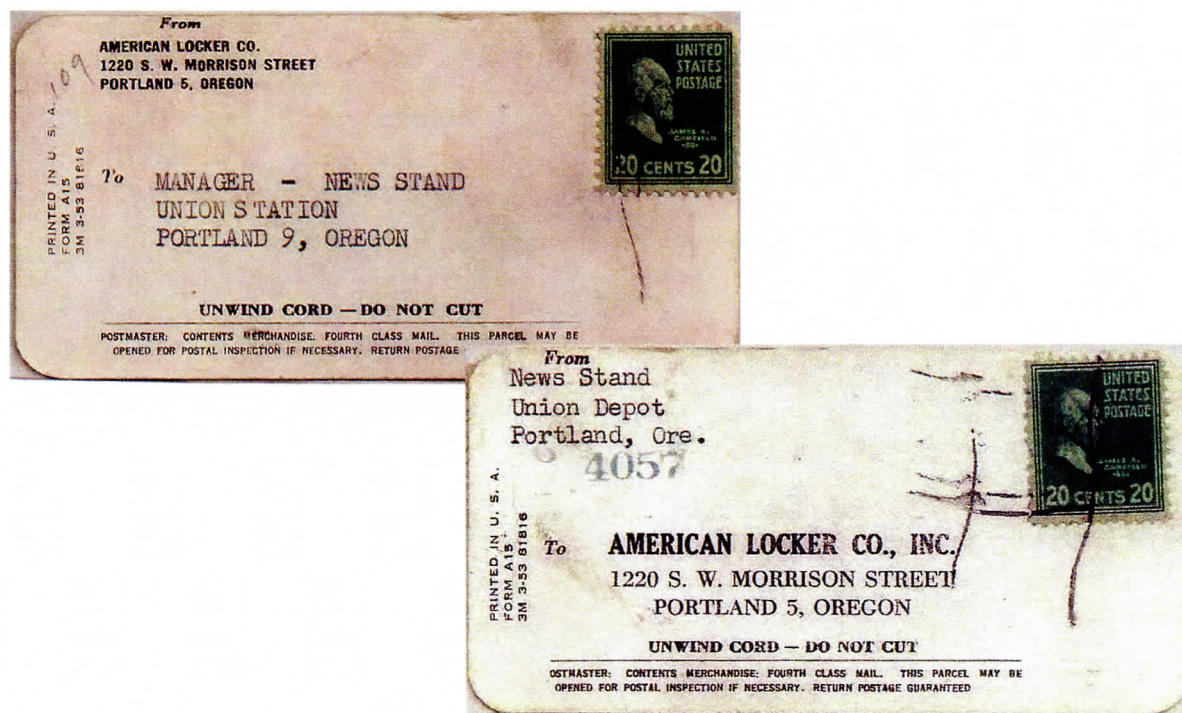


American Locker Company Tags Follow-Up

by Richard Pederson



After my article on the American Locker Co. tags was published (Issue No. 75), I received several comments from readers providing additional information. Dan Pagter indicated that the tags were likely used for “mailing locks and keys, be it for replacement or repair” and that printed matter, such as advertisements, could have been included with the locks and keys in fourth class mail. Dan further speculated that the tags were attached to “sturdy reusable containers” that “were closed and held shut by a permanently attached wrapping cord.”

Dan’s explanation was confirmed by fellow Prexie collector Chuck Gherman who was able to contact a representative of the American Locker Co., which is still in business. The representative indicated they still place lockers in public places and mail replacement locks to those locations. American Locker is now located in Las Vegas, Nevada and is a subsidiary of Cole Kepro International, LLC, a sheet metal

manufacturing business. Their website says that their lockers are internationally recognized because of their “iconic key with the plastic orange cap.” I suspect this iconic key is what was being referred to in the American Locker Co. advertisement that says “The Key is your Check,” which was shown in my article

All but one of the tags in my possession had the same postage on both sides. The outlier was addressed to Seattle, Washington, a zone three destination, with 40 cents additional postage on the return side. Apparently more lock and key sets were returned than sent.

Chuck, who also has a collection of the American Locker Co. tags, provided scans of an additional solo local use within Portland. Single, 20-cent Garfield stamps were used on both sides of the tag to pay the up-to-two-pound rate between the American Locker Co. and the Trailways Bus Depot, and the return.