

**U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN**

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An occasional bulletin about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including the successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall, and Line Islands.)

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**CAPITOL HILL RURAL BRANCH MP 96950 - NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

Robert T. Murphy in his "Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" and Addenda No.1 to that publication lists postal markings used up to 1983. The following takes this forward to the present day.

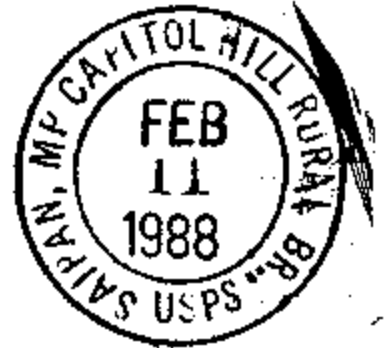
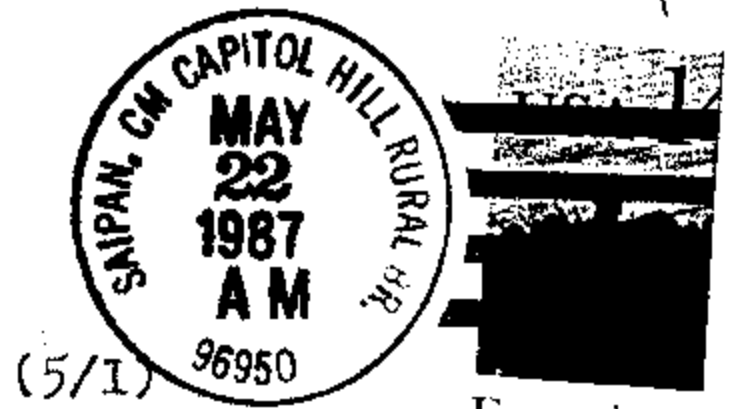
Two extensions to dates of use of postal markings recorded by Murphy have been noted.

Murphy Fig. 1.5 Extend to April 9, 1984

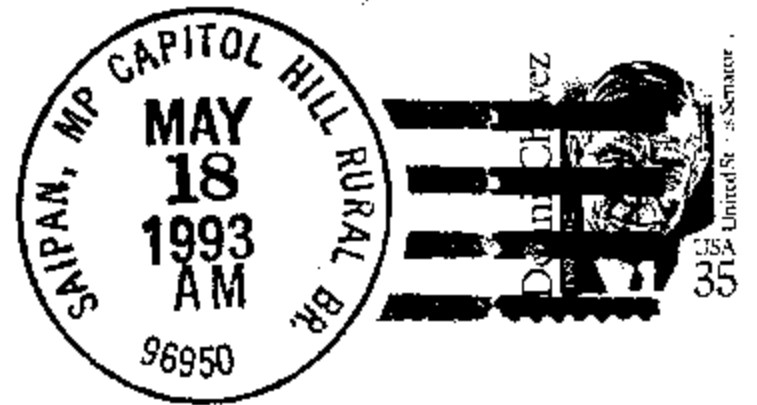
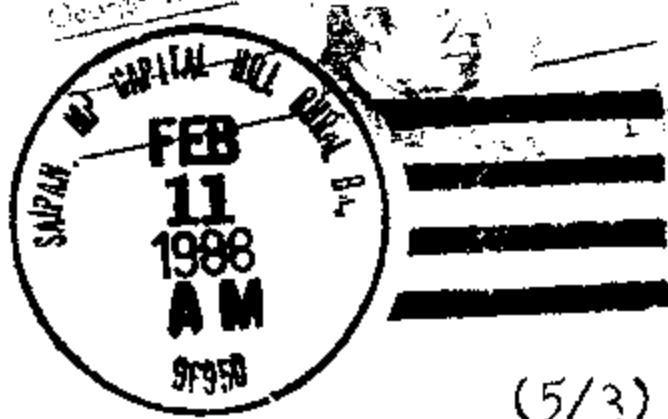
Murphy Fig. 2.4 Extend to April 9, 1984

Illustration	Period Seen
Number	

5/1	Oct. 24 1985 to Dec 23, 1987
5/2	Oct. 24 1985 to Jul 29, 1991
(Two letters appear to have been removed from this APDS following the word SAIPAN)	
5/3	Feb. 11 1988 to Jul 29 1991
5/4	Feb 11 1988 to Jan 31 1989
5/5	May 20 1992 to May 18 1993
5/6	May 20 1992 to May 18 1993



Corrections, Additions or Amendments to the above would be very much welcomed and will be included in a future edition of the "Bulletin".



**UMATAC STATION GUAM - GU 96916**

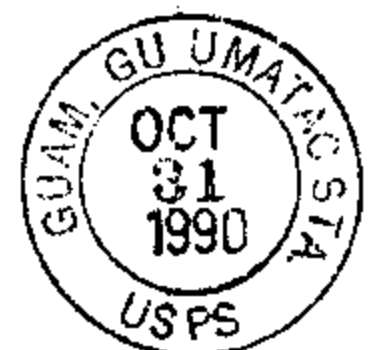
In a letter dated July, 1993 the Postmaster Guam indicated that this office closed "approximately five years ago". The following carries forward Robert T. Murphy's listing.

Murphy Fig 2.7.3 - to Mar 26 1985

Murphy Fig 2.7.4 - to Feb 17 1988

New APDS seen on philatelic cover

Oct 31 1990. Illustration 5/7.



MAILERS POSTMARK PERMIT NUMBER 001 - KOLONIA, POHNPEI, FM 96941

On January 29, 1991 the FSM's first, and so far only, Mailers Postmark was used for the first, and so far only, time. Florance M. Sugarberg, Secretary/Treasurer of the Mailers Postmark Permit Club tells how it came about.

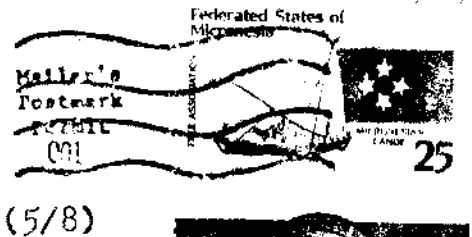
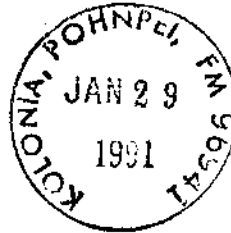
"I am the permit holder for MPP No. 001 from Kolonia, Pohnpei, FM 96941. My permit has been issued by the Postal Service of the FSM. I first became interested in the FSM when I met and became friends with the FSM's first Postmaster General, Leo Falcam at Ameripex '86 in Chicago. Mr. Falcam introduced me to Ignacio Stephen, the country's Assistant Postmaster General. I later met Mr. Stephen at World Stamp Expo '89 in Washington DC. It took over four years of correspondence and personal contacts with Mr. Stephen before my permit was finally approved on August 27 1990. The permit was issued by Mr. Stephen with the approval of the FSM Postmaster General and the FSM Postal Services Inspection Division. Approval of my final cancellation design was issued on December 3 1990. Mr. Stephen advised me that Albert Falcam, Pohnpei Postmaster, would personally handle my mailing. My permit required me to use my MPP only on First Class Mail bearing FSM Postage Stamps. On January 29th, 1991 my first mailing was made at the Post Office in Kolonia, Pohnpei. The mailing consisted largely of the mailing of the Jan/Feb 1991 edition of our club journal "Permit Patter" to each of our members. I can assure you that mine is the only MPP issued by the FSM Postal Service. As any mail cancelled with my MPP must be franked with First Class FSM postage stamps and mailed through Kolonia Post Office it is not feasible to provide examples of my MPP to fellow collectors."

**NOTE:** U.S. Post Office regulations permit organisations and individuals to postmark their own mail. They must obtain a permit to do so and the design of the postmark must be approved by the USPO.

Use of Mailers Postmarks has declined in recent years in favour

of Meter Mail and printed Postage Paid markings. There is however an enthusiastic group of collectors interested in this material. Their organisation is the Mailers Postmark Permit Club which can be reached through Florance M. Sugarberg at P.O. Box 5793, Akron, OH 44372-5793, USA.

Robert T. Murphy in his "Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands" lists permits used in the U.S. Pacific islands up to 1983. A list supplied to me by Florance Sugarberg closely follows that listing and includes Permits Nos 10 & 11 issued in Agana Guam in 1982 and which appear in the Addenda to Murphy. To the best of my knowledge no other Mailers Postmark Permits have been issued within our area of interest. However since the FSM, Marshall Islands and Palau largely follow U.S. Postal regulations such useage in the future is quite possible as it is in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Guam, American Samoa, Wake ...



MARSHALL ISLANDS POSTAGE STAMPS:

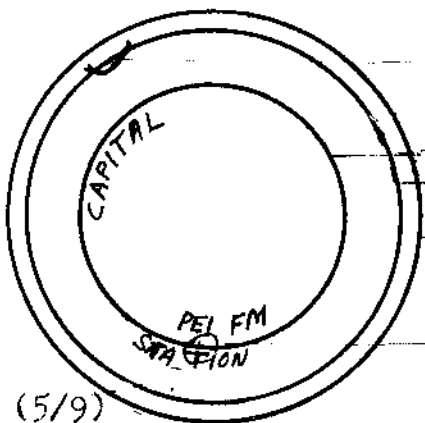
According to Miss P. Basley, Deputy Catalogue Editor for Stanley Gibbons the forthcoming 4th edition of Part 22 of Gibbons Catalogue will not include two Unicovert issues listed in the 3rd edition (nos 241/8).

I believe these to be the first two Unicovert issues - The First Men on the moon 1969-1989 Booklet with integral souvenir sheet issued on Aug 1 1989 and the Invasion of Poland 1939 25c issued on September 1 1989.

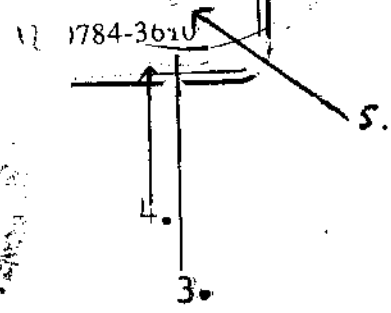
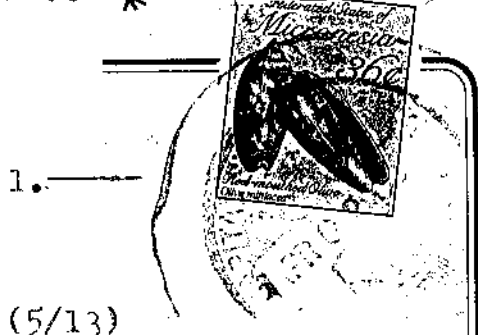
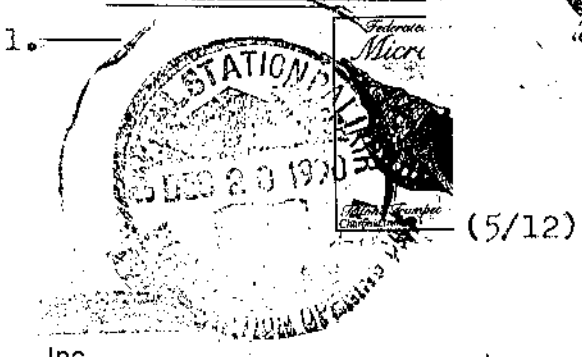
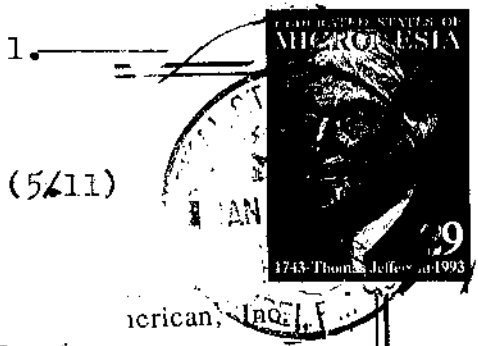
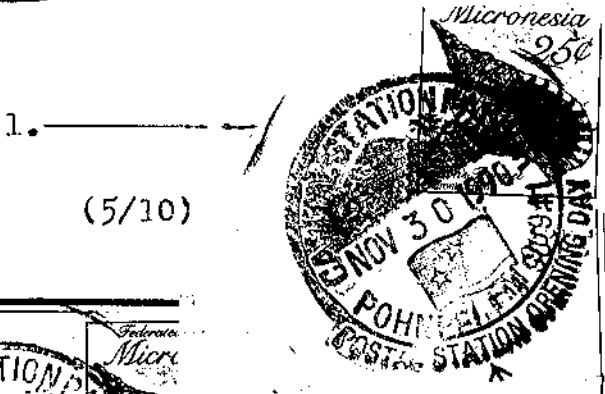
I have not been able to see a copy of Part 22 to confirm this.

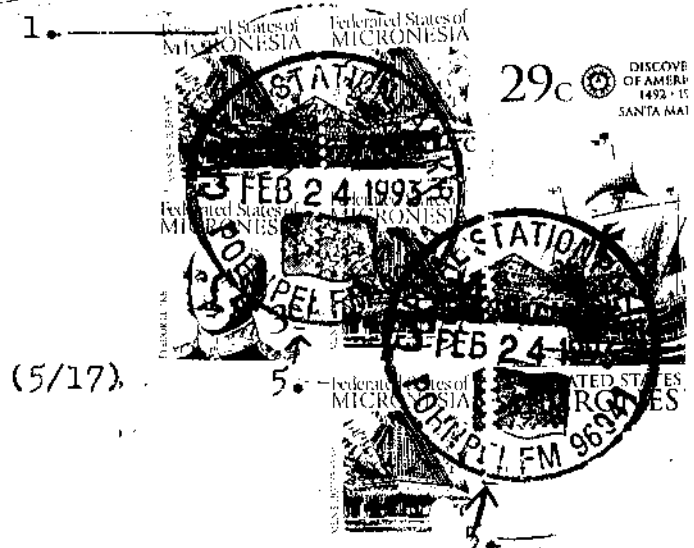
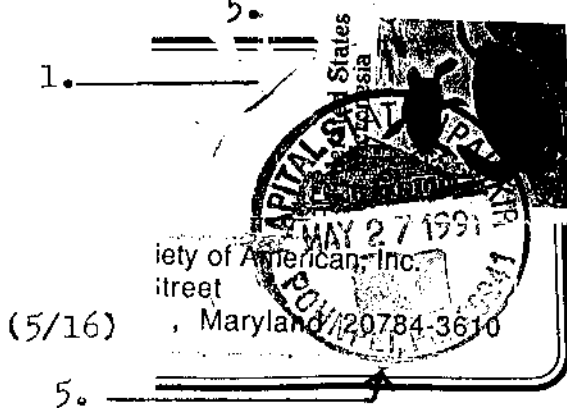
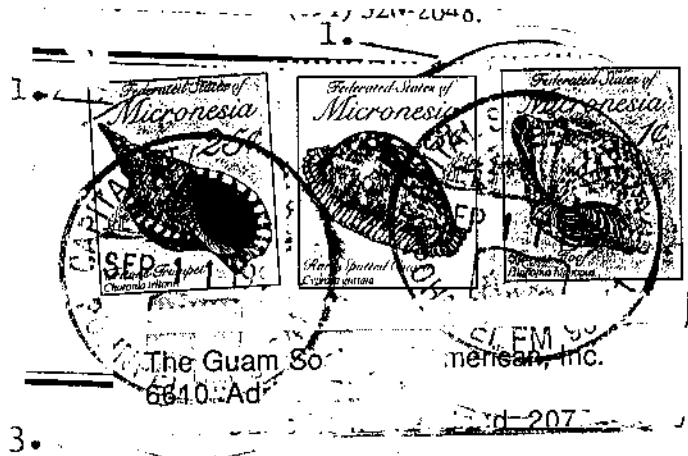
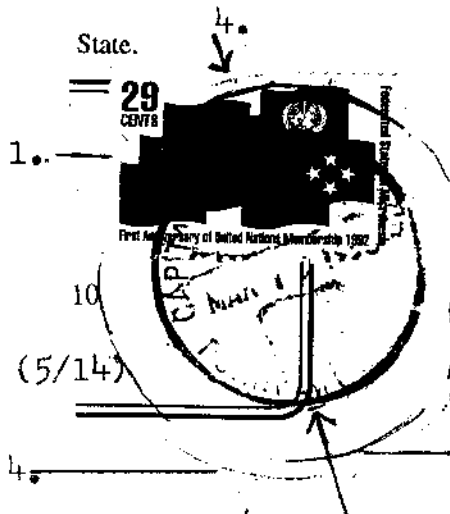
CAPITAL STATION PALIKAR FM 96941

Joel Fassler has submitted further evidence in support of the assumption expressed in the last edition of the "Bulletin" that the current cancel used at Palikar was created by removing the words "Postal Station Opening Day" from the Opening Day cancel. Joel has access to examples of both cancels used on soft packets. This reveals the construction of the cancel including the outer parts which are not visible on ordinary letters. The cancel consists of a circular date stamp (CDS) with two outer circles not usually visible - one is 8mm from the CDS circle and one 1cm from the CDS circle. These two outer circles appear on some covers but not on others and are never complete. What does show clearly is that the inner of these two circles has a dent above "AL" of Capital on both devices. While never exactly the same the way in which the lines show in this general area tends to be similar. There is also a recurring flaw under the "EI" of Pohnpei FM on the canceller without the opening day logo. It appears that when the "Postal Station Opening Day" was removed the top of the second "T" of Station was not completely removed. The recurring flaw appears to be the remnants of that "T". Joel remarks that while he does not consider any of the above to be conclusive evidence he does feel that it supports the theory that the words "Postal Station Opening Day" were removed from the original Palikar cancel to produce the cancel now in use. Joel has supplied a drawing of the cancel as he believes it to be together with a number of examples of both cancels used on soft packets. These are shown below.



1. Recurring Dent on the inner of the two "invisible" circles above the "AL" of Capital on both devices.
2. Outer circle of CDS
3. "Invisible" circle on device 8mm from CDS
4. "Invisible" circle on device 1 cm from CDS.
5. Recurring flaw under the "EI" of Pohnpei FM on the CDS without the opening day logo.





Illustrations Nos (5/10), (5/12) and (5/13) show the device with the "Opening Day" logo. Illustrations Nos. (5/11) and (5/14) to (5/17) following removal of the "Opening Day" logo.

POHNPEI FM 96941 - COMMERCIAL COVERS

Michael Sewell reports receipt of three commercial covers from Pohnpei on which the standard pictorial cancellation appears to be very worn. The date is set up side down in relation to the wording and shows the year to be "1993". Dates are Feb 03, Feb 10 and March 05. The contents indicate a posting date of 1994 and stamps on one cover are of fairly recent issue e.g. Pioneers of Flight II issued Sept 1993 and Fish Def II 40c issued Aug 26, 1993.

POSTAGE STAMP CATALOG OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS 1984-1992

is the title of a 35 page publication available from Uncover, One Uncover Center, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82008-001, USA for \$1.00 in the USA. Uncover are the Philatelic Agents for the Marshall Islands Postal Service and sell new issues (and recent issues) at face value plus a handling fee. This service may only apply to US residents - my enquiries have been referred to a New Issue Dealer in the U.K. (Harry Allen, P.O. Box 5, Watford, WD2 5SW). The Catalog is in color and all stamps are illustrated but only in reduced format. Uncover also issue a black and white illustrated price list of Marshall Islands and FSM stamps currently available.

Next issue - September, 1994: Additional Information, corrections, contributions WELCOME. THE "BULLETIN" - A READER SUPPORTED PUBLICATION !!