

All for a cent postcard

By Gordon B. Seavey

With the finalizing of the transfer of the Center post office to a new location at the perimeter of the town near the Littleton line, a lot of people will have to abandon their postal boxes.

And folks will continue paying 22¢ for a letter.

A century ago, life revolved around the "penny" postcard. An example: A faded card in my files is an invitation to a "Basket Pic-Nic" on a Monday in August, 1884 at Happy Valley Farm Grove on the shore of Forge Pond.

The farm was the home of David Lawrence and family, well-known people in Forge Village.

The affair was in honor of their wedding anniversary and also the birthday of Miss Sara Lawrence, a local school teacher. The quaint part of the invitation was the explanation that "There will be interesting exercises held both afternoon and evening." The card also reminded the recipients that

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"baskets would be received during the forenoon."

Those were happy, gracious days, the kind that have long been abandoned.

Another favorite picnic spot in town was at the bubbling spring on the Fletcher Cold Spring farm, where Varnum Fletcher had walled up the spring and capped it with an interesting gazebo. And there were always plenty of spots to park horse and carriage among the giant pine trees

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