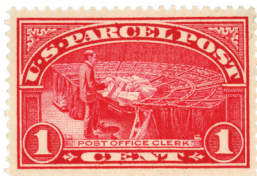


This Day in History... February 19, 1914

Parents Mail Children Through Parcel Post



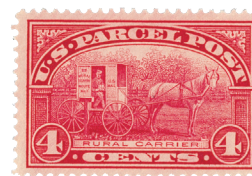
Postal Clerk



City Carrier



Railway Post



Rural Carrier



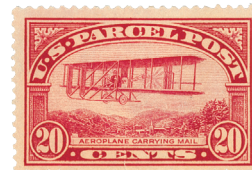
Mail Train



Steamship Mail



Auto Service



Mail Plane



Manufacturing



Dairying



Harvesting



Fruit Growing

On February 19, 1914, parents in Idaho took advantage of the affordable Parcel Post rate to mail their daughter to her grandmother's house. It was one of several instances of people mailing children using stamps.

A year earlier, the Post Office Department had initiated its Parcel Post service for fourth-class mail on January 1, 1913. Parcel Post service could be used to send items weighing 16 ounces or more through the mail. The mail is divided into four classes, with Parcel Post making up the fourth class. Almost any type of merchandise could be mailed parcel post, including day-old chicks, baby alligators, and honeybees. Only items that could be dangerous to handle could not be sent through Parcel Post.

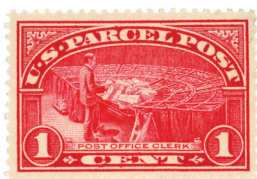
It wasn't long after the new service began that parents found an interesting loophole. None of the regulations concerning parcel post prohibited the mailing of people, and other living beings were being mailed that way. In January 1913, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beauge of Glen Este, Ohio, sent their young son via Rural Free Delivery one mile to his grandmother's. The parents paid 15¢ for the stamps and insured their son for \$50. Later that month, a family in Pine Hollow, Pennsylvania, mailed their daughter to relatives in Clay Hollow at a cost of 45¢.

Then on February 19, 1914, five-year-old May Pierstorff's parents in Grangeville, Idaho, wanted to send their daughter to visit her grandparents 73 miles away. They placed 53¢ in stamps on her coat and handed her over to the postal worker on the railway mail train, who also happened to be a relative. Despite her safe delivery to her grandmother's doorstep, once Postmaster General Albert S. Burselson heard her story, he officially prohibited postal workers from accepting humans to be mailed.

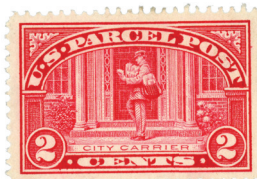
In spite of this, a woman mailed her six-year-old daughter 720 miles from Florida to Virginia the following year for 15¢. The last known instance of a child being mailed came in August 1915, when three-year-old Maud Smith was mailed from her grandparents to her sick mother in Kentucky. Even after this, some people attempted to mail children, but postmasters rejected their applications claiming they couldn't be classified as "harmless live animals."

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Parents Mail Children Through Parcel Post



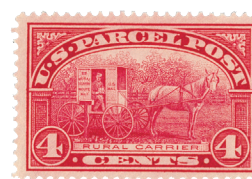
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