

Zip Code, What Is It An Answer by Your Acting Postmaster

Much had been seen and heard by the public about the use of zip code numbers on mail. Few have any real idea of its purpose, how it works and what it is designed to do. I am sure that many people would welcome an explanation of it for many have asked about it. I welcome this opportunity to explain it as best I can. While some of the advanced countries of western Europe may talk of their good mail service, it must be remembered that any of those countries are no bigger in area than one of our average size or larger states. Swift mail service combined with economy over the great reaches of our country is a somewhat different matter.

Much has been seen and heard about the zip code number and its use, comparatively few have heard of the sectional center and the sectional center system of handling the mail. Yet each one is very much a part of the other, — a system designed to simplify, speed and economize in movement of the mail.

Not so long ago, far more of the mail was moved by train than is

the case today. The mail carriers, trains did not always run at the times that the mail would have preferred. Part of the sectional center system of mail transport and handling is that mail is moved swiftly during the night hours between mail-offices and addressee. I have never heard of who conceived the sectional center idea but it surely was an idea of one individual originally. Now, what is the sectional center system and how is it related to the zip code numbers?

The sectional center plan of handling mail has come about gradually over the last five years or so and officially went into full operation on July 1, 1965. The magnitude of the change over it required a considerable period of time. It caused much personal tragedy to many many postal transportation employees and their families by the discontinuance or great reduction in operation of the great mail handling terminal centers made lessor wholly unneeded by the creation of the sectional centers. These employees being affected in other postal installations as near as possible, were obliged to uproot themselves to new locations.

Under the past system, the mail transport lines were a hodge-podge of routes running in every direction with stops necessary at most points of any size. A problem of making right connections at key points and creating a maze of study for dispatching mail clerks in all but the smallest offices.

Now, imagine if you can, the sectional centers and their areas, 552 that cover the entire country. Each would appear as a giant rimless wheel. The sectional center is the hub from which mail is dispatched to post offices located along the "spokes". The ends of the "spokes" or routes of the sectional center areas almost meet those of the sectional center area in many places. As a rule the centers themselves are located at medium size or larger towns of the states. The surrounding post offices to which it distributes mail by trucks averaging between 50 miles in distance (one way) are known as satellite offices. Under this system it is no longer necessary for main line mail transports to make so many stops to receive and discharge small amounts of mail. They need stop only at the hub—the sectional center—to discharge mail for the entire area served by the sectional center. For example mail transported from a sectional center need stop only at Lexington, Elizabethtown, Bowling Green, Henderson and Paducah, each day's accumulation of mail moves in the late afternoon into its sectional center. There it is reloaded if necessary and moves through the night on the main line transports to the sectional center serving the distant satellite post offices. Ordinarily arrival at the sectional center or hub would be about 3:30 or 4:00 a.m. Then in the early morning hours, the short truck mail routes from the distant sectional center, — the "spokes" — to the satellite offices, reaching them in time for the mail to bring to go out on the days delivery.

The "spokes" or routes fanning out from the sectional centers to the outer offices of its area almost reach those emanating from the next sectional

center. This results many times in mail from one point to a point only a few miles away being transported as much as 150 miles or more to reach its destination. As an example, a letter from Carlisle, Mo., addressed to Livingstone in the late morning, is sent to its sectional center (Lexington), thence to the Cincinnati sectional center, then in the fan out operation in the early morning through Mayville to Bowling for early delivery. The same would be true of a letter from Olive Hill, Ky., addressed to Morehead, about 20 miles away. It would go into its sectional center (Ashland), thence by main line transport by night to the Lexington sectional center, then in the early morning out on the short "spoke" route to Morehead. Foolish though this might seem in these cases, if the sectional center system is to operate as conceived, this is the way it must be many times.

The system makes maximum use of the night hours to move mail from one point to the other when the points are within distance to each other late afternoon and early morning. Also, it eliminates the need for the clerks in the satellite offices surrounding the sectional centers to receive and discharge small amounts of mail. It formerly, the location and mail supply of all offices in this state. This knowledge and skill still must be had by the distribution clerks in the sectional centers.

If you have followed me closely and get the idea of the sectional center plan, we are now ready to show the part played by the zip code numbers. For zip code numbering the country is divided into geographical areas, each area with a different first number—from 0 to 9 inclusive. The first number of our area is 4 which denotes the states of Ky., Ohio, Indiana, and Michigan. The second and third numbers together denote a particular sectional center area, being an extra large one, — is divided, the southern half of it being 04 for the second and third numbers. The city of Lexington proper is designated 02 (2nd and 3rd numbers). Therefore, all zip coded mail will first three numbers of 402, 404, or 405 goes to Lexington, Ky. The two ending numbers of Carlisle number, —11. Our complete zip code number, —40211. Most towns or cities with no more than roughly 20,000 people have one (5digit) zip code number. The larger ones have several ending numbers to designate different zones within the city. Thus, the number for an address in Lexington may be 40201, 40204, 40505, 40506, 40507, or 40508.

The first digit of the west coast area states is 9. Since the next two numbers denote the sectional center and its area, it then is possible for anyone, postal worker or not, in preparing a considerable amount of California mail that is fully zip coded in addressing, to separate, tie together or sack together all mail he would have for one office, single delivery zone within a large city or a collection of mail for various small offices within the boundaries of a particular sectional center. Therefore, no more handling of individual pieces would be necessary until it arrived at the deliv-

Deeds Recorded

L.J. Allison and wife, lot on McCracken Street to Scotty M. Fryman and wife.

Nicholas County Development Corporation, lot number 213 in Section C of Lake Carnico Estates to Della B. Hopkins.

Della Hopkins, lot number 213 in Section C of Lake Carnico Estates to Katherine Taylor Fisher.

Bobby G. Fryman and wife house & lot at Intersection of Sycamore Hill and Second Street to Richard T. Mitchell and wife.



HILLCREST

HEREFORD CATTLE

FARM SIGNS

PAINTED TO YOUR SPECIFICATIONS

Highest Quality Workmanship

WRITE FOR FREE ESTIMATE

LEWIS Graphic Arts SERVICE

Box 55 Ovingtonville, Kentucky

PUBLIC AUCTION

Sat., Dec. 3 at 1:30 P.M.

TO SETTLE ESTATE OF NANCY B. KENNEDY ON SYCAMORE HILL, CARLISLE, KY.

5 Rooms of furniture including several pieces of antique and glassware.

Complete details in next week's Mercury.

Fightmaster Real Estate Agency

PHONE 125

For Sale

1963 Ford 1 Ton Truck

1963 Ford Pickup, Custom Cab, short bed

1963 Fleetline Ford Truck, Long bed

1964 Ford Truck, Long bed

1953 Chevrolet Pickup Truck

1964 Ford Pickup, Long bed

1955 Ford Pickup

1967 Chevrolet 3 1/2 Ton Truck

Evans Bro., Tractor Sales

MASSEY-FERGUSON DEALER

Sell With

FAYETTE WAREHOUSES

Lexington, Kentucky

Fayette No. 1	Fayette No. 2	Fayette No. 3 & 4
301 Bolivar Street	555 S. Broadway	1001 Manchester St.
George Insko	Reynolds Bell	Cecil Bell
Phone 255-2870	Phone 252-8377	Phone 255-6978

Selling Charges Same as Last Year

Two or More Houses Will Sell the First Week of Sale.

Local Representative

Lovell Hollar, Phone 377

FARMERS

You Can Get A Quick Sale

At Any Of

Our 3 Warehouses

No. 1 STOCKYARDS, S. Church St.

PHONE 234-5157

No. 4 CYNTHIANA HOUSE, North Main Street

PHONE 234-5074

No. 2 NEW HOUSE, Oddville Pike & Republican Rd.

PHONE 234-4078

Do Not Be Misled By Vague Promises.

We Sell Tobacco As High As Anybody. Experience Counts.

Our Selling Charges Are Same As Last Year.

Deliver NOW To


PEPPER-PEAK-FLORENCE

Tobacco Warehouse Co.

CYNTHIANA, KY. PHONE 234-5157

Woodrow Richey, Phone 591-R-4

Veach Delaney, Phone 579-R-2



CARLISLE'S CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE and COLORING BOOKS

\$225.00 IN PRIZES!

THE GLOWING SPIRIT OF THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS UPON US!

Tinsel and glitter... music and lights. Santa's coming in a flurry of bright festivity week-end! Oh, how his jolly spirit has infused our stores and shops with the gala shopping excitement of another Holiday Season. All the merchants have their shelves and counters a-dazzle with the widest selections of sparkling new giftables.

LEAF THROUGH THE PAGES OF THIS SECTION ... SEE WHAT OUR SPIRITED MERCHANTS HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU!

The Carlisle Mercury

VOLUME 99 NUMBER 47

CARLISLE, KY. NOV. 24, 1966