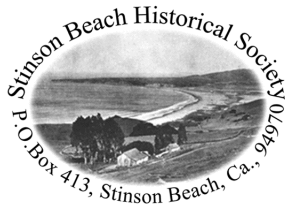


*Willow*  
Spring 2016



*Whistle*  
Special Edition

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## Commemorating 100th Year of Stinson Beach Post Office ...and Changing of Our Town Name from Willow Camp to Stinson Beach

ecr wss

Friends and Neighbors  
Stinson Beach, CA 94970

### **From the Remembrances of Alice DeCamp Algar, Stinson Beach Postmistress 1921-1948**

“There was no Post Office and no stage line in 1913 when our family moved to the beach. Any mail for Willow Camp, as it was called, was sent by stage from San Rafael to Bolinas. It was picked up there by Mr. McKennan, who operated a launch across the lagoon to Bolinas. Anyone going toward Willow Camp took the mail and just left it on the porch of the store, which was usually closed. One day my father found a very important letter of his in the road, and it had been rained on and was open. He decided he was going to have a Post Office. It was a long hard job as it took about three years to change the stage line. Instead of originating in San Rafael, it was changed to run from Sausalito to Bolinas, thus serving Willow Camp. After three years of writing letters and drawing diagrams, Washington gave its permission.

Then a name. My father of course wanted Willow Camp, but the department said there were too many post offices in the state with the name Willow. So, as this location was part of the Stinson Ranch, and my father knew Mr. Stinson very well, he asked for the name of Stinson Beach and it was granted. Then a Postmaster. My father was over 65, so they asked if there was anyone of the family who could take it. My older sister was home then and not married, so they both filled out questionnaires and they commissioned my sister, E. Louise DeCamp, as first Postmaster. The first Post Office was in a room under the porch of their house on the hill and they were told to start April 1, 1916. It grew to a large business [so] they have to build a Post Office on Main Street, now become Highway One.

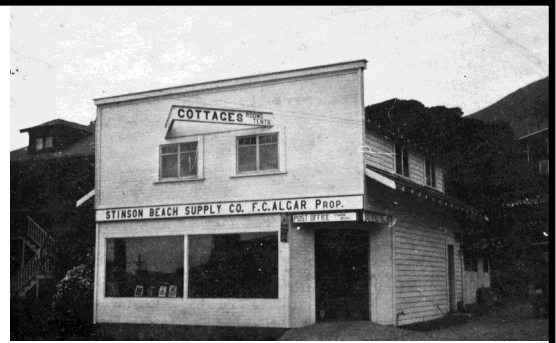
My husband and I moved to Stinson Beach in 1921 and my sister was away so I assisted my father in the Post Office. When she decided to resign, he asked me if I wanted it. I took the Civil Service examination, without competition, and received my commission on June 2, 1921. It remained a 4th Class Post Office until World War II... when the Greyhound Bus started operating and people who were employed at the Marin Shipyards in Sausalito filled the town. The Post Office did such a big business that it was advanced to 3rd Class September 1, 1944.

(.....and for the complete text, see the commemoration show at the library.)



First Post Office was in a room under the porch of the DeCamp residence on Buena Vista (1916).

The Post Office with a Western facade and the corner cut out for the entrance in 1920s and 30s (top right)



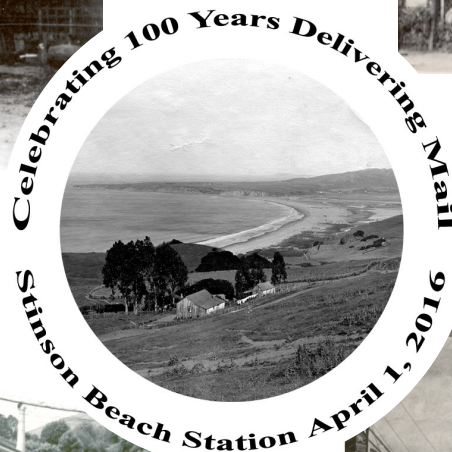
and After the arrival of Greyhound service in the 1940s. (bottom right)



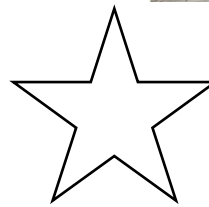
In 1920 the Post Office was relocated to the inside of the Stinson Beach Supply Co. on Shoreline Highway owned by Frank & Alice Algar .



Below: In 1944 the Post Office was upgraded to 3rd class and an additional wing constructed .



The Post Office was moved to the inside and back of Airey's Store under the deck in 1948. Our present Post Office was built in 1961.



Our current Postmaster Jim Harvey (right) with longtime clerk Marcus White invite you to a small Anniversary celebration on Friday, April 1st at 5:00 p.m. on the Village Green (weather permitting). Sponsored by the Stinson Beach Historical Society...  
...See more at the library Historical Corner show.

