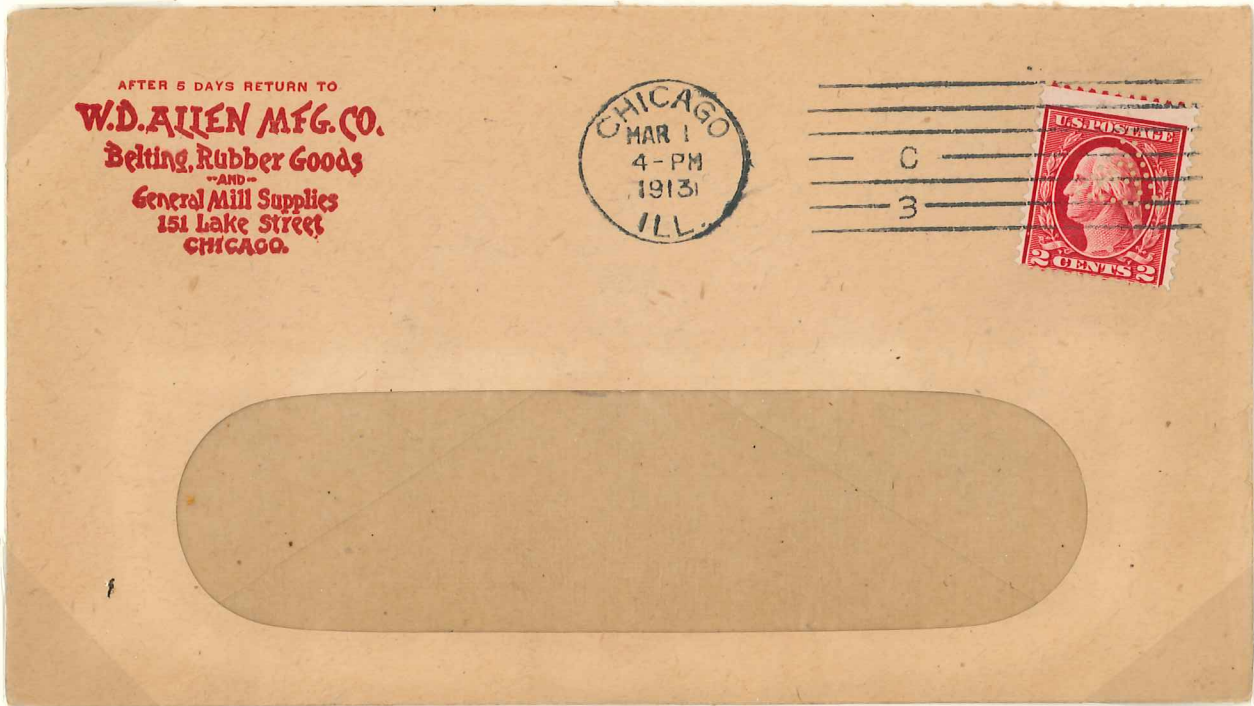
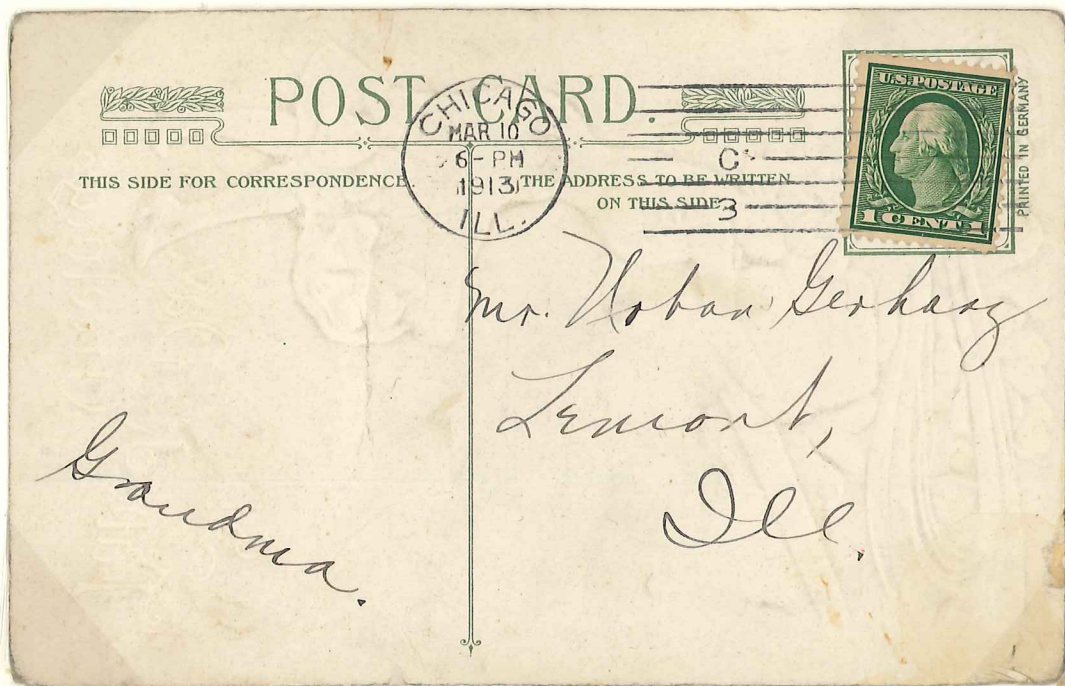


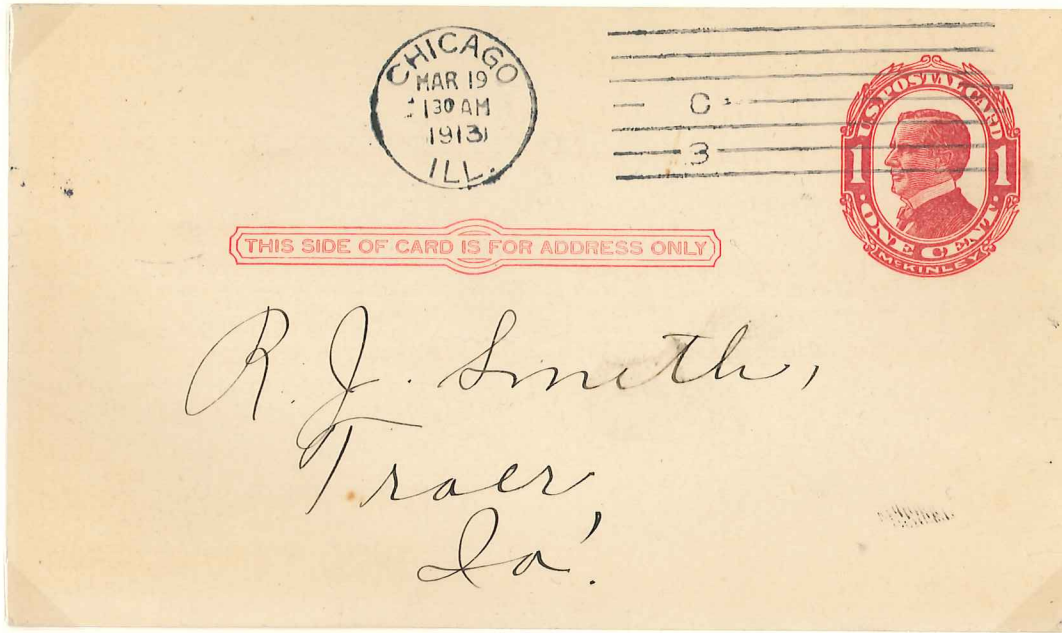
Testing continued beyond the unsuccessful Washington tests. There was probably still hope within the BFC Co. that a last minute effort could still secure some business.



Machine #3, Mar. 1, 1913. Note the shortened left edge of the top killer bar. Known only from this day. The 4th and 6th bars are 6 and 10.5 mm respectively.

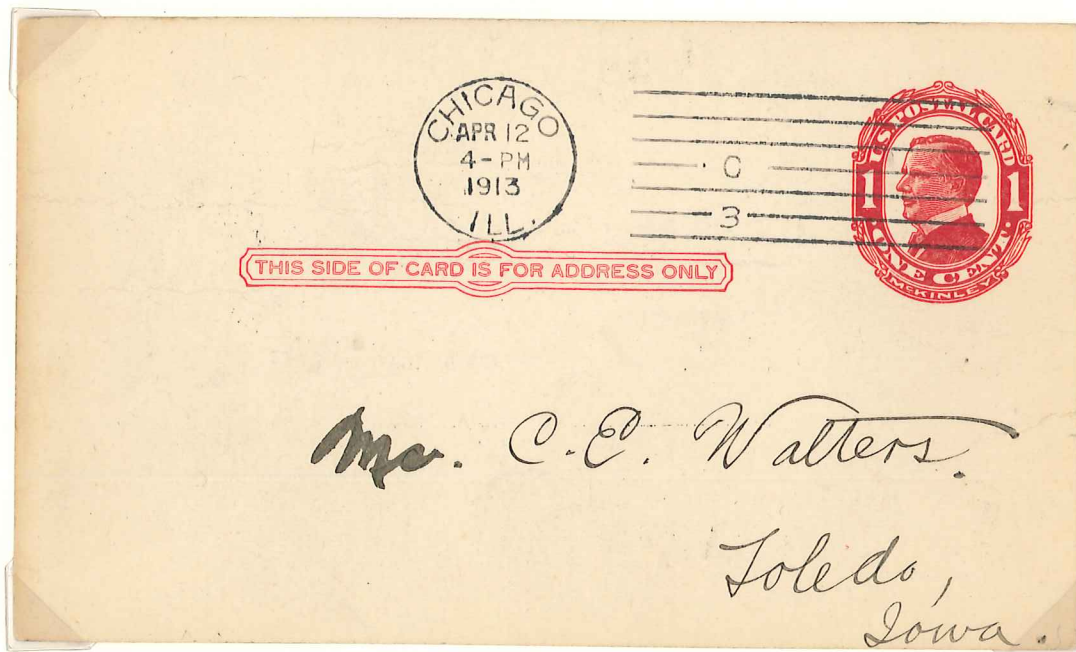


Later in March, the left edge of the 5, 6 and 7th bars were also shortened.

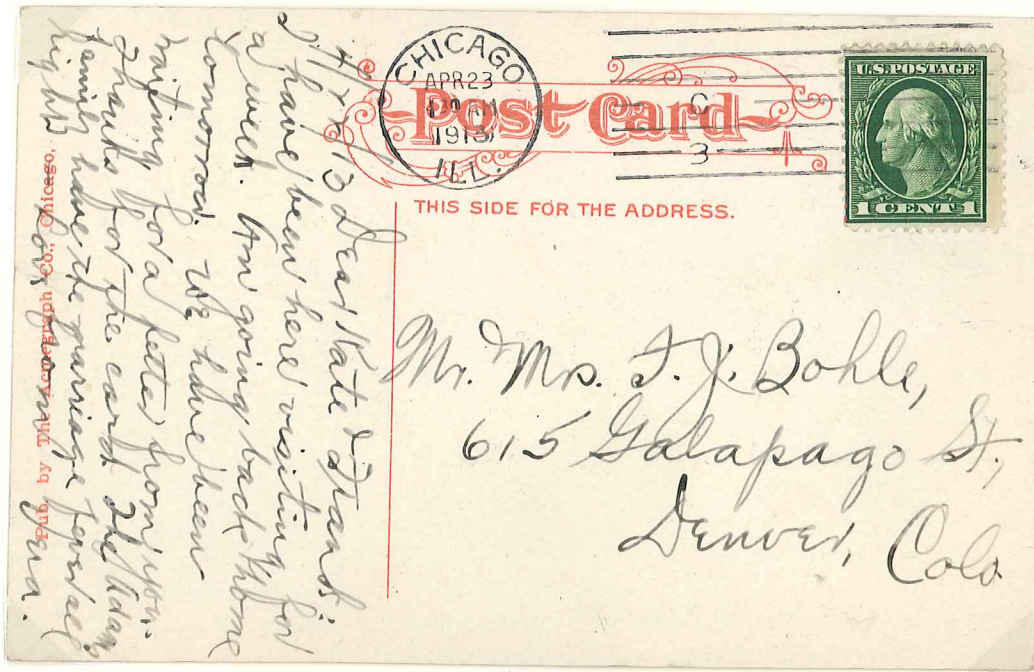


Machine #3, Mar. 19, 1913.

The killer bars are all normal length but the 4th and 6th bars have been shortened to 4 and 9 mm respectively. Used for 5 days then alternated with the next postmark. This dial has a tall "O" in Chicago.



In April a different killer was in use on Machine #3 having 4th and 6th bar lengths of 8.5 and 10.5 mm respectively. Used intermittently with the previous postmark through April and early May. The "O" in Chicago is rounder in this dial.



Machine #3, April 23, 1913
The same postmark and dial as used on Mar. 19, 1913.



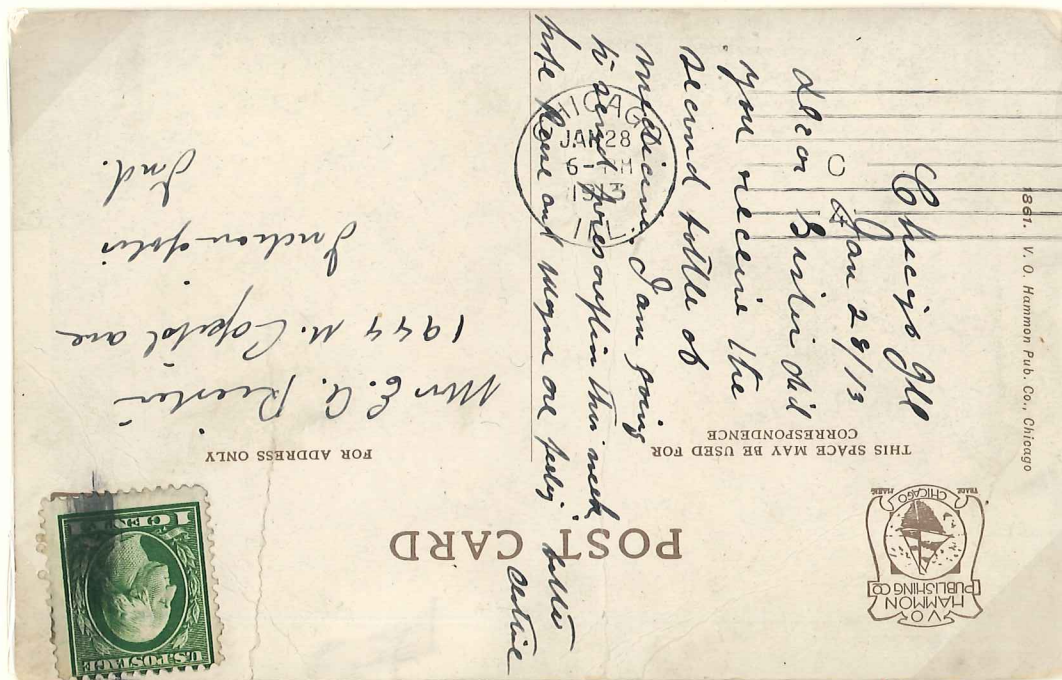
May 9, 1913 used the same dial and killer as was used on April 12, 1913.

No documentation has ever been found to describe the changes being made to the machines that caused these varieties. Altogether there are 43 different J dial postmarks including distinct usage periods. 14 of these were on machine #3.

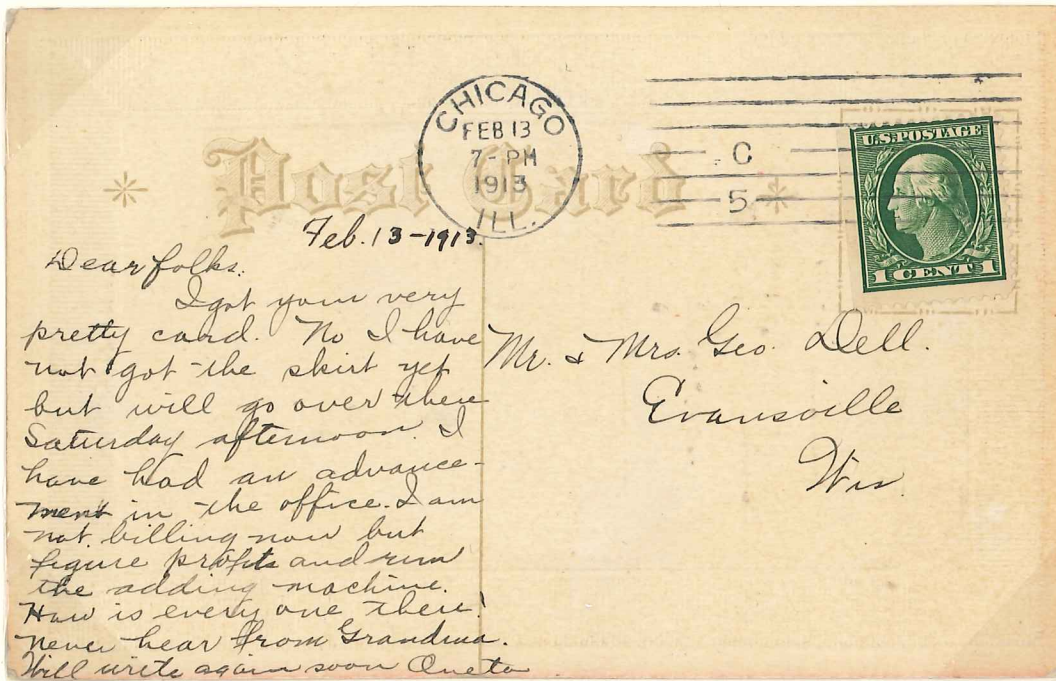


Machine #4, May 7, 1912

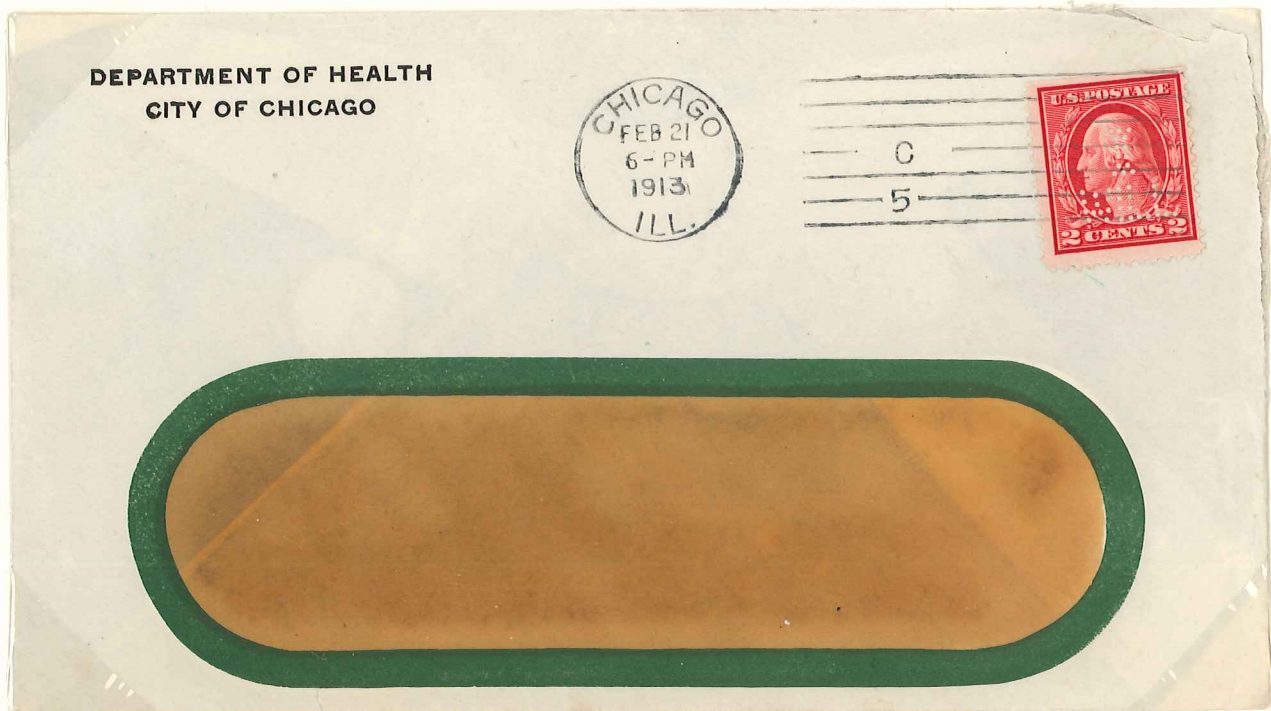
ERU of Machine #4 postmark with this dial and a killer having a 4th and 6th bar length of 9 and 12 mm respectively..



The dial and killer on machine #4 was changed in 1913 with the killer having 4th and 6th bar lengths of 4 and 11 mm. The new dial has a smaller typeface.



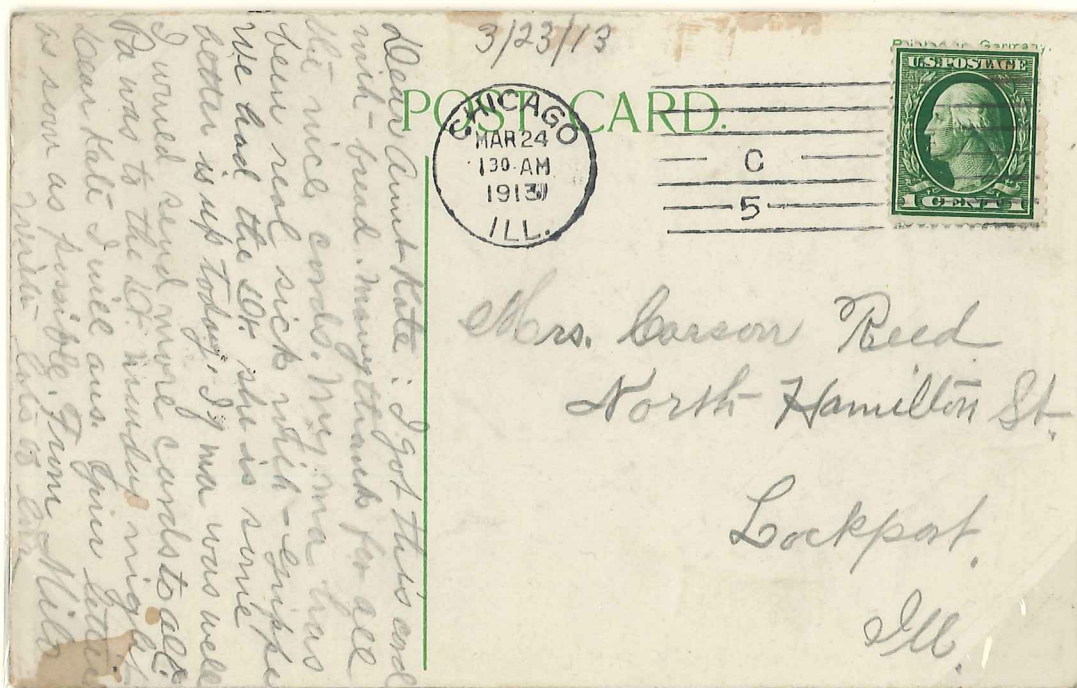
Machine #5 didn't appear until 1913 after the contract had already been decided.
This example has 4th and 6th bars in the killer 8.5 and 10.5 mm long.



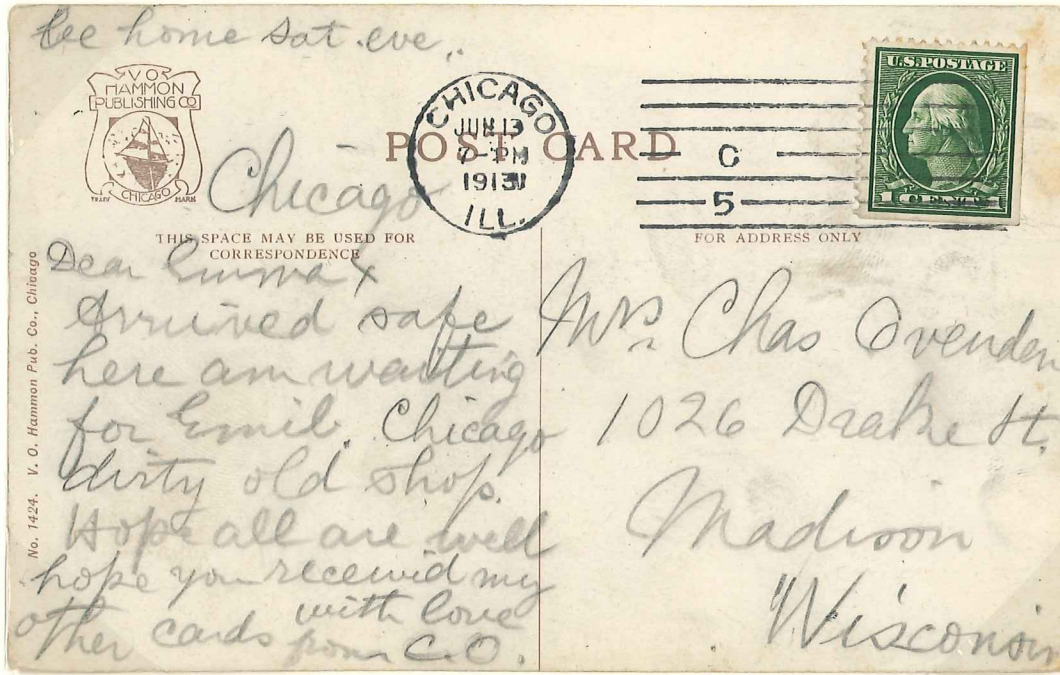
Later it appears that the 4th bar was shortened to 7 mm while the 6th bar remained at 10.5 mm.
The dials on these postmarks are identical.



Early in March 1913 the left side of the bottom killer bar was shortened on the left side.



By Mar. 24, 1913 the bottom two bars had been shortened on the left.



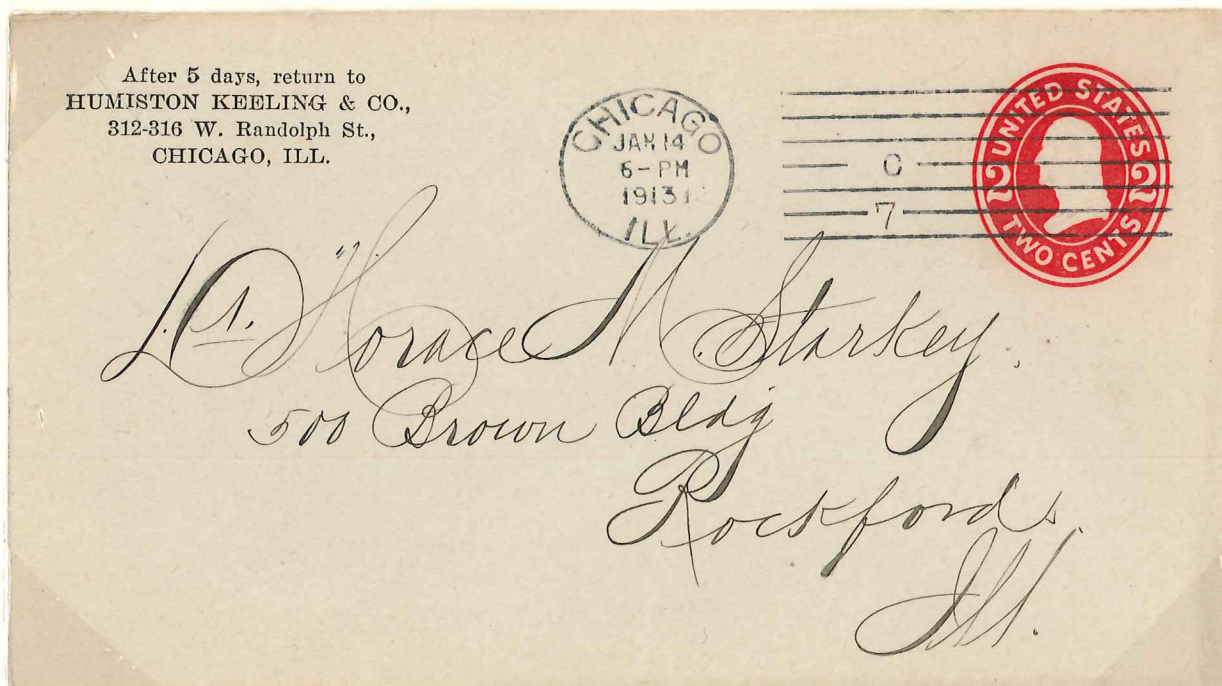
By June the killer had been replaced with one having a 4th bar only 5 mm in length on the left side but the left side of the bottom killer bar is almost equal in length to the others and the next to last bar is equal with the others. This is the LRU of a test postmark from machine #5.

The postmark was 7 days before the new USPOD contract went into effect on July 1, 1913. By this time it must have been very obvious to the BFC Co that they would receive no contract but some testing still continued.

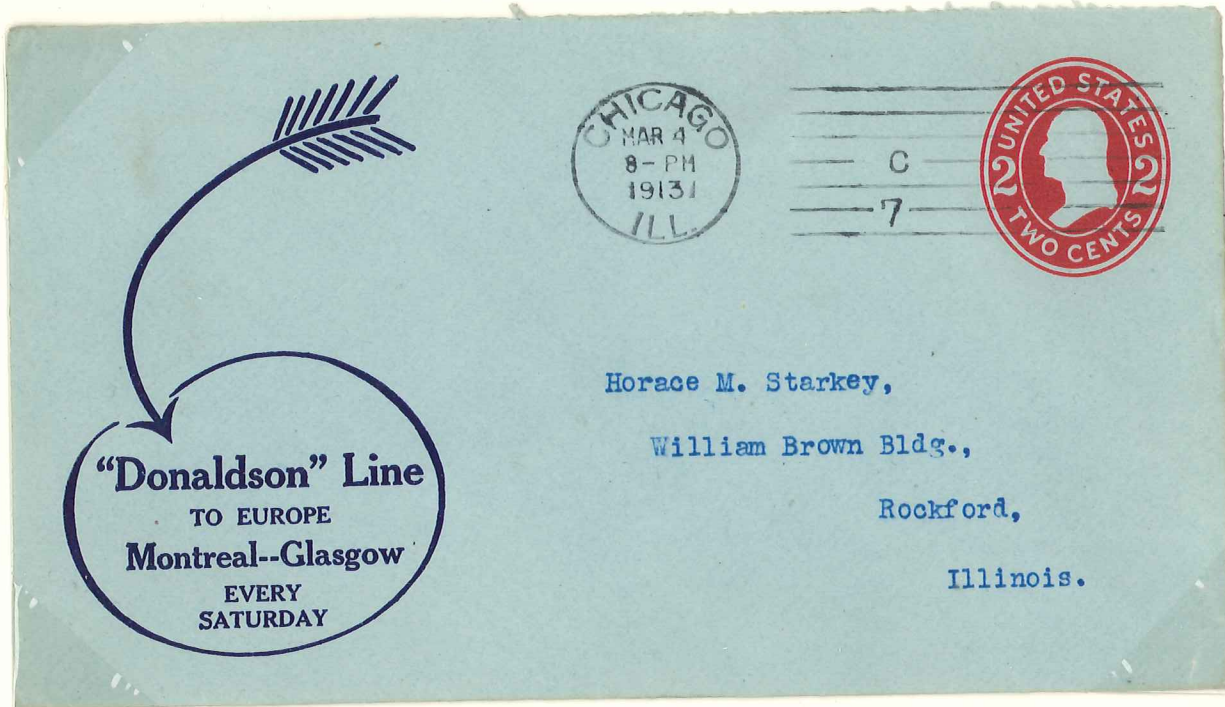
No test postmarks have ever been reported from #6 in Chicago.



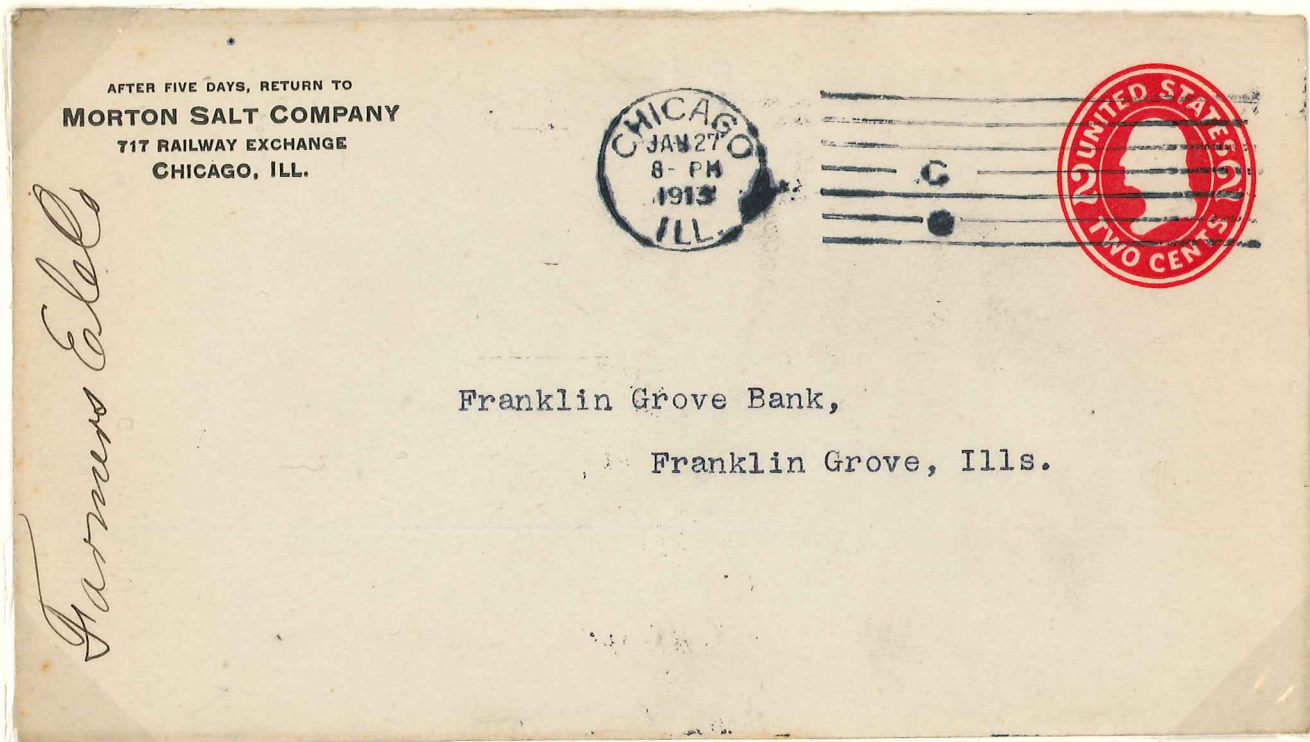
Machine #7 postmark from Dec. 17, 1912. The 4th and 6th bars are 10 mm and 13 mm respectively.



A new killer was installed on Machine #7 by January, 1913. This had 4th and 6th killer bars lengths of 8.5 and 11 mm respectively.

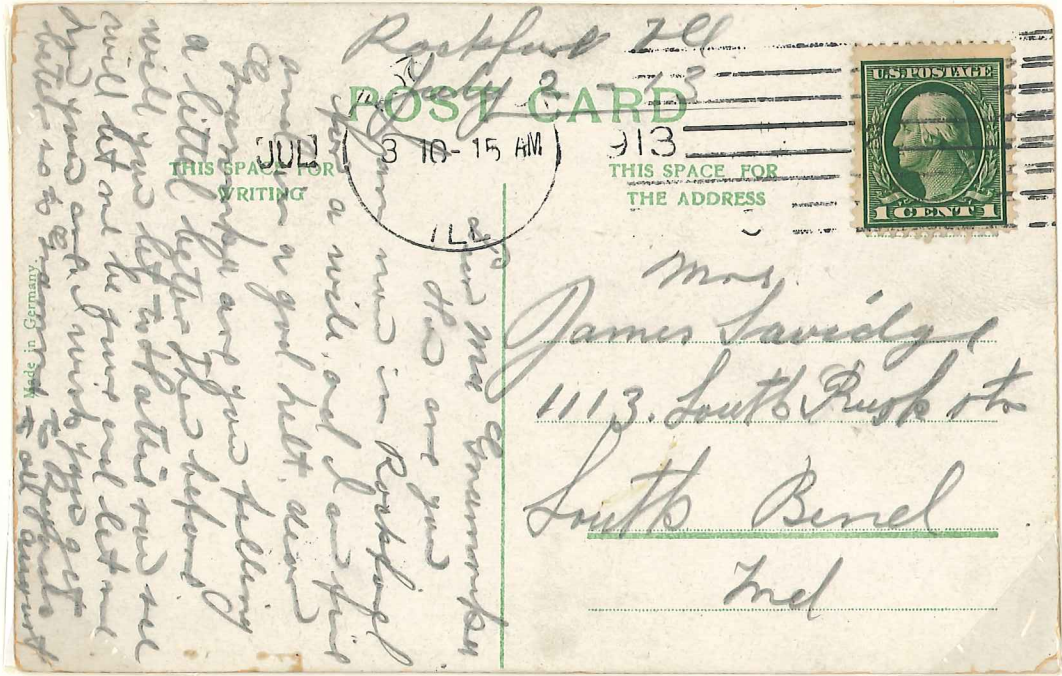


Early in March 1913 a new killer was in place having a 4th bar of only 8.5 mm.

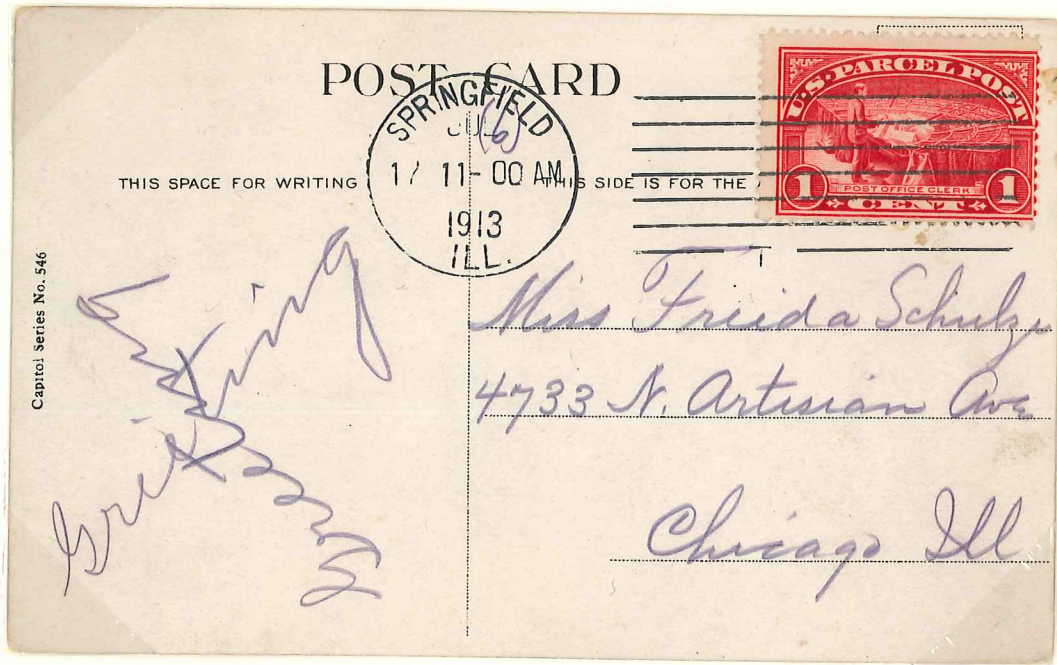


Same postmark type as used on Mar. 4, 1913 but the service letter slug has been inserted inverted printing a solid circle.

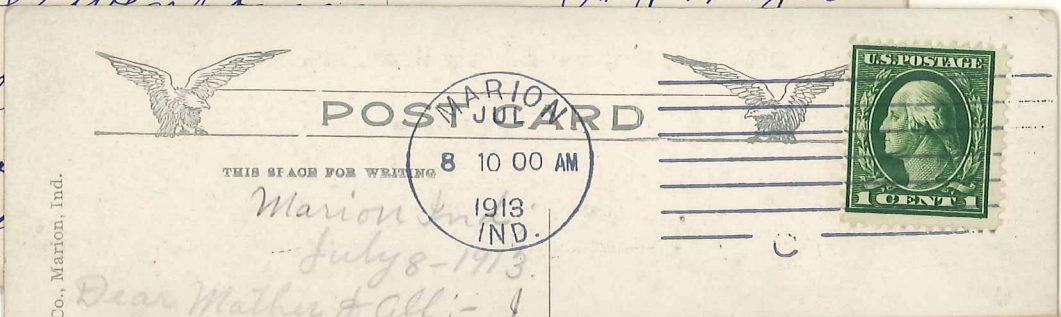
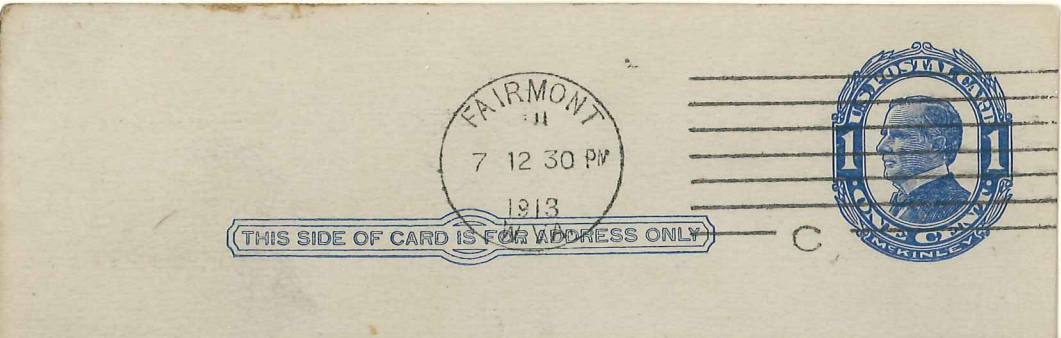
On June 30, 1913 the BFC Co contract to lease the Time Marking Machines expired. Ideally the machines would have been turned off and discontinued. However some cities continued to use their machines into July and even August of 1913. These are often referred to as "illegal usages". There were over 130 machines provided under the contract and approximately 35 machines continued to be used past the end of the contract.



C-112 postmark from Rockford, IL machine #2. The only reported example of a C type postmark beyond the contract period. This was the discovery copy of this postmark, since then an example from June has been found.

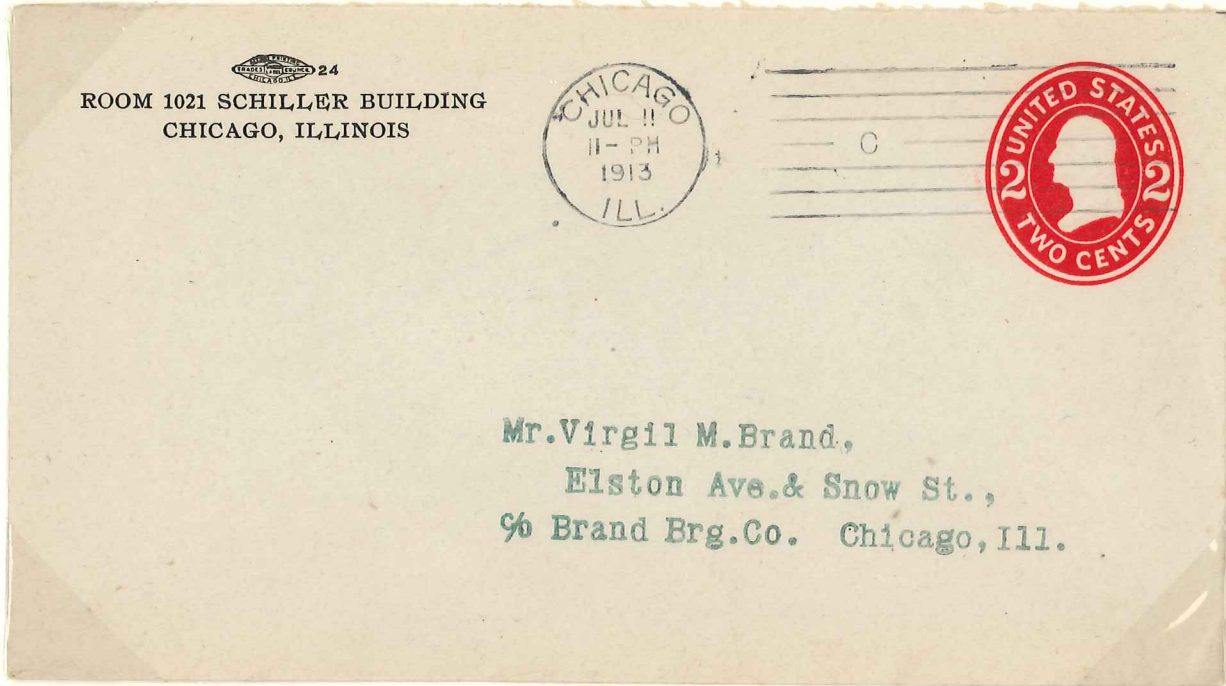


A-104 postmark, July 17, 1913, from Springfield, IL.

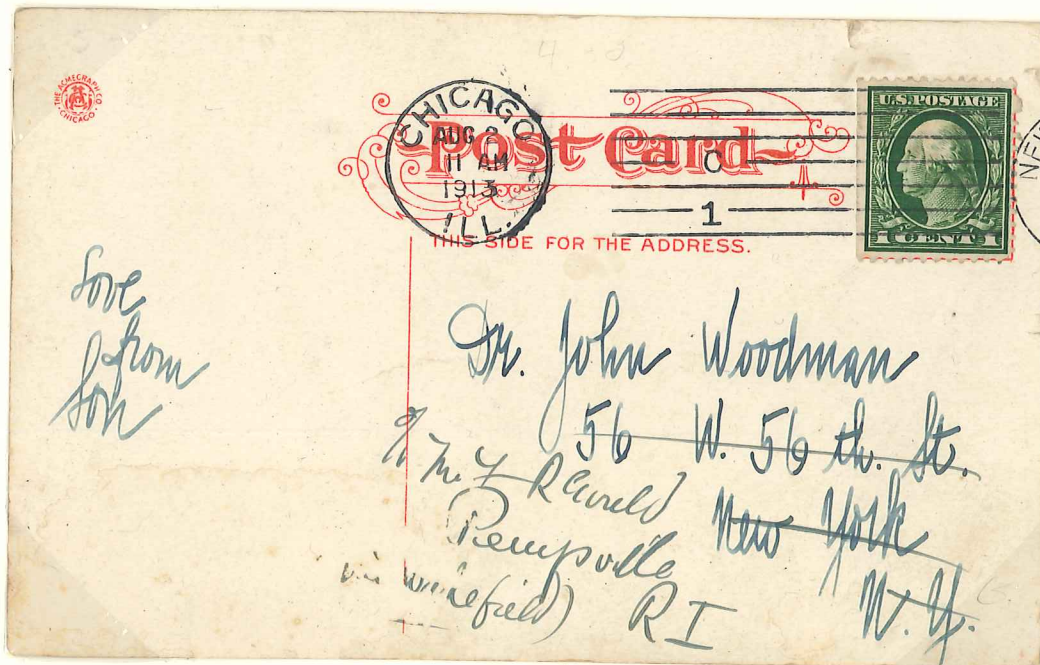


D-104 postmarks from Fairmont, WV; Marion, IN; and Kansas City, MO beyond contract period and an A-104 postmark from Gary, IN.

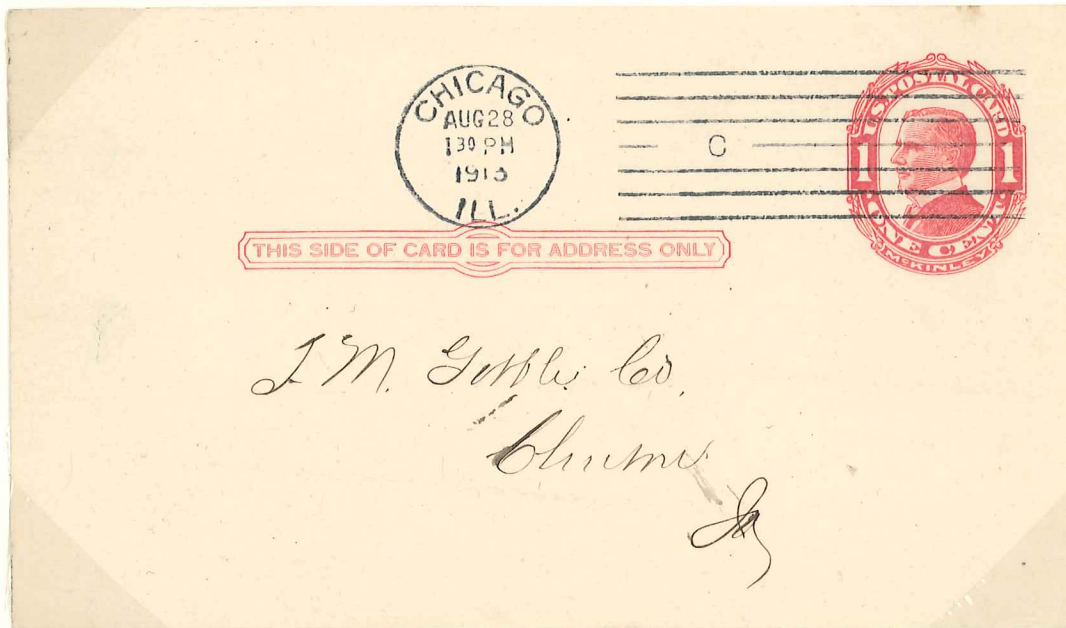
Even after failing to receive a contract and watching their contract expire on June 30, 1913 the BFC Co continued with some limited development and testing.



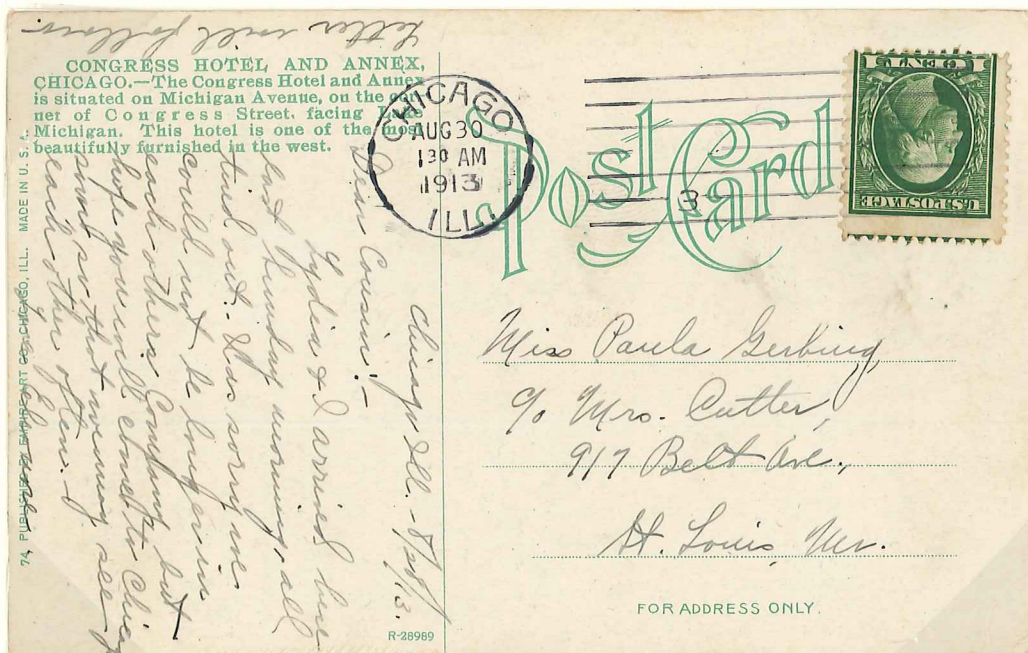
July 11, 1913 postmark from one of the unnumbered test machines.



Aug. 2, 1913 postmark from machine #1.



Aug 28, 1913 postmark from one of the unnumbered test machines. Left side of center killer bar is 5.5 mm, a different postmark than that from July 11, 1913 on the previous page.



Aug. 30, 1913 postmark from machine #3, missing the service mark.

B. F. Cummins Co.

Final Activity

Tests in Chicago continued into September, used here on a #10 envelope, not commonly used during tests

IMPORTANT

CHICAGO
SEP 10
7-PM
1913
ILL.

Dayton Motor Car Co.,
Dayton,
Ohio.



The final tests of the BFC Co machine took place in Washington D.C. in 1916.

These were probably in a failed attempt to gain some business with the next contract which should have begun on July 1, 1916.

STORE EQUIPMENT & WINDOW DISPLAY MONTHLY
SECTION of the DRY GOODS REPORTER

215 So. Market St. Chicago, Ill.

Featuring
Store Arrangement
Store Fixtures
Store Lighting
Store Decorating
Store Painting

A side view is here shown of the White House, the columns of the portico standing out in bold relief. This view is taken from the east end of the grounds, which the public is permitted to walk showing the North front and towards the State, War and Navy buildings. George Washington selected the site and laid the cornerstone in 1792. The President to occupy it was John Adams in 1800. It was burned by the British in 1814 during President Madison's Administration, who occupied Octagon House, Eighteenth and New York avenues, temporarily as the White House. After its restoration it was painted white to obliterate all marks of the fire.

Dear Cousins

I received a letter from Mabel telling me Anna had to go to the hospital we're all very sorry and hope she will be all right let us hear from you hope you are all well

Mary

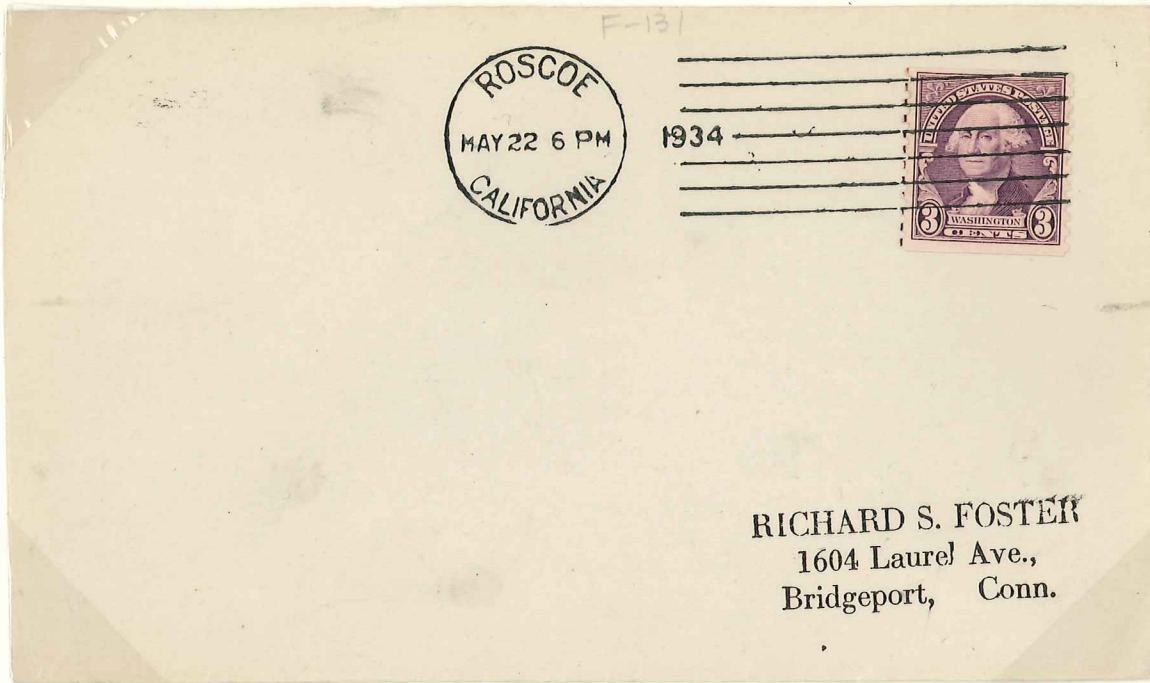
WASHINGTON
APR 12
1916
D.C.

Post Card



ADDRESS

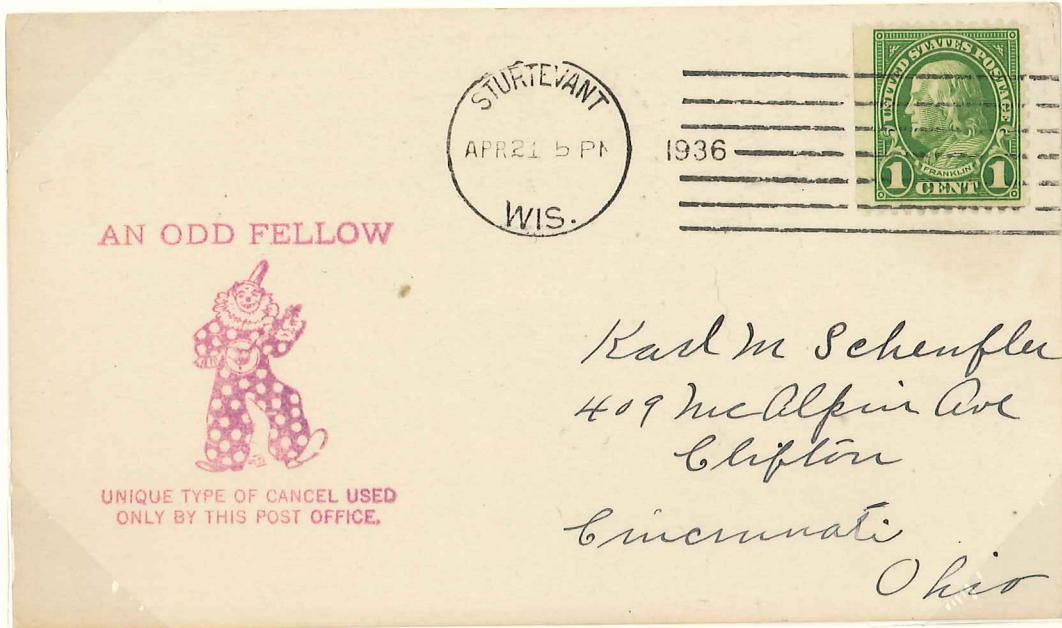
Mrs Walter Coates
Barker
Via Co
N.Y.



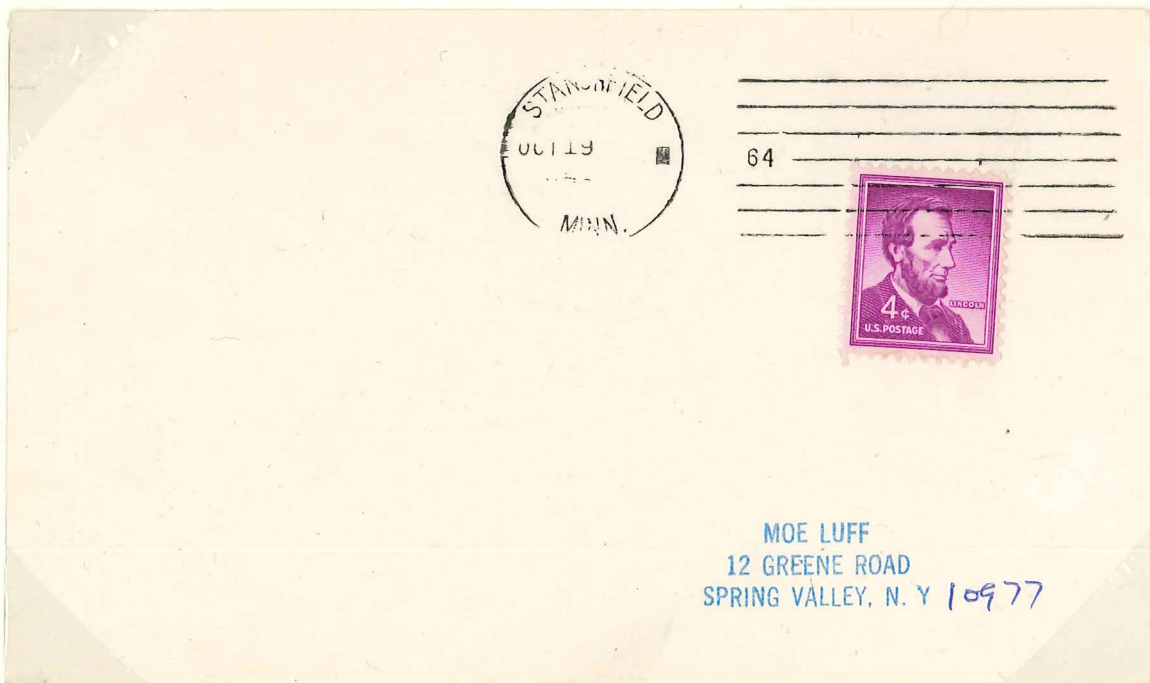
Roscoe, CA used their hand powered machine into the 1930's. The earliest reported use was from 1930. This machine was probably transferred from another city.



Conway, MA used their machine for over 30 years.



Sturtevant, WI used their machine into the 1930's. They recognized their uniqueness and used a special cachet on this philatelic card to Karl Scheufler.



Stanchfield, MN applied the latest reported use of a BFC Co machine on Oct. 19, 1964. The month and date dial appears to still rotate to get the proper month and date. The year in the killer was no longer a 4 digit year but was abbreviated to just a two digit year. It was probably a challenge to get replacement slugs for this old machine.

This cover was sent to well-known postmark collector Moe Luff.