

## **Joe & Maurine - A Lost American Dream**

Benedict A. Termini, M.D. (with addendum by Richard L. Conley)  
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### **Synopsis**

This is a true story, detailing my fortuitous purchase of a trove of letters exchanged between Justus (Joe) Bachman, an American airman who died in the South Pacific during World War II, and his wife Maurine, who lived in Texas. After I read the letters I was able to contact Maurine, then living in a retirement facility in New Mexico, and return them to her. She has since passed away.

I present this as a tribute to two people whose lives were devastated by the horrors of war. As I mention in the text, "I feel like I know Maureen and Joe. I invaded their lives, and in turn their tragedy has changed mine."

When I submitted this to the *Journal of Texas Philately and Postal History*, the editor, Robert L Conley, did some additional research which he included as an addendum. While not strictly part of the original article, it does add considerable information.

Thank you for your review. I look forward to your comments.