

Carriers and the mail make news online

Mail-centered stories frequently appear on social media and online news sites. The following are a few that have come to NALC's attention recently. If you find a story you'd like us to consider featuring, send it to postalrecord@nalc.org.

Postcard delivered after being sent 121 years ago

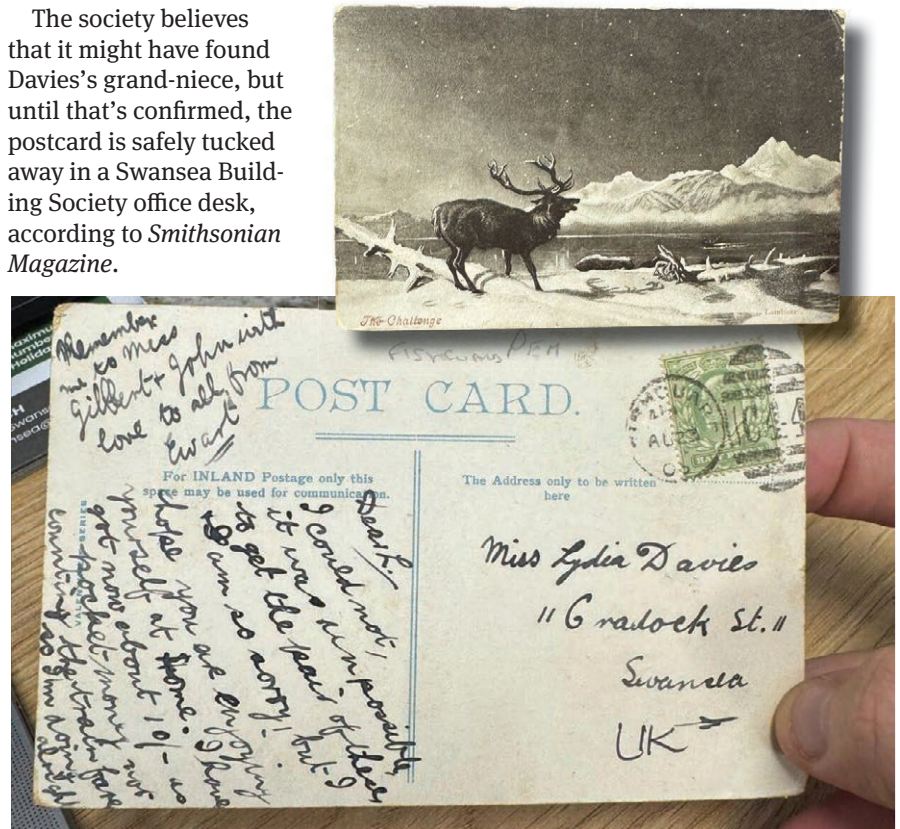
In 1903, a man named Ewart sent a postcard to Lydia Davies at 11 Cradock St., Swansea, UK, and although it's impossible to know whether it was delivered to her during her lifetime, it has since entered the mail stream in Wales again more than a century later. No one is quite sure how the postcard reentered the mail system; it is speculated that perhaps it was by someone who found it at an estate sale or thrift store.

But no Davieses live at 11 Cradock St. anymore. During World War II, the home was bombed and thereafter it was turned into an office building of the Swansea Building Society, which has been located at the address since 1923.

The workers at the Swansea Building Society said the postcard had an illustration of a deer and a barely legible note scribbled on the back. The building society has been investigating the correspondence and found out from census records that Davies was the oldest daughter of the family living in the house in 1903.

In addition to reaching out to the public, the Swansea Building Society also has engaged with experts from the Royal Philatelic Society London to authenticate the postcard and its markings. It has concluded that the postcard and markings appear to be consistent with the year 1903.

The society believes that it might have found Davies's grand-niece, but until that's confirmed, the postcard is safely tucked away in a Swansea Building Society office desk, according to *Smithsonian Magazine*.



The postcard sent to Lydia Davies at 11 Cradock St., Swansea, UK, 121 years ago

Influencer apologizes to letter carrier with gift

Tori Halford, a TikTok content creator with more than half a million followers, felt bad for forgetting to pause her mail when she was on vacation, and she wanted to do something nice for her letter carrier, Daniel. She posted a security footage video of her front doorstep where she left her letter carrier a gift—a basket filled with candy, chips, jerky, gum, drinks and a “thank you” card.

In the footage, the letter carrier drops off a package for her then says, “No way, thank you! This is awesome,” then walks away with a smile on his face and his gift in hand.

Online news (continued)



TikTok content creator Tori Halford's thank-you gift for her letter carrier went viral on social media.



Halford's video received 8.6 million views and almost 600,000 likes. The letter carrier saw the video online and connected with Halford in person afterward, according to *People* magazine. He commented on the video that the basket "made his week."

"I've realized how much people don't get recognized for the work they do," Halford told the magazine. It is important to thank those you come in contact with, because you never know what it will mean to someone or how it will impact them."

USPS appoints new historian

Stephen Kochersperger has been working for USPS in various capacities for more than 40 years. His dedicated work has paid off with him being named a USPS historian, a role he had temporarily filled since December 2023.

He started as a clerk in Milesburg, PA, in the early 1980s. In 1983, he became postmaster of Julian, PA, where he stayed until 2011. Then he became

a writer and editor at the USPS Capital Metro Area regional division. The next year he joined the USPS historian's office at headquarters in Washington, DC, as a senior research analyst in postal history.

In 2021, Kochersperger completed a Master of Arts in American History from American Public University; he wrote his thesis on the postal system's role in achieving American independence.

Lately he has led two oral history projects at USPS headquarters. In one, he arranged interviews with employees with 50-plus years' experience, and in another he interviewed postal executives on USPS delivery during the COVID-19 pandemic.

UK unveils post box featuring King Charles III's cypher

The Royal Mail installed the first mailbox with the cypher of King Charles III, who became king in 2022, in July, replacing that of Queen Elizabeth II, his predecessor. The cypher was unveiled in Great Cambourne, Cambridgeshire, by Julie Spence, a retired British police officer and activist, and by local children.

Displayed on the red post box is the letter "C" for Charles, the Roman numeral "III," a Tudor crown and the letter "R" for Rex, which is Latin for king.

In the United States, mailboxes remain unchanged with each new head of state. In contrast, the United Kingdom gradually updates post boxes to reflect new monarchs as old ones are replaced, as are their stamps and bank notes. In fact, British postboxes are quite dissimilar to ours overall. They are red, cylindrical and have a slit to drop mail in that does not close.

The King's cypher also will be showcased to 3,636 Royal Mail vehicles

USPS Historian Stephen Kochersperger





In recognition of National Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15), the AFL-CIO’s social media channels spotlight the diverse contributions Hispanics and Latinos have made to the labor movement by profiling union members like NALC’s Roy Zuniga, a proud member of Centennial Colorado Branch 5996.

In addition to delivering mail to the customers on his route, Roy goes the extra mile to serve his fellow letter carriers as a shop steward, on-the-job instructor, and NALC activist. Reflecting on why being involved in his union is important to him, Roy shared the following: “What I enjoy most is passing on to the new members what was passed on to me and more. When you see new brothers and sisters at a meeting or they call you because they have a question, it makes it all worth it.”

Thank you for your service to your community and NALC, Roy!

between August and October 2024, according to BBC.

As fall begins, USPS gets into the season

The Postal Service unveiled its new “Autumn Colors” Forever stamps at the Great American Stamp Show in Hartford, CT, on Aug. 16.

The new stamp series captures the vibrant hues of fall, highlighting how leaves transition from their summer green to stunning reds, oranges and yellows. This colorful transformation results from the fading chlorophyll and the unveiling of carotenoids and anthocyanins.

The pane of 20 stamps features the work of Allen Rokach, a renowned nature photographer known for capturing the colors of nature through his lens. Rokach’s “Rokach effect” technique adds an impressionistic touch to his images, reflecting the dynamic beauty of autumn landscapes. The stamps will depict various scenic locations across the country, from New England’s iconic fall foliage to the vibrant colors of Aspen, CO, and the Columbia River Gorge in Oregon.

As soon as fall begins, many look forward to winter holidays just around the corner, and so, USPS planned to release both Hanukkah and Kwanzaa stamps in September.

The Hanukkah stamp depicts a simple drawing of a menorah with all eight candles lit and “Hanukkah” displayed underneath with the blue color traditionally associated with the holiday as the background.

Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after its desecration by the Seleucid Empire. The festival celebrates Jewish identity and religious freedom. It also marks the

miracle of the oil: After reclaiming the temple, the Maccabees, who rededicated it, found only a small amount of consecrated oil, which was expected to last just one day. Miraculously, the oil burned for eight days, which is considered a divine miracle in Jewish tradition.

The Kwanzaa stamp has bright colors and depicts three people dancing—a man in the front playing a drum and two women in orange dresses dancing in orange dresses to his sides. The background colors, red and green, symbolize the Pan-African movement and are commonly seen in African flags, reflecting Ethiopia’s red and green flag, as it was never colonized.

Kwanzaa is a non-religious cultural celebration that honors African heritage, culture and values. It was created in 1966 by Maulana Karenga, a professor and activist. It is celebrated by lighting a kinara, by discussing principles, and by holding cultural activities and communal meals. **PR**



The cypher of King Charles III is being installed on Royal Mail postboxes.

The Autumn Colors Forever stamps

