

U.S. PACIFIC ISLANDS BULLETIN

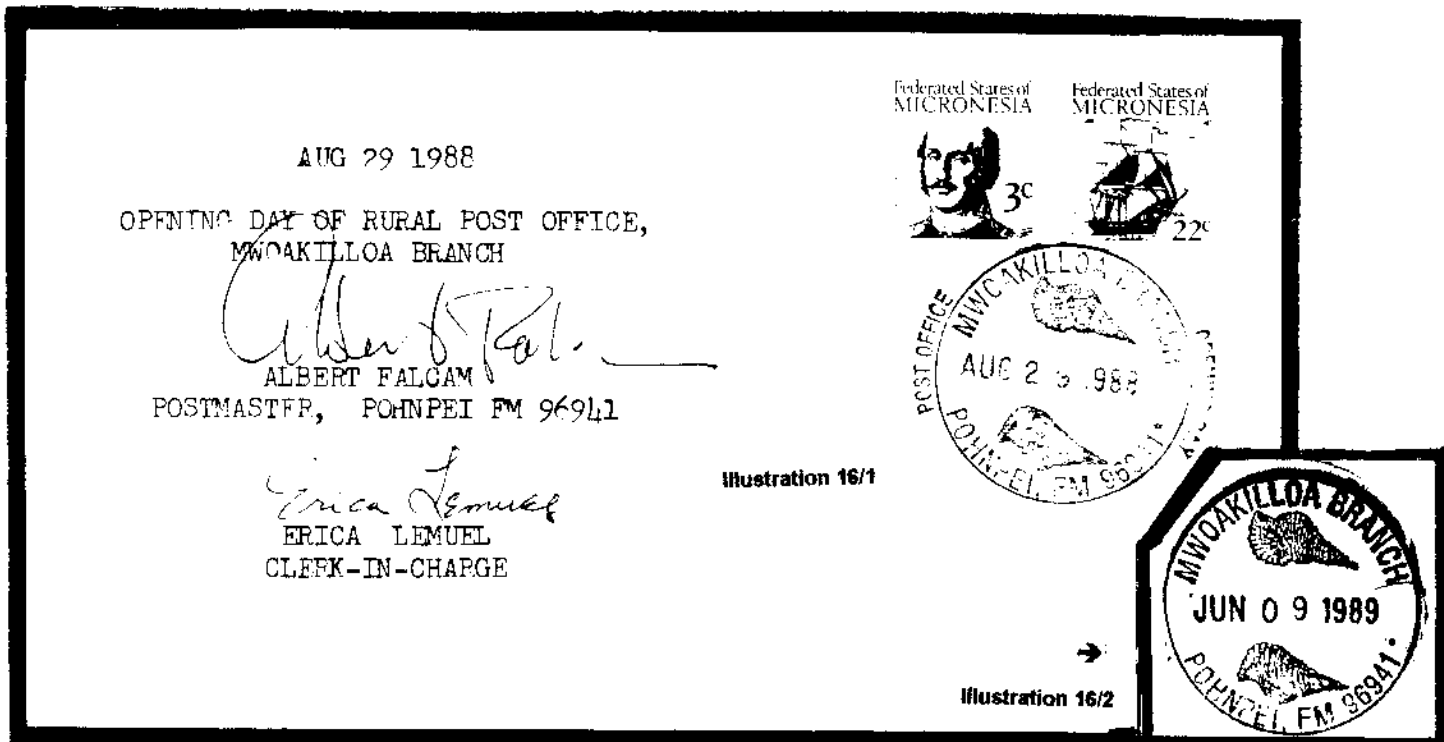
A quarterly newsletter about U.S. Post Offices in the Pacific area (including successor administrations in the Caroline, Marshall and Line Islands)

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FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA

MWOAKILLOA BRANCH, MOKIL ISLANDS, POHNPEI, FM 96941.



Mwoakilloa Branch P.O. opened for business on August 29, 1988. On that date the office used a special "Opening Day" datestamp. **Illustration 16/1** shows it used on an Opening Day Cover signed by Albert Falcam, Postmaster Pohnpei and Erica Lemuel the Mwoakilloa Branch Clerk in Charge. This cover was produced by Honolulu Dealer George L. Machado Jr.

Subsequently the office used the datestamp shown as **Illustration 16/2**. This appears to be the the Opening Day datestamp with "POST OFFICE/OPENING DAY" removed. Dots and lines appearing outside the circle on each side of the datestamp appear to be the remains of this inscription and are constant on all covers bearing this datestamp seen by me. e.g. to the left and above 'POHNPEI' and to the right of the 'CH' of Branch. Inside the circle a 'dot' to the right of the '1' of 96941 and on a level with the top of the figure '1' is clearly seen on **Illustration 16/2**. This 'dot' also appears on the two copies of the "Opening Day" datestamp I have seen - though only faintly - and may not, therefore, copy clearly in this publication. I have not been able to locate Mwoakilloa Atoll on any map of the area, even fairly large scale ones. I have been told that Mwoakilloa Atoll is one of the Mokil Islands and that the branch is more properly known as "Mokil Postal Branch". [Unfortunately I don't recall who told me] The Mokil Islands do appear on my map. They are located to the East of Pohnpei, approximately half way between Pohnpei and Pingalap. However the 1970 census shows the Mokil Municipality as part of Truk(Chuuk) district and having a population of 387. This is odd since Chuuk is to the WEST of Pohnpei. The possibility is therefore that there are two places called Mokil. Can any reader correct, add to or expand this item?

Illustration 16/1 Seen only on August 29, 1988

Illustration 16/2 Seen October 28, 1988 to January 02, 1997 [This datestamp does not appear to have year slugs for 1996 or 1997. 1996 covers seen have 1990 as the year but altered in manuscript to 1996 while the January 02, 1997 cover has the year shown as 1991 but altered in manuscript to 1997]

[My thanks to George M. Bakka, William S. Tuffs and George L. Machado Jr. for their help in the preparation of this item]

MOEN CHUUK/TRUK FM 96942: William S. Tuffs reports receipt of covers from Chuuk during 1995 bearing illustration 14/7. This extends the date of use of this datestamp by up to 2 years.

ULITHI, YAP, FM 96943: William S. Tuffs has kindly sent a photocopy of a note from Carmen M. Tun, Postmaster Colonia Yap dated February 19, 1991. In it she confirms that following the closure of Ulithi on January 29, 1991 the cancelling device was returned to the Post Office at Colonia Yap and at least on February 19, 1991 was in the care of Carmen M. Tun. This seems to confirm that the useage of this device [Illustration 8/2] on February 25, 1992 was by favour and applied at the Colonia, Yap Post Office.

UNICOVER AND FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA POSTAL SERVICE PART COMPANY: William S. Tuffs has received a letter from Unicover which reads, in part, "As you may know, the Federated States of Micronesia Stamp Agency has been providing the beautiful stamps of the FSM to collectors in North America for the last four years. Because we and the FSM Postal Service could not agree on terms of a new contract continuing the FSM Stamp Agency, the services have been discontinued effective December 31, 1996."