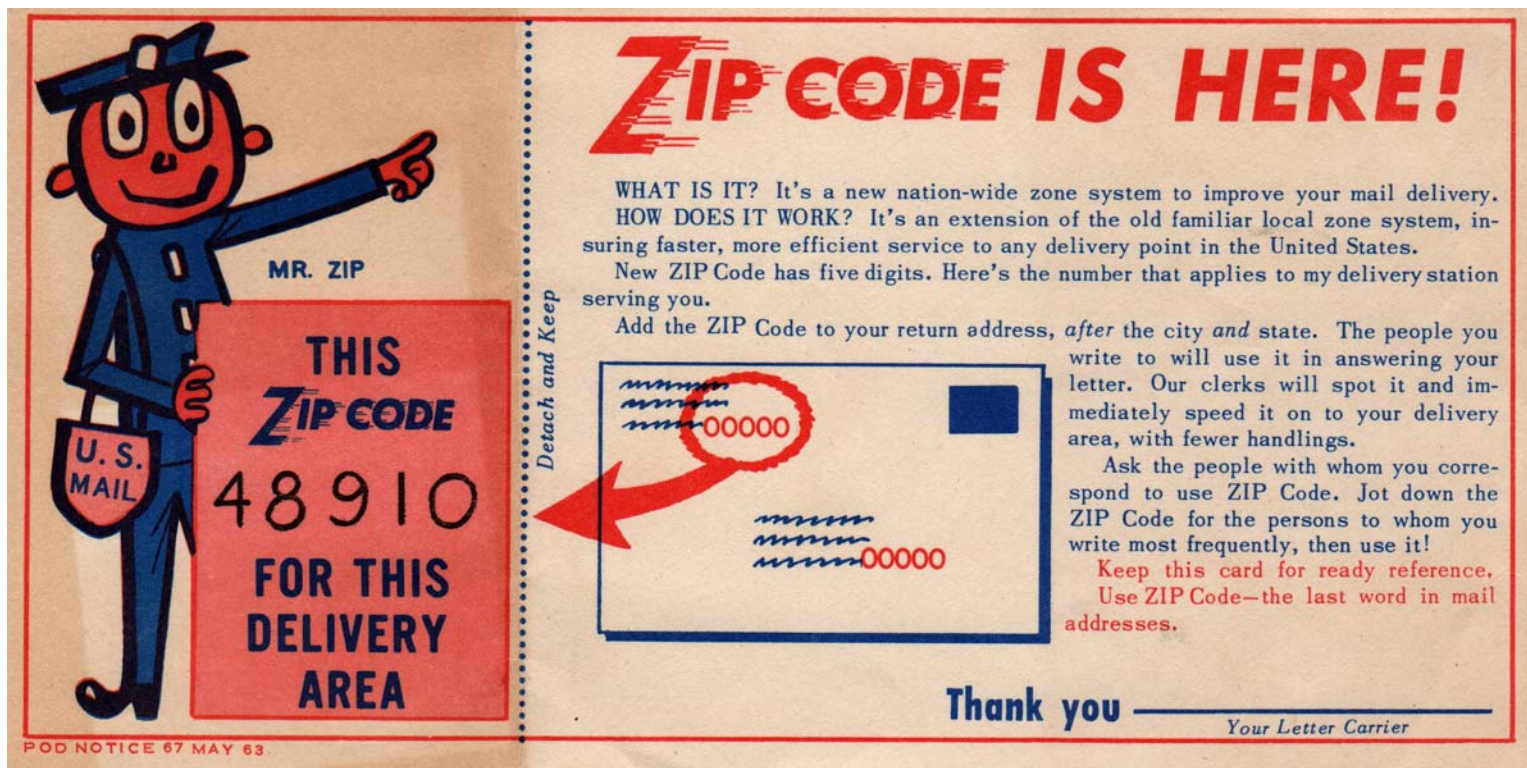


## Mr. Zip

In 1943, the USPOD (US Post Office Department) began using postal zones to better aid in mail sorting and delivery.

These were one or two digit numbers used after a city name, such as “Minneapolis 16”.



In the early 1960's it was shown that better system was needed, and the

## Zone Improvement Plan was implemented on July 1, 1963.

At the same time, 2-letter state abbreviations were introduced (primarily because it was felt that the longer full state names or certain abbreviations such as “Calif” or “Penna” along with the new 5-digit codes would not leave enough room on mailing labels used by magazines.

A more efficient “ZIP+4” system was created in 1983. The extra digits better identify geographic segments with the 5-digit delivery area (such as apartment complexes, city blocks, individual high-volume mail receivers or other units that could benefit from more efficient mail sorting and delivery).



To aid in promoting Zip Codes and encouraging their use by the public, the Post Office Dept introduced “Mr. Zip”.

He first appeared in 1964 on the selvedge of stamp sheets and was used until 1986.

On stamps he can be seen standing, walking or just as a head!

