

## Why does anyone use my return address on *their* mail?

Yes, it's happened again.

Remember a year and a half ago, before the 2008 primary election, somebody made a mass mailing from Casper in which they pointed out Republican candidate Mark Gordon's past as a serial campaign donor to Democratic candidates and used my Cheyenne return address on their envelopes? I found this out when many of the mailings were undeliverable and came back to me because my P.O. Box 2208 was used in the upper left hand corner.

It was no big deal to me because I had already written in the Herald about Gordon's record as a Democrat. Or, at minimum, as a Democratic candidate supporter. But, because I was working on Republican Bill Winney's campaign, some who didn't know that I wanted credit for everything I write and do not fear anyone in either political party in Wyoming and would eagerly put my name on anything I circulate, associated the anonymous mailing with Bill even though he (and I) had nothing to do with it.

I reported the use of my return address to a local postal inspector but there was not much that could be done about it.

Frankly, because the mailing was the truth, there was no injured party except me and I didn't consider the damage to be important.

Well, someone has once again used my P.O. Box as their return address. Only this time, they also used "The Cheyenne Herald" name on at least two envelopes for which I had no connection. I now know what was included in one envelope but not in the other. Yet.

One of the envelopes was addressed to The Beacon Club in Casper but "Mills" was used as the city name and the zip code was wrong so it was returned to me - because they had used my return address and a first class stamp. I have not opened that envelope and will do so in the presence of a postal inspector to see if threats were being made and to try to determine why my address was again used without my knowledge or permission.

*If that can't be arranged the week of January 4th, I will open the envelope in the presence of a credible witness later so I can inform readers what that envelope contained. (I will be out of town from January 9 - 15 so that's the last chance I'd have to meet with a postal inspector.)*

The other envelope was mailed to an inmate in Rawlins (one with whom I had had no previous communications) and he sent me a letter wondering why copies of articles related to the David Bush case were sent to him. He enclosed the envelope in which the materials had come and the prominent printed return address (using "CHEYENNE HERALD, PO BOX 2208, CHEYENNE, WYOMING 82003") is identical to the return address printed on the envelope intended for The Beacon Club. He included a very articulate letter expressing that he, too, was wrongly convicted and was serving three life sentences in Rawlins for a murder and attempted murder. He said he had nothing to do with the murder and the attempted murder of a police officer was in defense of his mother. I told him I couldn't bite on another story along these lines and wished him well.

Why use a real return address when you're "borrowing" one? Make one up.

## Recycling costs residents little

Writing anything supportive of recycling is probably wasted on those residents who simply do not believe it is necessary, productive or worthy of their time.

On a personal level, it continues to surprise my wife and myself that the recyclable material exceeds the regular trash on a weekly basis. The blue bin container with recyclable material is picked up bi-weekly and the regular trash weekly, as most readers already know.

Without any special effort, the recyclables almost fill the container and the regular trash has dropped to about 1/3 full each week. That has been the case for the first 4 or 5 pickups of the recyclables, whichever it's been. The latest pickup may have had an unusual volume of cardboard because it was around Christmas.

Beyond the convenience of not having to take the plastic, cardboard and aluminum cans somewhere for recycling, the experience has resulted in other savings.

Regular trash is required to be bagged. Recyclable material is put into the blue bin container loose. The two containers are now picked up at our curb. In the past, we had to deliver plastic and cardboard to a blue bin out north and save the aluminum pop cans until we had a couple 30 gallon trash bags full, then take them to a recycler who paid for their redemption. After a considerable length of time, I'd take two bags and receive \$3.00 for the cans. That might have taken 4-6 months. Now, all of the recyclables go into a single container and are picked up at my curb. I don't have to take any of it anywhere. It is much more convenient.

In addition, there are many recyclables that we did not formerly take to the blue bin containers - usually those in front of Kmart on Dell Range. We now recycle steel and aluminum soup, vegetable and cat food cans, as well as boxes from dry foods like pasta, laundry soap, etc.

The 30 gallon trash bags used for most of the regular trash cost about 25¢ a bag.

In addition to the 13 gallon white kitchen trash bags, we'd use one or two of the 30 gallon bags with drawstrings each week.

If we used two each week, that would be \$2.00 each month in bag costs. We don't have that cost now. The distance to Kmart from where we live is 5 miles each way. Two trips a month to the blue bins out there would be 20 miles, which is close to the gas mileage I get on my turbocharged Taurus. In town. On the highway, I now get closer to 30 mpg. The price of gas has fluctuated between \$2.00 and \$2.50 a gallon.

If you add the savings from the cost of the 30 gallon trash bags not now being used to the gallon of gas it takes to drive to and from the blue bin containers and add in a few cents for the couple 30 gallon trash bags used for aluminum pop cans every few months, you can be up to almost the \$5.00 a month being charged for the curbside recycling service.

Granted, if you did not recycle before, you have none of those savings. If you did, you have somewhere between probably \$3.00 and \$5.00 a month cost saving with the curbside recycling program.

Bottom line, it doesn't cost much out of pocket for this recycling service.

Some think that the Sanitation Department is "selling" the recyclables to the Denver operation and, therefore, it should not charge for pick-up. That is not true. The tipping fee in Denver is not as high as it is in Ault for the regular trash - it is about half that cost - but there is a charge to get rid of the recyclable trash, too.

Most who complain about the cost really just oppose recycling. They believe it is a "yuppie" thing - a "Boulder" thing - an "East Coast" thing. So, even if it could be proven that the service costs only \$1.00 to \$2.00 a month, they would still oppose it. Recycling is not going to "Save the Earth." Or the environment. But it might make a landfill, which costs tens of millions of dollars, last a bit longer.

### Oroweat Bakery Outlet

**Travel A Little,  
Save A Lot!**

**308 Southwest Dr. • 635-8400**  
Open Monday - Saturday 10-4

South across from Tyrrell-Doyle Chevrolet - west at PTA Self-Storage

TUNE-UPS AND MORE ...

**C.A.R.S.**



**CHEYENNE AUTO  
REPAIR & SERVICE**

604 W. Lincolnway / 632-0498

## WOODHOUSE RODEN Law Firm

1912 Capitol Ave., Suite 500

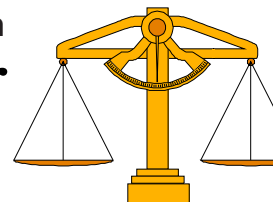
American National Bank Bldg, Fifth Floor

432-9399 - FAX 432-7522

GayWoodhouseLaw@aol.com

**"Advocating for your  
legal rights."**

www.gaywoodhouse.com



The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise.

**Herald -- n. An officer whose business was to proclaim war ... He was invested with a sacred and inviolable character. A proclaimer; one who publishes or announces; A forerunner; a precursor; a harbinger. v. To introduce, or give tidings of ... To proclaim, to announce, to foretell, to usher in.**