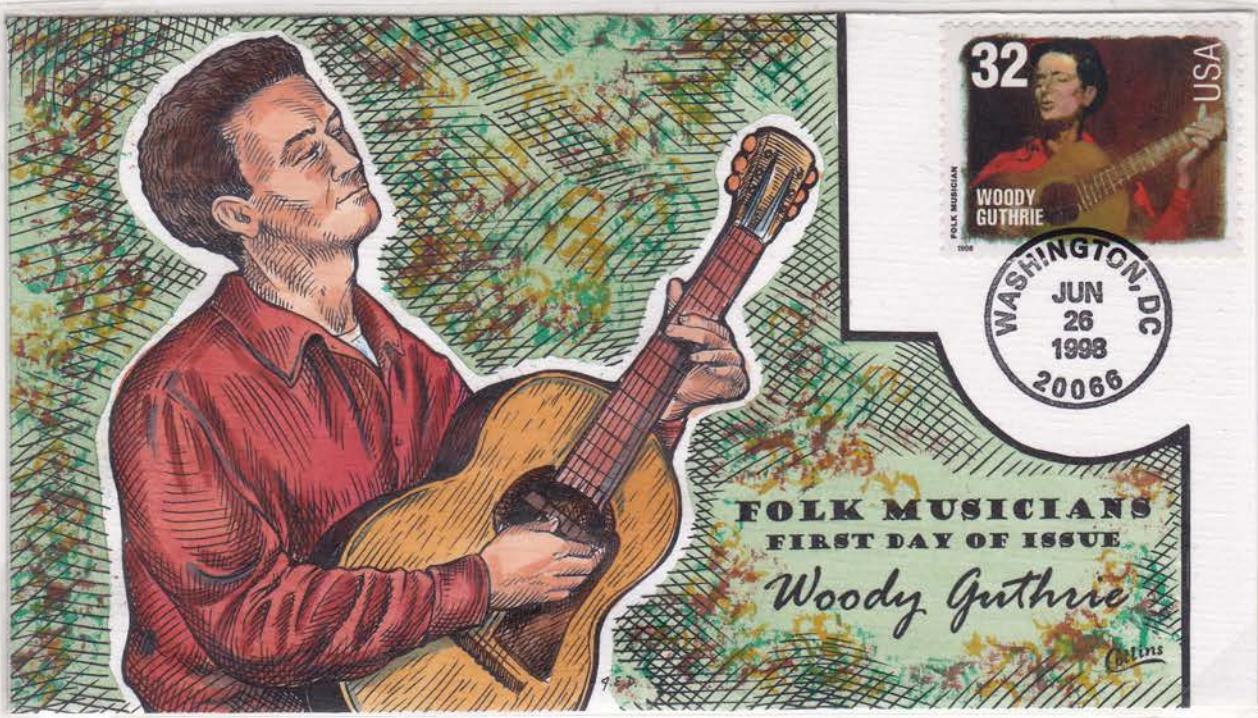


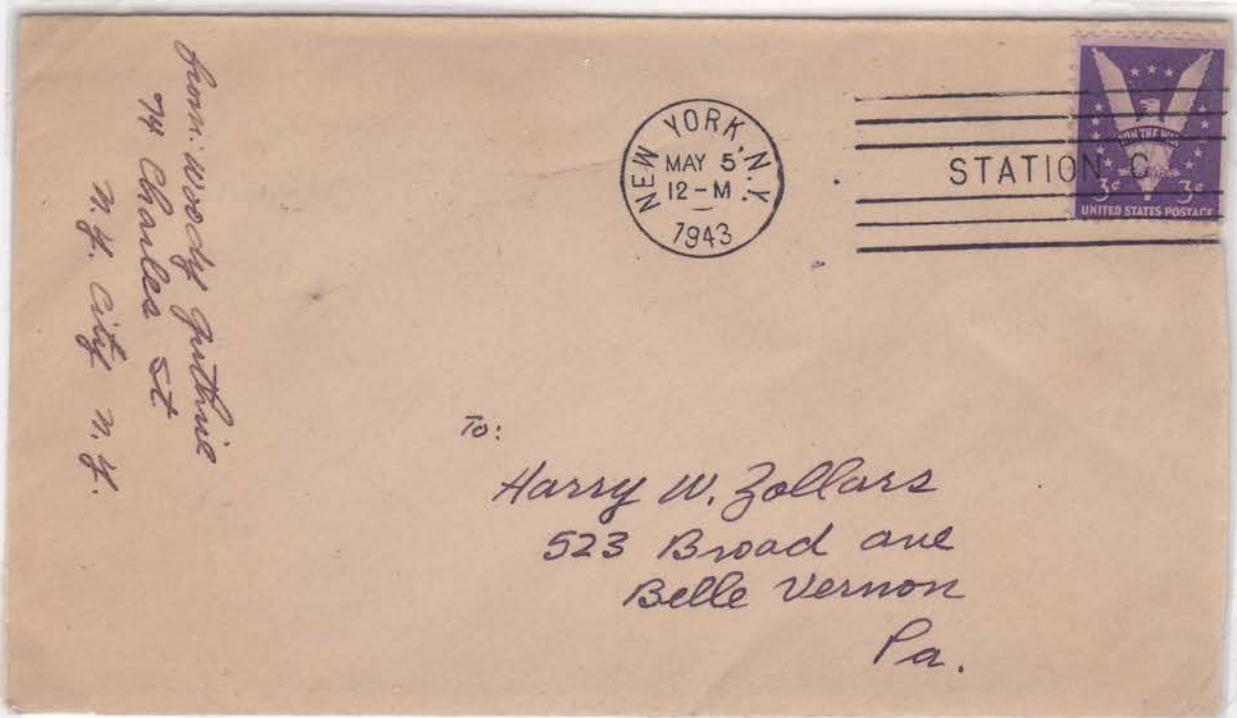
WOODY GUTHRIE

His Life and His Songs

Woody Guthrie (1912-1967) was one of the United States' most influential folk musicians. Among the more than 2,500 songs he wrote are such American folk standards as *This Land Is Your Land* and *So Long, It's Been Good to Know You*. In 1998, the U.S. Postal Service finally honored Woody on a stamp, after a decade long campaign organized by his family, friends, and fans. This Display Division exhibit tells the story of Woody's life and illustrates some of his song lyrics with stamps, covers, postal stationery, and other philatelic material, enhanced by various non-philatelic items.



Collins hand
painted
cachet. Bull's
eye style first
day of issue
handstamped
postmark.



WOODY
GUTHRIE
autograph cover.
Note return
address.

WOODY GUTHRIE

His Life and His Songs

PLAN OF EXHIBIT:

I. WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER

- 1.1 Oklahoma Origins
- 1.2 Name
- 1.3 The Making of a Musician
- 1.4 Family Disintegration
- 1.5 The Texas Years

II. WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND

- 2.1 An Okie in L.A.
- 2.2 New York City
- 2.3 Roaming and Rambling
- 2.4 Political Views
- 2.5 Union Troubadour
- 2.6 The Pacific Northwest

III. WOODY GUTHRIE: A CHILD TO FIGHT

- 3.1 Partisan Songster
- 3.2 Wartime Service: U.S. Merchant Marine
- 3.3 Wartime Service: U.S. Army
- 3.4 War's Aftermath

IV. WOODY GUTHRIE: BOUND FOR GLORY

- 4.1 A Living Legend
- 4.2 Creative Artist
- 4.3 Marriage and Fatherhood
- 4.4 Religion
- 4.5 Tragic Fires

V. WOODY GUTHRIE: THE CRAZELDY NIGHTMARE

- 5.1 Another Tragedy: Huntington's Disease
- 5.2 Erratic Behavior
- 5.3 Last Years
- 5.4 Passing

VI. WOODY GUTHRIE: EPILOGUE

- 6.1 The Woody Guthrie Stamp of 1998



Woody Guthrie self-portrait,
published in *Bound for Glory*
by Woody Guthrie.



Woody Guthrie stamp was issued
as part of a se-tenant block
honoring four American folk
musicians.

MUSICAL NOTE: Unless otherwise indicated in write-ups, all song lyrics are by Woody Guthrie or are Woody Guthrie's versions of traditional folk songs. Woody sometimes composed original tunes, but more often adapted existing melodies for his songs.

PHILATELIC NOTE: Basic letter and post card rates (surface or air mail) are generally not indicated, nor are philatelic overpayments. Multiple rates and fees for special services are generally indicated when they can be determined.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER 1.1 OKLAHOMA ORIGINS

Woody Guthrie was born July 14, 1912, in Okemah, Oklahoma, the third of five children to Charles Guthrie and the former Nora Belle Tanner.



1912 usage from Okemah.



Okemah in 1925, when Woody was 13 years old.
Real photo post card published by Auburn Post Card Manufacturing Co.

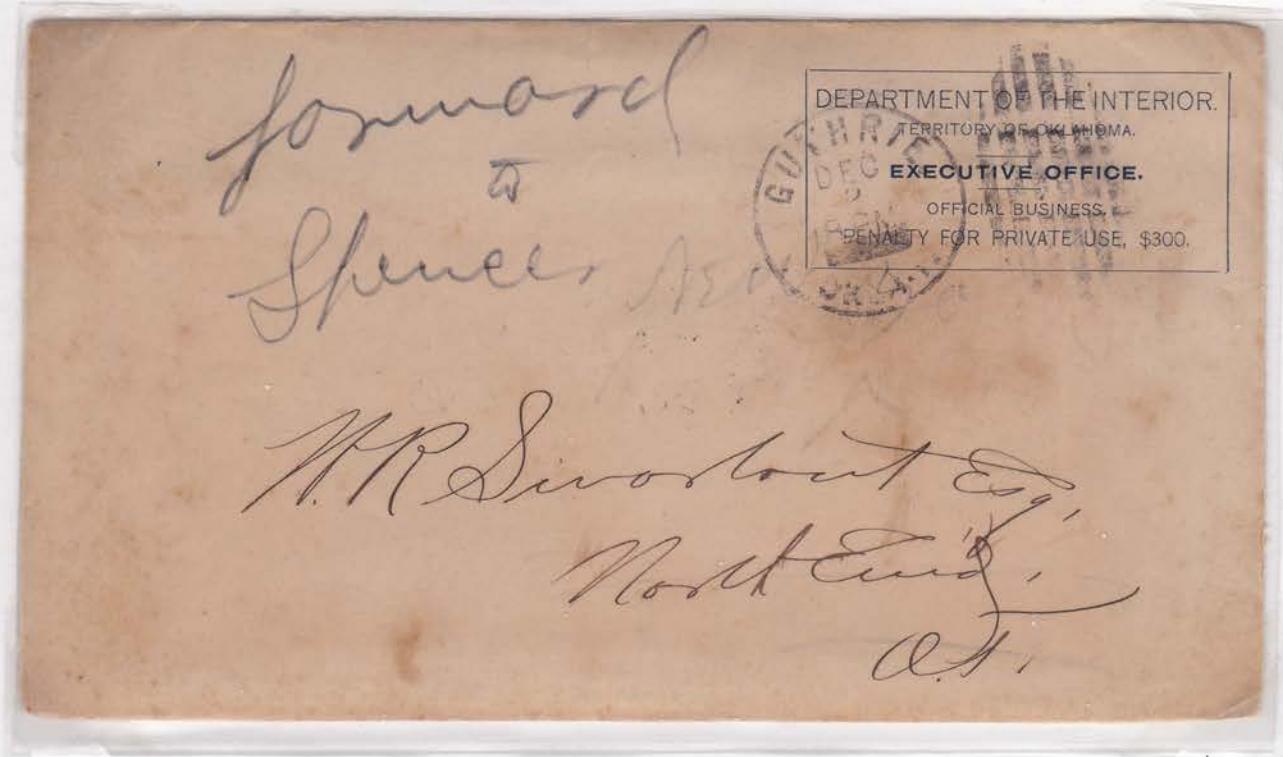


Woody Guthrie's birthplace as it appeared in 1979. Photo credit: Walter Smalling.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER

1.1 OKLAHOMA ORIGINS

The Guthrie family had migrated to Oklahoma from Texas, and were among the early non-Indian settlers in the territory. The town of Guthrie, the territorial capital, was named after a John Guthrie who came from Kansas. While he might have been a distant relative, he was not one of Woody's direct ancestors.



Territorial usage from Governor's office in Guthrie. 1893.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.1 OKLAHOMA ORIGINS

OKLAHOMA HILLS

A tribute to Woody's native state. Woody's original version was rewritten by his cousin Jack Guthrie, whose 1944 recording of it became a major country hit.

*Way down yonder in the Indian nation,
I rode my pony on the reservation,
In those Oklahoma hills where I was born.
Way down yonder in the Indian nation,
A cowboy's life is my occupation,
In those Oklahoma hills where I was born.*



Plate number block of 39¢ Oklahoma Statehood Centennial stamp.



Postmarked on Woody's 80th birthday.



Lough,
Street,



MARLOW, IND. T.
(Indian Territory)
postmark.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.1 OKLAHOMA ORIGINS

DOWN IN O-KLAY-HOMA

Another of Woody's musical tributes to his native state.

*I come from a land of Civilized Tribes,
Down in O-klay-homa,
Cattle go grazzy and the cowpokes ride,
Down in O-klay-homa,
Prettiest clouds that ever did blow,
Prettiest girls that ever did grow,
Makes my toes all itch to go,
Down in O-klay-homa.*

Five Civilized Tribes official mail cover.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
SUPERINTENDENT, FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES,
MUSKOGEE, OKLAHOMA,
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE TO AVOID
PAYMENT OF POSTAGE



Stamp honoring the Five Civilized Tribes of Oklahoma paid 3¢ international post card rate to Austria. Post-war civil censorship still in effect in 1949.



Austria Philatelist
Adolf Kosel
Vienna 71
Austria

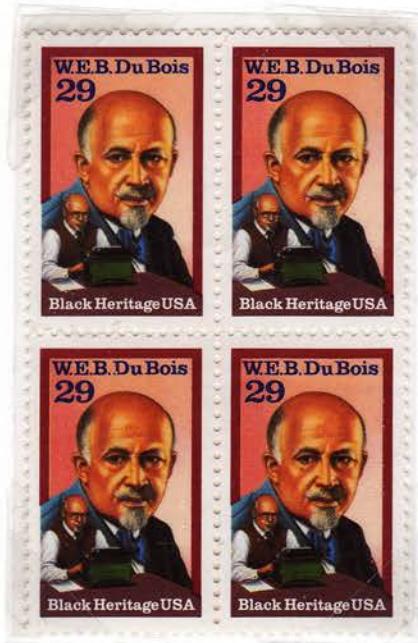


WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.1. OKLAHOMA ORIGINS

DON'T KILL MY BABY AND MY SON

Woody's boyhood in Oklahoma was at a time of endemic racial violence. In 1911, the year before Woody was born, a lynch mob forcibly seized a black woman named Laura Nelson and her 15-year old son Lawrence Nelson from the Okfuskee County jail in Okemah after the son had been accused of fatally shooting a white deputy sheriff, and then hanged them from a bridge just west of town. The mob also seized but later abandoned Laura Nelson's nursing baby, and a black family then rescued the infant. Although the evidence is inconclusive, Woody's father might have taken part in the lynching, and that thought haunted Woody all his life.

*As I walked down that old dark town,
In the town where I was born,
I heard the saddest lonesome moan,
I ever heard before.
My hair it trembled at the roots,
Cold chills ran down my spine,
As I drew near that jail house,
I heard this deathly cry:
"Oh, don't kill my baby and my son,
Oh, don't kill my baby and my son,
You can stretch my neck from that old river bridge,
But don't kill my baby and my son."*



The Okemah lynching was among the incidents that led activist W.E.B. DuBois to launch a campaign in 1911 calling for a Federal anti-lynching law.



Soviet propaganda postal card depicting a lynching in the United States. Caption in Russian reads:
DOWN WITH LYNCHING! LONG LIVE THE NEGRO WORKER!

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.2 NAME

Woody's full name was Woodrow Wilson Guthrie. His parents were staunch Democrats, and they named him after the recently nominated Democratic Party candidate for President.



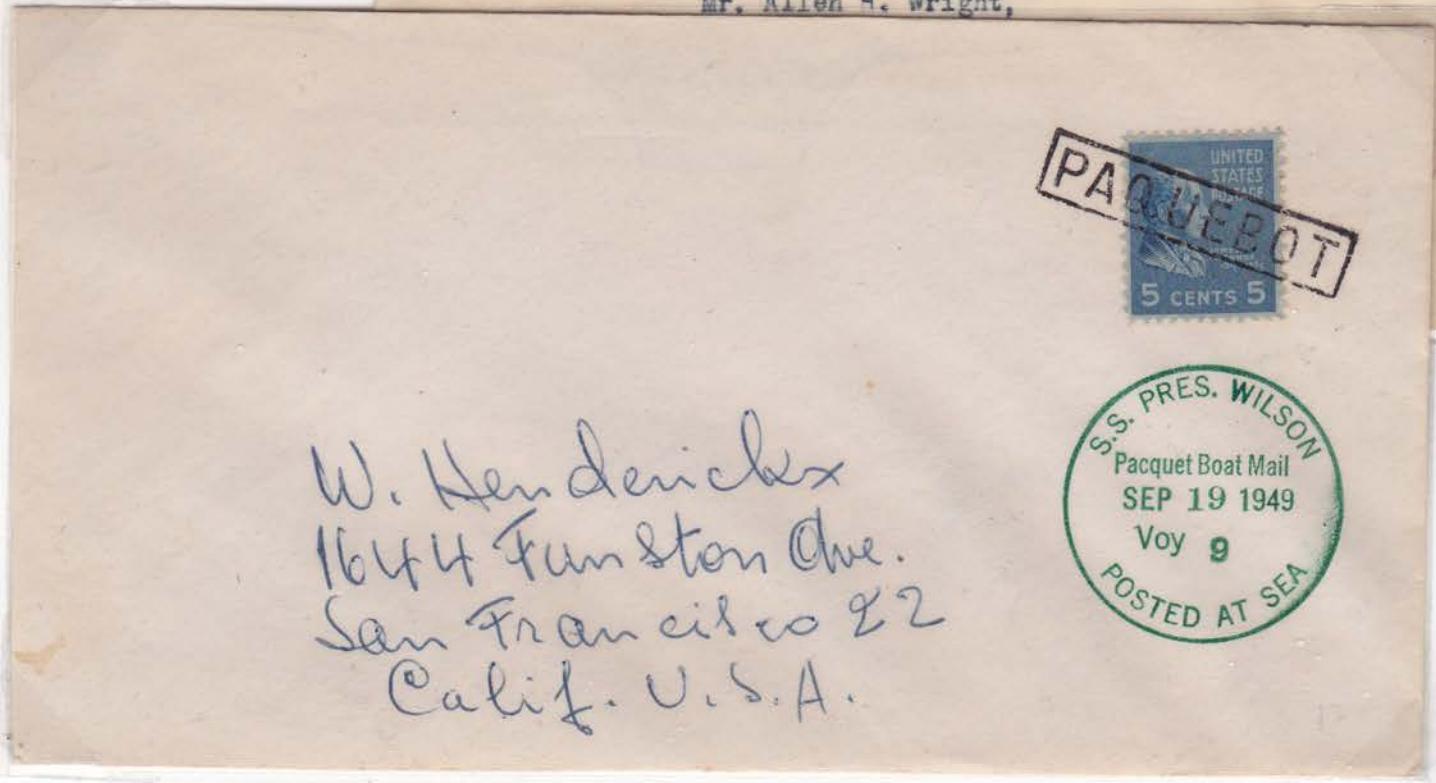
Five \$1 Woodrow Wilson stamps are the dry printed variety, first issued in 1954.

Official White House cover from Woodrow Wilson's presidency.

S.S. President Wilson paquebot cover.



Mr. Allen H. Wright,



WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.3 THE MAKING OF A MUSICIAN

Woody's musical background came from his family. His father played guitar, his mother played piano, and both parents sang. However, a few guitar lessons from his uncle Jeff Guthrie were Woody's only formal musical instruction. In addition to guitar, Woody taught himself to play harmonica, fiddle (violin), mandolin, and guitar.

Restored portion of illustrated advertising cover pictures all four instruments that Woody played: harmonica, fiddle (violin), mandolin, and guitar.

GUT VIOLIN STRINGS.

Stratton Accordeons.

STRATTON BANJOS.

STRATTON BANJOLA.

Stratton Harmonicas.

STRATTON Band Instruments.

Stratton Guitars.

Stratton Mandolins.

**JOHN F. STRATTON,
811-813-815-817 EAST NINTH STREET,
NEW YORK.**

New York, March 5th, 1892.
"I am pleased to say that Stratton's Russian Gut Strings are the best toned and most durable Strings I ever used."

Yours truly,
Dave Braham.

Carl Thorbahn, Musical Director, Standard Theatre Orchestra.
Chicago, Ills., April 14, 1892.
Messrs. John F. Stratton & Son,
Dear Sirs.—I am pleased to be able to state that I can highly recommend your Russian Gut Strings for durability and tone.
Your orders for them should be tremendous.

Yours truly,
Carl Thorbahn.

*Geo W Smith
Mattawan Keag
me*

2¢ postage = double 1¢ per 2 ounces 3rd class rate for printed matter.
Cover was a wrapper for a musical supply company catalogue.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER 1.3 THE MAKING OF A MUSICIAN

Beyond the family, the musical influences on Woody were varied: hymns and Gospel songs, square dance tunes, railroad and hobo songs, cowboy songs, old-time ballads, and African-American folk songs and blues.



The harmonica was the first musical instrument that Woody played, having learned from African-American harmonica players in Okemah, Oklahoma.



Woody was also influenced by commercially recorded country music, especially by the music of the Carter Family and of Jimmie Rodgers, both of whose first recordings were released when Woody was 15 years old.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.3 THE MAKING OF A MUSICIAN

LISTEN TO THE MUSIC

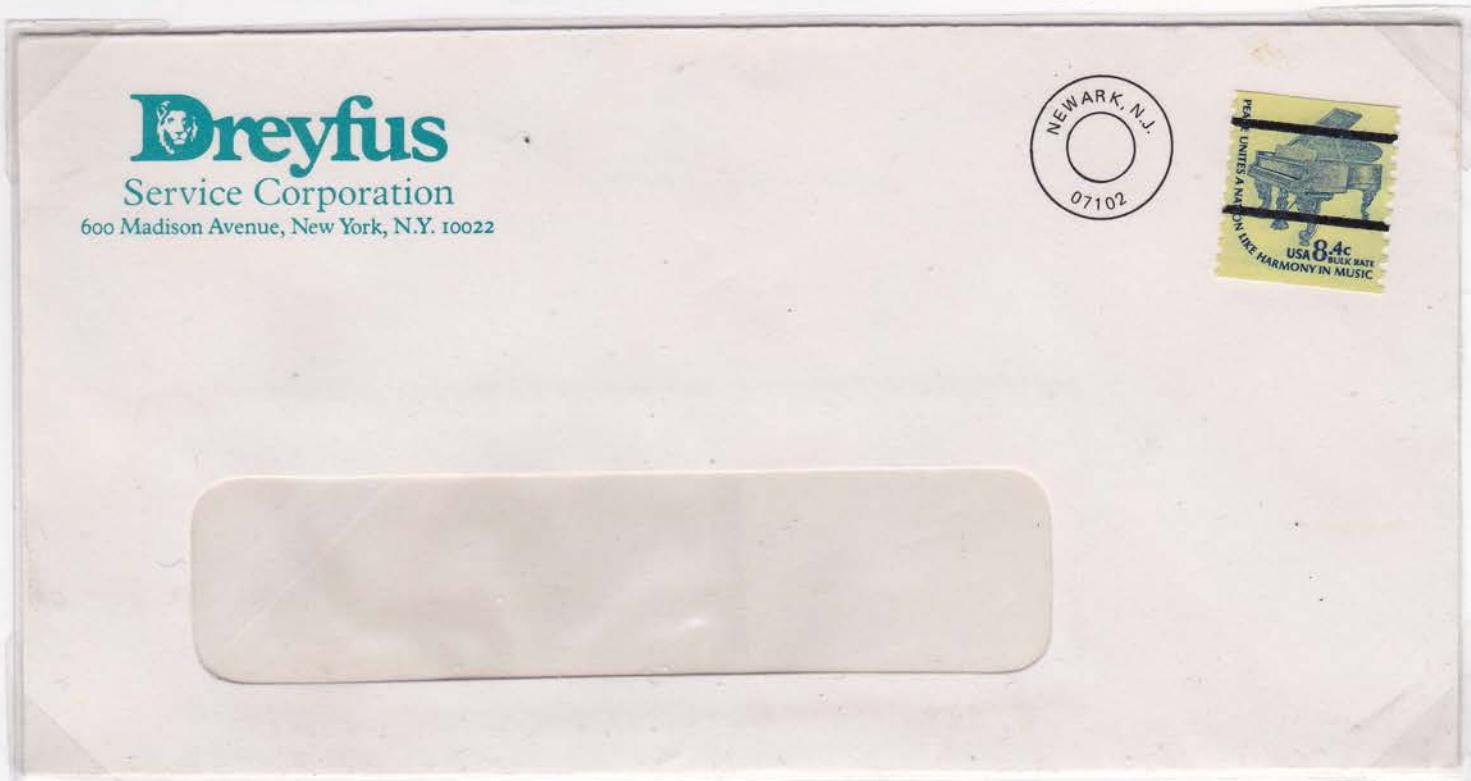
Most likely Woody's first composition. He claimed he made it up when he was about four years old.

*Listen to the music,
Music, music.
Listen to the music,
Music band.*



Official U.S. Post Office Department
publicity photograph.

Precanceled stamp paid 8.4¢ 3rd class bulk rate.

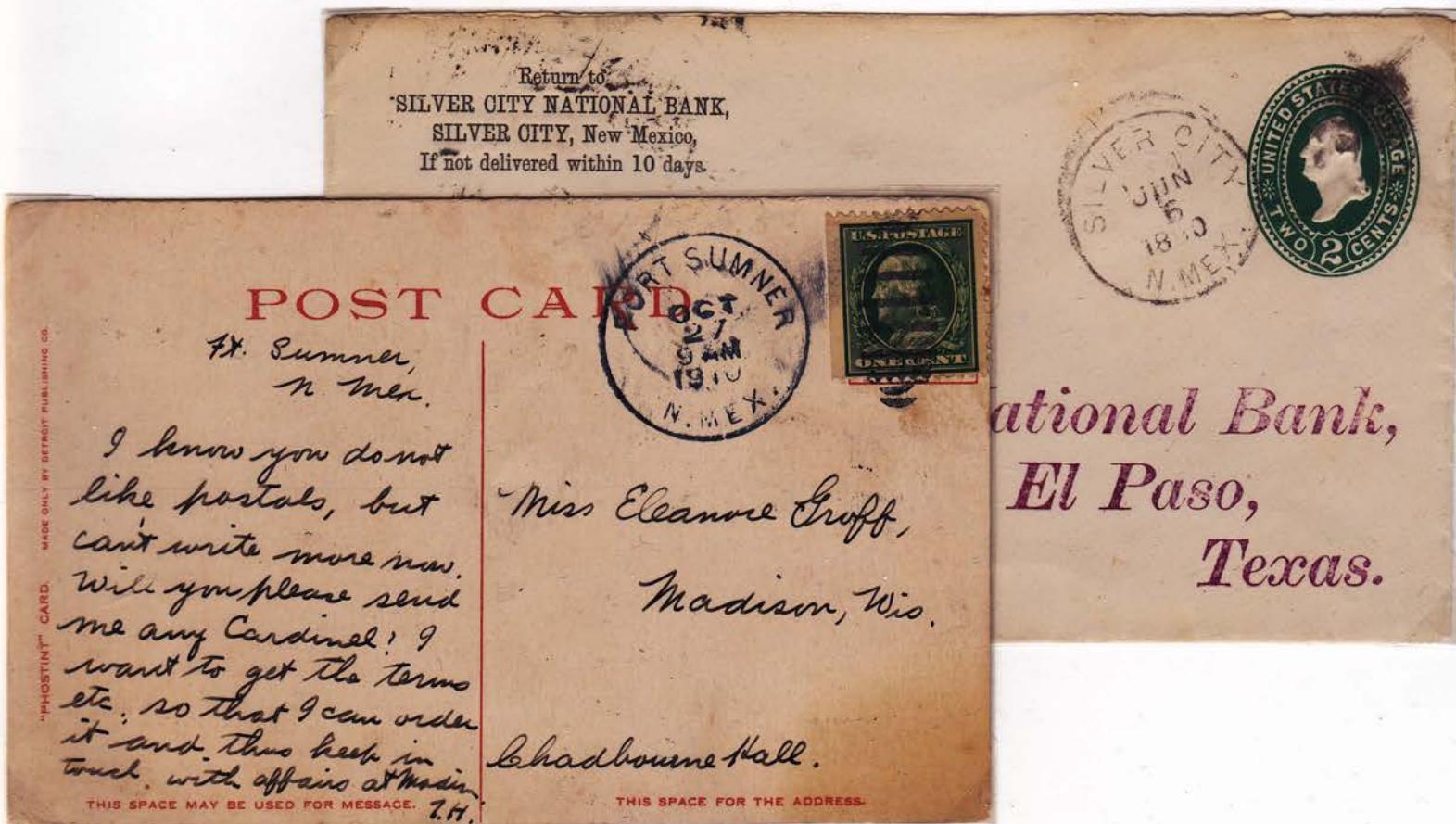


WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.3 THE MAKING OF A MUSICIAN

BILLY THE KID

Woody's version of a traditional ballad about the young murderer who terrorized New Mexico. Earlier versions had been recorded by Carson Robison and by Frank Crummitt, each differing slightly from one another. Woody developed an early fascination with outlaw ballads, probably from the old timers in Okemah, and *Billy the Kid* was among his favorites. Woody later borrowed the tune for part of *So Long, It's Been Good to Know You*.

*I'll tell you a story of Billy the Kid,
I'll tell you of some of the things that he did,
Way out in the West when our country was young,
When your gun was your law and your law was your gun.*



Middle: SILVER CITY N. MEX. territorial usage.
Billy (Henry McCarty) moved there from New York City with his family when he was 14 years old.

Bottom: FORT SUMNER N. MEX. territorial usage.
Fort Sumner is where Sheriff Pat Garrett killed Billy, then age 21, in 1881.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.3 THE MAKING OF A MUSICIAN

BELLE STARR

Another of Woody's outlaw ballads, spun from stories he heard back in Okemah. This one tells about the life, particularly the love life, of a notorious female outlaw. The real Belle Starr often wrote her name by drawing a bell and a star.

*Belle Starr, Belle Starr, tell me where have you gone,
Since old Oklahoma's red sand hills you roamed?
Is it Heaven's wide street you now tie the reins?
Are you single-footing somewhere's below?*



Right: New York Foreign Mail star cancellation on 7¢ issue of 1873.

*Eight men, they say, combed your black wavy hair,
Eight men knew the feel of your dark leather waist,
Eight men loved your tan leather circling skirt,
Eight men heard the bark of the guns that you wore.*

Nelson's Drug Store
1608 West Park Ave.
Orange, Texas 77630



JERRY STRACH
450 MARIN AVE.
MILL VALLEY, CA. 94941



FIRST CLASS MAIL

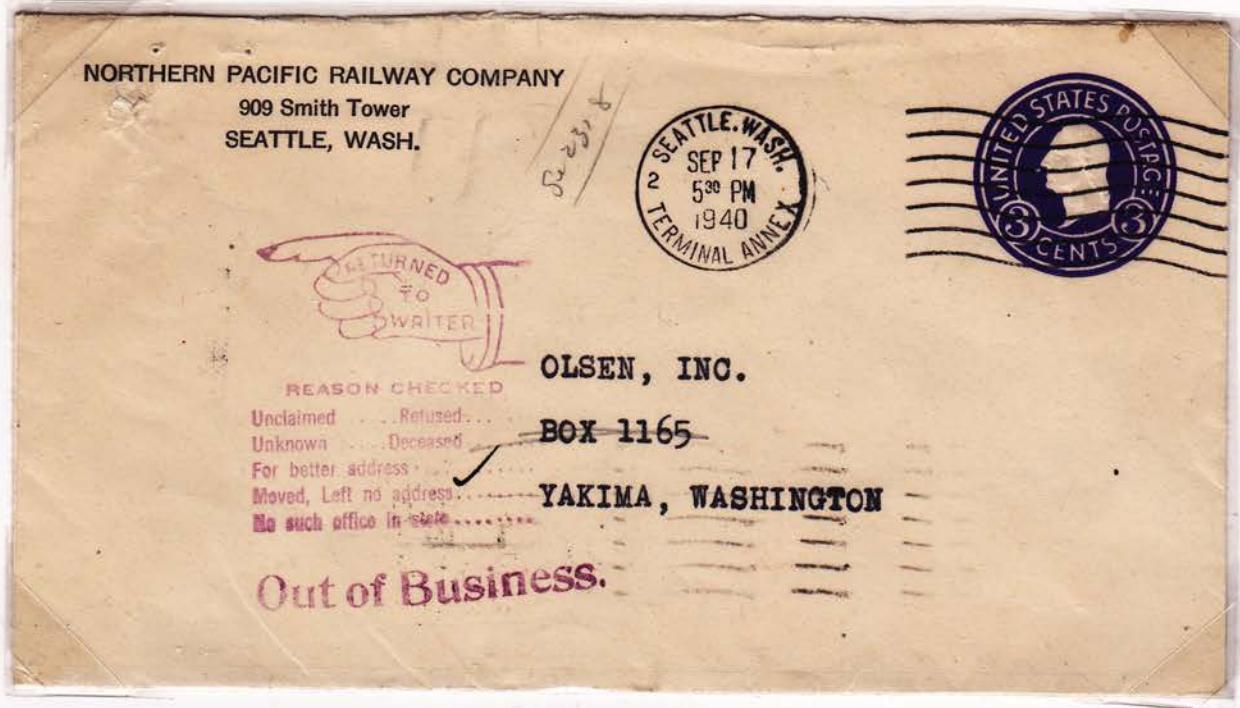
Ki-Dri Sweepstakes
P.O. Box 8298
St Paul MN 55182

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.4 FAMILY DISINTEGRATION

From 1919 to 1930, young Woody lived through one family disaster after another: several fires (including one that killed his older sister Clara Guthrie), his father's business failures and unemployment, the death of an uncle in a motorcycle accident, periods of homelessness, and finally his mother's mental and physical breakdown and eventual death from a hereditary disease then known as Huntington's chorea.



HOMELESS CHILDREN charity label.



OUT OF BUSINESS auxiliary marking.



NORMAN, OKLA. flag machine cancellation. Norman was the site of the state mental institution where Woody's mother was confined from 1927 until her death in 1930. When Woody last visited his mother in 1928, she could no longer recognize him. A similar fate would eventually befall Woody himself.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.4 FAMILY DISINTEGRATION

A DOLLAR DOWN

Woody's version of an old country song that pokes fun at going into debt. An earlier version had been recorded by a medicine show performer named Chris Bouchillon. Actually, buying and selling land on credit proved to be the downfall of Woody's father. Once one of the richest men in Okemah, Charles Guthrie would later say, "I'm the only man who ever lost a farm a day for 30 days."

*Friend of mine bought an automobile,
At a dollar down and a dollar a week,
Every time he turned the wheel,
It was a dollar down and a dollar a week.*

*He went riding down the road,
Pinched this girl upon her cheek,
Speed cop took him to the judge,
He got a dollar down and a dollar a week.*

10¢ Banking and Commerce stamps (shown as plate number block) and cover below picture the Morgan Silver Dollar, last minted in 1921.



Series 1928 \$1 Silver Certificate, first placed into circulation in early 1929.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER 1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

At the age of 17, Woody went to live with relatives in the Texas Panhandle town of Pampa. He soon dropped out of high school and began doing odd jobs, such as sign painter or soda jerk. It was in Pampa that Woody got married for the first of three times. It was also in Pampa that he started playing music professionally.

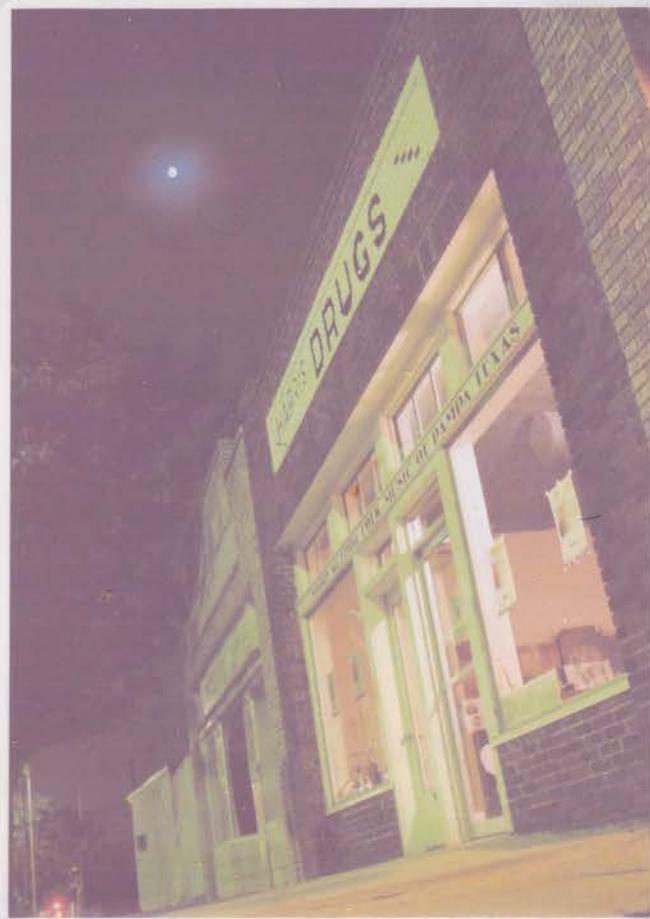


Schneider Hotel cover. Woody would eventually perform for the Pampa Chamber of Commerce at the Schneider Hotel, Pampa's finest at the time. Other noted musicians who played at the Schneider Hotel included Tex Ritter, Hank Thompson, Jimmy Wakely, Bob Wills, and Guy Lombardo.



Local precancel.

Photo of the Harris Drug Store where Woody worked as a soda jerk. Building now houses the Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center of Pampa, publisher of the photo.



In this building a man picked up a guitar and changed the world.
The Woody Guthrie Folk Music Center of Pampa
320 South Cuyler Pampa, Texas

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

By 1936, Woody had developed quite a reputation as a musician in and around Pampa. In that year he led the Texas Centennial Band, six musicians in cowboy garb who played for the Texas Centennial celebrations.



Woody, at left, with his band.
Photo published in *Woody Guthrie: a Life*
by Joe Klein.



Texas Centennial poster stamp.



Texas Centennial stamp on cover with
TEXAS CENTENNIAL STATION exposition cancellation.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

THE RANGER'S COMMAND

A well armed woman leads a group of cowboys in fighting off a band of cattle rustlers.
Woody based this song on a traditional cowboy ballad called *The Fair Maid From the Plains*.

We started for the canyon in the fall of the year,
Expecting to get there with a herd of fat steer,
And the rustlers broke on us in the dead hours of night,
She rose from her warm bed a battle to fight.
She rose from her warm bed with a gun in each hand,
Said, "Come all of you cowboys and fight for your land.
Come all of you cowboys and don't ever run,
As long as there's bullets in both of your guns."



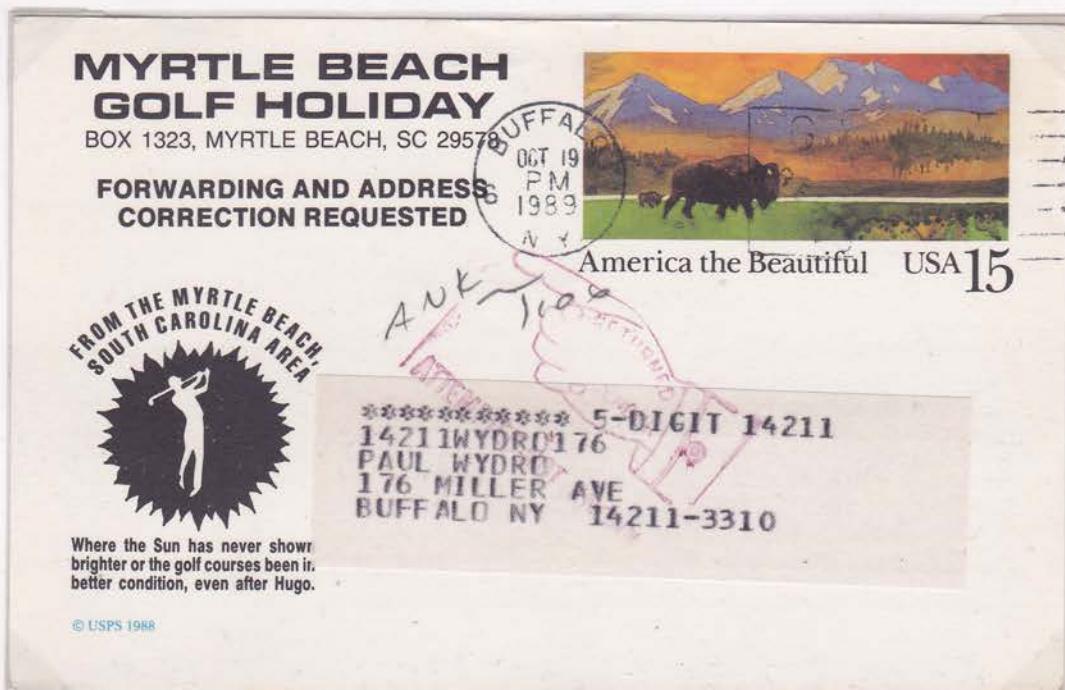
Advertising corner card similar to design later used for Range Conservation stamp.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

BUFFALO SKINNERS

Woody's version of a traditional ballad about the hardships and dangers of buffalo hunting. Many versions exist, all ending with the party of buffalo skinners killing the boss who they feel cheated them out of their rightful pay

*Come all you old time cowboys and listen to my song,
Please do not grow weary, I'll not detain you long,
Concerning some wild cowboys who did agree to go,
And spend a summer pleasant on the range of the buffalo.*



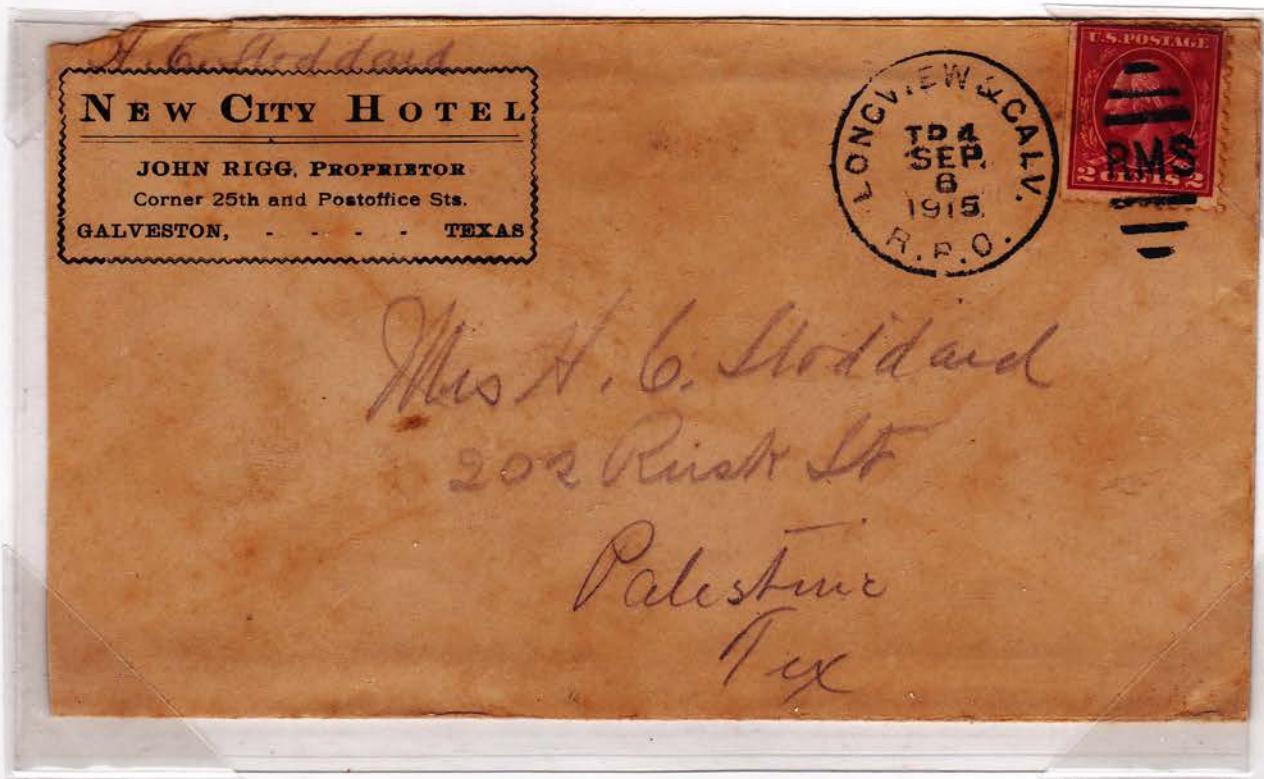
BUFFALO N.Y. machine cancellation applied when postal card was returned to sender.
Promotional message printed to private order when postal card was produced.

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

EAST TEXAS RED

Woody's tale of how a tough railroad man meets his death at the hands of two hoboes he had wronged.

*Down in the scrub oak timber of the Southeast Texas Gulf,
There used to live a brakeman, a brakeman double tough,
He worked the town of Kilgore and Longview nine miles down,
Us travelers called him East Texas Red, the meanest bull around.*



Longview and Galveston Railway Post Office postmark.
The story takes place along this line.

*Red went to his knees and he hollered, "Please, don't pull that trigger on me!
I did not get my business fixed," but he did not get his say.
A gun wheeled out of an overcoat, and it played the old one-two,
And Red was dead when the other two men sat down to eat their stew.*

WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

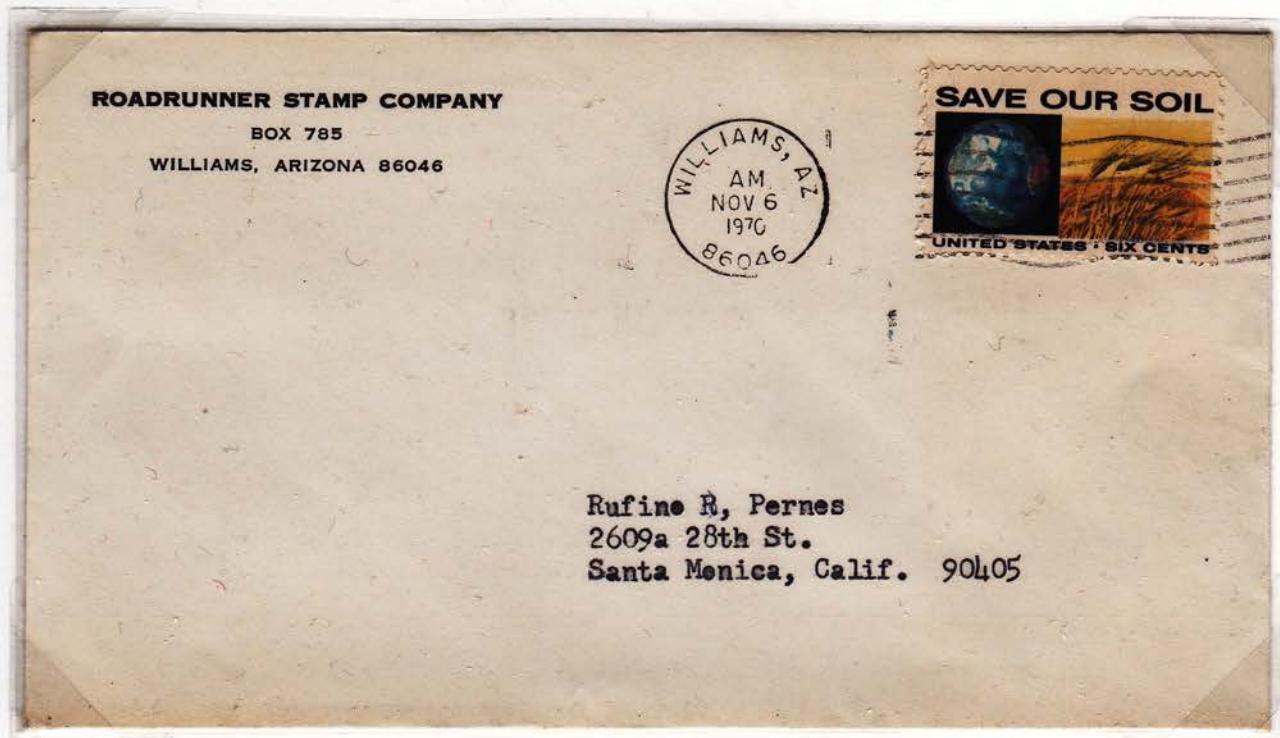
DRY SPELL ON THE PLAINS

Woody was living in Pampa with his first wife, the former Mary Jennings, when the droughts and dust storms of the 1930s turned the middle of the country into what became known as the Dust Bowl.

*I was a-grubbing on a piece of land,
When this dry spell hit the plains,
Raising up some crops to pay the debts I owe.
That old dust cloud come a-rolling,
Wife she prayed, and our kids all bawling,
When we fought this awful dry spell on the plains.*



*When we fought this awful dry spell on the plains,
When we fought this awful dry spell on the plains,
Tumbling weeds and drifting sands,
Great big blisters on my hands,
When we fought this awful dry spell on the plains.*



WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

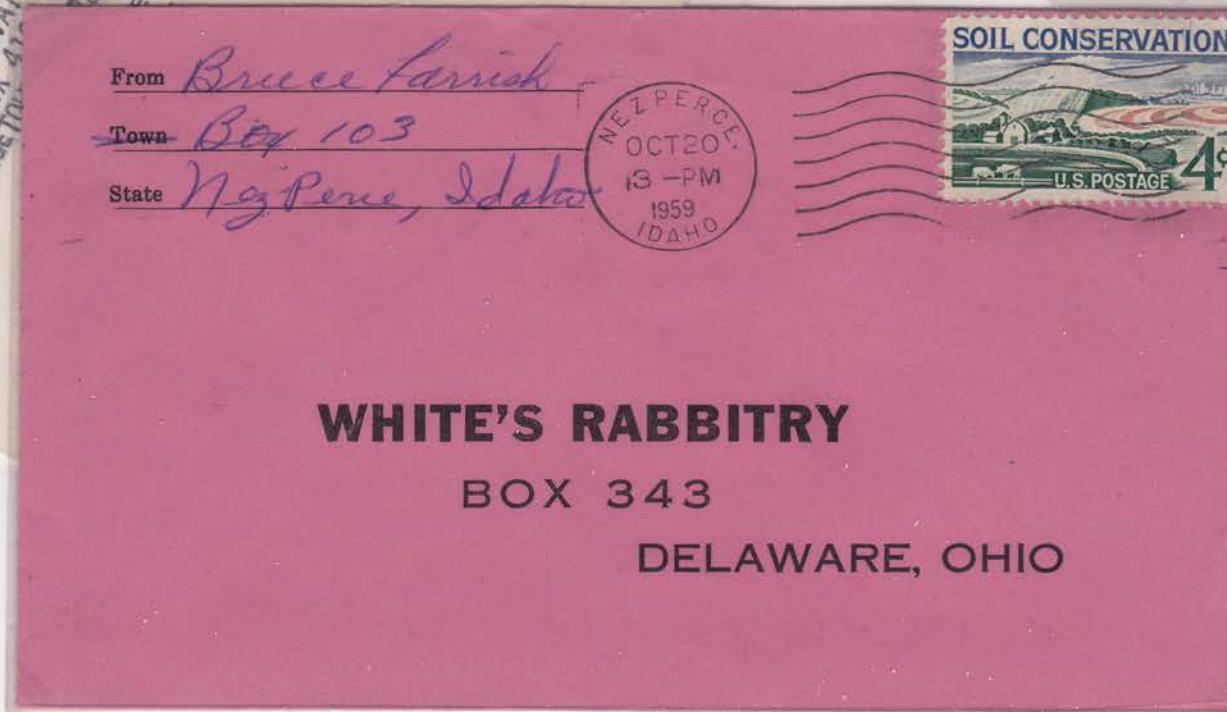
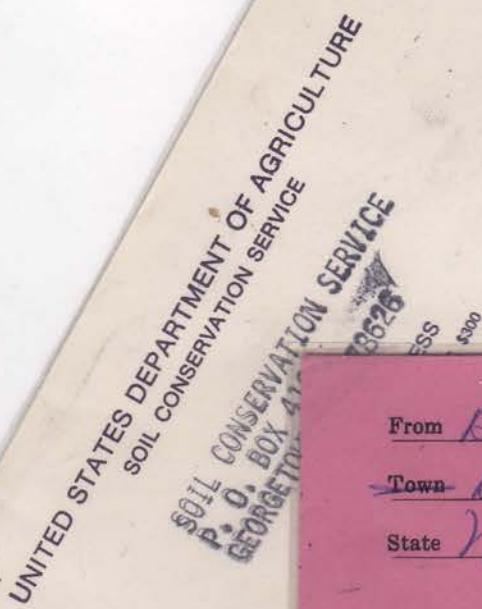
DUST STORM DISASTER
(or THE GREAT DUST STORM)

Woody was living in Pampa when this greatest
of all dust storms blackened the sky.

*On the 14th day of April,
Of 1935,
There struck the worst of dust storms,
That ever filled the sky.*

Congress created the Soil Con-
servation Service in 1935 as
a direct result of this storm.

In 1983, the Soil Conser-
vation Service became
one of the first two
federal agencies
authorized to use
modern official
mail stamps.



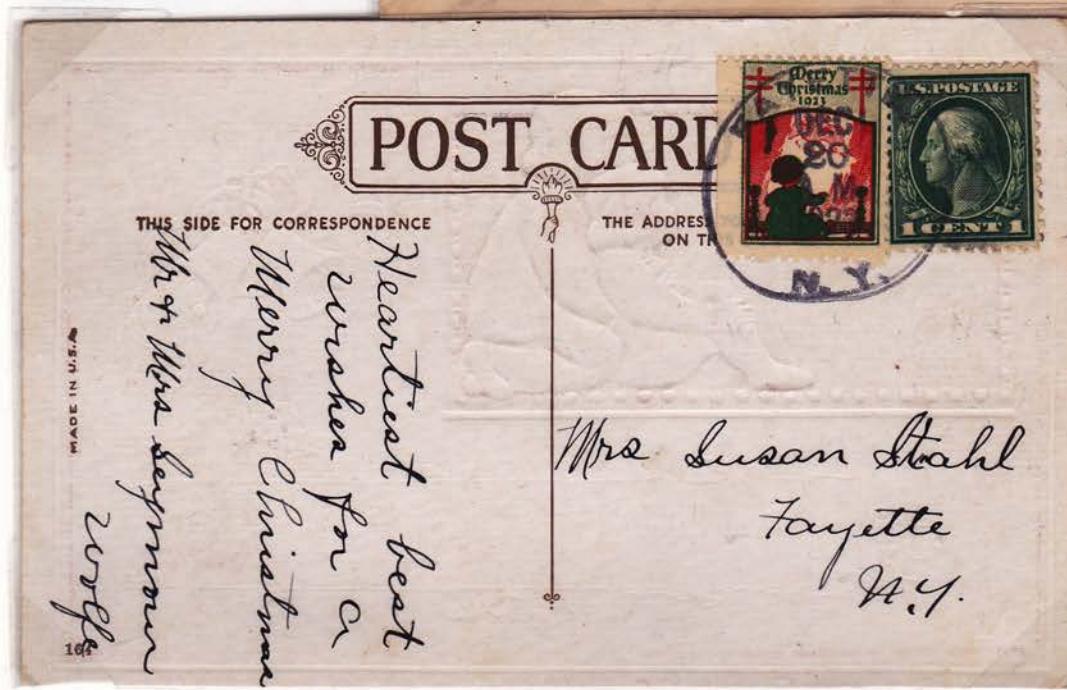
WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

DUST PNEUMONY BLUES

Title refers to several pulmonary conditions – pneumonia, pneumoconiosis, bronchitis, emphysema, and tuberculosis, among others – that were either caused or exacerbated by dust from dust storms.

*I got that dust pneumonia, pneumonia in my lung,
I got that dust pneumonia, pneumonia in my lung,
And I'm gonna sing this dust pneumonia song.*

Cover used from
TB hospital.

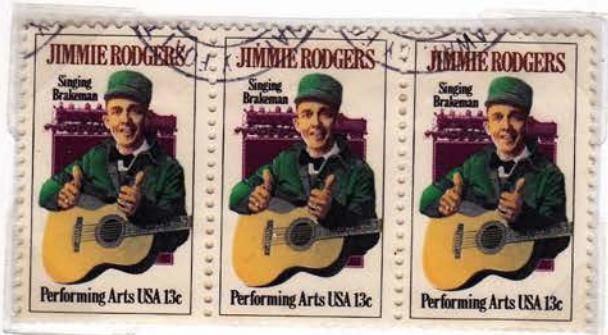


N. GENERAL AGENT
ANCE COMPANY
ARCADE BUILDING
OCHESTER, N. Y.

Christmas Seal issued by National Tuberculosis Association.

*Now there ought to be some yodeling in this song,
There ought to be some yodeling in this song,
But I can't yodel for the rattling in my lung.*

Verse about yodeling refers to the singing style popularized by Jimmie Rodgers who died from TB in 1933 at the age of 35. Rodgers had been a musical inspiration for Woody Guthrie.



WOODY GUTHRIE: WAY DOWN YONDER
1.5 THE TEXAS YEARS

SO LONG, IT'S BEEN GOOD TO KNOW YOU

One of Woody's best known songs began as his musical farewell to what he called "the wild windy plains" of the Texas Panhandle.

*So long, it's been good to know you,
So long, it's been good to know you,
So long, it's been good to know you,
This dusty old dust is a-getting my home,
And I've got to be drifting along.*



\$115⁰⁰
On or before September first, after date, for value received, I or we, promise to pay to the order of THE A. J. SHAW INVESTMENT COMPANY, at its office in McPherson, Kansas, the sum of

One Hundred Fifty and No/100 DOLLARS
with 6 per cent interest from date. 10% interest from date if not paid when due.

This note is given in consideration for money advanced by the payee, as premium for Hail Insurance on my crops, consisting of 300 acres of land now growing on the 2 of Sec. 2 Twp. 26 Range 34 in the County of Rivers, and State of Kansas, during the year 1924.

For the purpose of obtaining credit, I or we, make the following property statement and declare same to be true: I own 400 acres of land, worth \$1000. Encumbrance on land, \$400. Value of personal property other than crop herein described, \$200. Encumbrance on personal property, \$100. Encumbrance on crop, \$200.

To secure the payment of this note, I or we, do hereby mortgage and convey to THE A. J. SHAW INVESTMENT COMPANY, or assigns, the crops above described, and if this note is not paid when due, or if any attempt shall be made to sell or remove said crops, or any part thereof, before the full payment of this note, this note shall at once become due and payable without notice and the legal holder thereof shall be entitled to immediate possession of said crops. In case of loss under policy on which this premium note is given, this note shall immediately become due and payable, and may be deducted from amount of said loss. This mortgage to be void in case of full compliance with all the terms and condition hereof, otherwise to remain in full force and effect. In case suit should be brought for the collection of this note the maker agrees to pay a reasonable attorney's fee for plaintiff's attorney.

Dated at Sedan, Kansas this 3rd day of June, 1924.



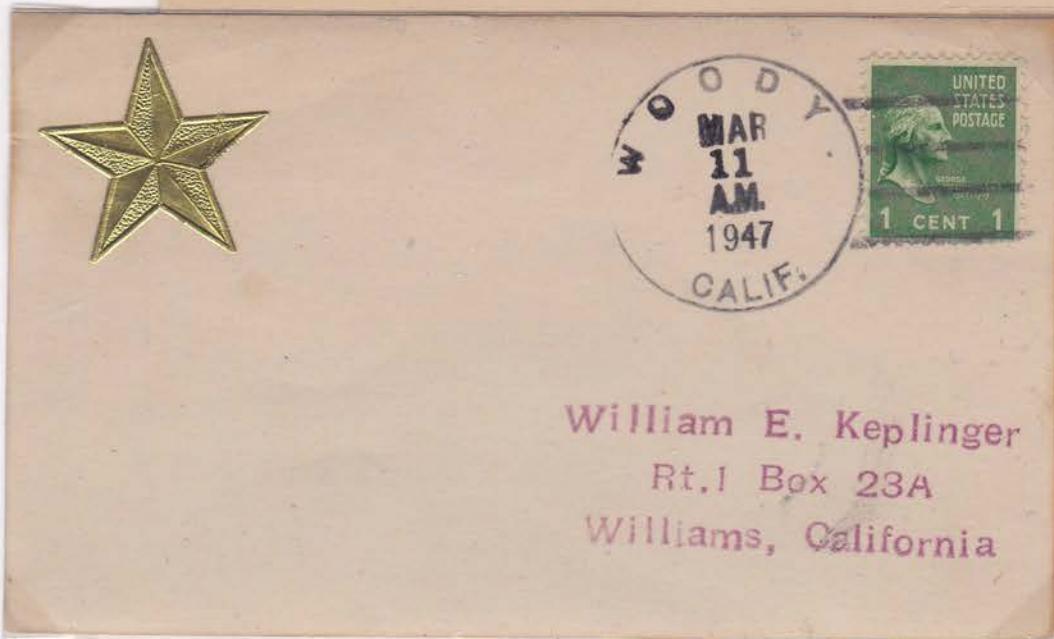
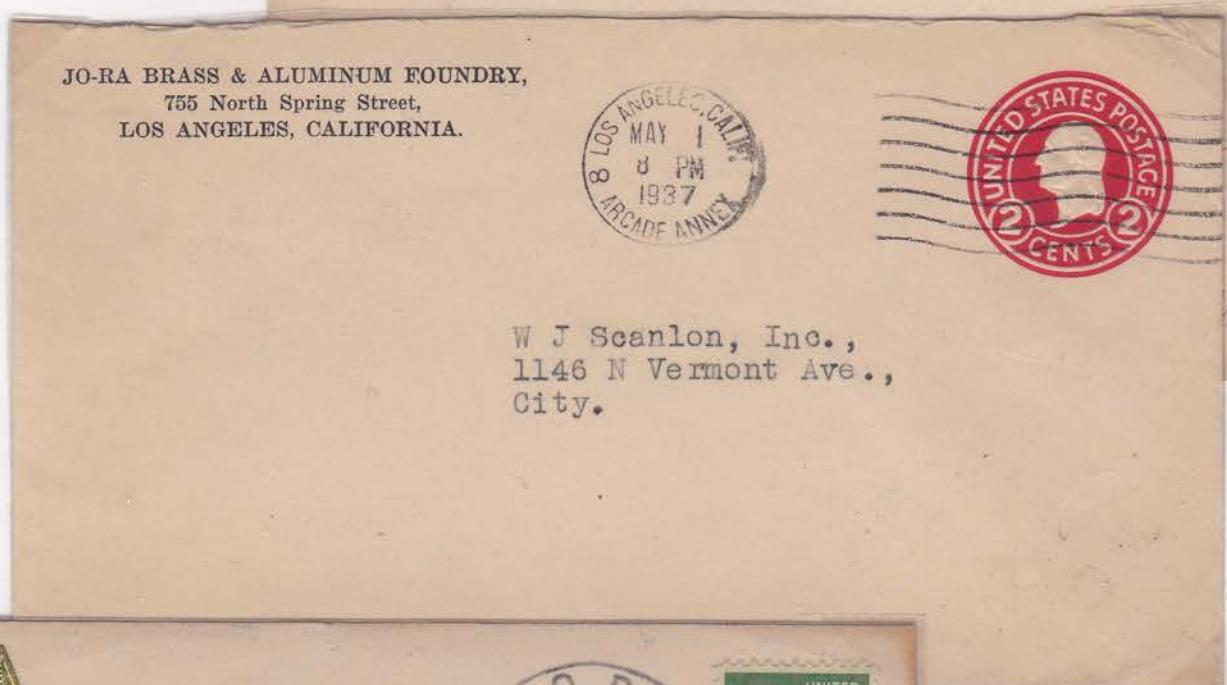
Walter L. Bullock

Federal revenue stamps used on a Kansas farmer's promissory note, 1924.
Many such farmers said "So long, it's been good to know you" to their homes in the 1930s.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

In 1937 Woody made his way to California, ending up in Los Angeles. He soon began to find some success with a regular series of radio programs. Many of his listeners were fellow refugees from the Dust Bowl.

The future beckons: LOS ANGELES, CAL. machine cancellation from when Woody was one day old: July 15, 1912.



WOODY CALIF. postmark. On the 10th anniversary of Guthrie's arrival, Los Angeles temporarily changed its name to Woody. (Only kidding, of course!)

L.A. 1937: Hello, Woody! 2¢ local letter rate.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

DO RE MI

Woody's warning to would-be migrants that only those with sufficient money would be welcome to enter California. The others were often turned back at the state line.

*If you ain't got the do re mi, boys,
If you ain't got the do re mi,
Well, you better go back to beautiful Texas,
Oklahoma, Georgia, Kansas, Tennessee.
California is a Garden of Eden,
It's a paradise to live in or to see,
But believe it or not, you won't find it so hot,
If you ain't got the do re mi.*



STATE LINE CAL. postmark.



OPA FORM (Rev. 5-44)	R-534	STUB	BUDGET BUREAU NO. 08-R084 APPROVAL EXPIRES MAY 31, 1945
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA—OFFICE OF PRICE ADMINISTRATION			MILEAGE RATIONING RECORD
DESCRIPTION OF VEHICLE			
VEHICLE LICENSE NO.	YEAR MODEL	DO NOT WRITE IN SPACE WITHIN HEAVY LINES	
215-231	1929	SERIAL NO. OF RATION ISSUED	DAT OF ISSUE
STATE OF REGISTRATION	MAKE	862866	9/14/41
Illinois	Ford	BOARD NO.	COUNTY AND STATE
ADDRESS TO WHICH RATION IS TO BE MAILED: (Print or type.)			
NAME	Raymond Roughton		
STREET AND NUMBER	605 E. Green		
CITY, POSTAL ZONE NO. AND STATE	Urbana, Illinois		
SIGNATURE OF ISSUING OFFICER			
Lee F. G.			

Endorse ALL your coupons as soon as you get them.

HELP KILL THE BLACK MARKET!

16-39951-1

Middle: An old Ford, such as the one pictured behind Henry Ford on the stamp, was the car that brought many Dust Bowl families to California. 12¢ post card rate in effect only from March 22 through October 31, 1981.

Bottom: World War II era Mileage Rationing Record for a 1929 Ford.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

VIGILANTE MAN

Woody's song about the armed posses that tried to keep unemployed migrants out of California and several other western states in the 1930s. These vigilantes were often members of local American Legion posts.

*Oh, why does a vigilante man,
Why does a vigilante man,
Carry that sawed off shotgun in his hand?
Would he shoot his brother and sister down?*



Top right: Cover flown on record air mail flight from San Antonio to New York City in conjunction with American Legion convention held in San Antonio.

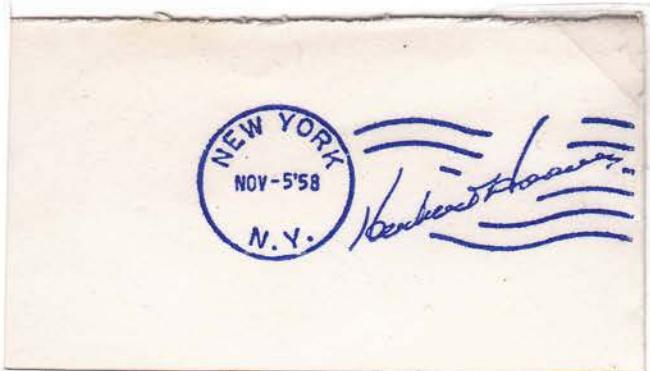
Bottom: American Legion convention promotion on reverse.
Meter stamp shows AD'L 1¢ PD. because letter rate had recently increased from 2¢ to 3¢.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

HOOVERSVILLE

It was in Los Angeles that Woody first saw the Depression era shanty towns named in mock tribute to Herbert Hoover. Of course, by the time Woody reached L.A., Hoover had already been out of office for four years.

*Rambling, gambling, rickety shacks,
That's Hooversville!
Rusty tin and raggedy sacks,
That's Hooversville!
On the skeeter bit end of the garbage dump,
30 million people slump,
Down where the big rats run and jump,
In Hooversville!*



Former President Hoover's free franking.



From
Hoover's
unsuccessful
reelection
campaign of
1932.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

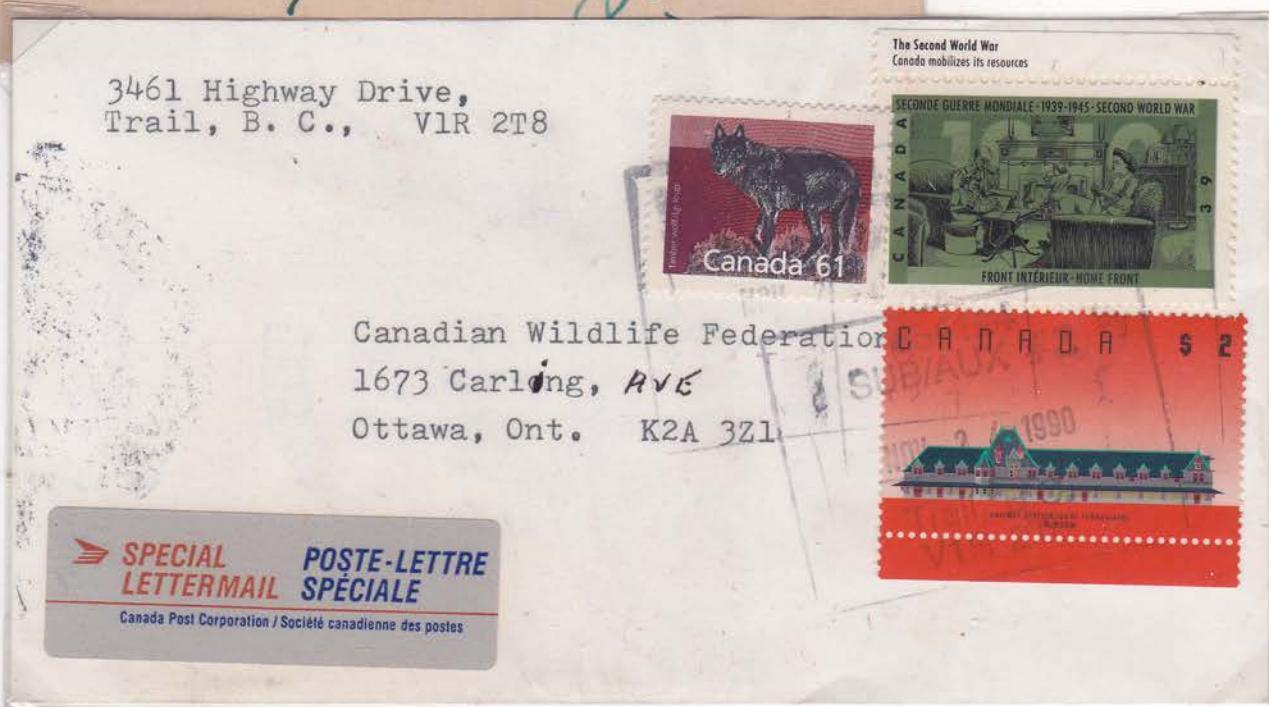
OLD LONE WOLF

Theme song of Woody's radio program on station KFVD in Los Angeles when he broadcast solo, 1938-1939. Earlier programs on the same station had been with his cousin Jack Guthrie or with Maxine "Lefty Lou" Crissman. Between verses Woody would howl like a wolf.

*Just drop whatever you're a-doing,
The Old Lone Wolf is here to bark for you.
The lonesomer I get, well,
The lonesomer I yell!*



Perhaps Woody was inspired by a small town in his native Oklahoma!



61¢ Timber Wolf stamp paid part of \$3 special lettermail rate = 39¢ letter rate + \$2.61 special delivery fee.
Rate combination in effect for only one year, January 1 through December 31, 1990.

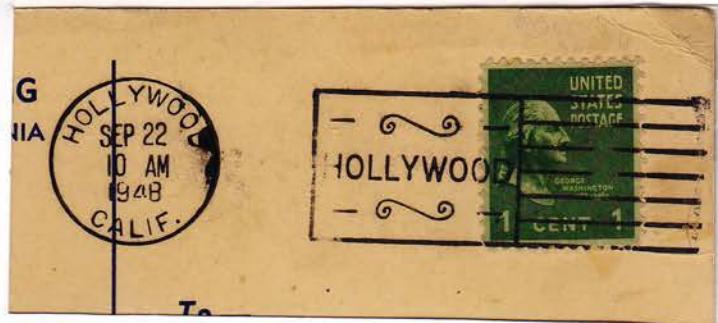
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

PHILADELPHIA LAWYER

One of Woody's most popular songs from his Los Angeles radio program was this humorous tale of a love triangle involving a Pennsylvania attorney, a Nevada cowboy, and a California beauty. In the end, the lawyer was the big loser!

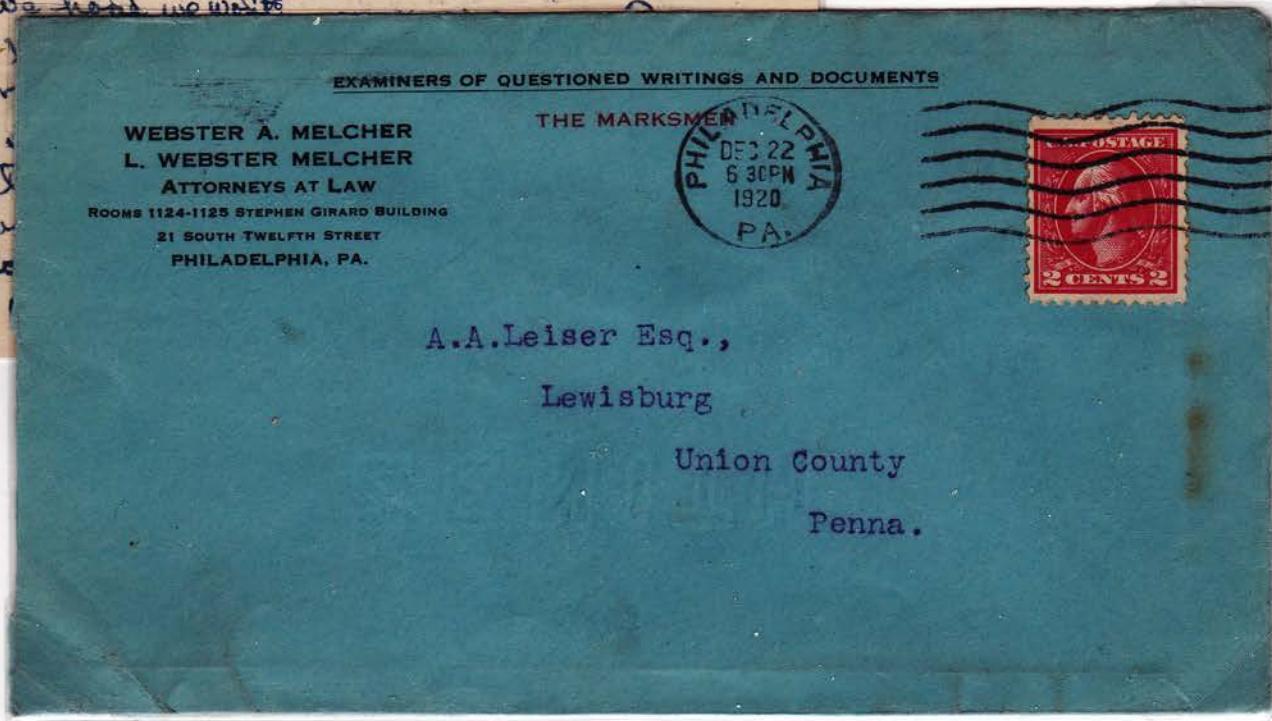
Way out in Reno, Nevada,
Where the romances bloom and they fade,
Was a great Philadelphia lawyer,
In love with a Hollywood maid.

Now, Bill was a gun toting outlaw,
With 10 notches carved on his gun,
And all of the boys around Reno,
Left Wild Bill's darling alone.



RENO—the largest city in Nevada is ideally situated in fertile meadows, on the banks of the Truckee River, and surrounded by the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains. The abundant beauties and attractions of this cosmopolitan city, its zestful and sparkling life, justifies the claim to "The Biggest Little City in the World."

Dear Am & all.
Here now in Reno
staying overnight & ~~tonight~~
on deck. We have ~~now~~ ~~now~~
go broke.
Trip so far
were with
more next
to all of you
so long no



Well, tonight back in old Pennsylvania,
Among her beautiful pines,
There's one less Philadelphia lawyer,
In old Philadelphia tonight.

Cover from a pair of Philadelphia lawyers.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

TOM JOAD

John Steinbeck's novel of an Oklahoma family's migration to California, *The Grapes of Wrath*, condensed and set to music by Woody. Steinbeck later commented about Woody: "In 17 verses he got the entire story of a thing that took me two years to write!"

*Tom Joad got out of the old McAlester pen,
There he got his parole,
After four long years on a man killing charge,
Tom Joad come a-walking down the road, poor boy,
Tom Joad come a-walking down the road.*

Postmark of McAlester, Oklahoma,
site of the penitentiary where the
title character had been imprisoned.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

In 1939, upon John Steinbeck's recommendation, Hollywood producer Darryl F. Zanuck hired Woody as a musical advisor when *The Grapes of Wrath* was made into a movie that was released the following year.

11th IN A SERIES

P11111



LEGENDS OF HOLLYWOOD

HENRY FONDA (1905-1982) was noted for his naturalness and sincerity in stage roles and on the screen. Effective in comedic or dramatic roles, he typically played thoughtful men of integrity. In a career spanning nearly 50 years, he won many honors, including a Tony Award in 1948 for his work in the Broadway production of *Mister Roberts* and the Academy Award for best actor in 1982 for *On Golden Pond*.

The Grapes of Wrath™ & © 1940, 2004 Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation.
All rights reserved.

© 2004 USPS

37 x 20 = \$7.40

PLATE POSITION

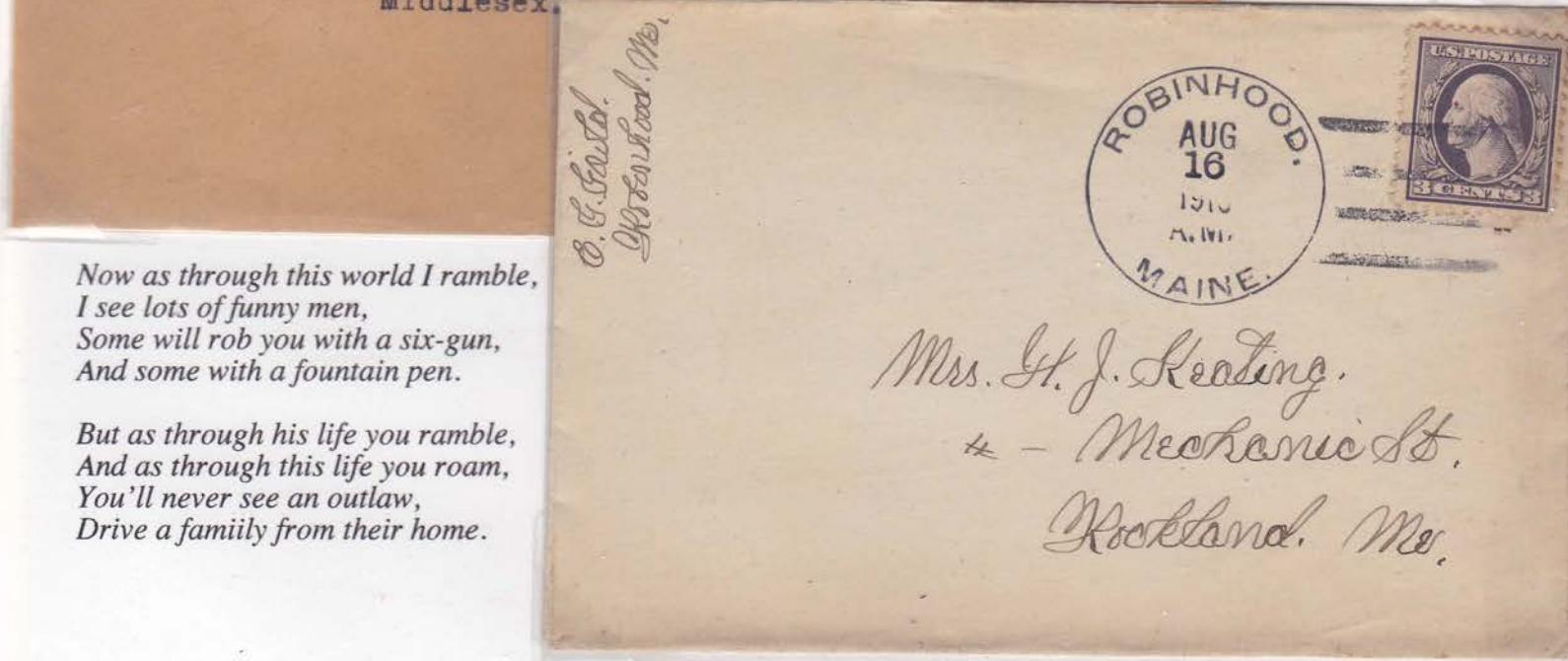
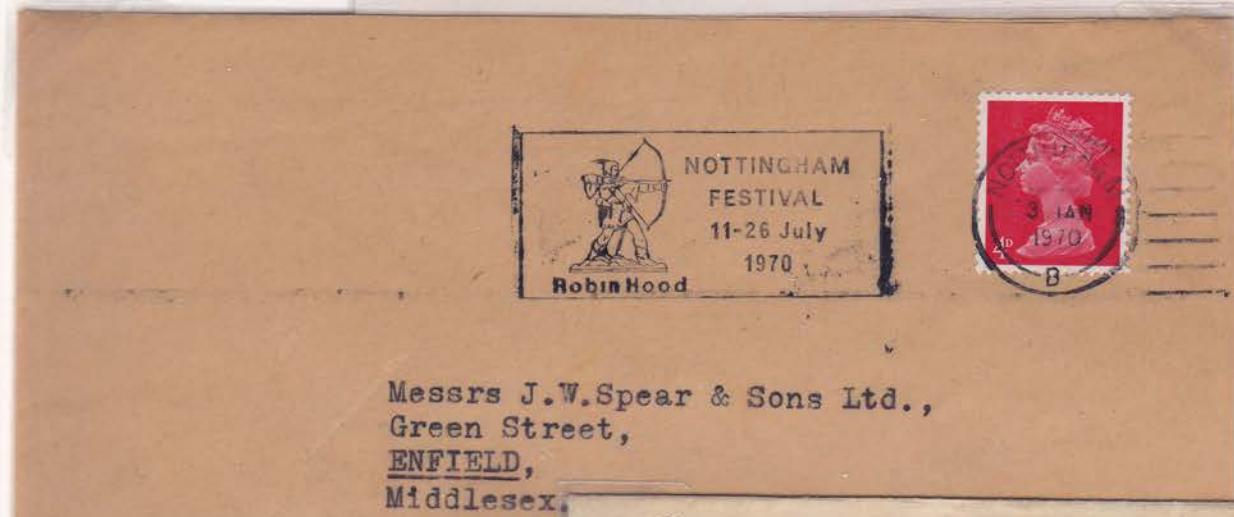
Henry Fonda played the part of Tom Joad in *The Grapes of Wrath*,
as shown in right margin of pane of 37¢ Henry Fonda stamps.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.1 AN OKIE IN L.A.

PRETTY BOY FLOYD

"Pretty Boy," Woody Guthrie liked to say, "had the right idea but the wrong system." Woody's portrayal of the notorious Oklahoma-born bank robber as a modern day Robin Hood was intended to entertain Okie migrants and at the same time offend respectable Angelinos. It proved successful in doing both.

*If you'll gather 'round me, children,
A story I will tell,
About Pretty Boy Floyd, the outlaw,
Oklahoma knew him well.*



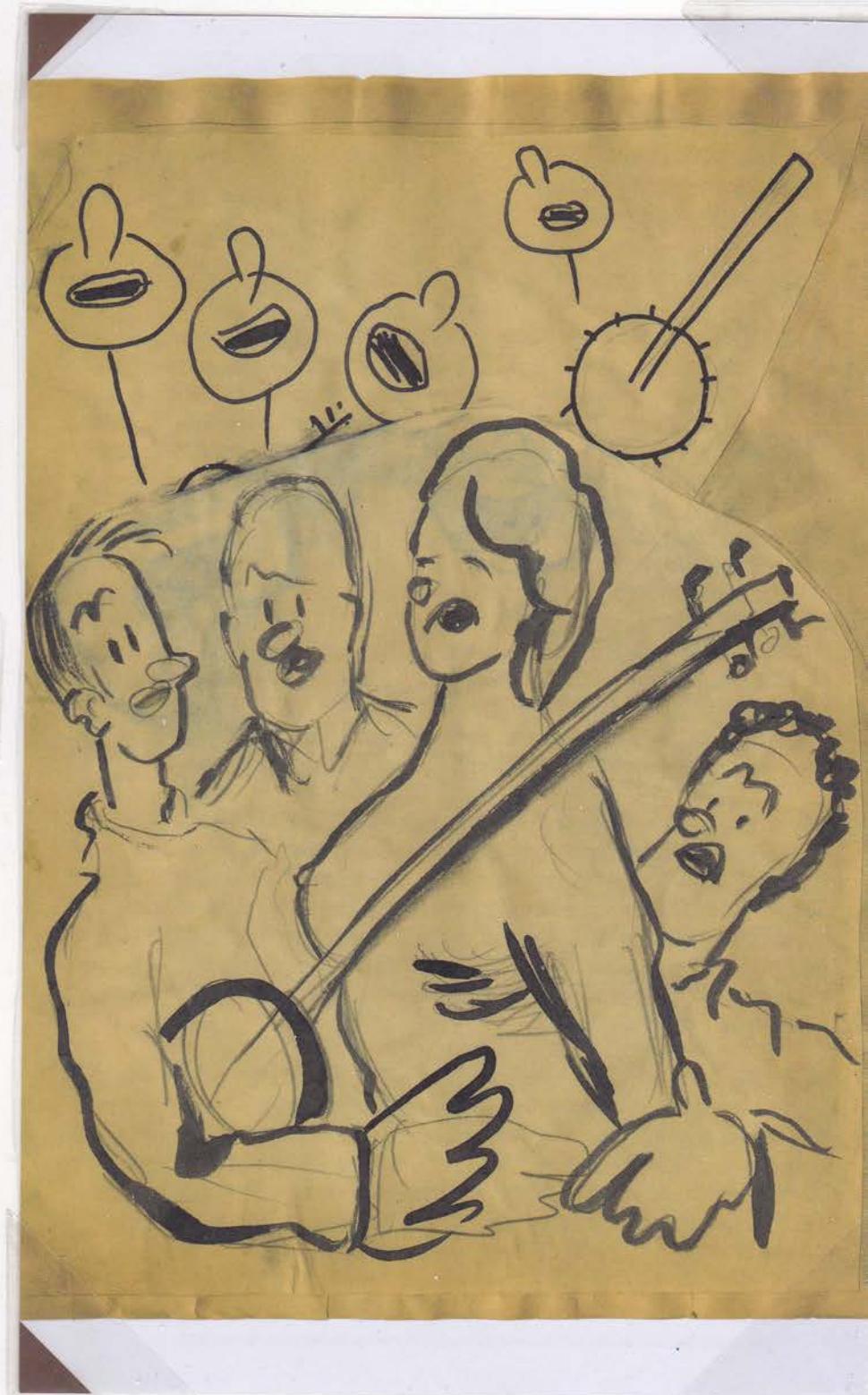
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

Weary of the Hollywood dominated atmosphere, Woody left Los Angeles for New York City in early 1940. After a short return to Los Angeles in 1941, Woody came back to New York to join a newly formed folk group called the Almanac Singers. Woody then made New York his home for most of his remaining life.



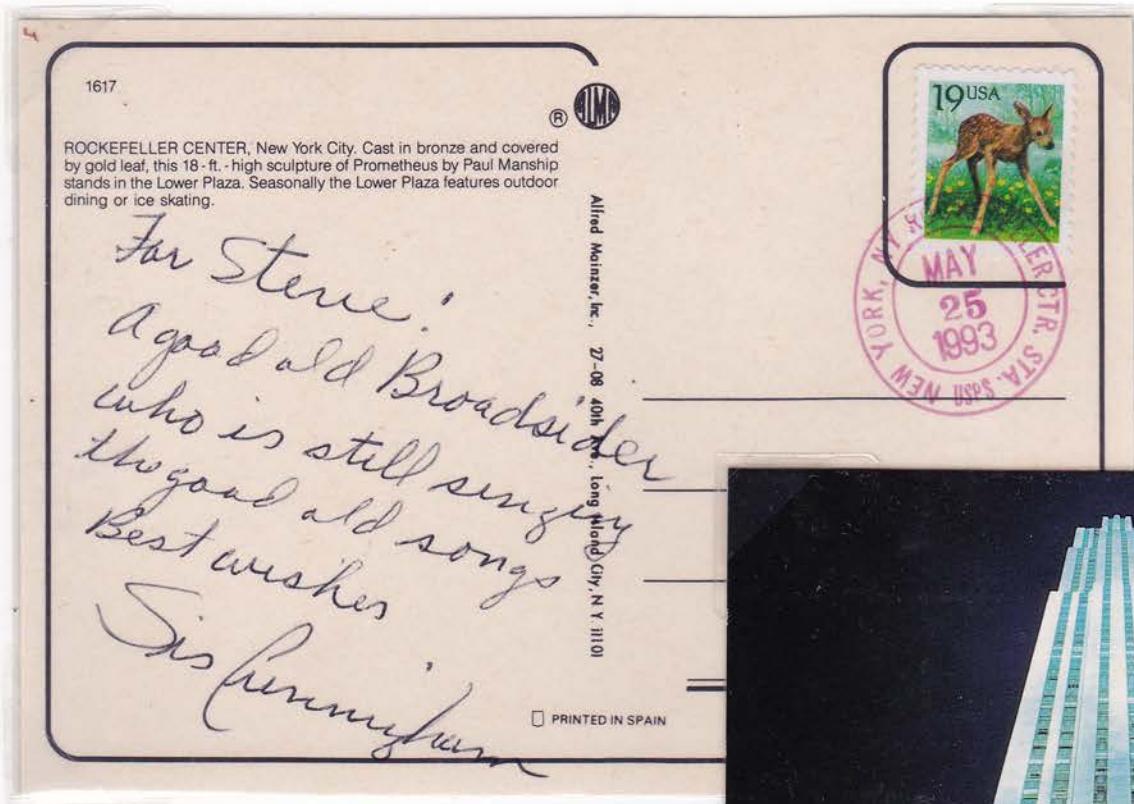
Postmark and meter stamp from 1940, Woody's coast-to-coast transition year.

Woody's portrait of the Almanac Singers. Published in *My Name Is New York* by Nora Guthrie and the Woody Guthrie Archives. Front row left to right: Pete Seeger, Lee Hays, Sis Cunningham, Woody Guthrie.

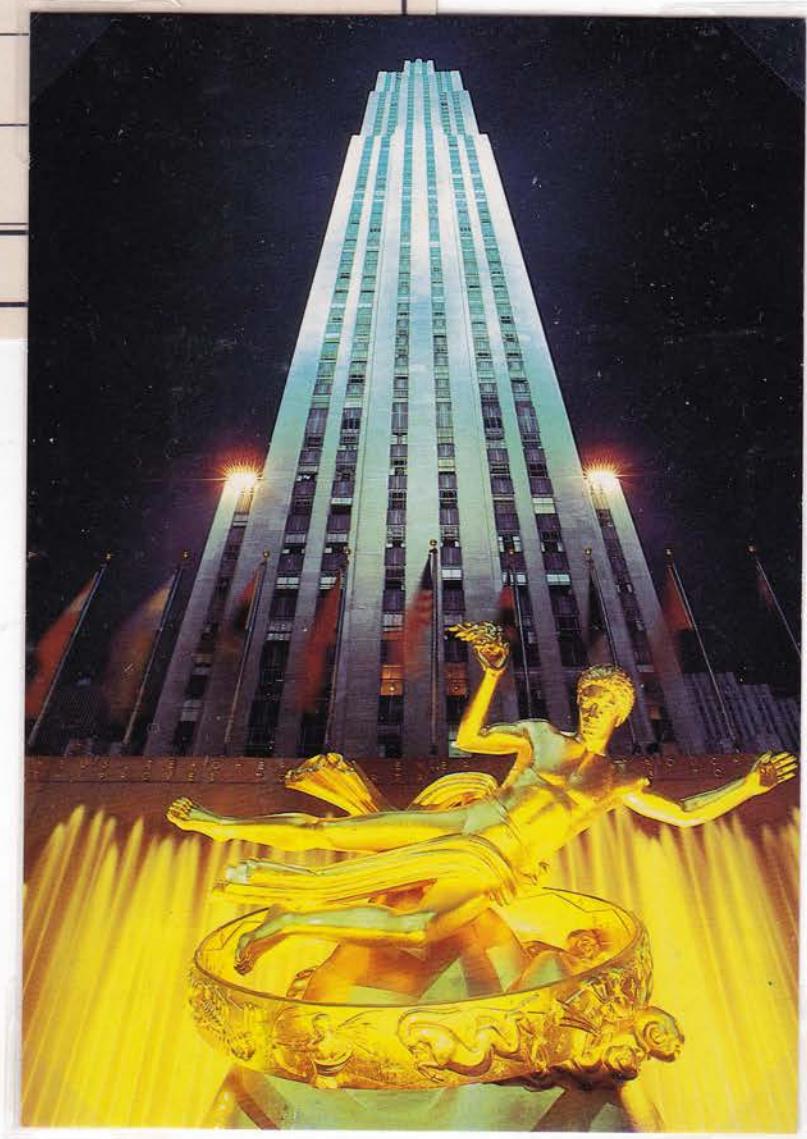


WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

One of the Almanac Singers' job offers was to perform at the Rainbow Room in Rockefeller Center. They turned it down because the management wanted them to appear in stereotypical hillbilly costumes.



SIS CUNNINGHAM autograph. Sis was Woody's fellow Oklahoman, and one of two women in the Almanac Singers.
ROCKEFELLER CTR. STA. postmark.



Obverse of identical post card picturing Rockefeller Center.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND 2.2 NEW YORK CITY

New York Times obituary for Sis (Agnes) Cunningham, June 30, 2004.
Photo shows the Almanac Singers with Woody at the left and Sis at the right.

6/30/04

THE NEW YORK TIMES OBITUARIES WEDNESDAY, JUNE 30, 2004

Agnes Cunningham, 95, Dies; Sowed the Seeds of Folk Music

By BEN SISARIO

Agnes Cunningham, a founder of the influential folk-song journal Broadside, died on Sunday at a nursing home in New Paltz, N.Y., her daughter Jane Friesen said. She was 95.

Broadside, begun by Ms. Cunningham and her husband, Gordon Friesen, in 1962, published more than 1,000 topical songs during its 26-year run, including some of the first works by Bob Dylan, Phil Ochs, Janis Ian, Buffy Sainte-Marie and Tom Paxton. Though its circulation never reached higher than four figures, it lasted for 187 issues and played a significant role in the development of the 60's folk style.

"This very small magazine, it reached key people throughout the country," Pete Seeger, a frequent contributor, said yesterday. "When a good song came along, it got picked up right away."

For the magazine's first issues, Ms. Cunningham, known as Sis, and Mr. Friesen invited musicians from the New York folk scene to their apartment in the Frederick Douglass housing project on West 104th Street in Manhattan to perform their newest songs into a reel-to-reel tape recorder.

They chose songs with strong leftist politics and a direct style, and stated their aims in the first issue with a quotation from Woody Guthrie that "a good song can only do good."

"We favored singers who were simple and didn't have all the fluff," Ms. Cunningham said in an interview with The New York Times in 2001. "Poetry set to music has to be mulled over. I think the more sharply and simply it's written, the better."

Mr. Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind" was published on the cover of the sixth issue, in May 1962, shortly after the song was written. Malvina Reynolds, whose songs often appeared in Broadside, had "Little Boxes" in is-



Agnes Cunningham, on accordion, with the Almanac Singers in 1942, including Woody Guthrie, far left, and Pete Seeger, on banjo. She and her husband, Gordon Friesen, founded Broadside magazine in 1962.

Publishing songs with strong leftist politics and a direct style.

sue No. 20; "I Ain't Marching Anymore" by Mr. Ochs, another frequent contributor, was in issue No. 54.

The couple churned out the early issues using a mimeograph machine once owned by the American Labor Party. Because it was illegal to run a business in their housing project, they smuggled copies out the door in a baby carriage.

As a singer and an accordionist,

Ms. Cunningham had played with Mr. Seeger and Mr. Guthrie in the Almanac Singers during the 1940's. At Broadside, she transcribed the chords and lyrics to songs from tape recordings made by musicians. Mr. Friesen, a novelist and journalist, wrote the commentaries.

Songs from the magazine were collected in 2000 on a five-CD boxed set, "The Best of Broadside, 1962-1988," on the Smithsonian Folkways label. The album was nominated for two Grammy Awards, for best historical album and best liner notes.

Born to a poor farming family in Watonga, Okla., Ms. Cunningham graduated from what was then called Southwestern State College in

Weatherford, Okla., and married Mr. Friesen, another Oklahoman, in 1941. They came to New York late that year and moved into the communal Almanac House in Greenwich Village with Mr. Seeger, Mr. Guthrie and others. Ms. Cunningham joined the Almanac Singers and performed on their 1942 album, "Dear Mr. President."

With Mr. Friesen, who died in 1996, she wrote "Red Dust and Broadborders: A Joint Autobiography," which was published in 1999.

Besides Ms. Friesen, of New Paltz, Ms. Cunningham is survived by another daughter, Agnes Friesen, of Berkeley, Calif.; three grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

NEW YORK TOWN

Woody's song about being alone in New York without any money.

*I was standing down in New York town one day,
Standing down in New York town one day,
I was standing down in New York town one day,
Singing, "Hey, hey, hey, hey!"*

*I was broke, I didn't have a dime,
I was broke, I didn't have a dime,
Yes, sir, I was broke I didn't have a dime,
Singing, "Hey, hey, hey, hey!"*



Fund raising stamps from the Greater New York Emergency Unemployment Relief Committee, a Depression era private relief organization.



Series 1935 Port of New York Authority toll scrip for the bridges and tunnels connecting New York City with New Jersey. Woody certainly used these bridges and tunnels to enter and leave New York.



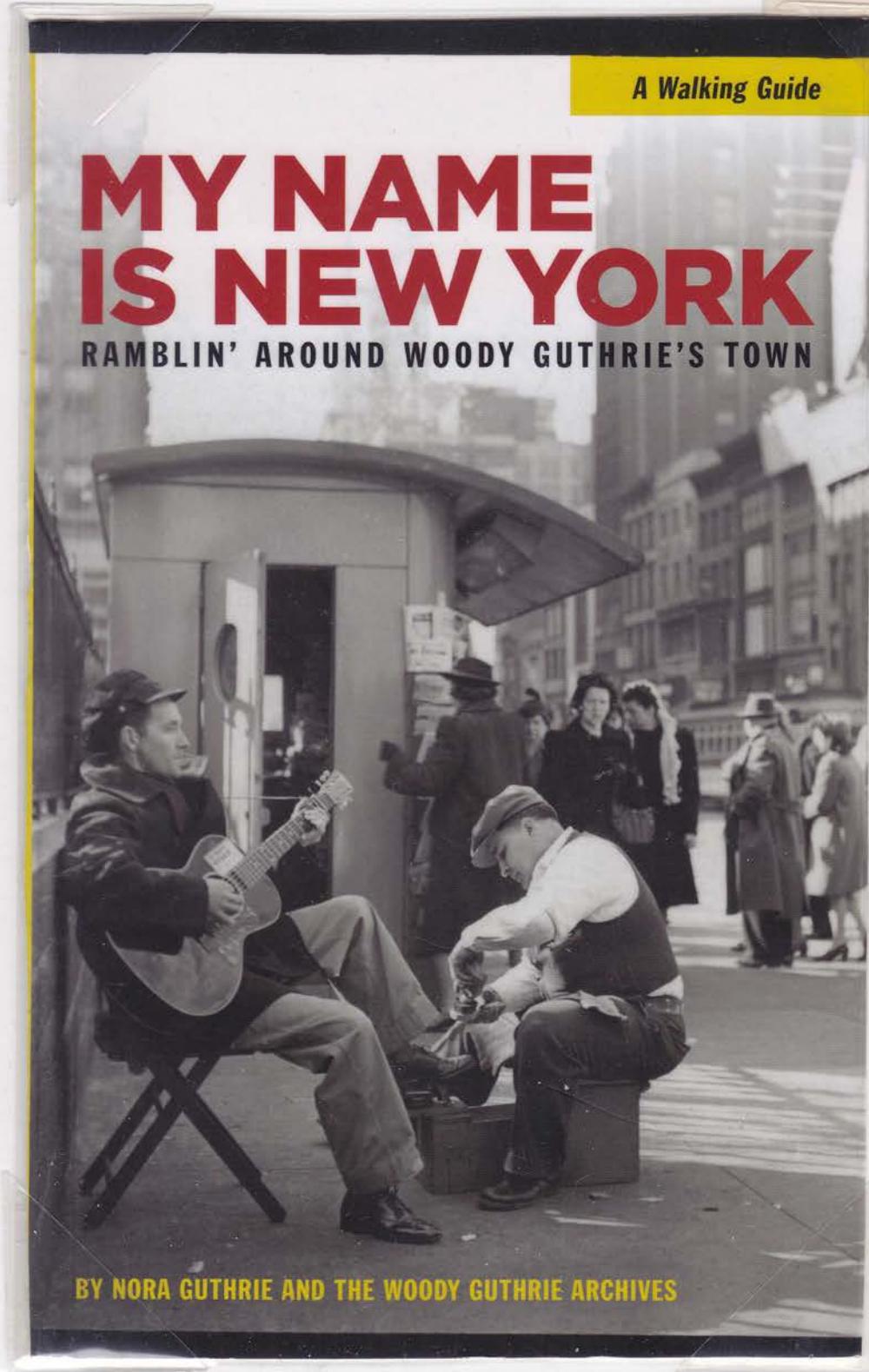
Stamp pictures New York City skyline.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

MY NAME IS NEW YORK

New York City tells its story through Woody.

*My name is New York, I've been struck by the winds,
Froze up and blistered, then struck down again,
Been struck by my rich folks, been struck by my bums,
Been struck by my mansions, been struck by my slums.*



Fiorello LaGuardia was Mayor of New York City when Woody arrived.



Meter imprinted New York City cigarette tax stamp. Revenue used for relief programs.

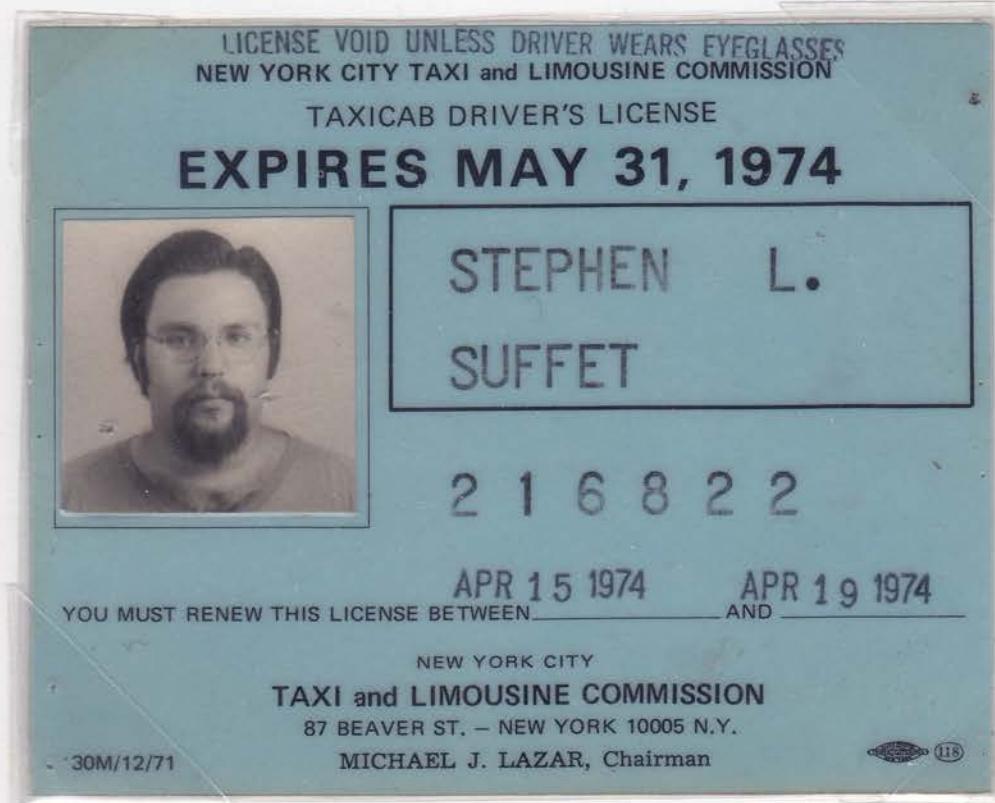
Cover of book which took its name from this song. Photo shows Woody outside Bryant Park.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

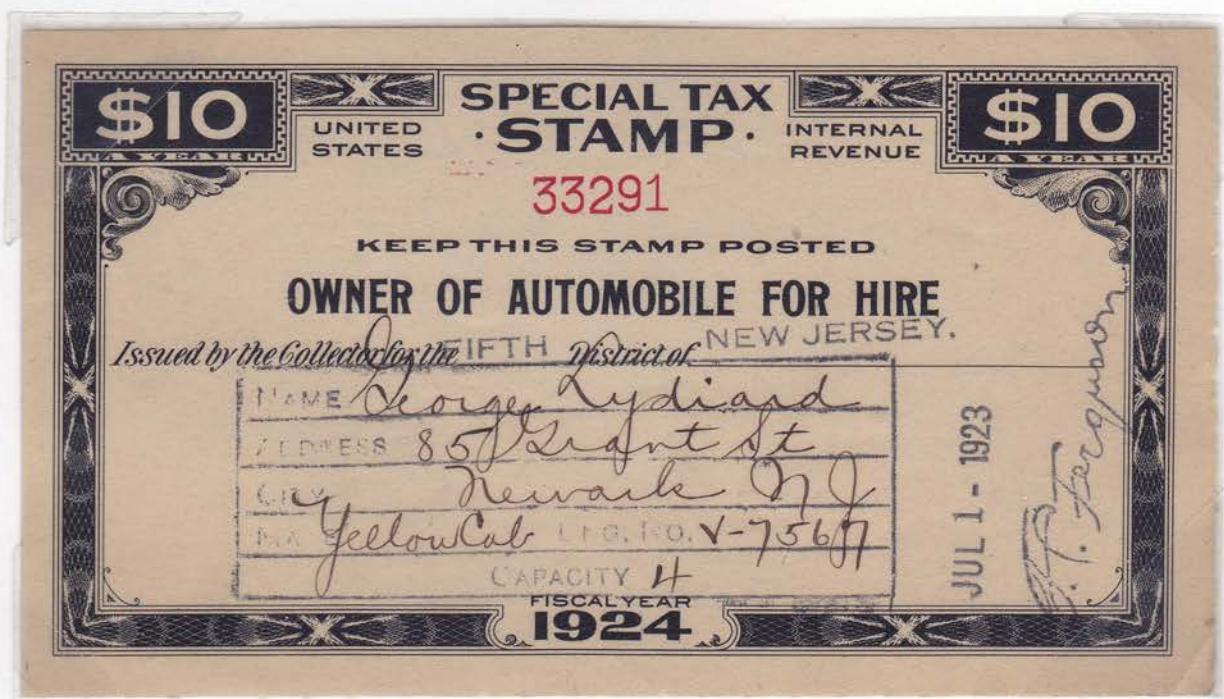
TIN HORN TAXI

Woody's song about the adventures and misadventures of a taxicab driver.
The hustle and bustle of New York inspired several good songs.

I've held my cabby license now for 27 years,
I've seen my share of blood and guts, I've swum a tub of tears,
There's not a poor cop living that's seen what I've come through,
Splashing down along the curb of Last Avenue.



Stamp pictures taxicab in New York City's Times Square.



Special tax stamp issued to a taxicab owner.

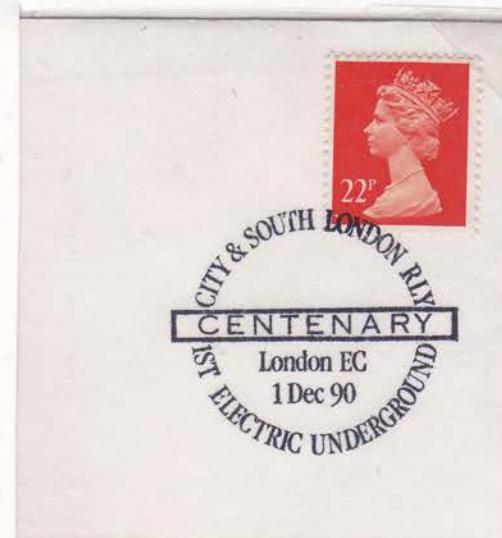
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND

2.2 NEW YORK CITY

TALKING SUBWAY BLUES

Woody tells of his first encounter with a subway.

*I blowed into New York town,
I looked up and I looked down,
Everybody I seen on the streets,
Was all a-running down in a hole in the ground,
I followed 'em, see where they're a-going.
Newsboy said they're trying to smoke a rat out of a hole.*



The London Underground was the world's first electric powered subway system.



New York City subway token, 1953 issue, pictured on stamp.

1948 New York City subway map. Published in *My Name Is New York* by Nora Guthrie and the Woody Guthrie Archives.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

HOWDY FRIEND

Theme song of the 1940 radio program, *Pipe Smoking Time*, sponsored by Model Tobacco and broadcast over the CBS network from New York. Woody sang the song to the accompaniment of Ray Bloch's orchestra. The tune was the same one Woody used for *So Long, It's Been Good to Know You*.

*Howdy friend, well it's sure good to know you,
Howdy friend, well it's sure good to know you,
Load up your pipe and take your life easy,
With Model Tobacco to light up your way,
We're glad to be with you today.*

MODEL TOBACCO ad in meter stamp.



Mr. Jos. B. Mills
Director of Publicity
The J. L. Hudson Co.
Detroit, Mich.

CBS RADIO NETWORK ad in meter stamp, 1940. Woody quit the show after only a few weeks.



U.S. tax paid tobacco stamp.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

THE BALLAD OF WILD BILL HICKOK

In 1940, DuPont commissioned Woody to write a ballad about the famous lawman, and to perform it on their *Cavalcade of America* radio program broadcast on the NBC network out of New York.

*Well, I'll sing you a song,
Of the days that are gone,
When your rambling was rough,
And your law was your gun,
When your life was a gamble,
Make it ace, deuce, or trey,
And the men of the past,
Made the men of today.*

DuPont cover with
**CAVALCADE OF
AMERICA** ad in
meter stamp.



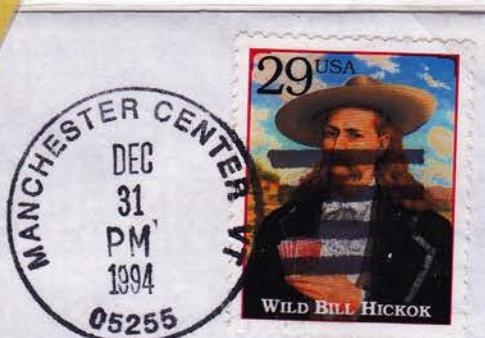
Join in **CAVALCADE
OF AMERICA**
* * * * *
WEDNESDAY NIGHTS NBC NEW YORK

FORM RC-8850BOM-9-40
AFTER FIVE DAYS RETURN TO
DU PONT
E. I. DU PONT DE NEMOURS & CO., INC.
350 FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N.Y.

BETTER THINGS for BETTER LIVING
... THROUGH CHEMISTRY

Zo Esteban
South 4th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11211

Last day of
29¢ letter rate.
December 31, 1994.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.2 NEW YORK CITY

JOE DIMAGGIO DONE IT AGAIN

Woody wrote the lyrics of this song in honor of the great New York Yankees outfielder. British rock musician Billy Bragg added music many years after Woody's death. DiMaggio's 56-game hitting streak in the 1941 season still stands as a Major League Baseball record.

*Joe DiMaggio's done it again,
Joe DiMaggio's done it again,
Clicking that bat, gone with the wind,
Joe DiMaggio's done it again!*

*Some folks thought Big Joe was done,
Some just figured Joe was gone,
Steps up to the platter with a great big grin,
Joe DiMaggio's done it again!*



MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL ALL-STARS

JOE DIMAGGIO



V11111

V11111

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

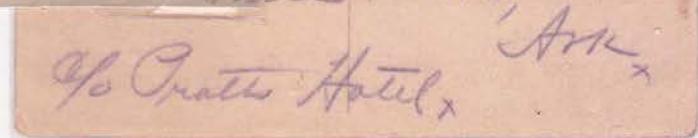
HARD TRAVELING

Woody's song of the itinerant worker. Woody did quite a lot of hard traveling himself, often hoboing from town to town by boxcar, by thumb, or by foot. Woody once told an audience, "I mean trains has run throughout my life. For some reason it's just recently that I commenced to using tickets."

*I've been having some hard traveling, I thought you knowed,
I've been having some hard traveling, way down the road,
I've been having some hard traveling,
Hard rambling, hard gambling,
I've been having some hard traveling, Lord.*



Post card with hobo message and Railway Post Office postmark.



Reduced size color photocopy of reverse.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Woody Guthrie sang many songs of wandering, but this is far and away his most famous. He wrote it in 1940 as a response to Irving Berlin's *God Bless America*, which had been popularized by Kate Smith. Woody's original refrain was "God blessed America for me," which he soon changed to "This land was made for you and me." Since then literally scores of artists have recorded it, although most have omitted Woody's more ironic verses.

*This land is your land, this land is my land,
From California, to the New York island,
From the redwood forests, to the Gulf Stream waters,
This land was made for you and me.*

Right: Plate number block of 37¢ Irving Berlin stamp.

Cachet shows reproduction of part of Woody's original manuscript. Postmark shows the beginning of the song.



*When the sun come shining, then I was strolling
In wheat fields waving, and dust clouds rolling;
The voice was chanting as the fog was lifting:
God blessed America for me.*

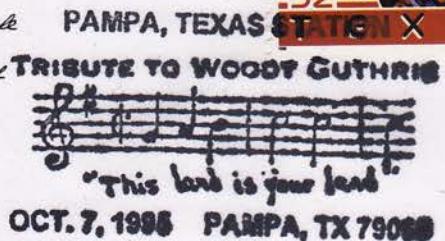
*One bright sunny morning in the shadow of the steeple
By the relief office I saw my people
As they stood hungry, I stood there wondering if
God blessed America for me.*

*original copy
of this copy*

** All you can write is
what you see.*

W.W.G.

*W.H., N.Y., N.Y.
Feb. 23, 1940
43rd & 6th Ave.,
Manhattan House*



Original manuscript for "This Land Is Your Land."

*I've roamed and rambled, and I followed my footsteps,
To the sparkling sands of her diamond deserts,
And all around me, a voice was sounding,
"This land was made for you and me."*

*One bright sunny morning, in the shadow of the steeple,
By the relief office, I saw my people.
As they stood hungry, I stood there wondering if,
This land was made for you and me.*

Right: Plate number block of 44¢ Kate Smith stamp.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

33

THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Words and Music by
WOODY GUTHRIE

Moderately bright

CHORUS

This land is your land, - This land is my land from Cal-i-

D7 G G7 C

for - nia - to the New York is - land. From the red-wood for-est -

G D7 G Fine

- to the Gulf Stream wa-ters, - This land was made for you and me. -

VERSE

G C G

1. As I was walk-ing - that rib-bon of high-way -
2. I've roamed and ram-bled - and I fol-lowed my foot-steps -
3. When the sun comes

I saw a b
to the spar-king s
and the wheat fields

C D

low me - that gold-e
round me - a voice w
lift-ing - a voice w

© Copyright 1956 and

Page from a paperback
song book published
in 1963.



Scan with smart
phone to hear Woody
sing this song.

Another
postmark
showing the
beginning of
*This Land Is
Your Land*.

PAMPA, TEXAS STATION
TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE



—

"This Land is Your Land"

SEPT. 4, 1998 PAMPA, TEXAS 79065

Stephen L. Suffet
Philatelic Consultant
41-05 47th St

11100425501

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

GOING DOWN THE ROAD

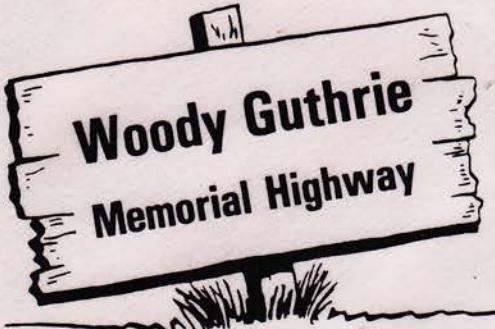
An adaptation of the blues song, *I Ain't Gonna Be Treated This a Way*,
as sung by Woody Guthrie and Lee Hays, one of Woody's fellow Almanac Singers.

*I'm blowing down this old dusty road,
Yes, I'm blowing down this old dusty road,
I'm blowing down this old dusty road, Lord, God!
And I ain't gonna be treated this a way.*

Perhaps the old
dusty road led to
ROADS END.
CALIF.



PAMPA'S TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE
1305 HAMILTON ST.
PAMPA, TX 79065



Highway 60 across the Texas Panhandle has been designated the Woody Guthrie Memorial Highway

Woody Guthrie traveled the highways of our country, meeting the people along the way, and writing songs about them.

PAMPA, TEXAS STATION
TRIBUTE TO WOODY GUTHRIE
Old Glory
USA G
For U.S. addresses only

OCT. 7, 1995 PAMPA, TX 79065

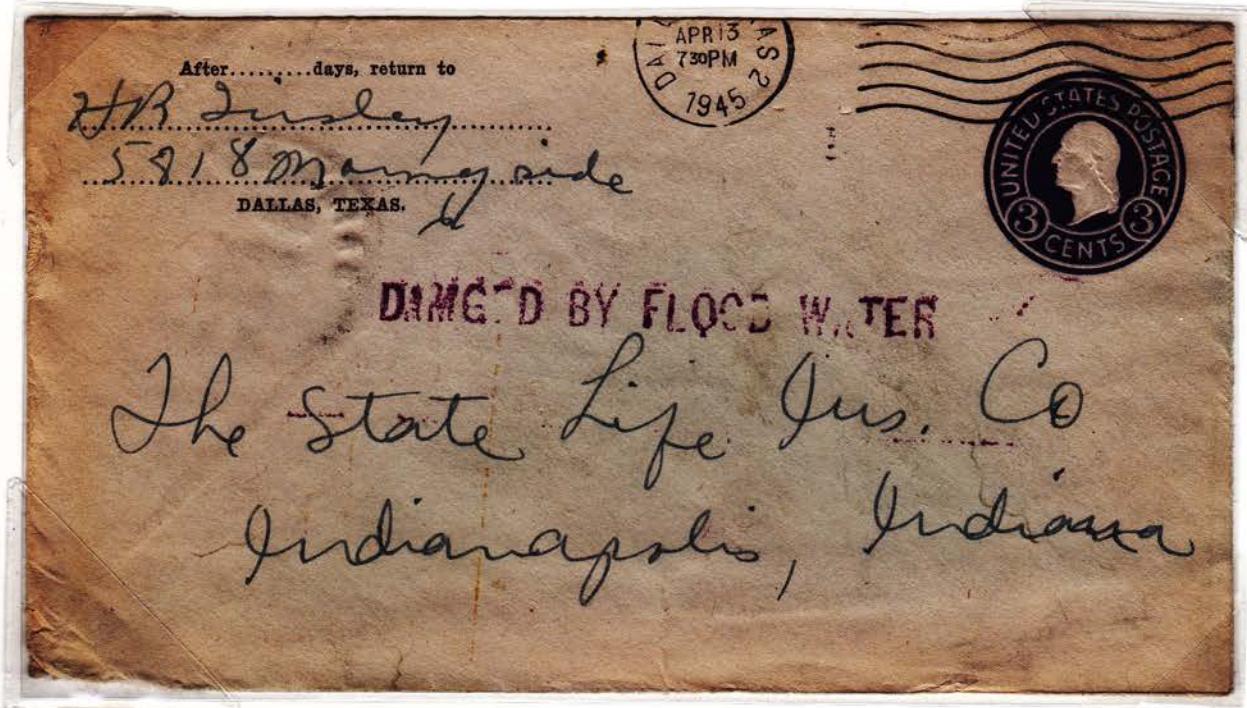
Could Woody have imagined that one day a stretch of highway would be named after him?

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

HEAD RISE

While Woody wrote many songs about dust storms, he also wrote several songs about natural disasters of another kind he encountered in his travels: floods. This is one example.

*A head rise, a head rise,
Got a head rise on the Big Muddy,
Washing all my poor souls clean.
Got a head rise!*



Reduced size color photocopy of reverse.

Misspelled auxiliary marking: second A missing. **DAMGED BY FLOOD WATER** of the Missouri River somewhere west of Saint Louis while en route from Dallas to Indianapolis. Resealed with Post Office Department official seal on reverse. The Missouri River is often called the Big Muddy.

*Head rise, head rise,
Head rise 'long my big river,
Last chance to kiss my brothers and sisters.
Got a head rise!*

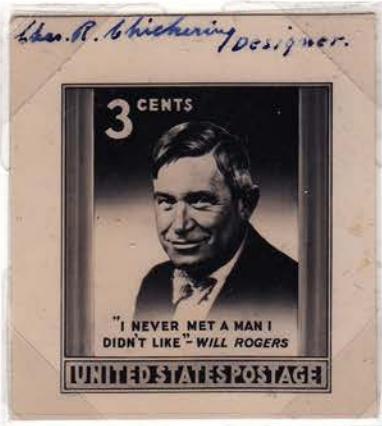
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

WILLY ROGERS HIGHWAY

The naming of part of U.S. Route 66 after Will Rogers gave Woody an opportunity to express his mixed feelings. Woody admired his fellow Oklahoman's sense of humor, but felt he had sold out to Hollywood. Nevertheless, Woody and his first wife named one of their children after Will Rogers.

*This big highway goes from coast unto coast,
From New Yorker town down to Lost Angeles;
It's named for Willy Rogers that went on this road,
From New Yorker town down to Lost Angeles.*

*My 66 highway, this Willy Rogers road,
It's lined with jalopies just as far as I can see.
Can you think up a joke, Will, for all of these folks,
From New Yorker town down to Lost Angeles?*



Bureau of Engraving and Printing approval photograph for 3¢ Will Rogers stamp signed by designer Chas. R. Chickering. Ex-Sol Glass collection.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

I AIN'T GOT NO HOME

Woody's rewrite of the Carter Family song, *I Can't Feel At Home In This World Anymore*. The original song was about other worldliness. Woody's version was about a very down to Earth problem: homelessness.

*I ain't got no home, I'm just a-roaming 'round,
I'm just a wandering worker, I go from town to town.
The police make it hard wherever I may go,
And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.*

*I was farming on the shares and always I was poor,
My crops I laid into the banker's door,
And my wife took down and died upon the cabin floor,
And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.*



The Carter Family unknowingly provided Woody the inspiration – and the tune!



Federal revenue stamp on a sharecropper's lease.
I was farming on the shares and always I was poor...

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

I DON'T FEEL AT HOME ON THE BOWERY NO MORE

Woody's parody of his own song, *I Ain't Got No Home*. After a stint as a house guest in a luxury apartment, Woody finds it hard to return to New York City's skid row. In real life, Woody had little problem making the transition back and forth, with the luxury apartment belonging to Woody's friend, actor Will Geer.

*I seen an apartment on Fifth Avenue,
A penthouse and garden with a skyscraper view,
The carpets so soft with a hardwood floor,
So I don't feel at home on the Bowery no more.*



Above: Check from the Bowery National Bank of New York printed on revenue stamped paper. Bank was located on the Bowery at Canal Street.

Right: Maximum card picturing the Bowery. Stamp: New York City Golden Anniversary air mail commemorative. Cancellation: COOPER STA. post office served the northern portion of the Bowery.



*I got disgusted and I wrote this song,
I may be right and I may be wrong,
But since I seen the difference 'tween rich and the poor,
I don't feel at home on the Bowery no more.*

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

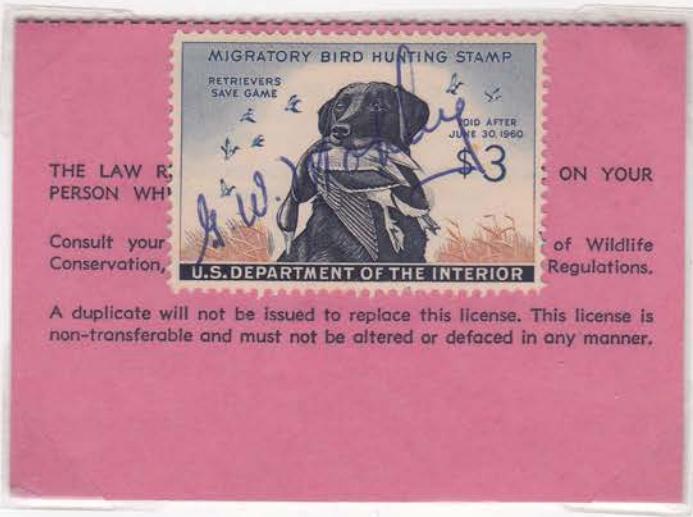
HERE, RATTLER! (or HEY, RATTLER!)

Woody took a convict song about a vicious chain gang guard dog and transformed it into a ditty about a friendly old hunting companion.

*Now Rattler was a fine old dog,
As fine as he could be,
He trapped a possum in a hollow log,
And never let him be.
Well, here, Rattler, here, here!
Here, Rattler, here!
Come on, Rattler, from the barn!
Here, Rattler, here!*



98¢ letter rate for 4 ounces.



U.S. hunting permit stamp used on license.



Irish dog license revenue stamps.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.3 ROAMING AND RAMBLING

TALKING FISHING BLUES

A fisherman's tale, Woody Guthrie style.

*I went down to the fishing hole,
And I sat down with my fishing pole,
Something grabbed my hook and it got my bait,
And jerked me out in the middle of the lake.
Huh, it was some jump, boy!
I got sunk, kind of baptized on credit.*



California fishing license
with state revenue stamps affixed.

*Early one morning I took me a notion,
To go out fishing in the middle of the ocean.
Well, I throwed me a line, I got me shark,
I didn't get him home 'til way past dark.
He was a man-eater, a tough customer,
But he wasn't quite tough enough.*



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND

2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

In Los Angeles and New York, Woody's politics took a sharp turn to the left. He began writing and singing more explicitly political songs, by himself or as part of a group called the Almanac Singers. Like many others involved in the arts and entertainment in the 1930s and 1940s, Woody became a sympathizer of the Communist Party, U.S.A. (known 1944-1945 as the Communist Political Association).

VOL. XXIII, No. 9

SEPTEMBER, 1944

THE COMMUNIST

A MARXIST MAGAZINE DEVOTED TO ADVANCEMENT OF DEMOCRATIC THOUGHT AND ACTION

EARL BROWDER, Editor

EUGENE DENNIS, Associate Editor

V. J. JEROME, Managing Editor

CONTENTS

Labor Day in 1944	<i>An Editorial</i>	771
Some Features of Modern Warfare	<i>Maj. Gen. M. Galaktionov</i>	773
The Twenty-fifth Anniversary of the Founding of the American Communist Organization	<i>Resolution of the National Convention, C.P.A.</i>	778
What Marxism Contributes to America	<i>Earl Browder</i>	782
The Heritage of the Communist Political Association	<i>Robert Minor</i>	788
A Lesson in Democracy	<i>A. Landy</i>	798
A Resolute Non-Partisan Policy to Strengthen National Unity	<i>Eugene Dennis</i>	806
Notes on the Democratic Convention	<i>Louis F. Budenz</i>	813
The Negro and the Elections	<i>Doxey A. Wilkerson</i>	819
China's Real Destiny	<i>Frederick V. Field</i>	830
A Company Union of Nations?	<i>Hans Berger</i>	846
Resolutions Adopted by the National Convention, C.P.A.		857
Historic Documents		862

Entered as second class matter November 2, 1927, at the Post Office at New York, N. Y., under the Act of March 3, 1879. THE COMMUNIST is published Monthly by Workers Library Publishers, Inc., at 832 Broadway, New York 3, N. Y. (mail address, P. O. Box 148, Station D), to whom subscriptions, payments and correspondence should be sent. Subscription rate: \$2.00 a year; \$1.00 for six months; foreign and Canada, \$2.50 a year. Single copies 20 cents.

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

There is no evidence that Woody himself was ever a member of the Communist Party. When asked if he were a Communist, Woody would often joke, "I ain't a Communist necessarily, but I been in the red all my life."



Above: Design error. Soviet stamp shows Communist Party leader William Z. Foster's year of death as 1964. Foster died in 1961. Stamps with this mistaken date were soon withdrawn and replaced with a corrected version. See next page.

Left: Title page from *The Communist*, a monthly magazine allied with the Communist Political Association. The 2nd class mailing declaration at bottom was required to secure favorable mailing rates for a regularly published periodical.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

Some of Woody's contemporaries who were actively involved with the American left included author Richard Wright, Communist Party U.S.A. official William Z. Foster, and convicted spies Ethel and Julius Rosenberg.

First day of
61¢ letter rate
for 2 ounces.
May 11, 2009.

QUEENS NY 113
11 MAY 2009 PM 2 T

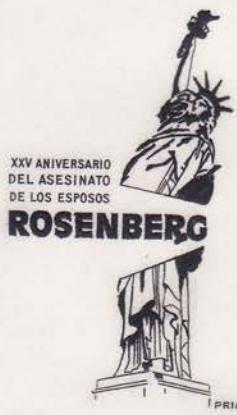


Paravion Air mail

Fr. Broughton
PO Box 1121
Erie, Pa.
16512 - USA - CUA



USSR-CCCP:



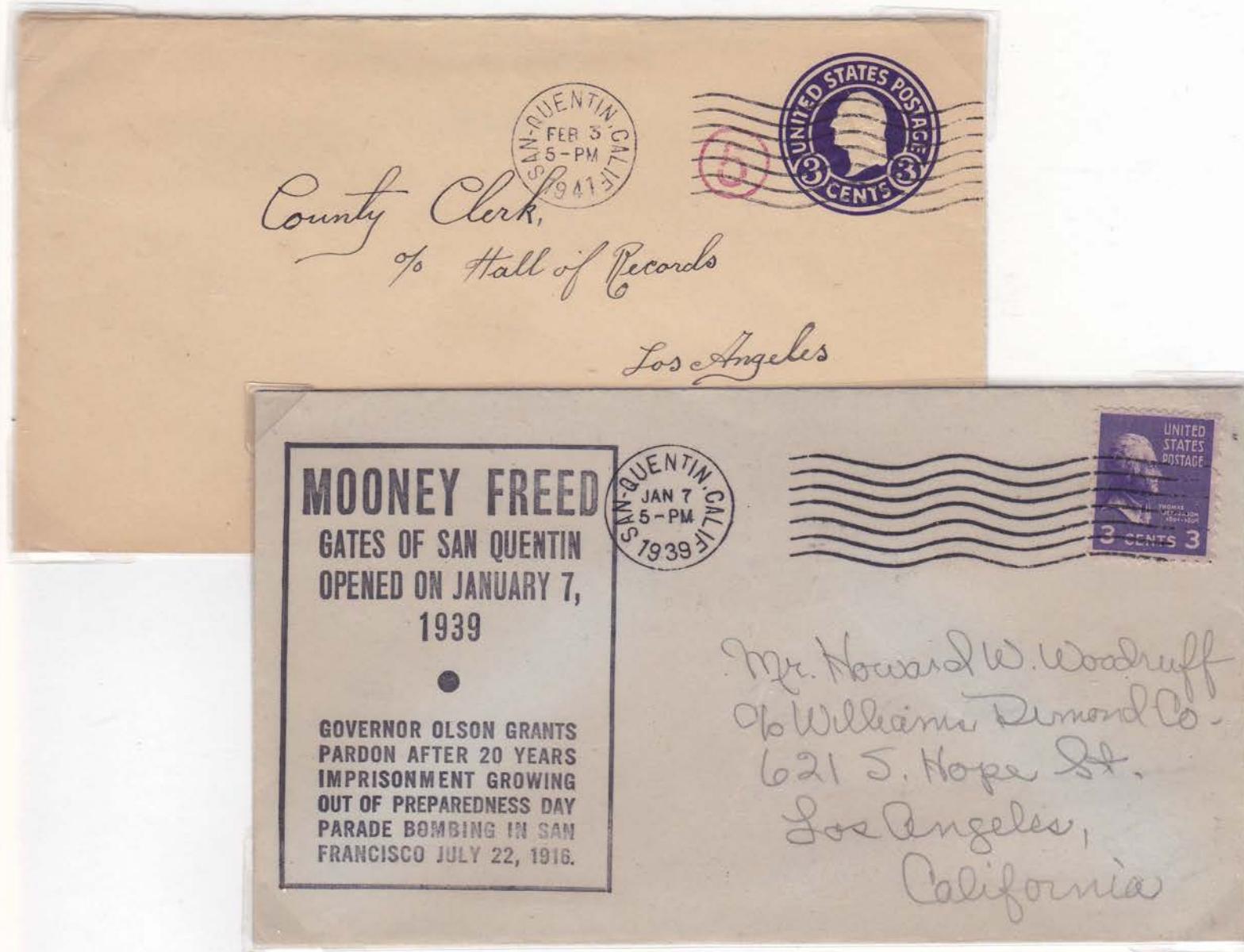
First day cover
with official
cachet.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

MISTER TOM MOONEY

One of Woody's first explicitly political songs, composed in 1939. Tom Mooney and Warren Billings were imprisoned for setting a bomb that killed 10 people in San Francisco in 1916. Many people on the left claimed that the two men, particularly Mooney, had been framed. California's newly elected Governor Culbert Olson ordered both men released from prison shortly after taking office.

*Mr. Tom Mooney is free!
Mr. Tom Mooney is free!
Just got his pardon from that old jail house world,
Governor Culbert Olson's decree.*



Top: Censored prisoner's cover from the state penitentiary at San Quentin, California, where Mooney had been imprisoned. Censor marking just left of envelope stamp.

Bottom: Postmarked from San Quentin on day of Tom Mooney's release.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

I'M LOOKING FOR THAT NEW DEAL NOW

Another of Woody's earliest explicitly political songs, this one showing his disappointment that FDR's New Deal did not go far enough. Said Woody: "You was promised a New Deal and you got a Nude Deal."

*All this world is a poker game,
The way it's played is a dad-gum shame,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.
All the bankers, I believe,
Got a good hand up their sleeve,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.*

*When the cards was dealt around,
Wall Street drawed the aces down,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.
Then they dealt around the cards,
The big shots up and cleaned the board,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.*

*They raised the pot with the N.R.A.,
For honest hours and honest pay,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.
But a turkey dealer up New York town,
Won the Blue Eagle with his hole card down,
I'm looking for that New Deal now.*



U.S. playing cards revenue stamps.



Last verse refers to the National Recovery Administration, declared unconstitutional by the U.S. Supreme Court in a 1935 decision involving a poultry company. The Blue Eagle was the N.R.A. emblem, shown on large poster stamp at left and in meter stamp at right.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

WHY DO YOU STAND THERE IN THE RAIN?

Woody's version of what happened in 1940, when President Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed 6,000 young people attending a rally for peace and jobs led by the leftist American Youth Congress. The crowd often perceived FDR's remarks as hostile, and they booed him repeatedly as they stood outside the White House in a drenching rainstorm.

*It was raining mighty hard on the old Capitol yard,
And the young folks gathered at the White House gate.
The President raised his head, and to the young folks said,
"Tell me why do you stand there in the rain?"*

6¢ wartime air mail rate to or from U.S. forces abroad.



FDR agreed to address the rally at the request of his wife, Eleanor, who had earlier received some of the American Youth Congress leaders at the White House.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

LINDBERGH

Song critical of the great aviator's isolationist and pro-Axis sentiments prior to U.S. entry into World War II.
Written by Woody Guthrie with some help from the other Almanac Singers.

*Mr. Charley Lindbergh, he flew to old Berlin,
Got him a big Iron Cross, then flew right back again,
To Washington, to Washington.*



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

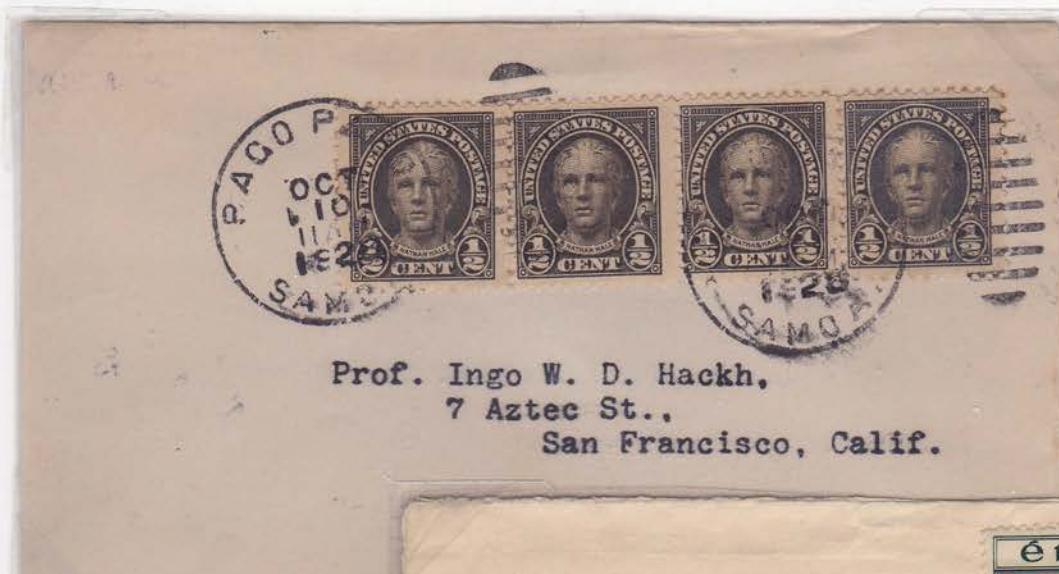
SLIPKNOT (or *HANGKNOT*)

Song expressing Woody's disdain for lynching and also for capital punishment, which he considered little more than legalized lynching.

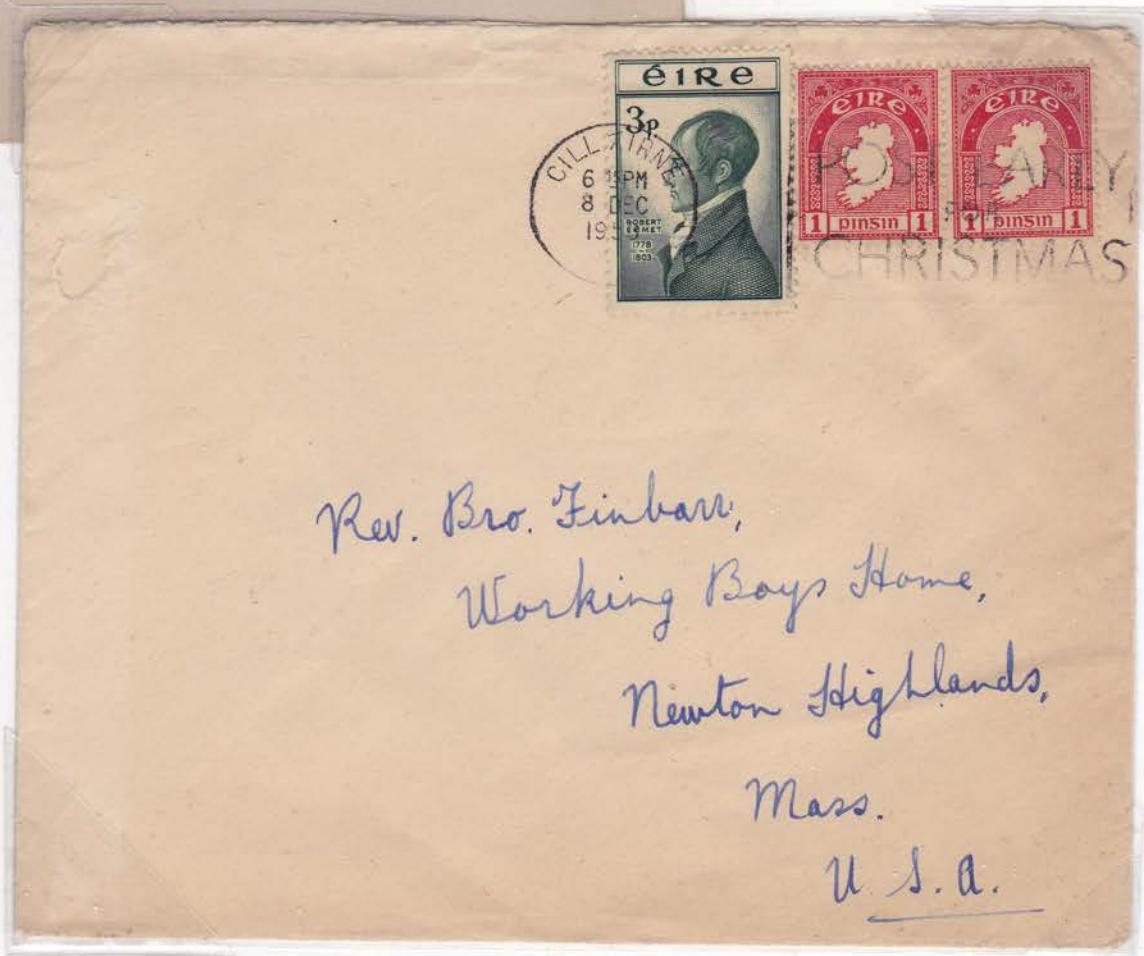
*Did you ever see a hangman tie a slipknot?
Did you ever see a hangman tie a slipknot?
Yes, I've seen it many a time,
And he winds and he winds,
After 13 times he's got a slipknot.*



Fund raising label pictures the Manchester Martyrs, three Irish nationalists hanged by the British.



Stamps picture Nathan Hale, an American patriot hanged by the British for espionage. Used from American Samoa.



3-penny stamp pictures Robert Emmet, an Irish patriot hanged by the British for leading a rebellion.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

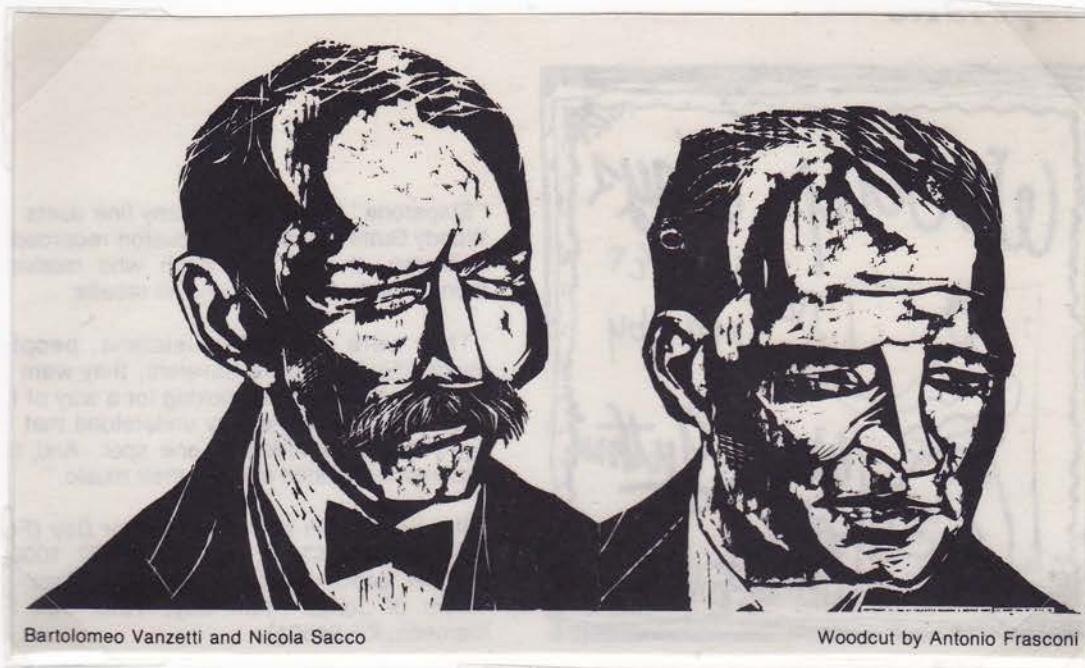
YOU SOULS OF BOSTON

One of 11 songs Woody composed about the Sacco and Vanzetti case. The subjects, both Italian immigrant political radicals, were executed in Boston in 1927 for a double murder committed during a payroll robbery seven years earlier. Many people considered their trial to be a miscarriage of justice, and their case because a cause célèbre for the political left.

*You souls of Boston bow your heads,
Our two most noble sons are dead,
Sacco and Vanzetti both have died,
And drifted out with the Boston tide.*



U.S. Chief Justice William Howard Taft rejected a last minute appeal to stop the executions.



Woodcut published in *Sing Out!* magazine, May-June 1977. Same woodcut was used in part for jacket of album of Woody Guthrie's Sacco and Vanzetti songs.

BOSTON CIRCUIT R.P.O.
streetcar postmark. Sacco and Vanzetti were arrested while riding a Boston streetcar.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

Woody generally disdained politicians, but twice in his life became active in national political campaigns: in 1944 when he participated in the Franklin D. Roosevelt reelection campaign, and in 1948 when he was marginally active in Henry A. Wallace's Progressive Party campaign.



Upper right: Absentee ballot cover from 1944 election.

Directly above: **HENRY A. WALLACE**
autograph on 1948 first day cover.

Stamp at right: **BIENVENIDO - WALLACE** overprint
welcoming U.S. Vice President to Ecuador, 1943.

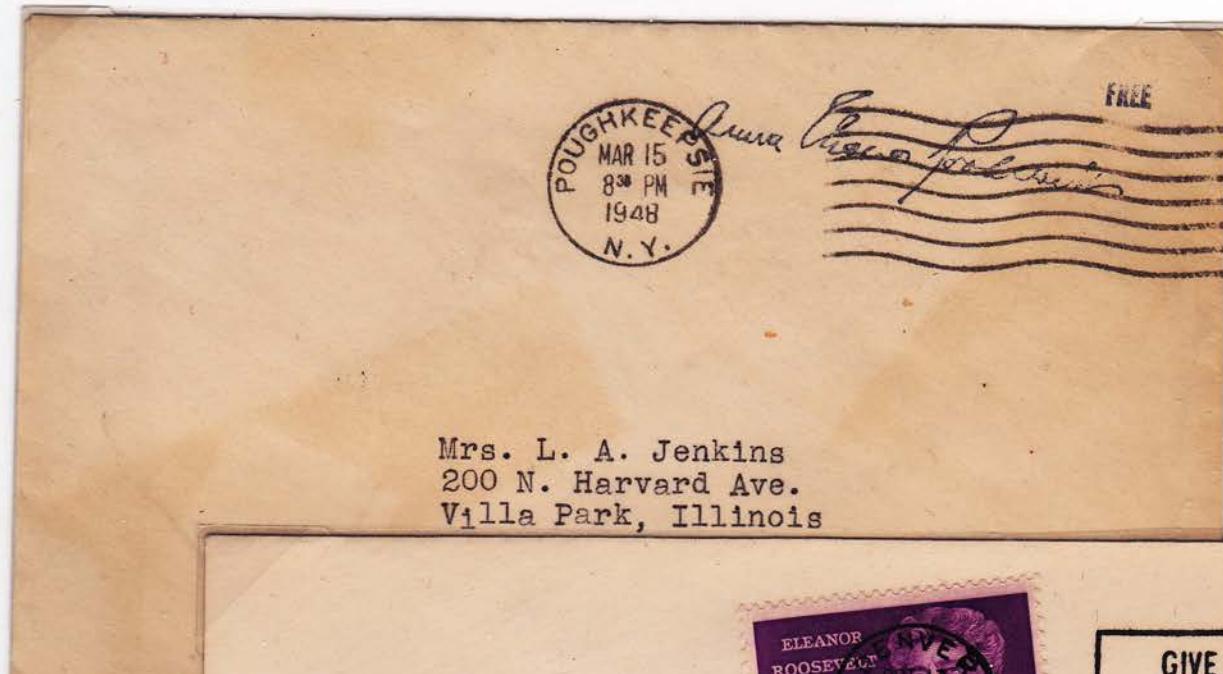


WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

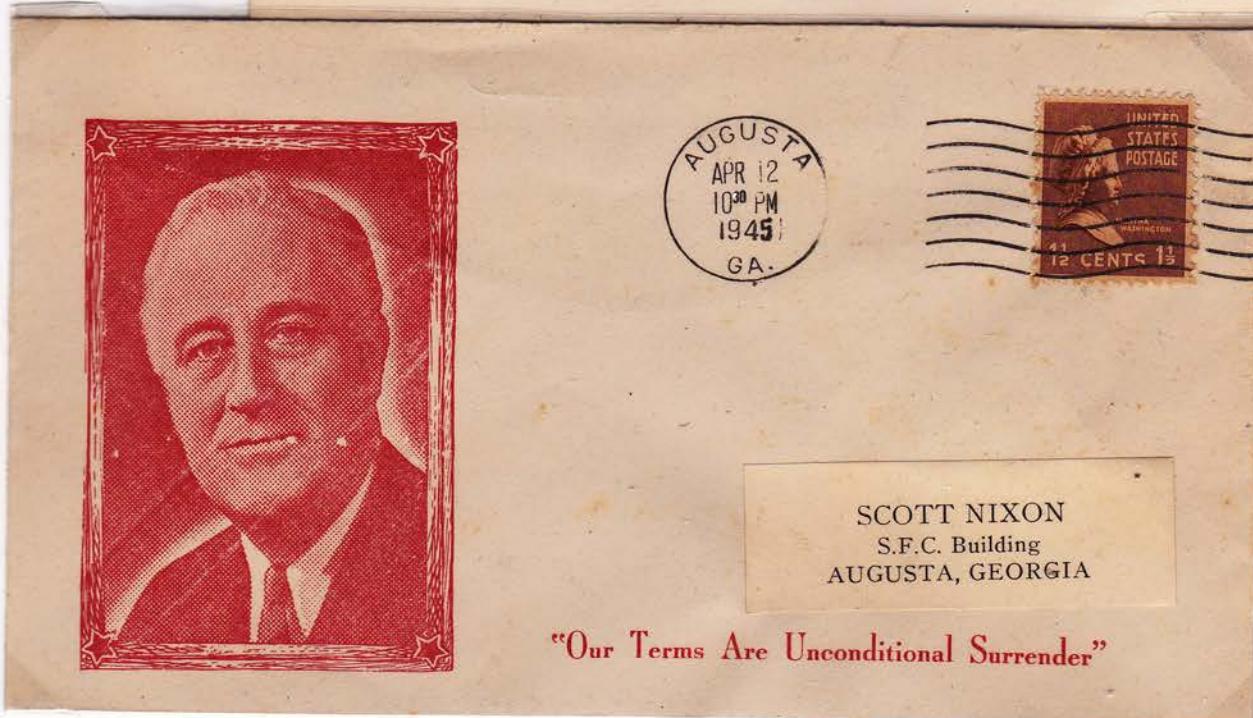
DEAR MRS. ROOSEVELT

A tribute to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt and consolation for his widow, (Anna) Eleanor Roosevelt.

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt, don't hang your head to cry,
His mortal clay is laid away, but his good work fills the sky.
This world was lucky to see him born.



Presidential widow's free franking.



SCOTT NIXON
S.F.C. Building
AUGUSTA, GEORGIA

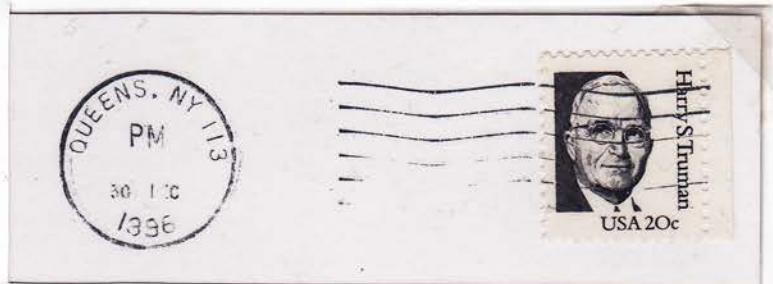
Postmarked on the day of FDR's death. 1.5¢ 3rd class rate.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

HENRY WALLACE MAN

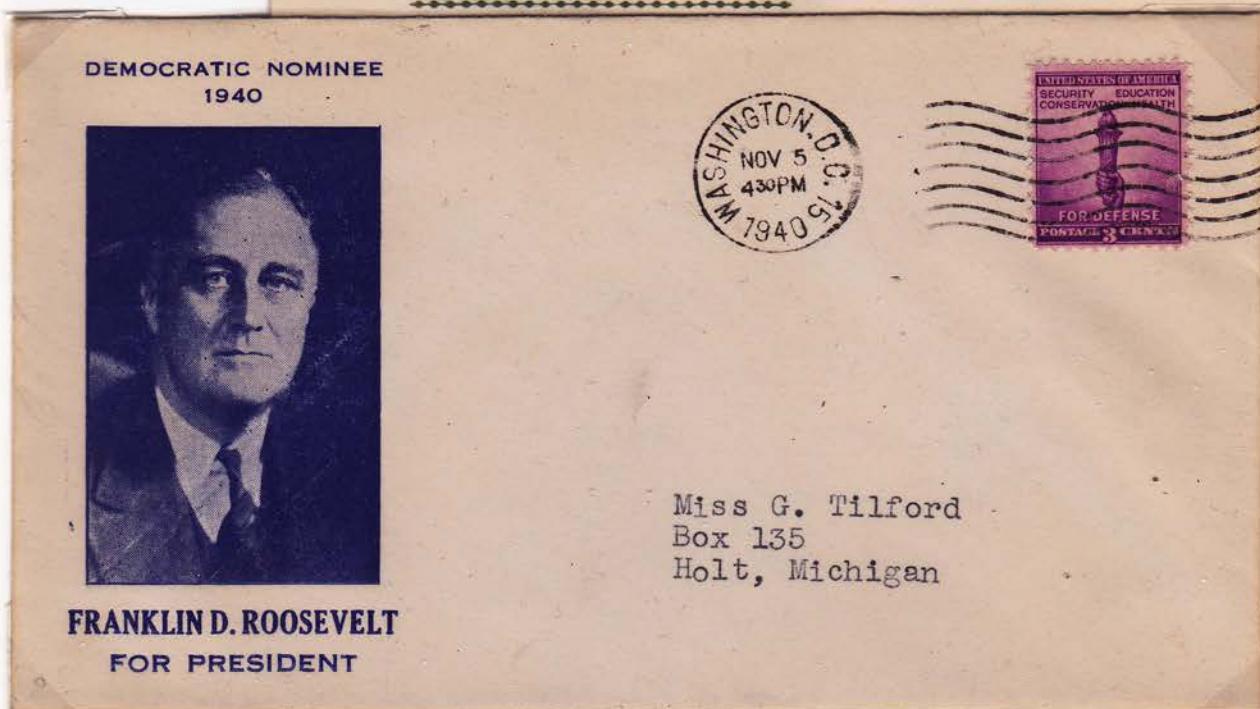
Composed in support of the Progressive Party's 1948 presidential candidate.

*I like the way your face lights up,
I like your corn field smile,
Franklin D. had that same light,
There sparkling in his eyes.
I don't like Hoover's leemony puss,
Nor Truman's bitter bark smile.
I'm betting my vote on the corn field grin,
Of this Henry Wallace man.*



Harry Truman replaced Wallace as FDR's running mate in 1944. Truman fired Wallace as Secretary of Commerce in 1946, and defeated Wallace in the election of 1948.

Anti-Wallace
cacheted cover
from 1948
election.



Wallace had been elected Vice President as FDR's running mate in 1940. Election Day postmark on campaign cover.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND 2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

Among the best known left wing artists and entertainers in Woody Guthrie's time was actor and singer Paul Robeson. Woody was in the audience when Robeson gave a controversial outdoor concert in Peekskill, New York, in 1949. After the concert ended, Woody rode in one of the buses of concert goers that was attacked by anti-Robeson protesters while police stood by and did little to stop the violence. The Woody Guthrie Archives contain at least 11 songs Woody wrote about the incident, but only one was ever published or recorded.

U.S. Postal Service packing card for 100 panes of 37¢ Paul Robeson stamps.

NOTICE
100 Panes = 2,000 Stamps
The panes of stamps in this package must be counted before removing the sealed film wrapper. Cut film lightly along the dotted line below, and peel film over corner keeping remainder of wrapping intact. Fold this cover along the dotted line, and count the stamps, pane by pane, from top to bottom. If the full number of panes is not found, the package must be kept intact (sealed wrapped) and treated in accordance with Post Office Accounting Procedures Handbook F-1, Chapter 4. If the sealed film wrapper has been removed, no claim for shortage will be considered.

UPPER RIGHT
S1111

BLACK HERITAGE
37 USA
2004
Paul Robeson

S1111

Plate number block of 37¢ Paul Robeson stamp.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.4 POLITICAL VIEWS

MY 30,000

Woody Guthrie's account of the 1949 Paul Robeson concert in Peekskill, New York, later set to music by British singer Billy Bragg. Anti-Robeson mobs attacked buses of concert goers on their way home, while police did little to stop the violence.

*Paul Robeson, he's the man,
That faced the Ku Klux Klan,
On Hollow Grove's golfing ground,
His words come sounding,
And all around him there,
To jump and clap and cheer,
I sent the best, the best I had,
My 30,000.*

Stamped envelope with privately produced Paul Robeson label.



Is this a Ku Klux Kover?



Ken Lawrence
P. O. Box 8040
State College, Pa.
Address Service Requested

*Well, the Klansman leader said,
That Paul would lose his head,
When 35,000 vets,
Broke up that concert,
But less than 4,000 came,
To side with the Klan,
But around Paul's lonesome oak,
My 30,000.*

In spite of Woody's lyrics, most of the anti-Robeson rioters were not actually affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

Woody wrote and sang dozens of songs in support of organized labor, particularly the unions of the Congress of Industrial Organizations, which presented itself as a militant alternative to the more conservative American Federation of Labor.



Top: Woody became especially interested in union songs after a 1940 visit to Highlander Folk School with fellow folk singer Pete Seeger. Highlander Folk School, a training center for labor organizers, promoted the use of music as an organizing tool. Note union label in return address corner card.

Bottom: United Mine Workers of America 1940-1941 membership card with dues stamps affixed. The U.M.W.A. was one of the founding unions of the Congress of Industrial Organizations.

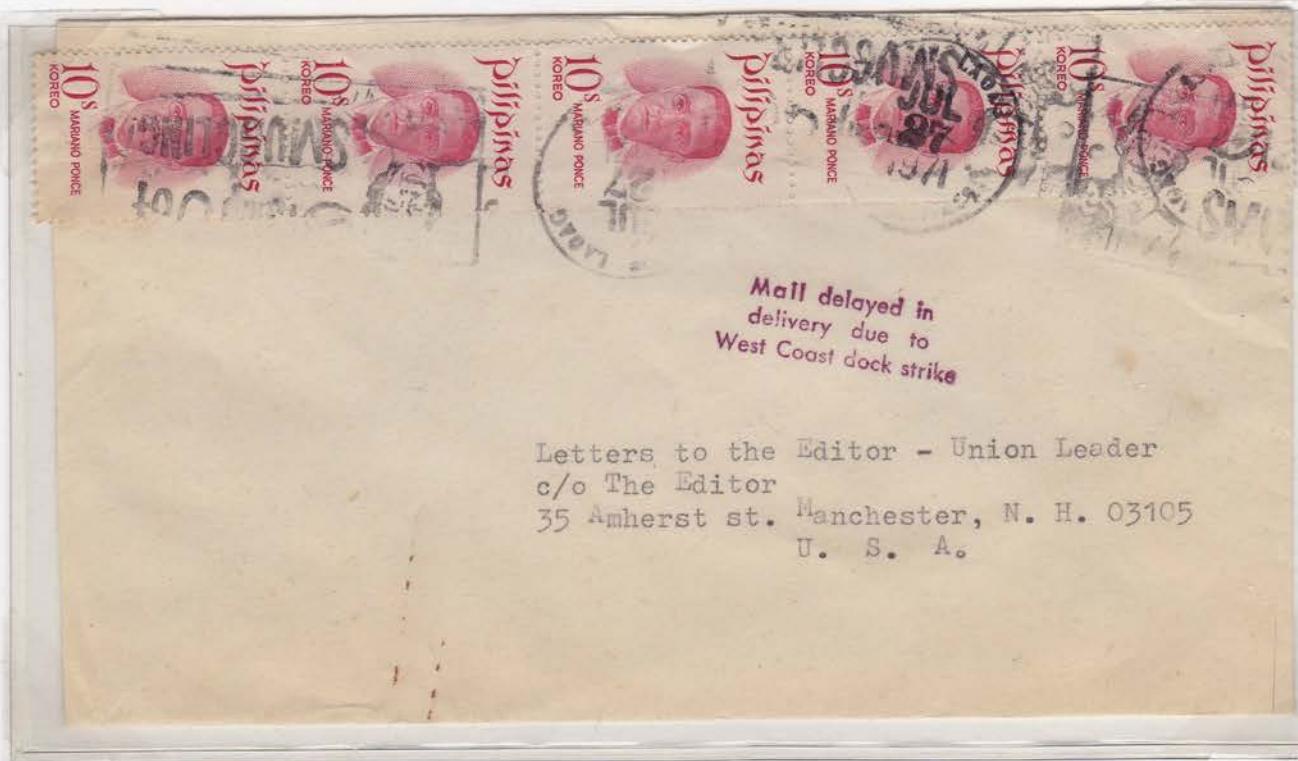
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

YOU GOT TO GO DOWN AND JOIN THE UNION

Woody was very adept at taking Gospel songs and turning them into union songs. In this case he used the traditional Gospel hymn *You've Got to Walk That Lonesome Valley* as the template.

*You got to go down and join the union,
You got to join it by yourself.
Nobody here can join it for you,
You got to go down and join the union by yourself.*

Covers below delayed on account of American dock workers strike (top)
and returned because of Canadian postal workers strike (bottom).



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND 2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

UNION MAID

According to Woody, "This song was made up in honor of Mrs. Merriweather [Annie Mae Merriweather, an organizer for the Southern Tenant Farmers Union in Oklahoma]. She's a woman that was stripped naked and beat up, and then hung to the rafters of the house till she was unconscious." The song, written by Woody with some help from his fellow Almanac singers, quickly became a tribute to all the women of the labor movement.

*There once was a union maid,
She never was afraid,
Of goons and ginks and company finks,
And the deputy sheriffs who made the raid.
She went to the union hall,
When a meeting it was called,
And when the Legion boys came 'round,
She always stood her ground.*

*Oh, you can't scare me,
I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union.
Oh, you can't scare me,
I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union,
'Til the day I die.*

THE UNION MAID

Words by Woody Guthrie and the Almanacs
Tune: Redwing

There once was a union maid, she never was afraid
Of goons and ginks and company finks
And the deputy sheriffs who made the raid.
She went to the union hall when a meeting it was called
And when the Legion boys came 'round
She always stood her ground.

Chorus:

Oh you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union, I'm sticking to the union.

Oh you can't scare me, I'm sticking to the union,
I'm sticking to the union 'til the day I die.

This union maid was wise to the tricks of company spies,
She couldn't be fooled by a company stool,
She'd always organize the guys.

She'd always get her way when she struck for better pay,
She'd show her card to the National Guard
And this is what she'd say.

(Chorus)

You gals who want to be free, just take a tip from me,
Get you a man who's a union man
And join the ladies' auxiliary.

Married life ain't hard when you've got a union card,
A union man has a happy life
When he's got a union wife.

(Chorus)

Lyrics of *Union Maid* cut from the jacket of *Talking Union*, the Almanac Singers' record album in which the song was first released in 1941. In later versions, the word "Legion" was changed to "company."

The SAMUEL GOMPERS Stamp Club

AFL-CIO Twentieth Constitutional Convention

PROUD to be UNION

Oct 4 1993

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AFL-CIO
FEDERATION OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS

PROUD to be UNION

AFL-CIO Twentieth Constitutional Convention
San Francisco - October 4 - 7, 1993

USA 29

I pledge allegiance...

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

Woody Guthrie borrowed the tune for *Union Maid* from a popular 1907 song called *Red Wing*, by Thurland Chattaway and Kerry Mills: *There once lived an Indian maid, a shy little prairie maid...*

Return to
THE RED WING STONEWARE CO.,
RED WING, Minn.,
If not delivered within 10 days.



Was there any connection between the Indian maid and the Minnesota town that shared her name?

Fish Tax Bank
Cheyenne
Wyo.

In any event, *Union Maid* remains one of Woody's best known songs.

1401
The Statue of Liberty at sunset. New York
Photo: John Lantero



usa 15¢



Miss Lois V. Skoef
Seiberling Latex Co.
Barberton
Ohio

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

PITTSBURGH

A less than idyllic view of Steel City written by Woody with some help from his fellow Almanac Singers. One upbeat note: folks are joining the union.

Pittsburgh town is a smoky old town, Pittsburgh!
Pittsburgh town is a smoky old town, Pittsburgh!
Pittsburgh town is a smoky old town,
Solid iron from McKeesport down,
In Pittsburgh! Lord, God, Pittsburgh!

Used from
McKeesport on
first day of 5¢
air mail rate:
August 1, 1928.



Bureau precancellations,
applied at time of pro-
duction by the Bureau of
Engraving and Printing.

From the Allegheny to the Ohio, Pittsburgh!
Allegheny to the Ohio, Pittsburgh!
Allegheny to the Ohio,
They're joining up in the C.I.O.,
In Pittsburgh! Lord, God, Pittsburgh!

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

BOOMTOWN BILL

Woody's tribute to the oil field workers of America, and to their union.

*Come all you oil field workers and listen to my song,
I worked for Drake in '59, way back in Titusville,
'Twas the state called Pennsylvania, 'twas that Allegheny field,
Been chasing oil fields ever since, and my name is Boomtown Bill.
I'm U.S.A. and C.I.O., and my name is Boomtown Bill.*

First Successful Oil Well



Titusville, Pennsylvania
August 27, 1859



Mr. John Van Spronsen
411 Snyder Road
Wyckoff, New Jersey 07481



This oil is received into the general stock of the National Transit Company for transportation and delivery at any delivery point within the UNITED PIPE LINES DIVISION, subject to terms and conditions heretofore agreed upon.

National Transit Co.—UNITED PIPE LINES Division		JUL 2 1966	
Dist. No.		TEMPERATURE.	
TICKET NO.	Wells No.	Cold	Degs.
462		Steamed	10 Degr.
Wells No.		Owner.	
41717		Farm.	
AFTER REVERSE		FEET.	INCHES
100		6	12
AFTER REVERSE		7½	—
1st Meas.	2d Meas.	B. S.	
X	X	W. R. MCKEE,	
		CLINTONVILLE, PA.	

Reduced size color photocopy.

U.S. revenue stamp used on receipt for petroleum sent by pipeline.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

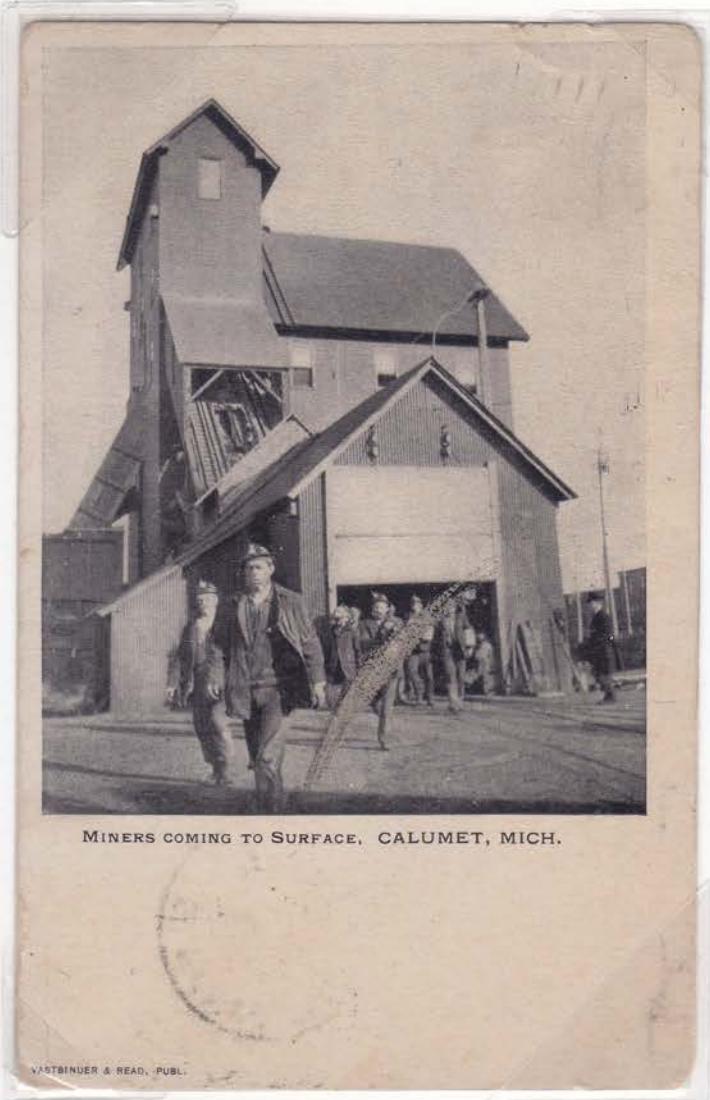
1913 MASSACRE

Woody's ballad about a fatal incident in which someone falsely shouted "Fire!" into a Christmas Eve party for striking copper miners and their families. 73 people, including 34 children, were trampled to death or suffocated while attempting to escape. Many people suspected that strike breakers were responsible.

*Take a trip with me in 1913,
To Calumet, Michigan, in the copper country.
I'll take you to a place called Italian Hall,
Where the miners are having a big Christmas ball.*



Reduced size color photocopy of reverse of post card picturing Calumet, Michigan, miners.



Check from a Calumet mining company printed on revenue stamped paper.

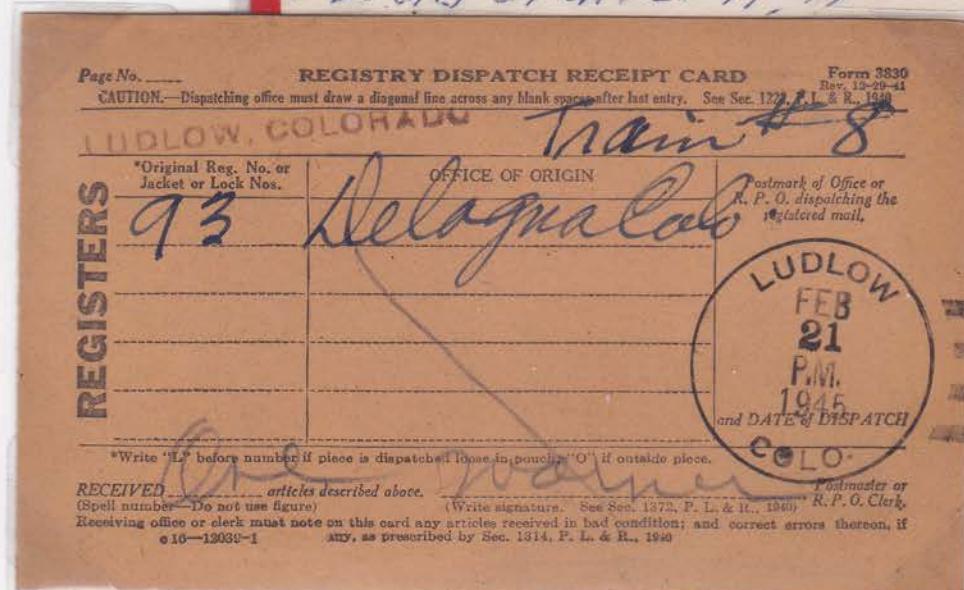
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

LUDLOW MASSACRE

Woody's ballad about the deadly 1914 confrontation between striking coal miners and their families on one side, and Colorado National Guardsmen and deputy sheriffs on the other. The massacre took place when the guardsmen and deputies set fire to the strikers' tents, and then gunned down people in the ensuing confusion. Running gun battles continued for several days thereafter, and the death toll eventually reached at least 74.

*It was early springtime that the strike was on,
They drove us miners out of doors,
Out from the houses that the company owned,
We moved into tents up at old Ludlow.*

National Guard commemorative stamps.



Registry dispatch receipt card from Ludlow, Colorado.

*You struck a match and the blaze it started,
You pulled the triggers of your Gatling guns,
I made a run for the children, but the fire wall stopped me,
13 children died from your guns.*

Page from
Sing Out!
magazine,
November-
December
1974.

Ludlow Massacre

This song appeared in *Sing Out!* 17 years ago (Vol. 8, No. 3), but it's reprinted here in honor of our new Vice-President. Massacres are nothing new in the Rockefeller family, and any similarities between Ludlow and Attica aren't coincidental.

Another song about the Ludlow Massacre, written by Alfred Hayes and Earl Robinson, appears in *Hard-Hitting Songs for Hard-Hit People* (Oak, N.Y.). A recent recording of Woody's song is on Barbara Dane's album *I Hate the Capitalist System* (P-1014), available from Paredon Records, Box 889, Brooklyn, N.Y. 11202.

It was ear - ly spring-time that the strike was
on. They drove us mi - ners out of doors out from the
hou-ses that the com-pa-ny owned. We moved in-to
tents up at old Lud - low.

I was worried bad about my children,
Söldiers guarding the railroad bridge;
Every once in a while a bullet would
fly,
Kick up gravel under my feet.

We were so afraid you would kill our
children,
We dug us a cave that was seven foot
deep;
Carried our young ones and a pregnant
woman
Down inside the cave to sleep.

That very night you soldiers waited
Until us miners was asleep;
You snuck around our little tent town,
Soaked our tents with your kerosene.

You struck a match and the blaze it
started;
You pulled the triggers of your gatling
guns;
I made a run for the children but the
fire wall stopped me,
Thirteen children died from your guns.

I carried my blanket to a wire fence
corner,
Watched the fire till the blaze died
down;
I helped some people grab their
belongings
While your bullets killed us all around.

I never will forget the look on the
faces
Of the men and women that awful day
When we stood around to preach their
funerals
And lay the corpses of the dead away.

We told the Colorado governor to
phone the President,
Tell him to call off his National Guard;
But the National Guard belonged to the
governor,
So he didn't try so very hard.

Our women from Trinidad they hauled
some potatoes
Up to Walsenburg in a little cart;
They sold their potatoes and brought
some guns back
And put a gun in every hand.

The state soldiers jumped us in the
wire fence corner;
They did not know that we had these
guns;
And the red-neck miners mowed down
them troopers,
You should have seen them poor boys
run!

We took some cement and walled the
cave up,
Where you killed these thirteen
children inside;
I said "God bless the Mine Workers
Union,"
And then I hung my head and cried.



John D. Jr. and John D. Sr.
Culver Pictures

Words and Music by Woody Guthrie
© 1961 by Sanga Music
All Rights Reserved
Used by Permission

SING OUT!

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

THE DYING MINER (or GOODBYE, CENTRALIA)

Woody's memorial to the 111 coal miners, mostly members of United Mine Workers of America Local 57, who died in the Centralia, Illinois, mine disaster of 1947. Woody fashioned lyrics from messages written by the trapped miners on the slate walls.

*It happened an hour ago,
Way down in this tunnel of coal,
The gas caught fire from somebody's lamp,
And the miners are choking in smoke.*



Proper use of 13.2¢ Coal Car stamp on 3rd class bulk rate mail.

Mendon and Centralia
Railway Post Office
postmark.



*Dear sisters and brothers, goodbye,
Dear mother and father, goodbye,
My fingers are weak and I cannot write,
Goodbye, Centralia, goodbye.*

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.5 UNION TROUBADOUR

LADIES AUXILIARY

A light hearted single stanza piece Woody composed in response to a request from the ladies auxiliary of some union that he write it a song.

*Oh, that Ladies Auxiliary, it's a good auxiliary,
'Bout the best auxiliary that you ever did see.
If you need an auxiliary, see the Ladies Auxiliary,
It's that Ladies Aux-il-i-'ry!*

Corner card is from Ladies Auxiliary of union local whose blood bank is advertised in meter stamp.



LOCAL SUPPORT
#3 BLOOD BANK
BE A DONOR
Lena Denecke
2160 Caton Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11226

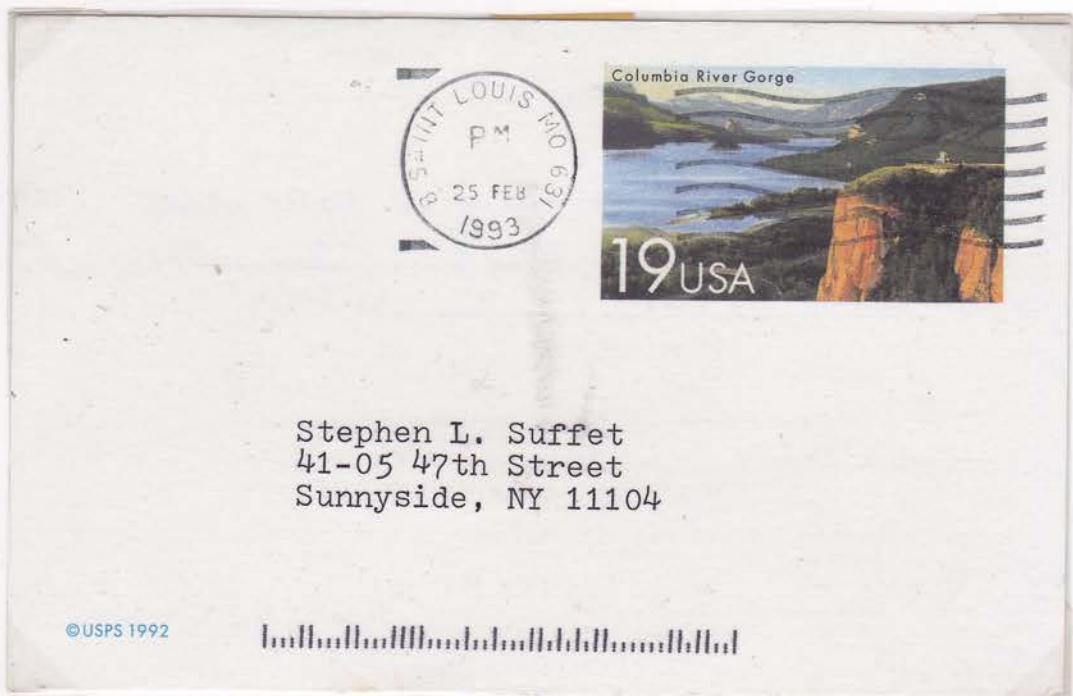
Ladies Auxiliary
Union Local No. 3
41-07 Crescent Street
Long Island City, N.Y. 11101
SS7

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND 2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

In 1941 the Bonneville Power Administration, an agency of the Interior Department, hired Woody to provide songs for use in a documentary movie called *The Columbia*. Woody toured the Northwest for 30 days, at the end of which he submitted 26 songs. Some were earlier compositions, but most were written explicitly for the project. Three were eventually used in the movie, which was not released until 1949.



Columbia River valley
shown on bistrate
revenue stamp.



COLUMBIA RIVER, WASH. postmark.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

ROLL ON, COLUMBIA

The geography and history of the Columbia River, as told by Woody.

*Green Douglas firs where the waters cut through,
Down her wild mountains and canyons she flew,
Canadian Northwest to the ocean so blue,
It's roll on, Columbia, roll on!*

Stamps picture sprigs of Douglas fir.



HOOD RIVER, OREGON
postmark. Tributary mentioned
in song.



Cover damaged and stamp lost when plane crashed into the Willamette River, another tributary mentioned in the song. Note **GUTHRIE STA.** postmark. No known connection to Woody.

*Other great rivers add power to you,
Yakima, Snake, and Klickitat, too,
Sandy, Willamette, and Hood River, too,
Roll on, Columbia, roll on!*

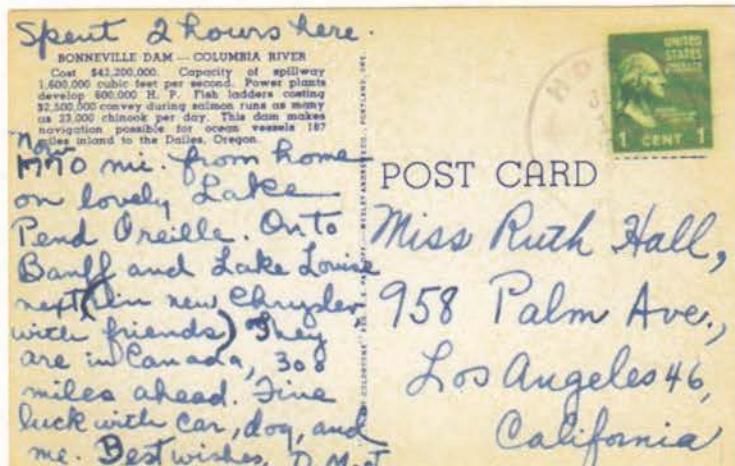
WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

TALKING COLUMBIA

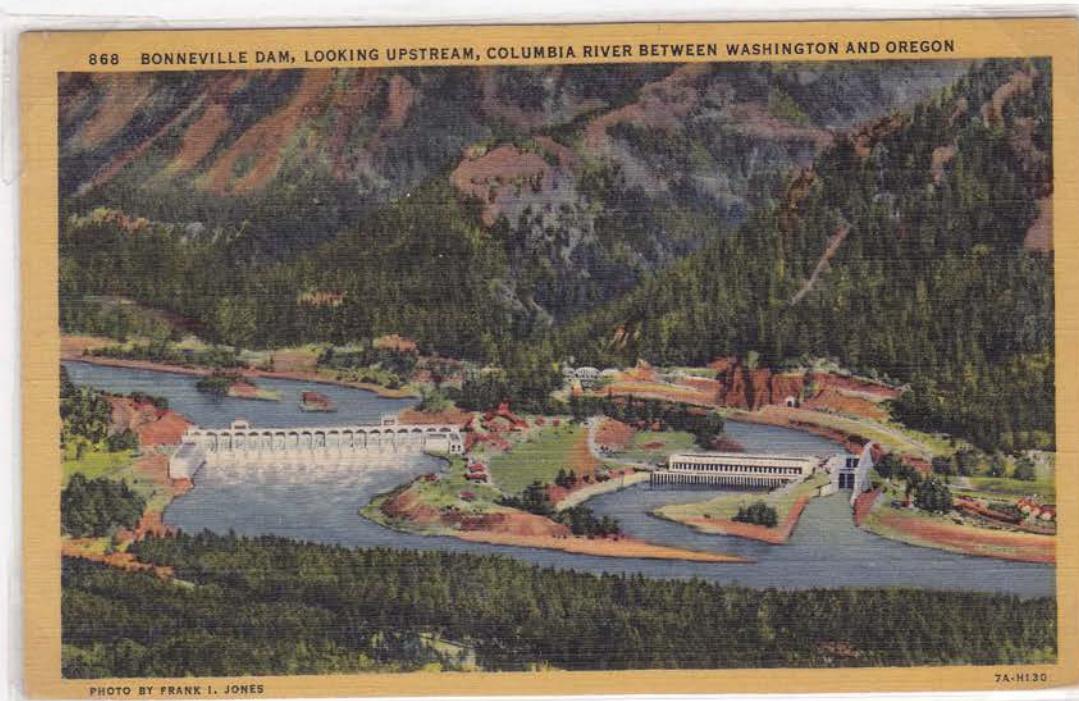
Woody's musings while looking at the Bonneville Dam.

*Down along the river, just sitting on a rock,
Looking at the boats in the Bonneville lock,
Gate swings open and the boat sails in,
She toots her whistle and she's gone again.
Gasoline a-going up,
Wheat a-coming down.*

*Well, I filled up my hat brim, drunk a sweet taste,
Thought about the river going to waste,
Thought about the dust, thought about the sand,
Thought about the people, thought about the land.
Everybody running 'round all over creation,
Just looking for some kind of a little place.*



Reduced size color photocopy.



Bonneville Dam picture post card. Lock is shown at rightmost channel.

*Well, I pulled out my pencil and I scribbled this song,
Figured all of them salmon just couldn't be wrong.
Them salmon fish is pretty shrewd,
They got Senators and politicians, too.
Just like a President,
Run every four years.*

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

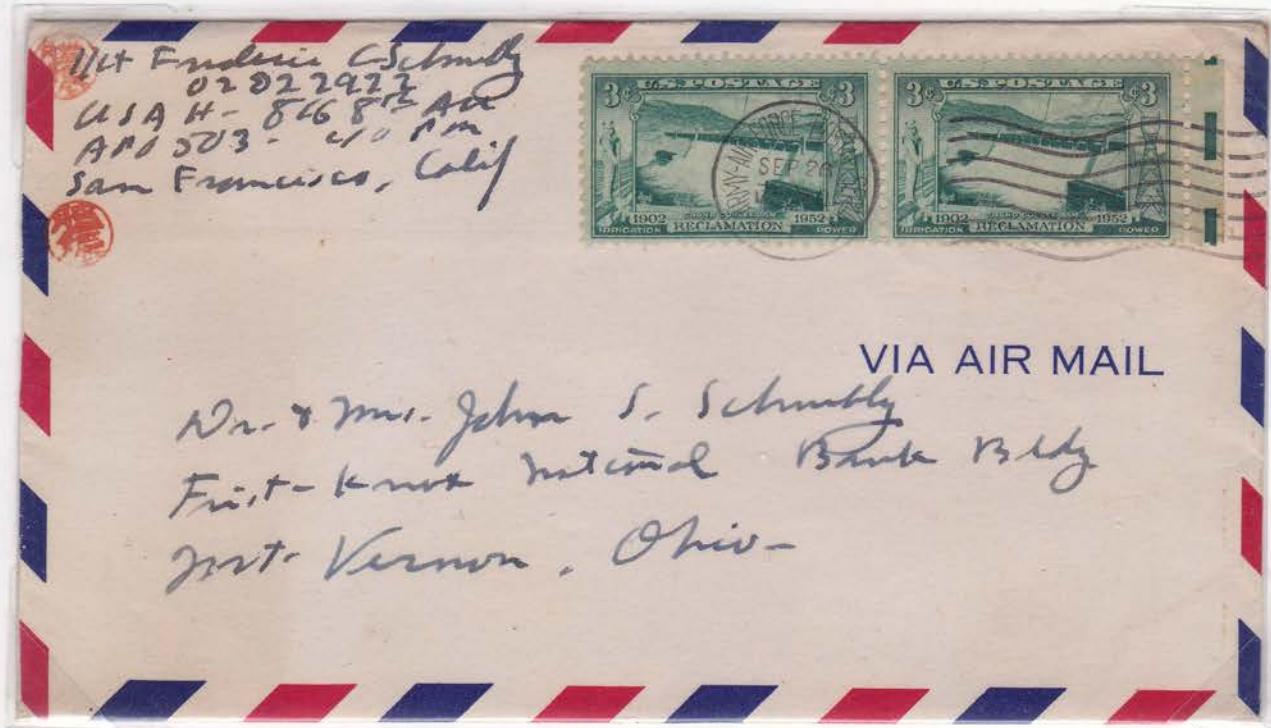
THE GRAND COULEE DAM

Woody's song in praise of the largest of the dams in the Bonneville Power Administration system.

*Well, the world has seven wonders, the travelers always tell,
Some gardens and some towers, I guess you know them well,
But now the greatest wonder is in Uncle Sam's fair land,
It's the big Columbia River and the big Grand Coulee Dam.*



Bureau of Engraving and Printing photo essay for 3¢ Grand Coulee Dam stamp showing rejected design. Ex-Sol Glass collection.



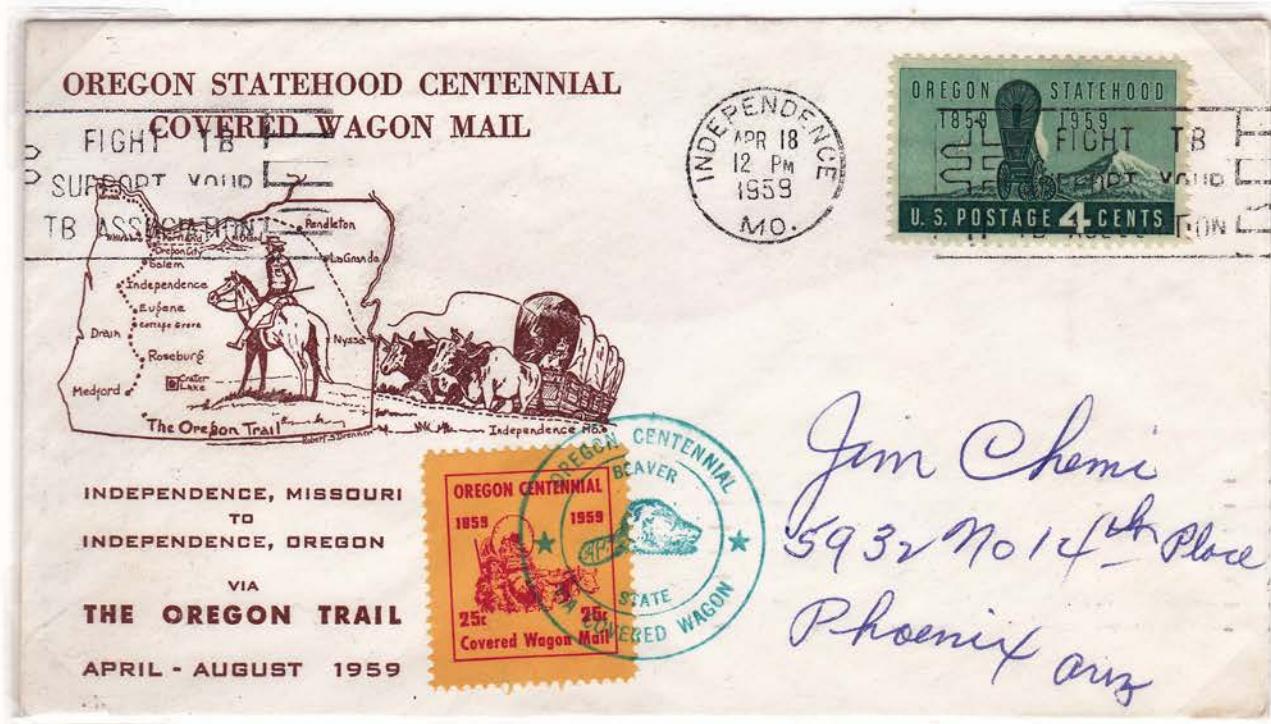
Grand Coulee Dam stamps used from U.S. Army Post Office in Japan.

WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

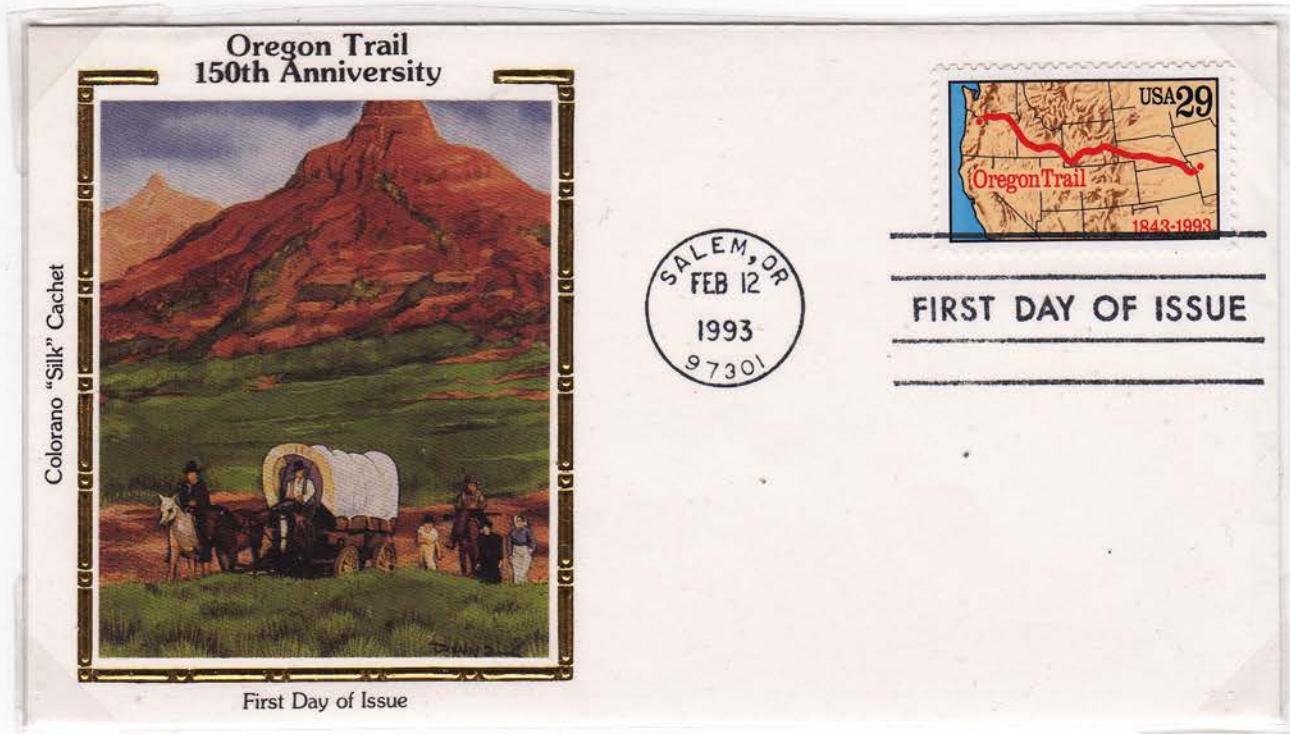
OREGON TRAIL

Woody's story of 20th century migrants following in the footsteps of 19th century pioneers.

*I've been a-grubbing on a little farm,
On the flat and windy plains,
I've been a-listening to the hungry cattle bawl.
I'm gonna pack my wife and kids,
I'm gonna hit that western road,
I'm gonna hit that Oregon Trail this coming fall.*



Carried by
covered wagon
over route of
Oregon Trail.



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

BIGGEST THING THAT MAN HAS EVER DONE (or THE GREAT HISTORICAL BUM)

Some historical bragging, Woody Guthrie style.
Woody made certain to add a few verses about the Grand Coulee Dam.

*I'm just a lonesome traveler, the Great Historical Bum,
Highly educated, from history I have come,
I built the Rock of Ages, 'twas in the year of I,
And that was about the biggest thing that man has ever done.*

Francis Parkman, the great 19th century historian, appears on imperforate error coil pair at right.

*I worked in the Garden of Eden, 'twas in the year of 2,
Joined the Apple Pickers Union, I always paid my dues,
I'm the man that signed the contract to raise the rising sun.
And that was about the biggest thing that man has ever done.*



Canceled-to-order stamp shown at right for sake of philatelic variety.



Anderson cachet.

*I climbed the rocky canyon where the Columbia River rolls,
Seen the salmon leaping the rapids and the falls.
The big Grand Coulee Dam in the State of Washington,
Is just about the biggest thing that man has ever done.*



WOODY GUTHRIE: FROM CALIFORNIA TO THE NEW YORK ISLAND
2.6 THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PASTURES OF PLENTY

One of the songs Woody composed for the Bonneville Power Administration,
but really an anthem for all of America's migrant farm laborers.

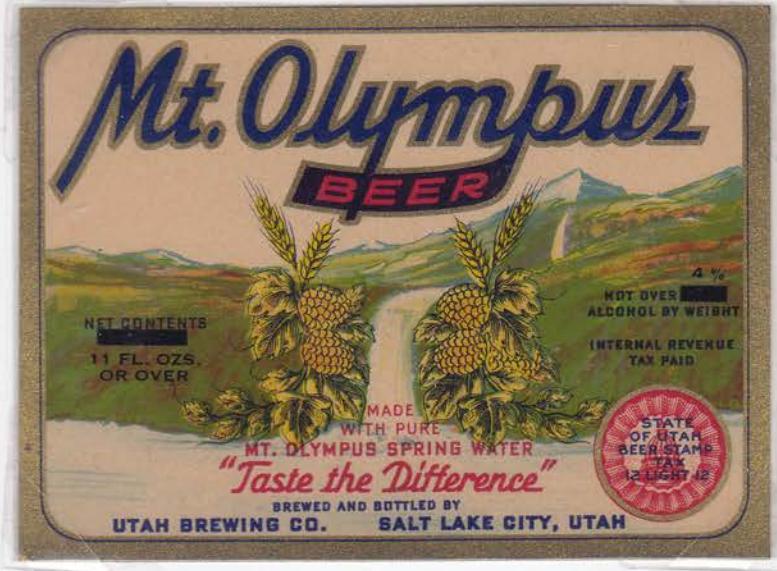
*It's a mighty hard row that my poor hands have hoed,
My poor feet have traveled a hot dusty road,
Out of your Dust Bowl and westward we rolled,
And your desert was hot and your mountains were cold.*



*California, Arizona, I make all your crops,
Then it's north up to Oregon to gather your hops,
Dig the beets from your ground, cut the grapes from your vine,
To set on your table your light sparkling wine.*



Plate number block of 37¢ stamp honoring Cesar Chavez, leader of the United Farm Workers union which organized migrant farm laborers beginning in the 1960s.



State revenue stamps include a Utah beer revenue stamp printed on a label picturing hops.