

U. S. POSTAL SERVICE
ROUTING SLIP

DEPT., OFFICE OR
ROOM NO.

TO: Pete Packard

1 Postmaster, Worthington, MA 01098

2

3

4

5

- APPROVAL
- SIGNATURE
- COMMENT
- SEE ME
- AS REQUESTED
- INFORMATION
- READ AND RETURN
- READ AND FILE
- NECESSARY ACTION
- INVESTIGATE
- RECOMMENDATION
- PREPARE REPLY

FROM: Joseph H. Nolan
MSC Manager/Postmaster
Hartford, CT 06101-9998

EXTENSION

ROOM NO.

DATE

2/9/83

REMARKS:

Pete:

Read, with interest, an article in Sunday's
Hartford Courant concerning life in the country
(Worthington).

It was a pleasure to read about the good mail
service provided by your office.

Keep up the good work.

Joe Nolan

UNITED STATES POST OFFICE

POSTMASTER
HARTFORD, CT. 06101

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
EP194

Pete Packard
Postmaster
Worthington, MA 01098

22 Rush St. #2
Somerville, MA 02145
Feb. 21, 1987

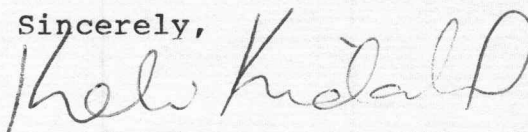
Cullen S. Packard
Postmaster
Worthington, MA 01098-9998

Dear Postmaster Packard

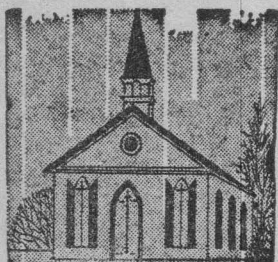
I want to thank you for your informative letter and the clippings, about the Worthington post office. They were indeed quite useful, I am very glad to have all that information you were able to share with me. I really appreciate your taking the time to help me, and your willingness to share the clippings. Please accept my apologies for taking so long to get them copied, and to thank you.

Again, thank you very much. I have added your name to the list of those whose very important help shall be acknowledged.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kelvin Kindahl". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Kelvin Kindahl



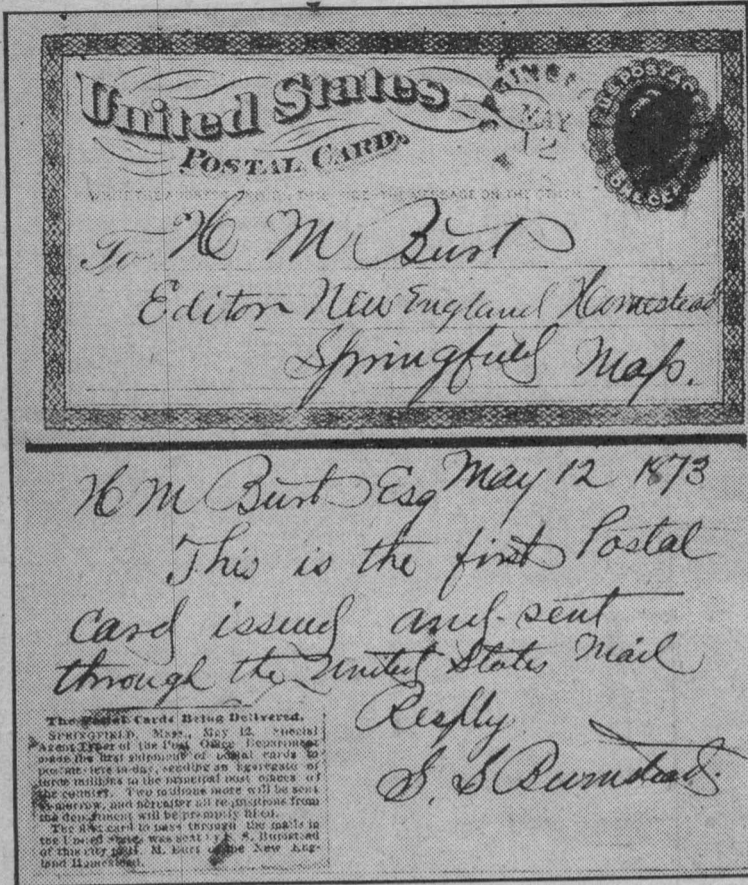
HILLTOWN NEWS

Chesterfield — Cummington — Goshen
Huntington — Haydenville
Plainfield — Worthington
Williamsburg



WORTHINGTON—Acting Postmaster Cullen S. Packard turns the crank and zip, zip, zip, the letters roll through the “new” cancelling machine. At least the antiquated machine is new in Worthington, though it was retired from service in another area post office where it had been gathering dust until recently. Through most of the past Christmas rush when previous records for heavy mail were broken, Worthington’s outgoing mail was still cancelled by hand—thump, thump, thump. While visiting another post office, the hand crank cancelling machine, which had been replaced with a modern one, caught Mr. Packard’s eye. He made inquiries and after a requisition was made through proper channels, the old machine arrived in Worthington to begin a new lease on life. Greatly speeding up the old hand cancelling routine, the machine has come into its own again and is receiving the respect due such an important fixture.

First Postal Card Ever Mailed



First Postal Card to Go Through Mails Exhibited

Printed by Morgan Envelope Company in City in 1873 and Sent by Bumstead, Coal Dealer, to Burt, N. E. Homestead Founder

Lost to sight for many years, the first postal card to go through the mails in the United States was recently found and was brought back yesterday to this city, where it was printed by the Morgan Envelope Company and mailed on May 12, 1873, by S. S. Bumstead, coal dealer, to Henry M. Burt, founder of the New England Homestead, bearing this message:

"May 12, 1873
 "H. M. Burt, Esq. This is the first Postal card issued and sent through the United States mail.
 Reply
 S. S. BUMSTEAD."

The newspaper clipping attached was as follows:

"Springfield, Mass., May 12. Special Agent Tyner of the Post Office Department made the first shipment of postal cards to postmasters to-day, sending an aggregate of three millions to the principal post offices of the country. Two million more will be sent to-morrow, and hereafter all requisitions from the department will be promptly filled.

"The first card to pass through the mails of the United States was sent by S. S. Bumstead of this city to H. M. Burt of the New England Homestead."

The card had its first public exhibition last evening at a meeting of the Springfield Stamp Club at the residence of E. E. Thompson. Its history was told by the discoverer, Frank H. Burt of Arlington, son of the recipient of the card, after a talk by William C. Stone of this city on the history of the postal cards of the United States.

"I knew that my father received the card," said Mr. Burt, "and I saw it a few times but never knew what had become of it. My father died in 1899 and my mother came to live with me in Newton, bringing many of his papers, but she knew nothing of the card and I gave it up as lost.

"Having moved from Newton to Arlington I was clearing out my attic in Newton and found, in one of the boxes, a blank book with a quantity of letters between its leaves. These proved to be autograph letters of the '60s and '70s from men of more

or less prominence in their day—governors, congressmen and authors, many of them personal friends of my father. Having glanced them through I put the book with its contents in my briefcase and took the bus for home.

"But my curiosity was unsatisfied and, while on the way, I opened the briefcase and took out at random a letter—written, I believe, by Charles Delano, Northampton lawyer, once a member of Congress—and within its folds was the long missing postal card.

Mr. Stone showed an unused postal card of the same issue, certified by George W. Tyner, government agent supervising the manufacture of the cards and their shipment, to have been taken from the first perfect sheet printed which was accepted by the department April 30, twelve days before the first issue to the public. Another card shown by Mr. Stone bore the advertisement of Mr. Bumstead, being one of the first lot ever used for the purpose.

He also showed an unused card of the same issue, on the back of which was printed in old English type: "Compliments of E. Morgan", head of the Morgan Envelope Company, and below in small italics, "From the first package of postal cards sold by the United States." This card was given Mr. Stone by a son of Mr. Morgan, who found it among his father's effects after the latter's death.

Mr. Burt, a graduate of the Springfield High School (1878), is a lawyer and shorthand reporter and was formerly published of "Among the Clouds", a summer newspaper founded by his father and printed on Mt. Washington.

Longmeadow
Atty. Bodfish Is
Again President
 Community Brotherhood Re-

WILL
 HER
 Hayden
 Cong
 Ru

Who will
 Second Co
 representative
 vention to
 Temple re
 It was in
 announced
 strong sup
 They ar
 president
 with 3000
 former pre
 members.
 of others
 th³ floor.
 L. Reas
 crat
 Fr.
 Town
 The
 duly ele
 excluded
 anticip
 among
 by sp
 candid
 Both
 have
 from
 both a
 200 del
 tion.
 The
 being the
 egates all

Junio
 E
 Longes
 An

The
 Show to
 tate of
 son in
 meadow
 events
 tory.
 lead re
 ship; 1
 13 year
 13 year
 10.45,
 girl un
 ship—g
 class;
 girl un
 saddle
 —over
 ring);
 Lun
 ground
 exhibit
 Scout
 open t
 Aftern
 open j
 pupils;
 boy or
 pony;
 event;
 or girl
 child;
 13 year
 saddle
 4.45,
 p.m.,

To
 Coop
 courses
 Methodi
 George
 ent, is
 ters of
 Norwic
 ity Ch
 is exp
 will b
 hear
 and
 Theod
 W. I
 The
 lectur

CONGRATS - GREAT PR JOB
 BY A GREAT PM - Jim
 Merry Christmas

Post Office Is Revamped



WORTHINGTON—A new look in the small post office will greet the rush of Christmas patrons.

By **DOROTHY POTTER**

WORTHINGTON — Ready for the holiday rush Postmaster Cullen S. "Pete" Packard greets customers from behind a new window in the recently expanded Worthington Post Office.

Residents who visit the Post Office daily to collect their mail from rented boxes were startled on a recent morning to find that overnight the Post Office had been transformed and turned about. The new windows were set up where the mail boxes used to be. The giant honeycomb of mail cubicles was moved to the side and enlarged

to 200 boxes where there had been 150 before.

In addition to processing mail for some 145 boxholders, the village Post Office sorts correspondence for 100 residents on delivery routes on the Huntington Rd., to Windsor and to Williamsburg.

Postmaster "Pete" is the second generation of his family behind the mail window. His father, Merwin Packard, retired three years ago after serving as village postmaster for 40 years.

The Post Office shares quarters in a 108-year-old building with the general store, the

Corners Grocery, owned by the Packards. The Post Office-store complex serves as the "nerve center" for the hilltown and Postmaster "Pete" is often called upon to be a one-man "Information Please." It has often been all in a day's work to: welcome new residents; give directions to lost travelers; receive and transmit emergency firecalls; locate lost children and pets; arrange ambulance runs; distribute cigars for proud new parents; manage collections for bereaved families; run errands and deliveries for shut-ins; answer questions on local history and community events.

Post Office Is Revamped



WORTHINGTON—A new look in the small post office will greet the rush of Christmas patrons.

By DOROTHY POTTER

WORTHINGTON — Ready for the holiday rush Postmaster Cullen S. "Pete" Packard greets customers from behind a new window in the recently expanded Worthington Post Office.

Residents who visit the Post Office daily to collect their mail from rented boxes were startled on a recent morning to find that overnight the Post Office had been transformed and turned about. The new windows were set up where the mail boxes used to be. The giant honeycomb of mail cubicles was moved to the side and enlarged

to 200 boxes where there had been 150 before.

In addition to processing mail for some 145 boxholders, the village Post Office sorts correspondence for 100 residents on delivery routes on the Huntington Rd., to Windsor and to Williamsburg.

Postmaster "Pete" is the second generation of his family behind the mail window. His father, Merwin Packard, retired three years ago after serving as village postmaster for 40 years.

The Post Office shares quarters in a 108-year-old building with the general store, the

Corners Grocery, owned by the Packards. The Post Office-store complex serves as the "nerve center" for the hilltown and Postmaster "Pete" is often called upon to be a one-man "Information Please." It has often been all in a day's work to: welcome new residents; give directions to lost travelers; receive and transmit emergency firecalls; locate lost children and pets; arrange ambulance runs; distribute cigars for proud new parents; manage collections for bereaved families; run errands and deliveries for shut-ins; answer questions on local history and community events.

New England Week In Washington

Compiled By Our Washington Bureau

News Briefs

BOSTON (AP)—If you have

Harriet Osgood: 25 years of dedicated post office service

by JANET DIMOCK

WORTHINGTON — She's a fighter to the many folks who see her daily at the Worthington Post Office next to the Corners Store to pick up their

Harriet Osgood's 25 years of dedicated work was rewarded recently when U.S. postal officials presented her with a silver service pin in recognition of the many hours spent sorting mail, selling stamps, weighing packages and performing other duties that fall on a post office employee in a small town.

Though she admits to an occasional thought about retirement, she says she would miss the life of the post office. "I love it," she explains.

Suburban spotlight

Post office like this, you know every single thing," she said. Unlike her postal counterparts in more metropolitan areas, she has had to be involved with all the tasks at hand and occasionally fill in for the postmaster.

After working in the small, rural post office on Sept. 17, she received the invitation of then postmaster Merwin Packard. She was looking for an additional job and he approached her. With her oldest son working and her two daughters in high school, she decided to take the job, especially since she could walk to work from her nearby home on Main Road.

At first, she was not so sure about the late husband Kenneth's enthusiasm. "Kenneth thought that women should



HARRIET OSGOOD, left, accepts a 25-year service pin from Worthington Postmaster Cullen Packard recently. The occasion brought out many memories of the years she has spent selling stamps and keeping the post office running smoothly.

(Photo by Janet Dimock)

work," she explained. Thus, she turned to Packard to speak to her husband on her behalf. As it turned out, Osgood thought the whole thing was a "good idea."

Looking back over the last quarter century, there have been a few changes around the post office — including the location. People used to call for their mail inside the store where an ice cream freezer now stands, Packard said. In fact, the postal facility has changed location within the store five times in all, until it came rest in the store's addition.

The volume — and the kind of mail — along with the number of customers has increased through

the years, Mrs. Osgood noted. "There's a lot more paperwork than there used to be," she said.

"Star routes (the rural delivery routes) are four times what they used to be," the postmaster observed. And Mrs. Osgood said that people are receiving fewer packages percentage-wise plus "a lot more junk mail." Demand for locked postal boxes has really jumped in the past few years to the point where there now is a waiting list, something which never happened in the past, she said.

In those early days, those that did not have their mail delivered on a rural route could call for their mail at the service window.

Letters would be handed to them by the post office worker. There were no individual locked boxes for people to open, she said.

More time was spent boning up on post office regulations, however, now the changes come too fast to even keep track of them. "We used to study the rules, they didn't change like they do now. You can't keep up with it," she lamented.

The rural post office also has to deal with bulk mailings and issuing private postal meters, a job that didn't exist two decades ago.

Mrs. Osgood has expressed satisfaction with her job and says she never hankered for advancement, even when she had the chance to be post mistress for a spell.

She took over temporarily when Merwin Packard retired after 40 years on the job. After six weeks on the job, she gladly turned the reins of the post office over to Packard's son, Cullen 'Pete' Packard.

Mrs. Osgood does admit however that she has one regret. The town has grown so fast in recent years that she no longer knows all the people who come here. "You don't know anybody any more," she said. Packard added that at one time he could recognize anyone at the post office window without even turning around. Customers became so familiar after awhile that they could all be recognized by the sound of their voice.

After years of sorting mail, and selling thousands — perhaps millions — of stamps, Mrs. Osgood summed up her 25 years behind the post office window. "It's kind of fun."

Lois Ashe Brown
238-7761

Worthington

“Welcome to Worthington” reception set for Sunday

WORTHINGTON— The third annual “Welcome to Worthington” reception will be held Sunday afternoon from 3 to 5 at the Library, in combination with an open house to show off the new bookcases and the Library’s rearrangement.

Joan Donovan and Lois Ashe Brown will host the event with Marcia Zimmer coordinating representatives of all local organizations, which have been asked to contribute \$1 toward the cost of the party.

The first and second floors of the Library have been completely rearranged in recent weeks to make room for new bookcases and to move books down to the first floor to make them more accessible. The large conference room that has been on the first floor since 1915 has been moved on the second floor

where it is more convenient for use at meetings.

The Rice Memorial Room at the middle of the second floor has been turned over to the Historical Society for their displays and storage and access to their historical records. The Society also uses the North Room for storage of town history records.

Local organizations are invited to join in the reception and to promote their groups in welcoming new residents.

Children will have their own refreshments and storytelling and entertainment in “their room” during the reception. This will be a golden opportunity for all organizations to both recruit new members in each interest group and to extend neighborly greetings, according to Mrs. Donovan.

Lottery Council announces of Susan Yard Harris’ works

WORTHINGTON— Accord- DeMott of the Arts Lottery group has planned a show of artist Susan Harris’ work to hang at the library for two weeks, beginning on October 18. The public opening reception will be held Saturday at 4

pen and ink, has illustrated children’s books and has shown her major works in many exhibits, here and in New York City. Her drawings for John Jiler’s book “Wild Berry Moon,” a story about a pig and a snake, have made a name for her as an illustrator. Her husband, Mordicai Gerstein, also illustrates and writes children’s books.

Worthington Post Office is 200 years old

WORTHINGTON— Worthington postmarks are going to be hard to come by if the present postal service has its way.

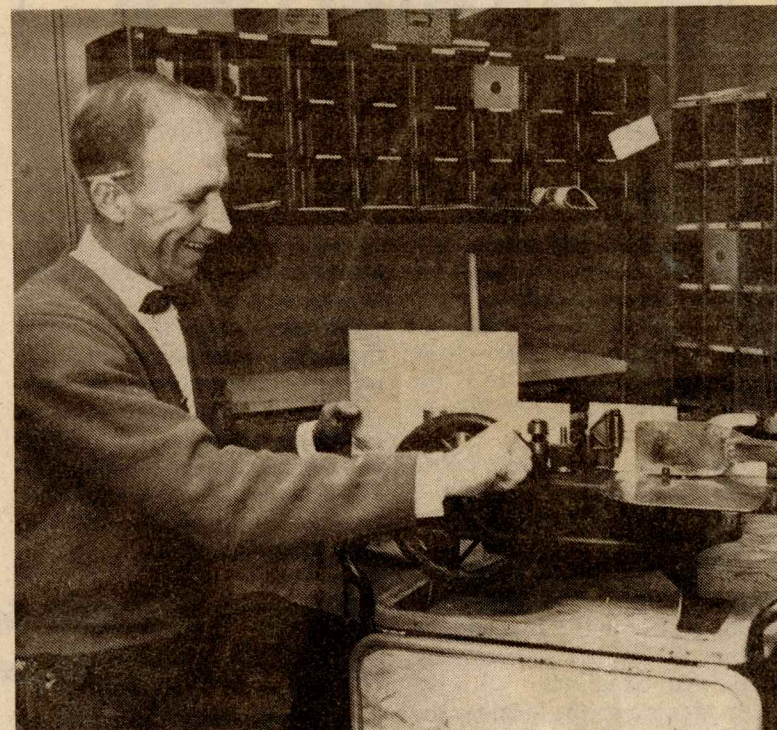
According to a notice posted last week by Postmaster Cullen S. Packard, anyone wishing their outgoing mail to bear a Worthington postmark must deposit it in the slot marked LOCAL. That mail will then be run by hand through the antique cancelling machine shown in this picture.

All other outgoing mail will be dumped into canvas mail bags to be cancelled at the big General Mail facility in Springfield.

The Worthington post office was established on July 1, 1796 as the first one between Northampton and Pittsfield on the Boston to Albany Turnpike. According to the records, Asa Bigelow was the first postmaster. He served until 1805 when William Ward was appointed. Ward served for 35 years, at the same time operating the general store at Worthington Corners. He was followed by Hiram Bagg for only a year and then re-appointed for seven years. Simeon Clapp served for a brief year and a half and then Ward came back for another two years before finally retiring.

From Ward’s retirement in 1850 until 1925 when the late Merwin F. Packard was appointed, the local office was served by Edward C. Porter for nine years, Clark H. Bates for three years, Horace Cole I for nineteen years, Charles K. Brewster for six years, then Horace Cole II for twenty-five years, and Edward J. Bligh for eleven years.

Merwin Packard nearly matched Ward’s record when he retired in 1965 with a 40 year



Postmaster Packard is preserving the Worthington postmark, cancelling stamps with this antique cancelling machine.

(Photo courtesy of Lois Brown)

record. He was succeeded by his son, Cullen who has held the post for 21 years.

In earlier times, Worthington had post offices at other sites in town. Postmarks from West Worthington, Ringville, and South Worthington are collector’s items today. Over the years, those small offices were phased out and their patrons are now served by rural free delivery routes run out of the main office at Worthington Corners.

Increased revenue and growth of this community has graduated Worthington’s post office upward to second class.

Except for a time when the post office was located in the

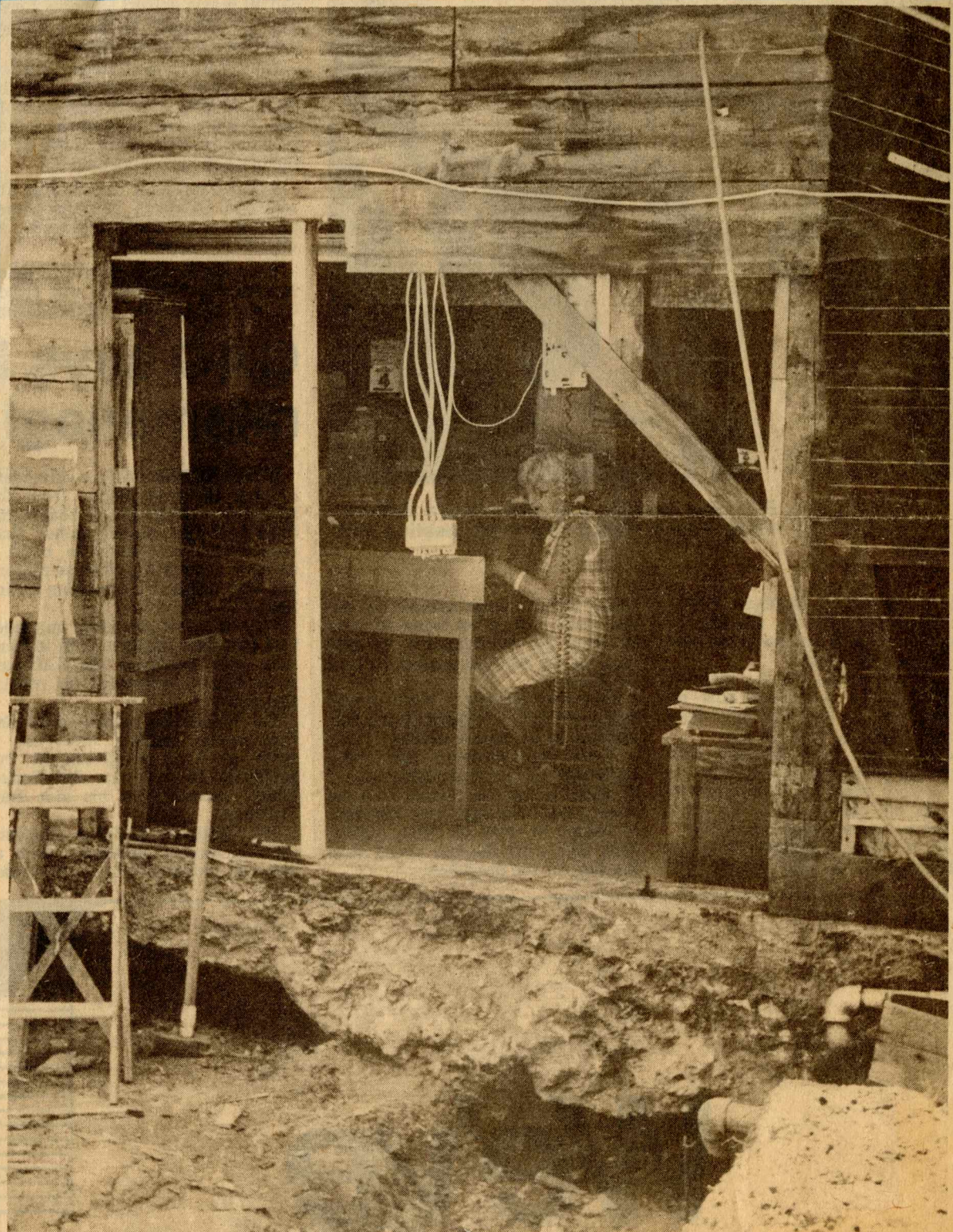
Bates home on Buffington Hill Road, it has been at the same site where it is today as a part of the general store complex. When fire destroyed an earlier building in 1855, the present building was put up by Horace Cole I who also built several of the homes around the Corners.

Just as towns lose their identity when they lose their post office, as so many small towns have found to their sorrow, so also do they lose it when their mail no longer bears the postmark of their town. Some may not care, but for those who do, Postmaster Packard will still cancel their stamps with the Worthington postmark.

DAILY HAMPSHIRE

Published 1786 — Vol. 196 No. 284

NORTHAMPTON, MASS., TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 1982



**Neither rain, nor snow,
nor hole in the wall . . .**

W... post office worker Harriet Osgood keeps
w... renovations are being done to the local
b... building. Space for the post office will be
n... a 10-foot addition to the Corners
s... complete... (photo by Janet Dimock)