

SAN VICENTE RURAL BRANCH, GUMI, MP 96950-9998

Thanks to Brad Arch I am able to illustrate a Certified Mail cover from this previously unreported Post Office on Saipan. The cover is shown below as illustration 11/13. The handstamps are dated Mar 19, 1994. A clear impression of the San Vicente handstamp is shown as illustration 11/11. I wrote to the office asking when it had opened. The response, signed Marie Quest, says that the office opened "sometime in September 1993". I also asked for an impression of the "Bar" datestamp but none was supplied. It may be that no such handstamp is held by the office. San Vicente is shown on a map of Saipan both as a district or province covering much of the central part of the east coast of Saipan and extending inland towards the centre of the island. There is also a small village of that name on the South-East coast. In the 1970 census of population this village had a population of 207 but at that time the whole of Saipan had a population of only 3000 - the current population of Saipan is around 30,000. This gives an indication of the growth in the population of Saipan since the inception of the Commonwealth brought increased prosperity and foreign workers to Saipan.

MIDWAY ISLAND FPO AF 96516

In edition number 9 of the 'Bulletin' illustration 9/15 shows an undated 'specimen' use of a previously unreported double circle. Thanks to Bryan Jones, editor of 'Pacifica' the journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of G.B. I am now able to illustrate this datestamp used on Feb 6 1991 as a receiving mark on the reverse of a Registered cover from Fiji. See illustration 11/12.



Illustration 11/11:: Illustration 11/12

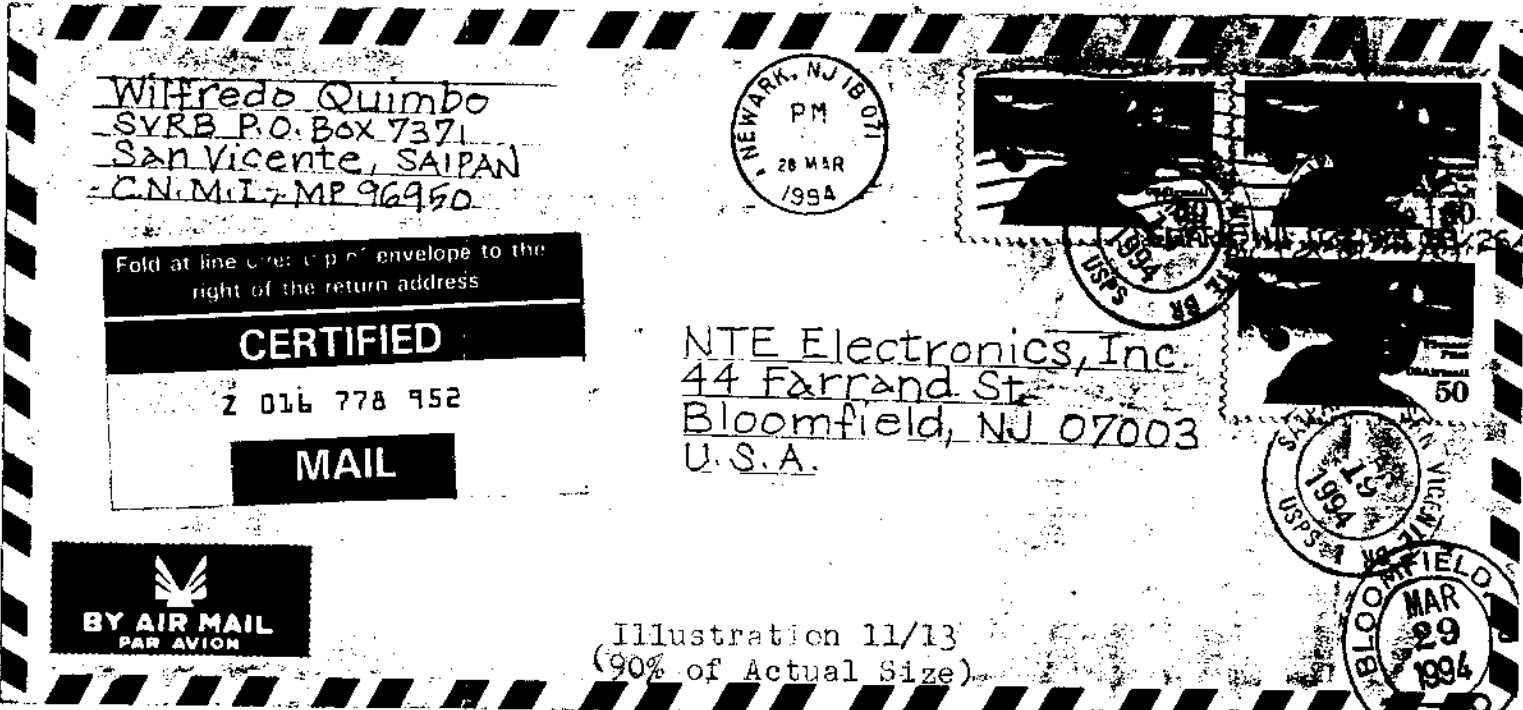


Illustration 11/13  
(90% of Actual Size)

POSTAL SERVICES ON SAIPAN, Northern Mariana Islands

Michael Alan White, who lives on Saipan, has provided the following information about Postal Services on Saipan. I am very grateful to him for his help. The main USPO is located in Chalan Kanoa. There are two Rural Branches, Capitol Hill Rural Branch (CHRB) and San Vicente Rural Branch (SVRB). Both are thought to be Contract Branches. There is no mail delivery in Saipan (or elsewhere in the Northern Mariana Islands for that matter) other than to post office boxes or to general delivery at post offices. All P.O. Box numbers beginning in 5 are located at Capitol Hill Rural Branch and all those beginning in 7 are located at San Vicente Rural Branch.

The remaining boxes are located at the main Post Office in Chalan Kanoa. There are a number of private mailing services who have P.O. Boxes which their patrons can use; the services will then deliver mail to their patrons. There has been talk for some years of either moving the main P.O. to the population centre of Garapan (once the seat of the Japanese administration) or opening an additional Post Office in Garapan. Garapan is north of Chalan Kanoa - about the centre of the west coast and not too far from Capitol Hill. Regular U.S. postal rates apply in the Commonwealth. There is no reduced rate for intra-island or inter-island mail services.

ALL PURPOSE DATESTAMPS/UTILITY DATESTAMPS

referring to illustration 10/13 in 'Bulletin' number 10 George L. Machado Jr. remarks that over the years he has seen a good number of mis-aligned handstamps and says that his view is that this area needs a little more time and research.

MARSHALL ISLANDS - USAGE OF THE DOUBLE-CIRCLE UTILITY HANDSTAMPS - Second Update; by Brad Neunius

This article appeared in the October, 1995 edition of "Pacifica" the journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of G.B. It is a follow up to the original survey on the same subject published in "Pacifica" in July 1990 and July 1991. The three articles cover in detail the Utility handstamps used at Majuro and Ebeye between 1984 and 1994 and the uses to which they were put.

FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA - The Postal Datestamps of the Four Main Post Offices:

I regret that Part 2 of this series has been held over until Edition Number 12 due to shortage of space.