

Peninsula Diary Mayo Hayes O'Donnell

September 26, 1958

Overland Mail Stamp

For the stamp collector there is the important announcement in a press release of the Post Office Department stating that the initial order for the Overland Mail Commemorative Stamp is for 120 million. It takes that many to satisfy the hungry appetite of the stamp and cover collectors.

The stamp pictures "a dramatic scene of an overland mail coach under attack, with a map of the Butterfield Trail from Tipton to San Francisco." The preliminary designs were submitted by L. E. Reichenbaugh and Randall L. Wells of Tulsa, Okla., and final design by William H. Buckley, a member of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee, and the art work was prepared by Charles E. Chickering of the Bureau of Engraving and Printing.

We have received the first issue of the Butterfield Overland Mailbag with the cancellation under Maude Dahl's postal administration at Tipton. Mo., as the Overland Mail Centennial Caravan got under way for California . . . all the way to San Francisco and the Golden Gate. It was 100 years ago. Sept. 16. 1858, that John Butterfield, without ceremony, picked up a pouch of mail at St. Louis and brought it on the old Pacific Railroad to Tipton, where early the same evening he put it aboard a waiting stagecoach and headed west for San Francisco.

On Sept. 16. 1958, with considerable ceremony by way of contrast. Postmaster Bernard F. Dickman presented the Centennial Pouch to a great grandson of Butterfield, Charles W. Childs of Utica, N. Y. He brought it to the same spot on the Missouri Pacific Railroad and with fitting ceremonial fanfare, organized by the Tipton committee, started it off for California on this Overland Mail Caravan.

The Butterfield Mail Centennial brings a new book on California History to San Francisco and California. Bill Murry is a feature writer on the Los Angeles Times, whose vast collection of features on California names, places and history has blossomed into a "Butterfield Book" now on the press.

Its name? The publishers will announce it with a special First Day Issue Cachet and an Overland Mail

Commemorative cancel, if you send a request for it to: Fearon Publishers, San Francisco.

Late returns from Postal Advisor Hisea J. Dixon and Postal Coordinator Joseph E. Memser confirms these cachets for post offices in California: Aguanga, Bakersfield, Burlingame, El Centro, El Monte, Goshem, Heber, Julian, Los Banos, Newhall, Pomona, San Fernando, San Mateo, and Visalia.

We enjoyed a reasonable amount of pride when we noted in the Butterfield Overland Mailbag that Visalia and Goshem, neighboring towns on Highway 99 have unique ceremonies planned. Goshem being our birthplace. Both have special cachets for toe philatelic e mail that comes through. Visalia's is an exploding Anvil Salute, in commemoration of the Anvil Salute that Ormsby described in the New York Herald of Oct. 13, 1858.

Goshem's is indeed a double cachet. One reads "Goshem California Participates" with pictures of the Butterfield stage and the Highway Post Office. The other is "Stagecoach Mail" with a miniature stage. Goshem's riders, known as Mounted Police, have commandeered an ancient stagecoach. They will escort Postmaster Marjorie Robinson and her pouch of philatelic mail from her post office to Highway 99, to turn over her mail bag with festive ceremony.

The caravan will pick up philatelic mail at 198 post offices on the trail which will cover 2800 miles to reach San Francisco on Oct. 10.