

Even unopened Cheyenne Herald envelopes are contraband at the Wyoming Honor Farm

It wasn't bad enough that the Wyoming Honor Farm office in Riverton confiscated address labels and stamps intended for a guest at their fine establishment, now they've taken to returning Cheyenne Herald envelopes addressed to the same inmate. Unopened mail. Mail that did not meet their requirement for having **BOTH** the inmate's **DOC No.** AND including the words, **WYOMING HONOR FARM** in the address on the envelope.

They've even begun to open legal mail addressed to inmates - "by mistake," they print on the opened envelope - which is a no-no. But, just like some people will argue that no one in their right mind will journey to Riverton to visit a casino, these state employees must believe that no one in their right mind will come down on the side of incarcerated people.

Hell, in Platte County, jailers were given carte blanche to engage in sexual relations with female inmates - a jury said so. What if the inmate thinks it would not be in their best interest to decline to participate. Tough. Does the same behavior occur in Wyoming **STATE** penitentiaries? Stay tuned.

Penitentiaries, prisons, jails, etc., need rules. But the rules are needed primarily for control of inmates, not outsiders.

I was advised by Johnny Lopez, Inmate No. 23323 at the Riverton Honor Farm, that a new rule was put into effect. That rule was that an address had to include the words Wyoming Honor Farm, in addition to the delivery address of 40 Honor Farm Rd. Incoming mail that state employees in the Honor Farm office were holding in their hands that did not have those three words would be returned.

Two of my letters to Johnny Lopez were returned. Mine had the three magic words but, inadvertently, his Inmate No. had been dropped when new address labels were printed.

All well and good, troops. Enjoy your little power trip while you hold the job.

Then, alas and alack, Johnny sent me a copy of an envelope from his public defender that had a notation (and signature) that the envelope (legal mail) had been opened "by mistake."

My envelope to Johnny, postmarked March 20, 2006 from Cheyenne, was returned unopened. A sticker was placed over the bottom three lines of the address. What was covered was:

WYOMING HONOR FARM
40 Honor Farm Rd.
Riverton WY 82501

A stamp with a protruding finger was put on the envelope, saying "**UNDELIVERABLE AS ADDRESSED. UNABLE TO FORWARD.**"

Undeliverable as addressed, it said. Focus on that for a second. "Undeliverable as addressed."

The copy on the bottom of this page is of an envelope from the Public Defenders Office, State of Wyoming, to John Kenneth Lopez (same guy). It was received on April 4, 2006 at the Honor Farm. The Seal of the State of Wyoming is prominent in the return address area. The words, "State Public Defender" is smaller but should be very familiar to the Honor Farm office. Perhaps a hundred such letters arrive each month - or each week.

On that envelope appears the printed words: "Opened by mistake - did not read," followed by a woman's signature. Johnny Lopez sent me a copy of the message which was delivered to him about this piece of mail. It told him to "Please report to central control to sign

for incoming legal mail ..." There was an admission they (whoever opened the envelope) knew it was legal mail, which is not to be opened. Even inmates have some rights. On that note was printed: "**JOHN LOPEZ #20772**".

The absolute insanity this portrays is, first, Johnny Lopez' DOC # is **NOT** 20772. It was. **BEFORE** his first conviction for the same incident was reversed by the Wyoming Supreme Court. Now, his DOC # is 23323. **MY** letter was undeliverable because it did not have any DOC # on the label. Second, the Public Defender's letter **WAS** deliverable even though it did not have the three magic words (**WYOMING HONOR FARM**) on the envelope **AND** it had the wrong DOC #.

Imagine a grandmother who had found out that the child she raised had ended up in the Riverton Honor Farm. She only knows that much and sends a letter to him lacking his DOC # and those three magic words. Would the jerks return the letter to her even though they knew for whom it was intended? Probably.

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Because the Riverton Honor Farm has not printed a new form to present to an inmate when mail intended for him was returned undelivered, they use a reason that already existed but has no bearing on the pettiness they are using for these returns. (It calls the letter an attempt to introduce contraband into the penal system.)

The pettiness, as the label on the Cheyenne Herald envelope above states, is that the address "**MUST INCLUDE INSTITUTION NAME & INMATE DOC#**" Please remember that an employee at the Honor Farm is holding the envelope in his/her hand as they stamp (or place down a label) that the address does not tell them the "**Institution Name.**" Think about that for a second. For God's sake, go look on your office door if you don't know the name of the institution in which you work and are standing at that very moment. Also please remember that none of this is the work, fault, doing, or responsibility of the United States Postal Service. They have made delivery as the address requests. It is an office of a Wyoming State department (Corrections) under the aegis of Pat Crank that practices this pettiness. I challenge the Governor of the State of Wyoming to send an envelope up there addressed only to John Lopez, 40 Honor Farm Rd., Riverton WY 82501. I will bet lunch that such a letter gets delivered. They may be petty up there but not totally stupid. It would not be returned because of insufficient information. And, yes, they do read my incoming mail and the Cheyenne Herald. So these words are not going unnoticed. The Governor has been apprised of this silliness and I rely on him to insure there are no reprisals against Johnny Lopez or others from the Honor Farm who communicate with me.

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