

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS (Continued)

KWAJALEIN: Thanks to Bernard Neuhaus for sight of the first page of the Kwajalein Telephone Directory. The following information is included. "The U.S. Army Space and Strategic Defense Command (USASSDC) has responsibility for the management of the U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll (USAKA). The Commanding Officer, USAKA, is the Military Commander on site responsible for the management and operation of USAKA. The Commanding Officer, USAKA, also serves as the U.S. Commander-In-Chief Pacific Command Representative to the Republic of the Marshall Islands (USCINCPACREPRMI)." Also "Kwajalein and the surrounding Marshall Islands are west of the Date Line and therefore one day ahead of the Continental United States. example: Kwajalein at noon Sunday equals Washington DC at 8:00 PM EDT Saturday."

BIKINI, KILI & ENEWETAK AIR SERVICES: Thanks to Bernd Neuhaus for sight of the latest AIR MARSHALL ISLANDS flight schedule [effective June 10, 1996]. There has been a complete revision of the schedule. The Monday flight from Majuro to Bikini and Enewetak with a connecting flight from Kili has been withdrawn. Enewetak is now served each Tuesday with a flight from Majuro via Kwajalein and return. On Wednesday Bikini is served by a flight from Majuro, via Kwajalein and return while the Kili flight takes place on Friday as a stop-off on the route to Jaluit.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS:

TINIAN MP 96952: George M. Baka writes with extended dates of use of a couple of datestamps. George has a cover in his collection showing use of Illustration 3/16 on Aug. 15, 1995. We can therefore amend dates of use of **Illustration 3/16 to read - known Jun 22, 1989 to Aug. 15, 1995.** Illustration 12/18 appears on another cover in George's collection dated Sep 2, 1985. This device was previously reported as known only on Jan 27, 1996. & Sep 21, 1996. We can therefore amend the dates of use of **Illustration 12/18 to read September 2, 1986 to September 21, 1996.** Many thanks George.

METER MARKS: Michael A. White of Saipan tells me that he is using a new postage meter, **PB 8588279** [See **Illustration 18/5**]. Michael writes "We were, I believe, the first to use this type of meter in the CNMI, and I have not seen more than one or two others similar to it". The metermark does not appear to include any indication of the place of posting. However this does not appear to be a consistent feature of this type of metermark as can be seen by the similar metermark appearing here [reduced] as **Illustration 18/6** which has the place of posting and Zip Code [San Bernardino CA 92401] below the value tablet and date. The purpose of the numbers beneath the three stars to the left of the meter mark is not known. Gabe Pustel, an enthusiastic collector of metermarks, describes this metermark as a "FOX" type.

Gabe also reports two "FRIDEN" type meters in use in the CNMI. The Commonwealth Treasury [P.O. Box 5234 CHR B Saipan] was using Meter F **2230222** on Jul 7, 1997 [See **Illustration 18/7**] and the Bank of Guam Branch in Saipan was using Meter F **3001616** on Jul 10, 1997. [See **Illustration 18/8**]

NEW POST OFFICE FOR SAIPAN: A new Post office building has been authorised for Saipan. It is to be sited next to the existing Saipan P.O. in Chalan Kanoa rather than a more central site in Garapan. The site, originally used by the Office of the Saipan Mayor, covers 15,000 square feet of land and has been leased to the USPS for a period of 25 years at \$1 per year with the option of a 15 year extension. Signing the lease on 9th July, 1997 CNMI Governor Froilan C. Tenorio said "I feel the USPS is doing us a lot of work service and they have been taking care of the mail, subsidizing it from here and around the world". As soon as the CNMI Legislature approves the lease agreement USPS Contracting officer James R. Zaruba said the design and construction of the new facility will be bided out [put out to tender ?]. He said the design for the facility will be completed within three to four months, the winning bid will be announced in January 1998, and the ground breaking will take place early next year. USPS Courier Executive Leo Tudela, a native of Saipan and one of the two highest ranking Chamorro Americans in the USPS, who took part in the negotiations, said that the Chalan Kanoa P.O. had been in existence for more than 30 years and was no longer large enough for the needs of the residents of the Commonwealth. At present the Chalan Kanoa post office receives around 3,750 letters each day aside from parcels and packages. Tudela said that the new facility is needed to provide more space and to keep up with the growing population and economy of the CNMI. It will have state of the art postal equipment. He said that within 18 months the new facility, which will be three times the size of the existing P.O., will be constructed and will provide a better service to the people of the Commonwealth. Negotiations to find a site for a new Saipan P.O. started in 1993 and though the site was identified some time ago completion of the agreement has been held up by local political disagreements. An indication by USPS officials that if agreement was not reached soon the money allocated for the project would revert to the U.S. Government seems to have concentrated minds. [Extracted from reports in "The Marianas Variety News and Views" dated 6th, 11th & 27th June, and 11th July, 1997, and the "Saipan Tribune" dated 10th & 12th June, and 11th July, 1997 supplied by Michael A. White - Many thanks Michael.]

REPUBLIC OF PALAU:

DOUBLE CIRCLE APDS: William S. Tufts adds to the mystery of the wandering dates in the double circle Utility/APDS [known from all parts of the former USTT] by sending a photocopy of two covers bearing apparently identical Utility/APDS dated Jan 5, 1995 but one cover showing the date completely inverted in relation to the lettering [**Illustration 18/9**] together with an impression with the month and day inverted in relation to the lettering but the year the correct way up [**Illustration 18/10**]. A second cover shows the APDS with the date correctly aligned [**Illustration 18/11**] accompanied by an APDS with the month & day inverted but the year the correct way up [**Illustration 18/12**].



Illustration 18/5



Illustration 18/6
(70% of true size)

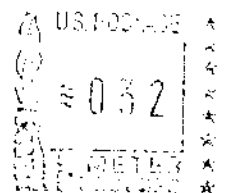


Illustration 18/7

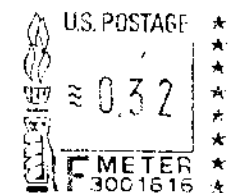


Illustration 18/8



Illustration 18/9



Illustration 18/10



Illustration 18/12

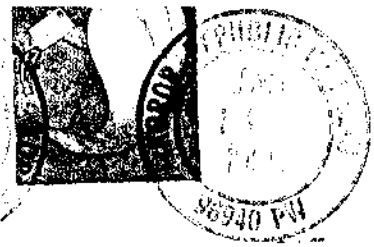


Illustration 18/11