

What Time is it in Boonville?

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One of the more unusual and fascinating varieties of killers that populate our collecting world are those that express the time of day within the killer itself, not the postmark. Five such killers are illustrated in Whitfield¹ (Figure 1).

Three additional time-of-day killers have been identified and documented in earlier *NEWS* articles – from Macomb, IL, we have a “6PM”² (Figure 2), from Wahoo, NE, there is a “10-AM”³ (cover Figure 3), and a “10 00”/”AM”⁴ from Union Mills, PA (tracing in Figure 4).

4679 	4680 	4681 	4682 	4683 
70	70	61 Whitesfown, N.Y.	70 Wentworth, N.H.	61 5/24/70

Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

Just recently, a new and decidedly different time-of-day killer has surfaced. The killer is struck on a #UX7 postal card (Figure 5) with BOONVILLE, IND. APR 2 1884 postmark to which appears to be duplexed an ellipse-like grid with "7PM" time indicator. Figure 6 shows a tracing, courtesy of John Donnes. Boonville is the county seat of Warrick County, located on the west southern border tip of Indiana. In 1880, Boonville had a population of 1,182, rapidly rising to 1,881 in 1890. George L. Masters was postmaster on the date the card was mailed. I found the “7PM” card among a few other Boonville cards, all which bore nondescript cork killers. I have located no information that would explain the existence of this distinct and unusual hand-carved killer. ■



Figure 5



Figure 6

Endnotes

1. Whitfield, Kenneth, A., *Cancellations Found on 19th Century U.S. Stamps*, U.S. Cancellation Club, 2002, p. 158. The Whitfield supplement lists two town associations for killer 4679: Wilmington, IL (*USCC NEWS*, May 2005 (255), p. 93, “not used to cancel the stamps”) and Weatherly, PA (*Cancellations and Killers of the Banknote Era 1879-1894*, James M. Cole, p. 215, “ML-99”). Killers 4681 and 4682 are listed and attributed in *United States Cancellations 1845-1869*, Hubert C. Skinner and Amos Eno, p. 277, “ND-T 1” and “ND-T 2”. Killer 4683 has subsequently been identified to originate from Union Mills, PA (*USCC NEWS* May 2015 (295), p. 109, Cliff Woodard, “Corry Fancy Cancels, Part 1”).
2. *USCC NEWS* February 2005 (254), p. 73, “Covers of Note”. The provided scan, the only reported example, demonstrates that this killer is struck in blue ink.
3. *USCC NEWS* May 2018 (305), p. 75, Roger Curran, “Noted in Passing”. I am aware of at least two additional covers bearing this killer.
4. *USCC NEWS* May 2015 (295), p. 109, Cliff Woodard, “Corry Fancy Cancels, Part 1”. Page 111 displays the image of the unique cover bearing this killer.