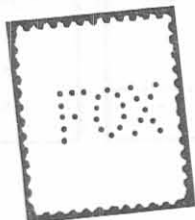


A NOTE FROM ALAN R. MISKIMIN RAISES SOME QUESTIONS

that some of you may be able to help answer. Here's Alan's letter.



About two years ago I decided to investigate the Perfin users in San Antonio (Texas). The results have not been very good.

The Frost National Bank (F-134, mistakenly identified as First National Bank in the new catalog) had their perforating device up until five years ago when they moved into their new building and the device was junked.

The Alamo Iron Works was a different story. I contacted the president of the company who referred me to two retired employees of the firm who had 48 and 51 years respectively with the company. In talking with these men, I learned that both of them had started their careers in the mailing room. One is a stamp collector. Neither of them, however, remembers the Alamo Iron Works ever perforating stamps.

Now to what I consider a complex mixup--the Fox Machine Company. I carefully checked the San Antonio City Directories back to 1918, but I could not find any such listing. Then I thought of the Fox Photo Company, which has been in San Antonio for about 60 years. I contacted the president of the Board of Directors and learned that they did indeed perforate their stamps until about 1942 or 1943. They (a vice president also recalled the perfin) don't remember what happened to the old perforator. Is it possible there is an error in the identifications of the FOX and AIW perfins in the catalog?

Members who have covers with the FOX (F-146) or the AIW (A-157) patterns are asked to check them and report the results to the *Bulletin* so we can help clear up the Miskimin quandry on these two patterns.