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# Mailing May



## **Synopsis**

Nowadays it's no big deal or a girl to travel seventy-five miles. But when Charlotte May Pierstorff wanted to cross seventy-five miles of Idaho mountains to see her grandma in 1914, it was a very big deal indeed. There was no highway except the railroad, and a train ticket would have cost her parents a full day's pay. Here is the true story of how May got to visit her grandma, thanks to her won spunk, her father's ingenuity, and the U.S. mail. 00-01 CA Young Reader Medal Masterlist and 01 Colorado Children's Book Award (Pic. Bk Cat.)

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (42 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #156,228 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #108 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1800s #146 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Trains #426 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

The story of 'Mailing May' is actually based on the true story of the mailing of Charlotte May Pierstorff who was actually mailed (as a baby chick), from Grangeville, Idaho to Lewiston Idaho in 1913. While the author has of course made a few changes here and there, it is never the less based on a true happening and the author has gone to great lengths to portray the era in which May was mailed...January 1, 1913. Times were hard in Idaho, as they were in most places during that day and time and May wanted to visit her grandmother "who lived a million miles away through the rough old Idaho mountains." The problem though was that the train ticket (the only way of getting there) costs a dollar fifty-five, and as May's father points out, he has to work an entire day for that kind of money;

money the family simply did not have. What to do, what to do? Between May's extended family, local railroad workers and postal workers they came up with the idea of simply mailing May, which at the time would only cost fifty-three cents. Regulations stated that the postal department could not mail lizards or insects or anything smelly. May passed the smell test and she most certainly was not an insect or lizard. The postal service could though mail baby chicks and that is what they classified her as...a forty-eight pound and eight ounce baby chick...a record! This is a delightful story taken from an era long gone. The tale is beautifully written and the art work is some of the best I have seen in a children's book. The author and illustrator have most certainly captured the feel and essence of Idaho during the turn of the century. The story is a good lesson in just how innovative people could be at that time and a good lesson in how a community and family can work together to get things done. This work is a complete winner in my book, both the story content and the way it is presented and in the beautiful art work. Don Blankenship The Ozarks

I chose this book to read to a group of children, ages 2 to 11. They all sat, listening, interested, and loved it! The story is so nice and the drawings are perfect. I think a child doesn't have to "believe it" to believe in the passion behind it. They get it. It was great.

I really liked the book *Mailing* because it was an interesting, funny, and cute little story. It was about a five year old girl who didn't have \$1.55 for a ticket to go visit her grandma. SO instead they mailed her as a baby chick through the US Postal Service. Instead it only cost her \$0.53 than the \$1.55 it would cost to buy a ticket. The pictures in this book were fantastic, they showed a lot of action. This was a true story.

A beautifully written true story. This story has been in our family for many years in the form of a newspaper article and it was a delight to find that it had been translated into a children's book. May was my aunt's sister and I am sending a copy of the book to her great-great niece. Mr. Tunnell did a magnificent job turning this into a children's book and as a family member we are delighted! I recommend it to all kids who want a taste of the time when we could still do things like this. Excellent book!

I love this story about a girl at the turn of the century who is mailed so that she can visit her grandmother. Her family decides to mail her due to the fact that they are poor and it is cheaper to mail her than to buy a regular ticket for travel. The book is an adventure and it will amaze you.

children to learn that a child was sent through the mail.

I picked up this book after reading trivia that related to the true story of a little girl who was mailed to her grandparents. I wasn't expecting such a charming book. The illustrations are beautifully done and add to the story. And it's true! I can't recommend this book enough.

Five-year-old Charlotte May Pierstorff is disappointed when, after promising her a visit to her grandmother's house, seventy-five miles away over Idaho mountains, her parents tell her they cannot afford a train ticket. But she is mystified the next morning when her father wakes her up for an early trip to the local post office. Taking advantage of the new 1914 postal regulations allowing packages as large as fifty pounds, he pastes some stamps and an address card to the back of her coat and leaves her in the care of her cousin Leonard, who manages the mail car on the train, and she gets to visit her grandmother after all. This charming story is illustrated in Ted Rand's warmly vibrant style, and most of the paintings are supplemented with museum-style images of historical mementos: old-fashioned stamps, the address tag on May's coat, and black-and-white snapshots of people and scenes. Michael Tunnell tells the story from the little girl's perspective, including enough detail to satisfy adult questions about how the feat was accomplished. The story brings with it a freshness and innocence, and with many positive themes. Among them are courage and creativity in the face of difficulty, a grandchild's devotion to her grandmother, people helping one another, and parents keeping promises. It is targeted for an elementary audience, and their parents may enjoy the humor of the situation at least as much as the children do.

This is a touching story of a little girl who can't afford to visit her grandparents. It's set in the early 1900's. Children will learn a little history. They'll enjoy the family's solution to their problem. This is a lovely story. I'm afraid, however, that I enjoyed it a bit more than my children. From their 1990's perspective, the story was a little hard to believe.

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