

# U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

A Quarterly Newsletter about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including Guam, Midway Is., the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa and the successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall and Line islands)

Website <http://www.postmark-micronesia.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/bull59.htm>

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## AMERICAN SAMOA:

**PAGO PAGO - UPDATING MURPHY:** Page 266 of *A Postal History...* shows a probable roller - Murphy Fig 2.20. This appears to be a tracing. Shown below as **Illustration 59/1** is a scan of three stamps showing clearly that it is indeed a roller. There is no date on this piece to indicate date of use - but it would be 1922 - the date the stamps were issued, or later. I have also been shown a copy of an envelope showing use of this cancellation on 1c, 2c & 5c stamps of the 1922 definitives but also with a partial impression of Murphy 1.1 dated May 19, 1922. (David Trutwin)



Illustration 59/1

**PAGO PAGO - UPDATING MURPHY:** David Trutwin reports use of Murphy Fig. 1.7 on a postcard to Mich. dated Dec 28 1934. This is earlier than reported by Murphy. The reverse of the card bears two printed Red Cross type markings with "Please acknowledge receipt of this bag" printed between them. Beneath in typescript is "Acknowledged with many thanks" followed by a signature and below "U.S.S. ONTARIO/Pago Pago, Tutuila, Samoa" **Known dates of use of this device now read Dec 28 1934 to Feb. 9 1953.**

**PAGO PAGO - UPDATING MURPHY:** Dave Trutwin reports Murphy 2.4 (Page 263) on the reverse of a registered cover and dated Jan 19 1920. This was reported by Murphy as known only on May 15 1922. However it was reported in Bulletin # 53 used also on Dec 11 1915. This is a third date for the device.

**PAGO PAGO APDS - UPDATING MURPHY:** Shown on page 265 of *A Postal History ....* as Murphy Fig. 2.15 is an APDS noted as known from Jan 23 1964 to Sept 5 1968. David Trutwin reports an earlier date. **Revised known dates of use now read June 28 1963 to Sept 5 1968.**

**PAGO PAGO REGISTERED D.S. - UPDATING MURPHY:** Page 264 of *A Postal History...* reports Murphy Fig 2.8 as known from Aug. 1 1944 to Aug. 29 1944. A later use has been reported on a Penalty Envelope. **New known dates of use are Aug. 1 1944 to Aug. 13**

**1947.** (David Trutwin)

**PAGO PAGO APDS - UPDATING MURPHY:** Murphy Fig 2.14 is reported as known from Oct 18 1965. David Trutwin reports an earlier date of use. **Revised known dates of use are Feb 14 1965 to Sept 22 1979.**

**PAGO PAGO AS 96799:** Dave Trutwin has shown me a cover commemorating the Royal Visit to American Samoa on Feb 10 1977. The cancellation is very faint but appears to be a single circle date-stamp similar, but not identical to, Murphy Fig. 1.24 minus the 4 Bars. Despite the light cancellation I hope to show it below as **Illustration 59/2. I will show the complete cover on the Bull59 website.**



Illustration 59/2

**PAGO PAGO - UPDATING MURPHY:** Dave Trutwin reports Murphy Fig. 1.19 used on May 4 1966 and earlier than reported by Bob Murphy. **Known Dates of use now read May 4 1966 to Sept 5 1968.**

**LEONE, TUTUILA - UPDATING MURPHY:** Page 273 of a *A Postal History...* shows as Murphy Figs. 9.1 & 9.2 two very similar 4-Bar cancellations. Fig 9.2 is noted as "Same as 9.1 except no commas". David Trutwin has shown me a scan of a cover to Apia cancelled on Apr 20 1945 by what appears to be a very worn Fig. 9.2. Although the dates given in Murphy of Figs 9.1 & 9.2 overlap slightly David is of the opinion that Murphy Fig. 9.2 should be deleted as the examples seen are almost certainly worn copies of Fig. 9.1. Has anyone a view of this? **See Bull59 website.**

**PAGO PAGO 4-BAR - UPDATING MURPHY:** Murphy Fig. 1.20 is reported known from June 15 1967. David Trutwin reports an earlier date of use. **Revised Dates of use are Jan 21 1967 to 1 Feb 1968.**

## PAGO PAGO - NEW STRAIGHT LINE

**MARKING:** **Illustration 59/3** below appears on a POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT wrapper also bearing Murphy Fig. 2.7 dated Apr 20 1935. (David Trutwin)

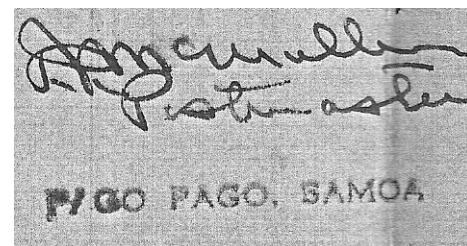


Illustration 59/3

## U.S. NAVAL STATION TUTUILA:

**Illustration 58/4** shows a 4-Bar date-stamp for Mar 15 1943 on a free cover to Iowa with the return address shown as F.C. Shaw, RD3c, USN/U.S. Naval Station/ Tutuila, American Samoa. The complete cover is on the **Bull50 website.** (David Trutwin)



Illustration 59/4

## FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

**WENO CHUUK FM 96942:** NY Dealer Steven Ziriinsky ([Szirinsky@cs.com](mailto:Szirinsky@cs.com)) has shown me 16 commercial covers dated between Sep 10 2008 and Jan 20 2009 recently added to his stock. Eight are large covers with high value stamps and one of these is a Certified Mail cover. All are addressed to Pohnpei.

Eight covers are cancelled in black by **Illustration 58/6**. The rest are cancelled in pale blue by **Illustration 58/5**. It is evident that both cancellations are being used concurrently. The latest example of **Illustration 58/5** was used on Jan 9 2009 and **Illustration 58/6** on Jan 14 2009. **Stamps...** The smaller legal size covers all had 42c in stamps but only one had a 42c stamp -

A shortage perhaps?

Two covers have 32c Fish definitives + 10c Butterfly definitives. Three covers have 32c Fish definitives + 10c Bird definitives. One cover has 40c Fish definitive + 2c Bird definitive, another one has 40c Fish definitive + 2c Butterfly definitive, while the final one has the 42c Christmas stamp.

The larger covers have a variety of stamps – Nov 24 2008 has \$2 Bird definitive + 70c fish definitive = \$2.70 – the 12 oz large envelope rate. On Dec 4 2008 \$2 Bird Definitive + 32c Fish definitive + 5c Butterfly definitive = \$2.37 (\$2.36 is the 10 oz large envelope rate) On Dec 8 2008 84c Butterfly definitive (The one ounce large envelope rate is 83c.) On Dec 11 2008 \$3.50 Fish definitive + 5c & 75c Butterfly definitives + 50c Oblique Nutmeg = \$4.80 - Flat Rate Envelope? Dec 10 2008 2 x \$1 Christmas 2003 + 37c unidentified ?banana stamp = \$2.37 (\$2.36 is the 10 oz large envelope rate) Dec 30 2008 \$2.10 bird – Purple gallinule + 5c Butterfly definitive + 4c Mother & Child = \$2.19 - the 9 oz large envelope rate. Jan 12 \$2.10c Purple Gallinule + \$4.60 + 80c Bananas = \$7.50 (probably one pound Priority Certified Mail.) Finally on Jan 14 2009 Five x 42c Christmas 2008 + 26c St. Mary's Church Yap = \$2.36 - the 10 oz large envelope rate. A selection of these covers will be on the **Bull59 website**

**PALIKAR, POHNPEI FM 96941:** Steven Zirinsky has shown me five commercial covers recently added to his stock. All are cancelled by Illustration 55/9. The dates range from Aug 12 2008 to Jan 22 2009.

**Stamps....**The earliest cover had 1c +4c Butterfly definitive + 17c 1984 definitive. Another had a 25c Shell definitive, yet another a 41c Bananas and finally 2 covers with 22c Christmas 2008 definitives. A few of these covers will be on the **Bull59 website**.

**LELU KOSRAE FM 96944:** Steven Zirinsky has shown me 18 commercial covers recently added to his stock. All are cancelled by Illustration 55/11. Dates range from Aug 13 2008 to Jan 20 2009. Many of the cancellations have concentric circles and during 2008, particularly in December, the cancellation was very poor suggesting wear or more likely the device was not being cleaned regularly. Cancellations in January 2009 were sharp & clear.

**Stamps...** Two Certified Mail covers have the following stamps – Dec 16 2008 \$5 Butterfly definitive + \$2 + 80c Bird definitives = \$7.80 – No known rate. Jan 20 2009 - \$5 Butterfly definitive + 40c Fish definitive = \$5.40 – 12 ounce large envelope Certified rate. Another large envelope has \$1 Butterfly + 50c fish definitives = \$1.50 – Probably the \$1.51 five ounce large envelope rate. Of the legal size envelopes two had 59c in stamps – the two ounce rate made up in one case of 50c shell + 3 x 3c Fish definitives and in the other by 50c Pope + 3 x 3c Fish definitives. One cover had 1c + 5c Butterfly definitives + 60c + 10c Bird definitives = 76c - the three ounce rate. Another has 50c Fish +

5c Butterfly + 2 x 10c Butterfly definitive = 75c – probably underpaid 3 ounce rate. Another had 2 x 22c Mother Church UCC. The remainder all have 42c in stamps made up of a variety of stamps suggesting a shortage of 42c definitives. Two, from different senders, have 39c Purple Sun bird + 3c 1984 definitive. Two have 40c Fish + 2c Bird definitives. One has 40c Fish + 2c Butterfly definitives and one has 32c fish + 10c Bird definitives. Four have the 42c Christmas 2008 stamps. A selection of these covers will appear on the **Bull59 website**.

**COLONIA YAP FM 96943:** Steven Zirinsky has shown me a cover postmarked at Yap on Sept 18 2008 and addressed to Pohnpei. The cancellation is a distorted version of Illustration 31/19 but different to other versions shown in the Bulletin and is shown below as **Illustration 59/5** Stamps used are the 22c Bird + 19c Butterfly definitives = 41c The USPS domestic rate is 42c.



**Illustration 59/5**

A similar cancellation was used on a large envelope dated Jan 15 2008. But in view of the use of 2008 Christmas stamps I guess this should be 2009. The envelopes has 2 x 94c + 1 x 42c Christmas 2008 stamps + 30c Shell + 10c Bird definitives = \$2.70 - the 12 oz large envelope rate.

However on Dec 5 2008 the stamps on a large envelope were cancelled by Illustration 57/7.

**It seems more than likely that there are two cancellations in use at Yap.** The stamps used on this cover are 2 x \$2.10 Purple Gallinule + 1 x 60c Bird definitives = \$4.80 = Flat Rate envelope. These three covers will appear on the **Bull59 website**.

**KOLONIA, POHNPEI FM 96941:** NY Dealer Steven Zirinsky has shown me a batch of 72 local covers postmarked at Kolonia, Pohnpei during the period Feb 12 2008 to Jan 20 2009. Seven covers were cancelled by what appears to be Illustration 55/6 – for the record, as the device seems to be constant in size etc. on these covers, a clear version of this device used on Mar 26 2008 is shown in the next column as **Illustration 58/6**. The device was also used as a receiving back-stamp on two Certified Mail covers from other FSMPO.'s. **The last use of this cancellation in this batch of covers is Jan 22 2009 as a back-stamp.** All the remaining covers were cancelled by Illustration 55/5. These cancellations appear in a various shades of red & black with a few having a hint of blue. Many of these

cancellations show multiple concentric rings – though a few are clear and crisp without rings. Possibly there are two identical copies of this device, though I have no positive evidence of this. In a few cases a series of covers covering several consecutive or almost consecutive days are available and the colours etc. do appear to steadily change from distinct black to red over several days with the colours merging from one colour to the other. A selection of these covers will appear on the **Bull59 website**.



**Illustration 59/6**

**Stamps....**These are described month by month in date order.

**February 2008:** Five covers - Two with the 22c Brown coloured Bananas local rate stamp. One with 17c Fish definitive + 22c Bananas = 39c the 2 oz local rate. One with the 22c Mother Church UCC stamp and one, from Pacific Missionary Aviation, with 1 x 2c Butterfly and 5 x 4c 1984 definitives = 22c.

**March 2008:** 12 covers – Seven have the 22c Bananas stamp, Two with the 22c Bananas + 17c Fish definitive = 39c local two ounce rate, one with the 22c UCC Church stamp and one, from Pacific Missionary Aviation with 2c Butterfly definitive + 5 x 4c 1984 definitives = 22c.

**April 2008:** Three covers, one each with the 22c Bananas and 22c Church stamps and the third with 19c + 2 x 10c Butterfly making 39c the 2 oz local rate.

**May 2008:** Five covers – Two with the 22c Bananas stamp, Two with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitive + 17c Fish definitive = the 39c local 2 oz rate. Finally one with the 22c Butterfly stamp.

**June 2008:** 2 with the 22c Bananas stamp, Two local 2oz rate covers with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitives + 17c Fish definitives. Two with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitives. One with 19c Butterfly definitive + 3c 1984 definitive = 22c and finally 19c Butterfly + 3c Shell definitive = 22c local rate.

**July 2008:** One with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitive and one with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitives + 17c Fish definitive = 39c the local 2 oz rate.

**August 2008:** Seven covers – 4 with 19c Butterfly + 3c Bird definitives – all from the same source and over 5 days. Three with 19c Butterfly + 3c 1984 definitive all from the same source on the same day.

**September 2008:** Two pieces with 2 x 20c Butterfly and one piece with 20c + 2c Butterfly definitives. One cover with 19c Butterfly + 3c shell and one with 19c Butterfly + 2 x 3c Shell = 25c ? and finally one with 36c Airmail + 5c

fish definitive = 41c ? In error.

**October 2008:** Two fronts with 20c + 2c Butterfly + 17c Fish – the local 2 oz rate.: One cover with 19c Butterfly + 3c 1984 definitives and one cover with 19c Butterfly + 3c Fish definitives.

**November 2008:** One cover with 22c Christmas 2008.

**December 2008:** Nine covers with the 2008 Christmas 22c stamp. Four covers with 4c + 5c Butterfly + 13c Fish definitives = 22c. One with 22c Cornerake. One with 4 x 4c + 1 x 22c Butterfly + 1c Shell definitive = 39c local 2 oz rate. Finally 1 x 39c Fish definitive + 3c 1984 definitives 42c the USPS domestic rate.

**January 2009:** One cover has the 22c UCC Church stamp. A second has 5c + 4c Butterfly + 13c Fish = 22c. A third has 20c Butterfly + 3c Shell definitives = 23c. A fourth has 5c Bird + 15c Shell definitives + 5c Mallefowl = 25c. A fifth has 5c Butterfly + 15c Shell definitive + 5c Mallefowl = 25c. Both these from the same source on the same date.

**GUAM:**

**AGANA - UPDATING MURPHY:** David Trutwin reports a later date for Murphy Fig. 2.1 (Page 146 of *A Postal History...*). **Known dates of use of this device now read Aug. 9 1952 to Nov 24 1958.**

**AGANA REC'D – UPDATING MURPHY:** Dave Trutwin reports Murphy Fig. 2.8 (Page 147 of *A Postal History...*) dated Jun 11 1962 used as a back stamp with Barrigada 2.2.3. **Known Dates of use of Fig. 2.8 now read May 28 1953 to Jun 11 1962.**

**BARRIGADA GU 96913 - FIRST DAY OF SALE:** The Guam Flag stamp (from the coils set of flags of U.S. States and Territories) is issued on September 2 2008 and a “First Day of Sale” cancellation was used at Barrigada. Dave Trutwin, who sent the cancellation, tells me that to the best of his knowledge Guam and Hawaii were the only places where the issue of the local stamp was commemorated in this way. The cancellation is 73mm long and 24mm high at the highest point and is shown below as Illustration 59/7 in a reduced format.

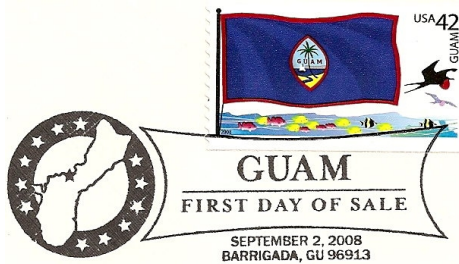


Illustration 59/7

**GUAM GU 96910 METER MAIL:** Dave Trutwin has sent a scan of a meter item new to me but probably familiar to U.S. readers. I guess that it has been printed by a computer as vertically along the left side, but not shown on Illustration 59/8 in the adjacent column, is an inscription reading “Pitney Bowes (Space)

<https://ihdswebp9-ext.pb.com/images/USPS/HTMLFolders/HTML10...>

In addition to the senders address the origin of the item appears to the right of the large P as 11/06/08 /From 96910. To the right of that is the legend **U.S. POSTAGE PAID/Pitney Bowes/Commercial Base Pricing/Flat Rate Envelope**. The label is 10cm x 16cm and is shown below as Illustration 59/8 in reduced format.



Illustration 59/8

The label also has a Barrigada GU MPO APDS dated June 6 2008. This APDS does not appear to have been previously reported and is shown below as Illustration 59/9

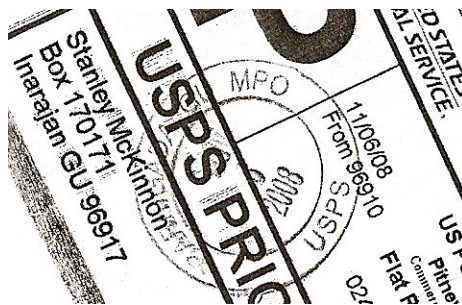


Illustration 59/9

**GUAM MPO GU 96921:** Steven Zirinsky has shown me a number of covers cancelled by the machine Illustration 2/29 – the latest dated 7 Jan 2009. I note that while all machine cancellations have PM above the date some have it preceded by a dash while in other cases it is central. See Bull59 website.

**MERIZO STA. GU 96915:** Another new date-stamp from Merizo first noted on Feb 25 2009, see Illustration 59/10 in the next column. The last date-stamp reported from Merizo was Illustration 51/8. So far the only dates reported for Illustration 51/8 are Jan 11 2006 and Nov 24 2007.



Illustration 59/10

**UNREPORTED CACHET JULY 21 1954:**

Illustration 58/13 showed a previously unreported cachet apparently used at Station 8. Cy Kitching has sent me a scan of a clearer version on a cover cancelled by Guam Machine cancellation - Murphy Fig. 1.10 also on July 21 1954. For the record this is shown below as Illustration 59/11 and the full cover is on the Bull59 website. This cover is addressed to the Naval Air Station Navy 943 – no sender is shown.



Illustration 59/11

**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS:**

**MAJURO MH 96960:** I am grateful to NY Dealer Steven Zirinsky, Box 49, Ansonia Station, NY, NY 10023 ([Szirinsky@cs.com](mailto:Szirinsky@cs.com)) for allowing me to see some commercial covers recently added to his stock.

**Illustration 59/12** shows a previously unreported APDS noted on four covers dated Nov 20 2008, Dec 17 2008 & Jan 3 2009. One date is illegible. The legend reads MAJURO MARSHALL MIPS A 96960. The “A” following MIPS is new. Bernd Neuhaus tells me “A” is for Authority, quoting the minutes of a meeting of the Marshall Islands Chamber of Commerce which was addressed by Casten Nemra, RMI Chief Secretary and Chairman of the Board, **RMI Postal Services Authority (MIPSA)**.

The “A” is not clear on Illustration 59/12 because it falls on the stamp so I have included another partial cancellation as Illustration 59/13 where it appears clearly. Note that USPS continues to appear at the bottom of the

circle. The APDS is very slightly oval being 33mm wide but only 32mm high.



Illustration 59/12



Illustration 59/13

Fifteen further covers are cancelled by Illustration 57/12 (This appears to be Illustration 45/5 but with a small section of the outer ring and the stem of the P of USPS missing). A clearer version of Illustration 57/12 is shown below as **Illustration 59/14** for the record. The dates of these covers range from Mar 27 to July 30 2008.

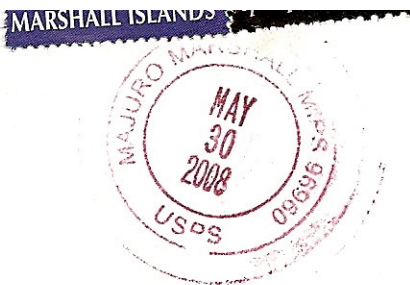


Illustration 59/14

Now to add to the mystery Steven Zirinsky has shown me four covers dated between July 16 2008 and Nov 19 2008 cancelled by Illustration 45/5. **Illustration 45/5 and Illustration 59/14 appear to be identical when held one over the other** in front of a light source - other than for the missing section under the P of USPS. However since the missing section on **Illustration 59/14** is constant there must be two otherwise identical APDS. Bernd Neuhaus agrees and comments that he believes that it is possible to manufacture totally identical devices of this modern type which can only be identified when they get damaged. Bernd draws our attention to another Illustration 45/5 type cancellation with a consistent flaw - in this case a damaged "M". (missing first upright) on Majuro noted on a George Machado Jr. new postal rate cover dated May 12 2008 and also on a commercial cover in Steven Zirinsky's stock. See **Illustration 59/15** in the adjacent column. Three further covers and two pieces have faint cancellations which appear to be Illustration

45/6 - Only two dates are clear - May 23 2008 & Dec 27 2008. All three have the date-line inverted.



Illustration 59/15

**Stamps.....**Some might consider that the Marshall Islands issue a rather over generous number of stamps but never let it be said that Marshall Islands commemoratives do not have legitimate use. These covers have a range of commemorative issues plus some definitives almost all issued shortly before the date of use. There is no evidence of a local rate - All covers have the then current U.S. Postal tariff.

In **Aug 2007** a 39c stamp from the July 13 2005 flower definitives was used.

In **Jan 2008** one piece had one of the 41c Marshalllese culture stamps issued September 18 2007.

During **March & April 2008** the 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S.A.F. 41c set issued Aug 7 2007 was used on 7 covers.

A part cover dated **April 25 2008** has a 41c stamp from the 2007 fish definitives while another has a 41c Purple Heart stamp issued in 2007.

In early **May 2008** three covers had 41c stamps from the Bouquets of the World set issued on Jan 15 2008.

On **May 23 & 30 2008** two covers had 41c Anniversary of the U.S.A.F. + 1c flower stamps from the July 13 2005 flower definitives. A 50c stamp from the Dec.16 1994 Battle of the Bulge set was used on a cover postmarked **May 20 2008**.

During **July 2008** the 42c Marine Corps Heroes issued May 12 2008 appeared on 7 covers and two part covers. Also during **July 2008** two covers had the 42c Colorful Birds of the world set issued on June 3 2008.

On **Nov 20 2008** a 42c stamp from the Endangered Species set issued Aug 19 2008 was used.

During **Nov & Dec 2008** three covers have the 42c stamp from the 2008 fish definitive set. On Dec 27 2008 one piece has 2 x 24c of the 2005 flower stamps definitives

A cut out from a parcel box has 4 x \$1 Fish definitives issued Sep 9 2008 + \$4.08 flower from the July 13 2005 flower definitives. See the **Bull59 website** for scans of some of these covers.

**COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS:**

**SAIPAN MP 96950:** NY dealer Steven Zirinsky ([Szirinsky@cs.com](mailto:Szirinsky@cs.com)) has shown me a

cover cancelled by the machine cancellation Illustration 15/23 dated 05 Jun 2008.

**CAPITAL HILL, SAIPAN MP 96950:** Steven Zirinsky has shown me a commercial cover from this office addressed to Pohnpei cancelled by what appears to be Illustration 54/12 dated Dec 1 2008 - unfortunately on dark coloured stamps.

**SAN VICENTE MP 96950:** Illustration 58/21 was used on a philatelic cover on Feb 23 2009. Further damage has now occurred - the A of Branch is now missing together with some of the outer circle in the same area. I have obtained a clear impression of this date-stamp - this is shown below as **Illustration 59/16**



Illustration 59/16

**REPUBLIC OF PALAU:**

**LAST LORAN STATION CLOSED:** The U.S. Coast Guard LORAN Station at Anguar closed on January 6<sup>th</sup> 1978. This station was one of four stations in the Trust Territory. All closed during the early days of 1978.

**OTHER ISLANDS:**

**MARCUS ISLAND:** Many of you will have the fancy cancel Murphy Fig. 1.1.1 in your collections and perhaps have assumed that it was used only on philatelic mail. David Trutwin has sent a scan of a non-philatelic use on 27 April 1978 on an envelope from Mr. Howard to Mrs C.L. Howard in Louisville KY. This will appear on the **Bull59 website**.

**NEW POSTAL RATES:** The U.S. and the RMI, FSM & RP, will increase postal rates on May 11 2009. The U.S. Domestic Rate increased from 42c to 44c. The International Rate increases from 94c to 98c (except Canada 75c & Mexico 79c)

**Bulletin Archive of past issues can be found on the Joel Fassler website:-**  
<http://www.jrsportfolio.com/phila/uspib/index.htm>

The "U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN" is issued 3 or 4 times each year. For details please e-mail [uspibulletin@hotmail.com](mailto:uspibulletin@hotmail.com). Scans in black & white and colour of some of the items mentioned in this edition of the Bulletin can be found on the **Bulletin 59 Website:**  
<http://www.postmark-micronesia.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/bull59.htm>

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