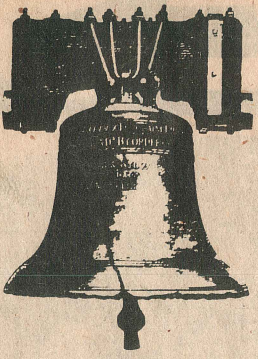
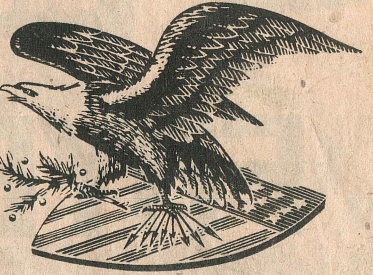


MADRID

AREA

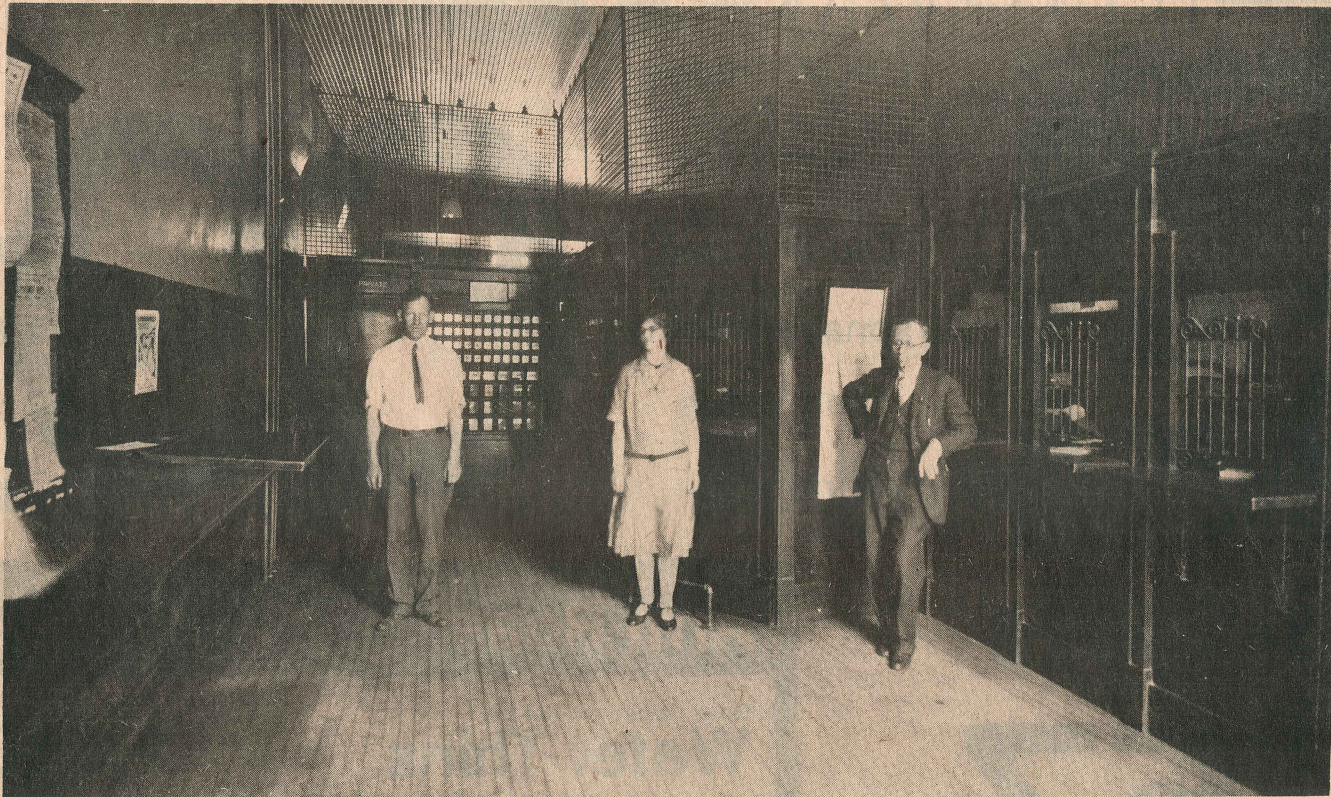


BICENTENNIAL



1776-1976

"Remembrances of Days Gone By"



W. A. Carlson, Selma Seeburg and Harry Graves are all former post office employees. This picture was taken when the post office was located in what is now People's Natural Gas. Mr. Carlson was a postal employee for many years while Graves was postmaster from 1916-1934.

Post Office Kept Name of Swede Point Until 1882

An important part of every community is its post office, and in the community of Madrid, this is no exception. However, for almost 27 years after the town was changed from Swede Point to Madrid, the post

office in a small house on the northwest corner of the present L. N. Naff property across the street east of the St. John Lutheran Church and as the postmaster would change, the location of the post office would also. These first offices did a small amount of business and the postmaster was usually the only employee.

Back in the early days, the position of postmaster was a political job and the position changed with the Administration. After the new postmaster took office, he or she had the power to move the office to any location selected. The term was the same as that of the president, four years in length. It wasn't until 1934 that the job became a permanent position when Otha Darby was appointed to the post. Harry C. Graves was the last person appointed to the postmaster position.

In 1880 Henry Hutton was appointed postmaster and moved the office to the southeast corner of the then empty lot across the street from the Lund-Pontiac dealership and now Federal Prescription. From there it was moved to the Hutton building on the south side of State Street near Second Street. During this period, June 6, 1882, the name of the post office was officially changed from Swede Point to Madrid. This was exactly 27 years after the name of the town changed.

When Squire Williams was postmaster, the post office was located where Lawrence Hardware and Appliance is now situated. George Young and Corydon L. Lucas followed as postmasters and it was during the time of Mr. Young that the office advanced to third class in 1898, and two years later, in 1900 that rural delivery service was started with two rural routes. Henry M. Graves, A. Hultman and Pete Carlson were among the first rural carriers. A third route was established in 1904, but is not in operation today.

The office was at one time located in the building at 109 W. 2nd St. between the Brown's Cleaners and Madrid Fabrix Shop. Eric Dalander was the postmaster during this time from 1902-1916. He moved the office to the site where the Postal Savings depository was activated in 1911 and it was here that in 1915, Madrid's rural carriers were instructed by the Post Office Department in Washington to use automobiles instead of horses with the understanding that the carrier had to become familiar with the operation of the vehicle and drive with safety while on the route.

Early records show that rural carriers had to carry many different and needed articles with them while traveling on the routes. One route carrier took the following items with him while on his daily route: satchel, receipt book, delivery book, money order book, letter box key, hat badge, leather case and six tie straps.

A great many changes took place in the establishment during the time of Harry C. Graves was postmaster from 1916-1934. One of the most remembered was the beginning of a village delivery service on July 1, 1919 with Elmer Swim as the first city carrier. Other early rural carriers included Henry M. Graves, Pete Carlson, B. F. Anderson, Francis Anderson, A. M. Hultman, Jess Girtton and J. H. Holland.

It was also during this period of time that the coal mines around Madrid were very active and several

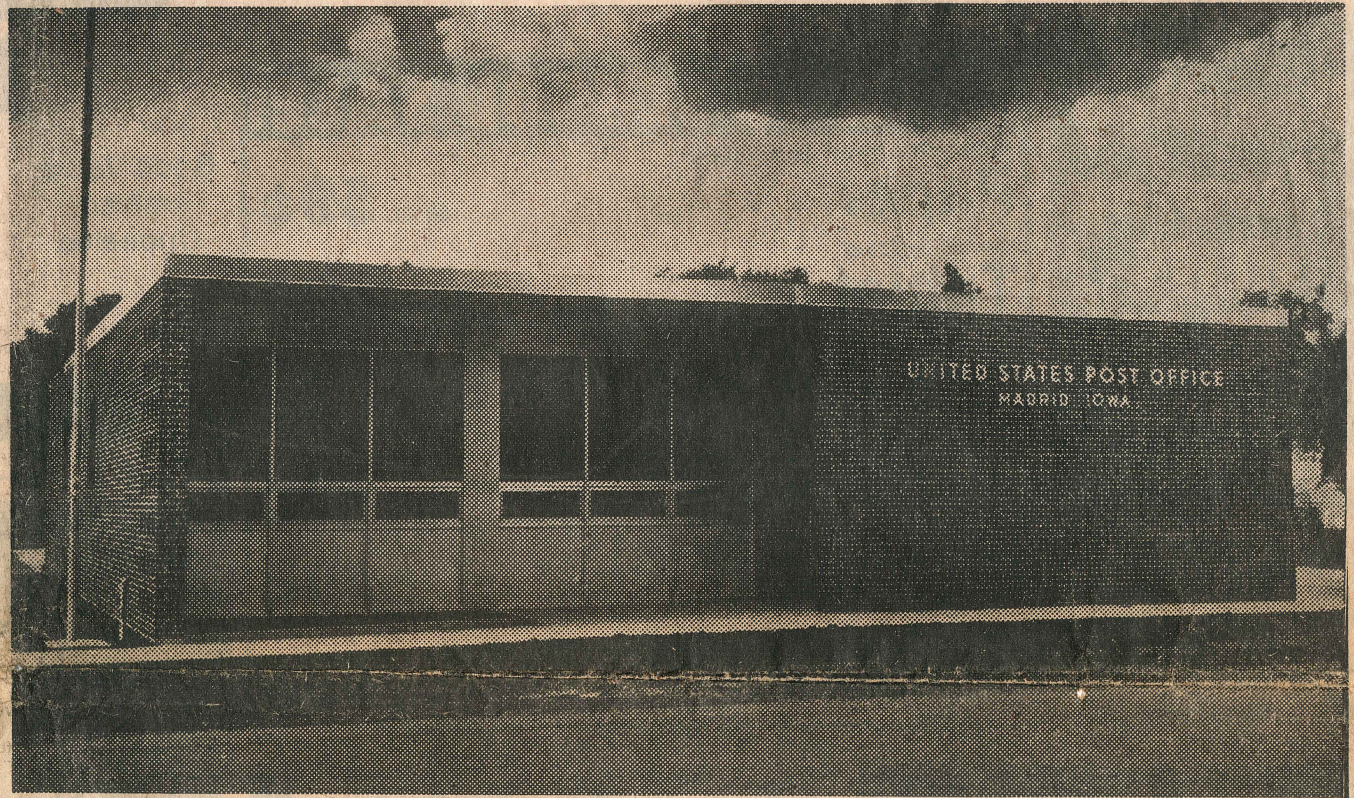
rural stations were in operation. The first station to open was at Scandia while other ones opened at Snyder, High Bridge and Zookspur. Ray Magnani was the first postmaster at High Bridge Station and received \$120 per year. This office closed in 1933. Snyder had M. Yurich as its first postmaster and he too received \$120 per year. It closed in 1925. The final coal station at Zookspur lasted 22 years from 1915-1937. Clarence W. Vorhies was the man in charge of this postal station.

During these days, the miners were paid in gold pieces and the post office tills would be filled on paydays as many miners would send money to their families in Europe. The postal office became second class in 1924 and at the present time has a first class status and has had one since 1964. Receipts last year

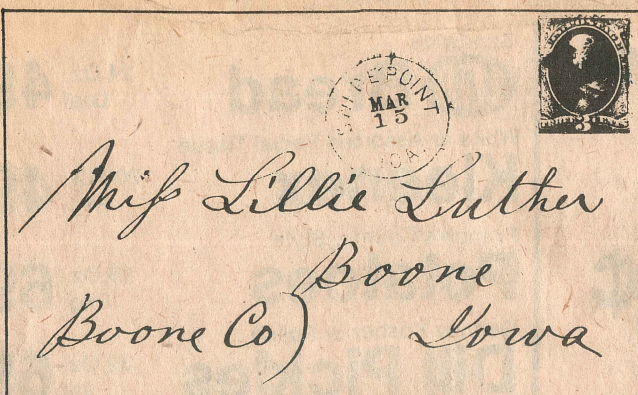
totaled \$150,000.

Otha H. Darby served the office from 1934 to 1953 and during this time, the office was relegated to third class and then advanced back to second class the following year. During World War II, one of Darby's tasks was to register and fingerprint non-citizens. The present postmaster is Robert Steinick, and he assumed charge of the office at the retirement of Darby in October of 1953.

Other employees at the post office include Dwayne Tweedt, Assistant postmaster; Ralph Check, clerk; Geraldine Johnsen, clerk; Keith Anderson, Bill Ostberg, and Frank Schoff, Jr., city carriers; Bill Perrier and Robert W. Carlson, rural carriers. Mr. Perrier has been at the office for 39 years since his appointment on September 1, 1936.



This photo shows the post office as it appears today. It was built in 1961 and was officially dedicated on July 22 of that year. Bob Steinick is the present postmaster and has been so since 1953.



This letter bears an original Swede Point postmark. It was sent from Swede Point to Boone to Miss Lillie Luther on March 15, 1882. Mrs. Luther is the grandmother of Mrs. Rex Bellinger.

office kept the original name. It wasn't until June 6, 1882, during the term of Henry Hutton, that the change officially took place.



Henry Hutton was a man who played a major role in the history of Madrid. He was postmaster during the time the post office was changed from Swede Point to Madrid; he was the first druggist in the city and he also was the first notary public in the Madrid community. He served as postmaster from 1880-1885.

The first post office was established here on March 28, 1856 as "Swede Point" Iowa. Marcus B. Rutherford was the first postmaster and served in that capacity for only ten months. He was followed by Erwin Wheeler, John Baily, Isah Wilkinson, William Rankin, Lucius Boudinot, and Judson Purinton. After these gentlemen the office was served by its only woman postmaster, Mrs. Margaret McCarthy, for eleven years during the 1870's.

These early post offices were usually a small corner of some private home or business. Erwin Wheeler had

Madrid's First Druggist

Henry Hutton was a man who did many beneficial things for the community of Madrid. First and foremost, he was Madrid's first druggist. It is true however, that from the time Erwin Wheeler kept the post office in a small log house, on the northwest corner of the quarter block of the now Oakleaf residential section, a very small stock of pills and other medicines were kept on hand, but the quantity was so small that some do not consider it even a drug store. The postmasters were frequently changed and as they did, so did the medicines.

Hutton became a Madrid citizen in the late 1870's and upon his appointment as postmaster, he brought with him a small supply of medicines and thus embarked upon his new business career.

The location of his business was on the southwest corner where Fehleison's lumber yard stood or in that lot, now occupied by the Lawson Apartments, across from Federal Prescription. This specific time in history was one of the gloomiest in the town's history. The last hope of the railroad passing through the town was gone and the people had given up in despair.

However, in the year 1881, contrary to all expectations, two railroads were surveyed through the town and in the spring of that year the construction work on the lines commenced. Mr. Hutton then purchased a lot on which the building once occupied by the Hub Clothing Store was located. He erected a frame business house 22' x 50' and placed in it a very respectable stock of drugs. This was the first drugstore in Madrid and the proprietor, Henry Hutton was the first druggist.

In 1833 this frame building was moved on the lot

south and a two story brick building was built in its place. This frame building is now occupied by the Madrid Bakery. Hutton moved his stock of drugs and post office into the new brick building where he continued in business until 1886 when he sold out to Dr. Farr at that time. Farr kept the business for a few more years before selling it to E. P. Dalander, who moved the operation in the Williams building on west second street. In a few years, it, in turn was passed to Mr. Bosworth and from him to the Madrid Drug Company, and from it to Mr. Yocum and then to F. R. Swan who continued to run the establishment for many years after. Swan owned the business until 1946, when he sold it to Guy Mitchell at that time. Madrid's present druggist, Bob Gayer, purchased the pharmacy from Mitchell in 1948.

The post office was established in March 28, 1856 while the town was still named Swede Point. Although the town's name was changed in August of 1857, the name of the post office did not change until 1882. Hutton saw the need of the name being changed to Madrid, so he set about to have it done.

With the building of the railroad in the community there also was a great amount of lot purchasing being done. At this time there was no notary public in town, so Hutton filed his bond, secured a commission and seal and became Madrid's first notary public.

Henry Hutton was an important man in the history of this community in several ways: 1) He was the first druggist in town. 2) He erected the first brick building. 3) He was Madrid's first notary public and 4) He changed the name of the post office from Swede Point to Madrid.