

OPUNTIA

62

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Whole-numbered OPUNTIAs are sercon, x.1 issues are reviewzines, x.2 issues are indexes, x.3 issues are apazines, and x.5 issues are perzines.

THE FALL OF THE TWIN TOWERS

by Dale Speirs

When my mother Betty died on August 14, 2002, I inherited her philatelic collection, which I spent the next eighteen months sorting it. I integrated into my collection what I wanted, mostly postmarks and postcards, and put the rest through the monthly auction of the Calgary Philatelic Society. Although she had a few stamp albums, her collection was mostly postcards and postmarks of Canada and the USA. She was also active in mail art, and belonged to the Art Cover Exchange (ACE), whose members (she was the only Canadian) traded mail art between themselves.

My parents did quite a bit of traveling around North America after us kids left home. Mom would photograph post offices and get their postmarks, and buy all the local view postcards. Dad didn't collect anything but he loved to drive, so they made quite a pair going up and down rural roads hunting post offices.

They had visited New York, and I found a number of view postcards of the Twin Towers. After the September 11 attacks, many ACE members produced mail art honouring the dead. I began a postal history collection on the Twin Towers, and kept an eye out for additions. Here then is a philatelic view of the tragedy, which will no doubt be much in the news this year for the fifth anniversary of the fall of the Twin Towers.



*Watch the new Trade Center go up,
as your savings grow up, at the
nearby East River Savings Bank,
26 Cortlandt Street.*

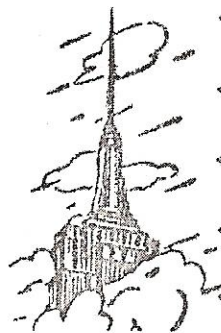
Other Thrift Centers at:
PATH Hudson Terminal Concourse
110 William St. • 60 Spring St.
41 Rockefeller Plaza • 1165 Third Ave.
743 Amsterdam Ave.



MEMBER FDIC

Not actually part of my philatelic collection, but an interesting collateral item is this advertisement from the NEW YORK TIMES of 1969-07-15, while the Twin Towers were still under construction. The new towers displaced the traditional champion, the Empire State Building. The latter was to outlive them, although not be able to regain its place as the world's tallest building in 2001 because by then, even the Twin Towers had lost the record.

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EMPIRE STATE

OBSERVATORY STATION

"THE WORLD'S MOST
SPECTACULAR VIEW"

NEW YORK, NY 10118-9998

DEC 21 1987

Bad Timing.

The world's worst case of bad philatelic timing came from the U.S. Postal Service, which had issued a politically-correct stamp on September 1, 2001, honouring Eid, the Muslim festival.



Eleven days later, the USPS ordered post offices to keep the stamp under the counter and only sell it on specific request from a customer. There is always someone who doesn't get the word in any large organization, and some post offices later sold the stamp as a Christmas stamp. Many posties and their customers didn't

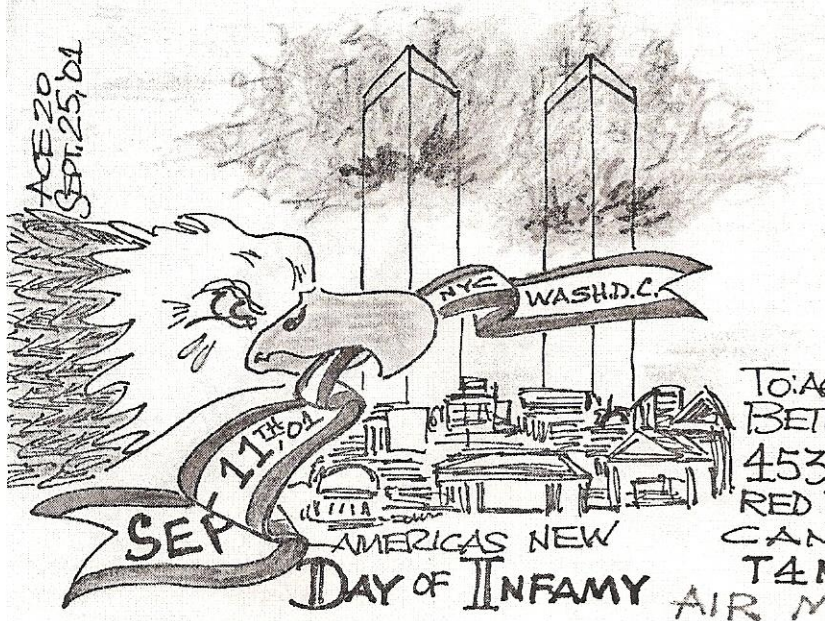
look closely enough and thought the design was a stylized Christmas tree. Given the design of some past stamps, this wasn't too laughable as might otherwise be. The cover shown here is a first-day-of-issue dated September 1.



Patriotic Art.

The next few pages show some of the patriotic mail art issued in the aftermath. These are ACE covers from my mother's collection.

ACE 20
SEPT. 25, 01



TO: ACE #287
BETTY SPEIRS
4535 MOORE CRES.
RED DEER, ALB.
CANADA.
T4N 2M1
AIR MAIL



Frank C. Laubach

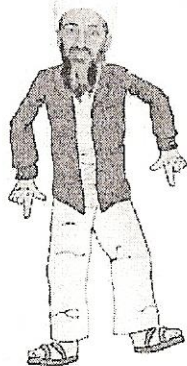


USA 22

USA 22



Whatever Happened To.....



Therapist's notes

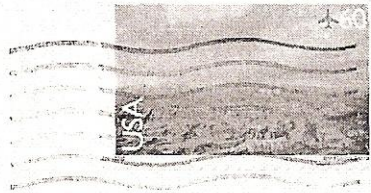
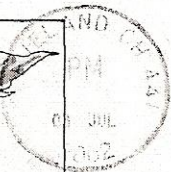
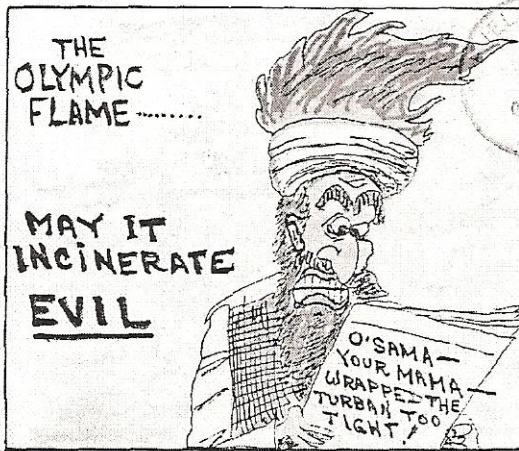


Betty Speirs
4535 Moore Crescent
Red Deer Alberta T4N 2M1
Canada

0010143204

|||||

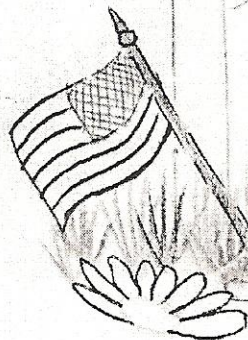
There is a fairly obvious rhyme between Osama and "Your mama", and the mail artists did not hesitate to use it.



A.C.E. #287
Betty Speirs
4535 Moore Crescent
Red Deer, Alberta, Can
T4N 2M1

"you are in a whole heap
of trouble. Boy!"

ACE
394



12-7-1941

9-11-2001



Wood Carving Cigar Store Figure



Folk Art USA 22



DEC 7 2001

TN 37155

Mr. Betty Spears
535 MOORE CRES
Red Deer Alta

CANADA T4N 2M1

The Usual Suspects were quickly rounded up.

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00101+3204



ACE 287
BETTY SPEIRS
4535 MOORE CRESCENT
RED DEER, ALBERTA
CANADA T4N 2M1



We will never forget.

We will overcome.

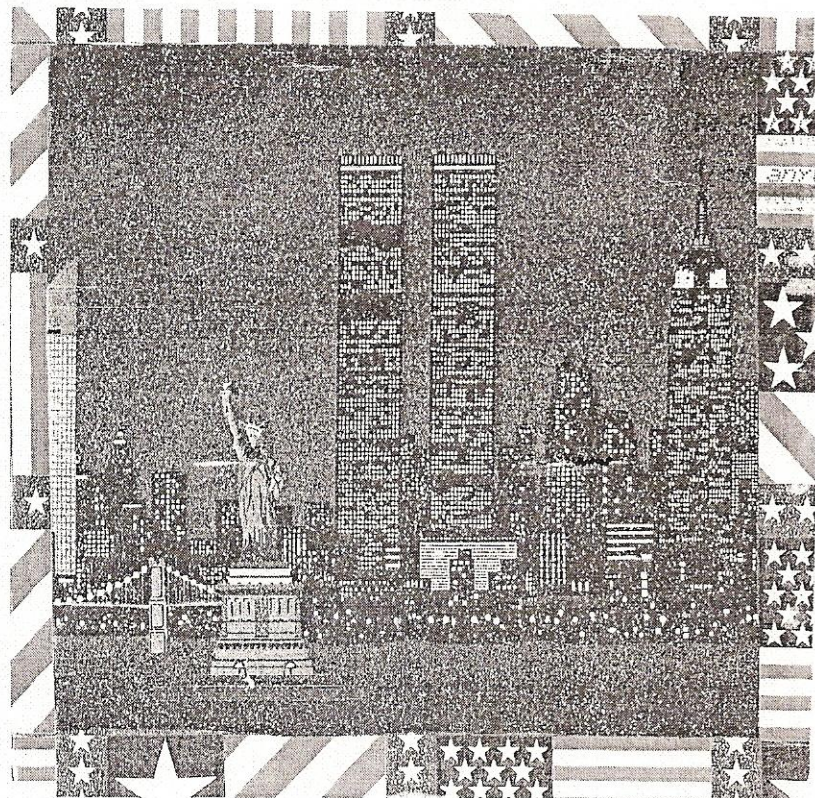
We will move forward together.

We will roll up our sleeves.



The cover above was prepared by my mother on 2001-09-25 for ACE, hence the Red Deer, Alberta, postmark.

The flap on the cover at left reads: "We will roll up our sleeves. We will move forward together. We will overcome. We will never forget."



07 02:39 11/11/02

1. jusqu'à vous

anywhere to anyone



BETTY SPEIRS
4535 MOORE CRESCENT
RED DEER ALBERTA T4N 2M4
CANADA

A 2002 ACE cover with a somewhat rearranged skyline.

Collateral Damage.

The Church Street post office was adjacent to the Twin Towers and was badly damaged in the attacks. It did not re-open until early August 2004.



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DALE SPEIRS
PO BOX 6830 STN D
CALGARY ALBERTA
T2P 2E7

The Aftermath.

This insurance company cover is dated September 13, 2001, and has a return address of One World Trade Center. It was evidently

mailed from an emergency back-up site using the stationery that was available in stock. The meter mark is Albany, New York.

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one world trade center
new york, ny 10048-0682



POSTAGE
FIRST CLASS



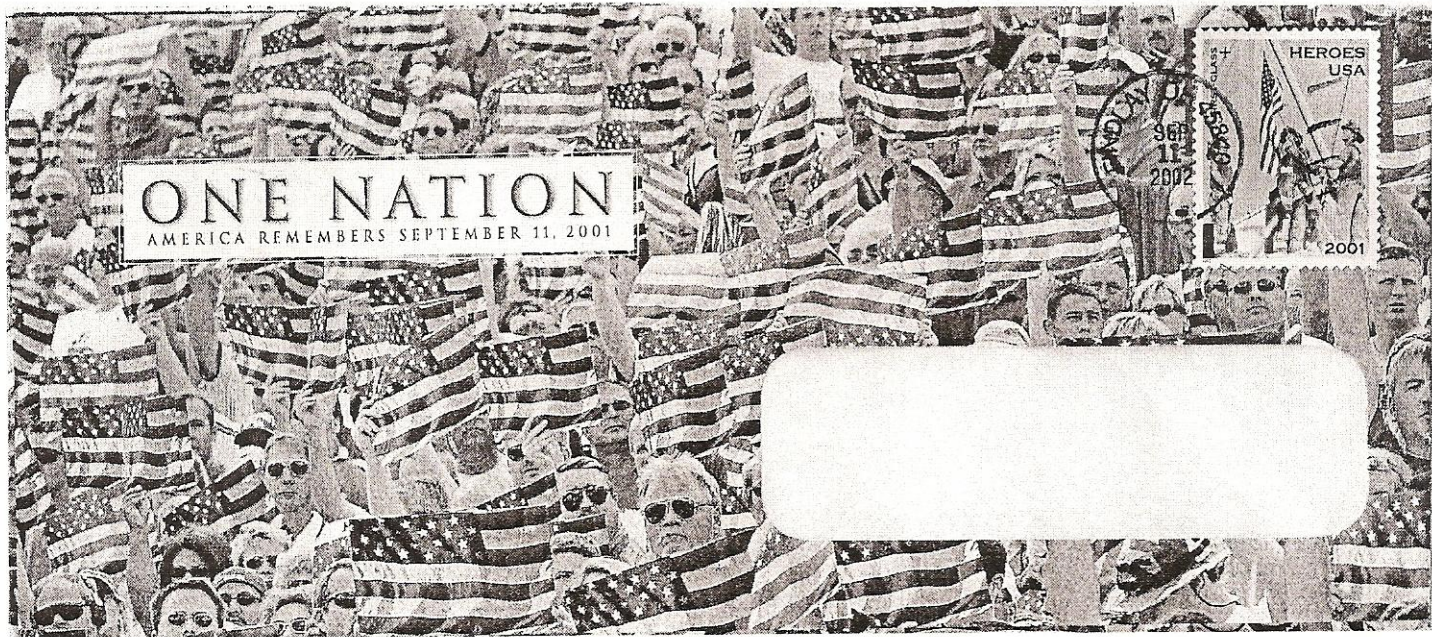
U.S. POSTAGE

00.255

METER 791579

12777





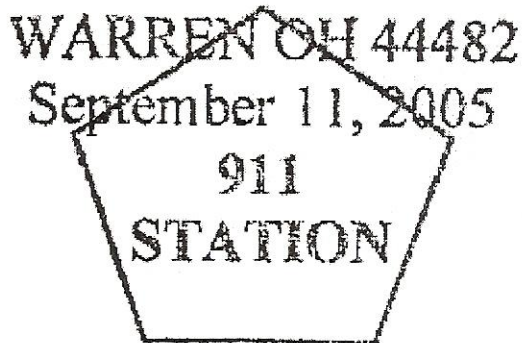
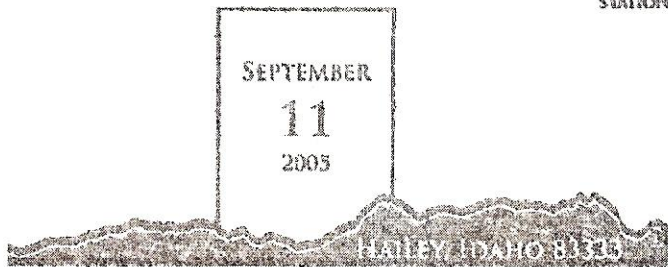


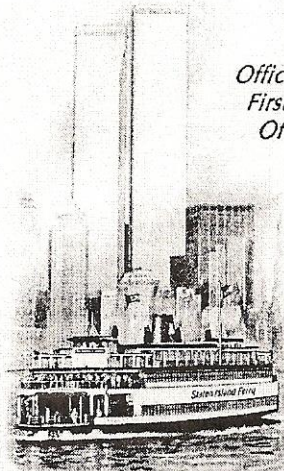
Commemorative Postmarks.

After the fall of the Twin Towers and for many years to come, there will be many postmarks remembering the dead.



WORLD HEALING & COMPASSION ADDRESS STATION





*Official
First Day
Of Issue*

FERRYBOAT



*Transportation Series
1995*



Ferryboat 1900s

32^{USA}



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

Mr. E. A. Kimmett
300 East 40th Street Apt. 23J
New York, N. Y. 10016-2142