Nothing Stays These Couriers …but Maybe Bankruptcy Will

The information age has not been kind to the U.S. Postal Service, nudging it to the brink of insolvency. The ability to correspond, pay bills and read online has hurt the Postal Service’s revenue, while its financial obligations to workers and its operational mandate have contributed to large deficits over the years.

**Mail volume**

First-class and advertising (or “junk”) mail volumes are dropping.

**Net income or loss**

After years of steep losses, the Postal Service will reach its $15 billion borrowing limit at the end of the month.

Projected loss of at least $9 billion
Remember these?

[Image of a Western Union telegram]

[Image of a payphone]

WESTERN UNION
TELEGRAM

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, which are hereby agreed to

Washington, D. C. 1120A Dec 24, 1921

Vance C. McCormick
Harrisburg, Penn.

Merry Christmas our thoughts turn to you today with warm affection

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Wilson
MAILGRAM - a significant new member of our Postal Family. Operated jointly by USPS and Western Union. Western Union employs its circuits, terminals, and computers to transmit this traffic. The Postal Service uses its 300,000 carriers as a delivery force. This is another step in the Postal Progress Program. Senders are assured of next-day delivery service, 98% of the time, and MAILGRAMS get same-day delivery in many instances where postal deliveries to business establishments are made twice daily.

Public MAILGRAM, a third component of the service has been in use for several years. It is designed for the user who does not have a Telex, TWX or INFO-COM terminal. Individuals can call Western Union, or enter one of the public offices and file a Mailgram. Traffic then enters regular WU-USPS Service.

On April 13, 1974 NASA launched Western Union's Westar, America's first domestic Communications satellite. Mailgrams will be sent Via SPACE thru this satellite from Coast to Coast. Postal Progress!
RATES OF POSTAGE.

Postmasters will take notice, that by an act of Congress, passed on the 23d instant, the several rates of postage are augmented fifty per cent; and that after the first of February next, the

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rates of Postage for single Letters will be,</th>
<th>Cent.</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>For any distance not exceeding 40 miles</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 40 miles and not exceeding 90 do.</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 90 do.</td>
<td>18½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 150 do.</td>
<td>25½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 300 do.</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 500</td>
<td>37½</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Double letters, or those composed of two pieces of paper, double those rates.

Triple letters, or those composed of three pieces of paper, triple those rates.

Packets, or letters composed of four or more pieces of paper, and weighing one ounce or more, avoirdupois, are to be rated equal to one single letter for each quarter ounce.

Newspapers.

Each paper carried not exceeding 100 miles, or for any distance, not being carried out of the state in which it is printed, 1½ cents.

If carried out of the state where printed, and over 100 miles, 2½ do.

Magazines and Pamphlets,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Carried not over 50 miles, for each sheet,</th>
<th>Cent.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Over 50) and not exceeding 100 miles,</td>
<td>2½</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Over 100 miles,</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

But pamphlets are not to be received or conveyed by post on the main line, or any cross road, where the mail is large.

RETURN J. MEIGS, Jun.
Post-Master General.

General Post-Office,
December 28, 1814.
A L A K S O F C O N G R E S S C H E A P I N L A N D A N D O C E A N P O S T A G E.

E PLURIBUS UNUM.

U. S. MAIL.

Miss Cornelia Gunn
Shelburne Falls
Mass.

Cast 29
Dramatic Growth in Newspapers.
MY PARCEL POST MAN

Words by Bert Kalmar
Music by Harry Puck

Waterson Berlin & Snyder Music Publishers
U.S. POSTAL SAVINGS CARD

THIS CARD WITH NINE 10-CENT POSTAL SAVINGS STAMPS AFFIXED WILL BE ACCEPTED BY THE POSTMASTER AT ANY POSTAL SAVINGS DEPOSITORY OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES AS A DEPOSIT OF ONE DOLLAR AND PLACED TO THE CREDIT OF THE DEPOSITOR, EITHER IN OPENING AN ACCOUNT OR IN ADDING TO AN EXISTING ACCOUNT.
FOR SALE,

Prof. Morse's
Report to Congress
On the TELEGRAPH.

Price 12½ cents. Also

THE TELEGRAPHIC ALPHABET:

Price 6½ cents.
Telegraph tycoons William Vanderbilt and Jay Gould on the eve of Gould’s 1881 takeover of Western Union.
IS THIS WHAT WE FOUGHT FOR?
The Agency of a United People

A striking comparison between a homogeneous country and a heterogeneous group of countries is obtained by placing over the map of the United States the map of Europe. These represent the same area—about 3,000,000 square miles—if a few of the remote provinces of Russia are omitted.

Europe has the advantage in population, with more than four times as many people as the United States in the number of large cities, with two and a half times as many cities of over 100,000 population.

Yet the United States, a comparatively young country, has outstripped Europe in the diffusion of civilization, because of its wonderfully greater means of communication between all parts of its area. The United States not only excels in transportation facilities, but it has nearly three times as many telephones as Europe, or about eleven times as many in relation to population.

By the completion of the Transcontinental Line we now talk from one end of this country to the other, while in Europe the longest conversation is no farther than from New York to Atlanta, and even that depends on the imperfect co-operation of unrelated systems.

Europe, with twenty-five countries and many different languages, serves as an illuminating contrast to the United States, with one language and a homogeneous people, despite the fact that our population has been derived from all parts of the world.

During the last forty years the steadily extending lines of the Bell System have contributed in no small measure to this amalgamating of different races. The latest achievement—the linking of coast to coast—has given greater force to the national motto, "E Pluribus Unum."
Diagram illustrating a telephone trunk line of 40 wires, being one of a number of such trunk lines joining two large metropolitan areas 250 miles apart and serving intermediate cities, towns and rural districts in a narrow strip of territory on each side. When used for the telephone exclusively this trunk line furnishes 60 telephone circuits, including both phantom and physical, reaching 700,000 telephone stations.

Diagram illustrating a telegraph trunk line of 40 wires, being one of a number of such trunk lines joining the same large centers and traversing the same territory. When used for the telegraph exclusively, this trunk line gives 80 telegraph circuits reaching 300 stations at which telegraph messages may be sent and received.

Diagram illustrating these same two trunk lines worked in co-operation so as to provide both telephone and telegraph service upon each simultaneously. When thus operated there are obtained a total of 160 through telegraph circuits, a gain of 80, and a total of 80 through telephone circuits, a gain of 40, over the combined facilities of the two lines when one is used only for the telephone and the other only for the telegraph. The number of stations where telegrams may be received and sent is increased from 300 to 760,000.
THE FCC'S NEW DEREGERATION SCHEMES

MEDIA GIANTS

COMPETITION
Top 10 Countries - Average Connection Speed - Q4 09 Mbps

Source: Akamai 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Ave. Connection Speed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>11.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hong Kong</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>7.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Romania</td>
<td>7.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latvia</td>
<td>6.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sweden</td>
<td>6.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Netherlands</td>
<td>5.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Czech Republic</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>5.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switzerland</td>
<td>5.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 US</td>
<td>3.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
21st Century Communications Policy?

• Does the U.S. need an active policy? Or is free-market competition enough?
• What principles or values should shape a modern communications policy?
• What are other countries doing?
• What is politically possible in today’s climate?