



Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield (left) and Silver Spring Postmaster William E. Bowman pose with a "First Day Cover", cancelled May 2, 1957 that was just routed through the TRANSORMA mail-sorting machine at the Blair Station Post Office. Courtesy Silver Spring Post Office.

early in 1957. The machine was "manned" (and indeed they were all men) by five letter-feeding operators who sat in a row on a catwalk positioned above the machine. One operator could process 3,000 outgoing/incoming letters per hour into 300 chutes or

boxes that were positioned below at ground level. Compare to 1,500 letters per hour placed into no more than 75 boxes that one man was capable of doing if done so by hand.

After testing of the equipment had been

completed, May 2, 1957 was chosen as the day for Postmaster General Arthur Summerfield to personally inspect TRANSORMA and to unveil it to the national press. Summerfield sat down at one of the letter-feeding machines to cancel "First Day of Issue" commemorative envelopes imprinted with a cachet that read, "This souvenir cover is one of the first 1000 letters to be sorted by the TRANSORMA automatic mail sorting machine on its first day of regular operation in the U.S. Postal Service."

On May 6, 1957 the *New York Times* published an article about the event, "Mail Sorter Wins U.S. Praise Test—Summerfield Labels Dutch Machine a 'Breakthrough'—Code Numbers Used."

The code numbers, or separation codes as they were officially called, consisted of 399 one, two, and three-digit numbers that the operators had to memorize. These codes corresponded to both local businesses as well

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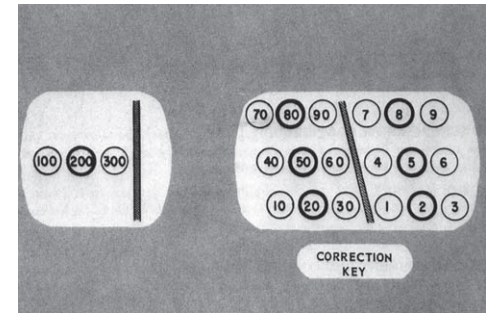
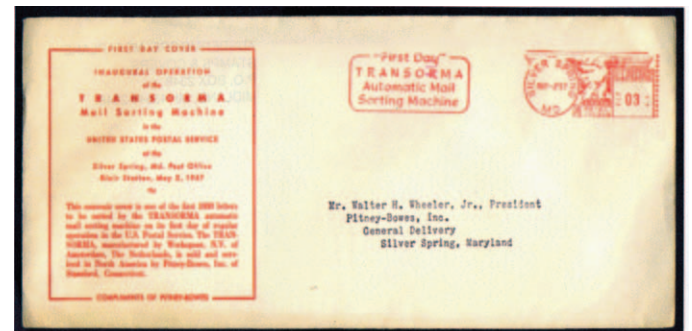


Diagram of the TRANSORMA keyboard upon which operators had 1.2 seconds to read an envelope's address and simultaneously key in one of 399 codes to cancel it. Courtesy Silver Spring Post Office.



"First Day Cover" addressed to Walter H. Wheeler, Jr., president of Pitney-Bowes, Inc., the company that sold and serviced TRANSORMA in the U.S. Collection of Jerry A. McCoy.

# Shop-Rite Liquors

6333 New Hampshire Ave. (Just inside the MD/DC line)  
Family owned & operated since 1994 • (301) 270-2300

## Hours:

Mon-Sat: 8am-12am

3 lottery machines  
Western Union money transfers

Monday is Wineday!

10% off 750ml bottles of table wine\*

\*non-sale items

## May Store Sales

### Whisky

Seagram's 7	1.75L	\$12.99
Crown Royal	1.75L	\$38.49
Early Times	1.75L	\$12.99
Jack Black	750ml	\$18.79
Canadian Club	1.75L	\$16.49

### Scotch

White Horse	750ml	\$10.79
Grants	1.75L	\$18.69

### Tequila

Cazadores	750ml	\$32.49
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### Cognac

Martell VSOP	750ml	\$30.99
Landy VS	750ml	\$13.19
Ansac VS	750ml	\$13.19
Courvoisier VS	750ml	\$19.49

### Champagne

Freixenet <i>Brut &amp; Extra Dry</i>	750 ml	\$7.99
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### Vodka

Luksusowa 80°	1.75L	\$18.69
Stoli 80°	750ml	\$19.79
3 Olive 80°	750ml	\$15.59
Grey Goose All	1.75L	\$50.99

### Rum

Myer's Dark	750ml	\$16.79
Appleton VX	750ml	\$15.99

### Gin

Bombay Saphire	1.75L	\$33.99
Gordon's	1.75L	\$11.99
Tanqueray	750ml	\$16.49

### Brandy

Presidente Brandy	750ml	\$11.99
E & J VS	1.75L	\$15.99
Christian Brothers VS	1.75L	\$15.49
Paul Masson VS	1.75L	\$16.99

### Cordials

Grand Marnier	750ml	\$36.49
Baileys	750ml	\$19.49
Kahlua	1.75L	\$32.79

### Wine

Stimpson <i>Cab, Chard, Merlot, W/Merlot</i>	1.5L	\$9.99
Yellow Tail Reserve <i>Chard, Shiraz</i>	750ml	\$8.99
Francis Coppola <i>Bianco &amp; Rosso</i>	750ml	\$7.99
Beringer <i>White Zin, White Merlot</i>	750ml	\$4.99
Rosemount Diamond	750ml	\$7.99
Lindamans Bin	750ml	\$6.69
Markham <i>Sauvignon Blanc</i>	750ml	\$10.99
Forest Glenn	1.5L	\$12.49
Bella Sera	1.5L	\$10.79
Mirasson	750ml	\$7.49
Barefoot	750ml	\$4.99
Segu <i>Cab, Merlot</i>	750ml	\$2.99
Ck Mondavi	750ml	\$4.99
Fetzer	1.5L	\$12.49

### Beer

Heineken	12oz 12pk	\$12.99
Beer of Mexico	12oz btl case	\$20.99
<i>Sampler Case</i>		
Coors Lite Big	16oz 18pk can	\$12.99
Miller Lite & MGD	12oz 30pk can	\$16.99
Corona	12oz 12pk btl	\$12.99
Guinness	12oz 6pk	\$7.39
St. Pauli Girl	12oz btl case	\$18.99