



the daily threat of death, to carry the mails 616,000 miles—equal to twenty four times around the earth—during the eighteen months the enterprise operated.”

Deb and Anne also mentioned mail before post stamps. Back in the day, the sender didn't pay, the receiver did and the price fluctuated. Before post offices, folks would pick up their mail at Inns or Taverns. The man behind the counter set the price. If the person picking up the mail looked well-to-do, it might cost them four cents and if the person looked like they didn't have a penny to their name, it was because they didn't and were forced to read their mail at the counter and leave it behind. Can you guess which country was the first to dream up the post stamp?

I was told the post office offered lots of services

throughout the years, but this one I found interesting, “The rural carriers would use their scales to weigh the mother's babies and if they were losing weight, the mother knew to bring them to the doctor and if they were gaining weight, they didn't worry about it,” Anne explained, as she showed me the picture.

The Rollag Post Office is open from 9 to 4:30 during WMSTR days, allowing them just enough to get the mail to the Hawley Post Office. That's right, this old post office isn't just a museum of the past, but you can actually purchase stamps and send mail out. “Over 1000 pieces get sent out during those four days and after the show is done, stamp collectors can send for our cancellations,” Deb explained.

All but the first year's cancellation were designed by

--POST OFFICE PAGE 24



Anne Manderud running the postage stamp cancellation machine.

Heating, Cooling and Cleaning the Air You Breathe.



- * A/C's * Furnaces
- * Fireplaces * Radiant Heat
- * Boilers * Heat Pumps
- * Geothermal * Mini-Splits
- * Air Exchangers
- * New Construction
- * Remodels

Sales/Service/Installation
Free Estimates

22321 Highway 10, Hawley, MN

218-483-1225



Town & Country
HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING INC.

Jim Poole
Owner/Operator