

NORFOLK & WESTERN M-1 POST OFFICE CAR #93



<https://lccn.loc.gov/2016848749>

This photograph from 1924 shows the inside of the Railway Post Office car as a clerk sorts the mail while traveling between cities throughout the United States. The Railway Post Office operated from 1832 until 1977. Following the Civil War, the RMS became more reliable because train tracks standardized. Trains with one coach and four postal cars traveled between Chicago and New York City. Separate lines were constructed to reduce travel time and connect the east to the west for mail delivery. The railway post office clerks had very dangerous lives with train wrecks, sparks igniting the wooden cars as well as the mail, armed robberies and derailments. Despite the danger, the RPO clerks were expected to be intelligent with a great memory as well as physically strong and robust.

Oral Histories of the RPO Clerks can be heard at the National Postal Museum

<https://postalmuseum.si.edu/research-articles/the-railway-mail-service/oral-histories>

Practice your sorting skills below by placing the capital cities listed below in the correct box by state for mail going to the governors.

STATE	CAPITAL CITY
New York	
Pennsylvania	
Ohio	
Indiana	
Illinois	
Missouri	
Kansas	
Colorado	
Utah	
Nevada	
California	
Arizona	
New Mexico	
Texas	
Oklahoma	
Arkansas	
Tennessee	
Virginia	

Phoenix	Little Rock
Sacramento	Denver
Springfield	Indianapolis
Topeka	Jefferson City
Carson City	Santa Fe
Albany	Columbus
Harrisburg	Nashville
Austin	Salt Lake City
Richmond	Oklahoma City

