

## On This Day in Postal History: Notable Events by Month/Day/Year

<b>January</b>	<p>January 1, 1856: Mailers were first required to prepay postage using U.S. postage stamps.</p> <p>January 1, 1911: The Postal Savings System began.</p> <p>January 1, 1913: Parcel Post began.</p> <p>January 1, 1918: The first known woman village carrier, Julia McGee, was appointed in Clairton, Pennsylvania.</p> <p>January 2, 1893: The first commemorative stamps were issued, honoring the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago that year.</p> <p>January 6, 1997: The first USPS Inspector General, Karla Corcoran, was sworn in.</p> <p>January 7, 1968: Priority Mail service began.</p> <p>January 8, 1850: The first U.S. Post Office in Washington State was established, at Olympia. The name of the Post Office was "Nesqually" prior to August 28, 1850.</p> <p>January 8, 1963: The last dogsled mail route in Alaska ended. It connected Gambell and Savoonga, and had been replaced by airplane service the month before.</p> <p>January 11, 1971: The first Governors of the Postal Service were appointed.</p> <p>January 17, 1706: Benjamin Franklin was born.</p> <p>January 22, 2012: The first Forever stamped card was issued.</p> <p>January 28, 2013: The first Global Forever First-Class Mail international stamp was issued.</p>
<b>February</b>	<p>February 1, 1897: Rural free delivery began in California, with three routes serving customers of the Campbell Post Office.</p> <p>February 1, 1978: The first stamp in the <i>Black Heritage</i> stamp series was issued, featuring Harriet Tubman.</p> <p>February 1, 1995: The first letter carrier uniform item to incorporate the new "sonic eagle" emblem — a navy blue windbreaker with reflective trim — became available.</p> <p>February 1, 2015: The first woman Postmaster General, Megan Brennan, took office.</p> <p>February 2, 1925: Congress passed "An Act to encourage commercial aviation and to authorize the Postmaster General to contract for airmail service."</p> <p>February 3, 1991: The Priority Mail flat-rate envelope was introduced.</p> <p>February 3, 1992: Maternity wear was introduced for female letter carriers.</p> <p>February 10, 1941: The first Highway Post Office began its run between Washington, DC, and Harrisonburg, Virginia.</p> <p>February 15, 1926: The first commercial airmail flight in the United States occurred.</p> <p>February 18, 1908: The first coil (roll) stamps were issued.</p>

	<p>February 20, 1792: An act of Congress specified that anyone convicted of stealing mail "shall, on conviction thereof, suffer death." In 1872, the maximum penalty for mail theft was reduced to a lifetime of hard labor.</p> <p>February 22, 1867: The first known African-American Postmaster, James W. Mason, was appointed as the first Postmaster of Sunny Side, Arkansas.</p> <p>February 22, 1921: Airmail was first flown both day and night, the entire distance from San Francisco to New York.</p> <p>February 25, 1895: African-American letter carriers in the District of Columbia served as pallbearers at the funeral of Frederick Douglass.</p> <p>February 27, 1983: Uniform weight and size limits applied to parcels mailed from any Post Office to any destination within the United States.</p>
<b>March</b>	<p>March 1, 1869: The Post Office Department announced the impending issue of "postage stamps of new designs." The 1869 stamp series was the first to feature "pictorial" stamps, depicting scenes instead of statesmen, and was also the first to include stamps printed in more than one color.</p> <p>March 1, 1893: Pneumatic tube service was first tested, in Philadelphia.</p> <p>March 1, 1923: Mail slots or receptacles were first required for city delivery service. Previously, letter carriers spent up to an hour a day waiting at doors where there was person-to-person delivery.</p> <p>March 3, 1845: An act of Congress directed that mail transportation contracts be awarded to the lowest bidder for what "may be necessary to provide for the due celerity, certainty and security of such transportation." Previously, more expensive stagecoach routes had often been favored. The words "celerity, certainty and security" were shortened to three asterisks or stars (***) by postal clerks, leading to the term "star routes."</p> <p>March 3, 1847: Congress authorized the first United States postage stamps. The first general issue postage stamps went on sale in New York City, July 1, 1847.</p> <p>March 3, 1847: Congress first authorized the Postmaster General to "establish one or more branch post offices ... in any city ... for the convenience of the inhabitants."</p> <p>March 3, 1863: An act of Congress based postage for a letter on its weight and eliminated all differences based on distance, thus providing universal service to customers no matter where they lived in the country. The act also created three classes of mail: First-Class Mail, which embraced letters; second-class mail, which covered publications issued at regular periods; and third-class mail, which included all other mailable matter.</p> <p>March 3, 1863: An act of Congress, effective July 1, 1863, provided that free city delivery be established at Post Offices where income from local postage was more than sufficient to pay all expenses of the service.</p> <p>March 3, 1865: An act of Congress provided that "no obscene book, pamphlet, picture, print, or other publication of a vulgar and indecent character, shall be admitted into the mails."</p> <p>March 9, 1858: Philadelphia merchant Albert Potts received a patent for a cast-iron letter box that fit over city lampposts. Hundreds of Potts' boxes were installed in Philadelphia for the deposit of U.S. Mail — these were the first post-mounted collection boxes in the U.S.</p> <p>March 13, 1997: The first triangular U.S. postage stamps were issued. Featuring a clipper ship and a stagecoach, the 32-cent stamps debuted at the Pacific 97 International Stamp Exhibition.</p> <p>March 18, 1873: Dr. Benjamin A. Boseman was appointed Postmaster of Charleston, South Carolina. He was the first known African-American Postmaster of that city and one of the highest paid in the country.</p>

	<p>March 18, 1970: Letter carriers in New York City walked off the job to protest pay and working conditions, sparking a nationwide wildcat strike. The strike ended on March 25 with the start of negotiations for a general wage increase.</p> <p>March 19, 1860: William W. Finney, western agent of the Central Overland Pony Express Company, began advertising in Sacramento newspapers for hostlers and riders to work on the Overland Express Route via Salt Lake City. Two days later he left the city with 25 successful applicants, heading east to establish Pony Express stations along the route.</p> <p>March 21, 1908: Miss Leda D. Kueker was appointed Postmaster of Niles, Kansas, at the age of 17 — the youngest known appointee (the minimum age for Postmasters was 18). She served for more than 52 years, until her retirement on May 31, 1960.</p> <p>March 21, 1957: The Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee was established.</p> <p>March 27, 1942: An act of Congress authorized members of the Armed Forces serving overseas to mail personal letters for free.</p>
<p><b>April</b></p>	<p>April 1, 1845: The first commercial telegraph service began, under the Post Office Department.</p> <p>April 1, 1855: Prepayment of postage was made compulsory; previously, the recipient could pay.</p> <p>April 1, 1973: The Postal Service first allowed male letter carriers to wear shorts during the summer months.</p> <p>April 3, 1845: Postmaster General Cave Johnson appointed Sarah Black to carry mail between the Charlestown, Maryland, Post Office and the town's railroad station, the first known appointment of a woman to carry mail.</p> <p>April 3, 1860: The Pony Express began its run through parts of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Nevada, and California.</p> <p>April 7, 1940: Booker T. Washington became the first African-American to be honored on a U.S. postage stamp.</p> <p>April 9, 1894: Postmaster General Wilson Bissell issued Order No. 114, calling for short names for new Post Offices "to remove a cause of annoyance to the Department and injury to the Postal Service." He allowed for exceptions "when the name selected is historical, or has become local by long usage."</p> <p>April 9, 1921: Postmaster General Will Hays issued Order No. 5668, which armed "all essential postal employees" to combat a rash of mail robberies. Fifty thousand guns and two million rounds of ammunition were issued to railway mail clerks and other employees who handled valuable mail.</p> <p>April 12, 2007: The first Forever Stamp was issued.</p> <p>April 14, 1892: Postmaster General John Wanamaker issued Order No. 48, instructing that "whenever it is possible the name of the post-office should be the same as that of the railway station, as well as that of the town," and recommending short, simple names.</p> <p>April 14, 1920: Airmail pilot William Hopson began his legendary career, during which he logged more than 400,000 miles and 4,000 hours in the air.</p> <p>April 15, 1926: Charles Lindbergh began flying Contract Air Mail Route 2, connecting Chicago and Saint Louis. Lindbergh flew the mail on this route until mid-February 1927, when he left the service to supervise the construction of his plane the <i>Spirit of St. Louis</i>.</p> <p>April 16, 1900: Stamp booklets were first issued. They contained 12, 24, or 48 two-cent stamps. Wax paper was placed between sheets of stamps to keep them from sticking together.</p>

	<p>April 16, 1970: Post Office Department and union leaders announced agreement on a reorganization plan, which was embodied in a legislative proposal and sent to Congress by President Nixon, ultimately leading to the transformation of the Department into the United States Postal Service.</p> <p>April 17, 1950: Residential deliveries were reduced to once a day in cities.</p> <p>April 27, 1966: The Post Office Department stopped accepting deposits to existing Postal Savings System accounts and ceased opening new ones.</p> <p>April 28, 1904: Congress authorized certain types of mail to be deposited without stamps. A mailing permit was required: in lieu of a stamp, the word "paid" was printed in the upper right corner of the envelope along with the permit number and city of mailing.</p> <p>April 30, 1957: Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield opened the first meeting of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee.</p>
<b>May</b>	<p>May 1, 1837: Postmaster General Amos Kendall changed the official seal of the Post Office Department from the Roman god Mercury to "a Post Horse in speed, with Mail-bags and rider, encircled by the words 'Post Office Department, United States of America.'" The post rider was used as the seal for 133 years, until the bald eagle was adopted in 1970.</p> <p>May 4, 1943: Postmaster General Frank Walker announced the establishment of a delivery zone numbering system in the nation's largest cities. Adding zone numbers to city addresses helped new postal employees sort mail, offsetting the loss of thousands of experienced employees to the war effort.</p> <p>May 6, 1840: The world's first postage stamp, the Penny Black, was issued by Great Britain.</p> <p>May 7, 1833: Abraham Lincoln was appointed Postmaster of New Salem, Illinois, at the age of 24. Lincoln served until the New Salem Post Office was discontinued on May 30, 1836.</p> <p>May 12, 1873: The Post Office Department issued its first stamped card in Springfield, Massachusetts, and in other cities the next day. The public responded enthusiastically: on its first day of sale in New York City, clerks sold 200,000 cards in two and a half hours.</p> <p>May 15, 1918: The Post Office Department began scheduled airmail service between New York and Washington, DC — the first airmail route in the United States.</p> <p>May 19, 1898: Congress passed an act that approved a special rate for "private mailing cards," or postcards, of one cent — the same rate used for the stamped cards issued by the Post Office Department.</p> <p>May 20, 1939: The first transatlantic airmail route — from New York to Marseilles, France — was established.</p> <p>May 23, 1918: Aviatix Katherine Stinson became the first woman to carry airmail, flying the first leg of an experimental Chicago to New York route. She had hoped to make the entire trip in one day, to break the world's nonstop distance record, but a lack of fuel forced her to land near Binghamton, New York, that evening. The field she landed on was so muddy it tripped her plane, toppling it, smashing the propeller, and damaging a wing. Before crash-landing, she had flown 783 miles in about 11 hours, breaking two American records — for distance and for endurance. Though Stinson was uninjured, her plane needed repairs; she completed the remainder of the trip on June 1 in about three hours.</p> <p>May 24, 1888: An act of Congress declared that eight hours constituted a day's work for letter carriers, and that if a letter carrier worked more than eight hours he was entitled to extra pay.</p> <p>May 27, 1833: The first U.S. Post Office in Iowa was established, at Dubuque. The name of the Post Office was "Dubuque Mines" prior to January 24, 1837.</p>

	<p>May 31, 1861: United States mail service to the southern states was temporarily suspended due to the Civil War.</p> <p>May 31, 2015: Forever stamps were first issued for postcards and letters needing additional postage.</p>
<b>June</b>	<p>June 1, 1861: The Confederate Post Office Department assumed control of Post Offices in seceded states.</p> <p>June 1, 1869: The earliest known African-American letter carrier, James B. Christian, was appointed at the Richmond, Virginia, Post Office.</p> <p>June 6, 1955: Certified Mail service began.</p> <p>June 8, 1872: The Post Office Department was established as an executive department by an act of Congress.</p> <p>June 8, 1872: An act of Congress authorized the issuance of postal cards "at a postage charge of one cent each."</p> <p>June 8, 1959: Mail was dispatched by guided missile from a U.S. Navy submarine to a naval air station in Florida.</p> <p>June 15, 1942: V-Mail service began, reducing the weight and bulk of mail sent to and from members of the Armed Forces during World War II.</p> <p>June 16, 1970: Express Mail began as a pilot program with the Federal National Mortgage Association in Washington, DC, and its regional offices in Atlanta, Dallas, Chicago, Los Angeles, and Philadelphia.</p> <p>June 25, 1910: An act of Congress established the Postal Savings System in designated Post Offices, effective January 1, 1911.</p> <p>June 27, 1884: An act of Congress granted city letter carriers 15 days of leave per year.</p> <p>June 28, 1828: At the age of 18, Roswell Beardsley was appointed Postmaster of North Lansing, New York. He served 74 years — longer than any other known Postmaster — under 20 Presidents and 35 Postmasters General. He died in 1902 at the age of 93.</p> <p>June 30, 1977: The last Railway Post Office, which operated between New York and Washington, DC, on Penn Central/Conrail, made its final run.</p>
<b>July</b>	<p>July 1, 1845: Postage rates for letters were drastically reduced, in some cases by more than two-thirds. For example, the cost of sending a letter from Baltimore to New York City was lowered to 5 cents, from 18.75 cents. At the same time, the five distance-based rate categories were reduced to two, making it easier to calculate postage due.</p> <p>July 1, 1847: The Post Office Department issued its first postage stamps. Previously, letters were taken to a Post Office, where the postal employees would note the postage due (or paid) in the upper right corner.</p> <p>July 1, 1853: The first printed stamped envelopes were issued.</p> <p>July 1, 1861: The Pony Express began operating under contract with the Post Office Department as a U.S. Mail route (it had operated since April 1860 as a private express company). The Pony Express officially ended four months later, on October 26, 1861, after the transcontinental telegraph line was completed.</p> <p>July 1, 1863: An act of Congress effective on this date provided that free city delivery be established at Post Offices where income from local postage was more than sufficient to pay all expenses of the service.</p>

July 1, 1898: A one-cent rate for postcards was introduced. Previously, postcards had been mailed at the higher letter rate.

July 1, 1900: Some star route contracts began providing for delivery to and collection from rural mail boxes erected along the routes.

July 1, 1902: Rural free delivery became a permanent service. The word "free" was dropped in 1906, since it was understood.

July 1, 1924: Regularly scheduled transcontinental airmail service with night flying began.

July 1, 1928: A new "bulk mail" rate for third-class mail took effect.

July 1, 1952: Nonprofit organizations were first eligible for discounted third-class mail rates.

July 1, 1963: The ZIP Code launched.

July 1, 1967: The Postal Savings System officially ended.

July 1, 1971: The United States Postal Service, the successor of the Post Office Department, officially began operations.

July 2, 1899: An electric automobile was tested for mail collection in Buffalo, New York.

July 4, 1955: Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield announced that street collection boxes would be painted red, white, and blue to make them more easily identifiable. Previously they had been painted olive drab.

July 6, 1976: The first workshare discount was introduced, for First-Class Mail presorted by ZIP Code.

July 7, 1838: An act of Congress designated all United States railroads as post routes.

July 7, 2000: The first circular U.S. postage stamp, the \$11.75 "Space Achievement and Exploration" Express Mail stamp, was issued. It featured a hologram of Earth — another first.

July 13, 1892: An act of Congress authorized an investigation into the "rapid dispatch of mail by means of pneumatic tubes." The next year, pneumatic tubes were used to transport mail beneath Philadelphia's crowded streets; later systems served five other cities.

July 15, 1904: Miss Viola Bennett was appointed as the first rural carrier at the Suwanee, Georgia, Post Office. According to the September 13 issue of *The [Atlanta] Constitution*, she "won her appointment over seven male applicants, practically all of whom possessed superior educational advantages" to "aid her parents, who are in moderate circumstances, in bringing up and educating a large family of girls." About 100 women served as rural carriers in 1904.

July 22, 1915: Postmaster General Albert S. Bursleson issued an order amending postal regulations to permit rural carriers to use automobiles on their routes, as long as they had the express permission of the Post Office Department.

July 22, 1969: The crew of Apollo 11 canceled the first piece of mail carried to the moon with a postmark reading "Moon Landing, U.S.A." Although the postmark was dated July 20, the first chance the crew had to cancel the envelope was two days later on the journey home.

July 23, 1867: The first U.S. Post Office in Alaska was established, at Sitka.

July 25, 1940: The Post Office Department began delivering its most valuable shipment of mail — more than \$9 billion in gold bullion, sent from the U.S. Assay Office in New York to underground vaults in Fort Knox, Kentucky. During World War II, vast amounts of gold had been shipped to New York from war-torn Europe. The Department took six months to complete the delivery, using 45 specially guarded trains and earning \$1.8 million in postage and fees.

	<p>July 26, 1775: The Continental Congress created the position of Postmaster General and named Benjamin Franklin to it, directing him to appoint deputies and establish “a line of posts . . . from Falmouth in New England to Savannah in Georgia, with as many cross posts as he shall think fit.” This act signaled the birth of the Post Office Department, the predecessor of the United States Postal Service.</p> <p>July 27, 1868: Congress authorized the use of uniforms by letter carriers.</p> <p>July 29, 1998: The first U.S. semipostal, the <i>Breast Cancer Research</i> stamp, was issued.</p> <p>July 30, 1993: The Smithsonian’s National Postal Museum opened in Washington, DC.</p>
<b>August</b>	<p>August 1, 1899: Rural free delivery began in Texas, with one carrier delivering mail in Fate and another in La Grange.</p> <p>August 10, 1753: Benjamin Franklin was appointed joint Postmaster General of North America by the British Crown Post.</p> <p>August 12, 1918: The Post Office Department took over all phases of airmail service from the Army, using newly hired civilian pilots and mechanics and six specially built mail planes from the Standard Aircraft Corporation.</p> <p>August 12, 1970: President Nixon signed into law the most comprehensive postal legislation since the founding of the Republic, the <i>Postal Reorganization Act</i>, which transformed the Post Office Department into the United States Postal Service.</p> <p>August 15, 1899: Rural free delivery began in Utah, with one carrier delivering mail to customers of the Murray Post Office.</p> <p>August 15, 1900: Rural free delivery began in Oklahoma, with one carrier delivering mail to customers of the Hennessey Post Office.</p> <p>August 20, 1792: The first U.S. Post Office in Kentucky was established, at Danville.</p> <p>August 24, 1912: An act of Congress authorized Parcel Post. Service began January 1, 1913.</p> <p>August 28, 1864: The first U.S. Railway Post Office (RPO) route was officially established when George B. Armstrong, Chicago’s assistant Postmaster, placed a car equipped for general distribution in service between Chicago and Clinton, Iowa, on the Chicago and North Western Railroad.</p>
<b>September</b>	<p>September 1, 1869: International money orders were first issued.</p> <p>September 1, 1927: Contract carriers begin transporting all airmail.</p> <p>September 5, 1918: Miss Irma G. Craig became the first regularly-appointed woman letter carrier in Washington, DC.</p> <p>September 7, 1802: The first U.S. Post Office in Michigan was established, at Detroit.</p> <p>September 8, 1920: The last leg of transcontinental airmail route was completed, connecting Omaha with San Francisco.</p> <p>September 12, 1877: Zachary T. "Z. T." Fletcher was appointed as the first Postmaster of Nicodemus, Kansas — a frontier town founded by African-Americans from the South seeking a better life.</p> <p>September 12, 1995: The USPS corporate logo became a registered trademark.</p> <p>September 14, 1967: The first National Postal Forum kicked off.</p>

	<p>September 15, 1858: Scheduled semiweekly overland mail service, from Saint Louis and Memphis to San Francisco, began under a contract with John Butterfield's Overland Mail Company.</p> <p>September 23, 1966: Henry W. McGee was named acting Postmaster of Chicago. Less than two months later he was appointed as Chicago's first African-American Postmaster.</p> <p>September 27, 1792: Sarah DeCrow of Hertford, North Carolina, became the first woman appointed Postmaster under the U.S. Constitution.</p>
<b>October</b>	<p>October 1, 1885: Special delivery service began (it ended in 1997).</p> <p>October 1, 1896: The Post Office Department began rural free delivery on an experimental basis in three communities in Jefferson County, West Virginia. Within a year, rural routes had been established in 29 states. The popular service quickly spread to every state in the nation and was made permanent in 1902.</p> <p>October 1, 1906: The first contract for mail collection by gasoline-powered automobile began, in Baltimore, Maryland.</p> <p>October 6, 1933: The first U.S. Post Office was established in Antarctica.</p> <p>October 9, 1874: The Universal Postal Union was established.</p> <p>October 9, 1983: Discounts were first offered for First-Class Mail bearing the ZIP+4 Code.</p> <p>October 11, 1923: The De Autremont brothers held up the mail train near Siskiyou, Oregon.</p> <p>October 12, 1993: The USPS corporate logo (the "sonic eagle") was unveiled.</p> <p>October 14, 1975: The Postal Service issued its first nondenominated stamps.</p> <p>October 15, 1901: William Carney resigned after serving for nearly 32 years as a letter carrier in New Bedford, Massachusetts. He was the first African-American to earn the Medal of Honor, for bravery during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863.</p>
<b>November</b>	<p>November 1, 1864: Domestic money orders were first issued.</p> <p>November 1, 1945: V-Mail service ended. More than a billion V-Mail letters were delivered between June 1942 and November 1945.</p> <p>November 1, 1962: The first Christmas-themed U.S. postage stamp was issued.</p> <p>November 6, 1917: Mrs. Permelia S. Campbell and Mrs. Nellie M. McGrath began delivering mail in Washington, DC — the first women known to have served as city letter carriers.</p> <p>November 8, 1958: Harry Winston mailed the Hope Diamond from New York to the Smithsonian in Washington, DC, via registered, First-Class Mail. The postage cost \$2.44, plus \$142.85 for \$1 million worth of insurance.</p> <p>November 15, 1869: William Carney was appointed a letter carrier at the New Bedford, Massachusetts, Post Office; he served for nearly 32 years. He was the first African-American to earn the Medal of Honor, for bravery during the Battle of Fort Wagner in 1863.</p> <p>November 15, 1872: The first known African-American woman Postmaster, Mrs. Anna M. Dumas, was appointed Postmaster of the Covington, Louisiana, Post Office.</p> <p>November 16, 1920: The first postage meter went into commercial use.</p> <p>November 20, 2004: The Priority Mail Flat Rate Box was introduced.</p>

	<p>November 22, 1935: The first transpacific airmail route was established, from San Francisco to the Philippines.</p> <p>November 23, 1917: First Assistant Postmaster General John C. Koons asked the Postmasters of eight of the largest U.S. Post Offices to conduct 15-day tests of women as letter carriers, to prepare for a possible wartime necessity.</p> <p>November 24, 1902: Postmaster General Henry Payne ordered that effective December 1, "a classified woman employee in the postal service who shall change her name by marriage will not be reappointed." This policy affected rural carriers, city carriers, village carriers, clerks at large Post Offices, and beginning in 1908 some small-town Postmasters. It continued until November 27, 1921, when Postmaster General Will Hays ended it.</p> <p>November 28, 1970: The first group of Postmasters was appointed on merit alone under the Postal Reorganization Act.</p> <p>November 29, 1799: The first U.S. Post Office in Mississippi was established, at Natchez.</p>
<b>December</b>	<p>December 2, 1914: Harry Truman was appointed Postmaster of Grandview, Missouri. He was Postmaster in name only — he delegated the job and its pay over to a widow, Ella Hall, who needed the money.</p> <p>December 3, 1896: Rural free delivery began in Michigan, with two carriers delivering mail to customers of the Climax Post Office.</p> <p>December 3, 1904: American artist N.C. Wyeth wrote in his diary: "My last trip! Thank God." Wyeth had carried mail on horseback for two and a half weeks between Fort Defiance, Arizona, and Two Gray Hills, New Mexico, because he'd been robbed by bandits while touring out west and needed the money. He earned \$1.25 a day for making the difficult 100-mile round trip.</p> <p>December 7, 1896: Rural free delivery began in Alabama, with one carrier delivering mail to customers of the Opelika Post Office.</p> <p>December 8, 1896: Rural free delivery began in Georgia, with one carrier delivering mail to customers of the Quitman Post Office.</p> <p>December 10, 1896: Rural free delivery began in Illinois, with three carriers delivering mail to customers of the Auburn Post Office.</p> <p>December 12, 1953: Pneumatic tube service ended in New York City, the last of six cities to use underground tubes to transport U.S. Mail.</p> <p>December 20, 1899: Carroll County, Maryland, became the first county to be completely served by rural free delivery.</p> <p>December 20, 2006: President George Bush signed into law the <i>Postal Accountability and Enhancement Act</i>.</p> <p>December 21, 1896: Rural free delivery began in Vermont, with two carriers delivering mail to customers of the Grand Isle Post Office.</p>