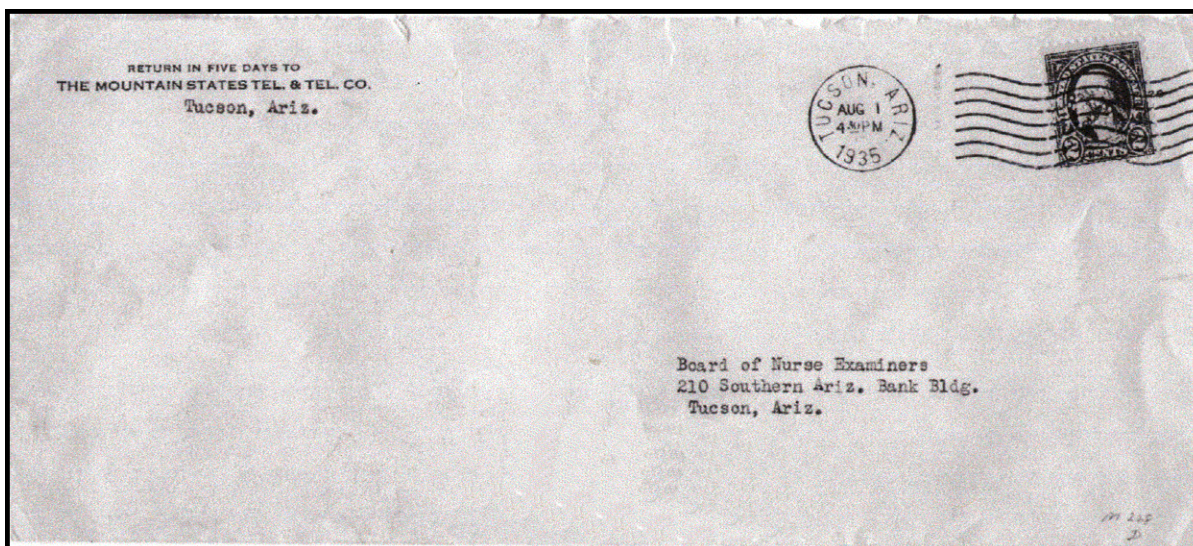


Is This The Sixth Mountain States T&T Perfin?

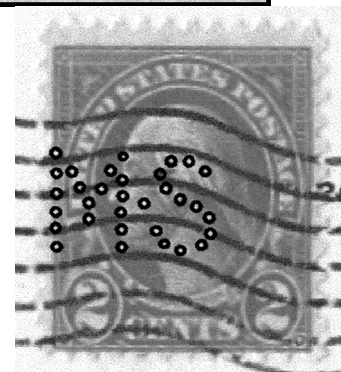
By John Lyding (LM 116)

As many of you may know, I am finally dealing with what my wife calls, "that mess in your room". The process is slow and tiresome as a result of the process I am using. Simply said: I take one item at a time and decide what I need to do with this individual item. In many cases this requires some research and may require a lot of time. I am mounting those items not currently in my collection and selling or donating the surplus.

Illustrated below is one of the recent items that has slowed the progress. It is an innocent looking # 10 commercial cover postmarked "TUCSON ARIZ" on 1 August 1935. A 2¢ red Washington head perfin was used on the cover and therein lies the rub.



It is relatively easy to determine that the perfin is "MS". This led me to page M-25 in The Catalog of United States Perfins. While there are eleven "MS" perfins shown; six are easily eliminated as possible matches. Actually, this process is made easier by the fact that the cover's corner card is from "The Mountain States Tel. & Tel. Co." and there are only five of these listed on the page. The five possibilities are shown below reduced in size.



Suddenly we are on the horns of a dilemma. Does our perfin have a missing hole or is it a new perfin? The corner card address lists the location as Tucson, Ariz." This location is not listed in the catalog which lists Denver, CO; Phoenix, AZ; (PC) Trinidad. CO, (PC) Boise, ID; (PC) Blackfoot, ID; (PC)

Idaho Falls, ID; Caldwell, ID; and (PM) Las Cruces, NM (Note: (PC) represents a precancel and (PM) represents a postmark). While the final decision is up to the catalog editor, I submit that this is a new perfin and location.

