



# POSTAL NOTES

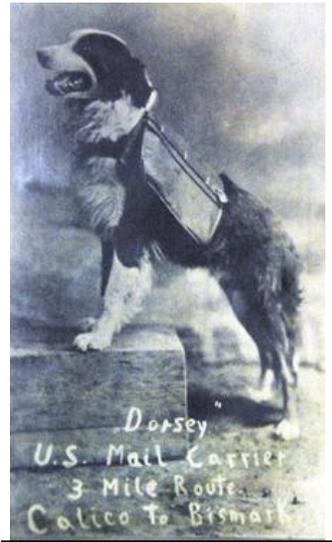
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## DESERT DOG DORSEY 'DELIGHTED' IN DELIVERING THE MAIL

Later this year, USPS plans to dedicate a stamp to Owney, the dog who traveled the rails with the Post Office Department in the late 1800s (coming out in July).

But Owney isn't the only dog who delivered the mail. At about the same time Owney was riding the rails, a mixed collie named Dorsey was delivering mail to silver miners in Calico, CA. Three times each week, Dorsey – trained by East Calico Postmaster Alwin Stacey – dashed across the desert and through the treacherously steep and jagged Odessa Canyon to complete deliveries between the Calico Post Office and the Bismark Silver Mine. He wore special leather booties to protect his paws from the rocks.



Dorsey, the dog delivering mail to a California silver mine in the late 1800s.

Calico's miners enjoyed getting mail and appreciated Dorsey's efforts. *The Calico Print*, in its May 10, 1885, edition noted: "About 9 a.m., Dorsey receives the Bismark mail and immediately sets out on his journey to the Post Office at Calico. After arriving, he is relieved of his burden and becomes his own boss until 4:30 p.m. to return with the incoming mail ... he knows his duties and delights in them."

But fame is fleeting. In 1886, the Bismark mine went bust and Dorsey's services no longer were required. He retired to the opulent estate of a wealthy San Francisco financier who owned an interest in the mine, where he enjoyed the remainder of his days.



### Did You Know?

There are some wonderful commemorative stamps this year. Beginning in Jan. 2011, the Postal Service marked the beginning of its "all-Forever" commemorative stamp program – where all future commemorative First-Class Mail stamps will be Forever stamps. Their value will always be equal to the First-Class Mail 1-ounce rate for standard-sized envelopes when they are used.



The Postal Service recognized the centennial of the birth of Ronald Reagan (1911-2004), America's 40th President in February. The stamp issuance is one of a number of centennial events taking place across the nation in 2011 to commemorate Reagan's life and legacy. Ronald Wilson Reagan was a well-known Hollywood actor who appeared in more than fifty films before becoming a prominent political leader. Distinguished by his charisma and oratorical skills, he was one of the most influential Presidents of the 20th century.

Several stamps are scheduled to be issued in March, including a set of five Latin Music Legends stamps honoring Tito Puente, Carmen Miranda, Selena, Carlos Gardel and Celia Cruz. The set will issue Mar. 16. The Neon Celebrate stamp will issue Mar. 25 at March Party 2011, the annual stamp exhibition in Cleveland, Ohio and a Jazz stamp is set to be issued Mar. 26 in New Orleans, La.



**And, from Mr. Zip:** *The first day of spring is March 20<sup>th</sup> and so we share this little poem:*

Spring will be pretty. Just give it a week,  
When flowers are blooming down by the creek.

Bees will be buzzing as trees start to bud,  
But for the moment I'm covered with mud.  
Snow has been melting, since winter is through,  
Replacing the whiteness with puddles of goo.  
I stepped off the sidewalk and into the ooze.  
Next thing I knew, I stepped out of my shoes!

Mud on my ankles and mud on my clothes.  
I stumbled face-first and got mud up my nose.  
Spring will be pretty, but I must confess,  
The first days of spring are a muckety mess!  
*Happy Spring!*

