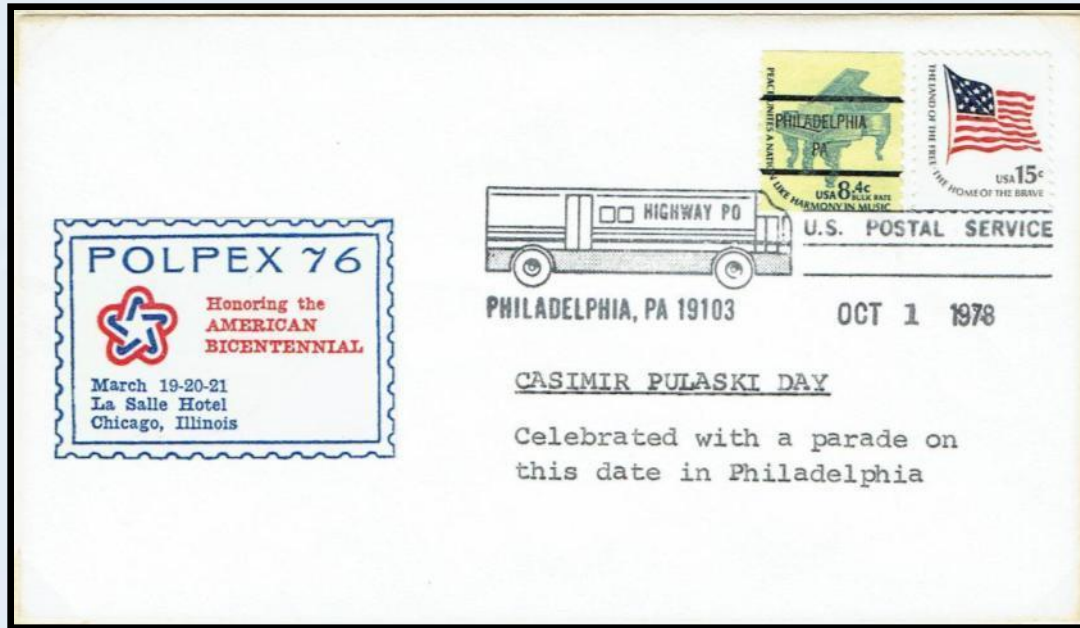


EXHIBIT COVERS



HPO buses were on display only (no mail handled).

Hundreds of exhibit covers were created.




ROUTE MAP FLYER

Route ??? between
Worthington, MN
and Sioux Falls, SD.

FIRST TRIP

HIGHWAY POST OFFICE
Between
Worthington, Minnesota and
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

SIoux FALLS
BRANDON
VALLEY SPRINGS
BEAVER CREEK
LUVERNE
MAGNOLIA
ADRIAN
RUSHMORE
WORTHINGTON



Highway Post Office
BETWEEN
WORTHINGTON, MINNESOTA
and
SIoux FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

MINN.
S. DAK.

WORTHINGTON
SIoux FALLS

WORTHINGTON, MINN. & SIoux FALLS, S. D.
JAN. 11
First Trip
1954
H. P. O.

FIRST TRIP

SOURCE MATERIALS

- Internet Sites: Wikipedia, eBay and the Smithsonian National Postal Museum.
- U.S. Highway Post Office Cover Catalog, 2nd Printing, March 2004.
- All uncredited cover images are from the collection of Andrew Boyajian.

THANK YOU, THANK YOU . . .

