

THE  
MIKE FARRELL  
COLLECTION  
OF INDEPENDENT MAILES

INCLUDING THE HISTORY, FORGERIES, & FANTASIES OF  
UNITED STATES, LOCAL POSTS, CARRIERS,  
INDEPENDENT MAIL ROUTES, & EXPRESS CO.S

SAN FRANCISCO PRIVATE POST OFFICE

The information and identification within these selections is the individual work of the Farrell Collection. It is always recommended to consult multiple sources for additional information or opinions. Local post company descriptions are based on information available at the time of writing. Descriptions in the Farrell Collection were written based on personal research and sources including, but not limited to: Articles in the Carriers and Locals Society's The Penny Post; Amos Media's Scott Catalogue; Patton's The Private Local Post of the United States; Springer's Handbook of North American Cinderella Stamps; Lyons' Identifier for Carriers, Locals, Fakes Forgeries and Bogus Posts of the United States; articles in the USPCS's The Chronicle; Mosher's Catalog of Private Express Labels and Stamps; The Eastern Independent Mail Company Study Group's Eastern Independent Mail Companies and Express Mail Companies 1840-1845; Elliot Perry's Pat Paragraphs; James N. Drummond's Catalog of Philatelic Miscellany; and the notes of George Sloane and Gordon Stimmell.

Colors listed for stamps and forgeries are the opinions of the Farrell Collection based on viewing physical copies of the pieces under consistent lighting. Colors in the .pdfs may be slightly inaccurate due to manipulations from the scanning process, computer monitor settings, or (in event that the files are printed for offline viewing) the printing process.

Unless otherwise noted, stamps are identified by their Scott Catalogue numbers and forgeries are identified by their Lyons Identifier type. Scott numbers in parenthesis under listed forgeries represent approximately what stamp the forgery is attempting to imitate.

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# PRIVATE POST OFFICE

This San Francisco local post opened in May, 1869. The exact identity of the proprietor is unknown, though early advertisements are signed "W. F. & S."

Although the office was threatened by regulations prohibiting private posts, the company got around this by impressing their franks on prepaid US envelopes in the style of express companies. The rates for the Private Post Office were 15¢ for letters east of; and 25¢ for letters west of Taylor and Sixth streets - much higher than the regular US postage rate of 3¢ (2¢ for local delivery). This high price afforded an expedited service, with letters to be delivered within one hour of mailing.

The example featured here is a complete, unused 25¢ envelope. Complete examples are scarce, as most impressions were cut from envelopes. A used example, dated June 3, is recorded.

CALL AND SEE THE  
**PRIVATE POST OFFICE,**  
No. 5 Kearny street.

Letters, Messages, Small Packages, etc.,  
delivered to any destination in the city

**Within One Hour After Mailing.**

CIRCULARS, BUSINESS CARDS, etc.,  
promptly and carefully distributed from this office by competent messengers.

A trial from the advertising community is respectfully solicited to test the efficacy of this branch of our business.

A select assortment of Fine Stationery at low prices.  
m29-W,F&Ss21n

ADVERTISEMENT AS PUBLISHED IN  
THE SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE  
MAY 29, 1869



123LU3B : 25¢ BLUE ON BUFF  
IMPRESSED ON U59 : 3¢ PINK ON BUFF  
UPSS 127 | SIZE 7 | KNIFE 23 | WMK 1 | DIE 26

The post was located at 5 Kearny Street, the same location as the Public Letter Office & Package Delivery Company. This second company, listed under proprietor Z.M. Nagel, operated at the same time and might be a successor or predecessor of the post.