

# Colbert County Reporter

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## First Postage Stamps Cost Same Now As 115 Years Ago

The new nickel letter rate recently enacted into law is the same postage rate American paid for letters when the United States issued its first postage stamps 115 years ago. Postmasters (See above) said yesterday. The new rate went into effect Monday, January 7.

Research shows that, in 1847, the Post Office Department issued its first stamps, including a nickel stamp for the basic pre-paid letter rate. The Postmasters added. However, they were quick to remind that a nickel was a lot harder to come by in those days.

Bringing the comparison more up to date, the Postmasters said that since 1922 living costs in the American family have skyrocketed by 118 percent, while the cost of mailing a first-class letter has only increased by one cent, or 53 percent. At the same time, said as in 1847—it will still be one of the greatest bargains in American history. It has been estimated that the increase on first-class letters from four cents to five cents per ounce will only cost the family one-half cent per day, or about \$1.80 a year.

The Postmasters strongly urged citizens to be very careful to place the proper amount of postage on letters after January 7, to make sure your friends or correspondents do not have to make up the deficient postage. Other changes, the Postmasters reminded, will also be made. Air Mail letters will cost eight cents per ounce instead of seven. First-class postage will cost four cents instead of three with all cards going from five to six cents. The extra charge of one cent for stamp booklets containing the five-cent and eight-cent denominations has been dropped with the booklets being sold at \$1 and \$2 respectively. In addition a handy postage chart has been included on the inside covers. Additional information on the new postage fees is available at the local post offices.

## Twenty-five Years Ago

As Recorded In The Pages Of The Colbert County Reporter

Noted Movie Star Gene Autry to visit the Tri-Cities bringing his horse, Champion with him... Lister Hill nominated for the U. S. Senate over Tom Heflin by 76,371 to 41,521.

March of Dimes campaign begins to make it debut. L. B. Rorex, electrician from Tusculumbia is injured by fall from power pole on West street.

H. S. Gorton, secretary-treasurer of the Russellville Credit Production Association, in a letter to this news paper states that a meeting of the stockholders is called for at Russellville. Mrs. Lee Stanley, circuit court clerk, states that Judge Chas. Almon has called for a jury of 12 for the non-jury court to meet at the courthouse.

John F. Yarbrough installed as president of the Kiwanis club and other officers are Henry Sockwell vice president, James Mayes secretary, and Otto Mueller, James Tompkins, Dr. R. E. Harper, Joe McWilliams and H. N. Morris directors.

Sheriff Sockwell and his force raid two tin stills on the Russellville mountain. Dr. and Mrs. C. R. Whitman return from Miami where they witnessed the Orange Bowl football game. C. V. Morris attends the Sun in New Orleans and is accompanied home by Mrs. Morris who visited her sister, Mrs. Taylor Bodkin. Mrs. Robert McKinley of Sommerville, Ky., visits with her mother, Mrs. Ed Hamlet. Miss Kathrene Hyds resumes her teaching at the new Miss Louise Burns and Felix Edward Throckmorton, Jr., are married at the Methodist parsonage in Montevallo by Rev. O. T. Burns. Miss Helene Yarbrough entertains the members of the Deshaire High School Staff at a program of games were projected and the winners were Miss Mary Elizabeth Thompson, Frank Tompkins and Joe Chapman. A Holiday party is given by Miss Sara Ellen Schmidt. H. J. Oll (Sonny) Grimes returns to the University after spending the holidays with his parents. Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Hughton. Miss Effie Kimbrough visiting in Memphis. Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Sherrard announce the birth of a daughter Mrs. Marshall Duke and small son visit to Phil Campbell.

Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Chambers and Joe Ann of Athens return home after a visit with Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Blackburn. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Palmer leave for Decatur to ride. W. W. White is home from a trip to Florida.

Robert Beasley, Jr., president of the Deshaire High School Staff, returns from Auburn where he attended the H. Y. Council meeting.

Have You Answered Your TB Seal Letter? Is there an unanswered letter on your desk? Have you made a mental note to be sure to attend to it tomorrow? This is a reminder that the Christmas Seals in that letter... might be the means of assuring new life for several people in Colbert county who inevitably will be stricken with TB this year.

During 1963 Alabama will hear a great deal about TB... periodic chest X-rays, new methods of prevention and new techniques in cure will be investigated and used.

Receipts from the Christmas Seal Campaign are still coming in, according to Mrs. Clay Frazier, Colbert County Christmas Seal Chairman. Every letter returned is certainly appreciated. As of January 5, 1963, we have received \$3,681.00 toward our county goal of \$4,300.00.

Marja Aigner, 93, Passes Away Miss Maria Frances Aigner, 93, of Rt. 2, died last week. Funeral services were held Friday at 9 a.m. at Our Lady of the Shoals Catholic Church with Rev. Lambert Gattman, O. S. B., officiating.

Burial was in the Catholic Cemetery with Brown-Service Funeral Home directing. Rosary said at the residence. Survivors are two brothers, Pete Aigner of Muscle Shoals City, John Aigner of Muskogee, Okla.; a number of nieces and nephews. Pallbearers were Frank Dirago, James Dirago, Carl Thompson, Ernest Staley, Ernest Manush, John Funke Jr.

## EDITORIAL GRIST

### THE LOVE OF LEARNING

The concern is legitimate over whether this country is going to have enough school buildings and teachers to handle the rush of young Americans who will be seeking education at all levels in the decade ahead.

Yet it would be unwise to conclude that if by some miracle we should meet these requirements we would have no other major educational worries.

We must have youngsters who want to learn. The forecast of 7.5 million school dropouts for the next decade is strong evidence that the urge to learn is not as deep-seated as it ought to be.

Francis Keppel, the new U. S. commissioner of education, looks to society in general and to the home in particular to provide an atmosphere encouraging to the acquisition of learning.

The best teachers and the best buildings in the world will not help too much unless U. S. children come to school fortified by their parents with a love and respect for learning and a powerful desire to acquire it.

"You can't buy a climate of thought of the sort that is fundamental to the needs of our 10 and 15-year olds," says Keppel as he plunges into his new job.

Entire schools can be weakened by institutions if they happen to be populated largely by students who are indifferent to learning and have no understanding of its importance.

This fact explains in part why many protest racial desegregation of schools, since many Negro students have not had the chance at home to discover what learning is all about.

On the other hand, one Southern governor has separate school facilities for Negroes can seldom in fact be "equal." This amounts to saying that a good education can only be had where the great majority of the students want one and will work to get it.

As indicated, however, Commissioner Keppel thinks society as well as the individual family must have a proper interest in knowledge and its dissemination.

A society that does not care about learning, is even perhaps suspicious of it or hostile toward it, will find its attitudes reflected first in the family and then in the offspring sent off to school.

There are plenty of signs, current and historical, that this country does not always respect the learning process as much as it might. We are often distracted by the learning process as much as it might.

But what we need to hear from Keppel, from other educators, from the nation's leaders is how we can build our youngsters a better atmosphere of thought in a world dazzled by its material attractions on the one hand and stifled by destructive poverty and ignorance on the other.

### NO, THANKS

It's hard to turn down \$350,000, but the Presbytery of Philadelphia has just done it. The Federal Public Works Administration had made the money available to cover half the cost of expanding the Presbyterian Convalescent Hospital at Broomall, Pa.

The church group declined the money because of the danger of federal control that accompanies federal grants, and because it felt a moral obligation to meet its own responsibilities.

Thus does this group ease the suffering of the taxpayers while easing the suffering of the sick.—Selma Times Journal

### BRUTE FORCE, FOR WHITES ONLY?

The request made by Rep. George Huddleston of President Kennedy to discipline James Meredith for cutting classes, by unning off to New York for an NAACP political meeting, seems without logic at first. What business is it of an Alabama congressman to be telling the President of the United States how to run a Mississippi classroom.

But, after recalling the many conditions of affairs in the Meredith case, we wonder if Mr. Huddleston is not being logical, after all. We have got to remember that President Kennedy, through Brother Bobby and the U. S. Marshals and the Army, put James Meredith in the Ole Miss classroom. If the President can put Meredith there through armed force, why cannot the President keep him there? After all, it doesn't make good sense for our government to spend millions of dollars to bring Meredith into a classroom, to let him leave when he likes, regardless of his grades. Worse still, at the height of the Old Miss trouble, white students who wanted to leave the classroom when they found Meredith there were denied that right. They were kept in the classroom by armed force. They were denied their constitutional right to move about freely. Is James Meredith to have special privileges, denied to the rest of the nation? Is the brute force of the bayonet, the tear gas and the pistol to be reserved only for white people?—Greensboro Watchman

It's amusing to notice how some of these North Alabama de-Graffenrieder newspapers here about or attempting to butter up George Wallace. He certainly can see through this hypocritical about-face.

## Board Transacts Routine Business! Members Go To Inauguration

John B. Sockwell, Chairman of the Colbert Board of Revenue, presided at his last meeting as chairman Monday morning and reported ready to turn the gavel over to incoming chairman Dave Pruett on Monday, Jan. 14.

Pruett will take office next week and will attend the inauguration of new Governor George C. Wallace along with the other four board members, John G. Burns, Troy Posey, James D. Alexander and Bruce Garis.

A resolution authorizing the trip to Montgomery for the inauguration was adopted unanimously at the meeting Monday. While in Montgomery, board members plan consultation with the State Highway Department on a number of county road projects for 1963.

At Monday's meeting, the low bid of Stagers Heating and Air Conditioning Company on a framing unit for the walk-in refrigerator at the commodity warehouse was accepted in the amount of \$1,208.51. Two other bids were also submitted, but the Stagers firm offered the lowest and best bid. Board members stated.

By unanimous vote, members of the board approved the request of Probate Judge, Gresham Hale for the First National Bank of Tusculumbia, Sheffield Branch, to be used as an official depository for the probate judge's office during the fiscal year. The low bid of Montgomery, Inc., was accepted in the amount of \$7,870.28 for furnishing a one-ton truck for the Southeast District.

## Printed Copies Of S. S. Tax Increases Available

Mrs. Mary King Temple, social security district manager, announced that her office now has on hand copies of a printed explanation of the social security tax increase scheduled for January 1, 1963.

The explanation is available upon request to the Sheffield, Alabama social security district office, and Mrs. Temple noted that a number of employers have already ordered copies to enclose with employees' pay checks in January.

Starting with that first pay in January, Mrs. Temple said, the worker's social security deduction will be increased by one-half of one percent on the first \$4800 of annual wages. With this increase, the amount of the social security tax will be 3.51 percent for an employee, with a matching amount contributed by the employer.

The social security law as originally enacted in 1935, called for a beginning tax rate of one percent for employees and for employers on the first \$3000 of annual earnings, with gradual increases until the top rate of 3 percent was reached in 1949.

These tax rates, it was estimated, would be required to finance the retirement benefits of \$10 to \$85 per month for the only type of benefits provided under the original law. But the scheduled increases were not permitted to go into effect and the tax rate did not even rise to 11/2 percent until 1950.

Many improvements have been made in the original law. Mrs. Temple said. Benefits have been added for the dependents and survivors of workers and also for disabled workers and their families. Also benefits have been increased several times to take account of rises in the cost of living. Under the present law, benefits to workers 65 and over range from \$40 to \$127 a month. A retired couple may collect as much as \$187.50 per month. Family payments range up to a maximum of \$254 per month. Under the law as it now stands, there will be two more increases in the social security tax rate in 1966 and the last in 1968. Each increase will amount to one-half of one percent. In 1968, an employed worker will be paying 4.5/8 percent of his annual earnings toward his social security obligation.

The difference between the originally planned top tax rate of 3 percent and the top 4.5/8 percent rate that will go into effect in '68, will go partly to pay for the additional protection and higher benefits. Mrs. Temple pointed out. It will also help make up for the money now collected because the tax increases scheduled for the 1940's were postponed.

## Dun & Bradstreet Lists 590 Businesses In Colbert County

The growth and industrial development of Colbert County is reflected in statistics released by John T. Sinnott, District Manager of Dun & Bradstreet, Inc., at Birmingham, which covers this area. Basing his facts on a physical count of the January, 1963 edition of the Dun & Bradstreet Reference Book, Sinnott reports that in 1962 480 businesses were listed in Colbert County and today 590 businesses are listed.

According to Mr. Sinnott each January business concerns in all parts of the United States are asked by Dun & Bradstreet for copies of their financial statements. This year requests are being sent to approximately three million business concerns—the to the corner grocery store worth a few thousand dollars as well as to businesses worth millions.

The Dun & Bradstreet Reference Book lists those manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers who seek or grant commercial credit, but it does not include some of the service and professional businesses such as beauty and barber shops, security dealers, and real estate brokers. Therefore, the figures for total businesses in the United States would be higher than the three million quoted above.

When the owner or officer of a business enterprise (or his accountant) fills in and mails his financial statement to Dun & Bradstreet, it becomes part of the credit report on his business and a factor in determining the credit rating of his business. Mailing the statement, rather than waiting for the Dun & Bradstreet reporter's call means a concern's important suppliers will quickly have the latest facts on which to make credit and sales decisions. When the Dun & Bradstreet reporter receives a business man's financial statement in advance of his periodic call, he can make a more detailed analysis of the financial condition of the business and assess its operation more intelligently.

Back of each listing of a business in the Reference Book is a Dun & Bradstreet credit report. The report includes the following: a history of the business (who owns it, who runs it, and how long it has been operating); a description of the business; and how it does it; a financial section which usually includes the latest financial statement; and a record of how the business pays its bills.

While credit reports are primarily used by business men who want to evaluate the credit risk of a business before shipping or selling, insurance underwriters also use credit reports to review risks, rates, and coverage for fire and other types of insurance.

## "Partially Retired" Can Receive Benefits

Many people age 65 or over who are still working don't realize that under the law they are "partially retired" and can receive some social security payments. It is possible to receive social security retirement benefits even if earnings go over \$1200 a year, according to Mrs. Mary King Temple, social security district manager in Sheffield, Alabama.

Mrs. Temple gave an example of a 65-year-old man and his wife eligible for a \$180 monthly social security payment. If the man earns \$2,500 a year, he and his wife could receive \$1,110 in social security payments.

More than a million people over 65 have not yet applied for social security benefits. Many could receive benefits even though they are working. Some of these million people are probably living right here in North Alabama. Mrs. Temple suggested that employed persons 65 or over visit, in person, or write, the social security office at Sheffield, Alabama to find out whether or not they can receive some social security payments. A sponge moistened in turpentine will return the original luster to gilt picture frames. A little honey added to mayonnaise or salad dressing for a fruit glaze will give the glazing a new flavor. Use an old shaving brush to remove dust from pleated or ruffled lamp shades.

