



A community post office

shelves with different kinds and sizes of envelopes and boxes that were for sale too. Father took the parcel to the counter, and Simon watched as the clerk weighed it.

Suddenly Simon heard a peeping sound. As he looked over the counter, the clerk smiled at him and asked, “Do you hear those chicks? Someone ordered fifty chicks from a hatchery near Spencer.”

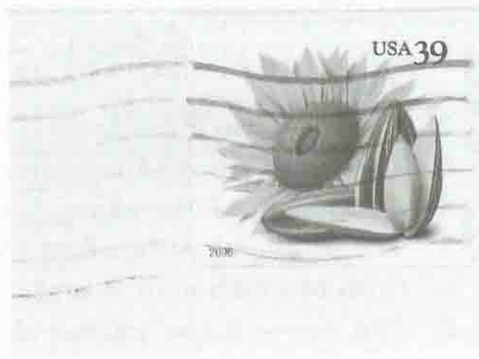
“Do people send chicks through the mail?” asked Simon, wide-eyed.

“Oh, yes,” the clerk answered. “We’ve delivered chicks, and bees, and baskets of fruit, and strawberry plants, and small trees, and . . .” She paused and soon continued, “You can send almost anything by mail.”

As Father was pulling out of the parking lot, Simon pointed to the large blue box in front of the post



Rows and rows of rented mailboxes



A canceled stamp

- **A post office has many small mailboxes that people can rent.** The post office workers place the mail in these boxes from the back, which faces the room where they work. The persons who rent the boxes have keys to open the little doors, which face a room that is open to the public.

- **Post offices offer a number of services in addition to processing mail.** They sell postage stamps and many different kinds and sizes of envelopes and boxes. They often distribute forms such as selective service forms and income tax forms.
- **Machines cancel stamps that have been used.** They print wavy black lines over stamps so that they cannot be used again. They also print the postmark, which shows the place and date of the canceling.