

Valentine

Valentine, Texas might only seem like a tiny dot on a map, but every year thousands of letters bursting with love pass through Texas' only adobe post office. From the train the only evidence of Valentine, Texas is a tiny road sign pointing to the south, but the town is so much more. The name Valentine sounds like this could be the city of love, but not quite. The city of Valentine was founded on February 14, 1882, and fittingly the residents gave it the name Valentine. Over the years Valentine never grew to be a booming metropolis, but this town of a few hundred people has been made very popular by its Valentines Day traditions and even by its name alone.

Each year people from all over the country send their Valentines Day letters through Valentine US Post office. Since the early 1980's the town's post office has been offering Valentines stamps to letters that pass through the post office. By sending your love letters out of the Valentine US Post office, you are able to get each letter stamped with that year's unique Valentines stamp. Beginning in 1994 the students of the local schools began to compete in an annual art contest to determine whose artwork will be chosen for the Valentines stamp, annually 24,000- 39,000 copies of the winning stamp are placed on letters that pass through the post office. This is a unique town activity that gets everyone involved each year. Though you may not live in Valentine, Texas, all you have to do to be a part of this tradition is follow a few simple postmarking instructions and Postmaster Marissa Carrasco will do the rest!

Source(s):

Hoffman, Eva J. "A Guidebook to Amtrak's Sunset Limited." Flashing Yellow Guidebooks, Golden, CO, 2009.

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