

Palm Beach Stamp Club

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NEWSLETTER

August 2026



Palm Beach Stamp Club
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August gives us a perfect reason to look back at one of the great leaps in American postal history. On August 28, 1864, the U.S. Post Office Department launched the Railway Mail Service, turning a renovated baggage car on the Chicago and North Western line into the nation's first rolling mailroom. What began as an experiment quickly reshaped mail delivery for a century, replacing slow horse-drawn coaches with clerks who sorted letters at full speed between towns—and even snatched mailbags from trackside cranes without stopping.

As Florida collectors, we appreciate how innovations like this shaped the covers, postmarks, and stories we enjoy today. The Railway Mail Service reminds us that behind every piece of mail is a history of ingenuity and determination, racing forward much like those early mail cars of 1864.

Stamp of the Month

Clerks aboard the train sorted mail not just for routes along the line, but also for those beyond the end of the line. This new railway mail service was a great success.



Scott # Q5

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August 2026

August marks the anniversary of one of the most influential acts of the New Deal. On August 14, 1935, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act into law, launching a program meant to provide income for unemployed Americans and for retirees beginning January 1, 1940. It was a response to the deep anxieties of the Depression era. Roosevelt spoke that day that “we can never insure one hundred percent of the population against one hundred percent of the hazards and vicissitudes of life,” yet he hoped the act would prevent older Americans from falling into poverty.

For collectors, Social Security’s creation forms part of the broader postal landscape of the 1930s. The program generated forms, notices, and correspondence that now appear in estate lots and family papers, offering tangible traces of a moment when the country embraced a new vision of economic stability.

The United States Postal Service commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Social Security Act on August 14, 1985, by issuing the 22¢ (Scott #2153) postage

stamp. As we remember the act’s anniversary, we also celebrate the way history endures through the items we collect—small pieces of paper that continue to tell the story of America’s turning points.

Both the July 9th and 23rd meetings were lightly attended, but we expect attendance to improve when other summer activities subside. On July 9th Keith Litchman presented information on various Scott catalogues as references for country stamp issues and Dan Maddalino gave a wonderful presentation on the Lindbergh Air Mail booklet stamps at our meeting on the 23rd.

Plans are continuing for our club’s fall stamp show at the West Palm Beach Embassy Suites on Saturday, October 31st.

At a future club meeting members will be asked to decide whether to reschedule or simply cancel the fourth Thursday meeting in November. Apparently, your editor missed the fact that the fourth Thursday is Thanksgiving Day.

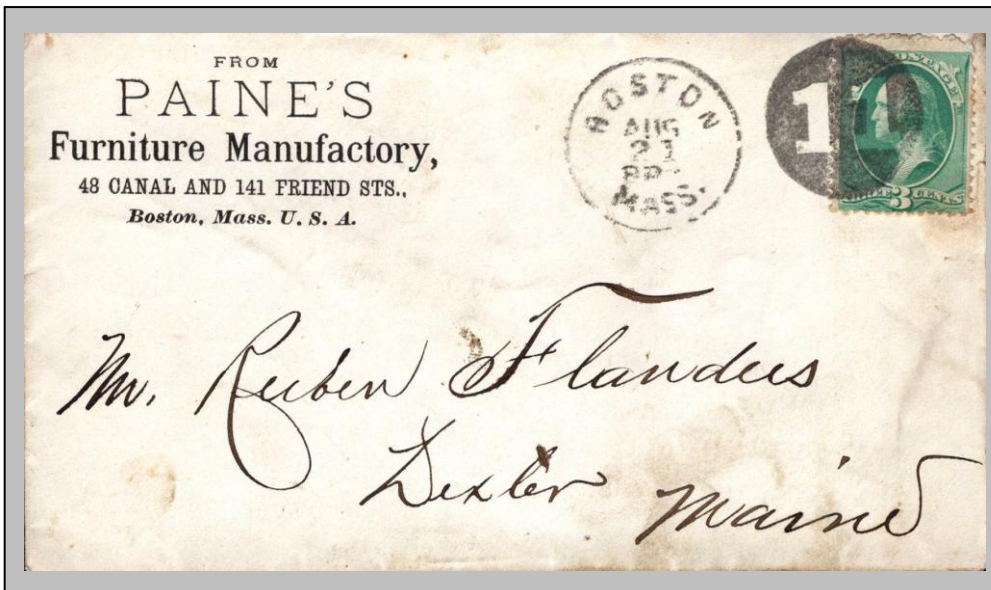


August 9th, Second Sunday Stamp & Coin Show, Azan Shrine Center, Sunday 9:30-3:00, Melbourne 32935.

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Boston Killer Cancellation

Keith Lichtman



The cancellation on this cover caught my eye immediately. I had not seen a similar one before, so I bought it and set out to learn more. The stamp is the 3¢ Washington, Scott #207, identifiable by the small dash beneath the “TS” of CENTS. The postmark reads “BOSTON MASS., AUG 23, 8 PM.”

Consulting the *Encyclopedia of United States Postmarks*, the cancellation proves to be a killer cancel, type D—a colorless numeral “11” set against a solid black circular background. There are no receiving marks on the reverse. As for the year, I’d like to say my expertise led me straight to 1882, but the truth is more humble. Inside the envelope was an order dated August 21, 1882 (figure 2). Still, I’ll take credit for being smart enough to check inside the envelope.

The cover and enclosed stationery come from Paine’s Furniture Manufactory. The firm began in 1835, founded as a cabinet shop by Leonard Shearer. In 1845, Shearer’s son-in-law John Paine joined the business and later took full ownership upon Shearer’s death in 1864. Over time, Paine’s grew into one of America’s major furniture manufacturers. Sadly, the Paine Furniture Company closed in 2000, ending more than a century and a half of production. But the story didn’t end there. In 2003, the sixth generation of the Shearer family revived the legacy under a new name—Paine’s Patio (figure 3).

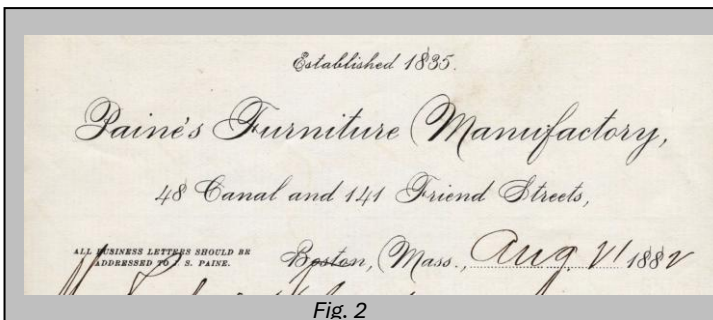


Fig. 2



Fig. 3

References: Delf Norona, *Cyclopedia of United States Postmarks and Postal History*, reproduced 1975; James M. Cole, *Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era*, The US Philatelic Classic Society, 1995; harryrinker.com/col-1533.html

Play Ball

Pat Hensley

I've been to several major and minor league baseball games and even toured a few of the big baseball stadiums. If you have never been on a stadium tour, I highly recommend it. There is something magical about being at a baseball game and hearing the crowds, smelling the food, and watching the game. My favorite part is the 7th inning stretch when everyone rises and sings *Take Me Out to the Ballgame*. It never gets old!



Highlighted here is the first day of issue, 1939 Centennial of Baseball stamp, Scott #855—the first U.S. postage stamp ever dedicated to the sport. Released in Cooperstown during the opening of the National Baseball Hall of Fame on June 12, 1939, the stamp celebrated what was then believed to be baseball's 100th anniversary. Its design of young boys playing a pickup game captured the spirit of baseball as a pastime for all ages. Although historians now know the game evolved gradually from earlier bat-and-ball sports, the 1939 issue helped cement Cooperstown as baseball's symbolic home.

August also brings Play Ball Day on August 1st, a celebration that encourages families and young players to get outside, learn new skills, and enjoy the game. Just as the Centennial stamp honored baseball's heritage, Play Ball Day reminds us that the sport continues to inspire new generations across the country.

References:

National Postal Museum. Baseball Centennial Issue. Smithsonian Institution; National Postal Museum. Youth Sports: Playing to Win; National Baseball Hall of Fame. Government-Issued Memories; National Baseball Hall of Fame. Where It All Began; Play Ball Day <https://nationaltoday.com/play-ball-day/>
<https://www.mysticstamp.com/855-1939-3c-baseball-centennial/>

Northeast China Liberation Stamps

Michael Rogers

After Japan's defeat in August 1945, Chiang Kai-shek's nationalist forces resumed their long-simmering civil war with the communist armies led by Mao Tse-tung. In the northeast, the communists controlled what was known as the Northeast Liberated Area, which encompassed the Chinese provinces of Liaoning, Jilin, and Hei Jiang, along with the eastern portion of Mongolia.

When Japanese troops withdrew from these regions, local authorities faced an immediate need for functioning postal services. With no new stamps available, towns began hand-stamping existing Japanese—and in some cases Chinese—stamps with Chinese characters identifying the locality and phrases such as “Chinese Republic,” “Chinese Postal Service,” or “Temporary Use.” These improvised issues filled the gap and kept the postal system operating during a period of political upheaval.



Collectors know these fascinating provisional issues as Manchurian Local Overprints, or MLOs. The example here is a Manchukuo 1 Fen stamp (Scott #84) bearing a 1945 Sui Hwa overprint. More than 3,300 varieties of these overprints have been recorded, reflecting the chaotic conditions and the many towns that produced them.

Allen Kerr developed a numbering system and a relative point-value scheme to help collectors navigate this complex field. He later reorganized his work into four booklets published by J. Millard Williams under the title *Local Overprinted Stamps of Manchuria 1945–47*. These booklets are long out of print and now command \$100 or more at auction. For collectors seeking deeper study, *A Stamp History of China's Liberated Area* is an extraordinary resource. This eight-volume hardbound set, printed in Chinese with substantial English translation, offers extensive detail and full-color illustrations. In the United States, the complete set typically sells for around \$250.

Stamps of Northeast China also present a wide range of perforation varieties, which can make a collection visually richer than simply acquiring one example of each value. Even using Yang catalogue prices as a guide, locating these varieties can be challenging, and competition among collectors for the most elusive items remains intense.

For anyone seeking a distinctive and endlessly engaging specialty, the stamps of Northeast China offer a rewarding collecting area filled with history, complexity, and discovery.

Reference: Reprinted in part from Linn's Stamp News, March 15, 1999

Night Riders

Keith Lichtman

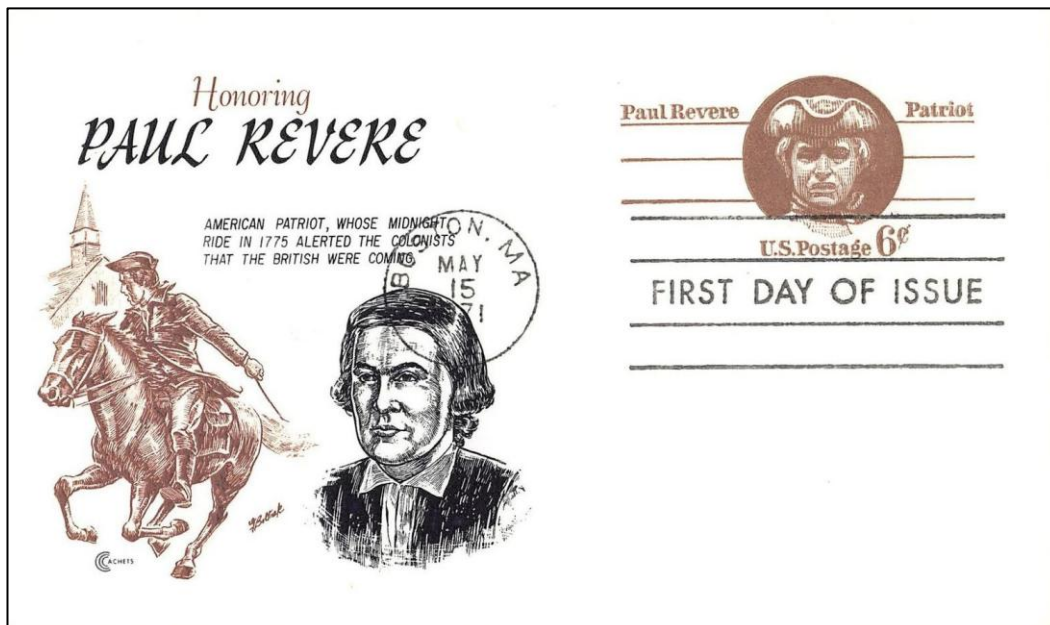
As the United States celebrates its Semi-quincentennial, it's fitting to revisit two events in April 1775 that helped ignite the American Revolution. Both occurred within twenty-four hours, and both have been immortalized not only in history books but in American philately.

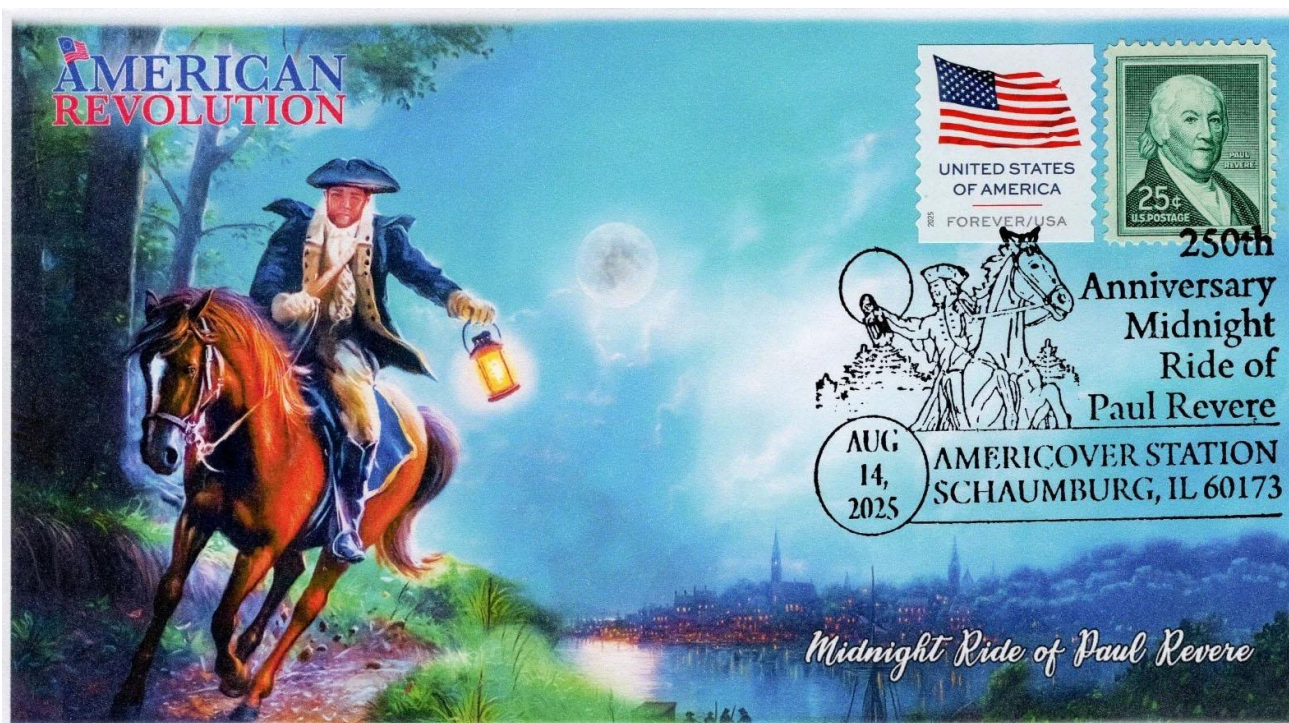
On the night of April 18, Paul Revere set out on the ride that would become legendary. Earlier that evening, he had arranged for signal lanterns to be hung in the steeple of Old North Church to indicate British troop movements: one if by land, two if by sea. At about 10 p.m., two lanterns were raised, signaling that British troops were crossing the Charles River. Revere, joined by William Dawes, rode to warn Samuel Adams and John Hancock—patriot leaders targeted for arrest—of the advancing Regulars. Along the way, the two riders alerted other Patriots, Minutemen, and fellow couriers. Adams and Hancock then sent Revere and Dawes onward toward Concord with Dr. Samuel Prescott.

Longfellow's famous poem later taught generations that Revere shouted, "The British are coming," but Revere himself recalled warning that "the Regulars are coming out," a phrase that specifically referred to British soldiers. All three riders were stopped by a British patrol; Dawes and Prescott escaped and completed their missions, while Revere was detained and later released when the patrol turned back toward the commotion at Lexington.

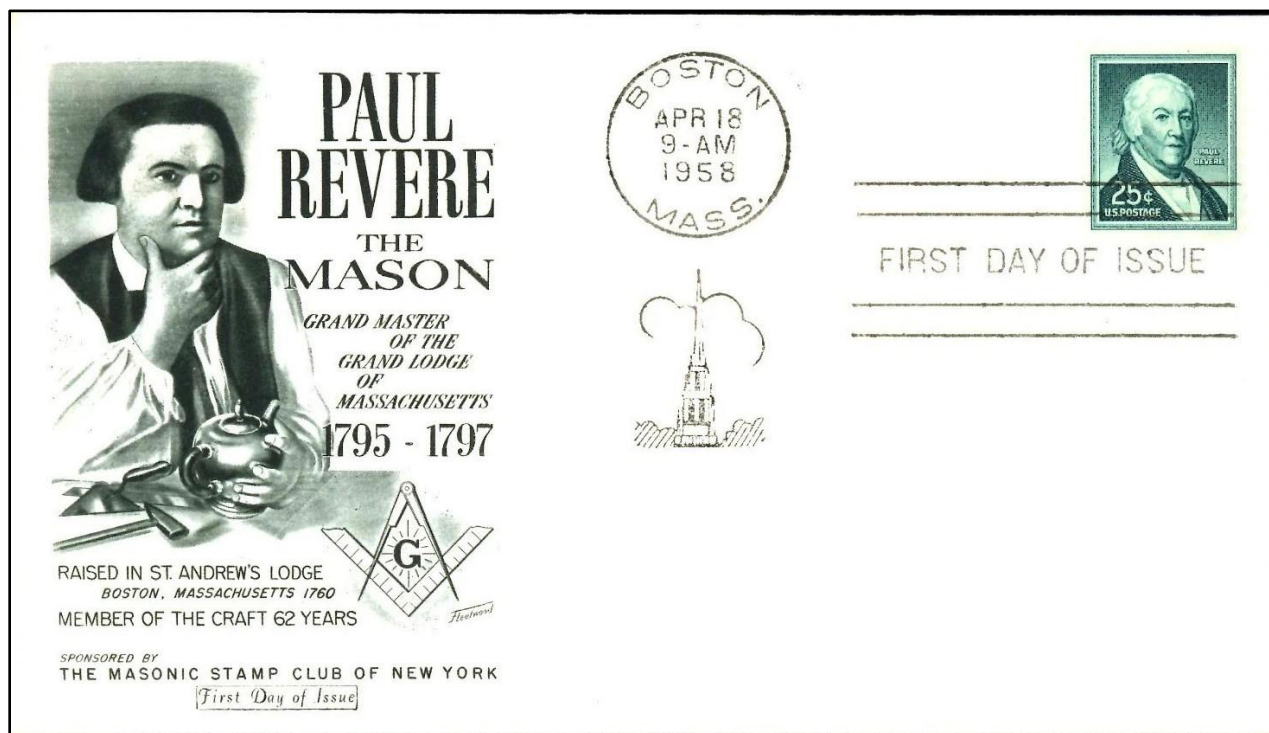
Revere's fame owes much to Longfellow, but Dawes and Prescott played equally vital roles. Perhaps one day they will be honored on U.S. stamps just as Revere has been. Philatelic highlights:

Paul Revere precanceled postal card, Scott UX58 (5/15/1971)





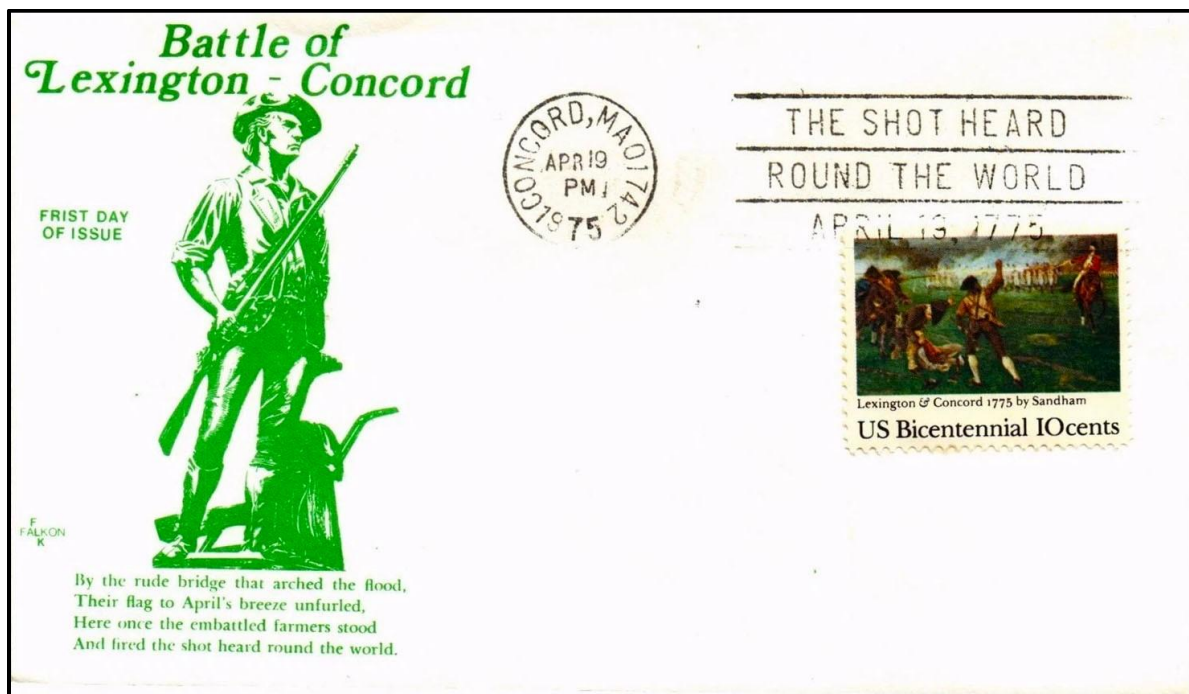
Liberty Series first day cover, Scott 1048 (4/18/1958)



The following morning, April 19, 1975, brought the first armed clashes of the American Revolution. British forces—about 700 strong—marched toward Concord to seize hidden military supplies and arrest Adams and Hancock in Lexington. Thanks to the warnings delivered the night before, Patriot militias had already moved most of the stores.

At dawn on Lexington Common, roughly seventy Minutemen confronted the British column. A single shot—its origin still unknown—triggered a brief but deadly skirmish that left eight Americans dead and ten wounded. The British pressed on to Concord, only to find that most weapons had been removed. At the North Bridge, they met determined militia from surrounding towns and suffered a defeat that forced them into a long, hazardous retreat back to Boston. Colonial forces harassed the British all the way, inflicting heavy casualties. By day's end, the British had lost more than 270 men, compared to about 90 Patriot casualties. What began with a small band of militia at Lexington ended with more than 1,500-armed colonists—an unmistakable sign that the Americans were ready to fight. These battles shattered the myth of British invincibility and paved the way for the creation of the Continental Army. Philatelic highlights:

Lexington & Concord first day cover, 10¢ Scott 1563 (4/19/1975)



Minuteman Postal Savings Stamp, \$1 Scott PS14 (5/1/1941); Minuteman War Savings Stamp, 10¢ Scott WS7 (10/29/1942)



References: [wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul Revere](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Paul_Revere); battlefields.org/learn/biographies/paul-revere; paulreverehouse.org/biographyhistory.com/articles/paul-revere; battlefields.org/learn/revolutionary-war/battles/lexington-and-concord; [wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles of Lexington and Concord](https://wikipedia.org/wiki/Battles_of_Lexington_and_Concord); armyhistory.org/the-first-battles-lexington-and-concord-19-april-1775/

Cielito Lindo

Michael Swope



In 1927, architect Marion Sims Wyeth (1889-1982) designed *Cielito Lindo* (colloquially translated as “Little Piece of Heaven”), a 45,000 square-foot estate for Jessie Woolworth Donahue (1886-1971), heiress to the F. W. Woolworth retail-magnate’s fortune. Located near Mar-A-Lago at 122 Kings Road, it was one of the grandest of all Palm Beach estates.

Jessie Woolworth Donahue had millions to spend but received little happiness from it. Her marriage to James P. Donahue (1887-1931) ended in his suicide following gambling problems and extramarital affairs. Her beloved but troubled son, James P. Donahue, Jr. (1915-1956), had a long scandalous relationship with the Duke & Duchess of Windsor, which led to his suicide.

In 1947, Jessie Donahue sold the property to developers. To save the estate, at least in part, it was broken up into five smaller homes and the property turned into a subdivision named Boulevard Estates. The main house was sold in 2012 for 6.8 million dollars.

The (c. 1945) natural color postcard was published by E. C. News Company of West Palm Beach and franked with the green, 1¢ Washington, Presidential Issue postage stamp (Scott #804). It was CDS cancelled at Hollywood, Florida, on February 5, 1947.



Reference: Postcard from Author’s collection; Wikipedia.org