

C O P Y

Post Office Department  
Second Assistant Postmaster General

Washington

May 25, 1926

Mr. Luther K. Bell,  
42 Fern St.,  
New Rochelle, N. Y.

My dear Mr. Bell:

Your letter of May 24 has been received stating that Mr. Amon G. Carter, Publisher of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, has taken up with your company the complaint of the Fort Worth people that the special first flight cancellation stamp indicated your route as the Chicago-Dallas route instead of mentioning Fort Worth thereon.

At the time this first flight cancellation stamp was made up, the matter was given very careful consideration. It has long been a practice in connection with the transportation of mail that the designation of routes should read from north to south or from east to west as the case may be, the terminals of the route only being mentioned in the official designation of the route. For this reason C. A. M. No. 3 must be officially known as the Chicago to Dallas route, since the route commences at Chicago and ends at Dallas. To make any change in connection with C. A. M. No. 3 would be entirely inconsistent with long precedents in mail transportation, and there does not appear to be any reason which would justify a change in connection with the establishment of contract air mail routes.

It may or may not be of information to you, but in connection with the first flight cancellation stamp mentioned above the Chamber of Commerce and other people at Kansas City made very strenuous representations to the Department that they were informed the route was to be known as the Chicago-Kansas City-Dallas route and they insisted that the first flight cancellation stamp be changed so as to indicate the same. It was pointed out to them, as has been pointed out above, that the Department was merely following the long established rule in connection with mail transportation and that there were sufficient precedents for this action to justify it. Therefore no change was made and the insertion of Kansas City in the official title of this route was not approved.

The only time when intermediate offices are mentioned in the official title of a mail transportation route is when there are two parallel routes and in order to distinguish one of these parallel routes an intermediate office is named. For instance, the Pennsylvania Railroad between New York and Washington carries the New York and Washington R.P.O.; the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad between New York and Washington carried the New York, Baltimore and Washington R.P.O.

I sincerely trust the above information will meet the subject matter of your inquiry. It will be realized that the Department had no intention of discriminating against any cities on your route whatsoever, but was merely following out the long line of precedents which was established before you and I were born.

Sincerely yours,

E. B. Wadsworth  
Superintendent,  
Contract Air Mail Service.

ROCKEY  
BOND  
VARNISH