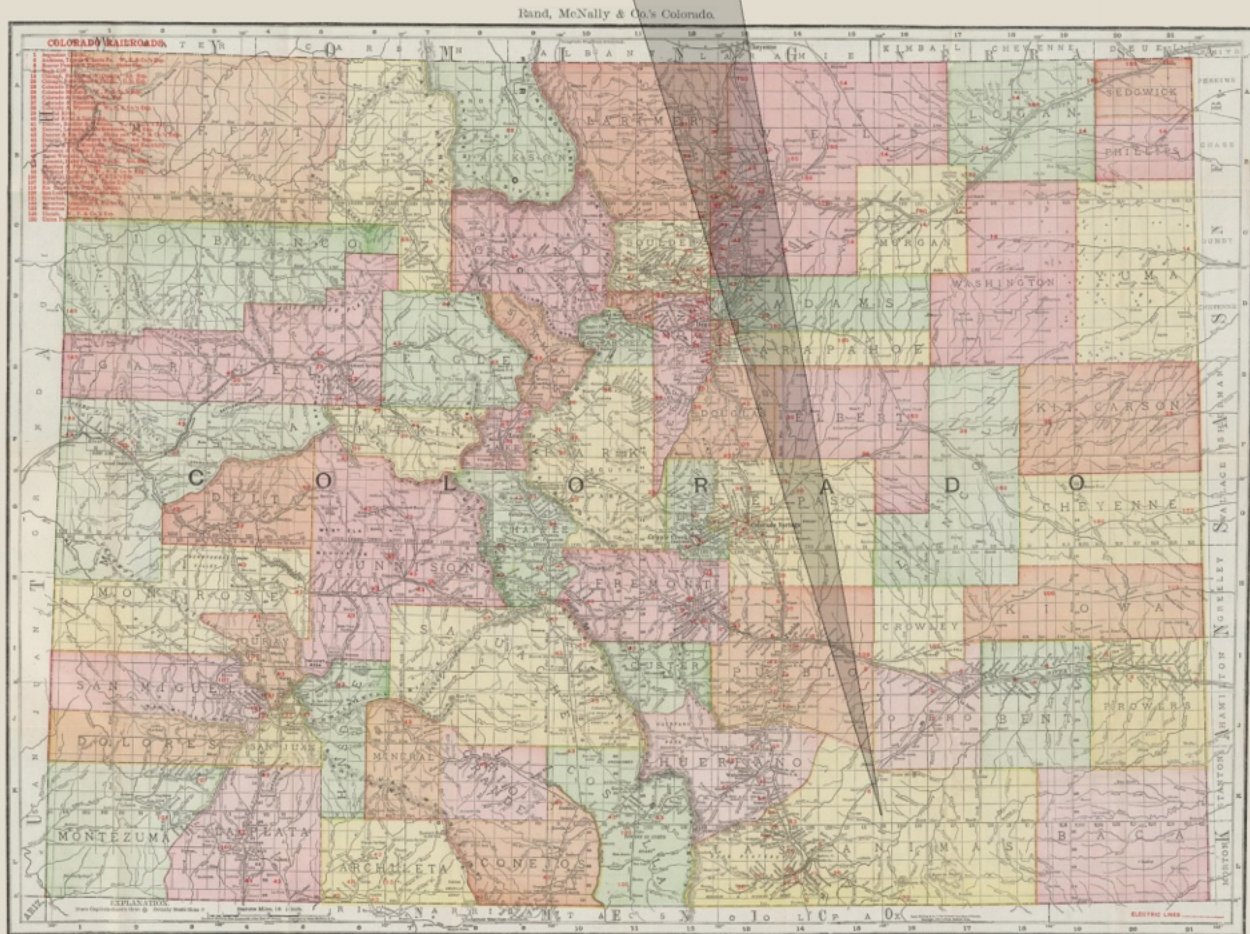


Las Animas County



Map courtesy of <http://www.davidrumsey.com>

Established: February 9, 1866

County Seat: Trinidad

LAS ANIMAS COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

On November 1, 1861 the Territorial Legislature of Colorado defined the boundaries of seventeen counties. A small part of the area that now comprises Las Animas County was included in Costilla County. The remainder of the area was part of Huerfano County.

On February 11, 1870 the Territorial Legislature subdivided Huerfano County, creating Bent County and making a small addition to Pueblo County. The bulk of the reduction to Huerfano County became Las Animas County. At the same time the portion of Costilla County that lay east of the crest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains was included in the new Las Animas County that stretched across southeastern Colorado to the border with Kansas.

The boundaries of Las Animas County remained unchanged until April 16, 1889 when Baca County was taken from the east end of Las Animas County.

Later the boundary with Costilla County was altered back to its original north-south line. From east to west the county is one hundred and thirteen miles at its widest point. From north to south the maximum width is fifty-six miles. Since the creation of the county, Trinidad has served as the Las Animas County seat.

Huerfano, Pueblo, Otero and Bent Counties bound Las Animas County on the north. Baca County is its neighbor on the east. The southern border is with Union, Montezuma and Colfax Counties in New Mexico. Costilla County forms the western boundary of Las Animas County.

Throughout history Raton Pass, south of Trinidad, has been a major route of travel. It was first an Indian trail, then an alternate route for the Santa Fe Trail. With the first stirrings of Mexican settlement along the Purgatoire River, Raton Pass was the access route from Santa Fe and other towns in New Mexico.

The Colorado Gold Rush rapidly increased the traffic over Raton Pass, as it was a means for the miners to access supplies from the New Mexico towns. In the 1870's the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad built from La Junta on the Arkansas River to Trinidad. At the same time the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was building south from Pueblo. The Santa Fe won the race for the route over Raton Pass and the Rio Grande turned west from Walsenburg.

As time passed the old wagon road over Raton Pass became the route for US Highways 85 and 87 and now for Interstate 25, the major north-south route across Colorado.

US Highway 160 is the principal east-west route in Las Animas County. From Springfield in Baca County it crosses the eastern two-thirds of the county to Trinidad and then turns north via Interstate 25 to Walsenburg before again turning westward over La Veta Pass. The other major route is US Highway 350, a lonely road from La Junta to Trinidad.

There are state highways that give access to portions of the county and in places a good network of county roads. However, the canyons along the northern edge of the county, the mesas on the southern edge and the mountains in the western third of county are barriers to all but a few direct routes of travel.

The Fort Carson Pinon Canon Maneuver Range is a new complication to travel in Las Animas County and if the army is successful, expansion of the Military Reserve will be an even greater obstacle.

Topographically there is only a small portion of the county that can be considered level prairies. Most of that lies in east central Las Animas County.

The Purgatoire River is the principal drainage for the county. As the river curves northeast from Trinidad it carves a canyon and is in turn fed by other streams that cut their own canyons in the northern portion of the county.

Along the southern border a number of volcanic capped mesas dominate the skyline culminating in Fishers Peak south of Trinidad.

From Trinidad westward the Purgatoire River carves a valley through the foothills of the Sangre De Cristo Mountains. The southern slopes of the Spanish Peaks dominate the northwestern corner of the county.

Agriculture has played an important part in the economy of Las Animas County. The earliest settlers engaged in raising sheep and cattle and in limited farming along the major streams. From time to time there have been attempts to grow grain in the eastern portion of the county but frequent droughts have made that effort largely problematic. Today ranching is the primary agricultural pursuit in Las Animas County.

With the arrival of the railroads, exploitation of the extensive coal deposits at the edge of the mountainous western portion of the county became feasible. Many small coal mine towns sprang up and some lasted into the middle of the twentieth century. By then the railroads had changed to diesel power, the demand for coal had decreased, and many of the deposits had been exhausted.

To support the mining activities there was a proliferation of railroad spurs to serve the mines. The longest of these was the Colorado and Wyoming Railway that followed the Purgatoire River from Trinidad west to Tercio and Cuatro.

In addition to the Denver and Rio Grande, and the Santa Fe, there was also the Denver, Fort Worth, and Gulf Railway that came south to Trinidad and then turned east along the southern edge of the county passing into New Mexico near Branson.

Today Trinidad is the dominant residential and commercial center of Las Animas County. Habitation to the east of Trinidad is slowly declining as ranches are consolidated into increasingly larger and more economical operations. To the west of Trinidad the country offers a haven for those seeking a quiet place for summer homes or for retirement.

The mountains, canyons and mesas provide great opportunities for hiking, camping, hunting and fishing. Above all, the scenery attracts a steady flow of visitors.

Further investigations using Google Earth

As you will find below, there were a number of sites in Las Animas County that were inaccessible when I made my visits to the localities. In some cases a long distance view gave me an idea of what might be there.

In 2008, having access to the satellite photography of Google Earth, I attempted to view those unvisited locations. That was not always an easy task. If there were roads or other landmarks that could be followed to the approximate locations, I feel that I was reasonably successful in viewing the location.

In some cases the lack of definitive landmarks left me with a questionable result. In one or two cases, numerous new roads appear to have been opened and it was easy to get confused.

An additional complication is the detail of the photography that is available in the more remote locations. It was often difficult to decide if I was observing a cluster of trees, a rock formation or a building.

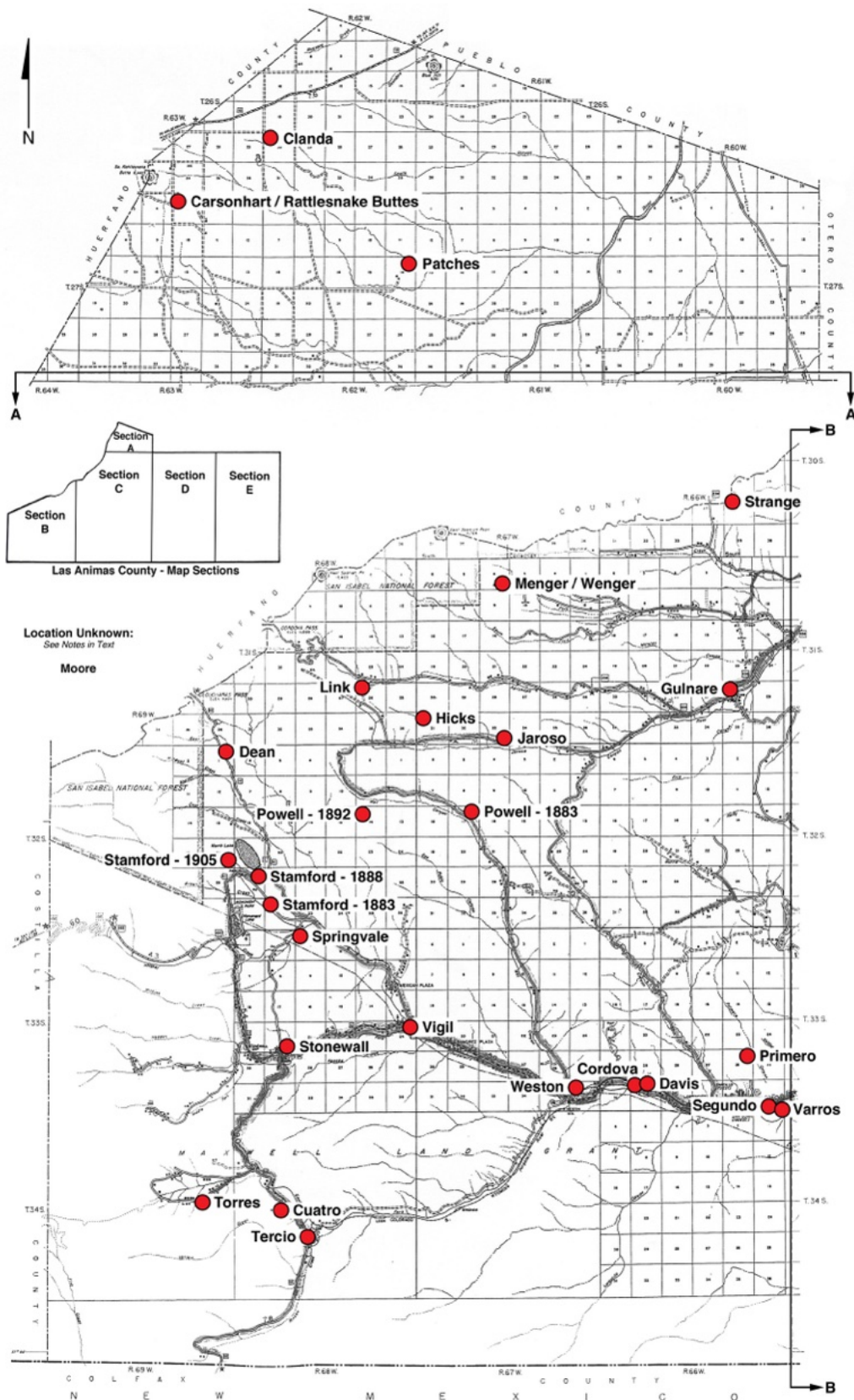
The results of this procedure have been appended at the end of the discussions of the sites so investigated.



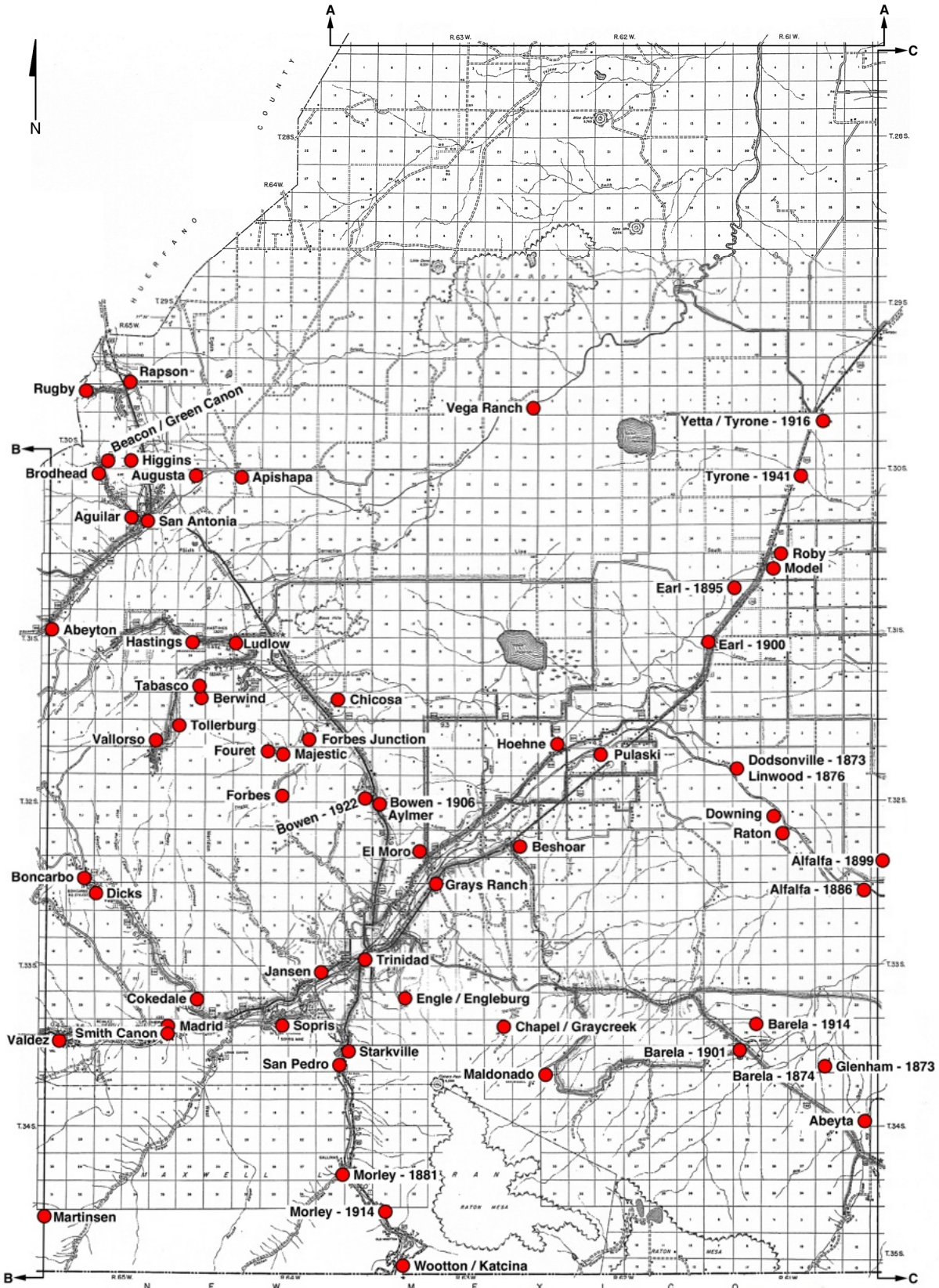
Stonewall Gap and State Highway 12

Photograph by Jeffrey Beal

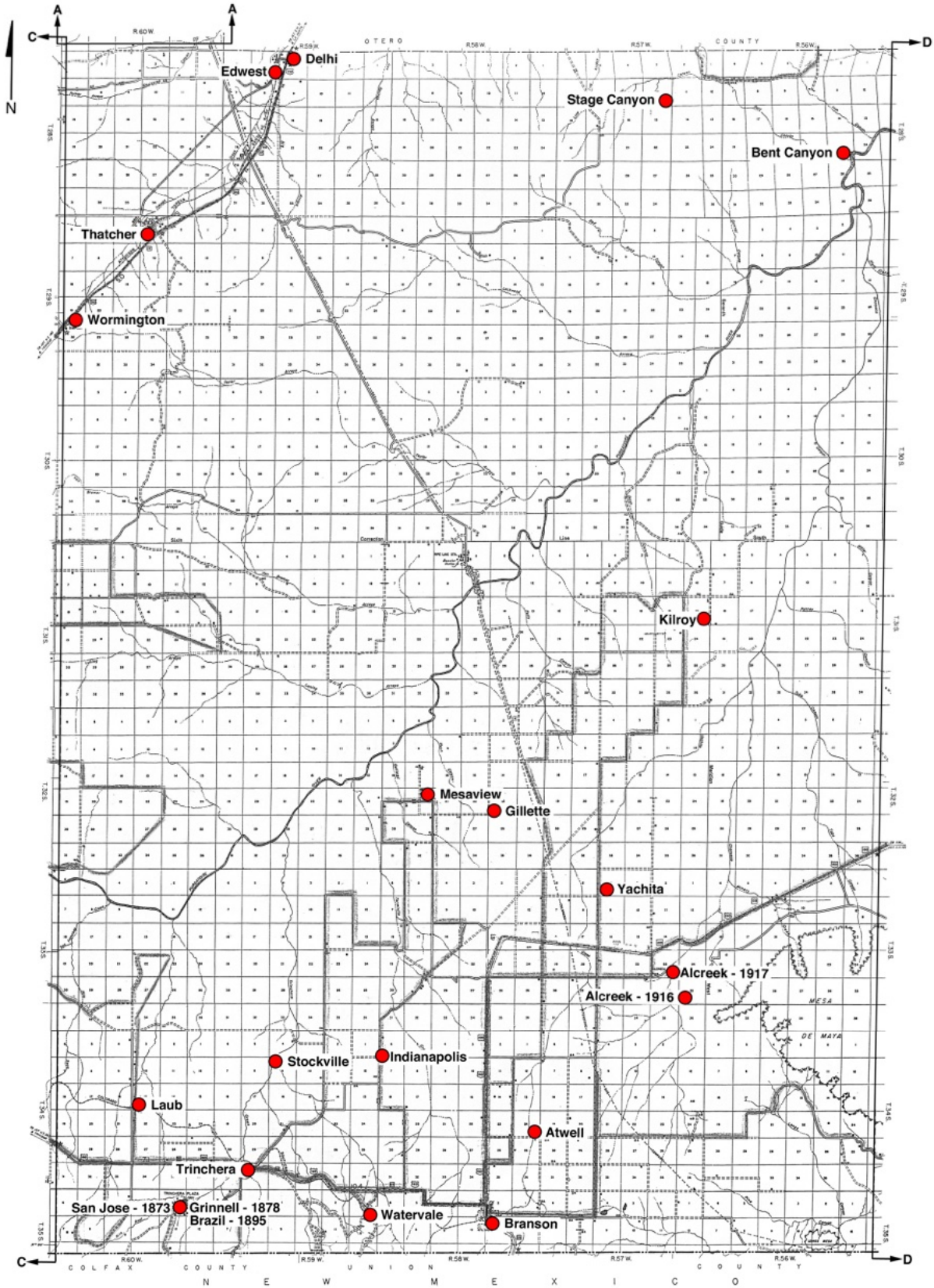
Wikipedia Commons



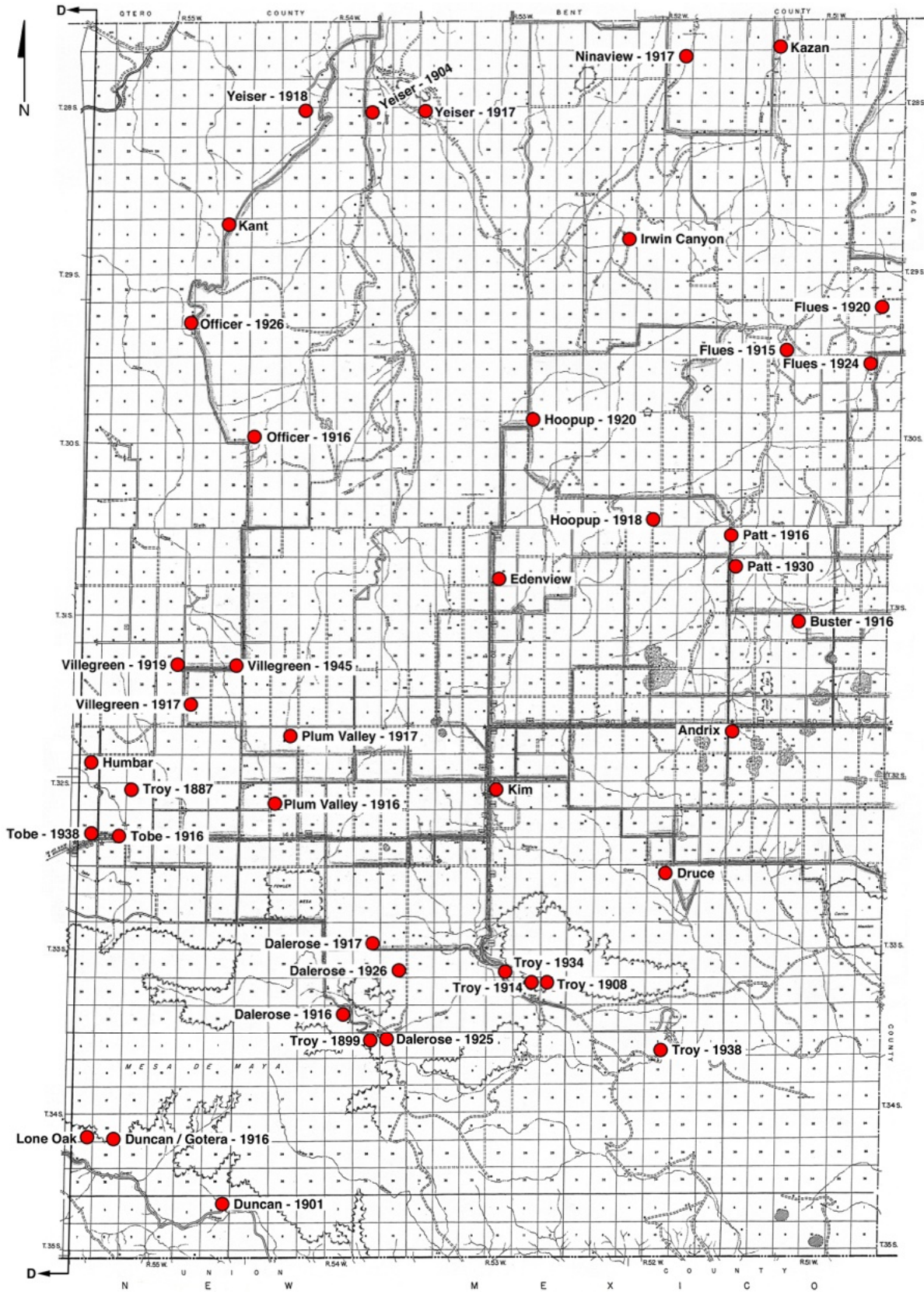
Post Office Location Map – Western Las Animas County (B)



Post Office Location Map – The Coal Fields, Las Animas County (C)



Post Office Location Map – Central Las Animas County (D)



Post Office Location Map – Eastern Las Animas County

ABEYTA

Abeyta was a railroad post office six miles southeast of Barela. Maps for the period of 1882 to 1902 show the place as San Isidro. I have found one claim that during that time there was a post office with that name. The Post Office Department records do not support that claim.

Abeyta is a prominent Spanish family name and is stated to have been the maiden name of the mother of Casimiro Barela.

It is possible that there was a small settlement at Abeyta as the USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 6) shows the Abeyta Cemetery at the location.

Las Animas County Road 8.8, west from Trinchera, is the route to several post offices that were south of US Highway 160 and east of Trinidad. Directions to these places, such as are possible, will be referenced to Trinchera or to roads that intersect Road 8.8.

From the intersection of Road 8.8 with Road 113.0, drive west. It is three and a half miles to San Isidro Creek where the road designation changes to 105.5. It is another mile to an unmarked road that points in the direction of Abeyta. There is a gate and the road is little more than a track out across the countryside. I suspect that it goes to the cemetery. I made no attempt to go further.

From Road 105.5, looking in the direction of the railroad and San Isidro Creek, I could see no evidence of any remaining structures.

Latitude = 37:04:47 North Longitude = 104:11:09 West ABEYTA

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 6 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T34S R61W 250 yards west of San Ysidro Creek/River 50 ft north of the Colorado & Southern RR
Dec 19 1914		Established
Dec 19 1914		Moody, Thomas M.
Dec 19 1914		Order rescinded Dec 19 1914
---	----	Establishment rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ABEY--- / CO--
TC 10 24.0

Feb 22 1888

Hstp Not present Weak strike on gpc Date and identity confirmed by message side



ABEYTON

Abeyton was an agricultural or ranch post office on the north side of the Apishapa River, a mile west of the intersection of Las Animas County Roads 43.7 and 50.9. It was a predecessor to Gulnare but was not at the same location as has often been reported.

It is possible that the name Abeyton was applied to an extended area along Road 43.7, which included the later location of Gulnare.

This is another post office in this portion of Las Animas County that adopted the name of its first postmaster, in this case adding "ton" to Vivian Abeyta's family name.

ABEYTON – Continued

The location is in a small stream valley from the north that joins with the Apishapa River south of Road 43.7. There is a ranch complex with scattered buildings at the location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 15 1884 --- SW/4 Sec 18 T31S R65W 1 mile north of Apishapa Creek
10 miles west of the D&RG tracks 28 miles NW of Trinidad

Mar 7 1884 Established

Mar 7 1884 Abeyta, Vivian

Aug 20 1890 Discontinued Papers to Apishapa

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ABEYTON

AGUILAR

The original settlement here in 1867 is attributed to Agapita Rivali. A plaza was built and became known as Schuler Plaza. It served Spanish American farmers and was a trading post for the Indians.

Referring to the *Historic Trail Map of the Trinidad 1° x 2° Quadrangle, Southern Colorado* by Glenn R. Scott, it appears that in 1875 this was the location of the San Antonia Post Office–San Antonio Plaza. That office closed in 1876 and moved to a location on the new Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, taking the name of Apishapa.

Subsequently from 1881 to 1883 the Strange Post Office was in operation at a location on the northeastern edge of present day Aguilar.



Post Office – Aguilar, Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 10, 2001

AGUILAR – Continued

By 1890 the settlement had grown to a small town. A post office was acquired and named Aguilar, for Jose Ramon Aguilar, a pioneer in Southern Colorado.

On July 7, 1892 Jose Ramon Aguilar and Casimiro Barela filed a plat for the town of Aguilar. In 1894 the town was incorporated.

Aguilar is located on the Apishapa River where the river exits from the hills to the west. To the east the country is rolling grasslands best suited for raising livestock. There is some irrigation that permits a limited amount of agriculture.

To the west, the hills contain many coal seams. From about 1890 until well into the twentieth century there were numerous coal mine camps in this portion of Las Animas County. For several of those camps, Aguilar was the nearest town of any size.

In 1900 the Colorado and Southern Railroad built a branch line through Aguilar to the mines in Brodhead Canyon. Those tracks were removed in 1941.

Aguilar is still an active community with a number of residences and a small business district. However, like too many small Colorado villages, it has lost much of its business to larger neighboring towns. In this case, Trinidad to the south and Walsenburg to the north.

Access to Aguilar is from Interstate 25, either from Exit 30 and then via Las Animas County Road 63.1, or from Exit 34, north of Aguilar.

Latitude = 37:24:10 North Longitude = 104:39:10 West AGUILAR

Chronology of the Post Office

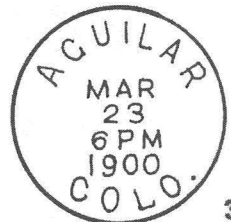
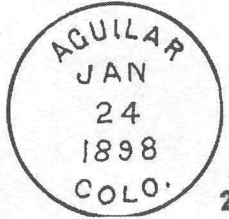
Nov 17 1890	---	SE Sec 27 T30S R65W On the Apishapa River, 4 miles west of the D&RG RR Proposed postmaster - William H. Schulze	
Dec 16 1890		Established	
Dec 16 1890		Schulze, William H.	
Feb 12 1894		Stinson, John H.	
Jul 9 1895		Stinson, James W.	
Nov 22 1895		Schulze, William H.	
Jan 14 1897		McDuffee, Willie A.	
Mar 13 1899		Rustedt, Frederick	
Mar 16 1911		Pearl, Fannie	
Jul 1 1911			Office made Presidential
Jan 24 1912		Pearl, Fannie	
May 9 1914	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 27 T30S R65W 3/4 miles north of Apishapa River	
Jan 17 1916		Ray, Joseph	
Aug 15 1918		Smirch, Dora	Acting
Mar 18 1919		Reagan, Clarence H.	Acting
Aug 5 1919		Reagan, Clarence H.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Nov 1 1920		Whitaker, Mary H.	Acting
Dec 1 1921		Pilati, Henry R.	Acting
Aug 23 1922		Pilati, Henry R.	P&S
Dec 21 1926		Pilati, Henry R.	P&S
Dec 18 1930		Pilati, Henry R.	P&S
May 21 1935		Gioga, Joseph P.	Nominated
Jun 4 1935		Gioga, Joseph P.	Confirmed
Jun 7 1935		Gioga, Joseph P.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 20 1935		Gioga, Joseph P.	Commissioned
Jun 26 1939		Gioga, Joseph P.	Nominated
Jul 5 1939		Gioga, Joseph P.	Confirmed
Jul 12 1939		Gioga, Joseph P.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 22 1939		Gioga, Joseph P.	Commissioned

AGUILAR – Continued

Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 27 T30S R65W 5,280 feet SW of Lynn Station on Colorado & Southern 600 feet west of U.S. 85	
May 27 1951		Sudar, Nick D.	Assumed charge
Jul 26 1951		Sudar, Nick D.	Acting
May 9 1952		Frederico, Vincent J.	Nominated
May 21 1952		Frederico, Vincent J.	Confirmed
May 22 1952		Frederico, Vincent J.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 11 1952		Frederico, Vincent J.	Assumed charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Jan 21 1894 Nov 19 1897
2	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Nov 19 1897 Jan 24 1898
3	AGUILAR COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring, divided into 8 segments	Apr 20 1899 Mar 23 1900
3.1	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Not present	
4	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Oct 20 1900 Mar 19 1915
4.1	AGUILAR, COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 12 1923
5	AGUILAR COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp No killer city and parcel closer	Feb 20 1923
6	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jul 18 1925
7	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 2- 1931 Aug 4 1950
8	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Oct 11 1930 Jul 12 1939
9	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, Diamond with 1	Jul 25 1955 Oct 22 1955
10	AGUILAR / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 29 1953 Jan 13 1964
11	AGUILAR, CO / 81020 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 4 1967 Jun 12 1976
12	AGUILAR, CO / 81020 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Mar 7 1987 Mar 9 1993
13	AGUILAR CO 81020 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 10 2001



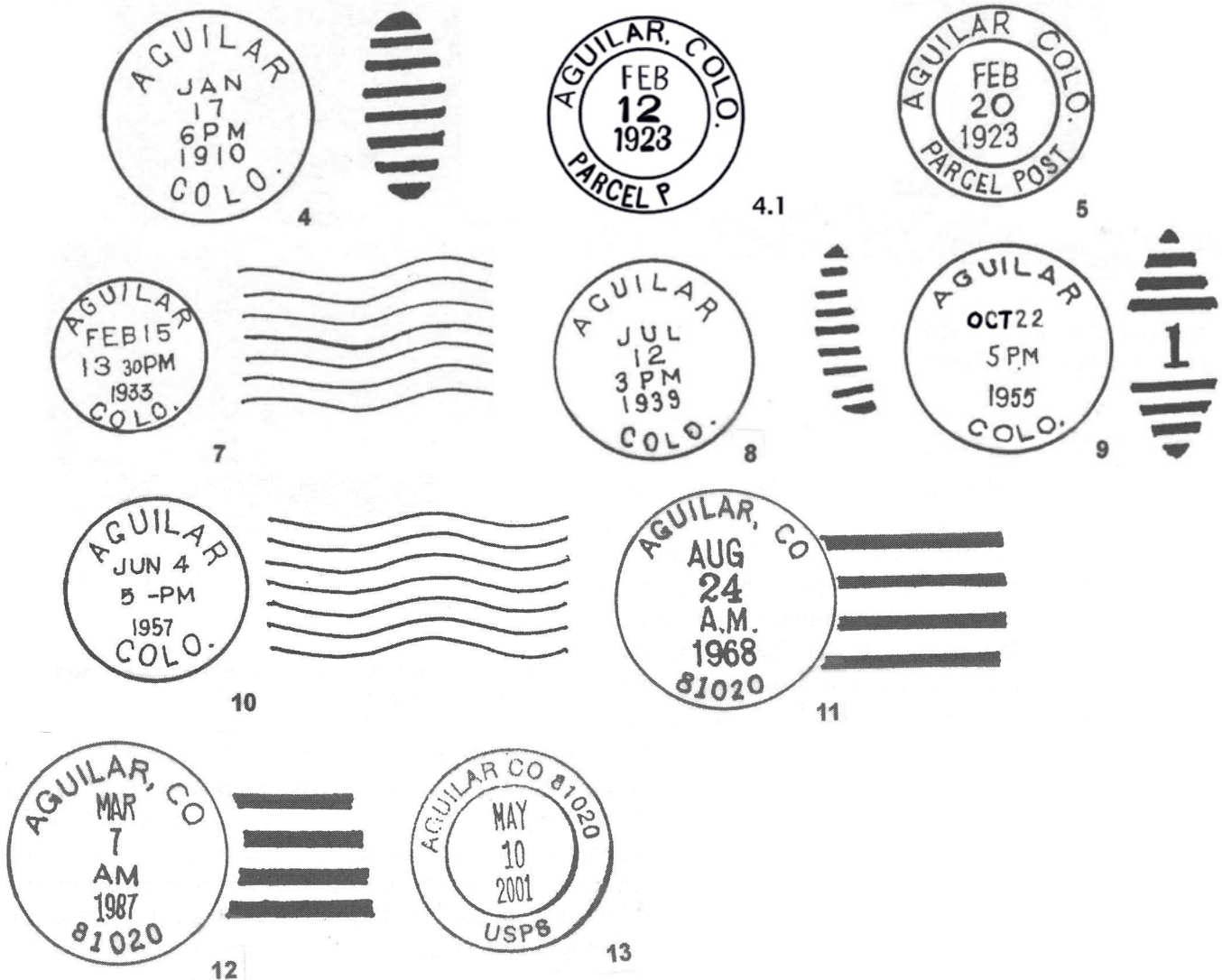
1

2

3

3.1

AGUILAR – Continued



ALCREEK

Alcreek was a rural, ranch post office in east central Las Animas County. There was no organized community associated with this post office.

The original proposal was for Myers, the family name of the first postmaster - Marion M. Myers. I do not know why this name was rejected or what might be the source of the rather odd name of Alcreek.

A year and a half after it was established the Alcreek Post Office was moved a little more than a mile to the northwest. That location is accessible but the earlier location is within private property.

From the intersection of US Highway 160 with Colorado Highway 389, the road to Branson, drive east on US 160 about five and a half miles to where US 160 begins a gradual curve from east to the northeast. There is an unmarked road that goes south a mile towards Bachicha Creek and to a large ranch complex. This was the location of the Alcreek Post Office for most of its operation.

The original location of Alcreek was a mile to the southeast of the above site. Nothing remains at that location.

Please refer to the discussion of Atwell for a little more about this place.

ALCREEK – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 24 1916 --- SW/4 Sec 25 T33S R57W 1/4 mile east of Chaququa Creek
 [This is now called Bachicha Creek]
 Name proposed as Myers - rejected

Jul 28 1916 Established

Jul 28 1916 Myers, Marion M.

Dec 31 1917 --- SE/4 Sec 23 T33S R57W 1/2 mile west of Chaququa Atwell 10 miles southwest
 Tobe 12 miles northeast Yachita 6-1/2 miles northwest

Jan 11 1918 Inman, Ross E.

Oct 26 1918 Pinkston, Charles W. Confirmed

Jan 26 1935 Ordered closed

Feb 28 1935 Discontinued Mail to Branson

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | ALCREEK, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??x20mm | Mar 12 1920 Feb 27 1929 |
| 2 | ALCREEK, COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars P-25x18mm | Feb 28 1935 |



ALFALFA

Alfalfa, the third post office on the Purgatoire River near the mouth of Frijoles Creek, was the longest lasting. However, it survived two interruptions of service.

In 1881 the Raton Post Office was closed and “moved” to Alfalfa. There is no Geographical Site Location Report to support that move. Thus it is possible that it was a name change and it was not until 1886 that the post office actually moved to a new location, three miles to the southeast, but still on the south bank of the Purgatoire River. Jennie DeBusk was the last postmaster at Raton and the first postmaster for Alfalfa. That may lend support to the idea that the post office did not move to a new location prior to 1885 or 1886.

In 1889 the Alfalfa Post Office was discontinued. In 1900 The Alfalfa Post Office reopened but at a location a mile north of the Purgatoire River.

This area was one of scattered ranches raising livestock. The construction of the Lewelling McCormick Ditch permitted irrigation of the land along the river. Alfalfa was the primary crop, hence the name of the post office.

Beginning at US Highway 350, drive east on US 160 ten and one-half miles to Las Animas County Road 32.0. This is more of a ranch access road than a county road. The road goes to a ranch complex where it forks. One fork continues through the ranch and crosses the river. The other fork turns northwest along the river towards the sites of Downing and Raton.

I visited this ranch in May 2001. I had the opportunity to talk with one resident who had no information about these early settlements. She did give me permission to cross the river and explore the site of Alfalfa on the north side

ALFALFA – Continued

The river crossing is little more than a slab of concrete spanning the channel and at this point the Purgatoire looks more like a swamp than a river. About a mile from the crossing the road forks. One branch climbs away from the river. A mile northeast from the fork on the east side of the road, there is some disturbed earth that could have been the remains of a cellar pit and foundation. This is at about the right place for the second location of the Alfalfa Post Office.

I returned to the road junction and went a mile further to the east, looking to see if there was anything on the south side of the river that I could associate with the first location of Alfalfa. I saw nothing, although brush and trees might hide some remnants. Examining that location using Google Earth, showed no evidence of any structures.

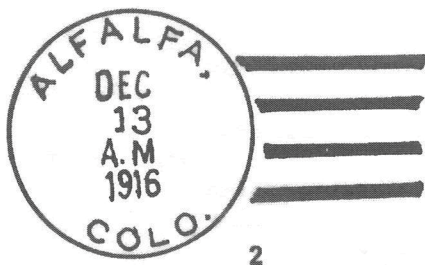
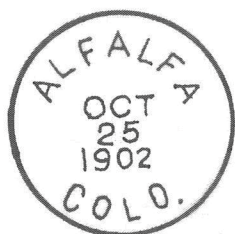
At the road junction there is a windmill, a small shed and the remains of a good-sized stone building but I do not think it had any direct connection to the Alfalfa Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Feb 26 1878 --- NE/4 Sec 28 T32S R61W On the south side of the Purgatoire, 4 miles north of Dry Creek
On document Raton is crossed out and Alfalfa substituted
Accompanying note: The valley of the Las Animas River is settled 35 miles below
Trinidad. Raton serves the lowermost end of the valley, receiving more mail
than the 15 miles of valley lying above & between Raton & El Moro. Nature has made
Raton the terminus of the route that shall in future serve this rich valley
Samuel W. DeBusk
P.M. at Raton
Apparently the Purgatoire Canyon begins at this point
- Apr 19 1881 Moved from Raton
- Apr 19 1881 DeBusk, Miss Jennie
- Sep 18 1882 Discontinued Papers to Linwood
- Jan 7 1885 Re-established
- Jan 7 1885 Titsworth, Benjamin
- Dec 9 1886 --- NE/4 Sec 1 T33S R61W 200 yards on south bank of the Purgatoire River
Proposed postmaster - Benjamin Titsworth
- Dec 26 1889 Discontinued Papers to Downing
- Dec 2 1899 --- NE/4 Sec 31 T32S R60W 1 mile north of the Las Animas River
2 miles north of San Francisco Creek
Proposed postmaster - Eduardo Gonzales
- Jan 31 1900 Re-established
- Jan 31 1900 Gonzales, Eduardo
- May 29 1903 Pedilla, Teofilo
- Jul 13 1907 Gonzales, Eduardo
- Dec 15 1923 Discontinued Mail to Model

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| 1 | ALFALFA / COLO.
CI 10P 29.0 | Hstp Not present | Oct 25 1902 |
| 2 | ALFALFA, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Dec 13 1916 |



ANDRIX

Andrix has been described as a rural post office ten miles northeast of Kim. From what Jim Ozment and I found when we visited the site in May 1998 it was somewhat more than the usual rural, ranch or farm post office.

Walker was the name proposed for this post office. That was rejected for the common reason of avoiding confusion with a Walker Post Office in Siskiyou County, California. I have no information as to why the name Walker was proposed or for the chosen substitute name of Andrix.

Andrix was located on US Highway 160 at the intersection with Las Animas County Road 215, six miles west of the Las Animas - Baca County line.

We found four seemingly abandoned buildings and the foundations of other structures. One of the buildings made of stone, is in good shape and may be used to shelter livestock or temporarily store equipment. Another building has the appearance of having been a store or service station or likely both. As such it could have been home to the Andrix Post Office.

These buildings are on the south side of US 160 and straddle Road 215, which crosses US 160.

Latitude = 37:16:46 North Longitude = 103:11:32 West ANDRIX

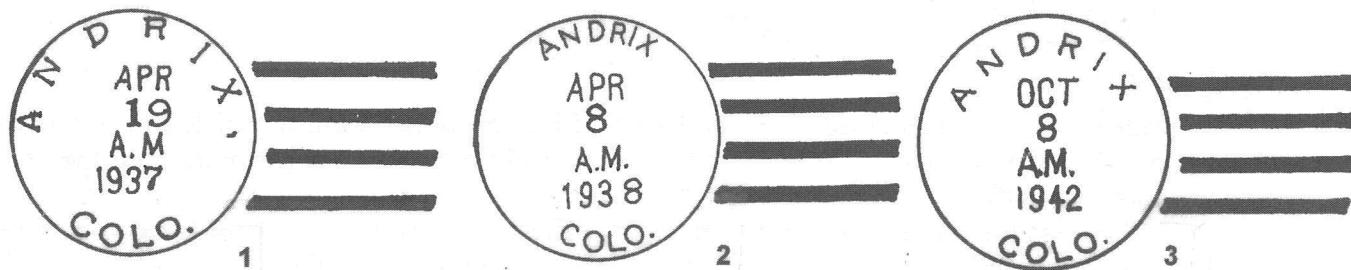
Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 8 1919	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 7 T32S R51W Proposed name Walker - rejected	
Feb 16 1920		Established	
Feb 16 1920		Winfrey, Harley G.	
Jan 17 1922		Lynch, Lena J.	Acting
Jan 18 1922		Lynch, Lena J.	Appointed
May 15 1922		Lynch, John W.	Acting
May 15 1922		Lynch, John W.	Appointed
Nov 25 1922		Haight, William H.	
May 13 1924		Cox, Mrs. Icie M.	Acting
May 20 1924		Cox, Mrs. Icie M.	Appointed
Jun 18 1929		Hopper, Viada	Confirmed
Aug 31 1933		Ordered closed Effective Sep 15 1933	Mail to Kim
Sep 14 1933		Order rescinded	
Dec 20 1933		Howard, Rufus Murray	Confirmed
Jan 19 1934		Howard, Rufus Murray	Commissioned
Jan 27 1934		Howard, Rufus Murray	Assumed charge
Mar 13 1937		Allen, Mrs. Nora Fern	Confirmed
Mar 27 1937		Allen, Mrs. Nora Fern	Commissioned
Apr 4 1937		Allen, Mrs. Nora Fern	Assumed charge
Nov 22 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 12 T33S R52W	On north side of U.S. 160 (note - "probably means '32'")
Dec 2 1952		Discontinued	Mail to Uteville

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ANDRIX, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 19 1937	Apr 23 1947
2	ANDRIX / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Feb 23 1938	May 18 1940
3	ANDRIX / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 2 1942	Aug 19 1948

ANDRIX – Continued



APISHAPA

Apishapa began as a stage station on the route of the Denver and Santa Fe Stage Company. A post office operated briefly from 1867 to 1868. In 1872 when the post office was reopened, Captain James Foster and his wife operated it. The Apishapa Post Office was again closed from 1872 to 1876. By that time the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was supplanting the stage line.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports, filed for Apishapa in 1867 and 1875 do not make it clear where the place was located. The *Historic Trail Map of the Trinidad 1° x 2° Quadrangle, Southern Colorado* by Glenn Scott helps to clarify the situation. That map places Foster's Stage Station at the place where in 1876 the railroad would cross Apishapa Creek.

Another unresolved question relating to Apishapa is where the San Antonia Post Office, for which there is no Site Location Report, was located before it was moved to Apishapa. Again referring to the map by Glenn Scott, one finds that the present day site of Aguilar was, in 1875, known as San Antonio Plaza. It is not unreasonable to assume that with the arrival of the railroad the San Antonia Post Office was closed and moved to the railroad.

The Apishapa Post Office continued to have an erratic existence. It was closed in November 1909. It reopened in August 1910 but was "moved" in September 1911 to Augusta. However, the 1914 Site Location Report for Augusta places it at the same site that in 1910 was reported for Apishapa.

Considering all of these questions and possibilities, I believe that the Apishapa Post Office was basically at the same location from the time it first opened in 1867 until it became Augusta in 1911.

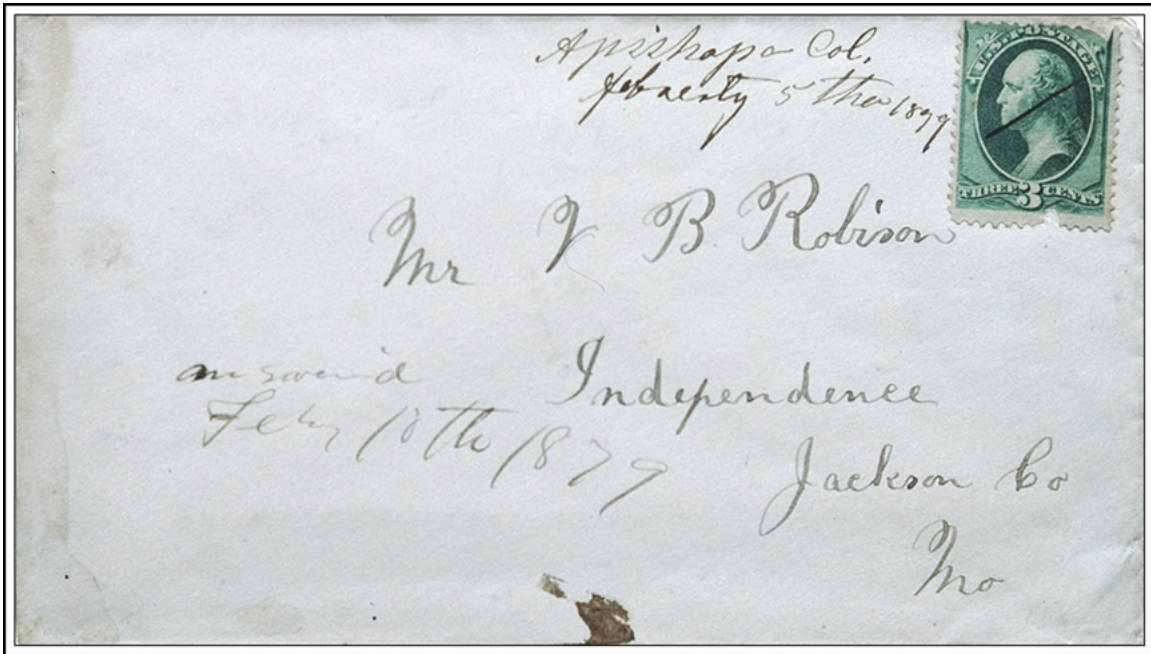
Pioneer Trinidad doctor Michael Beshoar wrote the following:

"Apishapa, (a-pish-a-pa) is so-called because the stream usually ceases to flow during the summertime, and the holes of water remaining in the river bed become stagnant and offensive to the smell." "The Indians, for that reason gave it the name it bears, meaning the "Stinking River," or "Stinking Water"."

Apishapa was a railroad post office and a farming and ranching community. However, for a number of years the DuPont Powder Company operated a powder works and storage facility about a mile north of Apishapa. It is reasonable to assume that workers at that factory lived in the immediate vicinity of Apishapa.

Take Exit 34 from Interstate 25 and drive two and a half miles east on Las Animas County Road 60.0 to Road 61.0. In 2001 there was a small ranch complex and a couple of doublewides south of Road 61.0. To the north, the remnants of several stone buildings that were part of the DuPont Powder Works are visible from Road 60.0.

APISHAPA – Continued



Apishapa Col. February 5th, 1879

Chronology of the Post Office

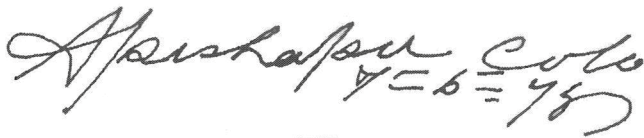
- Aug 1 1867 --- Unserved On the south side of Apishapa Creek
- Aug 26 1867 Established
- Aug 26 1867 Odenheimer, John M.
- Jul 23 1868 Discontinued
- Nov 11 1872 Re-established
- Nov 11 1872 Foster, James A.
- Dec 2 1872 Covert, Isaac N.
- Jan 5 1874 Cushing, Edward N.
- May 24 1875 Discontinued
- Jul 3 1875 --- LOCATION IS NOT CLEAR. SE/4 Sec ?? T30S, R65W.
Sketch map seems to place it in NE/4 of Sec 4, but that is
questionable; near and on the north side of Apishapa Creek
- Aug 7 1876 Moved from San Antonia
- Aug 7 1876 Bunyon, John
- Sep 18 1876 --- NW/4 Sec 20 T30S R64W On the south side of the Apishapa River,
on the west side of the D&RG RR
- Feb 10 1882 Discontinued Mail to Trinidad
- Mar 21 1882 Re-established
- Mar 21 1882 Simpson, Joseph W.
- Oct 30 1882 Norman, George W.
- Jun 5 1886 Allen, Jefferson D.
- Jun 26 1890 Rogers James A.
- Sep 12 1890 Rogers, Celia A.
- Apr 9 1892 Miller, Annie
- Oct 15 1894 Huskinson, Frank W.
- Mar 18 1896 Discontinued
- Mar 1 1896 Closing order rescinded
- Apr 1 1896 Re-established

APISHAPA – Continued

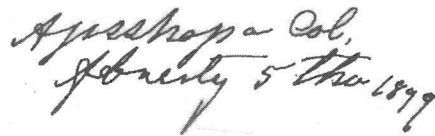
Aug 23 1896	Towse, Eunice
Dec 11 1896	McDonough, Mary
Dec 20 1899	Biggs, Winnie A,
Oct 10 1900	King, Mattie E.
Sep 23 1902	Kelley, Mattie A.
Dec 15 1904	Hudson, Nelia
Nov 30 1909	Discontinued Mail to Chicosa
Jun 20 1910 ---	Re-establishment NW/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W 100 yards south of the Apishapa 100 feet west of the D&RG RR
Aug 1 1910	Re-established
Aug 1 1910	Ball, Warner
Sep 27 1911	Moved to Augusta

Confirmed types of postal markings

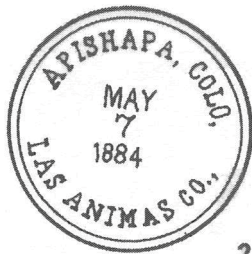
1.A	Apishapa Colo MS	Mscp Pencil cancel	Jul 6 1878 Oct 23 1881
1.B	Apishapa Col. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Feb 5 1879
2	APISHAPA, COLO, / LAS ANIMAS CO. CI 20P 33.0/30.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	May 7 1884
3	APISHAPA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3 ring 16mm	Mar 23 1889
4	APISHAPA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 9 1900
5	APISHAPA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Apr 13 1908 Sep 2- 1908
6	Apishapa Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 27 1910 Nov 18 1910
7	APISHAPA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 12 1911 May 28 1911



1.A



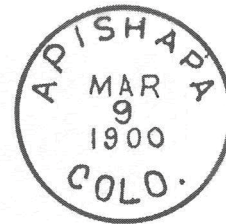
1.B



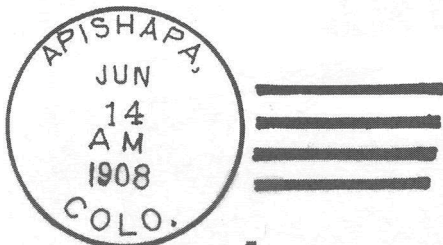
2



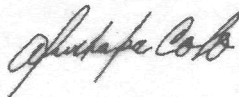
3



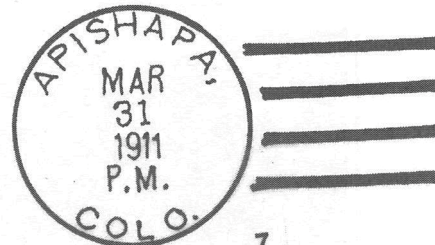
4



5



6



7

ATWELL

Atwell was another of the many rural or ranch post offices in eastern Las Animas County. At the site there is no evidence of a larger community than a single ranch.

Atwell is also one of the many post office in Las Animas County that were denied their first choice for a name. In this case the preference was for Alva but that was rejected in favor of Atwell. The first postmaster's name was Alva Atwell, so the end result was that the post office did take his name.

Go to the intersection of US Highway 160 with Colorado 389 and turn south. This is the road to Branson. Drive south seven and one-half miles to Las Animas County Road 8.0 and turn east on that road. One mile from Colorado 389 the road turns north but it is not much more than a farm road.

After making the second turn, I drove a mile north to the to the common corner of sections 23, 24, 25, and 26. At that point I found some men putting up a new fence. I told them that I was looking for the site of the Atwell Post Office. One of them said, "That was about four or five miles northeast of here." My response was to tell them that my information placed it in the southeast corner of Section 24. Remember we were at the southwest corner of that section and on top of the USGS marker for that corner. Their response was "Oh. In that case it was that building, pointing along the fence line to a crumbling ruin in the distance. They gave me permission to drive through the field to take photographs.

When I returned to where they were working, we talked some more about what I was doing. When I mentioned the Alcreek Post Office, one of them stated that it was his ranch I had photographed earlier in the day and it was indeed the location of the Alcreek Post Office.



The remains of a stone building at the site of Atwell, Colorado

Photograph by William H. Bauer

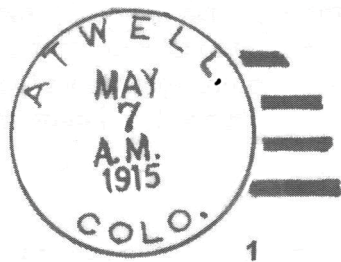
May 9, 2001

ATWELL – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 20 1914	---	S/2 SE/4 Sec 24 T34S R58W 10 rods west of Yachita Canyon or Creek [This is now called Bachicha Creek] Name requested as Alva - rejected Proposed postmaster - Alva G. Atwell
Jan 29 1915		Established
Jan 29 1915		Atwell, Alva C. [Prob. error in Appts transcription; signature on PO request is clearly G.]
Oct 15 1915		Wilson, Daniel S.
Jul 13 1917		Wilson, Thomas S.
Jan 5 1918		Wilson, Daniel S.
Mar 29 1920		Walker, Winnie H.
Aug 31 1920		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ATWELL, / COLO. May 7 1915
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x19mm

**AUGUSTA**

In 1910 after a short hiatus in operation, the Apishapa Post Office reopened. The next year it was supposedly moved to Augusta. However, the Geographical Site Location Reports filed for Apishapa in 1910 and Augusta in 1914, place the post office at the same location. I conclude that this was a change in name not a move of the post office.

There was a large stockyard at Augusta and it was a water stop on the railroad. The presence of the DuPont Powder Works, less than a mile north of Augusta, must have had some effect on the activity at Augusta.

In 1925, the post office was moved to a new location, a mile west of the original location.

Take Exit 34 from Interstate 25 and drive two and a half miles east on Las Animas County Road 60.0 to Road 61.0. In 2001 there was a small ranch complex and a couple of doublewides south of Road 61.0. This was the location of Apishapa and the initial location of Augusta.

In 2001, a mile back to the west and on the south side of Road 60.0 there was the remnants of one small building. That ruin was in the appropriate location for the 1925 site of Augusta.

To the north, the remnants of several stone buildings that were part of the DuPont Powder Works are visible from Road 60.0.

Chronology of the Post Office

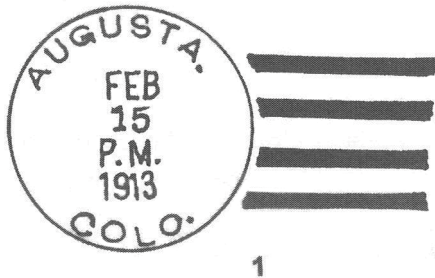
Jun 20 1910	---	Re-establishment, NW/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W 100 yards south of the Apishapa 100 feet west of the D&RG RR [Report filed for Apishapa]
Sep 27 1911		Moved from Apishapa
Sep 27 1911		Ball, Warner

AUGUSTA – Continued

Sep 13 1913	Wright, Parmenas E. B.
May 19 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 20, T30S R64W 60 yards southwest of the Apishapa River 36 yards west of the D&RG tracks
Jul 11 1916	Roberts, Arthur E.
Mar 7 1918	Rose, Forest B.
Nov 19 1919	Seaft, Frank A.
Aug 11 1922	De la Mater, Charles F.
Apr 18 1925 ---	NE/4 Sec 24 T30S R65W 1/4 mile north of the Apishapa River 1-1/2 miles west of the D&RGW RR
Aug 28 1925	De la Mater, Gilbert
Feb 1 1927	Miller, William H.
Apr 20 1928	Ordered closed
May 15 1928	Discontinued Mail to Aguilar

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	AUGUSTA. / COLO.	Feb 15 1913	Mar 9 1928
	CI 10P 32.0		4bars S-24x20mm



AYLMER

Aylmer was a post office on the Colorado and Southern Railroad. There seems to have been some problem with the appointment of the first postmaster, most likely difficulty in securing the necessary bond and qualification. That was resolved and on March 23, 1900 the post office was open for business.

In September 1906 the name of the post office was changed to Bowen and continued operating at the same location.

I have not found any information as to the source of the name Aylmer. The change in name honored Thomas E Bowen, a Del Norte lawyer and United States Senator who was involved in numerous mining activities in Colorado.

The location of Aylmer, and those of Bowen were near the tracks of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. The sites were at the foot of the hills that lie west of Interstate 25. Numerous coal seams were present in those hills and led to the development of many coal mines and associated towns. There were coal mines a mile or so to the west of this settlement and it seems likely that Aylmer/Bowen provided housing and services for the miners. Access to the railroad would have facilitated shipment of the coal.

To visit the sites of Aylmer and Bowen, take Exit 18 from Interstate 25 and go north on the west frontage road (Las Animas County Road 71.1). Go one mile north, which will bring you to the vicinity of the location of Aylmer (and the first and second sites of Bowen). Another half-mile and you will be near the third site of Bowen. I suspect that the locations were between the frontage road and the railroad.

There is little to be seen here. There are a few homes some distance west of the road, but no early structures remain. I did find one place with what appeared to be a floor and some upright posts. I could not determine if it was new construction or demolition of an older building.

AYLMER – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 28 1899 --- NW/4 Sec 19 T32S R63W
 Dec 14 1899 Established
 Dec 14 1900 Hindman, David R.
 Feb 20 1900 Establishment rescinded
 Mar 23 1900 Re-authorized
 Mar 23 1900 Hindman, David R.
 Apr 28 1904 Morris, C. A.
 Dec 5 1904 Pharis, Lee Roy
 Sep 18 1906 Name changed to Bowen

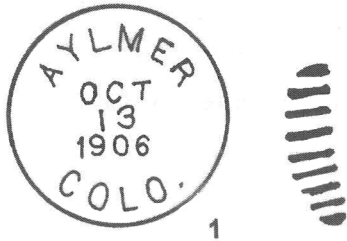
Order rescinded Feb 20 1900

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 AYLMEER / COLO.
 CI 10P 28.5

Oct 13 1906

Hstp Grid, oval

**BARELA**

Barela began as San Francisco Plaza, located on San Francisco Creek. The early settlers were primarily of Mexican origin and sheep raising was their principal activity. There was some agriculture along the stream.

During its history, the place had a number of different names. Among these were San Francisco, Barela Plaza, Barela Junction and Barela Station. A post office with the name of Glenham was established here in 1873 but a year later the name was changed to Barela.

The post office was named for Senator Casimiro Barela who lived nearby. Casimiro Barela began serving Las Animas County in the Territorial Legislature and continued in service for forty years. He had extensive properties in Las Animas County, in New Mexico, Old Mexico and a coffee plantation in Brazil.

When the Denver, Texas, and Fort Worth Railroad was constructed from Trinidad across southern Las Animas County a station was established at Barela. The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe now operate the railroad and there is a siding at Barela.

Beginning at Trinchera drive westward on Las Animas County Road 8.8. When the road crosses San Isidro Creek, it becomes Road 105.5. It retains that designation for six miles to Barela and the intersection with Road 12.5.

In 2001 there was a large, active ranch-farm complex at the intersection of the roads. Several of the buildings are quite old but there are some newer structures.

Latitude = 37:06:56 North Longitude = 104:15:40 West BARELA

BARELA – Continued



BARELA, / COLO.

September 1, 1887

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 24 1873 --- SW/4 Sec 2 T34S R61W On the west side of San Francisco Creek
[Report filed for Glenham]
- Jul 28 1874 Formerly named Glenham
- Jul 28 1874 Barela, Casimiro
- Nov 25 1884 De Herrera, Julian
- May 21 1886 Discontinued Papers to Trinidad
- Mar 19 1887 Re-established
- Mar 19 1887 Martinez, Santiago
- Jan 9 1891 Barela, Casimiro
- Oct 19 1896 Discontinued Papers to Trinidad
- Nov 24 1901 --- NW/4 Sec 5 T34S R61W 200 yards south of San Francisco Creek
30 feet south of Colorado & Southern track, Barela Station
- Apr 9 1902 Re-established
- Apr 9 1902 Benton, Sylvanus H.
- Mar 27 1903 Newcomb, John R.
- Mar 17 1906 Newcomb, Clarence P.
- Dec 24 1913 Parke, Mary E.
- Apr 23 1914 --- NE/4 Sec 32 T33S R61W 1/4 mile southeast of the San Francisco River
- Sep 30 1931 Discontinued Mail to Trinchera

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--|-------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | BARELA, / COLORADO.
CI 21P 28.0/26.5/18.0 | Hstp Cork | Jul 31 1882 |
| 2 | BARELA, / COLO.
CI 10T 28.0 | Hstp Target | Sep 1 1887 |
| 3 | BARELA / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5 | Hstp Target | Jun 19 1889 Dec 13 1889 |

BARELA – Continued

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 4 | BARELA / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Feb 7 1917 Sep 30 1931
4bars S-??x20mm |
| 5 | BARELA / COLO. M.O.B.
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | Jan 4 1923
Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |



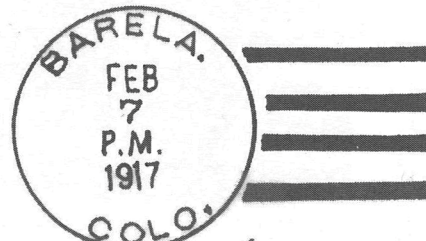
1



2



3



4

BEACON

Beacon was one of the three post offices that operated in Brodhead Canyon, about two miles northwest of Aguilar. The Brodhead Post Office was in operation from 1902 to 1913 and again from 1915 to 1939. The Green Canon Post Office opened in 1909 and in 1910 the name was changed to Beacon. The Beacon Post Office closed in 1913, a few months after the first closure of the Brodhead office.

From 1909 to 1913 the Beacon/Green Canon and Brodhead Post Offices were separated by, at most one mile, probably less. Why were two post offices necessary in such close proximity? Both offices were connected to coal mines so perhaps there was rivalry between the operations of the two camps that precluded cooperation on something as simple as postal service.

Green Canon (Beacon) has been described as a railroad post office at the terminus of a short line through Aguilar to the Brodhead Mine. I have found no information to separate the mines at this location, but I suspect that there was more than one operating company.

The railroad was a branch line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. No evidence remains at the site but I suspect that there were living accommodations for the miners and perhaps a company store.

Enter Aguilar from the east on Las Animas County Road 63.1 and drive through the town to the west. On the west edge of Aguilar keep to the right. Road 63.1 will become a dirt road and curve to the northwest into Brodhead Canyon. In 2001 I was only able to go one and a half miles from the Aguilar Post Office on Main Street before encountering a locked gate. At that point I could look up the valley but the only things visible were several mine dumps.

I believe I was looking at the early site of Brodhead and the sites of Beacon and Green Canon. The later site of Brodhead was around a bend and out of view from where I had to stop.

This is another of the locations to which, for reasons of safety and security, public access to the mine sites is prohibited.

An examination of this area using Google Earth, shows some evidence of the mining activity. However, it appears that much of residue has been cleaned up and there are no remaining structures.

Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Jan 14 1909 | --- | SW/4 Sec 16 T30S R65W [Report filed for Green Canon] |
| Aug 11 1910 | | Moved from Green Canon |
| Aug 11 1910 | | Bartlett, Perry F. |
| Jan 23 1911 | --- | No survey data included 3 1/2 miles from Aguilar One mile south of Brodhead
Town or village is known as Green Canon |
| Sep 19 1911 | | Bullington, Joseph H. |
| Nov 15 1913 | | Discontinued Mail to Aguilar |

BEACON – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BEACON

BENT CANYON

James Benson was the station agent at Bent Canyon on the stage road along the Purgatoire River. He became the first postmaster when a post office was established there in 1872.

Bent Canyon is described as a diffuse community along the Purgatoire River and its tributary side canyons. It included ranches and farms scattered on the river bottomlands. The Cordova Plaza at the mouth of Chacuaco Creek, was perhaps the most significant settlement. Many of the residents were Hispanic.

After the stage station was no longer in use, the Bent Canyon Post Office continued to operate until 1902. The Cordovas' sold their property, the plaza was abandoned and most of the residents departed. Bent Canyon ceased to be a viable community.

Reportedly, the ruins of the Bent Canyon Stage Station are still present in the canyon. However, there is no public access since the area is now within the boundaries of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area. I have been told that on occasion the Forest Service has conducted tours into the area.

Prior to the closure of the area, access would have been from Colorado Highway 109 in Otero County. Near the site of Higbee a road goes to the southwest along the west side of the Purgatoire River but a locked gate will be encountered before you reach the Otero-Bent County line.

Using Google Earth I believe that I was able to follow the Purgatoire River to the Bent Canyon location. At that point there are roads and some buildings, however, I believe that may be evidence of the military activity in the area.



Bent Canon / Colo

February 22, 1881

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 25 1872 --- Unsurveyed Fort Lyon 45 miles northeast Trinidad 55 miles southwest
Mar 28 1872 Established

BENT CANYON – Continued

Mar 28 1872	Benson, James
Jan 22 1878	Rourke, Eugene
Feb 26 1878 ---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 23 T28S R56W 1/8 mile north of Las Animas (Purgatoire) River 2-1/2 miles northwest of Chicoquo Creek
Jul 3 1883	Lopes, Damacia
May 11 1886	Rourke, Eugene
Jul 14 1892	Warren, James H.
Oct 9 1896	Lopez, Damacio
May 26 1898	Padilla, Apolonia S.
Jul 9 1898	Padilla, Eusebio
Jan 13 1900	Cisnero, Abraham J.
Jan 10 1901	Richardson, James L.
Mar 2 1901	Lopez, Damacio
Jun 13 1902	Ordered closed
Jun 30 1902	Discontinued Papers to Higbee

Confirmed types of postal markings

1.A	Bent Canon MS	Oct 10 1873 Mscp Pen cancel
1.B	Bent Canon / Colo MS	Mar 2 1880 Jun 14 1881 Mscp Cork, Smudge; Pen cancel
2	BENT CANYON / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 25 1899 Hstp Not present

Bent Canon Oct 10/73

1.A

*Bent Canon
Colo 3-1-81*

1.B



2

BERWIND

The coal mine at Berwind dates back to 1888 when it was opened by the Colorado Coal and Iron Company. It was located in Road Canyon, southeast of the site of Ludlow. The mine and the subsequent community were named for E. J. Berwind, chairman of the Board of directors of the Colorado Coal and Iron Company. By 1901 almost 400 men were working in the mines at Berwind.

Initially the mine and the town were called El Moro but that name conflicted with the town of El Moro near Trinidad, hence the change in name. In 1892 The Colorado Coal and Iron Company became part of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company, which took over the operations at Berwind and the neighboring mines at Tabasco and Tollerburg.

Berwind was on the Road Canyon Railway, a spur line from Ludlow that continued up the canyon to Vallorso.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25 drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of these roads. Turn south on Road 61.5 to Road 40.2. Go west one and seven-tenths miles on Road 40.2. Tabasco was in this area. Continue another mile on road 40.2. You will pass the remnants of several buildings along the south side of the road and also a couple of modern buildings. Berwind and Tabasco were in that general area but it is difficult to separate Berwind from what was Tabasco as there was less than a mile between the two communities

BERWIND – Continued



BERWIND / COLO. February 2, 1905

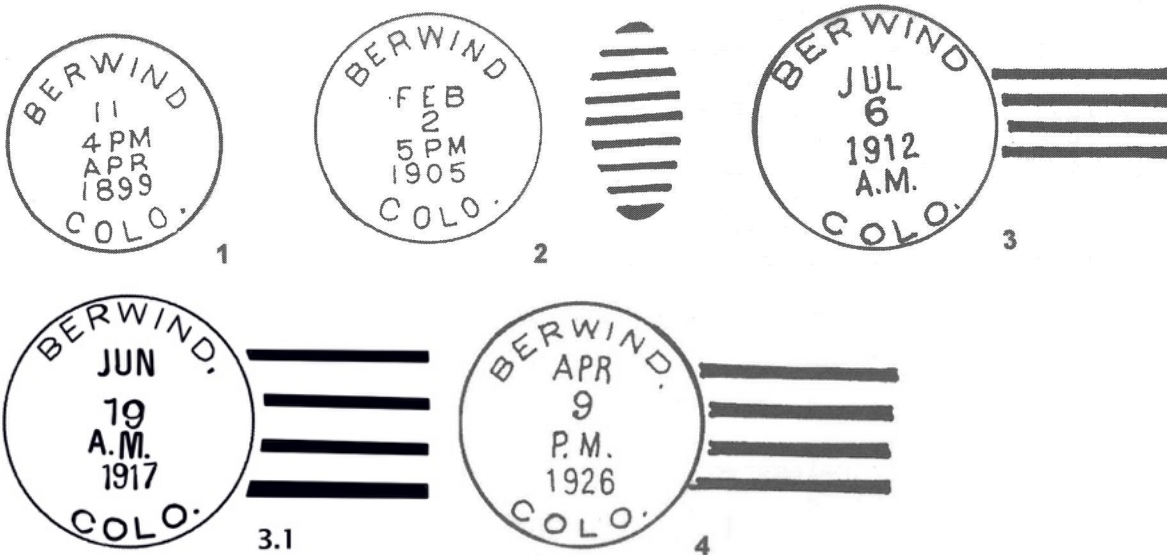
Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 4 1892 ---	NE/4 Sec 36 T31S R65W 1/4 mile northwest of the Purgatoire	
	Proposed postmaster - Andrew R. Fellows	
Mar 10 1892	Established	
Mar 10 1892	Fellows, Andrew R.	
Jan 11 1893	Damon, William E.	
Dec 7 1893	Aiello, John	
Nov 12 1903	Rickleman, Frank B.	
Jun 22 1905	Jennings, John	
Oct 10 1905	McGarvey, James P.	
Apr 3 1911	Young, Felix J.	
Jan 6 1912	Arnold, Chester M.	
Aug 9 1912	Wise, Edward B.	
Dec 5 1913	Young, Felix J.	
May 23 1914 ---	NE/4 Sec 36 T31S R65W 200 feet northwest of Rock Canon	
Feb 20 1919	Chambers, Charles C.	
Mar 18 1920	Tatum, Julian P.	
Jul 1 1926		Office made Presidential
Jul 2 1926	Tatum, Julian P.	P&S
Jul 1 1930		Office relegated
Apr 23 1930	Heard, Shannon S.	Possession
Apr 16 1930	Heard, Shannon S.	Acting
Feb 7 1931	Heard, Shannon S.	Appointed
May 27 1931	Ordered closed	
May 30 1931	Discontinued Mail to Ludlow	

BERWIND – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BERWIND / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Apr 11 1899
2	BERWIND / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jan 17 1898 Feb 2 1905
3	BERWIND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x10mm	Dec 20 1910 Jul 6 1912
3.1	BERWIND, COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Mar 14 1914 Jun 19 1917
4	BERWIND, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x17mm	Apr 9 1926 Feb 18 1930



BESHOAR

Beshoar or Beshoar Junction was located on the Colorado and Southern Railroad about four miles east of El Moro. Beshoar has been mentioned in a number of historical discussions of this portion of Las Animas County but very little has been said about what or whom it may have served.

It seems possible that there was some coal mining in the general area and of course ranching was the dominant agricultural pursuit.

Beshoar was named for Michael Beshoar, an early physician who also held a number of local political offices, served in the state legislature and in 1882 published *All About Trinidad and Las Animas County, Colorado*.

During World War II the Trinidad Internment Camp for Prisoners of War was located some two miles south of the site of Beshoar.

Beshoar was located near the intersection of US Highways 350 and 160, east of Trinidad. A short distance east of the intersection of the highways, Las Animas County Road 81.5 goes to the south from US 160. Beshoar was in the area between the roads and the railroad. In 1998 most of that area was open with only a few houses and mobile homes widely scattered across the landscape.

Latitude = 37:13:05 North Longitude = 104:24:22 West BESHOAR

BESHOAR – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

Oct 5 1900	SW/4 Sec 25 T32S R63W East side of Colorado & Southern, 30 feet, Beshoar Junction
Jan 25 1901	Established
Jan 25 1901	Nelson, Sadie
Jun 30 1903	Discontinued Papers to Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BESHOAR / COLO.	Jul 8 1902
	CI 10P 28.5	Dplx Smudge



BONCARBO

Boncarbo was another of the coal mining towns in the western portion of Las Animas County. Mining at Boncarbo appears to have begun before 1906 when the Denver and Rio Grande Railway built a branch line from Jansen to Cokedale and on to Boncarbo. Operations terminated before 1950. The post office has continued in operation, serving nearby ranchers and visitors to the area.

Most of the coal mined at Boncarbo was shipped to the coke ovens at Cokedale, five miles to the southeast.

Stevens was the name proposed for this post office. For an unspecified reason that name was rejected. The name Boncarbo is derived from the French "bon" meaning good, and "charbon" meaning coal or "carbone" meaning carbon. The choice of the name is attributed to Abe Thomson, an official of the American Smelting and Refining Company that operated the coal mines at Boncarbo.

A small town developed around the mines at Boncarbo. Even though most of the town has disappeared, the mine dumps are prominent and there are still a few residences in the immediate area.

My first visit to Boncarbo was in 1972 and the post office was in an old two-story brick building. When I returned in 2001 it was in a new building, of typical post office architecture for small offices. I did not notice if the old building was still standing.

There is some natural gas production in this area of Las Animas County.

Boncarbo can be reached as a continuation of the trip from Ludlow through Vallorso via Las Animas County Road 40.2, to Road 47.7, to Road 51.0, and finally to the intersection with Road 30.1. Turn northwest on Road 30.1 and you are in Boncarbo.

Another choice is to drive west from Trinidad on Colorado Highway 12 to Las Animas County Road 51.0 at Cokedale. Turn north and it is five miles to Boncarbo.

The location of Boncarbo is closely associated with the location of the Dicks Post Office (1926-1935).

Latitude = 37:13:00 North Longitude = 104:41:40 West BONCARBO

Chronology of the Post Office

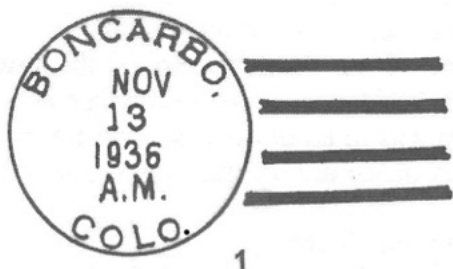
Aug 30 1917	--	SE/4 NW/4 Sec 32 T32S R65W
		Name proposed as Stevens – rejected

BONCARBO – Continued

Nov 15 1917	Established	
Nov 15 1917	Keller, Frank H.	
Aug 9 1919	Brown, John T.	
Dec 18 1922	Straub, Joseph	
Sep 16 1924	Martin, Otis A.	
Jun 19 1928	Snow, Karl H.	Acting
Nov 13 1928	Snow, Karl H.	Appointed
Jan 18 1930	Staub, Mrs. Ruth J.	Acting
Jan 30 1930	Staub, Mrs. Ruth J.	Confirmed
Mar 20 1930	Staub, Mrs. Ruth J.	Commissioned.
Feb 26 1935	Ordered closed Effective Mar 15 1934 Mail to Dicks	
Mar 10 1935	Order rescinded	
Apr 5 1937	Meek, Mrs. Irene Luella	Confirmed
Apr 19 1937	Meek, Mrs. Irene Luella	Commissioned
May 1 1937	Meek, Mrs. Irene Luella	Assumed charge
Jul 3 1937	Brelsford, Mrs. Martha	Confirmed
Jul 18 1937	Brelsford, Mrs. Martha	Commissioned
Jul 29 1937	Brelsford, Mrs. Martha	Assumed charge
Oct 23 1941 ---	T32S(or T33S) R65W 180 feet SW of RR tracks Sketch map shows in NW/4 NE/4 Sec 5 T33S R65W	
Sep 27 1947 ---	No survey location given D&RG tracks 100 feet west of post office	
Oct 11 1974	Kosovich, Mrs. Ann	Officer in charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BONCARBO. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Nov 13 1936 Jan 28 1943
2	BONCARBO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 17 1948 Feb 15 1955
2.1	BONCARBO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jan 29 1960
3	BONCARBO / COLO. CI 11P 31.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 12 1978
3.1	BONCARBO, CO / 81024 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Mar 17 1969 Oct 12 1978
4	BONCARBO, CO / 81024 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x18mm	May 7 2001



BOWEN

In 1906 the name of the Aylmer Post Office was changed to Bowen. For several years the post office remained at the same location as Aylmer. In 1914 it moved a short distance to the west and in 1922 it was moved north about a half-mile.

Bowen was named for Thomas E. Bowen, a lawyer from Del Norte and a United States Senator from Colorado.

All three locations of Bowen were near the tracks of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. The site was at the foot of the hills that lie west of Interstate 25. Numerous coal seams were present in those hills and led to the development of many coal mines and associated towns. There were coal mines a mile or so to the west of Bowen and it seems likely that Bowen provided housing and services for the miners. Access to the railroad would have facilitated shipment of the coal.

To visit the site of Bowen, and Aylmer, take Exit 18 from Interstate 25 and go north on the west frontage road (Las Animas County Road 71.1). Go one mile north, which will bring you to the vicinity of the first two locations of Bowen (and the site of Aylmer). Another half-mile and you will be near the third site of Bowen. I suspect that the locations were between the frontage road and the railroad.

There is little to be seen here. There are a few homes, some distance west of the road but no early structures remain. I did find one place with what appeared to be a floor and some upright posts. I could not determine if it was new construction or the demolition of an older building.

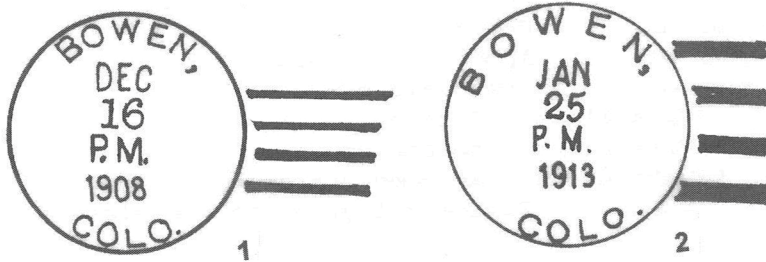
Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 28 1899	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T32S R63W [Report filed for Aylmer]	
Sep 18 1906		Formerly named Aylmer	
Sep 18 1906		Pharis, Lee R.	
Jun 8 1907		Shean, Albert	
Apr 7 1908		Geiger, Warren	
Oct 7 1909		Eshey, Joshua H.	
Aug 23 1910		Streat, Edward C.	
Jan 28 1913		Givens, David T.	
May 5 1914	---	1850 ft S of the NE corner of section 24 T32S R64W	
		West side of Colorado & Southern, 1/4 mile from the track	
Nov 20 1915		Howe, James W.	
Jul 1 1919		Sterling, Albert W.	Declined
Dec 10 1919		Morgan, Carl M.	
Feb 23 1922	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T32S R64W 1000 feet west of the Colorado & Southern tracks	
Aug 11 1922		Begano, Frank	
May 21 1924		Thomas, Henry C.	Acting
Jul 24 1924		Thomas, Henry C.	Appointed
Apr 28 1926		Nicola, John A.	Acting
May 29 1926		Nicola, John A.	Appointed
Jan 11 1929		Ordered closed	
Jan 15 1929		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BOWEN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Nov 27 1908 Sep 21 1911
2	BOWEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Jan 25 1913

BOWEN – Continued



BRANSON

At times this place has been known as Wilson, Wilson Switch and Coloflats. In 1915 under the name of Coloflats, a post office was first established here. In 1918 the name was changed to Branson. Most accounts attribute that name to A. L. Branson who was a hardware merchant, president of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and a leading factor in the establishment of Branson as a town.

Another possibility is that it was named for R. J. Branson who owned the townsite. It would not be surprising to discover a family relationship between these two men.

Branson is located on the Colorado and Southern Railroad. On March 26, 1921 a town plat was filed for Branson. A community did develop, supplying services to the surrounding countryside and providing a shipping point for the livestock being raised in this portion of Las Animas County.

Branson (Coloflats) is reached by driving south from US Highway 160 on Colorado Highway 389. It is situated about a mile north of the Colorado-New Mexico State line.

As a community, Branson has not been growing. There are still a few small businesses, a number of residences and a community church. The post office, at least since 1975, has been in a long, single-story, white building facing US 389, just north of the junction with Las Animas County Road 4.0. I do have a 1994 photograph of a large two-story gray brick building that may have been home to the post office prior to 1975.

Latitude = 37:01:03 North Longitude = 103:53:02 West BRANSON

Chronology of the Post Office

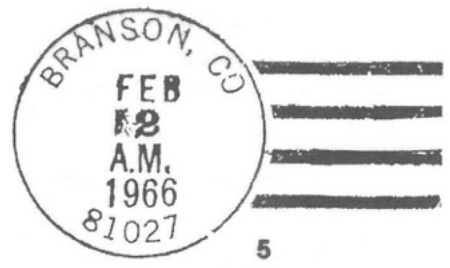
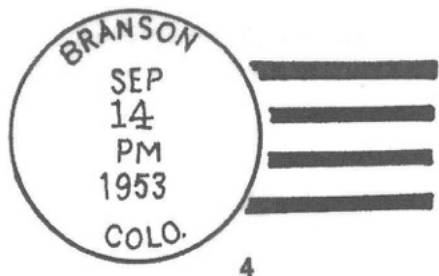
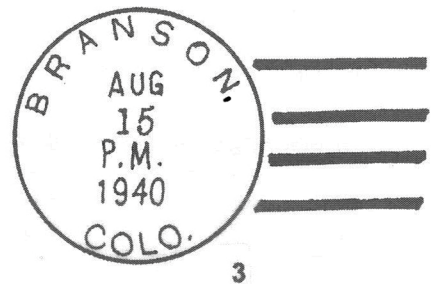
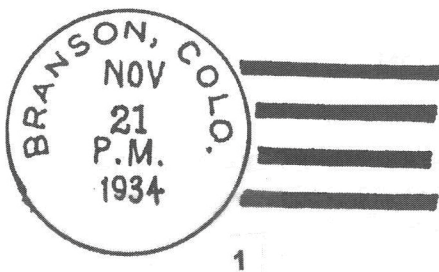
May 12 1915 ---	NW/4 Sec 11 T35S R58W 200 yards south of the Colorado & Southern RR [Report filed for Coloflats] Applicant for postmaster - Lawrence F. Athey	
Jul 30 1918	Formerly named Coloflats	
Jul 30 1918	Stage, Henry S.	
Feb 9 1920	Rather, Virgil F.	
Apr 1 1920		Office made Presidential
Nov 23 1920 ---	NW/4 Sec 11 T35S R58W 1-1/2 miles east of Alkali Creek	
Jan 17 1922	Chapman, Henry N.	P&S
Feb 23 1926	Chapman, Henry N.	P&S
Mar 8 1930	Chapman, Henry N.	P&S
Oct 6 1933	Cummins, James T.	Confirmed
Nov 2 1933	Cummins, James T.	Commissioned
Nov 28 1933	Cummins, James T.	Assumed charge
Feb 29 1940 ---	NW/4 Sec 10 ? T35S R58W 300 feet north of railroad	
Oct 23 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 11 T35S R58W 500 feet northwest of railroad station	
Jul 29 1942	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Assumed charge
Aug 4 1942	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Acting
Mar 15 1943	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Confirmed

BRANSON – Continued

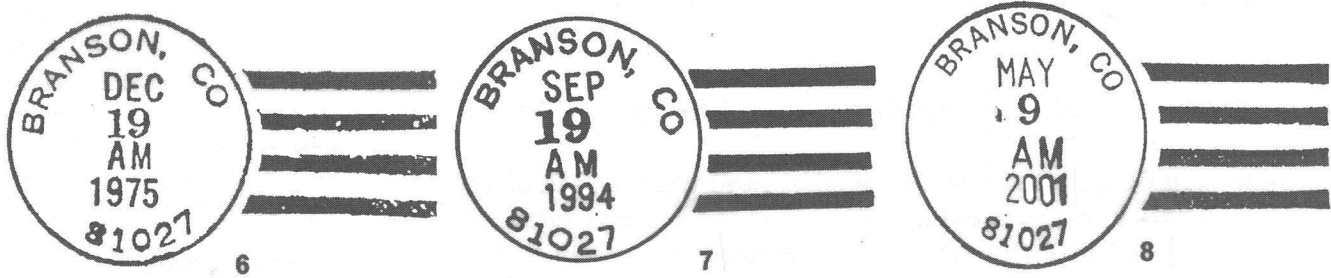
Mar 25 1943	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1946		Office made Presidential
Jan 10 1947	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Nominated
Jul 11 1947	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Confirmed
Jul 14 1947	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 14 1947	Smith, Mrs. Agnes G.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1968	Mitchell, Mrs. LaVeta Elane	Acting
Jul 17 1971	Mitchell, Mrs. LaVeta Elane	Appointed
Jul 17 1971	Mitchell, Mrs. LaVeta Elane	Assumed charge
Feb 1 1969		Office relegated to 4th Class

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BRANSON, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars P-24x20mm	Sep 18 1931 Nov 21 1934
2	BRANSON, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 14 1936 Jul 11 1939
3	BRANSON, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 30 1940 May 15 1947
4	BRANSON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 14 1953 Jan 9 1956
4.1	BRANSON, / COLO. RC 10P 34.0X15.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style [NOT ILLUSTRATED]	1950s
4.2	BRANSON / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Apr 11 1959
5	BRANSON, CO / 81027 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 2 1966 Nov 10 1967
6	BRANSON, CO / 81027 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x18mm	May 31 1975 Dec 19 1975
7	BRANSON, CO / 81027 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 13 1989 Mar 29 1996
8	BRANSON, CO / 81027 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	May 9 2001



BRANSON – Continued



BRAZIL

Brazil was the third and final post office to be associated with the site of Trinchera Plaza, three miles southwest of the present day village of Trinchera.

Trinchera is a Spanish word meaning, “trench” or “entrenchment” and is a likely reference to the valley of Trinchera Creek, on the east side of the settlement.

Settlement here began about 1873. That year a post office named San Jose was opened and operated to 1878 when the name was changed to Grinnell. From 1883 to 1895 the plaza was without a post office.

In 1895 when application was made for a new post office, three names were suggested: Grinnell, Brasil and Lucero. All three were rejected but the spelling Brazil was applied to the new post office.

The Brazil post office operated until 1899. In 1910, once again a post office was sought, and once again the name Lucero was suggested and rejected, the Post Office Department choosing to resurrect the older name of Brazil.

I have no information as to the origin of any of these post office names. One wonders why in 1899 the Post Office Department would not accept the old name of Grinnell but in 1910 insisted on using the previous name of Brazil.

From Trinchera, drive a mile south on Las Animas County Road 119.8 and turn west on County Road 4.4. It is two and a half miles to the Trinchera Plaza. You cross Trinchera Creek on an old iron truss bridge just before reaching the plaza.

I visited the site in 2001. There were several buildings, some well-hidden in brush and trees. Most did not appear to be occupied. There were a couple buildings still being used as residences or ranch houses.

It is not possible to determine exactly with which of the three “towns” (Brazil, Grinnell or San Jose) any of the buildings were connected.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 1 1895	---	SE/4 Sec 2 T35S R60W 100 feet west of Trinchera River 1/8 mile east of Azure or Blue Creek Proposed name as Grinnell, Brasil, Luceero - all rejected
May 14 1895		Established
May 14 1895		Hart, John S.
Aug 31 1899		Discontinued
Dec 17 1910	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T35S R60W On Trinchera Creek 4 miles southwest of Trinchera Name proposed as Lucero - rejected
Feb 20 1911		Re-established
Feb 20 1911		Lamb, Charles F.
May 31 1912		Discontinued Papers to Trinchera

BRAZIL – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BRAZIL

BRODHEAD

Brodhead was named for the Brodhead Coal Mine, which was named for the Brodhead brothers who operated the mine on a lease.

Brodhead was one of the three post offices that operated in Brodhead Canyon, about two miles northwest of Aguilar. The Brodhead Post Office was in operation from 1902 to 1913 and again from 1915 to 1939. The Green Canon Post Office opened in 1909 and in 1910 the name was changed to Beacon. The Beacon Post Office closed in 1913, a few months after the first closure of the Brodhead office.

From 1909 to 1913 the Brodhead and Green Canon/Beacon Post Offices were separated by, at most one mile, probably less. Why were two post offices necessary in such close proximity? Both offices were connected to coal mines so perhaps there was rivalry between the operations of the two camps that precluded cooperation on something as simple as postal service.

Green Canon has been described as a railroad post office at the terminus of a short line through Aguilar to the Brodhead Mine. I have found no information to separate the mines at this location but I feel that there was more than one operating company.

The railroad was a branch line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. No evidence remains at the site but I suspect that there were living accommodations for the miners and perhaps a company store.

Enter Aguilar from the east on Las Animas County Road 63.1 and drive through the town to the west. On the west edge of Aguilar keep to the right. Road 63.1 will become a dirt road and curve to the northwest into Brodhead Canyon. In 2001 I was only able to go one and a half miles from the Aguilar Post Office on Main Street before encountering a locked gate. At that point I could look up the valley but the only things visible were several mine dumps.

I believe I was looking at the early site of Brodhead and the sites of Beacon and Green Canon. The later site of Brodhead was around a bend and out of view from where I stopped.

This is another of the locations to which, for reasons of safety and security, public access to the mine sites is prohibited.

An examination of this area using Google Earth, shows some evidence of the mining activity. However, it appears that much of residue has been cleaned up and there are no remaining structures.

Postal markings from Brodhead exist, as recorded below. I have not seen markings from either Green Canon or Beacon. That makes me wonder if those two offices might never have been more than paper operations.

My apologies for, with minor changes only, repeating here the same text as I use in discussing the Beacon and Green Canon Post Offices. Considering the close relationship of the three offices, this approach seems reasonable. [WHB]

Chronology of the Post Office

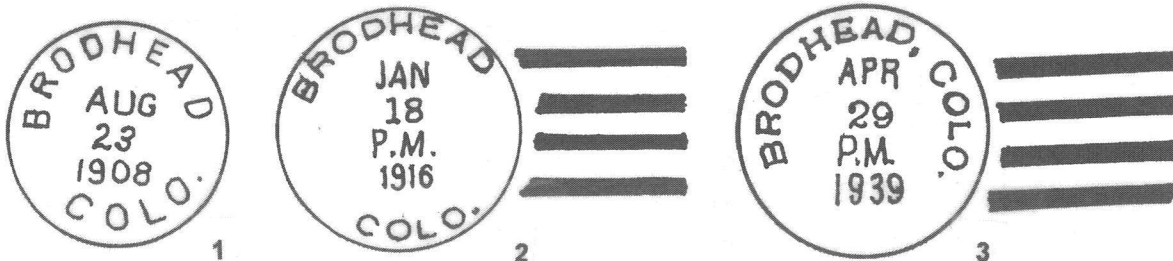
Feb 5 1902	---	NW/4 Sec 21 T30S R65W On the west side of Gonzales Creek 300 feet west of Coal Branch of Colorado & Southern
Aug 14 1902		Established
Aug 14 1902		Pfusch, John H.
Apr 20 1903		Phelps, George H.
Nov 16 1906		Kullgren, Nels A.
Aug 7 1907		Farrington, Ira P.
May 21 1908		Ordered closed Papers to Aguilar effective Jul 3 1908
Jul 7 1908		Order rescinded

BRODHEAD – Continued

Aug 7 1907	Farrington, Ira P.	
Jul 14 1908	Peck, Charles E. Jr.	
Aug 3 1911	Kinney, John W.	
Apr 15 1913	Discontinued Mail to Beacon	
Apr 22 1915 --	SE/4 Sec 17 T30S R65W 100 feet southwest of Green Canon	
	Heretofore the camp has been called Brodhead, but P.O. Beacon	
Jul 19 1915	Re-established	
Jul 19 1915	Morasky, Joseph B.	Confirmed
Aug 18 1915	Morasky, Joseph B.	Commissioned
Sep 1 1915	Morasky, Joseph B.	Assumed charge
Sep 6 1934	Tretter, Frank J.	Confirmed
Sep 24 1934	Tretter, Frank J.	Commissioned
Sep 27 1934	Tretter, Frank J.	Assumed charge
Apr 6 1939	Ordered closed	
Apr 29 1939	Discontinued Mail to Aguilar	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BRODHEAD / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 23 1908 Apr 16 1910
2	BRODHEAD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Jan 18 1916 Jul 29 1924
3	BRODHEAD, COLO. CI 10H 31.5	4bars P-25x19mm	Apr 29 1939 Apr 29 1939



BUSTER

The Buster Post Office was established at a location in Las Animas County. In 1924 it was moved to a location just over the county line into Baca County. However, from the Geographical Site Location Report that was filed in 1924, it appears that the Buster Post Office was then being moved east a mile and a half from a second location in Las Animas County.

From its locations and what little descriptive information I have found, it is obvious that Buster was nothing more than a ranch post office serving this remote portion of eastern Las Animas and western Baca Counties.

From Andrix on US Highway 160, drive four miles north to Las Animas County Road 48 and turn east. Go three miles to an unmarked farm road to the south. The 1916 location of Buster was in the southwest quadrant of this intersection. About two hundred yards from the intersection there are (1998) some abandoned buildings along a small stream.

From the 1916 location continue east one mile and turn north on County Road 223. Go north two miles to County Road 52 and turn east. One mile east of the turn there was a location of Buster on the north side of the road. Nothing remains there. Continue east another mile crossing into Baca County. The reported 1924 location of Buster was in the northeast quadrant formed by the county line and what is now Baca County Road CC. Three-tenths of a mile east of the county line and about 200 feet north of

BUSTER – Continued

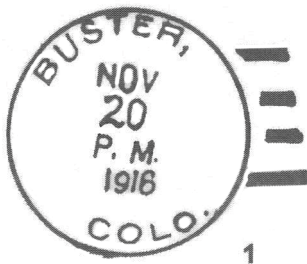
Road CC there are some stones that likely represent an old foundation. Also there are parts from a Model T and some scattered trash from human occupation that is consistent with the 1920's time period. This is a probable location for the Baca County site of Buster.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 16 1916 ---	NE/4 Sec 21 T31S R51W One or two miles east of Montezuma Creek Name proposed as Macy (?) - rejected (hard to read due to the cross-out)
Jul 28 1916	Established (Las Animas County)
Jul 28 1916	Fosnight, Charles R.
Mar 13 1919	Melton, Hughie E.
Apr 13 1921	Shelton, Jessie E.
Jan 13 1922	Pemberton, Noah W.
Aug 9 1924 ---	SW/4 Sec 6 T31S R50W A move 1-1/4 miles east of previous location 1-1/2 miles west of Soldier Creek County change (Las Animas to Baca) Sketch map show previous location in SE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T31S R52W.
Jan 27 1925	Williams, Amanda E.
Mar 20 1926	Rutherford, Mary F. Acting
Mar 29 1926	Rutherford, Mary F. Appointed
Jul 15 1927	Ordered closed
Jul 30 1927	Discontinued Mail to Graft (Baca County)

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 BUSTER, / COLO. Nov 20 1916
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x18mm (Las Animas Period)



CARSONHART

The Las Animas County file of Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports contains a June 20, 1917 document proposing a post office at a site, that today is about two miles south of Colorado Highway 10 and to the east of South Rattlesnake Butte.

As you can see from the notes below there was considerable confusion about this proposal. The county was in question, and several names, including Carsonhart were suggested and rejected. According to the document the Post Office Department settled on Rattlesnake Buttes and acknowledged that the location was in Las Animas County. There is no further information to substantiate the operation of a Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office in Las Animas County.

However, the Records of Postmaster Appointments do show that on November 15, 1917 a postmaster, Carson Hart, was appointed for a Carsonhart Post Office. That appointment was rescinded and the post office was never in operation.

There is no road to the location specified and nothing can be seen from Colorado Highway 10. An examination of the area using Google Earth, shows no evidence of buildings or a place where there might have been buildings in the past.

CARSONHART – Continued

On December 3, 1917 another Site Location Report was filed for a Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office. That document specifies a location in Huerfano County and the post office opened on April 15, 1918. Two subsequent locations of the Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office were also in Huerfano County.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 20 1917	---	NW/4 Sec 3 T27S R63W 12 miles east of the Cucharas River The document shows several names: Typed in: Harts - crossed out; written in: Coyote - crossed out; written in: Carsonhart-crossed out; written in: Rattlesnake Buttes. The entry for Harts seems to have been thought to be in Huerfano County (crossed out and Las Animas substituted) Applicant for postmaster - Carson Hart
Nov 15 1917		Established
Nov 15 1917		Hart, Carson Rescinded
-----		Establishment rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CARSONHART

CEDARHURST

Cedarhurst was a rural post office near the Colorado and Southern Railroad and about a mile south of the Las Animas-Huerfano County line. Reportedly it was some distance from the railroad but I have not found evidence that there was a station or siding there. A siding seems unlikely as the Rugby Junction station was only a mile to the south.

The name may be a reference to the cedar trees that are abundant in the area.

Access to the site of Cedarhurst is from Interstate 25, Exit 34, near Aguilar. At that exit, go west on Las Animas County Road 60.0 to Road 53.7 and then drive north to Road 66.0, where Rapson was located. From the intersection continue north another half-mile. Cedarhurst was to the east of Road 53.7, between the road and the interstate. There are some abandoned buildings on the west side of the road. There is also a collapsed building on the east side of the interstate, but somewhat too far to the east to have been a part of Cedarhurst.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 16 1903	---	NE/4 Sec 33 T29S R65W 4 miles southeast of Santa Clara Creek
Aug 27 1903		Established
Aug 27 1903		Mason, Ethel B.
Dec 24 1908		Price, Archie G.
May 11 1909		Hiatt, Violet
Dec 1 1910		Robertson, Alma
Mar 31 1913		Discontinued Mail to Rugby

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 CEDARHURST, / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5

Jan 15 1906 Sep 6 1910
4bars S-24x13mm [This has been identified as a
Type 2 Doane, but it is not a Doane



CEDARHURST – Continued



Remains of an abandoned building at the location of Cedarhurst, Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 10, 2001

CHAPEL

It is not surprising that I have found no references to a place named Chapel in Las Animas County. Less than a month after the Chapel Post Office was established, the name was changed to Graycreek. I assume it is correct that this was a change in name and not a move to a new location.

Using Google Earth it is possible to follow the streams back to the approximate location of Chapel. There is an area that shows signs of activity but no structures are visible. It appears that environmental cleanup has removed most evidence of the early mining activity.

Please refer to the discussion of Graycreek for more information and directions to the location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Refer to 1895 entry for GRAYCREEK

Dec 6 1894 Established

Dec 6 1894 Williams, George

Jan 3 1895 Name changed to Graycreek

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CHAPEL

CHICOSA

Chicosa was on the El Moro Branch of the Denver & Rio Grande Railway. Initially cattle and sheep were the products of the area's settlers.

In the late 1880's the railroad and others began developing coal seams to the west of the railroad. A group of mines were developed to the west of Chicosa. A branch line, the Chicosa Canyon Railroad, was constructed to serve the mine at Forbes. The junction to the main line was at Chicosa and it became Chicosa Junction. Later, when the railroad built a new alignment a mile to the west, the Junction Point was moved to Forbes Junction.

Chicosa (Junction) slipped back to the rural status of the days prior to the railroad activity.

Exit 23 from Interstate 25 is on the site of the railroad's Chicosa Junction. From the interchange drive north a short distance on the east frontage road. To the east of the interstate, partially hidden by trees, there is an old ranch on the north side of Chicosa Creek. In 2001 this building was abandoned. I was able to drive in a short way on Las Animas County Road 67.0 and take photographs.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 19 1890	Established	
May 19 1890	Finney, W. D.	
Jun 30 1894	Discontinued	No papers
Jul 31 1896	---	NE/4 Sec 35 T31S R64W 1/4 mile NE of Chicosa Creek 12 feet east of D&RG RR, Chicosa Junction
Aug 2 1896	Re-established	First listed in 1897 Postal Guide
Aug 2 1896	McLelland, Franklin F.	Not commissioned
Oct 8 1896	Bauvais, Edward C. Jr.	
Feb 17 1898	Bowen, George M.	
Apr 1 1899	Ingalls, Coza B.	
Jun 27 1899	Johnson, David C.	
Jan 25 1901	Roberts, Arthur E.	
Jun 8 1901	Friddell, Clyde L.	
Apr 20 1903	Wright, Cullum A.	
Mar 22 1904	Ordered closed	
Mar 31 1904	Discontinued	Mail to Elmore
Mar 14 1905	---	NE/4 Sec 35 T31S R64W
Apr 7 1905	Re-established	
Apr 7 1905	Learnard, Porter D.	
Aug 15 1910	Odered closed	
Aug 15 1910	Discontinued	Mail to Elmore

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CHICOSA, / COLO. CI 10P ???	Mar 23 1908 May 16 1909 Doane Type 2 with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
---	--------------------------------	--

CLANDA

Clanda was a ranch post office in the extreme northern portion of Las Animas County. I have found no information that there was any community associated with the post office. That is confirmed by a comment in the Geographical Site Location Report for Clanda.

The application for the post office requested the name Burgess, which would have honored the first postmaster - Clarence M. Burgess. Periodically the Post Office Department was most reluctant to name a post office for the postmaster. In this instance that may have been the reason for the rejection. I wonder if Clanda was a Post Office Department play with the name Clarence.

CLANDA – Continued

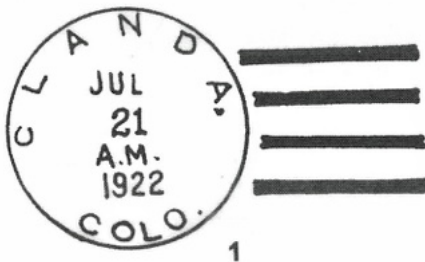
Five and two-tenths miles west of the Las Animas-Pueblo County line there is a farm road south from Colorado Highway 10. In 2001 there was no gate on the road and I was able to drive in a mile to where I believe Clanda was located on the east side of the road. The area near the road showed some slight traces of activity but nothing conclusive. However, on the ridge to the east, perhaps a half-mile distant, there was some type of long low structure. I could not determine if it was a building or a shelter for cattle. An examination of that area using Google Earth, shows a convergence of numerous cowpaths to a single point which is most likely a water tank.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Dec 15 1919 --- NW/4 Sec 30 T26S R62W One mile north of South Canon
"No town, just a country place"
Name proposed as Burgess - rejected
Applicant for postmaster - Clarence H. Burgess
- Feb 11 1920 Established
- Feb 11 1920 Burgess, Clarence H.
- Aug 29 1922 Morgan, Julia A.
- Dec 3 1926 Ordered closed
- Dec 31 1926 Discontinued Mail to Rattlesnake Buttes

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 CLANDA, / COLO. Jun 5 1922 Dec 22 1926
CI 10P 31.5 4bars S-24x19mm



COKEDALE

The Colorado Fuel & Iron Company founded Cokedale in 1906 to provide housing for workers at the company's coke ovens. Following World War I the operations at Cokedale were sold to the American Smelting and Refining Company.

Coal, principally from Boncarbo but also from other mines along the upper Purgatoire River fueled the coke ovens. This was one of the largest coke producing operations in Colorado. Eventually 350 coke ovens were in operation south of the town of Cokedale.

By the 1930's coal production was declining and with it the need for coke. World War II generated a brief recovery but in 1947 the high cost of mining brought the operations at Cokedale and Boncarbo to an end.

The Florence Machinery Company of Denver purchased all of the property, including the homes of the miners. Rather than allow their town to become a ghost, the residents banded together and purchased the town. Cokedale was incorporated in 1948.

Drive west from Trinidad on Colorado Highway 12 to Las Animas County Road 57.7 and turn north into Cokedale. The rows of well-preserved coke ovens are south of Highway 12 at the intersection. Cokedale is still a small community with a number of residents.

COKEDALE – Continued

In 1972 the post office was in a small gray house. In 2001 the post office was in the old Gottlieb Mercantile Company Building. That is a very large, brown, plastered building. Apparently this is not an operating post office but rather a post office box station for the residents of Cokedale.

On the north end of Cokedale the two-story Cokedale School is now the Foothills Christian Academy.

Latitude = 37:08:43 North Longitude = 104:37:14 West COKEDALE

Chronology of the Post Office

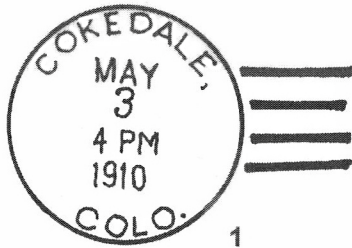
Jul 24 1906	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T33S R65W 500 feet west of Reilly Creek	
Dec 26 1906		Established	
Dec 26 1906		Gottlieb, Daniel	
Sep 11 1907	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T33S R65W	
Feb 7 1910		Gottlieb, Leo R.	
Apr 21 1914	---	SW/4 NE/4 Sec 25 T33S R65W 500 feet west of Reilly Creek One mile north of the Purgatoire River 200 feet west of D&RG/C&S	
Nov 27 1929		Boyd, Clyde H.	Acting
Jul 8 1930		Boyd, Clyde H.	Confirmed
Jul 21 1930		Boyd, Clyde H.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T33S R65W	
May 1 1942		Chambers, Charles C.	Assumed charge
May 27 1942		Chambers, Charles C.	Acting
Jan 20 1943		Chambers, Charles C.	Confirmed
Feb 3 1943		Chambers, Charles C.	Commissioned
Sep 26 1945		Chambers, Charles C.	Nominated
Sep 29 1945		Chambers, Charles C.	Confirmed
Sep 30 1945		Chambers, Charles C.	Appointed Presidential
Feb 11 1946		Chambers, Charles C.	Commissioned
Jul 16 1946		Chambers, Charles C.	Confirmed
Aug 6 1946		Chambers, Charles C.	Commissioned
Jul 10 1947		Redd, Mrs. Anna H.	Assumed charge
Dec 31 1947		Harenberg, Mrs. Ella M.	Assumed charge
Jul 14 1948		Bonner, Mrs. Lucy G.	Declined,
Sep 13 1948			Appointment rescinded
Feb 18 1949		Harenburg, Mrs. Ella May	Confirmed
Apr 6 1949		Harenburg, Mrs. Ella May	Commissioned
Jan 10 1953		Currie, Mrs. Ella May	Name changed by marriage
Dec 5 1975		Metcalf, Sam	Officer in charge
Oct 8 1976		Currie, John	Officer in charge
Dec 5 1976		Metcalf, Sam	Officer in charge
Aug 12 1978		Currie, John	Appointed
Oct 10 1994		Discontinued Operations ceased prior to this date	

Confirmed types of postal markings

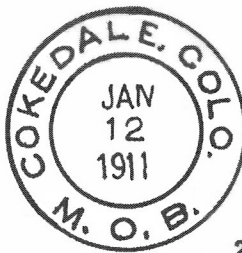
1	COKEDALE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x14mm	Aug 26 1907 Feb 13 1911
2	COKEDALE, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 31.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 12 1911
3	COKEDALE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 17 1912 Aug 19 1914
4	COKEDALE, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x21mm	Aug 22 1935

COKEDALE – Continued

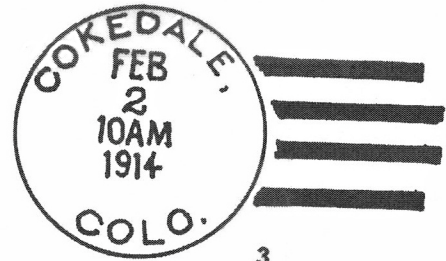
5	COKEDALE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 19 1939 Aug 30 1948
5.1	COKEDALE / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 8 1959
6	COKEDALE, CO / 81032 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 23 1969 Nov 14 1969
7	COKEDALE, CO / 81032 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 18 1972 Jun 25 1992
8	COKEDALE, CO / 81032 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm,	Sep 23 1988 Postmaster autograph
9	COKEDALE, CO / USPO CI 11P 27.0/17.5	Hstp No killer	Jun 25 1992



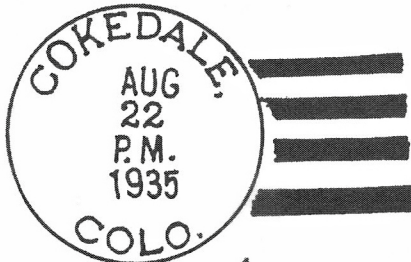
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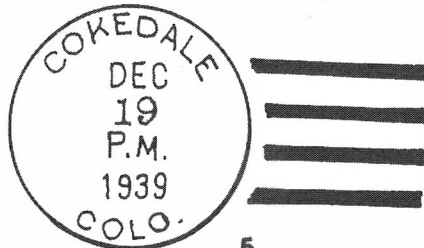
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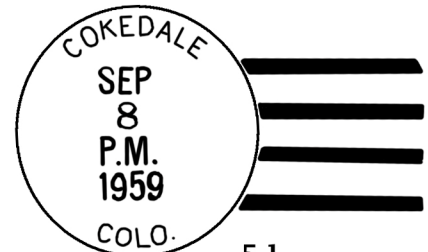
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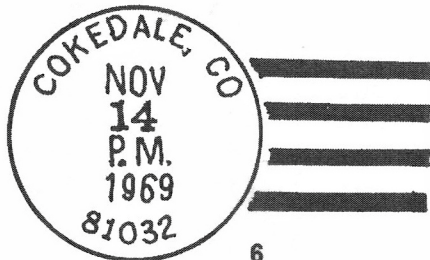
4



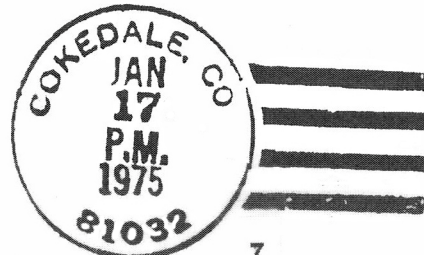
5



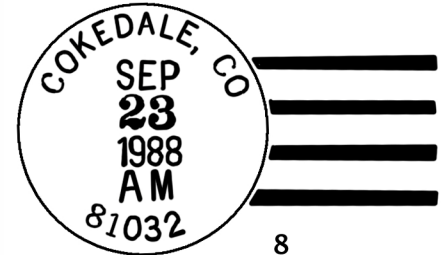
5.1



6



7



8



9

COLOFLATS

This community was established on the line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. It served as a station and shipping point for ranchers in extreme southern Las Animas County. A small community began to develop and in 1918 the community and post office names were changed to Branson.

COLOFLATS – Continued

The post office name appears to be a conjunction of Colorado and a reference to the location on the “flats” at the foot of Brown Mesa.

Coloflats (Branson) is reached by driving south from US Highway 160 on Colorado Highway 389. It is about a mile north of the Colorado-New Mexico State line.

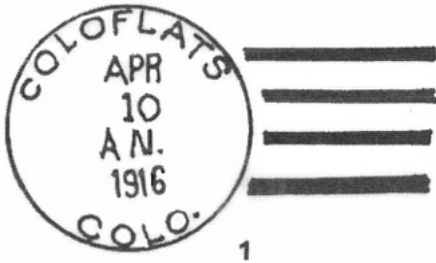
Colorado 289 enters Branson from the north and where it intersects Las Animas County Road 4.0, 389 turns sharply to the southeast. In 1915, according to the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report, the Coloflats Post Office would have been south of Road 4.0 and Colorado 389 and also south of the Colorado and Southern tracks that parallel Colorado 389.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 12 1915	---	NW/4 Sec 11 T35S R58W 200 yards south of the Colorado & Southern RR
		Applicant for postmaster - Lawrence F. Athey
Aug 19 1915		Established
Aug 19 1915		Athey, Lawrence F.
Aug 17 1916		Stage, Henry S.
Jul 30 1918		Name changed to Branson

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	COLOFLATS / COLO.	Jan 27 1916 Feb 24 1917
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm



CORDOVA

There were two Cordovas in Las Animas County. One was located to the northeast of Trinidad where Chacuaco Creek joins with the Purgatoire River (see Bent Canyon). There was no post office at that location.

The Cordova of interest here was also on the Purgatoire River but it was west of Trinidad and east of the town of Weston.

In the 1880's the principal activity along the Purgatoire River was agriculture and raising livestock. This was primarily the province of Mexican families who had moved to the area in the 1860's and 1870's, settling on the old Mexican Land Grants. The presence of coal deposits in the area was known to the settlers but it was not until the major railroads built into Southern Colorado that these deposits attained importance.

The closure of the Cordova Post Office in 1889 and its move to the new town of Weston was undoubtedly due to the growing importance of that community.

The USGS Topographic Map of Las Animas County (Sheet 4) notes a Cordova Plaza on Colorado Highway 12, a mile east of Weston. That location does not match the location provided by the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report that places the Cordova Post Office another mile to the east and midway between the Medina Plaza and the Cordova Plaza. That location is a half-mile west of the Primero Junior-Senior High School (2001) and the location of the earlier Davis Post Office.

CORDOVA – Continued

I must admit that the Cordova Plaza seems a more likely location for a post office but I also see no reason to doubt the Post Office Department location. At that location I found a small church and an older style house.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 3 1881 --- NW/4 Sec 32 T33S R66W On north Side of Las Animas (Purgatoire) River
May 19 1881 Established
May 19 1881 Martinez, Jose Benito
Sep 9 1889 Moved to Weston

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 CORDOVA, / COLO. 1(Jan) 11 1884
CI 21P 28.0/26.5/17.5 Hstp 4 ring target



CUATRO

Cuatro was the fourth in the series of coal mines established by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. From reports there was a small company town at the mine.

To me, the location of Cuatro is somewhat of an unsolved puzzle. According to reports it was a mile and a half or two miles west of Tercio. The mine was served by an extension of the Colorado and Wyoming Railway from Tercio. The location would have been on the south side of the Purgatoire River, and somewhere near the Tercio Cemetery.

However, when I visited the area in 2001 I did not observe any signs of mining in the vicinity of the cemetery. That does not preclude something being hidden in the trees on the hills above the road and the cemetery. Unfortunately most of that area is off limits behind gates, fences and no trespassing signs.

From Colorado Highway 12 at Stonewall drive south on Las Animas County Road 13.0 six and three-tenths miles to Road 12.0. Continue to the east on Road 13.0. In 2001 I could only go another two miles to just beyond the Tercio Cemetery and the remnants of a Catholic Church. At that point a locked gate barred further progress.

For this area, the photography in Google Earth is quite good. It was easy to locate the cemetery and to follow the old railroad grade. However, I could not determine any extension of the railroad into the hills south of the cemetery. Considering that, I wonder if the community of Cuatro was actually near the cemetery and railroad. From the photography it appears that there may have been some recent development in the area and another visit to the location of Cuatro and Tercio might be warranted.

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 30 1903 --- Unsurveyed section T34S R68W Tercio 1-1/2 miles east, Stonewall
8 miles northwest 1-1/2 miles south of the Purgatoire River 1/4 mile
north of East Creek (so-called) 900 feet south side of tracks of Colorado & Wyoming RR
Sketch map shows it about two miles south of Torres
Proposed postmaster - Charley C. McWilliams

CUATRO – Continued

Dec 21 1903	Established
Dec 21 1903	McWilliams, Charley C.
Jan 9 1906	Wise, Edward B.
Apr 27 1907	Martin, Seward L.
Aug 6 1907	Discontinued Mail to Tercio

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CUATRO

DALEROSE

Dalerose and Troy were two rural post offices that bounced around the countryside south of Kim and north of the mesas that comprise the southeastern corner of Las Animas County. Dalerose was at four different locations and Troy may have been at as many as six widely scattered sites.

In May of 2001 I visited all four sites of Dalerose for which a Geographical Site Location Report is on file. At none of the sites did I find anything that would indicate there had been anything more than an isolated ranch or perhaps two.

The 1925 site was the first one I visited. Two miles south of Kim, US Highway 160 turns due west. From the turn, go three miles west to Las Animas Road 191.0. Go south on that road one mile to Road 30.0 and then one mile west. The 1925 site of Dalerose was on the south side of the road. In 2001 I could see only wide-open fields.

From the 1925 site continue west on Road 30.0, two miles to Road 185.0, and go south three miles to Road 24.0. Turn east and two miles will bring you to the High Plains Sportsmen's Club which I believe now occupies the 1917 site of the Dalerose Post Office. None of the buildings there were in very good condition.

Return to Road 185.0 and continue south three and three-tenths miles. At that point there is a small ranch complex on the west side of the road, which has now become Road 20.6. According to the Geographical Site Location Report this was the original (1916) location of the Dalerose Post Office.

Two sites of the Troy Post Office are further east on the continuation of this road. You might want to explore those before going back north to the final (1926) site of Dalerose.

However you choose to proceed, you will eventually want to go to Road 189.0, (which is east of the 1916 site) and turn north. This road is a bit tricky and you may wonder where you are going, but it soon intercepts Road 191. Turn north on Road 191 and go a bit more than one mile. In 2001 there was a cattle loading pen and a pile of debris that was once a building of some purpose. That is all there was to represent the 1926 site of Dalerose.

From there I would suggest going north another mile to Road 24.0 and then east to Road 197.0 which shortly after you turn south becomes Road 22.1. That road will take you to three more sites of the Troy Post Office.

An alternative choice is to return to the intersection with Road 189.0 and to the intersection with Road 20.2, which will take you east to the intersection with Road 22.1.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 27 1916 ---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 34 T33S R54W 1/4 mile south of Cramer Creek Name proposed as Red House - rejected Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Maude Dabney
Jun 21 1916	Established
Jun 21 1916	Dabney, Maude
Nov 28 1917 ---	SE/4 Sec 14 T33S R54W 2 miles north of Carrizo Creek
Apr 15 1918	Norton, John L.

DALEROSE – Continued

Jun 10 1922	Norton, Edward W.	Acting
Jul 22 1922	Norton, Edward W.	Appointed
Jul 25 1925 ---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 1 T34S R54W 1/2 mile south of Carrizo Creek	
Aug 19 1925	Maes, Mrs. Natividad	Acting
Oct 13 1925	Griffith, Mrs. Iva L.	Confirmed
Nov 2 1925	Griffith, Mrs. Iva L.	Commissioned
Feb 6 1926 ---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 24 T33S R54W 2-1/4 miles north of Carrizo Creek	
	Sketch map shows it being moved from a site in NW/4 Sec 1 T34S R54W	
Mar 6 1926	Griffith, Mrs. Iva L.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1942 ---	SE/4 Sec 24 T33S R54W	
Feb 28 1943	Discontinued Mail to Kim	



The High Plains Sportsmen's Club – now apparently abandoned
This appears to have been the main ranch building at the 1917 site of the Dalerose Post Office.
 Photograph by William H. Bauer May 8, 2001

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | DALEROSE / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Apr 10 1917 Jan 21 1920 |
| 2 | DALEROSE, COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-24x18mm | Jun 3 1940 Sep 11 1942 |



DAVIS

The only reference I have found to Davis is one that states that it was a, "Small town of 50 residents, listed on 1887 map population directory." I am not certain that this refers to the Davis in the Purgatoire Valley of western Las Animas County.

The Davis Post Office lasted for only nine months. Two years later the Cordova Post Office opened, about a half mile to the west of the former Davis Post Office. The Cordova Post Office lasted eight years before being moved two miles west to Weston.

From Segundo drive west on Colorado Highway 12 to Las Animas County Road 41.7. Continue west about a mile and a half to the Primero Junior-Senior High School. Davis was in this area. This was apparently a location also known as the Medina Plaza. There are several houses along the north side of the road and a small cemetery on the west edge of the settlement.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 20 1878	---	NE/4 Sec 32 T33S R66W On north side of the Las Animas River (Purgatoire) 22 miles west of Trinidad
Aug 6 1878		Established
Aug 6 1878		Tremain, Alfred S.
Apr 23 1879		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DAVIS

DEAN

I have found no historical information about this place in Las Animas County. A 1923 map shows a Dean about five miles southeast of Apishapa but clearly that was not this place.

As with Stamford and Springvale this portion of Las Animas County is devoted to raising livestock. It is also a source area of the water supply for the city of Trinidad.

From Stonewall drive north on Colorado Highway 12 towards Cucharas Pass. At the point near North Lake where Highway 12 intersects Las Animas County Road 21.6 it is four miles further north to the area where Dean was located.

The old highway was down along Ogden or Guajatoyah Creek. The modern highway is on a high fill above the creek. From the fill it is possible to look down in the valley and see what might be the remnants of a couple of structures. That may have been the location of the Dean Post Office. A half-mile or so further down the valley is a ranch complex, closer to the highway.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 20 1903	---	NE/4 Sec 1 T32S R69W 6 miles northwest of Hicks On the west side of Guayatoya(sic) Creek [Guajatoyah] Sketch map shows it about 6 miles north of Stamford P.O.
		Proposed postmaster - George Drury
Apr 4 1900		Established
Apr 4 1900		Drury, George
Jun 15 1913		Discontinued Mail to Hicks

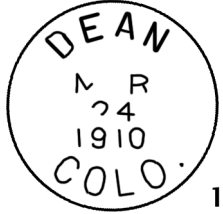
DEAN – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 DEAN / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0

Mar 24 1910

Hstp Target



DELAGUA

The Victor American Coal Company established Delagua in 1903. It was at the end of the Canon de Agua Railroad branch from Ludlow.

Delagua is from the Spanish “del agua”- of the water, a reference to the stream and the canyon where it is located.

According to one report the town was incorporated in 1903. That implies that it was of some size, however, it would be unusual for a company town to be incorporated.

Coal mining at Delagua lasted to the middle of the twentieth century. As the mining declined the Delagua Post Office continued to serve ranchers in the surrounding area. The railroad was removed in 1952 and the post office closed in 1954.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25, drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of those roads. Continue west on Road 44.0. Two miles from Ludlow you will pass the site of Hastings and another three miles brings you to the location of Delagua. There are still mine dumps at the site (2001), a couple of sheds and what may be some small cave-ins. On the north side of the road there is the foundation of a fairly large building.

If you continue west on Road 44.0 it will take you to Gulnare.

Latitude = 37:20:24 North Longitude = 104:39:45 West DELAGUA

Chronology of the Post Office

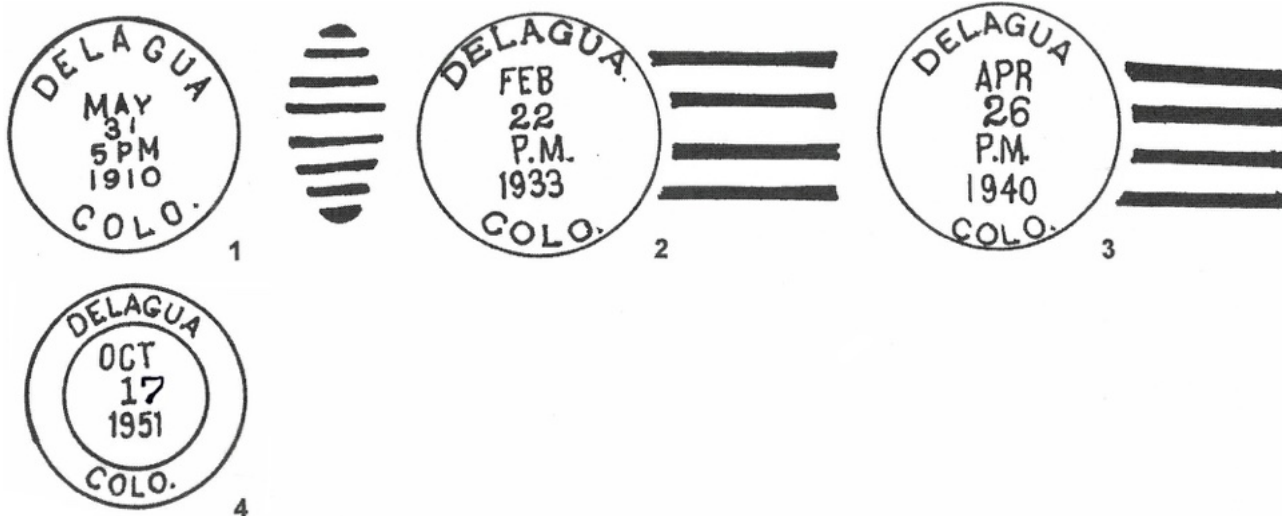
Dec 22 1902	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T31S R65W	
Apr 30 1903		Established	
Apr 30 1903		Kelsey, Fred N.	
Feb 12 1906		Shelton, Milo M.	
Apr 15 1910		Geiger, Warren	
May 1 1913		Holt, Robert G.	
May 4 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T31S R65W 100 feet north of Delagua Canon 50 feet south of C&S RR 7 miles southeast of Delagua Station	
Feb 20 1919		Espey, Joshua H.	
Jul 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Aug 24 1921		Espey, Joshua H.	P&S
May 1 1923		Baker, George	Acting
Dec 18 1923		Baker, George	Appointed
Jul 1 1925			Office relegated
Jul 21 1925		Baker, George	
Apr 17 1929		Shroads, Charles A.	Acting
Jul 22 1929		Shroads, Charles A.	Appointed
Jul 16 1940		St. Vrain, Hyman Scott	Assumed charge

DELAGUA – Continued

Jul 20 1940	St. Vrain, Hyman Scott	Acting
Oct 23 1940	St. Vrain, Hyman Scott	Confirmed
Nov 22 1940	St. Vrain, Hyman Scott	Commissioned
Oct 27 1941 ---	Sec 15 T31S R65W	
May 15 1942	O'Connell, James Wilson	Assumed charge
Jun 4 1942	O'Connell, James Wilson	Acting
Feb 15 1943	Herring, Charles S.	Assumed charge
Feb 25 1943	Herring, Charles S.	Acting
May 3 1944	Milinzazo, Frank F.	Assumed charge
May 17 1944	Milinzazo, Frank F.	Acting
Feb 3 1945	Milinzazo, Frank F.	Confirmed
Mar 19 1945	Milinzazo, Frank F.	Commissioned
Apr 19 1954	Ordered closed	
May 31 1954	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	DELAGUA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Oct 27 1908 Dec 24 1915
2	DELAGUA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 22 1928 Nov 9 1937
3	DELAGUA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Nov 21 1938 May 31 1954
4	DELAGUA / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 17 1951



DELHI

The history of Delhi is a bit confusing. There were two communities on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, just south of the Las Animas-Otero County line - Delhi and Edwest.

Delhi, shown on an 1892 map, may have been a platted town but there is no conclusive evidence for that. There is also involvement with the community of Bloom which was about five miles to the northeast, in Otero County, and also on the railroad.

The Delhi Post Office opened in 1908. In 1913, it was moved to Bloom in Otero County. The Edwest Post Office opened in 1916, perhaps at the location of Delhi (1908-1913). There is a Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report for Edwest.

DELHI – Continued

In 1919 the Edwest Post Office was renamed Delhi and apparently it remained at the same location. A 1923 Site Location Report places Delhi about a quarter mile to the northeast of the Edwest location. Both these locations were on the west side of the railroad.

By 1935 the post office had moved to the east side of the railroad and by 1941 it was reported to be on the east side of US Highway 350. I believe that from then on the post office was in the Delhi Store building.

The source of the name for Delhi is questionable. It might refer to the city in India or a Delhi in some other state.

Delhi is on US Highway 350 a half mile south of the county line. My first visit to Delhi was on June 1, 1975. Unfortunately, the post office had been discontinued the previous day - May 30. The next visit was in January 1998. The store was still in operation but much the worse for wear. I have recently heard that the store is closed.

In 1998 there were still a couple other occupied buildings at Delhi.

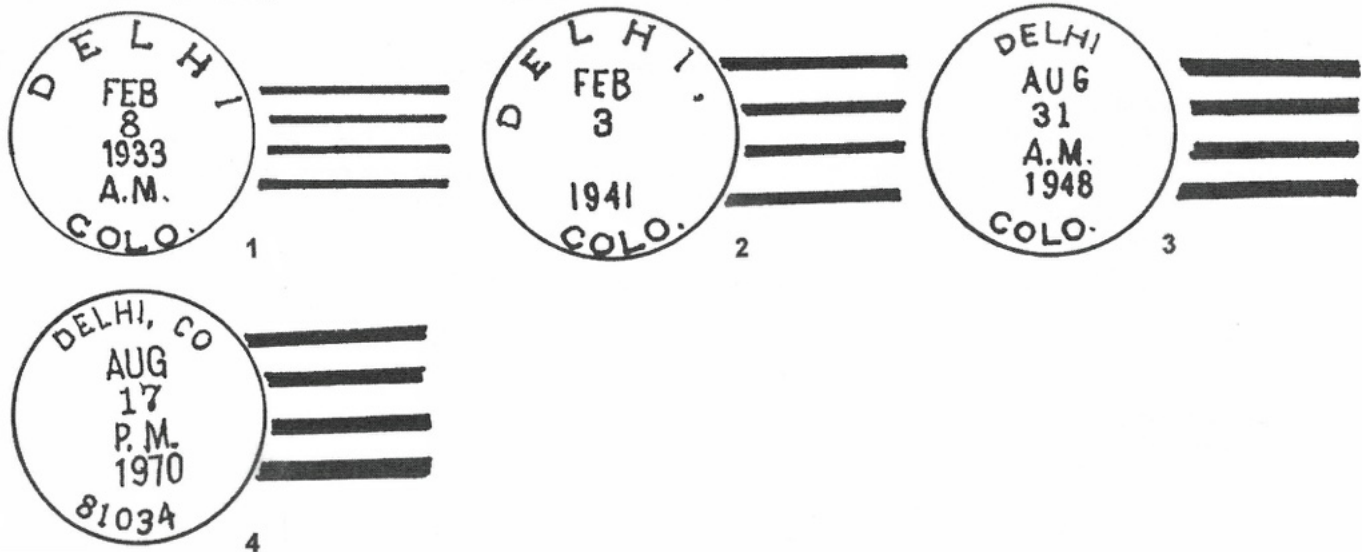
Latitude = 37:38:32 North Longitude = 104:01:03 West DELHI

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 16 1908	Established	
Mar 16 1908	Reid, Samuel J.	
Jul 11 1908	West, Harry E.	
Apr 19 1913	Moved to Bloom	
Dec 26 1919	Moved from Edwest	
Dec 26 1919	Patterson, Phoenia J.	
Feb 25 1920 ---	SE/4 Sec 5 T28S R59W	West side of Santa Fe, 150 feet from it
Dec 17 1920	Morris, Lawrence R.	
Feb 9 1922	Ashlock, Vera	
Oct 19 1922	Sayre, Edwin F.	Acting
Jan 27 1923 ---	SW/4 Sec 4 T28S R59W	1/8 mile east of Timpas Creek Patches 20 miles west
Feb 6 1923	Sayre, Edwin F.	Appointed
Mar 22 1924	Hitchins, Earl W.	
Feb 16 1926	Gibson, Jess	Acting
Sep 21 1926	Gibson, Mrs. Lulu F.	
Mar 11 1930	Everist, Mrs. Ollie	Possession
Apr 14 1930	Everist, Mrs. Ollie	Acting
Jun 26 1930	Everist, Mrs. Ollie	Appointed
Sep 17 1930	Everist, Mrs. Ollie	Commissioned
Nov 1 1933	Davidson, Mrs. Helen	Assumed charge
Nov 14 1933	Davidson, Mrs. Helen	Acting
Dec 11 1933	Davidson, Mrs. Helen	Confirmed
Jan 2 1934	Davidson, Mrs. Helen	Commissioned
Aug 5 1935 ---	SW/4 Sec 4 T28S R59W	3/4 mile east of Timpas Creek 1/4 mile east of Santa Fe Post office being moved 1700 feet northeast
Oct 23 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 4 T28S R59W	50 feet east of US 350
Jul 19 1945	Shaffer, Mrs. Bertha I.	Appointed
Aug 29 1945	Shaffer, Mrs. Bertha I.	Commissioned
Nov 1 1945	Shaffer, Mrs. Bertha I.	Assumed charge
May 22 1975	Ordered closed	
May 30 1975	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

DELHI – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	DELHI / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x14mm	Feb 8 1933
2	DELHI, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 14 1936 Feb 3 1941
3	DELHI / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 31 1948 Jan 5 1962
4	DELHI, CO / 81034 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 17 1970 Aug 12 1971

**DICKS**

The Dicks Post Office was only one mile southeast of Boncarbo, another example of two operating post offices in close proximity. This community was organized in 1921 when George B. Dick, president of the Dick Coal Company, opened a mine there.

The intention was to name the community and post office Dix. It is claimed that would have conflicted with the Dix Post Office in La Plata County but that post office had closed in 1907 so there must have been another reason for the rejection of Dix.

A town grew up around the mine and there is some evidence that it may have threatened the dominance of its neighbor Boncarbo, one mile to the northwest. In 1934 it was proposed to close the Boncarbo Post Office with the mail being sent to Dicks. The closing order was rescinded and a year later it was the Dicks Post Office that closed.

Coal from the Dick Coal Mine would have been transported out on the Denver and Rio Grande branch line from Jansen.

The site of Dicks is a short distance southeast of the intersection of Las Animas County Roads 51.0 and 30.1, a mile southeast of Boncarbo on Road 30.1. In 2001 there was one residence and the Boncarbo Community Hall.

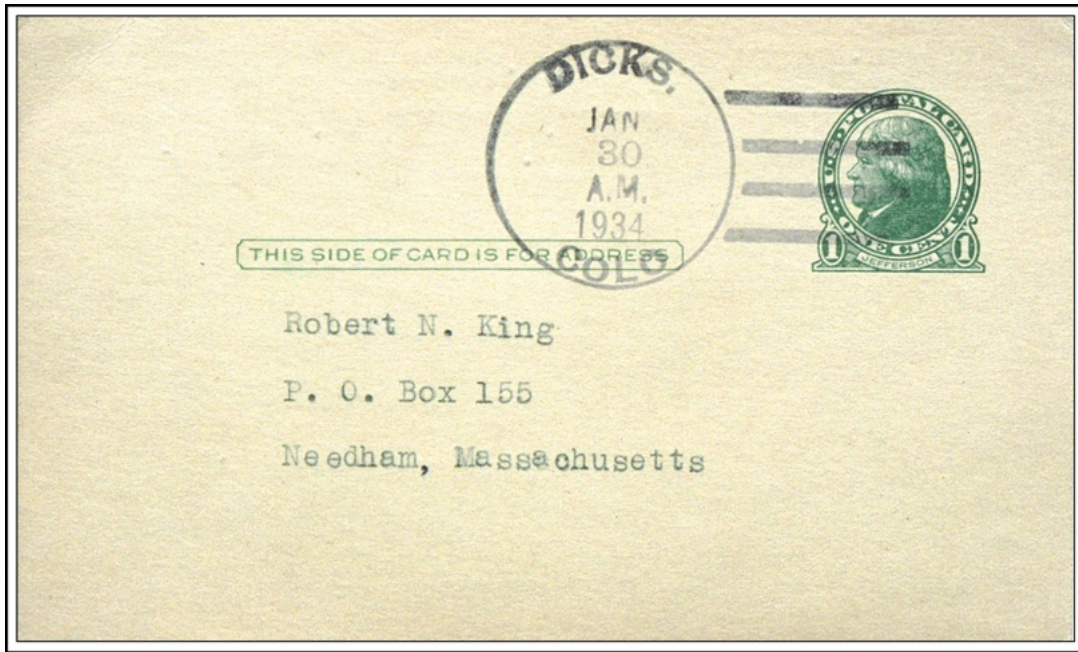
Latitude = 37:12:25 North Longitude = 104:41:25 West DICKS

DICKS – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 23 1926 --- NE/4 NE/4 Sec 5 T33S R65W 500 feet south of Reilly Canon
One mile southeast of Boncarbo 100 feet south of D&RG Tracks
Name proposed as Dix - rejected
Proposed postmaster - Thomas Lewis Williams

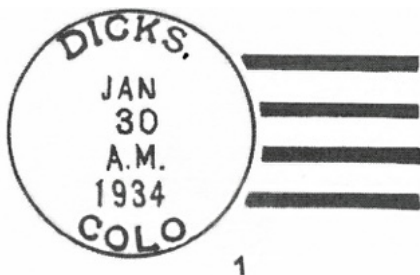
Jun 29 1926 Established
Jun 29 1926 Williams, Thomas L.
May 11 1929 Miller, Peter S. Confirmed
Dec 18 1933 Ordered closed Effective Jan 15 1934 Mail to Boncarbo
Jan 26 1934 Order rescinded
May 18 1935 Meek, Mrs. John Assumed charge
May 25 1935 Meek, Mrs. John Acting
Sep 7 1935 Ordered closed Mail to Cokedale Modified Mail to Boncarbo
Sep 30 1935 Discontinued



DICKS, / COLO. January 30, 1934

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 DICKS, / COLO. Jan 30 1934 Sep 30 1935
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-23x20mm



DODSONVILLE

I have found only one mention of Dodsonville and that reference classes it as a rural post office.

The location was on the north side of the Purgatoire River, "twelve to fifteen miles northeast of Trinidad." The location was near one of the trails that followed the Purgatoire, thus it could have been a stage station and/or rest stop on the trail. In 1876 the post office name was changed to Linwood.

From Trinidad drive northeast on US Highway 350 in the direction of La Junta. Go beyond the junction with US 160 and continue to the bridge over the Purgatoire River. A half mile beyond the bridge, turn east on Las Animas County Road 40.9 and go about two and a half miles to Road 97.2 to the south and turn towards the river.

In 2001 there was a single large building in considerable disrepair. The lower story was adobe brick and the upper story wood frame. The roof appeared to be in good condition but it is doubtful how much longer the remainder can avoid collapsing.

There are no other buildings in the area and I believe this was the location of Dodsonville and subsequently Linwood.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 16 1873	---	SW/4 Sec 8 T32S R61W	On north side of Purgatoire River 3 miles north of Dry Creek
Dec 10 1873		Established	
Dec 10 1873		Williams, James M.	
Apr 17 1876		Name changed to Linwood	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DODSONVILLE



Abandoned building at the location of Dodsonville (Linwood), Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 9, 2001

DOWNING

Downing was an early rural post office on the Purgatoire River southeast of the earlier site of Dodsonville/Linwood, but on the south side of the river.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report refers to a location on Frijoles Creek; however, the Federal Land Survey location is about two miles north of that stream.

This location is in a sparsely populated section of Las Animas County. The Raton Post Office, a short distance to the south, preceded Downing. After three years of operation that post office was moved three miles to the southeast to Alfalfa. Five years later the Downing Post Office was opened.

Beginning at US Highway 350 drive east on US 160 ten and one-half miles to Las Animas County Road 32.0. This is more of a ranch access road than a county road. The road goes to a ranch complex where it forks. One fork continues through the ranch and crosses the river. The other fork turns northwest along the river. Take the left fork and go about two miles. At that point you will find a small building that I believe was at or near the site of Downing. The site of Raton was a half-mile back towards the ranch.

An interesting observation is that Samuel DeBusk, who in 1886 was the first postmaster at Downing, was also the postmaster at Raton in 1878.

After this brief venture, return to the ranch. There, you can cross the river and go to one of the sites of Alfalfa.

Remember this is private property and it would be best to seek permission at the ranch before proceeding to any of these locations.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 22 1886	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T32S R61W 1/4 mile from Las Animas River (Purgatoire), on Frijoles Creek, south side Sketch map does not show it on Frijoles Creek, but on south side of Purgatoire Note: Purgatoire River in eastern states would be a large creek. Its valley is composed entirely of rich farm lands & is thickly populated. Proposed postmaster - Samuel W. DeBusk
Nov 3 1886		Established
Nov 3 1886		DeBusk, Samuel W.
Jun 3 1896		Wilcox, Amanda E. Declined
Sep 14 1896		Discontinued Mail to Hoehne

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DOWNING

DRUCE

Druce was a ranch post office about six miles south of the site of Andrix on US Highway 160 and seven miles east of Kim. For a few years it served ranchers in the area just north of Tecolote Mesa in this southern portion of Las Animas County.

Access to the site of Druce is from US Highway 160, either at Kim or from one mile west of the site of Andrix.

From Andrix drive one mile west on US 160 to County Road 213.0. Turn south and go three miles to Road 34.0. Turn west and go one mile to Road 211.0. Turn south two miles to the intersection with Road 30.0. The site of Druce was in the southwest quadrant of that intersection.

DRUCE – Continued

From Kim drive east on Las Animas County Road 36.0. Three miles from Kim you will go southeast on Road 203.5 about one mile to Road 34.0. It is another three and a half miles to Road 211.0. Turn south on that road and go two miles to Road 30.0. The location of Druce was in the southwestern quadrant of that intersection.

In 1998 the remains of a foundation were still present in the open, treeless field.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 9 1916	---	NE/4 Sec 3 T33S R52W One mile north of Tucalote (sic) Creek
Aug 31 1916		Established
Aug 31 1916		Chamberlain, O. K.
Oct 17 1917		Hawk, Grace E.
Feb 20 1919		Lowe, William E.
Jul 20 1921		Ratliff, Bessie H.
May 2 1922		Discontinued Mail to Utleyville (Baca County)

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DRUCE

DUNCAN

Duncan was a rural post office on Mesa De Maya in southeastern Las Animas County. There are no reports of any significant development at either of the two locations of this post office.

Nine different names were offered for the post office. All were rejected and the post office was named Duncan. From my studies, I think that is a record of suggested names for a Colorado Post Office.

For almost all of its operation the Duncan Post Office was located on Cobert Creek near where that stream joins the main stream in Gotera Canyon. There are no public roads to that location.

In February 1916 the Duncan Post Office was moved to a new location four miles to the northwest. Once again there are no public roads to the location.

The Records of Postmaster Appointments note that on August 17, 1916 the name of the Duncan Post Office was changed to Gotera. The February 1916 Geographical Site Location Report for Duncan that cites the new location, bears an additional note that indicates the name change may have taken place on March 20, 1916. In either case the Duncan Post Office was only briefly at the new location.

In May 2001 I departed eastward from Branson on Las Animas County Road 4.0. Four miles east of Branson turn north on Road 147.0 and go three miles to Road 10.0. Turn east and stay on Road 10, passing Road 159.5, until Road 10 comes to an end at a ranch, that in 2001 belonged to a Mr. Gilstrap.

We had a pleasant conversation in which I explained my purpose and interest in visiting the sites of Duncan Gotera, and Lone Oak. All of which were within a short distance of his ranch. From him I learned that the Gotera site was about a mile and half from his ranch house and next to a ranch road. He gave me permission to drive on to that location, with the usual "Don't forget to close the gates."

I went ahead and soon came to the low rise described by Mr. Gilstrap. There were three cedar trees and the remains of a small stone building.

Mr. Gilstrap told me that there was no road from his location that would take me into Gotera Canyon and to the original site of Duncan. However he did give me directions to the site of Lone Oak and permission to visit the site.

I attempted to use Google Earth to examine the original site of Duncan. The site is located in the rugged mesa and canyon country along the Colorado-New Mexico State line. I attempted to identify streams and follow them to the Duncan location. That was not easy. I was unable to determine if there were any structures in the area. It is possible that I did not examine the correct location.

DUNCAN – Continued

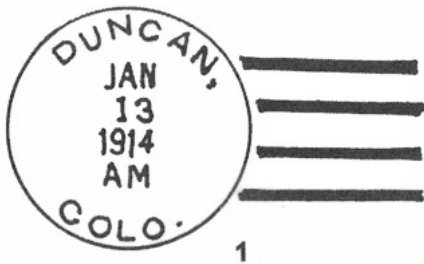
Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 1 1901 --- NE/4 Sec 1 T35S R55W 1/4 mile north of Cobart Creek
Name proposed as Cobart - rejected
Several other names were offered: Hubert, McKinley, Maine,
Bryant, Pearl, Annie, Frank, Aultman

Jul 8 1901 Established
Jul 8 1901 Hughes, Pearl M.
Oct 20 1902 Groomer, Benjamin F.
May 4 1911 Cordova, Lisardo
Feb 12 1914 Cordova, Jacob
Feb 16 1916 --- SE/4 Sec 20 T34S R55W
Aug 17 1916 Name changed to Gotera

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 DUNCAN, / COLO. Jan 13 1914
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-23x19mm



EARL

Earl was a small station on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad, sixty-two miles from La Junta.

It was named for an early resident but there is some confusion over the spelling of his name. It may have been Earle or Earles but was reduced to the simple spelling of Earl.

On June 27, 1921 a Mr. Baker filed a town plat for Earl. A bit more than two years later the Earl Post Office was discontinued which indicated that whatever was planned for the town of Earl did not come to fruition.

The initial Post Office Department Site Location Report for the Earl Post Office filed in 1895, points to a location a mile and a half west of Model on the south side of Las Animas County Road 52.0. I have doubts as to the validity of that location. When I visited the area in January 1998 there was snow on the ground and the road was in bad shape so I did not attempt to check out that location.

The October 1900 Site Location Report places Earl on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad and on modern US Highway 350 where that road intersects Las Animas County Road 48.0.

In 1998 on the east side of US 350, there was a white painted brick building in decent condition. While I was taking pictures of that building a lady stopped, curious about my purpose. She was a fifth generation resident. Her father and grandfather built the building I was photographing and she told me that it was the home of the Earl Post Office. There was not much else in the vicinity.

When I passed through this area in 1998 it appeared that the State of Colorado was constructing a prison facility south of the site of Earl and to the east of the highway.

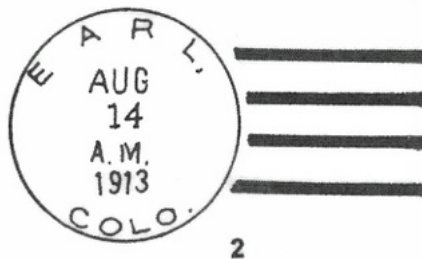
Latitude = 37:20:00 North Longitude = 104:16:40 West EARL

EARL – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 17 1895	---	Sec 7 & 8 T31S R61W 4 miles NE of Purgatoire River In depot on NW side of AT&SF track Proposed postmaster - William Green Patton
Jul 31 1895		Established
Jul 31 1895		Patton, William G.
Oct 20 1896		Coley, Horace E.
Aug 3 1897		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad
Oct 8 1900	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 19 T31S R61W 15 feet on the west side of the AT&SF, in depot 3-1/2 miles north of the Las Animas River
Nov 19 1900		Re-established
Nov 19 1900		Mason, Theron J.
Dec 21 1901		Tacke, William
Sep 23 1902		Scott, Thomas J.
May 14 1909		Mabell, Roy K.
Dec 6 1910		Decker, Joseph W.
Apr 20 1914		Krannwitter, Nicholas
---	---	Not listed in 1915 Postal Guide
Sep 22 1915		Martin, Seward L.
Apr 14 1922		Hargrove, Dallas E.
Nov 21 1923		Ordered closed
Dec 15 1923		Discontinued Mail to Model

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	EARL / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Not recorded	Aug 5 1896
2	EARL, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 20 1912 Aug 14 1913

**EDENVIEW**

I have found no historical reference to this place in Colorado historical literature. The post office did operate for a little more than a year and served ranchers in the area north of the town of Kim.

The location of Edenview, seven miles north of Kim, is on the east side of Colorado Highway 109 opposite Las Animas County Road 50.0. At that location there are remnants of a foundation and a small ranch is visible in the distance.

The site of Edenview is in a nearly level area with no trees in sight. That makes it difficult to connect reality with someone's optimism in choosing Edenview for the name of their post office.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 20 1918	Established
Feb 20 1919??	Thompson, Josie A. [Prob transcription error in printed Appts of Postmasters. Application is clearly dated 1918 and stamped 1918 by USPOD]

EDENVIEW – Continued

Feb 29 1918 --- SW/4 Sec 10 T31S R53W 2 miles west of Two Buttes west Branch
Sketch map shows due north of Kim, 7-1/2 miles and 1/2 mile west,
places it in the SE/4 of SW/4 Sec 10
Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. J. A. Thompson
Aug 31 1920 Discontinued Mail to Kim

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 EDENVIEW, COLO. / M.O.B. Mar 12 1920
CI 11P 28.0/18.5 Hstp No killer



1

EDWEST

Delhi was the first post office in this area. In 1913 it was moved to Bloom in Otero County. Three years later the Edwest Post Office was the successor to the Delhi Post Office and another three years later it was renamed Delhi. When this post office opened it may have been the intention to restore the name of Delhi to the location. However, it was named Edwest for a local resident.

I refer you to the discussion of Delhi for more details about this place.

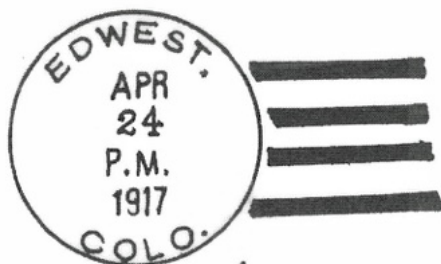
From the Otero-Las Animas County line, drive southwest on US Highway 350 a half-mile to Las Animas County Road 88. Turn west and cross over the railroad tracks. Road 88 turns and parallels the railroad for a short distance. Edwest was in that area. There are no structures in that area.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 20 1916 --- SE/4 Sec 5 T28S R59W 1/4 mile west of Timpas Creek (?)
West side of the AT&SF tracks, 150 feet 1/2 mile south of the
county boundary May have been originally proposed as Delhi - rejected,
but was later changed to Delhi (see earlier report for Delhi)
Applicant for postmaster - William I. Woolery
Nov 14 1916 Established
Nov 14 1916 Pence, Albert C.
Jul 2 1919 Patterson, Rhoena J.
Dec 26 1919 Moved to Delhi

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 EDWEST, / COLO. Apr 24 1917 Mar 29 1919
CI 10P 33.0 4bars S-24x19mm



1

EL MORO/ELMORO

El Moro was a creation of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. It was another example of the Rio Grande's practice, that when an existing town refused to meet the railroad's demands, the railroad would establish its own town. The establishment of El Moro in 1876 infuriated the residents of Trinidad and created a long lasting enmity between the town and the railroad.

Trinidad would have a railroad, the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe. The Rio Grande would be thwarted in its plans to build over Raton Pass to New Mexico.

El Moro was platted by the Southern Colorado Coal and Town Company. For many years El Moro did thrive on its own.

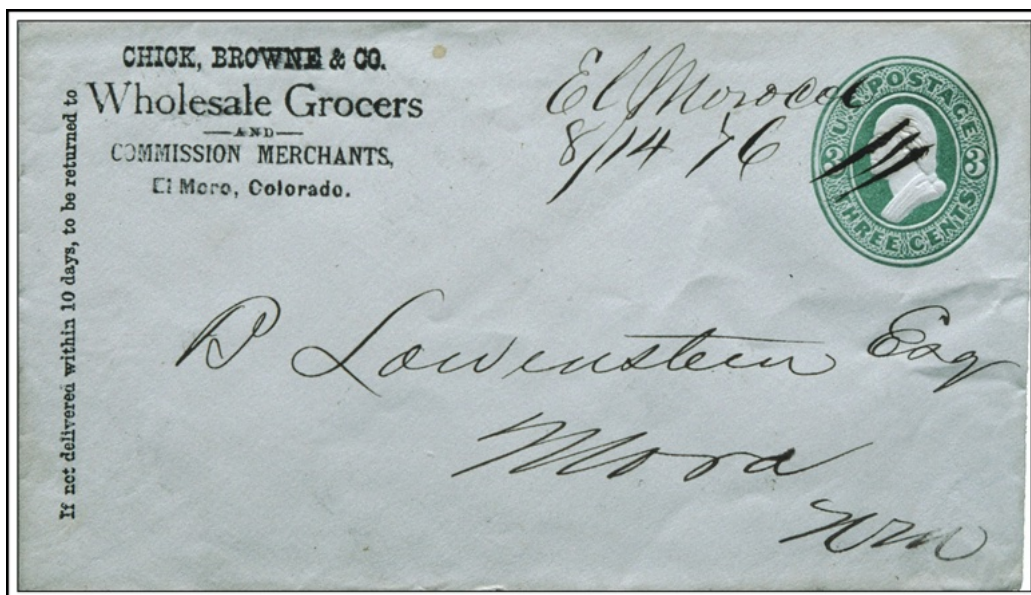
There were coal deposits that could be exploited by the railroad. By the middle of 1876 several coke ovens had been built at El Moro and in 1879 the company added 200 more ovens. For fifteen years the coal mine at El Moro was the largest in Colorado with a daily production of 1,200 tons. El Moro was also in a position to receive and process coal from other mining camps in the Trinidad area. Production was sent to markets in Denver, Salt Lake City, Cheyenne and Omaha.

In addition stock raising in the surrounding countryside helped to support the town's economy.

There is some controversy about the derivation of the name for the community. The translation, from Spanish of El Moro is, "The Moor." However, another suggestion is that Fisher Peak, which dominates the skyline to the south of Trinidad, was thought to resemble Morro Castle in Cuba and that the community name is a misspelling of Morro. That suggestion is attributed to A. Cameron Hunt, a Rio Grande official, so perhaps there is some credence to that idea.

The narrow gauge railroad that terminated at El Moro was rebuilt as a standard gauge track (Colorado and Southern) bypassing El Moro with a route west of the town. The tracks to El Moro were removed in 1936. As the market for coal and coke declined, so did El Moro. What was once a large town has become a scattering of homes at the junction of Las Animas County Roads 32.4 and 75.0.

From Trinidad drive north on Interstate 25 to Exit 18 and then go east on County Road 32.4 to the intersection with Road 75.0. From Exit 15, Colorado Highway 239 will also take you to El Moro.



El Moro Col

August 14, 1876

Latitude = 37:13:28 North Longitude = 104:27:58 West EL MORO

EL MORO/ELMORO – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 25 1876	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T32S R63W 1/2 mile northwest of the Purgatoire	
Apr 17 1876		Established	
Apr 17 1876		Malburn, Mrs. Helen E.	
May 19 1876		Hunt, Walter P.	
Apr 23 1877		Bradley, Bradford D.	
Jan 23 1879		Bradley, Bradford D.	P&S
Jan 8 1880		O'Farrell, Henry T.	P&S
Jun 30 1880		Spelling changed to Elmore	
Jul 1 1880		O'Farrell, Henry T.	P&S
Jan 17 1884		Detmore, Jarrett P.	
Dec 10 1884		West, Charles S.	
Oct 4 1887		Cook, Thomas	
May 24 1889		Paul, William M.	
May 16 1891		Litz, Abram E.	
Dec 6 1893		Lewis, William C.	
Jan -- 1896		Spelling changed to Elmore Day of change not recorded [SRM: changes in spelling not clearly explained.]	
Nov 4 1897		Delamore, Jewett P.	
Jun 21 1901		Chamberlain, Clark D.	
Mar 18 1902		Grisham, James S.	
Aug 29 1904		Lewis, William C.	
Mar 25 1907		Hennessey, James P.	
Dec 15 1910		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	
Dec 23 1910	---	Survey not reported, 175 feet east of the D&RG, 116 yards south of the station 100 rods north (?) of the Las Animas River	
Jan 20 1911		Re-established	
Jan 20 1911		Cook, Thomas	
Aug 28 1933		Ordered closed	
Sep 15 1933		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

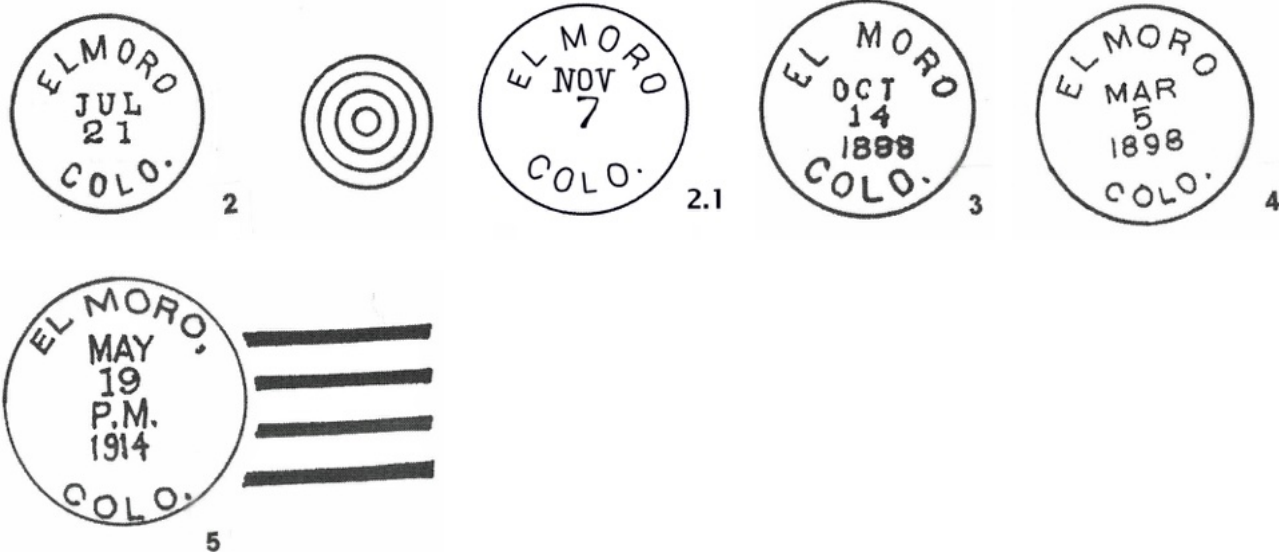
Confirmed types of postal markings

1.A	El Moro Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Aug 14 1876 Jun 24 1876
1.B	Elmore Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	July 21 1876 Nov 4 1876
2	ELMORO / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Apr 11 1877 Jul 8 1879
2.1	EL MORO / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Qtrd Cork	Nov 7 1881
3	EL MORO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Oct 14 1888 Jan 4 1889
4	EL MORO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Mar 5 1898 May 16 1901
5	EL MORO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 25 1914 May 19 1914

1.A

1.B

EL MORO/ELMORO – Continued



ENGLÉ

The presence of coal in the Trinidad area had been known since the early days of settlement. But it was not until the 1876 arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at El Moro that coal mining became economically feasible. In subsequent years a network of branch lines from the Denver and Rio Grande, the Colorado and Southern, and the Atchison, Topeka, and the Santa Fe spread throughout the area. For many years coal mining and coke production dominated the economy of the area around Trinidad.

In 1877 the Denver and Rio Grande constructed a branch railroad to a group of coal mines southeast of Trinidad on the slopes of Fishers Peak.

Mining at Engle began around 1880 and by 1882 there was a small town providing housing and supplies to the miners. The Colorado Coal and Iron Company opened the mines. Included in the producing group were the Little Giant, Rope Road, Straight, Riffenberg and the Engle. Employment grew to over 400 miners and total output reached 1,200 tons per day.

Engle was named for George Engle, the first superintendent of the mines. A town plat was filed on July 21, 1891. At times the community was also called Engleville, Engleberg and Engleburg.

In Trinidad, go east on Main Street to Oak Street. Turn south on Oak Street; continue through the Y intersection with East Street to Obregon Street and turn east. This will take you up a road along the edge of the mesa and to the location of Engle/Engleburg.

At the site of Engleville there is a large mine dump, a number of abandoned buildings and foundations. A quarter-mile to the east there are several active residences including one under construction (2001).

The Engle Post Office closed in 1913. In 1918 a post office was reopened at the mines but with the longer name of Engleburg. Five years later that post office closed and extensive mining came to an end.

Latitude = 37:08:58 North Longitude = 104:28:29 West ENGLEVILLE

ENGLE – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 23 1882	---	NW/4 Sec 29 T33S R63W At the southern terminus of the D&RG within 500 feet of the track station "Coal Bank" 2-1/2 miles east of the Purgatoire 2 miles south of Gray Creek Proposed postmaster - James F. Jordan
Mar 31 1882		Established
Mar 31 1882		Jordan, James F.
Sep 12 1882		Discontinued Mail to El Moro
Jan 12 1883		Re-established
Jan 12 1883		Caldwell, William C.
Jun 10 1889		Fraser, William F.
Mar 12 1890		Calloway, Doc R.
May 23 1894		Sanders, Edward
Jul 20 1897		Johnson, Louis
Feb 19 1900		O'Neil, Robert
May 16 1902		Riddle, Andrew
Apr 14 1910		Hollinsback, William A.
Jan 21 1911		Chambers, Charles C.
Jan 27 1912		McIntosh, Harvey H. Declined
Apr 15 1913		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ENGLE / COLO.	Jan 21 1892 Dec 2- 1906
	CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval



ENGLEBURG

The Engle Post Office, established in 1882, was the first one at this location. It was closed in 1913. When a post office reopened in 1918 it was called Engleburg. That name had been often applied to the town that developed around the coal mines at this location.

The revival of the post office was likely a reflection of a revival of mining at Engle. However, the revival lasted only a few years.

The coal mines at Engleburg/Engle were served by a branch line of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The rails were removed in 1930.

Please refer to the discussion of Engle for the early history, a description of the site and directions to the location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 4 1918	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T33S R63W Document reads "36W" - error Applicant for postmaster - O. D. Williams
Jun 6 1918		Established
Jun 6 1918		Williams, Owen D.
Oct 12 1923		Ordered closed
Oct 31 1923		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad

ENGLEBURG – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**1 ENGLEBURG, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0

Jan 20 1919

4bars S-24x20mm

**FLUES**

Flues was a rural post office on the far eastern edge of Las Animas County fifteen miles north of US Highway 160. The rural, or ranch, post office definition is supported by the Flues Post Office having been at four different locations during its eighteen years of operation.

I have found no information as to why the odd name of Flues was chosen for this remote post office.

Visiting the several sites of Flues is no simple task. In May 1998 Jim Ozment and I visited this portion of Las Animas County. We entered Las Animas County from Baca County, having come from Pritchett and checking some sites in the northwestern corner of Baca County. Prowling the back roads of this portion of Colorado requires a good map from which to work. We came to the county line on Baca County Road KK. There we turned north on the road along the county line—Baca County Road 0 (zero) or Las Animas County Road 227. We drove north two miles, which placed us about a mile or less east of the 1920 location of Flues. There was no access to the west but in the distance we could see a single building, too far away to tell if it was still occupied.

We returned south to Baca County Road KK and crossed into Las Animas County almost immediately turning southward on Las Animas County Road 225.0. At the turn we were in the vicinity of the 1922 and 1924 locations of the Flues Post Office: 1922 on the east side and 1924 on the west side of the road. There we did find the ruins of at least two stone buildings. That location is three miles east of the original location of Flues but getting there requires some effort.

The maps indicate that the shortest route would be to return to Road 225.0, go north via Road 227.0 to Road 72.5, then west via that road and Roads 219.4 and 70.0 to Road 217.2. That would be about eleven miles. From that intersection it is a mile and a half south to Road 68 and the vicinity of the 1915 location of Flues.

Since we were interested in other post office sites in the area, we chose a different route. A route that took us to the sites of Buster, then to Andrix on US 160, next north by the locations of Patt and finally to Flues.

Andrix is on US Highway 160 at the intersection with Las Animas County Road 215. From there drive seven miles north at which point there is a fork in the road. Keep to the east on what is now Road 215.5. You will have just passed the locations of Patt. This road wanders a bit along Mustang Creek and it is seven and a half miles further north to Road 68. Go east on that road crossing Road 217.2 and you will come to a large ranch complex on the east side of Mustang Creek. I believe the original location of the Flues Post Office was at that ranch.

This is lonesome and sparsely populated country so be sure to have a full tank of gas before venturing into the wilderness.

FLUES – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 29 1915	---	SE/4 Sec 32 T29S R51W 1/2 mile south of Butte Creek Proposed postmaster - William L. Gamble
Aug 26 1915		Established
Aug 26 1915		Gamble, William L.
Jun 26 1917		Achen, Paul B.
Nov 12 1920	---	NW/4 Sec 25 T29S R51W Two miles south of Two Buttes Creek
Nov 29 1920		Vanordstrand, Court K.
Aug 15 1922	---	NW/4 Sec 1 T30S R51W 40 rods east of Spring Creek Apparently a move south from a location in SE/4 Sec 25 T29S R51W
Aug 29 1922		Lowman, George W.
Dec 14 1923		Bower, Louis Acting
May 21 1924	---	NE/4 NE/4 Sec 2 T30S R51W (One page reports 30S, the other 31S - 30S is correct.) 8 miles southwest to Buster 18 miles SE to Joy Coy 14 miles SE to Graft
May 31 1924		Bower, Mrs. Elzara
Mar 6 1925		Rutledge, John B.
Sep 28 1925		Smith, T. Ella Acting
Oct 3 1925		Smith, T. Ella Appointed
Nov 22 1926		Cornelison, Mrs. Susie L. Confirmed
Jul 5 1933		Ordered closed
Jul 15 1933		Discontinued Mail to Pritchett

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FLUES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Oct 24 1916
2	FLUES. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jul 14 1933



FORBES

Forbes was the town that served the major coal mine in Forbes Canyon. The mines there operated more or less continuously for forty years. In 1889 there was substantial production that warranted construction of the Chicosa Canyon Railroad which eventually became a part of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. Initially the branch line connected to the main line at Chicosa Junction at a place now occupied by Exit 23 of Interstate 25. With the construction of a new railroad alignment the connection moved a mile west to what became Forbes Junction. The railroad was removed in 1932.

To visit this site and others in the area, take Exit 23 from Interstate 25. Go to the frontage road on the west side of the interstate and drive south through a couple of turns. Stay with the frontage road and go under the railroad. Now on Las Animas County Road 40 continue to the intersection with Road 65.5. This was the location of Forbes Junction.

FORBES – Continued

Turn west on Road 65.5. By this road it would be about three miles to the site of Forbes. However, in less than mile, at the entrance to the canyon, a locked gate blocks the road. There is a ranch at the mouth of the canyon. I would guess that there may be plenty of evidence of the mining but that no buildings remain at Forbes.

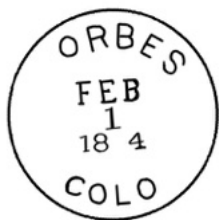
This is another situation where access to one the old coal mining towns is blocked off. Such sites can be dangerous and the present owners fear lawsuits if someone is reckless and an accident occurs.

Chronology of the Post Office

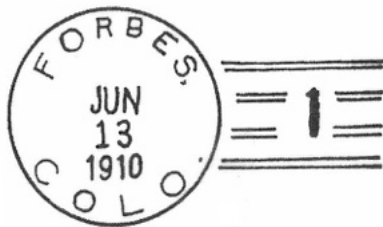
Jan 3 1889	--	SE/4 Sec 16 T32S R64W Sketch map shows it as SE/4 of SW/4 Sec 16 Proposed postmaster - Sydney Wood
Feb 13 1889		Established
Feb 13 1889		Wood, Sydney
Apr 14 1894		Wood, Charles S.
Jul 20 1896		Discontinued Papers to Trinidad
Jan 13 1905	--	SW/4 Sec 16 T32S R64W 2 miles southwest of Chicosa Creek 3 miles from Forbes Junction Station on C&S, west side Proposed postmaster - Joseph Cox
Mar 24 1905		Re-established
Mar 24 1905		Cox, Joseph
Mar 9 1911		Morasky, Joseph B.
Dec 22 1913		Cowdery, Kenneth C.
Jul 13 1917		Morris, Lewis F.
Aug 24 1926		Smith, Orlie W.
Sep 27 1926		Smith, Orlie W.
Jan 7 1929		Ordered closed
Jan 15 1929		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

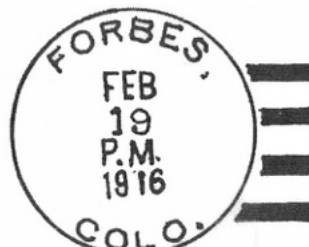
0.1	FORBES / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Feb 1 1894
1	FORBES, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2 with 1, S-21x14mm	Jun 13 1910
2	FORBES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Feb 19 1916 Feb 13 1917



0.1



1



2

FORBES JUNCTION

Forbes Junction was a railroad post office on the Colorado and Southern Railroad. It was at the junction with the branch line that served the coal mines at Forbes, Majestic and Fouret. When originally constructed the branch line connected to the original alignment of the railroad at a point that is now occupied by Exit 23 from Interstate 25. Whatever facilities existed there were primarily to serve the railroad and its personnel.

FORBES JUNCTION – Continued

To visit this site and others in the area, take Exit 23 from Interstate 25. Go to the frontage road on the west side of the interstate and drive south through a couple of turns. Stay with the frontage road and go under the railroad. Now on Las Animas County Road 40 continue to the intersection with Road 65.5.

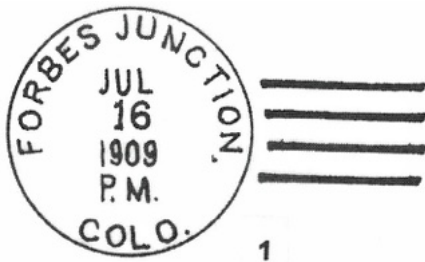
Forbes Junction was in the vicinity of the intersection but there are no remaining structures. To the west portions of the branch railroad grade are visible.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 27 1906	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T32S R64W At the station on the C&S RR
Oct 25 1906		Established
Oct 25 1906		Dunann, Frank L.
Dec 28 1907		Gooch, Owen Y.
Jul 2 1909		Basey, Willis C.
Jul 9 1910		Ordered closed
Jul 30 1910		Discontinued Mail to Majestic

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 **FORBES JUNCTION, / COLO.** **Aug 5 1907 Feb 25 1910**
 CI 10P 32.0 **4bars S-22x14mm**



FOURET

I have found no historical information about this place. The location provided to the Post Office Department places it in Chicosa Canyon about a half mile west of the earlier site of Majestic. It is possible that there was some coal mining here but not to the extent that there had been at Majestic.

To visit this site and others in the area, take Exit 23 from Interstate 25. Go to the frontage road on the west side of the interstate and drive south through a couple of turns. Stay with the frontage road and go under the railroad. Now on Las Animas County Road 40, continue to the intersection with Road 65.5. This was the location of Forbes Junction.

To the west there is a choice of roads. The southern fork, Road 65.5, goes in the direction of Forbes. The northern fork, Road 40.0, goes to the sites of Majestic and Fouret. This road enters Chicosa Canyon and dies out just beyond the site of Fouret.

A short distance west of the location of Majestic there is a well-kept older ranch. Perhaps that would have been the location of the Fouret Post Office. The postmaster, who was to take the job, declined the appointment and the Fouret office was never in operation.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 9 1918	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 9 T32S R64W 100 feet north of Chicosa Creek
		Apparently requested as Majestic rejected
		Applicant for postmaster - Albert A. Miller
Sep 14 1919		Established

FOURET – Continued

--- -- ---	Never operated	Postmaster declined appointment
Aug 14 1919	Riggs, William E.	Declined

Confirmed types of postal markings**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM FOURET****GILLETTE**

One reference states that, “Opposite the mouth of Van Bremer Arroyo, M. McLane platted the new townsite of Gillette.” It is obvious that the intended community never developed beyond a post office that may have been open for less than four months.

The location is on a nearly level plain suitable for livestock when there is sufficient rainfall to provide grazing.

I have no information relative to the source of the name. I speculate that if there was a proposed community, that Gillette was the name of someone whose support Mr. McLane was attempting to influence.

The following directions are the same as for going to the nearby site of Mesaview (1921-1922).

Beginning at the intersection of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 389 drive west three miles to Las Animas County Road 129.0. When I made this visit in 2001 I recorded this junction as Road 129.0. However, The DeLorme *Colorado Atlas and Gazetteer* shows it as Road 133.0. The key is the distance west from the intersection with Colorado 389.

Drive north four miles and turn east on Road 32. From that point progress becomes problematical. I was able to go a mile east and then a mile north to a gate that although not locked would have taken me into a cattle pen. At that point I was still a mile short of the site of Mesaview and also two miles west of the stated location of the Gillette Post Office (1888).

Looking east in the direction of Mesaview, fence lines and what appears to be a windbreak for cattle were the only things visible.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 30 1888 ---	SW/4 Sec 23 T32S R58W 3-1/2 miles south of the Purgatoire 5 miles west of Vachita Creek Proposed postmaster - Thomas B. Castleman
Jul 2 1888	Established
Jul 2 1888	Castleman, Thomas B.
Oct 20 1888	Discontinued Papers to Indianapolis

Confirmed types of postal markings**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GILLETTE****GLENHAM**

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports provide a Federal Land Survey location for Glenham. However, that location is at odds with other historical references to Glenham that connect it directly to the location of Barela.

If the historical references are correct and I now believe they are, then Glenham was the name given to an early settlement on San Francisco Creek. Glenham was an odd name for a community in an area that was being settled by people of Spanish descent. In little more than a year the post office was renamed Barela for one of the prominent families in the area.

GLENHAM – Continued

There is no access to the location provided by the Post Office Department. When Las Animas County Road 8.8 crosses San Isidro Creek it becomes Road 105.5. A mile and a half west of the road to the Abeyta Cemetery it is possible to look out over the countryside toward the location. I could see nothing to indicate any sort of previous habitation.

From Trinchera via Roads 8.8 and 105.5, it is almost fourteen miles to Glenham/Barela at the intersection with Road 12.5. Barela is an active ranch with several buildings of various ages on both sides of the road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 24 1873	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T34S R61W	On the west side of San Francisco Creek
May 19 1873		Established	
May 19 1873		Bransford, William A.	
Jul 28 1874		Name changed to Barela	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GLENHAM

GOTERA

In 1916 the Duncan Post Office was moved to a new location and shortly thereafter it was renamed Gotera. Gotera is a Spanish word meaning, “gutter.” This may be a reference to Gotera Canyon, which heads near the location of this post office.

Directions to Gotera and my receiving permission to visit the site, have been provided with the description of Duncan. Please refer to that discussion.

At the site of Gotera on a low rise are three cedar trees and the remnants of a small stone building.

The Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments state that on January 23, 1922 the name of the Gotera Post Office was changed to Lone Oak. Apparently the post office remained at the same location until 1926 when it was moved about two miles west to a site in Cobert Canyon.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 16 1916	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T34S R55W	[Report filed for Gotera]
Aug 17 1916		Formerly named Duncan	
Aug 17 1916		Cordova, Jacob	
Nov 4 1916	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 20 T34S R55W	
Aug 15 1921		Comer, Maud E.	
Jan 23 1922		Name changed to Lone Oak	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GOTERA

GRAYCREEK

In 1893 it was proposed to open a post office on the north side of Gray Creek to be called Graycreek. For some reason that did not happen. On December 6, 1894 a post office did open but with the name Chapel. Less than a month later the Chapel Post Office was renamed Graycreek.

Geographical Site Location Reports for Graycreek were filed in 1893 and again in March 1895. Both specify the same location. The March 1895 report also notes, “Late Chapel.”

Gray Creek is the same stream that flows north to join the Purgatoire River near the location of the early stage station and post office of Grays Ranch.

GRAYCREEK – Continued

Graycreek was a coal mining camp southeast of Trinidad. In 1888 the Colorado and Southern Railroad constructed a branch line to the coal mine that was operated by the Victor American Fuel Company. The branch line began at Beshoar.

This was a rather remote location back in the lower slopes of the Fishers Peak Mesa. A small community did develop to provide housing and supplies for the miners working at Graycreek. Operations at the mine continued into the 1920's. The town itself was abandoned in 1927 and the railroad was dismantled at that time.

Once again I will refer directions back to Trinchera and to the other post office sites to the east of Graycreek. From Trinchera follow the directions west, passing the site of Abeyta to Barela. From Barela follow the directions to Maldonado. From Maldonado continue north on Las Animas Road 85.5 to Road 22.0, which ends at a three-way intersection with Roads 24.6 and 81.5. Keep to the west on Road 24.6. From that intersection it is one and three-tenths miles to what at one time was Road 20.9 to the south. Unfortunately that road is now on private property with a locked gate so, in 2001 it was not possible to go further towards the location of Graycreek/Chapel. Nothing that could be related to the activity at Graycreek was visible from Road 24.6. Using Google Earth it is possible to follow the streams back to the approximate location of Chapel. There is an area that shows signs of activity but no structures are visible. It appears that environmental cleanup has removed most evidence of the early mining activity.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Aug 4 1893 --- NE/4 Sec 35 T33S R63W On the north side of Gray Creek
Proposed postmaster - George Williams
- Jan 3 1895 Formerly named Chapel
- Jan 3 1895 Williams, George
- Mar 27 1895 --- NE/4 Sec 35 T33S R63W (from sketch map)
Document headed "Graycreek Late Chapel"
- Apr 20 1906 Klinger, Henry H.
- Jun 2 1908 Sperry, William E.
- Dec 24 1908 Holt, Robert G.
- Nov 25 1910 Maltris, Joseph L.
- Apr 12 1913 Baker, Ernest
- Feb 6 1917 Dinsmore, Howard F.
- Mar 26 1918 Foster, Thomas S.
- Oct 21 1919 Baker, Francis M.
- Aug 31 1921 Discontinued Mail to Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 GRAYCREEK / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5 1.1 GRAYCREEK, COLO. / REC'D.
CI 10P 31.5 2 GRAYCREEK, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 3 GRAYCREEK, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hstp No killer Hstp No killer 4bars S-??x14mm 4bars S-??x20mm | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Oct 31 1899 Nov 21 1906 Jul 15 1907 Jun 4 1908 Jan 20 1913 Mar 17 1914 |
|--|--|---|



GRAYS RANCH

In the spring of 1861 Jim Gray established a ranch on the south side of the Purgatoire River a short distance west of where the Rito San Lorenzo (now Gray Creek) joined the river.

Jim Gray built a large adobe home. In addition there were a few other settlers and a store operated by D. L. Taylor. The place became known as Grays Ranch and it was a stage station on the Barlow, Sanderson & Company stage route along the Purgatoire.

Grays Ranch was also the place where the stage road from Trinidad divided. One branch followed the river northeast to the Arkansas River Valley. The other branch crossed the river and turned north towards Denver. A small settlement known as Grays Landing developed on the north side of the river where the stage road crossed the river. In the mid-1870's this would become a part of El Moro.

For about three years Grays Ranch seemed destined to supplant Trinidad as the principal settlement in the area. The Trinidad Post Office was closed in 1864. However, by 1866 Trinidad had regained its momentum of development and the post office at Grays Ranch was moved to Trinidad.

From the junction of US Highways 350 and 160 drive towards Trinidad on US 350. You will pass Las Animas County Road 75.1, the road north to El Moro. A short distance from that intersection the highway crosses Gray Creek. Just beyond the creek there is a large house on the river side and the Wagon Wheel Lounge/Saloon (1998) on the east side of the road. There are other buildings along the road. Grays Ranch was in this area between the highway and the river.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 12 1863	---	Document filed under Huerfano County Unsurveyed Trinidad five miles southwest Fort Lyon 125 miles east On the south side of the Purgatoire River Document signed by William Forbush
Sep 1 1863		Established
Sep 1 1863		Stover, James M.
Feb 6 1866		Bransford, William A.
Feb 6 1866		Moved to Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GRAYS RANCH

GREEN CANON

Green Canon was one of the three post offices that operated in Brodhead Canyon about two miles northwest of Aguilar. The Brodhead Post Office was in operation from 1902 to 1913 and again from 1915 to 1939. The Green Canon Post Office opened in 1909 and in 1910 the name was changed to Beacon. The Beacon Post Office closed in 1913, a few months after the first closure of the Brodhead office.

From 1909 to 1913 the Green Canon/Beacon and Brodhead Post Offices were separated by, at most one mile, probably less. Why were two post offices necessary in such close proximity? Both offices were connected to coal mines so perhaps there was rivalry between the operations of the two camps that precluded cooperation on something as simple as postal service.

Green Canon has been described as a railroad post office at the terminus of a short line through Aguilar to the Brodhead Mine. I have found no information to separate the mines at this location but I feel that there was more than one operating company.

The railroad was a branch line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad. No evidence remains at the site but I suspect that there were living accommodations for the miners and perhaps a company store.

GREEN CANON – Continued

Enter Aguilar from the east on Las Animas County Road 63.1 and drive through the town to the west. On the west edge of Aguilar keep to the right. Road 63.1 will become a dirt road and curve to the northwest into Brodhead Canyon. In 2001 I was only able to go one and a half miles from the Aguilar Post Office on Main Street before encountering a locked gate. At that point I could look up the valley but the only things visible were several mine dumps.

I believe I was looking at the early site of Brodhead and the sites of Beacon and Green Canon. The later site of Brodhead was around a bend and out of view from where I stopped.

This is another of the locations to which, for reasons of safety and security, public access to the mine sites is prohibited.

An examination of this area using Google Earth, shows some evidence of the mining activity. However, it appears that much of residue has been cleaned up and there are no remaining structures.

My apologies for, with minor changes, repeating here the same text as I used in discussing the Beacon and Brodhead Post Offices. Considering the close relationship of the three offices this approach seems reasonable. [WHB]

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 14 1909	---	SW/4 Sec 16 T30S R65W
Feb 4 1909		Established
Feb 4 1909		Bartlett, Perry F.
Aug 11 1910		Moved to Beacon

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GREEN CANON

GRINNELL

Grinnell was located at the site of the Trinchera Plaza three miles southwest of the present day village of Trinchera.

Settlement first took place about 1873 and in July of that year a post office with the name of San Jose was opened. In December 1878 for an unknown reason, the post office name was changed to Grinnell. Throughout the years the location has most often referred to as Trinchera Plaza and is still marked as such on current maps.

This portion of Las Animas County is largely grazing land with grain and hay being grown on land irrigated from Trinchera Creek.

From Trinchera drive a mile south on Las Animas County Road 119.8 and turn west on County Road 4.4. It is two and a half miles to the Trinchera Plaza. You cross Trinchera Creek on an old iron truss bridge just before reaching the plaza.

I visited the site in 2001. There were several buildings, some well-hidden in brush and trees. Most did not appear to be occupied but there were a couple buildings still being used as residences or ranch houses.

It is not possible to determine exactly with which of the three “towns” (Brazil, Grinnell or San Jose) any of the buildings were connected.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 30 1873	---	Unsurveyed 1/4 mile west of Trinchera Creek [Report filed for San Jose]
		Proposed postmaster George W. Hassmer
Dec 18 1878		Formerly named San Jose
Dec 18 1878		Abbott, James G.

GRINNELL – Continued

Jan 9 1880 Guitarrez, Antonio C.
Jul 10 1883 Discontinued Mail to Barela

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GRINNELL

GULNARE

Gulnare was originally an agricultural and ranching community on the Apishapa River southwest of Aguilar. Contrary to the other post offices that once served portions of northwestern Las Animas County, Gulnare did develop into a modest community. It has had an uneven history. For many years it was in decline. In 1992 its post office became a Community Post Office under the jurisdiction of Trinidad.

My first visit to Gulnare was in 1972. The post office was in operation in a good-sized, blue building. In 2001 the signs were still on the building, now a nondescript tan but the post office was closed. It is possible that it may have reopened.

There are still a number of residents, a grill, a liquor store and the Colorado Metal Spinning business. In 2001 the Gulnare Church and school were both closed although the buildings were in good condition. There are some nearby subdivisions of 35-acre plots that are attracting retirees to the area.

Gulnare is the subject of legend and confusion. It is claimed that it was first known as Abeyton. If so then that Abeyton had no direct relationship to the Abeyton Post Office which was two miles northeast of Gulnare on Las Animas County Road 46.0. The post office at Abeyton closed four months before the Gulnare Post Office opened for business.

According to repeated legend the source of the name is that when the request for a post office was submitted several names were proposed. The request was sent to Washington in an envelope that bore a picture of a Holstein cow named, "The Princess of Gulnare." The Post Office Department rejected the suggested names and dubbed the town Gulnare. It does make a nice legend and might even be true.

Gulnare is located where Las Animas County Road 46.0 becomes Road 43.7, eight miles southwest of Aguilar.

Latitude = 37:19:02 North Longitude = 104:45:05 West GULNARE

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 17 1890	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T31S R66W 1/4 mile north of the Apishapa 2 miles south of Trujillo Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - William S. McDowell	
Dec 16 1890		Established	
Dec 16 1890		McDowell, William T.	
Sep 19 1894		Passarelli, Michele	
Apr 11 1901		Jones, Jefferson S.	Confirmed
Jul 17 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T31S R66W 350 feet south of the Apishapa River	
Aug 2 1915	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 26 T31S R66W 500 feet north of the Apishapa River	
Feb 1 1940		Cher, Mrs. Elizabeth	Assumed charge
Feb 8 1940		Cher, Mrs. Elizabeth	Acting
Mar 26 1940		Cher, Mrs. Elizabeth	Confirmed
Apr 15 1940		Cher, Mrs. Elizabeth	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 26 T31S R66W 1/16 mile north of the Apishapa River	
Jul 29 1946		Durham, Mrs. Aurora	Confirmed
Aug 27 1946		Durham, Mrs. Aurora	Commissioned
Sep 26 1946		Durham, Mrs. Aurora	Assumed charge
Mar 5 1947		Salapich, Mrs. Edna Marie	Assumed charge

GULNARE – Continued

Mar 26 1947	Salapich, Mrs. Edna Marie	Acting
May 21 1947	Salapich, Mrs. Edna Marie	Confirmed
Jun 19 1947	Salapich, Mrs. Edna Marie	Commissioned
Jun 4 1976	Mestas, Mrs. Matilda E.	Officer in charge
Apr 4 1981	Salapich, John	Possession as postmaster
May 9 1992	Converted to a Community Post Office of Trinidad	



The post office building at Gulnare, Colorado
 Photograph by William H. Bauer
 May 10, 2001

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	GULNARE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	May 6 1892
2	GULNARE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not visible on copy	Mar 2 1898
3	GULNARE, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 1, with 2	Aug 27 1904 Apr 21 1909
4	GULNARE, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Jun 23 1911
5	GULNARE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 25 1914
6	GULNARE / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Dec 27 1922
7	GULNARE, COLO. CI 10H 32.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Feb 15 1935 Aug 3 1938
8	GULNARE. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-26x21mm	Oct 6 1942 Jul 27 1948
9	GULNARE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 24 1950 Feb 24 1950

GULNARE – Continued

10 GULNARE, CO / 81042
CI 10P 32.5

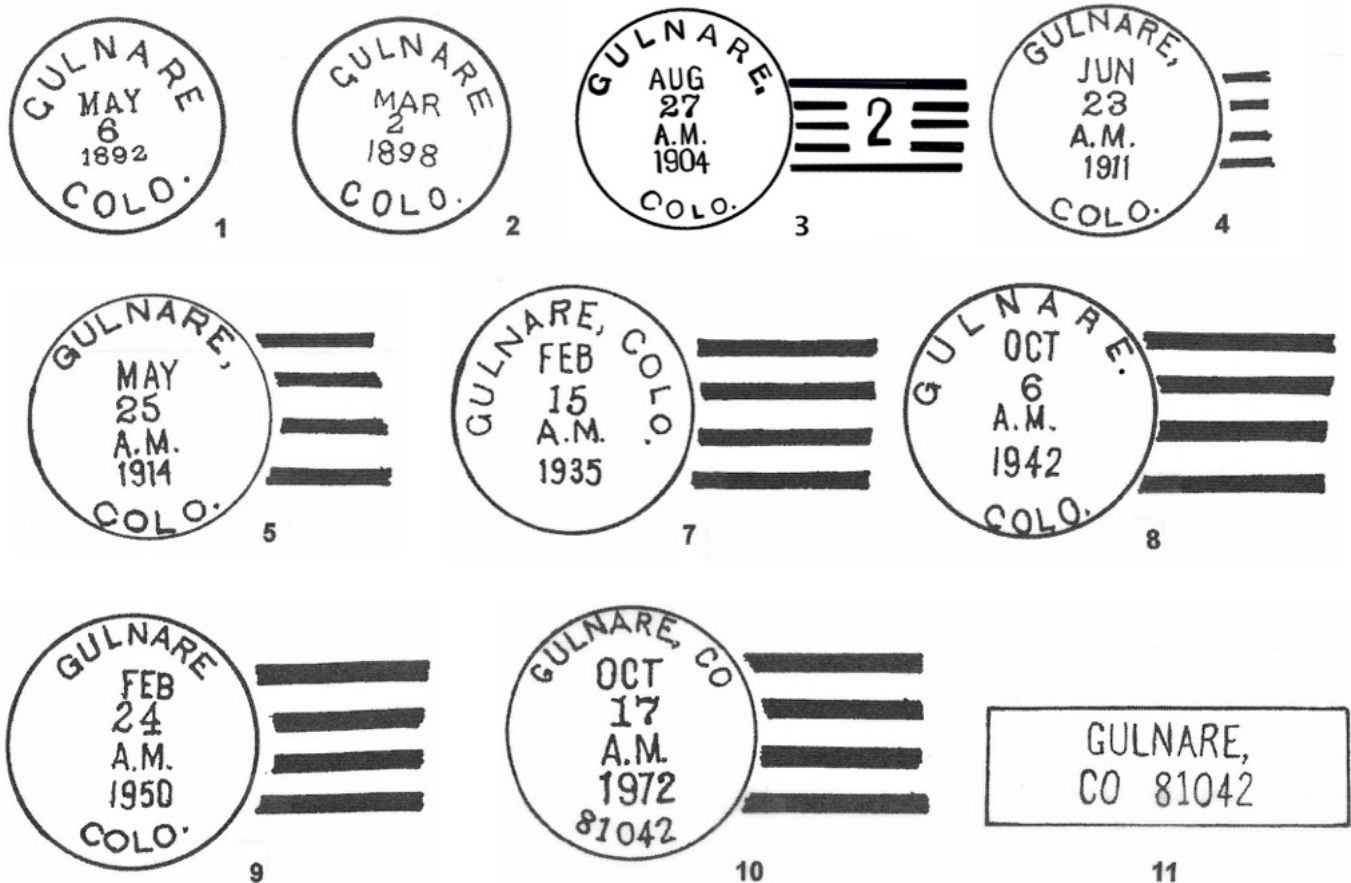
Aug 16 1969 Oct 11 1973

4bars S-24x19mm

11 GULNARE, / CO 81042
SL 10P 48.0x16.0

--- 1990s

Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style



HASTINGS

Hastings was a coal camp established in 1893 by the Victor-American Fuel Company. It was named for Alonzo Hastings. Hastings was the father-in-law of Silas A. Chappell who was then president of the Victor American Company.

Hastings was the location of an important coal mine and a large number of coke ovens. It was on the Canon de Agua Railroad from Ludlow to Delagua.

On April 27, 1917 an explosion occurred in the Number 2 Mine at Hastings. At the time 121 men were at work. None survived the explosion and this was the worst mine disaster in Colorado history.

After the disaster mining continued at Hastings but at a reduced level finally coming to an end in the early 1950's. The railroad was removed in 1952.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25 drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of these roads. Continue west on Road 44.0 two miles and you will see a large mine dump, a number of foundations and the ruins of long row of coke ovens. That is all that remains of Hastings.

Continue west three miles on Road 44.0 to Delagua.

HASTINGS – Continued



Mine dumps at the site of Hastings
Photography by William H. Bauer May 10, 2001

Chronology of the Post Office

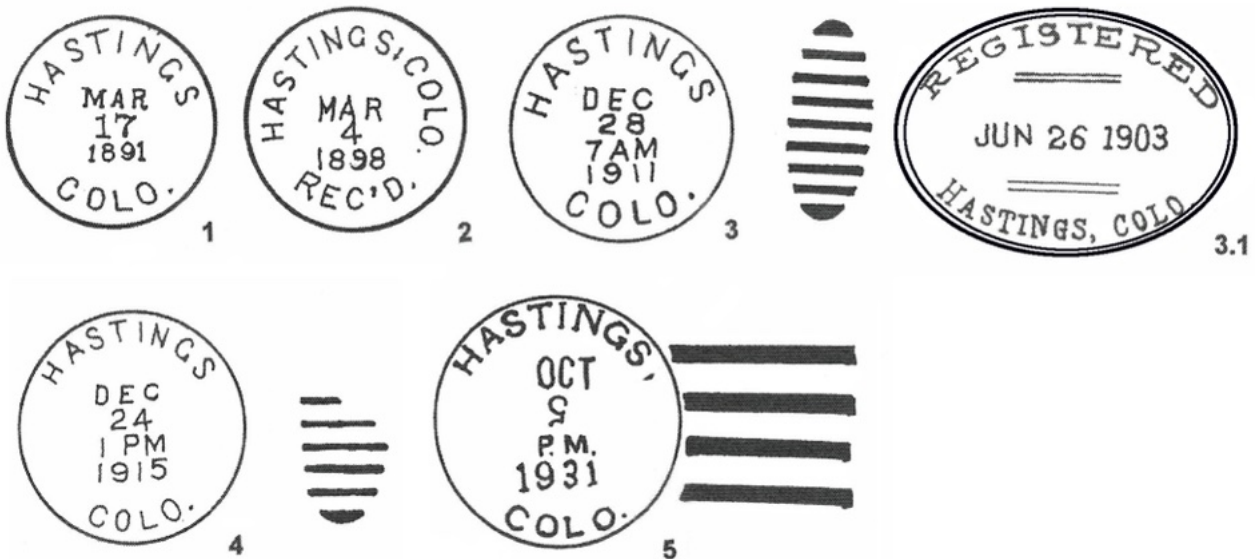
Aug 6 1889	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T31S R65W 20 feet north of the Denver, Texas & Fort Worth tracks (branch ?)	
Sep 12 1889		Established	
Sep 12 1889		Roberts, James H.	
Jul 2 1890		Cameron, John	
Mar 30 1894		Day, Alfred J.	
Sep 2 1895	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 24 T31S R65W	
Dec 4 1897		Woodward, Arthur E.	
Jun 18 1903		Purdum, George F.	
Jul 1 1904			Office relegated to 4th Class
Nov 8 1905		Woodward, Arthur E.	
Jun 26 1908		Klingner, Henry A.	
Jun 22 1910		Whitsell, Roy R.	
Mar 21 1911		Holt, Robert G.	
May 7 1913		Stream, Edward C.	
May 21 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T31S R65W 50 feet south of Delagua Canon 110 feet north of C&S tracks	
Aug 22 1919		Baker, George	
May 1 1923		Morgan, Carl M.	
Mar 16 1925		Williams, Claude C.	Acting
May 15 1925		Williams, Claude C.	Appointed
Dec 15 1925		Spradling, Elmer E.	Acting
Feb 24 1926		Spradling, Elmer E.	Appointed
May 5 1928		Ferrick, Henry E.	
Jan 26 1929		Nicola, John H	Confirmed

HASTINGS – Continued

Apr 5 1929	Nicola, John H	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Nov 1 1933	MacCluskey, Francis M.	Assumed charge
Nov 15 1933	MacCluskey, Francis M.	Acting
Jan 22 1934	MacCluskey, Francis M.	Confirmed
Feb 16 1934	MacCluskey, Francis M.	Commissioned
Oct 13 1936	Nelson, Ben K.	Assumed charge
Oct 28 1936	Nelson, Ben K.	Acting
Nov 3 1936	Nelson, Ben K.	Confirmed
Dec 14 1936	Nelson, Ben K.	Commissioned
Apr 16 1937	Nelson, Mrs. Isabell	Assumed charge
Apr 27 1937	Nelson, Mrs. Isabell	Acting
Jun 2 1937	Nelson, Mrs. Isabell	Confirmed
Jul 2 1937	Nelson, Mrs. Isabell	Commissioned
Jan 26 1939	Ordered closed	
Feb 15 1939	Discontinued Mail to Ludlow	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HASTINGS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 17 1891
2	HASTINGS, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Not present	Mar 4 1898
3	HASTINGS / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Nov 8 1901 Dec 28 1911
3.1	HASTINGS, COLO. // REGISTERED OV 20P 42x33/40x31	Hstp No killer	Jun 26 1903
4	HASTINGS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jan 10 1914 Dec 24 1915
5	HASTINGS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Oct 5 1931 Feb 15 1939



HICKS

Hicks is another of the post offices in the remote northwestern corner of Las Animas County for which there is only a few brief notes in the historical literature of Colorado.

HICKS – Continued

Jaroso was the requested name for this post office. That was rejected perhaps because the nearby Jaroso Post Office had closed only a month before the request was submitted. Flora A. Hicks was the first postmaster for this office and it was given her family name.

One reference equates it with the Powell Post Office. That seems possible as the second location of Powell was near the Hicks Cemetery that is shown on the USGS Topographic Map of Las Animas County (Sheet 4) and for which coordinates are listed below.

However, that location is about four miles southwest from the Federal Land Survey location that was reported in the 1894 Geographical Site Location Report for the Hicks Post Office. The description of the location in that report fits with a site on Rito Seco Creek as shown on the above cited USGS map.

It is certainly possible that the Hicks Post Office was moved to the second location of Powell and that the move was not reported. If it was at that location it was probably no more than a ranch post office and the cemetery was likely a family cemetery and not a community affair.

Another complication is that the Hicks Post Office opened a year before the Powell Post Office was closed.

For directions to that location please refer to the discussion of Powell that is described below.

As is the case with other locations in this part of Las Animas County, there is no easy access to the initial location for Hicks. The public roads follow the main stream valleys with few if any connections between them.

Begin this trip at Gulnare on Las Animas County Road 46.0. Drive west a mile and a half to the intersection with Road 42.0. Stay on Road 46.0 and go another eight miles. The entrance road to the Twin Peaks Ranch Headquarters is three-tenths miles beyond a side road that would go in the direction of the Hicks location, about a mile to the south. In 2001 another of the ubiquitous locked gates blocked that road. Nothing is visible from Road 46.0. An examination of the location using Google Earth, shows no indication of a settlement or remaining structures.

Please refer to the discussion of the Link Post Office for additional thoughts on the location of Hicks.

Latitude = 37:15:57 North Longitude = 104:58:07 West HICKS CEMETERY

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 26 1894	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T31S R67W 1 mile south of the Apishapa 60 yards north of Reti Sico Creek (sic.) Requested as Jaroso - rejected Proposed postmaster - Flora A. Hicks
Apr 4 1895		Established
Apr 4 1895		Hicks, Flora A.
Jul 20 1897		Hartsoe, Isaac
Jan 28 1910		Hartsoe, Melissa C.
Jan 24 1914		Littlejohn, Nellie
Feb 15 1918		Discontinued Mail to Weston

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HICKS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jan 29 1899 Jan 3 1911 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2	HICKS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Sep 16 1913 4bars S-25x19mm

HICKS – Continued



HIGGINS

From the little information available, I believe that Higgins was a short-lived coal camp serving miners at some coal mines a half-mile or so west of the settlement.

From 1909 to 1940 there was a spur line from the Colorado and Southern Railroad, the main tracks of which were a mile east of Higgins.

The location of Higgins is a mile east of the site of Brodhead but separated by a low ridge. The mines near Higgins could have been another access point to the same coal seams that were being mined at Brodhead.

Take Exit 34 from Interstate 25 and drive west on Las Animas County Road 60.0, crossing Road 53.7 and continuing west about a half mile. That will bring you to a farmyard, junkyard or combination thereof which is the only establishment in the area.

In 2001 as I approached this location I saw evidence that there was some drilling taking place. I would guess that they were exploring the potential for deposits of coal gas (methane).

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 13 1911	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T30S R65W
Dec 26 1911		Established
Dec 26 1911		Samples, Arthur
Jun 15 1914		Discontinued Mail to Rapson

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HIGGINS

HOEHNE

Settlement at Hoehne began in 1865 and by 1866 a small community had begun to develop. At first Hoehne was a stage station but in 1877 with the arrival of the Pueblo and Arkansas Valley Railroad (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe) it became a railroad station and siding.

Hoehne was named for a pioneer settler, William Hoehne. Mr. Hoehne is credited with digging the first irrigation ditch in the region. He also built the first mill, introduced the first threshing machine and planted apple and cherry orchards. Later he became Las Animas County Treasurer.

In 1874 the post office at Pulaski, on the south side of the Purgatoire River, was moved to Hoehne, and assumed the new name. On July 13, 1887 the Hoehne City Town and Development Company filed a plat for Hoehne.

Agriculture was, and remains, the principal activity on which the economy of Hoehne is based.

If you come from the direction of La Junta via US Highway 350, after passing the location of Earl, it is about four miles to the intersection with Las Animas County Road 40.0 (Colorado Highway 239). Turn west on that road and it will take you to Hoehne, another four miles. That road continues on to connect with Interstate 25 at Exit 15. There is a road south from Hoehne that also connects to US 350.

HOEHNE – Continued

In 1998 Hoehne still had a school and a small business district. The post office was located in the Hoehne Mercantile Store. There were a modest number of residences on the side streets. Unfortunately, the business district of Hoehne suffers from its proximity to the commercial developments at nearby Trinidad.

Latitude = 37:16:52 North Longitude = 105:22:50 West HOEHNE

Chronology of the Post Office

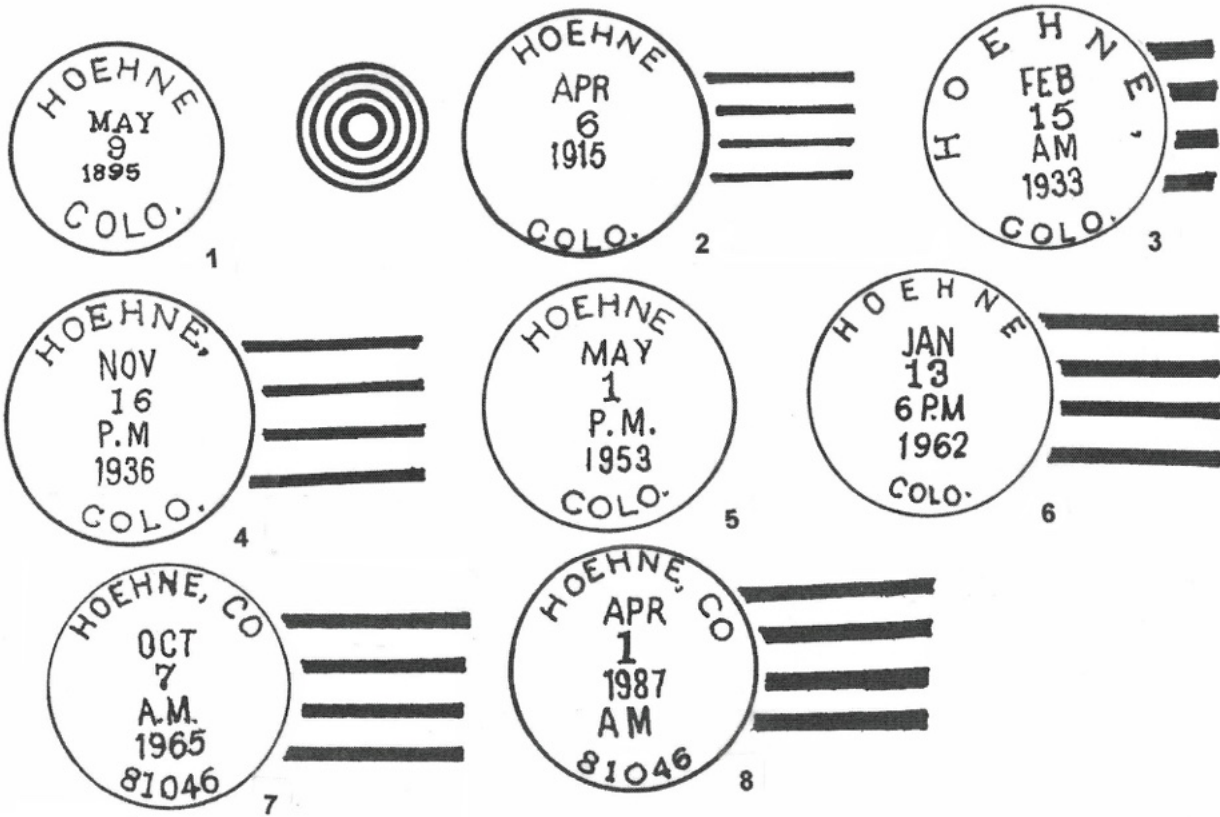
Jan 12 1874	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T32S R62W 1/8 mile south of Purgatoire [Report filed for Pulaski]	
Nov 2 1886		Moved from Pulaski	
Nov 2 1886		Ogle, John	
Dec 14 1886		Sellers, Alexander	
Jun 12 1887	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T32S R62W Less than 1/4 mile from the Hoehne Station of the AT&SF RR on the south side of the railroad	
Mar 7 1888		Farrell, John P.	
Feb 2 1889		Mestrezat, William L.	
Apr 20 1889		Farrell, John P.	
Jun 6 1891		Ryan, John T.	
Dec 29 1894		Martinez, Juan C.	
May 22 1895		Moore, James W.	
Jan 4 1901		Stevens, Frank G.	
Dec 21 1901		Butler, Arrison H.	
Dec 14 1904		Moore, James W.	
Dec 5 1907		Hoover, Jacob M.	
Nov 5 1909		Farnham, Eli P.	
Feb 25 1910		George, James D.	
Jul 10 1914	---	W/2 SE/4 Sec 6 T32S R62W 180 feet north of the AT&SF tracks	
Jun 28 1915		George, Emma S.	
Oct 14 1920		Dunlany, Forest E.	Confirmed
Dec 14 1932		Dunlany, Frederick S.	Assumed charge
Jan 6 1933		Dunlany, Frederick S.	Acting
Feb 23 1933		Doherty, George L.	Confirmed
Mar 3 1933		Doherty, George L.	Commissioned
Mar 7 1933		Doherty, George L.	Assumed charge
Jan 16 1942	---	SE/4 Sec 6 T32S R62W 300 feet west of AT&SF tracks 1 mile west of Purgatoire	
Sep 30 1963		Veltri, Mrs. Margaret M.	Acting
Jul 31 1972		Veltri, Mrs. Margaret M.	Appointed postmaster

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HOEHNE / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Jan 23 1893 May 9 1895
2	HOEHNE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Apr 6 1915
3	HOEHNE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Feb 15 1933
4	HOEHNE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 16 1936 Nov 7 1942
5	HOEHNE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Jul 6 1952 May 1 1953
6	HOEHNE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 13 1962 Aug 13 1962

HOEHNE – Continued

7	HOEHNE, CO / 81046 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 7 1965 Feb 16 1985
8	HOEHNE, CO / 81046 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 1 1987 May 28 1993



HOOPUP

Hoopup was another rural, ranch post office in northeastern Las Animas County. The post office was established in February 1919 and lasted a little more than a year before it was closed. A few months later it reopened at a new location.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report that was filed in 1920, prior to the re-establishment, points to the difficulty of operating a post office in remote sparsely populated areas. The report gives three proposed locations and two proposed postmasters. Undoubtedly each of these was at a different ranch house. Ranching was the occupation of the residents in this portion of Las Animas County.

The location with John C. Vanhook as postmaster was the one that prevailed, and the Hoopup Post Office lasted for another seventeen years before it was discontinued.

The original location and the two rejected locations, are a mile north of Las Animas County Road 52 and five miles east of Colorado Highway 109. That location is not accessible by public road (1998). The site location report states that the post office would be in the, "C. F. Holdrew General Store." From that comment it would seem that there was a bit more than a single ranch at that location. However, whatever was there may have faded away before the post office was re-established in late 1920.

HOOPUP – Continued

The second and “permanent” location is where Colorado 109 has made a one mile jog to the east and then again turns north. At that corner, Las Animas County Road 62 goes to the east from Highway 109. Hoopup was in the southeast quadrant of that intersection. There are no structures at that location but there is considerable evidence of buildings having been there in the past.

There is no confirmed explanation for the name of this post office. Some have claimed it is a contraction of “Whoop it up.” It most certainly has some rural colloquial origin.



HOOPUP, / COLO. December 14, 1928

Chronology of the Post Office

- Dec 14 1918 --- SW/4 Sec 33 T30S R52W 1/4 mile east of Dugout Creek
Applicant for postmaster - F. A. Leibert (C. F. Holdrew General Store)
- Feb 26 1919 Established
- Feb 26 1919 Leibert, Fay A.
- Jul 31 1920 Discontinued Mail to Patt
- Aug 15 1920 --- NW/4 Sec 14 T30S R53W 4 miles west of Two Buttes Creek
Sketch map shows three locations:
Proposed - NE/4 NW/4 Sec 14 T30S R53W John C. Vanhook
Proposed - NW/4 NE/4 Sec 31 T30S R52W G. B. Sprinkle
Present - NW/4 NW/4 Sec 4 T31S R52W
- Sep 27 1920 Re-established
- Sep 27 1920 Vanhook, John C.
- Feb 11 1926 Gingrich, Mrs. Gladys
- Feb 19 1927 Vanhook, Mrs. Bessie M.
- Dec 29 1927 Vanhook, John C. Confirmed
- Nov 30 1934 Bridges, Joseph B. Confirmed
- Dec 31 1934 Bridges, Joseph B. Commissioned
- Sep 28 1937 Ordered closed
- Dec 15 1937 Discontinued Mail to Kim

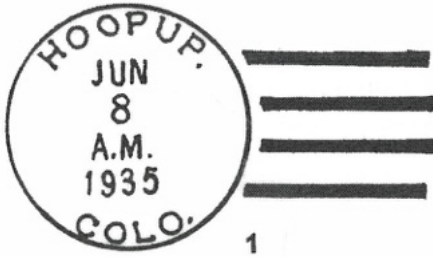
HOOPUP – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 HOOPUP, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0

Dec 14 1928 Jun 8 1935

4bars S-25x19mm



HUMBAR

The only historical reference to Humbar that I have found states simply that it was a rural post office that, “preceded “Troy.”

I have no dispute with the description as a rural post office. The location is certainly in a rural, sparsely populated portion of Las Animas County.

I am somewhat dubious about the comment that calls Humbar a predecessor to Troy. The post office records do indicate that less than three months after the Humbar Post Office was established in 1887 it was moved to Troy at a site a mile and a half to the southeast. Twelve years later (1899) the Troy Post Office was apparently moved some ten miles further to the southeast. That seems to be an exceptionally long move and yet retaining the same name for the post office.

To visit the site of Humbar from Kim, first drive south two miles and then west fourteen miles to Las Animas County Road 169.0. Turn north on Road 169.0 and go three miles to the intersection with Road 38.0. Humbar was in the southwest quadrant of this intersection. Nothing is visible but it is evident that at some time the land has been cultivated.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 26 1887 ---	NE/4 Sec 18 T32S R55W North side of Humbar Creek (?)
Aug 6 1887	Established
Aug 6 1887	Dickson, Robert E.
Oct 27 1887	Moved to Troy

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HUMBAR

INDIANAPOLIS

Indianapolis was founded in 1887. It was largely a promotional scheme based on the anticipation that the Denver, Texas, and Fort Worth Railroad would build through the location and that Indianapolis would become an important community on the railroad. A modest community did develop with a number of buildings, a population that may have peaked at 250 and the Aultman Hotel; all of this in hopes for a railroad.

However, the railroad chose a route several miles to the south leaving Indianapolis with no visible means of support. Many of the buildings were moved south to Watervale on the railroad. The hotel was dismantled and reassembled in Trinidad.

It is reported that a number of the residents were from Indiana and hence they chose the name Indianapolis for their community.

INDIANAPOLIS – Continued

From Trinidad drive east on US Highway 160, passing Las Animas County Road 113.0 (the road to Trinchera). Continue east seven and eight-tenths miles to County Road 127.0. This is two miles east of the road that goes to the site of Stockville.

Turn south on Road 127.0 and go three miles to Road 18.0, turn east and go two miles to Road 131.0. Make another turn back north and in one mile you will be in the area that was once Indianapolis.

There are no remaining structures but there is a remnant foundation and several partially filled cellar pits. Also, the ground is littered with rusty cans and shards of pottery and glass.

To exit from Indianapolis you can return to Road 127.0 and either go back to US 160 or go south to Trinchera. In 2001 I was able to continue northward from the site of Indianapolis to US 160. Looking at current maps I am not sure how that would work today. If you are going to prowl around these remote areas of Colorado I can not emphasize too much the necessity of having good current maps, a compass (or GPS) and a good sense of direction.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 6 1887	---	SE/4 Sec 2, NE/4 Sec 12 T34S R59W, SW/4 Sec 6, NW/4 Sec 7 T34S R58W Proposed postmaster - Chris. C. Kuner
Aug 11 1887		Established
Aug 11 1887		Kuver, Christopher C.
Jan 13 1888		Schlosser, Peter J.
May 16 1889		Discontinued Papers to Watervale

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	INDIANAPOLIS / COLO.	Feb 28 1888	Apr 23 1889
	CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	



IRWIN CANYON

Irwin Canyon was another remote rural post office in the northeastern corner of Las Animas County.

After our visit to Patt in May 1998 Jim Ozment and I continued our tour of northeastern Las Animas County, next going in search of the site of Irwin Canyon. According to our map the site was likely not accessible but we are hard to discourage.

From Patt we drove north on Road 215.5 stopping to photograph the original site of Flues (refer to the discussion of Flues) and continuing on road 217.2 to the intersection with Las Animas County Road 70. We turned west to Road 211.0, then south to Road 66.0. We went west on Road 66.0 to the intersection with 201.7. We then went north on that road as far as we could, some four and a half miles. A locked gate blocked further progress. We parked and walked a couple hundred yards to the rim of Irwin Canyon. From the rim we could look down into the canyon, some 200 feet below us at that point. Perhaps a half-mile of the valley floor was visible and there did seem to be some sort of a road along the stream, but we could see no sign of any buildings or ruins.

IRWIN CANYON – Continued

A year later having explored the post office sites along the southern edge of Bent County, I decided to see if I could find access to the location of Irwin Canyon from the north. From the Bent-Las Animas County line I drove south at first on Road 209.0 then on Road 76.8. I did find an unmarked road that seemed to lead in the direction of Irwin Canyon. However, to go any distance on that road would have first required fording Johnny Creek. In May there was still some water in the stream and trying the ford was problematic at best. In this lonesome country that was a chance that I chose not to take.

In dry weather it may be possible to follow a jeep trail into Irwin Canyon. It would be about three miles from Road 76.8. I think that although it might be a scenic trip there would be little to see if you did find the site of the Irwin Canyon Post Office.

Using Google Earth I believe that I was able to examine the location specified in the Geographic Site Location Report. There does appear to be a couple of small structures at the location. These may be trailers used by ranch hands when livestock are in the area.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 2 1920	---	SE/4 SW/4 SE/4 Sec 8 T29S R52W 50 yards south of Johnny Creek Applicant for postmaster - James O. Maxey
Mar 9 1920		Established
Mar 9 1920		Maxey, James O.
Sep 9 1924		Ordered closed
Sep 30 1924		Discontinued Mail to Ninaview

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM IRWIN CANYON

JANSEN

In 1901 the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad built a line from Trinidad along the Purgatoire River reaching as far west as Stonewall and Tercio. For the location of its shops the railroad selected a site about two miles west of Trinidad at a small Spanish settlement called Chimayosas. The railroad built cottages to house its workers and in 1902 the community was renamed Jansen. No one is certain of the derivation of the name but it has most commonly been attributed to the nearby Jansen's Quarry.

The railroad continued to operate until well into the late twentieth century. The end of coal mining along the Purgatoire Valley brought an end to the railroad.

Jansen continues to be a residential community and a western suburb of Trinidad. There are a number of small homes and a few small businesses. The main portion of the town is located on the north side of Colorado Highway 12 two miles west of Interstate 25 Exit 14.

When I visited Jansen in 1972 the post office was still in operation. It was in a small white building that also served as a grocery store and service station. Two years later the Jansen Post Office closed and the community is now served directly from the Trinidad Post Office.

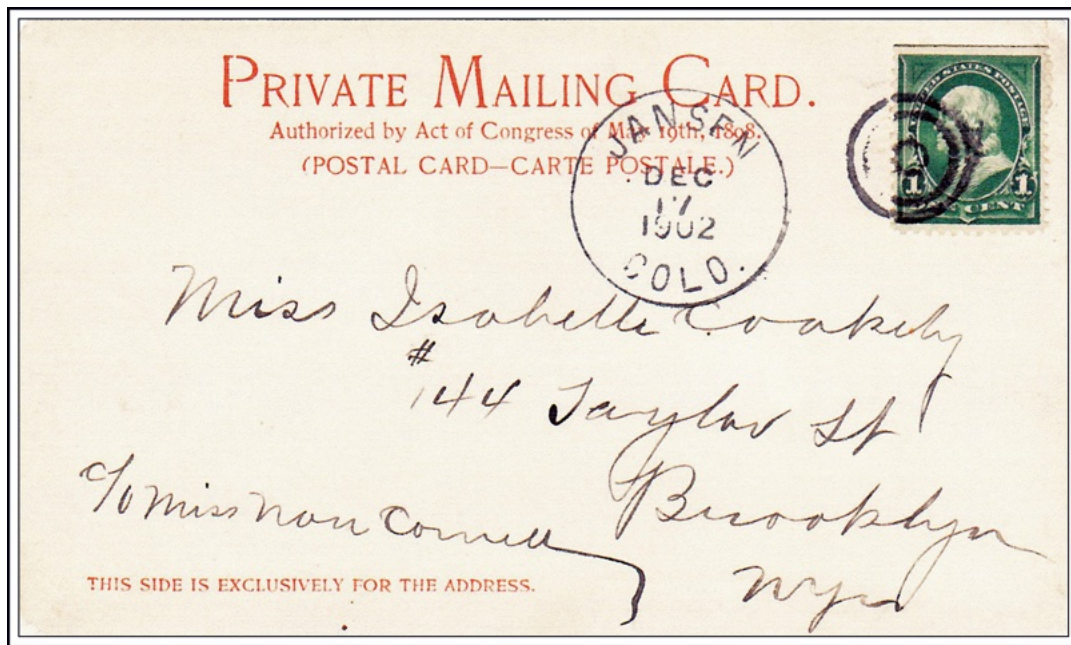
Latitude = 37:08:58 North Longitude = 104:32:18 West JANSEN

Chronology of the Post Office

May 17 1902	---	SE/4 NW/4 Sec 23 T33S R64W 1/10 mile north of the Purgatoire 15 yards north of AT&SF
Jun 23 1902		Established
Jun 23 1902		Decker, Joseph W.
Jun 24 1903		Mosher, Hallie A.
Dec 13 1905		Shaffert, George

JANSEN – Continued

Jul 1 1908	Highfill, Harry	Declined
Oct 9 1908	Dettleorch, Frank C.	
May 31 1911	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	
Jun 10 1911	--- No survey location provided 180 yards north of AT&SF station and tracks	
Sep 2 1911	Re-established	
Sep 2 1911	Judge, Annie	
Jun 15 1913	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	
Nov 9 1931	--- SW/4 Sec 23 T33S R64W (from sketch map) 1/2 mile north of Las Animas River Applicant for postmaster - Joe James	
Mar 15 1932	Re-established	
Mar 5 1932	James, Joe A.	Appointed
Mar 17 1932	James, Joe A.	Commissioned
Apr 11 1932	James, Joe A.	Possession
Jan 2 1942	--- NW/4 Sec 23 T33S R64W 800 feet north of the Purgatoire River	
Sep 1 1944	Valenti, Frank	Appointed
Sep 25 1944	Valenti, Frank	Commissioned
Oct 5 1944	Valenti, Frank	Possession
Jun 23 1972	Malespini, Mrs. Clara A.	Officer in charge
May 24 1974	Discontinued	



JANSEN / COLO.

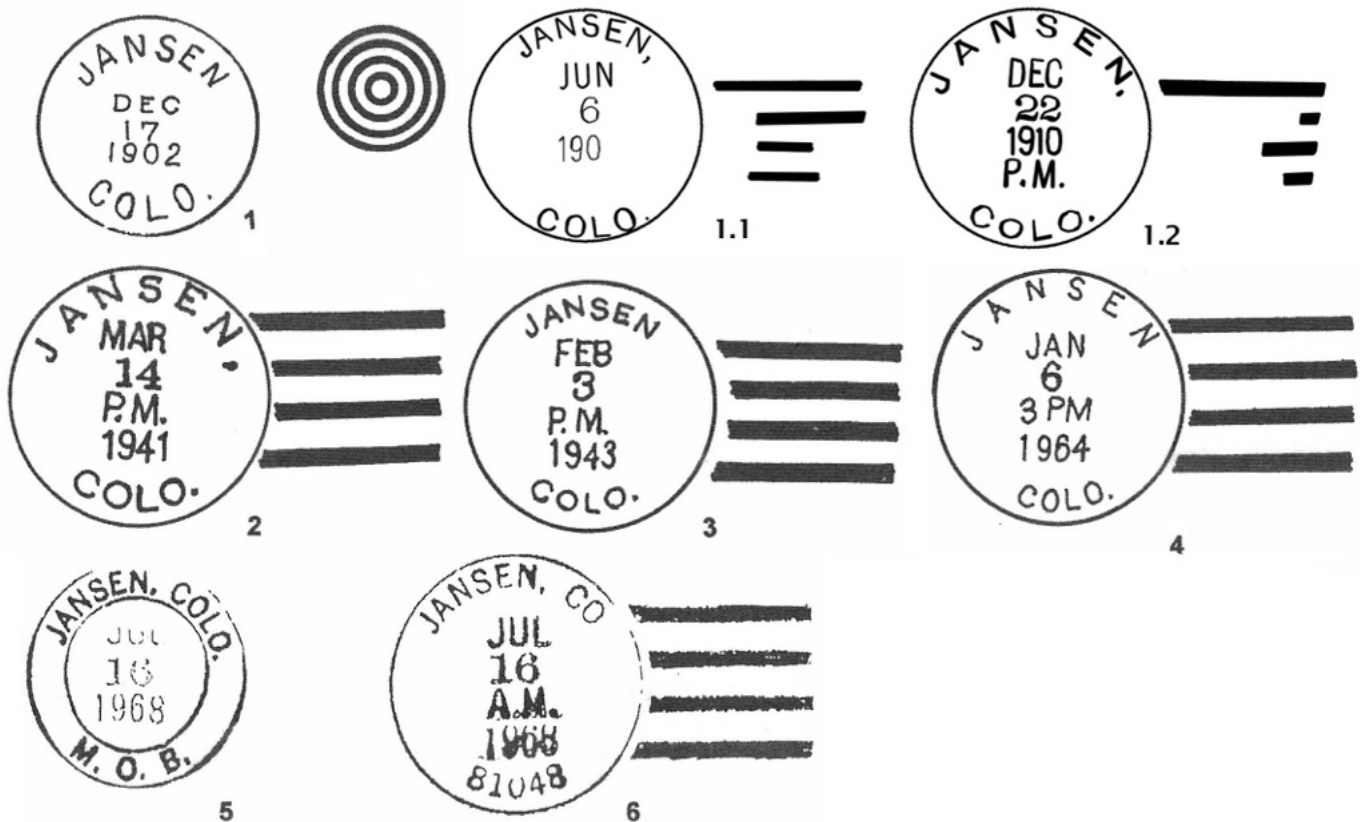
December 17, 1902

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	JANSEN / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm	Dec 17 1902 Sep 13 1906
1.1	JANSEN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Jan 6 190- Mar 9 1912
1.2	JANSEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Dec 22 1910
2	JANSEN, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-26x20mm	Jan 2 1941 Mar 14 1941
3	JANSEN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Feb 3 1943 Nov 4 1954

JANSEN – Continued

4	JANSEN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jan 6 1964
5	JANSEN, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 16 1968
6	JANSEN, CO / 81048 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Nov 3 1966 May 24 1974



JAROSO

The ranch country of northwestern Las Animas County has received scant mention in the writings about the history of the county. Jaroso is another remote post office that falls in the category of a little known, short-lived ranch post office.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report places the post office on the north side of Jaroso Creek. The plotted location is at the mouth of Rito Seco Creek and just east of the Prince Cemetery as shown on the USGS Topographic Map of Las Animas County (Sheet 4). This is on Las Animas County Road 42.0, eight miles west of Gulnare. The area is meadowland along the streams with no remnant signs of habitation.

A question must be raised as to this being the correct location for Jaroso. The USGS map also shows a Jaroso only two and a half miles west of Gulnare. At that point there is an abandoned church, a cemetery and a few small residences.

Since the Jaroso Post Office operated in the early 1890's it is conceivable that at a later date another community with that name existed in proximity to Gulnare. For now, that is the explanation I choose to accept.

JAROSO – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 10 1890 --- SE/4 sec 33 T31S R67W On north side of Jaroso Creek
Proposed postmaster - Samuel Miller

Dec 16 1890 Established

Dec 16 1890 Miller, Samuel

Nov 16 1894 Discontinued Mail to Gulnare

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 JAROSO / COLO. Jan 23 1894
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Not present

**KANT**

I have found no historical information about this place in Las Animas County. From its remote location it is certain that it was no more than a rural post office.

It is possible that the closure of this office in 1925 was a factor in the eventual move of the Officer Post Office in 1932 to a more northern location to better serve the people in that area.

From the 1932 location of Officer, the site of our near disaster the day before (see below), drive north five and three-tenths miles on Las Animas County Road 177.9 to a short, unmarked road to the west. This is about a mile north of the intersection with Road 72.7 to the east and a mile south of the intersection with road 165.4 to the west. The only evidence of activity at this location was one block of concrete and some slightly disturbed ground.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 8 1920 --- NW/4 Sec 12 T29S R55W 8 miles southeast of the Picket Wire
6 miles west of Smith Creek

Jul 20 1921 Established

Jul 20 1921 Graves, William E.

Nov 7 1922 Reed, Clarence C. Acting & Possession

Jul 21 1925 Ordered closed

Aug 15 1925 Discontinued Mail to Yeiser

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM KANT

KATCINA

I have found very little information about this place. From what little I have found I believe that it was a station on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad a short distance north of the summit of Raton Pass. If, as seems likely, it was at the subsequent location of the Wootton Post Office, then it was situated on or near the site of the 1860's Santa Fe Trail toll gate and stage station operated by Richens Lacey "Uncle Dick" Wootton.

KATCINA – Continued

I have found one citation that spells the name as Katrina. However, there are three separate entries on the Geographical Site Location Report where the spelling is clearly Katcina. I have no information as to the source of the name.

The Katcina Post Office was in operation for only five months. The nearby Morley Post Office was closed on August 31, 1907 and mail directed to Katcina. Twelve days later the Morley Post Office reopened and the Katcina office was closed. In December 1908 the Wootton Post Office was opened.

I am not clear as to exactly what activities took place at Katcina/Wootton in the twentieth century. Certainly there was a railroad station and perhaps other railroad facilities. According to the USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 5) there was some mining nearby, most likely coal.

Exit 2 from Interstate 25 is identified as the Wootton Exit, however, as soon as you reach the frontage road on the north side of the interstate a locked gate blocks further progress southward toward Katcina/Wootton.

I went to the summit of Raton Pass and from the parking lot I could look down toward the site of Katcina/Wootton or what I think was the site. I could see the remnants of what appeared to be a large water tank that may have been used to supply water to the railroad during the age of steam.

As I prepare this chapter I have had the opportunity to examine the area using Google Earth. It is obvious that the road south from the I-25 Wootton Exit is an access road for the railroad. It appears that what I observed from the I-25 parking lot was not at the Katcina/Wootton site but may still have been a water supply tank for railroad operations there.

The photography shows evidence that the railroad had a siding complex and perhaps maintenance sheds related to support activity on the Raton Pass segment. There are no remaining structures. However, there is a complex of modern buildings a short distance south of the exit from I-25. Those buildings may be a Highway Department maintenance yard.

The Post Office Department records indicate that on September 12, 1907 the Katcina Post Office was moved to Morley. In reviewing auction records of Colorado Postal History, I found that in 1986 there was an auction lot of a picture post card addressed to Katcina that bore a Morley receiving postmark dated July 24, 1907. That would indicate that the Katcina Post Office may have moved prior to September and perhaps was never in operation under the name of Katcina.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 10 1907	Established
Apr 10 1907	Martin, Seward L.
Apr 12 1907 ---	Not known On the AT&SF RR, 2-1/2 miles south of Morley, Colorado
Apr 30 1907	Boyle, William W.
Sep 12 1907	Moved to Morley

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM KATCINA

KAZAN

Kazan was a rural post office about four miles southeast of Ninaview. One very brief reference claims that an 1885 map (Nells Map of Colorado) lists the site as Hackberry Spring. However, the USGS Topographic Map of Las Animas County (Sheet 3) places Hackberry Springs five miles east of the site of Kazan and a short distance west of the Las Animas-Baca County line.

KAZAN – Continued

To reach the site of Kazan follow the directions to Ninaview, which are provided below. From Ninaview on the county line, drive east. This is Bent County Road A and Las Animas County Road 90.0. Go four miles to Las Animas County Road 217.0 and turn south. One mile will put you at the section line between the two locations listed below, both of which are east of the road.

In 1998 small portions of the walls of a stone building were still standing although most of the building had fallen.



Ruins of a stone building at the location of Kazan, Colorado
 Photograph by William H. Bauer May 12, 1999

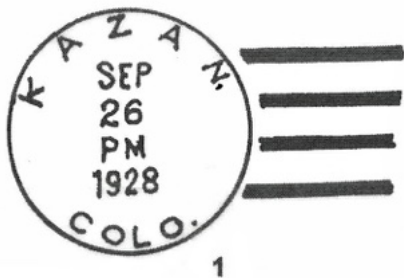
Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 4 1919	---	SW/4 Sec 5 T28S R51W	
		Name proposed as Noble - rejected	
		Applicant for postmaster - J. L. Irwin	
Feb 10 1920		Established	
Feb 10 1920		Irwin, Joseph L.	
Apr 24 1923	---	NW/4 Sec 8 T28S R51W	1/4 mile north of Dry Creek
May 1 1923		Tull, Mae A.	Possession
May 4 1923		Tull, Mae A.	Acting
May 22 1928		Allen, Mrs. Dawn	Acting
Jul 30 1928		Allen, Mrs. Dawn	Appointed
Nov 16 1929		Wier, Mrs. Carrie	Acting
Dec 7 1929		Wier, Mrs. Carrie	Appointed
Apr 28 1931		Ordered closed	
May 9 1931		Discontinued	Mail to Ninaview

KAZAN – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | KAZAN, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-20x20mm | Jul 29 1922 Sep 26 1928 |
| 2 | KAZAN. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Feb 10 1931 |



KAZAN, / COLO.

September 26, 1928

KILROY

I have found no reference to this place in Colorado. The post office establishment was rescinded, therefore it is most unlikely that it was ever in operation. No official date for the rescinding was listed in the Records of Postmaster Appointments. However, the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report for Kilroy bears a note “Never qualified,” which explains the reason for the rescinded action.

I have no information as to the probable sources of the names Kilroy or Wanda, the one that was proposed and rejected

KILROY – Continued

From Trinidad drive east on US Highway 160 to the intersection with Colorado Highway 389, the road south to Branson, Colorado. Continue east four miles to Las Animas County Road 147 and turn north. Go seven and eight-tenths miles to the intersection with Road 38.0. Turn northeast on that road and go three and a half miles to Road 153.0. From that turn, the location of Kilroy was three miles north and between a half-mile and a mile east of the road. From Road 153.0 there is a building out there, which I assume was unoccupied. In 2001 it still had a roof so it might on occasion see some use.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 2 1917	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T31S R57W 3 miles west of Chaquaqua Creek	
		Name proposed as Wanda - crossed out	
		Applicant for postmaster - Eugene L. Browning	
		Note across document "Never Qualified"	
Nov 15 1917		Established	
Nov 15 1917		Lewis, Eugene L.	Order rescinded
-----		Establishment rescinded	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM KILROY

KIM

The first settlement here took place in 1893. A small farming village was created but failed because of a lack of knowledge in dry land farming.

In 1918 Olin Dexter Simpson built a store on his homestead and applied for a post office. Tradition states that his wife suggested a choice of two names for the post office: Dexter and Kim. The Post Office Geographical Site Location Report indicates that the suggested name was Dick which was rejected in favor of Kim. All accounts attribute the name Kim to the boy hero of Rudyard Kipling’s novel *Kim*. Six years later there would be a Dicks Post Office but far to the west in the coal mining region of Las Animas County.

Joseph Terral representing a group from Springfield, The Kim Townsite and Development Company, filed a town plat for Kim on February 20, 1920. A few days earlier, William Cole filed a plat for Kim City at a site two miles northeast of the Kim site. That project failed.

A town did develop at Kim, and in 1974 the town was incorporated. From Trinidad eastward, Las Animas County is sparsely populated. The country is grassland and there are widely scattered ranches raising cattle and sheep.

It is 116 miles from Trinidad to Springfield in Baca County. In that distance the only towns are Kim in Las Animas County and Pritchett in Baca County. Both towns have small business districts, residential sections and schools. Although both provide services to their surroundings, neither one can be described as a growing community. This is more evidence of the declining populations in the rural areas of Eastern Colorado and the concentration of the population in large towns or county seats.

Kim is a pleasant but quiet town. It is located on US Highway 160 seventeen miles west of the Las Animas-Baca County line.

A word of caution to not believe everything you find on modern highway maps. My 2006 AAA map spots both Andrix and Tobe on US 160. Don’t look for a service station as in 1998 there was nothing at either place!

Latitude = 37:14:48 North Longitude = 103:21:06 West KIM

KIM – Continued

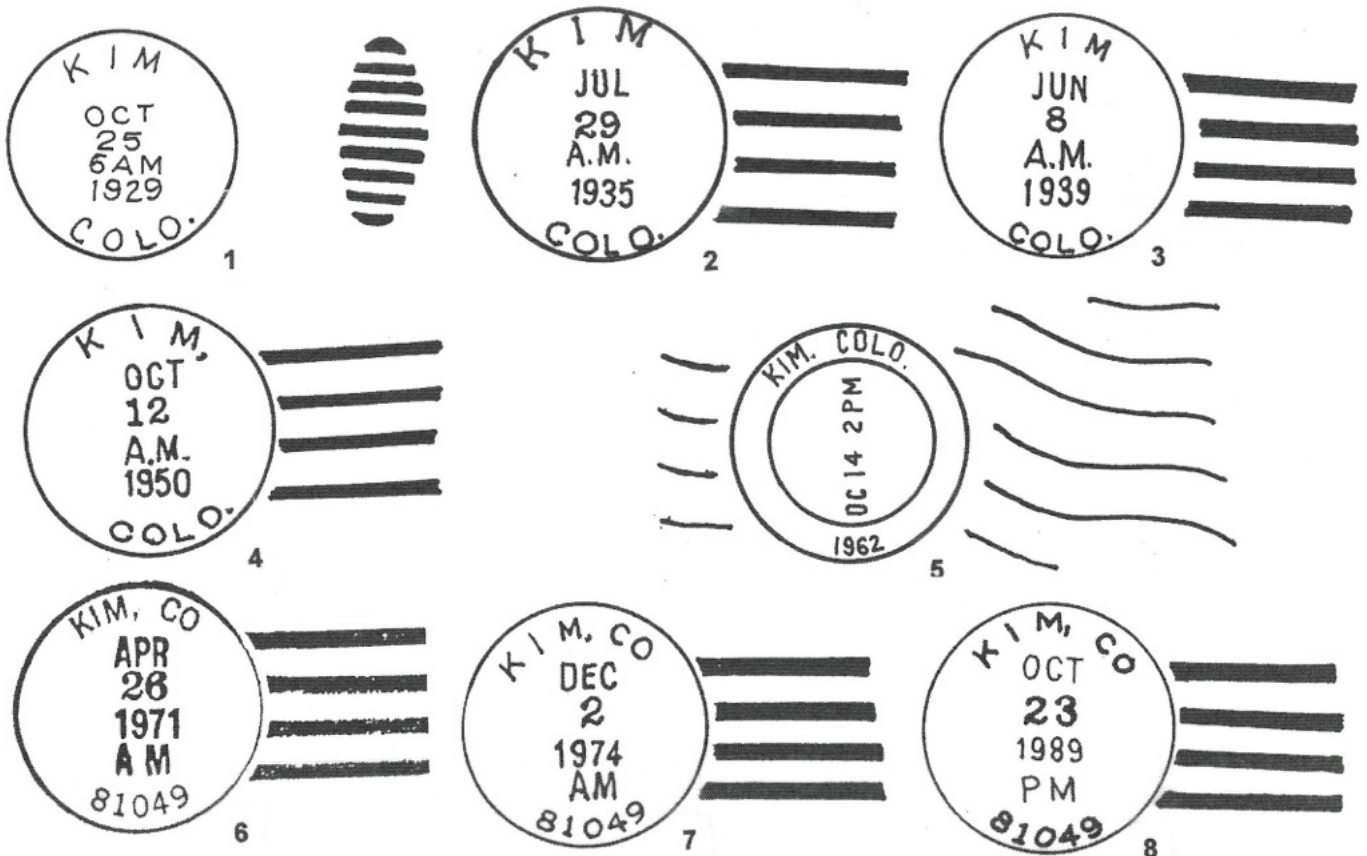
Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 4 1916	---	NW/4 Sec 22 T32S R53W Proposed as Dick - rejected Applicant for postmaster - Olin Dexter Simpson	
Jan 30 1917		Established	
Jan 30 1917		Simpson, Olin D.	
Oct 29 1918		Jeffries, Lula B.	
Mar 15 1920	---	1700 feet SW Would be in Lot 13, Block 21, NW/4 Sec 22 T32S R53W	
Jul 24 1924		Brown, Roy L.	Acting
Oct 23 1924	---	NW/4 Sec 22 T32S R53W	
Dec 6 1924		Waters, Victor L.	
Jul 1 1927			Office made Presidential
Dec 15 1927		Waters, Victor L.	P&S
May 2 1928		Smith, Fred G.	Acting
Dec 18 1928		Smith, Fred G.	Appointed
Jan 3 1933		Burrow, Wesson	Acting
Jan 9 1933		Burrow, Wesson	Assumed charge
May 15 1933		Warburton, Ruth L.	Acting
May 29 1933		Warburton, Ruth L.	Assumed charge
May 17 1934		Smith, Derrett C.	Confirmed
Jun 7 1934		Smith, Derrett C.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1934		Smith, Derrett C.	Assumed charge
Aug 22 1934	---	NW/4 Sec 22 T32S R53W Apparently office being moved: Note: Present bldg has changed ownership. Raise in rent. Bldg in need of repair. Cancellations: 1st July 1933 - June 30, 1934	
		1st/4	2nd/4
		3rd/4	4th/4
		\$248.96	\$288.83
		\$321.61	\$327.63
Oct 22 1934		Smith, Derrett C.	Acting <i>Ad. Int.</i>
Jun 15 1935		Smith, Derrett C.	Nominated
Jul 2 1935		Smith, Derrett C.	Confirmed
Jul 9 1935		Smith, Derrett C.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 22 1935		Smith, Derrett C.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1935		Smith, Derrett C.	Assumed charge
Jul 12 1939		Smith, Derrett C.	Confirmed
Jul 27 1939		Smith, Derrett C.	Commissioned
Oct 23 1941	---	Main street, NW/4 Sec 22 T32S R53W	
Jul 1 1944			Office made Presidential
Aug 23 1944		Smith, Derrett C.	Nominated
Sep -- 1944		Smith, Derrett C.	Confirmed
Sep 1 1944		Smith, Derrett C.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Apr 10 1948		Smith, Mrs. Myrtle Henry	Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949		Anderson, A. J.	Nominated
Jun 1 1949		Anderson, A. J.	Confirmed & Appointed Presidential
Jun 2 1949		Anderson, A. J.	Commissioned
Aug 8 1949		Anderson, A. J.	Assumed charge
Feb 13 1976		Ballard, Mrs. Regina S.	Officer in charge
Jul 1 1976		Grover, Mrs. Genevieve A.	Officer in charge
Mar 12 1977		Blodgett, Duane W.	Appointed
Apr 7 1979		Anderson, Mrs. Edith O.	Appointed

KIM – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	KIM / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Oct 25 1929 Aug 15 1953
		Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
2	KIM / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jul 29 1935 Apr 26 1938
		4bars S-24x20mm
3	KIM / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Apr 20 1938 Apr 11 1959
		4bars S-24x19mm
4	KIM, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Oct 12 1950
		4bars S-24x20mm
5	KIM, COLO. CI 11P 31.0/23.0	Oct 14 1962 Nov 20 1963
		Rolr slanted wavy lines
6	KIM, CO / 81049 CI 10P 33.0	Apr 26 1971 Oct 5 1971
		4bars S-24x20mm
7	KIM, CO / 81049 CI 10P 31.0	Dec 2 1974 Oct 8 1976
		4bars S-24x19mm
8	KIM, CO / 81049 CI 10P 32.0	Oct 25 1985 Oct 23 1989
		4bars S-25x19mm
9	KIM, CO / 81049 CI 10P 32.0	May 21 1991 May 28 1993
		4bars S-24x19mm
10	KIM CO 81049 / USPS CI 11P 35.0/22.0	May 4 1998
		Hstp No killer There is a space within the zip code, Center circle is two arcs
11	KIM CO / 81049 CI 10P 33.0	May 4 1998
		4bars S-14x22mm
12	KIM CO / 81049 CI 10P 33.0	Aug 7 2000 Nov 14 2000
		4bars S-12x22mm



KIM – Continued



9



10



11



12

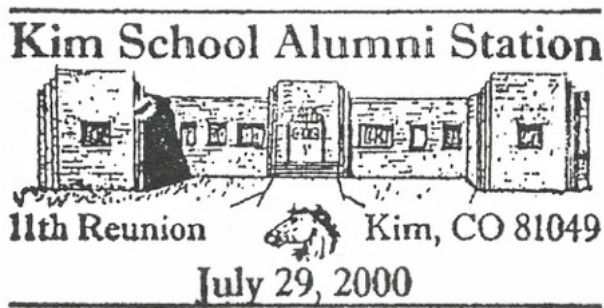
KIM SCHOOL ALUMNI STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 29 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Kim, CO 81049 // Kim School Alumni Station
IR 00R 78.0x39.0 | Jul 29 2000
Pict Scene - School building and horse head;
Text - 11th Reunion |
|---|--|--|



1

LAUB

Laub was located at Nola Siding on the Colorado and Southern Railroad (now the Burlington Northern and Santa Fe). I am not certain as to what was actually at the site. It would seem that there was a facility for loading cattle and probably a station to receive and deliver freight for the surrounding ranches. Lacking other information, I would guess that this place was named for an employee of the railroad.

The surrounding countryside is gently rolling with the exception of a small butte about a mile north of the railroad. It is most commonly known as Nola Butte but is also shown on some maps as Adair Butte. This conical hill rises 250 feet above the surrounding plain.

LAUB – Continued

Depart westbound from Trinchera on Las Animas County Road 8.8. Go four miles to Road 113.0 and turn north two miles to the railroad. Laub was at the railroad and on the east side of Road 113.0. As you approach from the south you have a good view of the railroad with Nola Butte on the horizon.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 22 1915	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T34S R60W Document also shows the name Nola Applicant for postmaster - Milton M. Munger
Dec 15 1916		Established
Dec 15 1916		Tompkins, John L
Oct 29 1919		Miller, Felder A.
Sep 21 1920		Saunders, John J.
Apr 10 1923		Ordered closed
Apr 30 1923		Discontinued Mail to Trinchera

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LAUB

LINK

Link is another remote ranch post office located on the southern slopes of the Spanish Peaks. I have found no historical description of the place.

The site of Link is three miles further west on Las Animas County Road 46.0 from the Post Office Department location of the Hicks Post Office. There is an active ranch at the location and there are several new summer homes in the general area.

The Link Post Office closed in 1912 with mail directed to the Hicks Post Office. For the former patrons of the Link Post Office it would have been much easier to go to the Hicks location downstream on Rito Seco Creek than to travel cross-country to the Hicks/Powell location on Hicks Creek, five miles to the south. I also note that the Site Location Report for Link makes reference to the Hicks Post Office.

Taking these facts into consideration I feel reasonably certain that the Hicks Post Office was located on Rito Seco Creek during its twenty-three years of operation.

Chronology of the Post Office

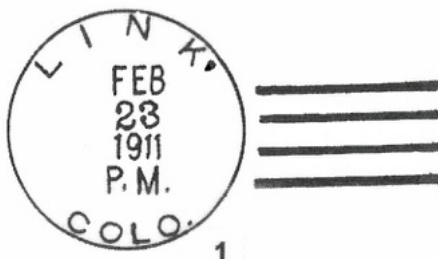
Apr 21 1909	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T31S R68W On Rito Seco Creek Northeast of Hicks 3+ miles
Jan 11 1910		Established
Jan 11 1910		Link, Adam R.
Feb 29 1912		Discontinued Mail to Hicks

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 LINK, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0

May 11 1910 Apr 4 1911

4bars S-25x13mm



LINWOOD

In 1876 the name of the Dodsonville Post Office was changed to Linwood. Linwood was a rural post office. There was a trail or road along the Purgatoire River but it seems that during the time of Linwood the area was transitioning to ranching.

This is a very sparsely populated area and the road to the site is not one of the better country roads in Las Animas County. It is even possible that subsequent to 2001 the road has been closed off or returned to private status.

From Trinidad drive northeast on US Highway 350 in the direction of La Junta. Go beyond the junction with US 160 and continue to the bridge over the Purgatoire River. A half mile north of the bridge turn east on Las Animas County Road 40.9 and go about two and a half miles to Road 97.2 to the south and turn towards the river.

In 2001 there was a single large building in considerable disrepair. The lower story was adobe brick and the upper story wood frame. The roof appeared to be in good condition but it is doubtful how much longer the remainder can avoid collapsing. There are no other buildings in the area and I believe this was the location of Dodsonville and subsequently Linwood.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 16 1873	---	SW/4 Sec 8 T32S R61W On north side of Purgatoire River 3 miles north of Dry Creek [Dodsonville]
Apr 17 1876		Formerly named Dodsonville
Apr 17 1876		Williams, James M.
Nov 21 1877		Burns, William T.
Nov 11 1886		Discontinued Papers to Pulaski

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LINWOOD

LONE OAK

After returning to the Gilstrap Ranch from visiting the site of Duncan/Gotera, I talked further with Mr. Gilstrap. He gave directions and permission to go to the site of Lone Oak in Cobert Canyon.

I left the ranch and returned in the direction of Branson. Immediately after leaving the ranch I turned onto a farm road headed south. About a half mile later I went through a gate and turned east on a rough, rocky track that led down into the canyon. It was four-tenths of a mile down to the bottom and another two-tenths of a mile to the ruins of an old stone building, really little more than the outline of the foundation.

Mr. Gilstrap had told me that the Lone Oak Post Office was in a small building on the other side of a small stream in front of the larger building. That structure proved to be reminiscent of the Mesa Verde Cliff Dwellings, being built under an overhang with the cliff as the rear of the "building." I am quite skeptical about it being the post office. Why would it be there instead of in the larger building?

I refer you back to the discussions of the Duncan and Gotera Post Offices. These three offices were closely related and it seems that all three names were applied to the first location reported below.

The Duncan Post Office was moved to that location and subsequently the name was changed to Gotera. In 1922 the name of the Gotera Post Office was changed to Lone Oak and four years later the Lone Oak Post Office moved to the location in Cobert Canyon.

All of this shows the ephemeral nature of many of the rural post offices in Eastern Colorado.

Latitude = 37:03:18 North Longitude = 103:37:58 West LONE OAK

LONE OAK – Continued



Under the rock overhang and barely visible behind the bush at center, are the remains of a small stone structure. According to a local resident, this was the Lone Oak Post Office.

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 9, 2001

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 4 1916	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 20 T34S R55W [Report filed for Gotera]
Jan 23 1922		Formerly named Gotera
Jan 23 1922		Comer, Maude E.
Apr 1 1926		Maestas, Fidel E.
Jun 18 1926	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 19 T34S R55W
Dec 31 1927		Ordered closed
Jan 14 1928		Discontinued Mail to Branson

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LONE OAK

LUDLOW

Ludlow was a coal camp and company town owned and operated by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. The town was established in the late 1890's and became one of the largest coal mining towns in Southern Colorado. In actuality the mines were a mile or more west of the town which was on the more level ground east of the coal bearing hills.

The source of the name Ludlow is unclear. It may relate to Ludlow, Massachusetts, which in turn relates to a Ludlow in England. Another opinion is that it was named for someone connected with the Colorado and Southern Railroad.

LUDLOW – Continued

Ludlow was on the main line of the Colorado and Southern Railroad and was a junction point for several spur lines to mines in the area west of Ludlow, the principal ones going to Delagua and Tollerburg.

Beginning in 1913 the coal miners in Colorado went on strike. As the strike progressed, in many cases the miners were evicted from company housing. At Ludlow the miners established a tent city near the town. On April 30, 1914 a detachment of the Colorado National Guard attacked the tent colony at Ludlow. It was a bitter fight resulting in the burning of the colony and the death of more than twenty people including women and children. The event has become known as the “Ludlow Massacre” and is marked by a monument at Ludlow. Recently the Ludlow monument was vandalized. I do not know if it has been repaired.

Ludlow continued as a town into the mid-1950’s when it was abandoned coincident with the closure of the mines.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25, drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of these roads. To the south on the east side of Road 61.5 there is a group of large, abandoned buildings, one of which appears to have been a store of some type.

Latitude = 37:20:00 North Longitude = 104:34:58 West LUDLOW

Chronology of the Post Office

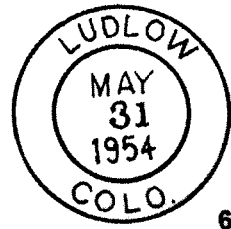
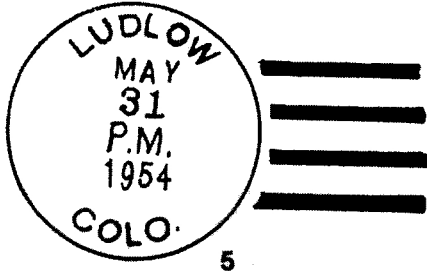
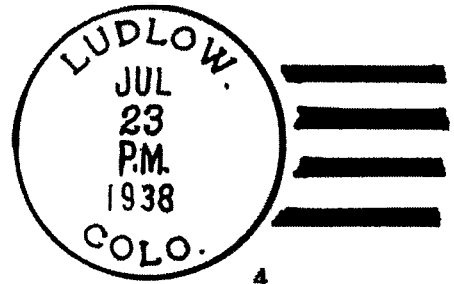
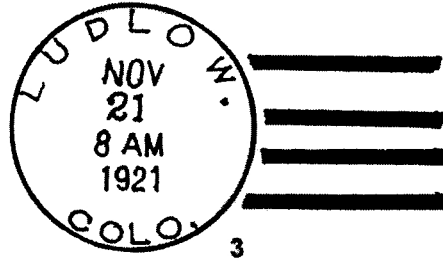
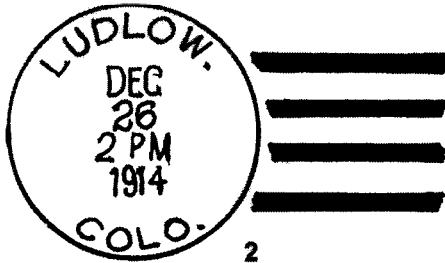
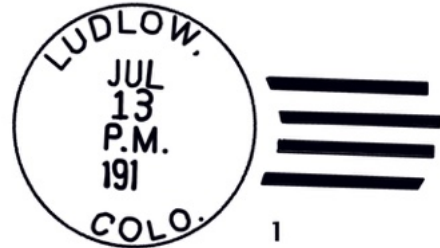
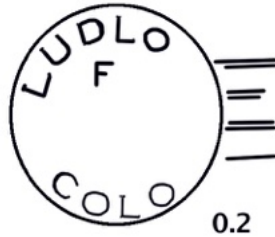
Jan 13 1896	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W 1 mile north of Del Agua Creek Right close to track on east side (C&S) Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Retta H. Pitt	
Feb 8 1896		Established	
Feb 8 1896		Pitt, Retta H.	
Oct 29 1896		Dotson, John M.	
Nov 1 1900		Hickman, Richard	
Mar 16 1901		Dotson, John M.	
Sep 23 1905		Allan, Johan	
Sep 20 1910		Hollearn, Susan F. D.	
May 14 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W 50 yards east of the C&S tracks	
Mar 26 1916	---	Move 934 feet north NE/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W	
Aug 3 1918	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W Nearly 160 rods south of Canyon De Aqua 100 feet east of C&S tracks	
Mar 9 1920		Lackey, John A.	
Jun 21 1923		Milinzazo, Dominick	Acting
Aug 18 1923		Milinzazo, Dominick	Appointed
Sep 26 1923		Milinzazo, Dominick	Commissioned
Oct 27 1941	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 20 T31S R64W 447 feet southwest from RR station	
Apr 19 1954		Ordered closed	
May 31 1954		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	LUDLOW / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Sep 11 1897 Mar 28 1899
0.2	LUDLOW, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Feb -- 1906 Possibly. a type 2 Doane
1	LUDLOW, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x14mm	--- -- 1908 Jul 13 191-
2	LUDLOW, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 14 1913 Dec 26 1914

LUDLOW – Continued

3	LUDLOW, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 15 1920 Nov 21 1921
4	LUDLOW. / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Dec 1 1935 Jun 22 1943
5	LUDLOW / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	May 19 1949 May 31 1954
6	LUDLOW / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	May 31 1954



MADRID

In 1862 Hilario Madrid and his family came with Felipe Baca to the Purgatoire River Valley. Hilario established an adobe complex or plaza on the south side of the river at about the extreme western end of the modern Lake Trinidad reservoir basin. Records in the Las Animas County Clerk’s Office show that Hilario Madril (sic) filed a homestead in September 1879 and a patent was granted to him on October 19, 1882.

Jose Madrid came with his family in 1864. As an adult Jose Madrid was involved in the educational interests of Las Animas County and served as president of the State County Superintendents Association. Jose Madrid also served as a member of the State Legislature (1902-1904) and as a State Senator (1932-1936). These early residents would have been engaged in agriculture and raising livestock.

A post office was established at Madrid in 1882 but in 1892 it was moved to Smith Canyon. Within a month the move was rescinded and the post office returned to Madrid where it operated for another year before it was discontinued. There is more to this story than I relate here. Please refer to the discussion of Smith Canyon for more information.

MADRID – Continued

Two years later, in 1895, the Madrid Post Office was reopened but at a location a mile to the southwest of the original location and on the north side of the Purgatoire River.

To visit the locations of Madrid drive west from Trinidad on Colorado Highway 12. The modern highway makes a wide loop to the north around Lake Trinidad and rejoins the river a half mile west of Cokedale. Three-quarter mile further west Las Animas County Road 18.3 crosses the river to the south side where there is a mix of a few abandoned and a few inhabited buildings. This group of buildings is in the vicinity of the original site of Madrid.

A quarter mile west of Road 18.3, on Highway 12, there is a small group of buildings labeled Madrid on some maps. A half-mile further west there is a somewhat larger group of buildings that fit the location given in the 1895 Geographical Site Location Report for Madrid. There is a church there and the Tijeras Cemetery is on the north side of the highway.

It is possible that one of these two groups of buildings was also the location for Smith Canyon.

Latitude = 37:07:37 North Longitude = 106:38:30 West MADRID

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 19 1882 --- NE/4 Sec 35 T33S R65W 300 yards from the Las Animas on the right or south side
2-1/2 miles from Longs Creek on the left or north side
Sketch map shows it on south side of the Purgatoire
Proposed postmaster - John B. Schlaepfer
- Oct 3 1882 Established
- Oct 3 1882 Schlaepfer, John B.
- Apr 4 1883 Madrid, Senor
- Jun 11 1884 Lovato, Juan C.
- Jan 8 1886 Long, George
- Jul 12 1889 Smith, Arthur
- Sep 29 1892 Office moved to Smith Canyon
- Oct 23 1892 Move of office rescinded
- Oct 25 1893 Discontinued Mail to Trinidad
- Dec 20 1895 --- SE/4 Sec 34 T33S R65W 200 feet north of Las Animas River
3 miles north of Long Canon
Proposed postmaster - Alexander Lay
- Jan 6 1896 Re-established
- Jan 6 1896 Lay, Alexander
- Jun 16 1898 Lobato, Isabelita
- Oct 26 1900 Gutierrez, Juan R.
- Dec 29 1900 Gutierrez, Jose B. Correction in name of postmaster
- Mar 9 1903 Madrid, Leonor
- Sep 26 1916 Gonzales, Estefanita L.
- Nov 9 1917 Ordered closed
- Nov 30 1917 Discontinued Mail to Cokedale

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 | MADRID, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Mar 25 1908 Oct 2 1911
Doane Type 3 with 1, S-23x14mm |
| 2 | MADRID, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Feb 14 1914
4bars S-??x19mm |

MADRID – Continued



MAJESTIC

The town of Majestic was located at the mouth of Majestic Canyon. From 1900 to 1914 it served the workers at the Majestic Mine, located high on the south side for the canyon. A tramway brought the coal down to a tipple and loading facility in the valley. In 1900 the Chicosa Canyon Railway constructed a spur to serve the Majestic Mine.

To visit this site and others in the area, take Exit 23 from Interstate 25. Go to the frontage road on the west side of the interstate and drive south through a couple of turns. Stay with the frontage road and go under the railroad. Now on Las Animas County Road 40 continue to the intersection with Road 65.5. This was the location of Forbes Junction.

To the west there is a choice of roads. The southern fork, Road 65.5, goes in the direction of Forbes. The northern fork, Road 40.0, goes to the sites of Majestic and Fouret. That road enters Chicosa Canyon and dies out just beyond the site of Fouret.

Majestic was located at the mouth of the canyon. The Majestic Mine was near the crest of the valley wall to the south of Chicosa Creek. Access to the mine is blocked off.

There are several houses along the canyon but all are of recent construction. To the south of the road and on north bank of the creek there are remnants of the foundation for a large structure that was likely connected with the Majestic Mine.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Aug 10 1900 -- NE/4 Sec 9 T32S R64W On west side of C&S track 1/8 - 1/2 mile
Name proposed as Brownell - rejected
Proposed postmaster - George H. Kennedy
- Aug 21 1900 Established
- Aug 21 1900 Kennedy, George H.
- Jan 23 1902 Connell, Joseph
- May 25 1903 Holen, John O.
- Oct 3 1903 Bellis, Charles
- Apr 6 1905 Calhoon, William T.
- Dec 6 1910 Cowdery, Kenneth E.
- Sep 12 1913 Morris, Lewis F.
- Dec 31 1914 Discontinued Mail to Forbes

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 MAJESTIC / COLO. Aug 5 1904
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring
- 2 MAJESTIC, / COLO. Apr 19 1907 Jun 6 1913
CI 10P 31.5 4bars S-??x14mm

MAJESTIC – Continued



Majestic, Colorado – overview of site
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 11, 2001

MALDONADO

Maldonado was a rural post office in the area that later became known as San Miguel, however there was no post office with that name in Las Animas County. The post office name is the family name of the first postmaster - Jose Maldonado.

From Barela drive six and eight-tenths miles west on Las Animas County Road 12.5 to the junction with Road 85.5 and turn northwest on Road 85.5. From the intersection it is another two miles to Road 14.6 in the vicinity of where the Maldonado Post Office was located. In 2001 Road 14.6 to the south was open but appeared to be more of a stream bed than a road. The weather was threatening so I chose not to drive in to the spot that is labeled San Miguel on some maps. From Road 85.5 I could see a couple of buildings or trailers at the foot of the mesa and on the north side of San Miguel Creek. I could not tell if they were occupied. Examination of the site using Google Earth, confirms the presence of several, scattered, small structures.

MALDONADO – Continued

The USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 5) marks a cemetery near the end of the road.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 4 1901	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 7 T34S R62W On north side of Frijole Creek [Frijole Creek is now San Miguel Creek] Proposed postmaster - Jose Maldonado
May 27 1901		Established
May 27 1901		Maldonado, Jose
Feb 10 1902		Martinez, Tobias
Apr 8 1903		Martinez, Juan D.
Dec 12 1904		Ordered closed
Jan 14 1905		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MALDONADO

MARTINSEN

I have found no reference that provides any information as to the history or purpose of this post office.

One reference does state that it was shown on a 1923 map of Colorado. *Tracking Ghost Railroads in Colorado* by Robert C. Ormes maps a branch line of the Denver and Fort Worth Railroad from Longs Junction on the Purgatoire River through Long Canyon to Martinsen near the Colorado-New Mexico border and beyond. Ormes states that the railroad was built in 1888 and removed in 1908.

The location was within the Maxwell Grant. It seems most probable that Martinsen was a lumber camp. Since it was still shown on a 1923 map it may have become a hunting lodge or guest ranch but that is only my supposition.

In 2001 I made an attempt to go to Martinsen. At the west end of the Trinidad Lake Reservoir, from Colorado Highway 12, I crossed the river on Las Animas County Road 18.3 and followed that road east to Road 53.1 where I turned south into Long Canyon. From the intersection I was able to go only two and a half miles before I reached the end of the county road and encountered a locked gate. I do not know the status of possible access into the area south of that point.

Viewing Google Earth it is possible to follow the road in Long Canyon south to the vicinity where Martinson was located. At that location there is a long, low building with several livestock pens. From the satellite photography they do not appear to be in use. The road up the canyon appears to be in frequent use until it reaches this place where there is a turn around complex. The area is relatively level and may at times be a campground but I could not confirm that from the photography.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 11 1889	---	It will be situated in the northwest corner of township 35 south of range 65 west, said township being at present unsectioned owing to being the private property of the Maxwell Land Grant Company. 8 miles south of the Las Animas River and directly on Longs Creek From sketch map, if accurate, would be in the SE/4 NW/4 Sec 6 Name proposed as Maxwell - rejected Proposed postmaster - Henry Kasper
Jun 3 1889		Established
Jun 3 1889		Kasper, Henry

MESAVIEW – Continued

Beginning at the intersection of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 389 drive west three miles to Las Animas County Road 129.0. When I made this visit in 2001, I recorded this junction as Road 129.0. However, The DeLorme *Colorado Atlas and Gazetteer* shows it as Road 133.0. The key is the distance west from the intersection with Colorado 389.

Drive north four miles and turn east on Road 32. From that point progress becomes problematical. I was able to go a mile east and then a mile north to a gate, that although not locked, would have taken me into a cattle pen. At that point I was still a mile short of the site of Mesaview. That point is also two miles west of the stated location of the Gillette Post Office (1888).

Looking north over the level ground I could see nothing but fence lines and a continuation of the farm road by which I had arrived. The view to the east in the direction of Gillette, was even more devoid of human activity.

Cedarvale was the proposed name for this post office. No cedars were visible from where I stopped but perhaps below the horizon there is a small stream with a grove of cedars. Looking to the south you do have a view of the mesas in southern Las Animas County and northern New Mexico.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 8 1921	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T32S R58W 2 miles south of the Purgatoire 3 miles east of Alkali Creek Name proposed as Cedarvale - rejected
Oct 11 1921		Established
Oct 11 1921		Sanford, Mrs. Alta
Sep 19 1922		Ordered closed
Sep 30 1922		Discontinued Mail to Branson

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MESAVIEW

MODEL

The Model Land and Irrigation Company filed a plat for Model City on June 12, 1911. On February 10, 1913 the Model Townsite and Investment Company filed a new plat for the town of Model. Reportedly this new plat was for a site three miles northeast of the previous Model City.

Initially the post office established here in 1911 was named Roby. When I consider the location of the Roby Post Office to the Model Post Office, it seems likely that the early “town” was not successful. The connection to the development of an irrigation canal and an irrigation district may point to that project having been ultimately developed south of the original planned location for Model (Roby).

The name Model is pronounced model as in model home. The intent was that it would be an early version of the planned communities of the late twentieth century.

It is reported that the railroad siding and settlement here was first known as Poso from the Spanish pozo. Those same reports interpret Poso as meaning, “dry hole”. My Spanish dictionary tells a different story. Pozo means, “well.” But there is also a Spanish word Poso, which translates as, “sediment” or “dregs.” It is fun to conjecture on what was in the minds of the residents in those early days.

Model is still a small community on the west side of US Highway 350 about six miles southwest of the location of Tyrone. There are a few small homes and the Model Mercantile Company that may or may not be still in business.

Model is another of the Las Animas County communities that would likely fall victim to the proposed expansion of Fort Carson’s Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Latitude = 37:22:20 North Longitude = 104:14:40 West MODEL

MODEL – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

May 11 1910	---	NE/4 Sec 4 T31S R61W (Document reads T31N - error) Poso station on AT&SF (?) [Report filed for Roby]	
Oct 26 1912		Formerly named Roby	
Oct 26 1912		Hoff, Ira Guy	
Apr 11 1913	---	SW/4 Sec 4 T31S R61W 395 feet east of AT&SF tracks	
Nov 4 1913		Schlendering, Fred G.	
May 2 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 4 T31S R61W 160 feet east of AT&SF	
Dec 24 1914		Ward, Rea	
Jun 28 1916		Johnse, Irene M.	
Oct 15 1917		Laughlin, John A.	
Apr 26 1920		Hoff, Ira G.	
Jul 16 1929		Swegart, Leroy C.	
Sep 4 1929		Swegart, Leroy C.	Confirmed
Mar 6 1937		Swegart, Mrs. Dora L.	Assumed charge
Apr 14 1937		Swegart, Mrs. Dora L.	Acting
Jul 30 1937		Swegart, Mrs. Dora L.	Confirmed
Aug 30 1937		Swegart, Mrs. Dora L.	Commissioned
Mar 23 1938		Swegart, Leroy C.	Confirmed
Apr 5 1938		Swegart, Leroy C.	Commissioned
Apr 12 1938		Swegart, Leroy C.	Assumed charge
Oct 23 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 4 T31S R61W 200 feet east of AT&SF tracks, on U.S. 385	
Nov 3 1945		Swegart, Mrs. Maude E.	Acting
Nov 7 1947		Swegart, Mrs. Maude E.	Confirmed
Feb 9 1948		Swegart, Mrs. Maude E.	Commissioned
Jan 31 1960		Shehorn, Mrs. Lavina	Assumed charge
Feb 2 1960		Shehorn, Mrs. Lavina	Acting
Jan 5 1962		Benavide, Abel A.	Assumed charge
Jan 9 1962		Benavide, Abel A.	Acting
Feb 23 1962		Foster, Mrs. Rose	Assumed charge
Feb 26 1962		Foster, Mrs. Rose	Acting
Dec 9 1963		Foster, Mrs. Rose	Commissioned
Dec 20 1963		Foster, Mrs. Rose	Possession

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MODEL, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 24 1913 Jun 17 1914
2	MODEL. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jul 19 1917
3	MODEL / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Dec 17 1923
3.1	MODEL, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-26x14mm	Jan 29 1926 Feb 28 1931
3.2	MODEL, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Mar 8 1932
4	MODEL, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 2 1932 June 5 1936
5	MODEL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Feb 4 1941 Feb 20 1950
6	MODEL / COLO. CI 10P 40.0	4bars S-27x23mm	May 19 1951 Apr 9 1952
6.1	MODEL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 25 1953
7	MODEL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 30 1954

MODEL – Continued

8 MODEL, CO / 81059
CI 10P 31.5

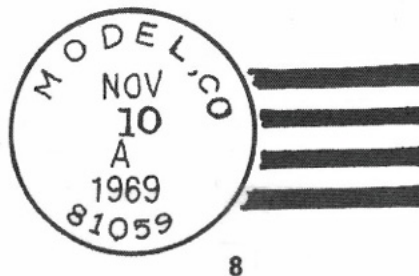
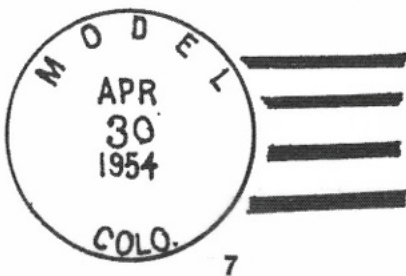
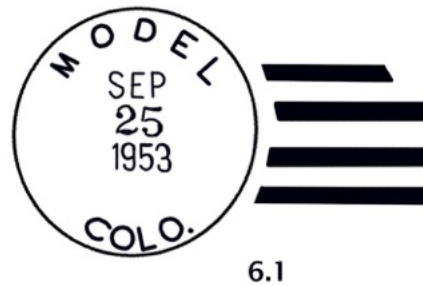
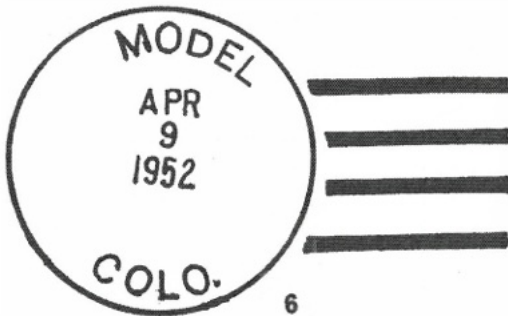
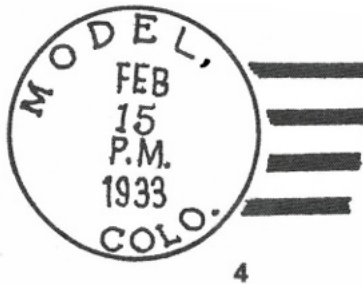
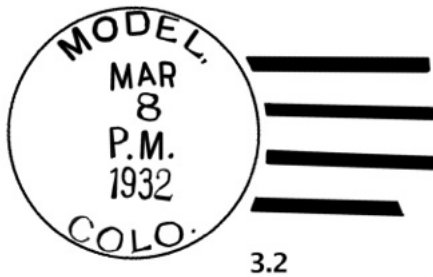
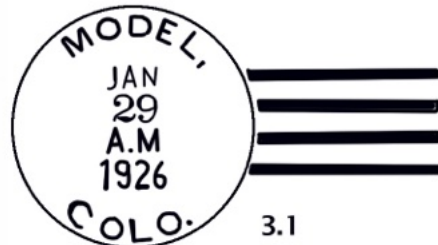
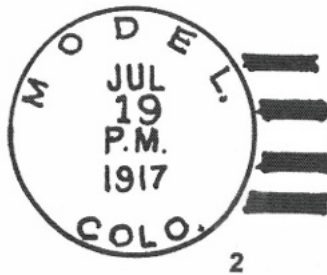
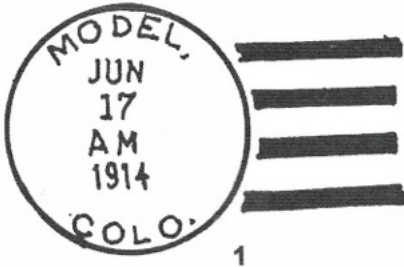
Jul 3 1969 Feb 27 1986

4bars S-24x18mm

9 MODEL, CO / 81059
CI 10P 32.0

Sep 26 1988

4bars S-23x18mm



AUXILLIARY MARKING

A-1 model colo.
IR 00P 38.0x39.0

Aug 24 1945

Hstp pointing hand, RETURNED / TO / WRITER / REASON
CHECKED



A-1

MOORE

I have found no information as to where this post office was intended to be located. The postmaster appointment was rescinded, which could indicate that the application was withdrawn or the postmaster failed to meet the qualifications. There is no Geographical Site Location Report which is typical for post offices that were never in operation.

1904 was the time in which there was a considerable expansion in the number of coal mining camps in Las Animas County, particularly along the upper Purgatoire River Valley. Perhaps this was intended for one of those.

Any information about the proposed Moore Post Office would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

No entry present in Geographic Site Location Reports

Jul 11 1904 Established

Jul 11 1904 Ryan, John C.

Appointment rescinded Nov 17 1904

Nov 17 1904 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MOORE

MORLEY

Morley began as a station on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad line from Trinidad over Raton Pass. Between its first establishment in 1882 and its second re-establishment in 1888 Morley appears to have been largely associated with the railroad.

From the association with the railroad it seems most likely that the station was named for William R. Morley, the Santa Fe Railroad construction engineer credited with laying out the railroad grade over Raton Pass.

In 1888 Morley entered a new and longer-lasting phase of history. The Colorado Supply Division of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company opened a coal mine at Morley. From then on coal mining was the principal activity facilitated by the location on the railroad.

On August 31, 1907 the Morley Post Office was closed with mail directed to the recently opened Katcina Post Office, "two and a half miles south of Morley." Twelve days later the Katcina Post Office was closed and the Morley Post Office reopened with postmaster Lorin S. Metcalf resuming his duties and continuing in the post until November 1920. This raises the possibility that there was a temporary problem with Postmaster Metcalf's qualification or his desire to remain at the post.

Drive south from Trinidad on Interstate 25 to Exit 6, the Gallinas Exit. Go west to the entrance to the Santa Fe Trails Estates and turn south on a dirt road called Fisher Peak Parkway (2001). That road is on the west side of the railroad tracks. Two and six-tenths miles will bring you to the location of Morley. There are some large mine dumps and numerous foundations for both large and small buildings. From the number of foundations, Morley was a good-sized community as long as the mining lasted. In 2001 there were still a few abandoned buildings and the facade of a church. Preservation of this structure is under consideration. Funding would be through the State Historical Association using funds from the gambling operations at Cripple Creek and in Gilpin County.

The road continues south from Morley in the direction of Katcina and Wootton but in 2001 a locked gate prevented passage beyond the site of Morley.

Latitude = 37:01:55 North Longitude = 104:30:15 West MORLEY

MORLEY – Continued



Foundations and mine dump at the site of Morley, Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 7, 2001

Chronology of the Post Office

- Nov 25 1881 --- No survey provided 200 feet from AT&SF Morley Station
Proposed postmaster - Augustus Harrison Wagner
- Jan 11 1882 Established
Wagner, Augustus H.
- Aug 3 1882 Discontinued Mail to Starkville
- Aug 19 1884 --- SW/4 Sec 25 T34S R64W North side, on rail road, 25 feet, Morley Station
Proposed postmaster - Thomas R. Shaon
- Aug 27 1884 Re-established
Shaon, Thomas R.
- Feb 16 1885 Discontinued Mail to Starkville
- Jul 26 1888 --- SW/4 Sec 25 T34S R64W Starkville five miles northerly East bank of
Chicken Creek West side of AT&SF in Depot building, Morley Station
Proposed postmaster - Salmon C. Elliott
- Sep 26 1888 Re-established
Elliott, Salmon C.
- Apr 2 1895 Ringo, John R.
- Sep 23 1895 Wheelihan, Frank A.
- Apr 13 1896 Lonergan, Vincent L.
- Jan 10 1901 Sebring, John T.
- Apr 4 1902 Graham, Frank
- Apr 25 1904 Hardy, C. M.
- Aug 12 1904 Metcalf, Lorin S.
- Aug 10 1907 Ordered closed
- Aug 31 1907 Discontinued Mail to Kadcina
- Sep 12 1907 Moved from Kadcina
- Sep 12 1907 Metcalf, Lorin S. Resumed duties?

MORELY – Continued

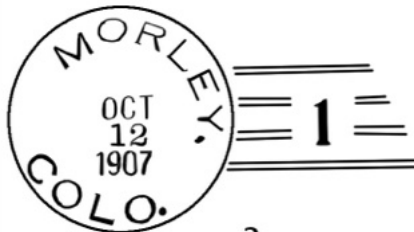
Jul 10 1914	---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 6 T35S R63W 200 yards west of Raton Creek 100 yards west of the AT&SF tracks	
Nov 9 1920		Hudson, Chester L.	Confirmed
Dec 4 1920		Hudson, Chester L.	Commissioned
Dec 13 1920		Hudson, Chester L.	Assumed charge
Oct 19 1937		Arnoldi, August	Assumed charge
Nov 1 1937		Arnoldi, August	Acting
Jan 25 1938		Arnoldi, August	Confirmed
May 28 1938		Arnoldi, August	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T35S R63W 200 yards east of Raton Creek 100 yards west of AT&SF tracks 1 mile northeast of Morley Station	
Aug 12 1949		Meek, Robert McQueen	Assumed charge
May 9 1948		Meek, Robert McQueen	Acting (probably 1949)
Mar 22 1950		Meek, Robert McQueen	Confirmed
Apr 6 1950		Meek, Robert McQueen	Commissioned
Aug 24 1956		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

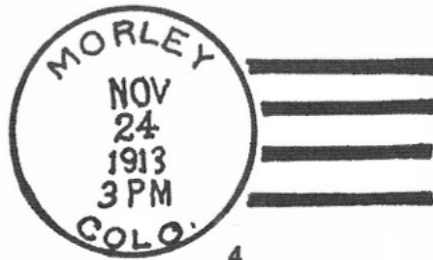
1	MORLEY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp No killer	Nov 6 1902
2	MORLEY, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Doane Type 2, with 1	Jun 16 1907 Oct 12 1907
3	MORLEY / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jun 24 1913 Jun 16 1926
4	MORLEY / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 6 1913 Nov 24 1913
5	MORLEY / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	May 15 1922 May 12 1925
6	MORLEY, / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	4bars S-??x21mm	Dec 12 1936
7	MORLEY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 16 1938 Mar 16 1956
A-1	morley, colo. RC 10P 67.0x36.0	Aux Hstp pointing hand, REASON FOR / NON-DELIVERY / CHECKED ... with pointing hand	Nov 24 1948



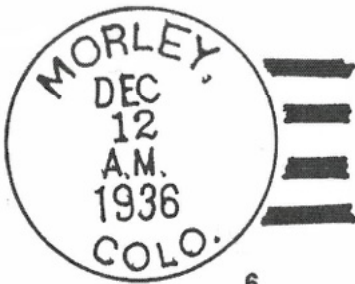
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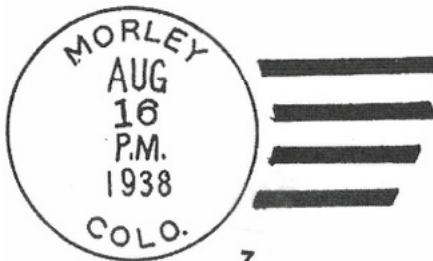
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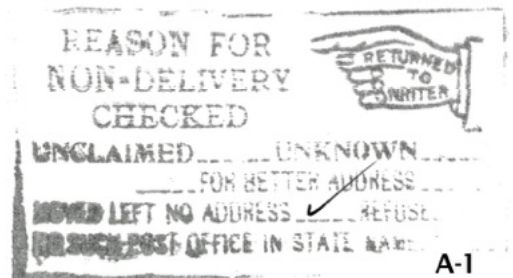
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6



7



A-1

NINAVIEW

The Ninaview Post Office was located in Las Animas County for less than a year and it may not have actually operated there. I am repeating here most of the information about Ninaview that was published in the Bent County chapter of *The Colorado Postal Encyclopedia*.

First established in 1915, Ninaview often moved to a new location. It was first at the ranch of T. R. Jones, an early settler, blacksmith and store owner. There is a question about the selection of the name, although it is certain that it was for the wife of Mr. Jones. One report states that the name requested was simply Nina. This was not accepted but the Post Office Department added “view” to Nina to create the name. Another version claims that Mr. Jones’ wife had a favorite view from the ranch, hence Ninaview. However, the initial Geographic Site Location Report makes it clear that the initial request was for Verona. This was an obvious tie to Mr. Jones’ wife, Nina Verona Jones who was to be the first postmaster. Verona was rejected, another instance of the Post Office Department’s desire to avoid confusion with a post office in California - Verona in Sutter County.

More confusion comes from the claim that Ninaview was first in Las Animas County. However, the stated location is in Township 27 South and the accompanying sketch map shows it to be located almost due west of Rule. This would place the site in Bent County not in Las Animas County.

My visit to Ninaview was in October 1999. To get there drive south from La Junta on Colorado 109 through Otero County into the extreme southwest corner of Bent County and continue the short distance to the line with Las Animas County. At that point Bent County Road A goes east along the Bent-Las Animas County line. Take that road seven miles to the intersection with Bent County Road 10 (north) and Las Animas County Road 209 (south). The 1920 and later site of Ninaview was in the northwest corner of this intersection. At the time of my visit there were occupied buildings at this location - an emu or ostrich ranch. Two other sites of Ninaview can be reached by driving north on Road 10. One mile north is the 1918 site at which, in 1999, there were some older buildings and a newer trailer on the east side of the road. Three miles further north is the plotted 1915 site of Ninaview. There was a large two-story, three-ridged metal building, abandoned and of undetermined purpose. The final site of Ninaview was a mile south of the intersection and one mile east of Las Animas County Road 209. There is no road access to that site and nothing is visible from the county road.

Latitude = 37:38:38 North Longitude = 103:14:25 West NINAVIEW

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1915	Established [Bent County]
Feb 19 1917	--- Moved to a location in Las Animas County SE/4 NE/4 Sec 10 T28S R52W 1/4 mile east of Johnny Creek Sketch map shows a previous site in the NE/4 NE/4 Sec 17 T28S R52W See also entries in Bent County
Feb 21 1917	Fisher, James B. Declined
Jul 25 1917	Nordgren, Ernst O.
Jan 14 1918	--- Moved back to a location in Bent County Move to NW/4 Sec 34 T27S R52W 2-1/8 miles west of north from old location. Old location was in Las Animas County
Jul 30 1965	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	NINAVIEW. / COLO.	Sep 21 1916
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm

NINAVIEW – Continued



This postmark may have continued in use during the brief period that the Ninaview Post Office was located in Las Animas County.

PLEASE REFER TO BENT COUNTY FOR THE COMPLETE LISTING OF THE POSTMASTERS AND POSTMARKS FOR NINAVIEW.

OFFICER

Officer was a ranch post office about twenty miles northwest of Kim and eight miles north of Villegreen. The conventional wisdom claims that the post office was named for Charles Officer, the “First postmaster.” However, as you can read below, Charles Officer was the second postmaster, following Clara G. Officer whom I assume was his wife. In any event the post office was named for the Officer family.

This trip would prove to be one of the wilder adventures that Jim Ozment and I encountered in our explorations of Colorado’s back country.

To reach the original (1917) site begin on US Highway 160 and drive north on Las Animas County Road 179 through Villegreen fourteen miles to the junction with County Road 177.9 to the left. Ahead and to the right of Road 179.0 is a ranch complex, the May Ranch. This was the location of the Officer Post Office from 1917 to 1926.

In 1926 the Officer Post Office was moved five miles to the north, “for the benefit of the people north and east of the new site.” I suspect that the residents and the Post Office Department were of the opinion that the people to the south of the original site could now be served by the Villegreen Post Office.

To reach the 1926 site, turn on to Road 177.9 and continue north five miles to the second location of the Officer Post Office. There, somewhat hidden behind brush and trees, we found the ruins of a log cabin and a mobile home which in 1998 was occupied.

When we got out of my Jeep to take pictures, Jim remarked, “You have a tire going flat.” My reaction was, OK. I have a spare. I did back up a little to be on level ground in preparation for changing the tire after we took our pictures which we promptly did.

Then the “fun” began. I jacked up the Jeep and loosened the lug nuts on the wheel. The next step was to remove the spare tire which was mounted on the rear of the Jeep.

Chrysler, to protect its buyers from theft, mounted these spares with one of the lug nuts requiring a special fitting in order to be removed. I did have the fitting and it would fit with the tire wrench. However, I am not sure when, or if ever, since I bought the Jeep in 1994 that the spare had been dismounted. The result was that the special nut was frozen in place, a fact that wasn’t helped by the shallow mating of the two security pieces.

Jim and I worked on it for several minutes and at some point we attracted the attention of the resident who came out to see what was happening. We explained our problem and he went and got a can of WD-40. No help. The lug nut still resisted our efforts.

OFFICER – Continued

At that point we asked if he had a telephone, thinking we could call for help. He answered no; in fact he did not even have electricity. He inquired if we had a cell phone, to which we replied no. He then commented, “They don’t work here anyway.”

Our next step in the saga was to ask if he could drive us in to La Junta where we would get the flat tire repaired. He replied, “Yes, I have a truck but I don’t have a driver’s license and the last time I was in La Junta the police told me they would throw me in jail if they caught me there again.”

A few more minutes of discussion and our host, 80-year old Ramon Guterrez, agreed to loan us his truck to drive to La Junta. He asked us, while we were in La Junta, to run a couple errands for him. We agreed and it already being past 6:00 PM, we told him we would likely stay overnight and be back first thing in the morning.

So off we went to La Junta, got the tire fixed and spent the night there as we had planned originally. We returned to Officer the next morning, bringing Ramon some groceries, a full tank of gas and a good tip.

Ramon showed us around his property and told us that the crumbling log building had once been the Officer Post Office.

With many thanks we then left to continue our trip. Later in the day, when we again reached La Junta, I immediately went to where we had the flat fixed, told them my problem and asked them to break the recalcitrant nut loose. The serviceman quickly accomplished that task with the comment: “That’s the second one this week!” Needless to say that nut did not go back on the spare tire.

We considered ourselves very lucky to have had the problem where we did and to have encountered someone willing to help.

Latitude = 37:29:20 North Longitude = 103:33:52 West OFFICER [SRM: for 1926 site]

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 23 1916	---	SW/4 Sec 18 T30S R54W 2-1/2 miles east of Plum Creek Name requested as Keating - rejected Applicant for postmaster - Clara Gertrude Officer
Feb 24 1917		Established
Feb 24 1917		Officer, Clara G.
Jan 11 1918		Officer, Charles
Nov 8 1923		Hoags, Samuel H. Acting
Jan 15 1924		Hoags, Samuel H. Appointed
Nov 22 1925		Glover, Martha C. Acting
Dec 24 1925		Glover, Martha C. Appointed
Jan 27 1926		Glover, Martha C. Commissioned
Jul 27 1926	---	SE/4 Sec 27 T29S R55W 4 miles east of Plum Creek Office being moved "for the benefit of the people north and east of the new site." Cancellations - June 1925 - March 31, 1926 June Sept Dec March \$30.77 \$39.20 \$31.61 \$28.63
Nov 1 1932	---	SE/4 Sec 27 T29S R55W
Nov 13 1934		McGown, Mrs. Bessie Lee Assumed charge
Nov 27 1934		McGown, Mrs. Bessie Lee Acting
Dec 26 1934		McGown, Mrs. Bessie Lee Confirmed
Jan 23 1935		McGown, Mrs. Bessie Lee Commissioned
Sep 28 1937		Ordered closed Effective Oct 15 1937 Mail to Villegreen
Nov 13 1935	[1937?]	Closing order rescinded
Jun 2 1938		Ordered closed
Jun 30 1938		Discontinued Mail to Villegreen

OFFICER – Continued



**Remnants of a log building near the residence of Ramon Guterrez (1998).
According to Mr. Guterrez, this building was the final site of the Officer Post Office.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 5, 1998

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | OFFICER. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Sep 3 1926 |
| 2 | OFFICER. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??x??mm | Aug 17 1931 Jun 29 1935 |
| 3 | OFFICER / COLO.
CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-23x19mm | Jun 30 1938 Jun 30 1938 |



1



2



3

PATCHES

Patches was a ranch post office in the extreme northern portion of Las Animas County. There is no doubt that this was a solitary ranch that for about ten years provided postal service to neighboring ranches. Perhaps, as was the case with some other remote ranch post offices in Colorado, there was a small, associated store supplying staples to the ranchers.

This area is grassland suited for raising cattle. It is also a landscape that is cut by a number of modest canyons that feed to the Purgatoire River.

The location of Patches is in an area that it is not served by public roads. From Colorado Highway 10 you can start in the direction of Patches. Two miles east of the Las Animas-Pueblo County line, Las Animas County Road 91.1 goes south. In 2001 the road went five miles to a ranch in South Canyon. From there on you would be on private or ranch roads.

There is a ranch complex in the canyon and I went about another mile beyond it before things began to get confusing. There seemed to be roads that were not on my map and realizing that I might be trespassing, I decided it was best to terminate the mission to Patches.

It is highly doubtful that anyone lives at Patches but there might be some remnant structures. I also suspect that Road 91.1 may no longer be a public road.

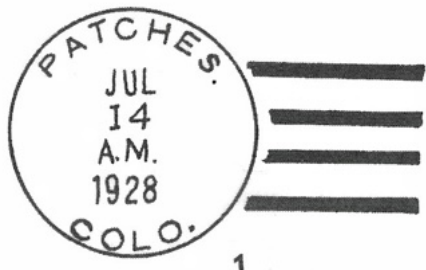
Using my maps and the satellite photography from Google Earth I was able to locate the site in Patches Canyon. Two structures are visible from the photography but they do not appear to be in use.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 2 1917	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T27S R62W
		Applicant for postmaster - Walter William Wyatt
Jun 26 1917		Established
Jun 17 1917		Wyatt, Walter W.
Sep 12 1918		Atkinson, Jonathan J.
Jan 3 1920		McGee, Walter E.
Mar 19 1926		McGee, Leah E.
Jun 27 1928		Ordered closed
Jul 14 1928		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 PATCHES. / COLO. Jan 14 1928 Jul 14 1928
 CI 10P 32.5 4bars S-25x19mm



PATT

In 1918 Patt was a rural post office seven miles north of Andrix. Prior to 1930 there were actually two locations there, one on each side of the road. By 1930 the Patt Post Office had moved a mile south of those previous locations. This sparsely settled portion of northeastern Las Animas County is devoted to raising livestock.

PATT – Continued

It was proposed to name this post office Mustang. However, that would have conflicted with the operating Mustang Post Office in Huerfano County. The source of the substituted name Patt is unknown to me.

From the site of Andrix on US Highway 160 drive six miles north on Las Animas County Road 215 to the intersection with County Road 52. The 1930 and subsequent position of Patt was in the southeast quadrant of the intersection. There are no remaining structures but there is evidence of past activity at that location.

From Road 52 continue north one mile on Road 215 to where the road curves slightly to the east. The original location of Patt was on the west side of the road. In 1923 the post office moved to the east side of Road 215. There is a small ranch on the east side of the road. I found nothing worth photographing to the west of the road.

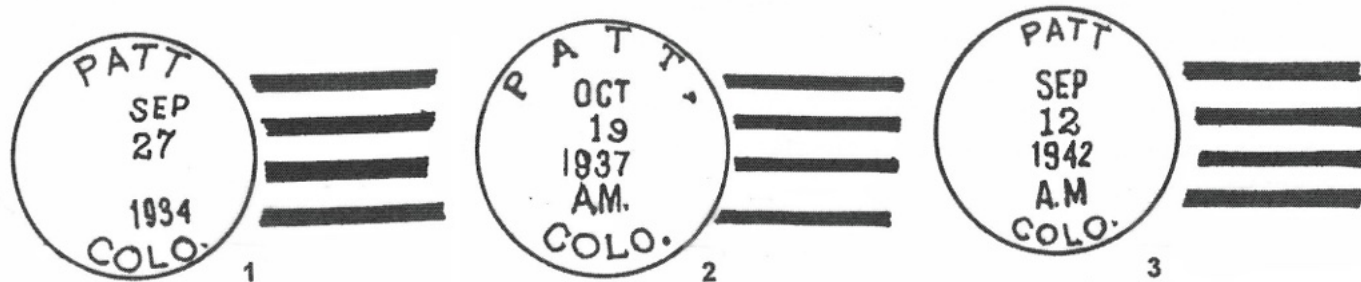
Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 11 1918	---	NE/4 Sec 1(?) T31S R52W 1 mile west of Mustang Creek Document has name of Mustang - crossed out. Applicant for postmaster - Ella Van Buren	
Mar 11 1919		Established	
Mar 11 1919		Van Buren, Ella	
Dec 15 1923	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T31S R51W 1 mile west of Mustang Creek	
Jan 11 1924		Cumming Mrs. J. E.	Acting
Feb 25 1924		Cumming, Mrs. Branley Lee	
Jul 1 1929		Johnson, Leo	Possession
Jul 13 1929		Johnson, Leo	Acting
Oct 18 1929		Johnson, Leo	Appointed
Jun 21 1930	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T31S R51W A move south of about 1/2 mile from center W/2 Sec 6	
Apr 1 1931		Jordan, John A.	Possession
Apr 7 1931		Jordan, John A.	Acting
Oct 28 1931		Johnson, Leo	Confirmed
Nov 10 1931		Johnson, Leo	Commissioned
Nov 16 1931		Johnson, Leo	Assumed charge
Nov 5 1935		Johnson, Riece	Assumed charge
Nov 25 1935		Johnson, Riece	Acting
Jul 2 1936		Johnson, Riece	Confirmed
Jul 21 1936		Johnson, Riece	Commissioned
Nov 5 1937		McKinney, Walter D.	Assumed charge
Nov 19 1937		McKinney, Walter D.	Acting
Dec 29 1937		McKinney, Walter D.	Confirmed
Jan 22 1938		McKinney, Walter D.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T31S R51W 1-1/2 miles west of Mustang Creek	
Feb 29 1944		Discontinued Mail to Kim	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PATT / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 27 1934
2	PATT, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 14 1936 May 8 1941
3	PATT / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 12 1942 Oct 14 1942

PATT – Continued



PLUM VALLEY

Early settlers found a few wild plums along the streams in this area and hence the name of Plum Valley. There was some dry farming in this area but, as it is today, raising livestock was the more dominant activity. Discontinuance of the post office in 1935 was likely a result of the Dust Bowl years of the 1930's that depleted the area's population.

Typical for a rural post office there were three locations for the Plum Valley Post Office.

From Kim go south and then west eleven miles on US Highway 160 to Las Animas County Road 179.0. From that intersection the 1916 location of Plum Valley was approximately a mile and a quarter to the northeast. Looking in that direction from US 160 and County Road 179.0, I could see no evidence of any buildings. At that distance foundations would not have been visible. The USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 7) does show roads to that location but they are ranch roads with no public access.

From US 160 drive three miles north on Road 179.0 to Road 38.0 and turn east for two miles. The 1917 location of Plum Valley spots to the north of Road 38.0. Nothing was visible near the road but there was a road or track, that runs north. In the distance Jim Ozment and I could see an area that appeared to be disturbed and might have been the location for the Plum Valley Post Office.

We returned to road 179.0 and continued north three miles to Villegreen at the intersection with County Road 44.0. We decided to check the location of Plum Valley that was specified in the February 1916 Site Location Report. That location is one mile east of Road 179.0 and on the south side of Road 44.0. To our surprise we found rubble from a couple of stone structures, foundations and a scattering of trash.

Using Google Earth it is possible to view the reported 1917 and 1910 sites of the Plum Valley Post Office. No structures are present at either location.

It should be observed that at time the Plum Valley Post Office was being brought to life it was a time of moderate rainfall and settlement was expanding in this part of Las Animas County. By 1917 the Villegreen Post Office had been established two miles west of Road 179.0.

Chronology of the Post Office

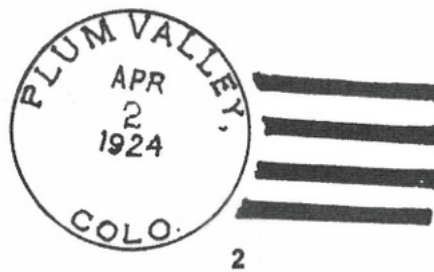
- Feb 24 1916 --- NW/4 Sec 32 T31S R54W 12 miles north of Carrizo Creek
Apparently this proposed location for the Plum Valley Post Office was changed before it began operations. [WHB]
Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Emma Mason
- Mar 13 1916 --- SW/4 Sec 20 T32S R54W 9 miles north of Carrizo Creek
Applicant for postmaster - George W. Eggleston
- Jan 9 1917 Established
- Jan 9 1917 Ogden, Winifred H.
- Oct 22 1917 --- E/2 Sec 8 T32S R54W (document reads T32N - error) 4 miles west of Smith Canyon
- Mar 9 1920 Higginbotham, Opal A. Declined

PLUM VALLEY – Continued

Jun 17 1920	Hough, William R.	
Sep 9 1921	Bryant, Dennis A.	
Jul 24 1924	Doak, Thelma C.	Acting
Jul 28 1924	Doak, Thelma C.	Appointed
Jul 30 1925	Ogden, Winifred A.	
Jul 7 1928	Payne, Clarence H.	Acting
Jun 30 1932	Hanson, Mrs. Eleanor Payne	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1932	Hanson, Mrs. Eleanor Payne	Acting
Aug 17 1932	Hanson, Mrs. Eleanor Payne	Confirmed
Oct 22 1932	Hanson, Mrs. Eleanor Payne	Commissioned
Jul 23 1935	Ordered closed	
Aug 15 1935	Discontinued Mail to Villegreen	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | PLUM VALLEY, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x20mm | May 1 1917 |
| 2 | PLUM VALLEY, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Aug 12 1921 Aug 15 1935 |



POWELL

Powell was a ranch post office northwest of present day Weston. There is no evidence of a larger community at the location. Raising livestock is the principal occupation in this portion of Las Animas County.

The Powell Post Office was established at the junction of Hank Canyon with Wet Canyon. It remained there for nine years at which time it was moved three and a half miles west to a location in Hicks canyon. That second location has been equated with the community of Hicks.

Linden C. Powell was the first postmaster for Powell so I assume the post office was given his family name.

From Weston on Colorado Highway 12 drive ten and one-half miles northwest on Las Animas County Road 31.9. The original location of Powell was in a fairly open area at the junction of the two valleys. I did not find any readily visible remnants of habitation at this point.

Continue west on Road 31.9 an additional three and a half miles to County Road 38.2. Turn south on that road, which crosses over a ridge and go a mile and a half to where the road forks. In 2001 I could go only a short distance on the right hand more traveled fork before encountering a locked gate. I returned to the fork and drove a short distance on the other branch which was little more than a trail, to a vantage point where I could look down into the valley. I could see some older buildings which could have been the second site for the Powell Post Office.

Supposedly the Hicks Cemetery is located on the ridge but I did not see it.

Please refer to the entry for Hicks for a further discussion of the relationship between the Powell and the Hicks Post Offices.

POWELL – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 17 1883 --- NE/4 Sec 17 T32S R67W 3 miles south of the South Branch of the Apishapa River
Proposed postmaster - Linden C. Powell
- Jun 4 1883 Established
- Jun 4 1883 Powell, Linden C.
- Feb 3 1887 Sanford, Albert W.
- Jun 6 1891 Burton, Virginia
- Dec 12 1891 Sanford, William H.
- Mar 13 1892 --- NW/4 Sec 14 T32S R68W 3 miles north of Watahoe Creek
[This is probably Guajatoyah Creek. WHB]
- Oct 31 1894 Winter, George H.
- Jun 8 1896 Discontinued Mail to Stanford



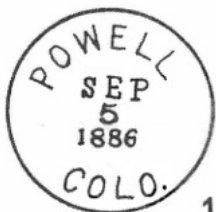
Powell, Colorado – site overview

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 POWELL / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

Hstp Target

Sep 5 1886 May 27 1896



PRIMERO

Primero was the first of the mines opened by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company after they gained control of the Maxwell Land Grant. In Spanish, Primero means “first”. The CF&I applied numeric designations to their early mines along the Purgatoire Valley - Primero, Segundo, Tercio and Cuatro.

One source has stated that the mine was first called Smiths Canyon and later Purgatory Mine. That is possible and it might be the location of the Smiths Canyon Post Office in 1892-1893. I refer you to my discussion of Smiths Canyon for my interpretation of the situation which does not consider a location at Primero.

Primero was a Colorado Fuel & Iron Company town. It had a water system and a reservoir that bisected the town. From near Segundo there was a short spur line of the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad to serve the mine. The Primero Mine and town were abandoned in 1925.

Primero was located a mile and a half west-northwest of Segundo. According to one map the location is in Primero Canyon but the USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 4) names it Smith Canyon.

The road that might lead to Primero is gated and locked - cemetery access only. The site is on private property, thus access would most likely have to be on foot and with permission.

Latitude = 37:08:33 North Longitude = 104:44:28 West PRIMERO

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 15 1901	---	Sec 26 T33S R66W 95 rods east of Colorado & Wyoming tracks Proposed postmaster - Benjamin L. Davis	
Dec 11 1901		Established	
Dec 11 1901		Davis, Benjamin L.	Declined
Apr 8 1902		Johnson, Andrew E.	
Dec 24 1907		Boyle, William H.	
Jun 15 1910		Phillips, David J.	
May 14 1914	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 26 T33S R66W 850 feet east of Smith Canon (west branch)	
Feb 25 1921		Rodda, Benjamin G.	
Aug 11 1921		Myers, Louis M.	
Apr 7 1926		Houghland, Edgar A.	Acting
Sep 21 1926		Houghland, Lucille E.	
Jun 12 1930		Banks, Mrs. Ida B.	Acting
Oct 17 1930		Banks, Mrs. Ida B.	
Apr 14 1933		Ordered closed	
Apr 29 1933		Discontinued Mail to Valdez	

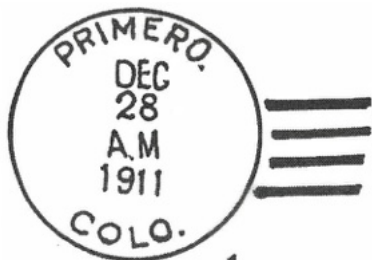
Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	PRIMERO / COLO CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target	Jul 24 1905
1	PRIMERO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Dec 28 1911
2	PRIMERO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 10 1914 Nov 6 1915
2.1	PRIMERO, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 13 1917 Nov 13 1917
3	PRIMERO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 8 1923 Apr 29 1933

PRIMERO – Continued



0.1



1



2



2.1



3

PULASKI

Pulaski was an early settlement on the south side of the Purgatoire River northeast of Trinidad. The principal occupations of the area residents were farming, raising livestock and some coal mining.

In 1877 the Pueblo and Arkansas Valley Railroad (a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe) built from La Junta to Trinidad. A few miles from Pulaski the railroad reached the Purgatoire. But it stayed on the north side of the river passing through Hoehne and leaving Pulaski stranded on the south side of the river.

Pulaski was likely named for Kazimierz Pulaski (1747-1779) a Polish patriot and U.S. Army officer, hero of the Polish anti-Russian insurrection in 1768 and of the American Revolution.

Pulaski struggled on for a few years. In 1886 the post office was moved across the river to Hoehne. Pulaski did remain on maps as late as 1894 but soon faded into history.

The site of Pulaski is on the north side of US Highway 350. From the intersection of US 350 with Las Animas County Road 88.5, the road to Hoehne, it is a mile northeast via US 350 to County Road 38.0. Visible from that intersection there is a large farm complex north of road 38.0. I believe it likely that Pulaski was in the vicinity of that complex.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 12 1874	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T32S R62W 1/8 mile south of Purgatoire
Jan 27 1874		Established
Jan 22 1874		Browning, John W.
Dec 17 1874		Rinehart, Jesse
Aug 13 1877		Bashor, Michael M.
Jan 2 1880		Miller, Samuel
Oct 22 1883		Richardson, Harvey
Nov 2 1886		Moved to Hoehne

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Pulaski Colo
MS

Sep 16 1877 Oct 5 1885

Mscp Pen cancel

Pulaski Colo 2-16-77

RAPSON

The post offices that served Rapson and its neighbor Rugby have become intertwined in the historical accounts of this area of Las Animas County. The sites are in the area, west of Interstate 25 and about two miles south of the Las Animas-Huerfano County line. This is an area of numerous coal mines and two of the most important were the Rapson Mine and the Rugby Mine. Both mines were served by a spur from the Colorado and Southern Railroad and there were post offices named for both mines.

The Rugby Post Office operated continuously from 1900 to 1947 and the Rapson Post Office operated intermittently from 1911 to 1934 so obviously they were not at the same location.

The connection of the spur line with the main line was at Rugby Junction and Rugby Station, which is where the confusion arises. There was a post office there but it was named Rapson. The Rugby Post Office was near the Rugby Mine.

In my reading of historical literature, I have encountered frequent statements that place the Rapson Post Office at the Rapson Mine and the Rugby Post Office at Rugby Junction, when the reverse is true. That is proven by the Federal Land Survey locations for the post offices that were reported to the Post Office Department - the Geographical Site Location Reports.

It is no longer possible to visit either of the mines. But there is still a settlement at Rugby Junction including a two-story brick store building. What remains of Rapson is now headquarters for a large ranch.

Access to the site of Rapson is from Interstate 25, Exit 34 near Aguilar. At that exit go west on Las Animas County Road 60.0 to Road 53.7 and then drive north to Road 66.0, where Rapson was located. Maps will show this location as Rugby.

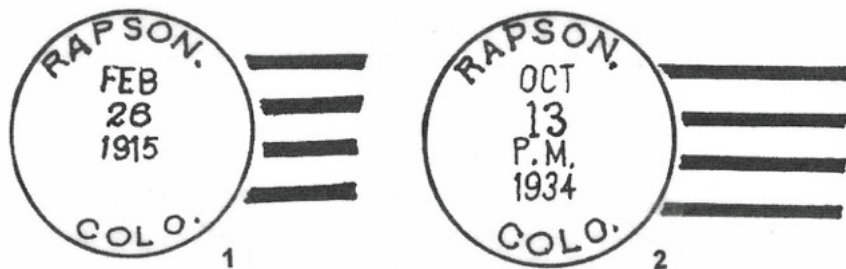
Chronology of the Post Office

- May 5 1911 --- SE/4 Sec 4 T30S R65W 1 mile west of CS tracks
- Apr 4 1911 Established
- Apr 4 1911 Price, Archie G.
- May 15 1912 Discontinued Mail to Rugby
- Jul 26 1913 --- SE/4 Sec 34 T29S R65W 4 miles south of the Apishapa
400 feet west of C&S tracks
- Sep 12 1913 Re-established
- Sep 12 1913 Duncan, Frances
- Apr 4 1914 Curtis, Alfred G.
- Jul 31 1917 Discontinued Mail to Rugby
- Jun 1 1920 --- NW/4 Sec 3 T29S R65W (more likely this should be T30S)
4-1/2 miles south of Rouse Creek Rugby 2 miles west 300 feet west of C&S RR
Applicant for postmaster - Joe Cardinal
- Aug 10 1920 Re-established
- Aug 10 1920 Cardinal, Joe
- Aug 15 1924 Michels, Pio Acting
- Oct 10 1924 Michels, Pio Appointed
- Mar 1 1926 --- SW/4 Sec 34 T29S R65W About 800 feet north of Salado Creek
Rugby 1-3/4 miles southwest 300 feet west of Colorado &
Southern site also known as Rugby
- Sep 18 1934 Ordered closed
- Oct 15 1934 Discontinued Mail to Rugby

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | RAPSON. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??x19mm | Feb 26 1915 |
| 2 | RAPSON. / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Oct 13 1934 |

RAPSON – Continued



RATON

Raton was the earliest of the three post offices on the Purgatoire River near the junction of Frijoles Creek with the river. Downing and Alfalfa were the other two offices. I suggest that you review the discussions of those two places.

Samuel DeBusk was one of the early settlers in this area. Within a few years a rural but dispersed community had developed that included a number of ranches. In 1878 a post office was acquired with Samuel DeBusk as the postmaster. Within a few months his daughter Jennie DeBusk succeeded him as postmaster.

The involvement of the DeBusk family in the area is proven by the facts that when the Raton Post Office was moved three miles to the southwest to Alfalfa, Jennie became the postmaster at Alfalfa. Five years later when a new post office - Downing, was opened just north of the old location of Raton, Samuel DeBusk was the first postmaster there.

There is some reason to think that the Raton Post Office did not move to Alfalfa until 1885 or 1886. That possibility is considered in the discussion of the Alfalfa Post Office.

These early settlers had high hopes for their community but the realities of ranching in an area of low rainfall precluded the development of a true town. There is no evidence that either Raton or later Downing, were more than ranch post offices serving the surrounding ranches.

Beginning at US Highway 350 drive east on US 160 ten and one-half miles to Las Animas County Road 32.0. This is more of a ranch access road than a county road. The road goes to a ranch complex where it forks. One fork continues through the ranch and crosses the river. The other fork turns northwest along the river. Go about two miles on the left fork. At that point you will find a small building that I believe was at or near the site of Downing. The site of Raton was a half-mile back towards the ranch.

The area south of Downing where Raton was located, is open rangeland with no evidence of the former habitation. Remember that this is private property and you should obtain permission to drive to the locations of Raton, Downing or Alfalfa.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 26 1878 --- NE/4 Sec 28 T32S R61W On the south side of the Purgatoire
4 miles north of Dry Creek
On document Raton is crossed out and Alfalfa substituted
Accompanying note:
The valley of the Las Animas River is settled 35 miles below Trinidad.
Raton serves the lowermost end of the valley, receiving more mail than
the 15 miles of valley lying above & between Raton & El Moro.
Nature has made Raton the terminus of the route that shall in future serve this rich valley
Samuel W. DeBusk
P.M. at Raton
Apparently the Purgatoire Canyon begins at this point

RATON – Continued

Jan 31 1878	Established
Jan 31 1878	DeBusk, Samuel W.
Nov 21 1878	DeBusk, Miss Jennie
Apr 19 1881	Moved to Alfalfa

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM RATON

RATTLESNAKE BUTTES

The Las Animas County file of Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports contains a June 20, 1917 document proposing a post office at site that today is about two miles south of Colorado Highway 10 and to the east of South Rattlesnake Butte.

As you can see from the notes below there was considerable confusion about this proposal. The county was in question and several names, including Carsonhart were suggested and rejected. According to the document the Post Office Department settled on Rattlesnake Buttes and acknowledged that the location was in Las Animas County.

There is no further information to substantiate the operation of a Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office in Las Animas County.

On December 3, 1917 another Site Location Report was filed for a Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office. That document specifies a location in Huerfano County and the post office opened on April 15, 1918. Two subsequent locations of the Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office were also in Huerfano County.

There is no road to the specified location in Las Animas County and nothing can be seen from Colorado Highway 10. An examination of the area using Google Earth, shows no evidence of buildings or a place where there might have been buildings in the past.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 20 1917 ---	NW/4 Sec 3 T27S R63W 12 miles east of the Cucharas River The document shows several names; Typed in: Harts–crossed out; written in: Coyote–crossed out; written in: Carsonhart –crossed out; written in: "Rattlesnake Buttes." The entry for Harts seems to have been thought to be in Huerfano County (crossed out and Las Animas substituted) Applicant for postmaster – Carson Hart
-----------------	--

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM RATTLESNAKE BUTTES (Las Animas County)

ROBY

In 1911 a post office named Roby was opened at the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad siding known as Poso. A year later the name was changed to Model for the Model Land and Irrigation Company.

The company was planning an irrigation district and the development of a model agricultural community. This venture was the brainchild of the Trinidad Chamber of Commerce and was backed by a combination of both local and Denver based capital. A small community did develop but never grew to any appreciable size.

ROBY – Continued

Model is located on the east side of US Highway 350 between Las Animas County Roads 52.0 and 54.0. The location of the Roby Post Office was a little more than a half-mile east of US 50 in the southwest quadrant of the intersection of Road 54.0 with Road 101.0. There is evidence for habitation in that quadrant but no remaining structures. There are some rocks that could be the remnants of a foundation. This is also on the northeast corner of what remains of Model.

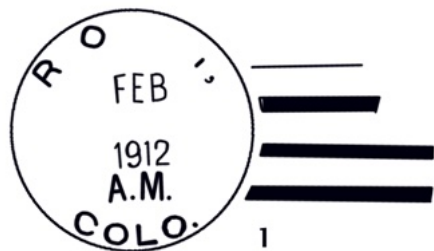
Model (Roby) is another of the settlements threatened by the proposed expansion of the Army’s Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site.

Chronology of the Post Office

- May 11 1910 --- NE/4 Sec 4 T31S R61W (Document reads T31N - error)
Poso station on AT&SF (?)
Proposed name Poso - crossed out, Roby substituted
Another note on document "Roby (see new paper, Model)"
- Nov 6 1911 Established
- Nov 6 1911 Palmer, John W.
- Jun 10 1912 Hoff, Ira Guy
- Oct 26 1912 Name changed to Model

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 ROBY, / COLO. Feb -- 1912
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x?? Cancel confirmed by dateline



RUGBY

Rugby has been repeatedly noted as having been located on the Colorado and Southern Railroad about two miles south of the Las Animas-Huerfano County line. That location is where Las Animas County Road 66.0 crosses over the Interstate and where, in 2001, the closed Rugby Rest Area for I-25 was on the east side of the highway.

There was a post office at that location but it was named Rapson, not Rugby. The Rugby Post Office was two miles west at a group of coal mines. As such Rugby would have served the miners living there.

The mines were served by a spur from the Colorado and Southern Railroad. The starting point for the spur was Rugby Junction and the railroad station there was named Rugby. I have encountered other similar situations in Colorado where there was a station on a railroad that carried the same name as a post office some distance from the railroad. It is easy to make the assumption that they were one and the same.

In 2001 I was unable to find an open road that would take me into the hills in the direction of Rugby and the mines. I assume that all structures have been removed and access is prohibited for safety reasons.

RUGBY – Continued

Environmental cleanup is another factor in what you might find at mine sites in this part of Colorado. In a number of cases the mine entrances have been closed and the tailings piles leveled and seeded to restore the natural landscape.

Using Google Earth I examined the area in an attempt to determine what if anything remains of the Rugby Mine and the associated community. From the photography it appears that there has been recent development of an network of roads in the area. Access to that network would be from Pryor via Rouse Road. If you attempt to visit this area a good, current map would be necessary as the road network is complex.

I believe I identified the site of Rugby; however, there was no visible evidence of the mine leading me to conclude that there has been extensive environmental cleanup of the site.

Latitude = 37:28:12 North Longitude = 104:39:52 West RUGBY

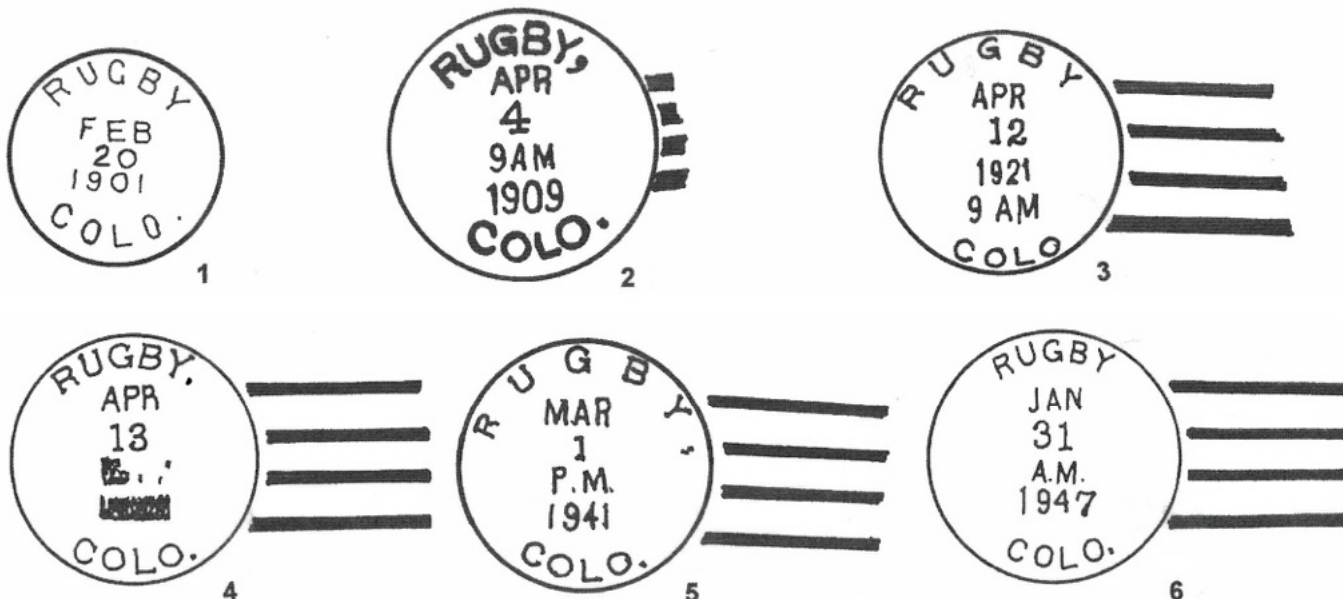
Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 5 1900	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T30S R65W About 1-1/2 miles west of C&S Station Rugby	
		Proposed postmaster - Gilbert B. Cronk	
Mar 16 1900		Established	
Mar 16 1900		Cronk, Gilbert B.	
Dec 21 1901		Morris, Leighton B.	
Mar 26 1903		Bowden, James W.	
Jan 28 1904		Kirkpatrick, John	
Apr 17 1905		Wallace, James G.	
Dec 3 1906		Kirkpatrick, John	
Aug 14 1907		Snodgrass, Tyler F.	Declined
Dec 3 1907		Kirkpatrick, John	
Dec 6 1910		Sheeley, John J.	
Jul 26 1915		Moss, Fred P.	
Oct 29 1917		Stromer, Park A.	
Feb 25 1926		Bergamo, Daniel	Acting
Jul 12 1926		Bergamo, Daniel	Appointed
May 16 1929		Tessari, Lucy	Acting
Jun 13 1929		Tessari, Lucy	Appointed
Jun 27 1929		Tessari, Lucy	Commissioned
Jun 22 1938		Gieser, Mrs. Rosella M.	Assumed charge
Jun 28 1938		Gieser, Mrs. Rosella M.	Acting
Jul 14 1938		Gieser, Mrs. Rosella M.	Confirmed
Jul 25 1938		Gieser, Mrs. Rosella M.	Commissioned
May 2 1939		Tretter, Frank J.	Assumed charge
May 5 1939		Tretter, Frank J.	Acting
May 9 1939		Tretter, Frank J.	Confirmed
May 25 1939		Tretter, Frank J.	Commissioned
Oct 29 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 5 T30S R65W	
Jan 7 1944		Rizzi, Benjamin C.	Assumed charge
Jan 15 1944		Rizzi, Benjamin C.	Acting
Dec 7 1945		Rizzi, Benjamin C.	Confirmed
Jan 22 1946		Rizzi, Benjamin C.	Commissioned
Feb 1 1947		Stakich, Mrs. Smila	Assumed charge
Jan 15 1947		Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1947		Discontinued Mail to Aguilar	

RUGBY – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	RUGBY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 20 1901
2	RUGBY, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x16mm	Apr 4 1909
3	RUGBY / COLO CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 12 1921
4	RUGBY, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 13 1931
5	RUGBY, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 13 1933 Mar 4 1943
6	RUGBY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jan 31 1947



SAN ANTONIA

A note contained in the *Rogers File* of the Colorado Historical Society [History Colorado] describes San Antonia as, “An early Mexican settlement or plaza (1860’s) on Upper Purgatoire Valley. Later called Aguilar.”

That description would fit with the location of the San Antonio Plaza that is shown on Glenn Scott’s *Historic Trail Map of the Trinidad 1° x 2° Quadrangle, Southern Colorado*.

This early settlement would have depended on farming and raising livestock. By 1875 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was building south in its attempt to reach Santa Fe, New Mexico. The original rail line was constructed three miles east of present day Aguilar. It would seem reasonable that whatever businesses were at San Antonia including the post office, would prefer a location on the railroad. Hence the move to James Foster’s Stage Station, on the planned route.

With the move of the San Antonia Post Office the name was changed to Apishapa. It was not until 1890 that the Aguilar Post Office was opened.

Access to San Antonia (Aguilar) is from Interstate 25 either from Exit 30 and then via Las Animas County Road 63.1, or from Exit 34 north of Aguilar. Please refer to the discussion of the Strange Post Office for additional discussion of the history of this location.

SAN ANTONIA – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

No entries for this office

Jul 21 1875	Established
Jul 21 1875	Holznian, Philip
Aug 7 1876	Moved to Apishapa

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAN ANTONIA

SAN JOSE

About 1873 a settlement was established on the west side of Trinchera Creek. It became familiarly known as Trinchera Plaza. This site has no connection to the later town of Trinchera three miles to the northeast.

San Jose was another early name for the settlement and was the name taken by the post office there when it opened in July 1873. The post office would operate under that name until December 1878 when the name was changed to Grinnell.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports for San Jose and Grinnell do not provide specific Federal Land Survey locations. Trinchera Plaza is still shown on maps of the area and that agrees with the location of a third post office - Brazil, which was there between 1895 and 1912.

From Trinchera drive a mile south on Las Animas County Road 119.8 and turn west on County Road 4.4. It is two and a half miles to the Trinchera Plaza. You cross Trinchera Creek on an old iron truss bridge just before reaching the plaza.

I visited the site in 2001. There were several buildings, some well-hidden in brush and trees. Most did not appear to be occupied but there were a couple of buildings still being used as residences or ranch houses.

It is not possible to determine exactly to which of the three “towns” (Brazil, Grinnell or San Jose) any of the buildings were connected.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 30 1873	---	Unsurveyed 1/4 mile west of Trinchera Creek Proposed postmaster George W. Hassmer
Oct 6 1873		Established
Oct 6 1873		Hassmer, George W.
Jul 8 1874		Goerke, G. A.
Apr 27 1875		Douthit, J. M.
Jul 6 1875		Lucero, Pedro
Jul 29 1878		Abbott, Jerome G.
Dec 18 1878		Name changed to Grinnell

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAN JOSE

SAN PEDRO

The settlement of San Pedro was the predecessor to the larger and more permanent town of Starkville. A Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report was filed for San Pedro. On May 23, 1879 the San Pedro Post Office was closed. The Site Location Report was altered to Starkville and although a new location was not detailed, it was noted that “name and site moved one mile to Starkville.”

SAN PEDRO – Continued

With a location on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad there was likely a station at San Pedro. It also seems reasonable that by 1879 coal mines were already being developed in the area. In 1879 the Starkville Mine came into prominence and others mines soon followed.

From Starkville take the road on the east side of the railroad and go south. The site of San Pedro was just north of where the road crosses Raton Creek towards Exit 8 from Interstate 25.

Most of that area is brush and weeds along the creek but there is one small home and what appears to be the water supply and storage for the village of Starkville.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 23 1879	---	SE/4 Sec 2 T34S R64W 100 feet west of tracks Proposed postmaster - Joseph Marshall
Jan 31 1879		Established
Jan 31 1879		Marshall, Joseph
May 23 1879		Name changed to Starkville

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAN PEDRO

SEGUNDO

Segundo was established in 1901 when the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company acquired large holdings of coal lands along the Purgatoire River. The CF&I assigned Spanish names to its first few mining towns in numerical order: Primero (First), Segundo (Second), Tercio (Third) and Cuatro (Fourth). From its beginnings, Segundo was a coal town with the mines and a large number of coke ovens providing employment for the miners.

The location(s) of Segundo are confusing. When the Segundo Post Office was first opened in 1901 it was located on the north side of the Purgatoire River. The original proposed name was Humoso, which may have been that of an existing settlement. By January 1902 the post office had been moved to the south side of the river where the mines were located. This may also have been due to the arrival of the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad that followed the south side of the river. The railroad would have been laid out to pass as close to the mines as was possible.

Sometime post-1941, the Segundo Post Office was moved back to the north side of the river where it continued to operate until it was closed in 1993. Shortly after the move south and across the river a post office named Varros was opened at the original site but it lasted only five months before it was closed.

I have been through Segundo several times. The first time was in 1972 and the post office was in a small, white, frame building that may also have been a residence. My memory does not recall on which side of the river that building was located. I suspect that it was on the north side as was the post office in 1975 when I next visited Segundo. By then it had moved into a small building of typical Post Office Department architecture. In 1989 it was still in the same building and likely stayed there until it closed in 1993.

There have been accounts that claim Segundo on the south side of the river is no more. That is not correct. Undoubtedly much of the village has disappeared but there are still several homes and the railroad station has been remodeled into a residence.

Modern Segundo is on the north side of the Purgatoire River a mile west of the crossing to the south side. It is a small community with a number of residences and some active businesses.

Latitude = 37:07:15 North Longitude = 104:43:18 West SEGUNDO

SEGUNDO – Continued



**The former depot of the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad is now a residence.
It is at the original site of Segundo, Colorado on the south side of the Purgatoire River.
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 7, 2001**

Chronology of the Post Office

May 24 1901 ---	SE/4 Sec 36 T33S R66W 1/4 mile north of Purgatoire River 1000 feet north of tracks of Colorado & Wyoming Proposed as Humoso - rejected Proposed postmaster - William E. Danford	
Jul 17 1901	Established	
Jul 17 1901	Danford, William E.	
Jan 10 1902 ---	SE/4 Sec 36 T33S R66W 100 yards south of Purgatoire 300 yards south of Colorado & Wyoming tracks	
Aug 23 1910	Nordgren, Ernest O.	
May 8 1914 ---	SE/4 Sec 36 T33S R66W 150 feet south of the Purgatoire River 700 feet southeast of Smith Canon 400 feet south of the Colorado & Wyoming tracks	
Jan 17 1917	Fisher, James B.	
Apr 5 1918	Feldhauser, Charles P.	
Jul 1 1919	Skinner, Vernon L.	Declined
Apr 3 1920	Ferguson, Montella P.	
Aug 22 1922	Heard, Shannon S.	Acting
Oct 12 1922	Heard, Shannon S.	Appointed
Nov 13 1929	Searle, William J.	Acting

SEGUNDO – Continued

Mar 17 1930	Searle, William J.	Confirmed
Apr 3 1930	Searle, William J.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 36 T33S R66W 500 feet south of Colorado & Wyoming tracks House # 75, Segundo	
Jul 1 1943	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Assumed charge
Jul 9 1943	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Acting
May 19 1944	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Confirmed
Jun 13 1944	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Commissioned
Oct 3 1945	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Nominated
Oct 29 1945	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Confirmed
Oct 30 1945	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Appointed Presidential

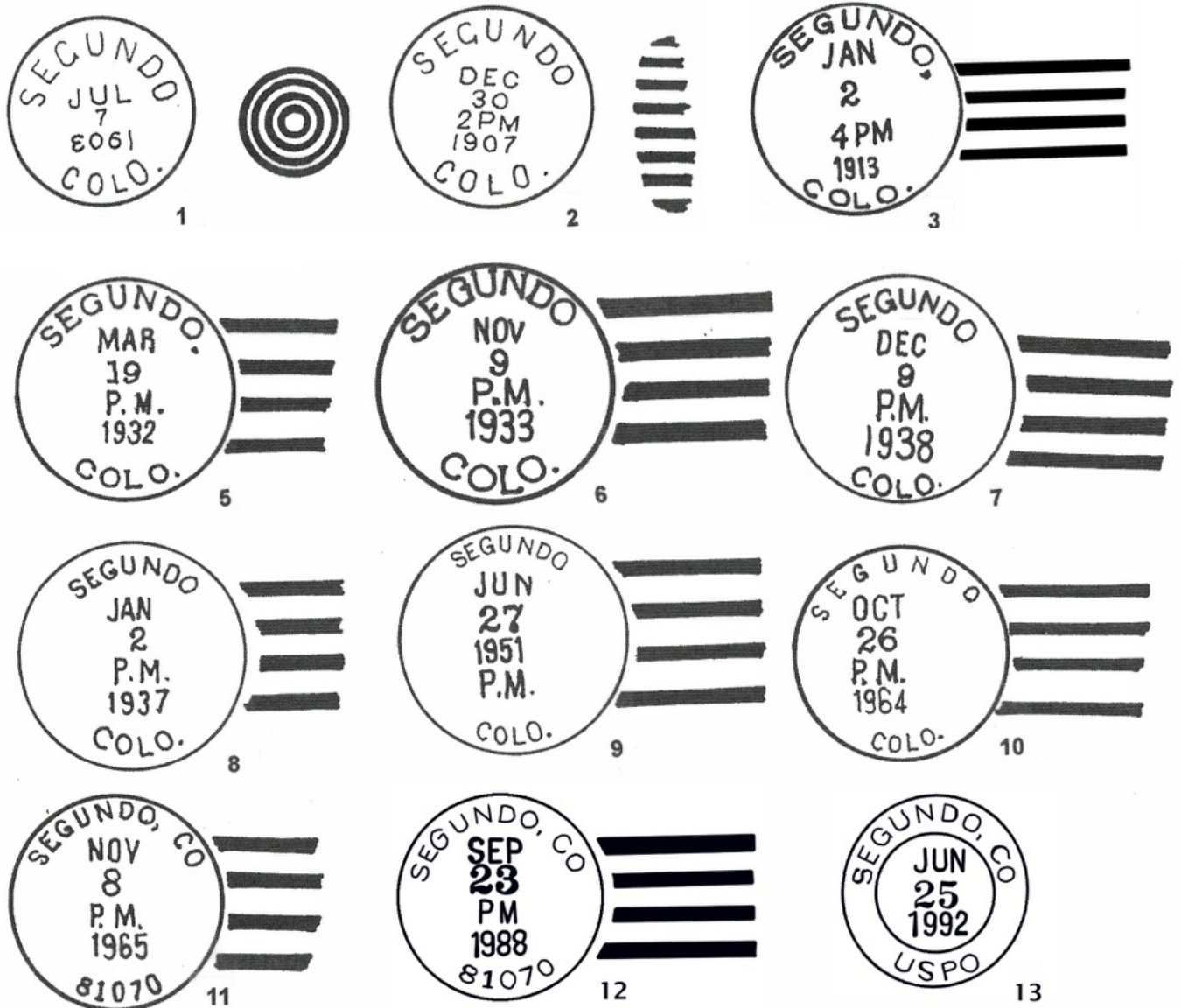
NOTE: There are no Geographical Site Location Reports on file subsequent to the late 1940's. At some time the Segundo Post Office was moved back to the north side of the Purgatoire River to approximately its original 1901 location.

Jul 17 1947	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Confirmed
Aug 26 1947	Springer, Miss Ida L.	Commissioned
Jan 1 1949	Beebe, Mrs. Modena Beatrice	Assumed charge
Feb 2 1949	Beebe, Mrs. Modena Beatrice	Acting
Mar 4 1949	Beebe, Mrs. Modena Beatrice	Confirmed
Apr 6 1949	Beebe, Mrs. Modena Beatrice	Commissioned
Jul 1 1964		Became a Third Class Office
Dec 29 1978	Vecellio, Anthony D.	Officer in charge
Mar 9 1979	Lucas, Aleta J.	Appointed
Jun 16 1979	Lucas, Aleta J.	Commissioned
Jun 5 1993	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jul 7 1903
2	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 8 bar oval	Jan 26 1907 Nov 11 1914
3	SEGUNDO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x14mm	Nov 5 1909 Jan 2 1913?
4	SEGUNDO / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Nov 21 1922 Nov 22 1923
5	SEGUNDO, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Mar 19 1932 Mar 20 1950
6	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-27x21mm	Nov 9 1933
7	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 10 1938 Dec 10 1938
8	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 2 1937 Sep 21 1948
9	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jan 12 1951 Sep 30 1957
10	SEGUNDO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 26 1964 Feb 27 1965
11	SEGUNDO, CO / 81070 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Nov 8 1965 Jun 12 1980
12	SEGUNDO, CO / 81070 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 23 1988 Jun 25 1992
13	SEGUNDO, CO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 25 1992

SEGUNDO – Continued



SMITH CANYON

I have found no mention of Smith Canyon, Las Animas County in any of the historical references I have read. Only the records of the Post Office Department point to its brief existence. And as shown below, those records leave questions to be answered.

The records of Postmaster Appointments listed below are more than a bit confusing and leave it unclear as to the status of a post office at Smith Canyon. It is quite possible this post office was never in operation.

It is clear that the history of the Smith Canyon Post Office was closely tied to that of the Madrid Post Office. A reconstruction of events seems to have this order:

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| October 3, 1882 | Madrid Post Office opened on south side of Purgatoire River |
| June 30, 1892 | Smith Canyon Post Office established |
| September 28, 1892 | Smith Canyon Post Office to close, closing order rescinded |

SMITH CANYON – Continued

September 29, 1892	Madrid Post Office moved to Smith Canyon
October 23, 1892	Order moving the Madrid Post Office rescinded
October 23, 1893	Appointment of postmaster Arthur Smith rescinded
October 23, 1893	Smith Canyon Post office closed, returned to Madrid
October 25, 1893	Madrid Post Office closed
January 6, 1895	Madrid Post Office reopened on the north side of the river.

From that sequence of events it appears that the Madrid Post Office was closed for one month in 1892 and then remained open until October 1893. For that one month in 1892 the Smith Canyon Post Office may have been called Madrid. Very confusing at best.

Jose Miguel Madrid was a son of Hilario Madrid who established the Madrid Plaza, original site of the Madrid Post Office. Also, why the reference to the post office being returned to Madrid from Smith Canyon in October 1893?

For the possible location of the Smith Canyon Post Office please refer back to the discussion of Madrid. Smith Canyon could have been at either one of the two locations on the north side of the river that I described in that discussion.

Chronology of the Post Office

No entries for this office

Jun 30 1892	Established
Jun 30 1892	Madrid, Jose Miguel
Sep 28 1892	Discontinued
Sep 28 1892	Order rescinded
Sep 29 1892	Moved from Madrid
Sep 29 1892	Smith, Arthur
Oct 23 1893	Order rescinded
Oct 23 1893	Returned to Madrid

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SMITH CANYON

SOPRIS

Prior to the establishment of Sopris there was a small Mexican settlement or plaza named Carpiosas along the Purgatoire River. There may also have been some early attempts at coal mining in the vicinity.

By 1887 General Elbridge B Sopris, onetime Indian fighter, leader of the Colorado Volunteers and a pioneer in the Trinidad area, had acquired a large tract of coal bearing land west of Trinidad.

He established the town which took his name, and began mining coal. The same year, 1887, the Denver Fuel Company purchased the coal deposits and the town. In 1889 the mine was sold to the Colorado Fuel Company which later became a part of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company.

Sopris became one of thirty-eight towns run by the CF&I in New Mexico, Colorado and Wyoming. Sopris grew to be the largest mining town in the Trinidad area. CF&I operations at Sopris ceased in 1925. Thereafter the mines were worked by private interests for a number of years.

On February 26, 1889 a town plat was filed for Sopris. As a company town it was not incorporated. At its height Sopris had a population in excess of a thousand. The town boasted of its own band and baseball team and its stores did a thriving business.

SOPRIS – Continued

By 1967 Sopris had dwindled to a population of about two hundred. The business district had shrunk but there was still a school and the old Catholic Church. However, the end was in sight. Plans had been announced to construct a large earth-fill dam across the Purgatoire River to provide irrigation for a wide area around Trinidad. The reservoir would also provide for recreational activities and flood control. In 1977 water began to rise behind the dam and the site of Sopris now lies beneath the water of Trinidad Lake.

Construction of the dam and reservoir required the relocation of Colorado Highway 12 to the north side of the lake and the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad to the south side of the lake. The site of Sopris was near the southern shore of the lake and about a mile west-southwest of the dam.

In May 2001 from the north end of Starkville, I drove northwest toward Trinidad Lake to the Trinidad Lake Ranches development. I turned into the development (Old Sopris Road) and went to Lake View Road. From the end of that road I was able to get a view out over the lake where the site of Sopris lay hidden under water. Near the end of the road there was evidence of the past mining activity.

Latitude = 37:08:05 North Longitude = 104:33:50 West SOPRIS

Chronology of the Post Office

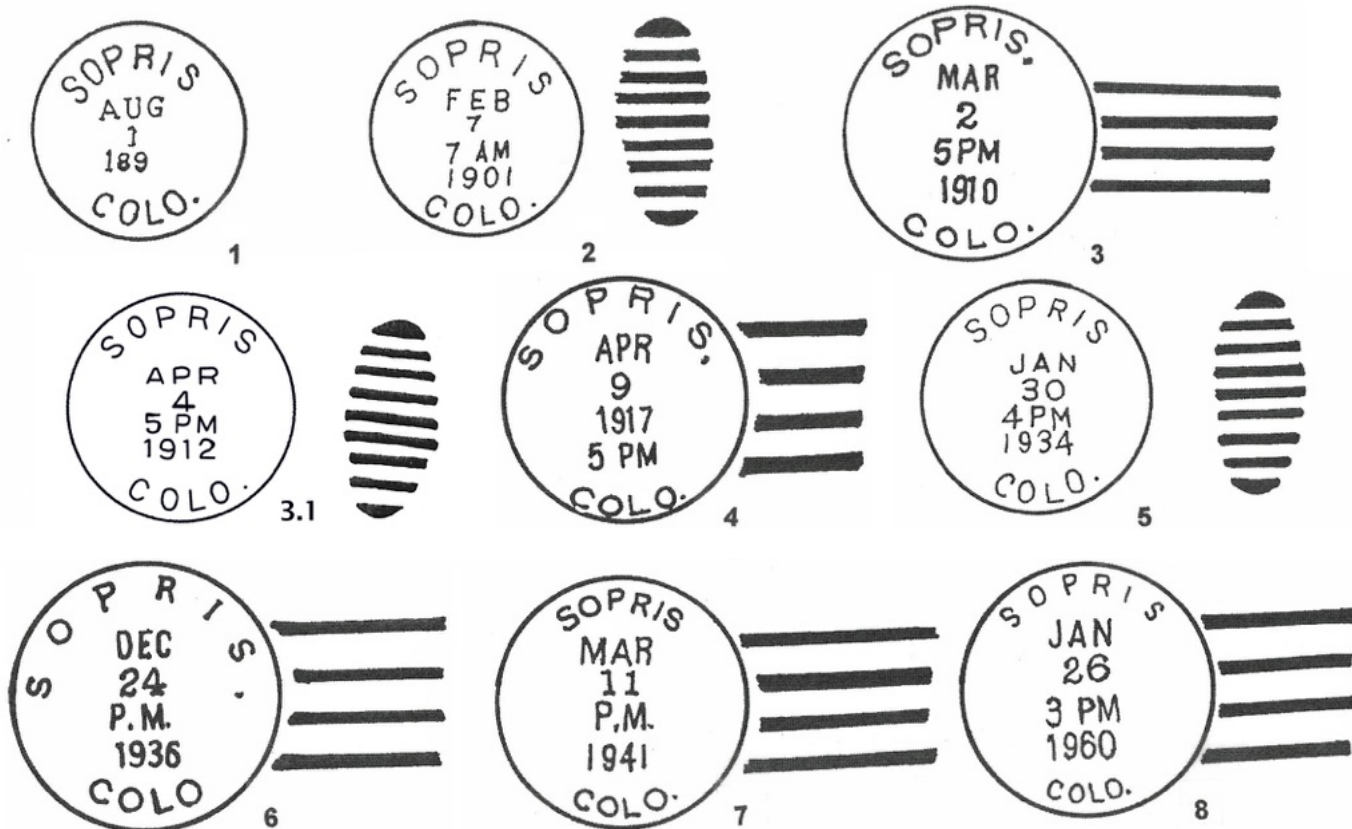
Jul 6 1888	---	NE/4 Sec 33 T33S R66W [SRM: 64W] 1/2 mile south of the Las Animas River 2 miles west of Long's Creek 300 yards south of railroads (D&RG, C&S) Proposed postmaster - William J. Marsh	
Jul 25 1888		Established	
Jul 25 1888		Marsh, William J.	
Oct 9 1889		Bonsall, Seymour W.	
Jan 9 1891		Norton, George S.	
May 17 1892		Johnson, Andrero E.	
Aug 14 1901		Pattison, Thomas	
Jun 9 1902		Thompson, Thomas A.	
Mar 4 1907		Wise, Edward B.	
May 11 1911		Hufford, Lyle P.	
May 25 1914	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 33 T33S R64W 550 feet south of the Purgatoire River 50 feet south of the C&S tracks	
Jun 22 1915		Frampton, Harry V.	
Dec 26 1916		Reeder, Walter C. H.	
Apr 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Sep 21 1921		Phillips, David J.	Acting
Nov 8 1921		Phillips, David J.	P&S
Feb 23 1925		Donaldson, James	Acting
Dec 14 1925		Donaldson, James	Appointed
Jul 1 1925			Office relegated
Jul 7 1927		Donaldson, James	
Jun 16 1928		Young, Foster	Acting
Nov 16 1928		Vicelli, Anna M.	Confirmed
Dec 2 1931		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Assumed charge
Dec 15 1931		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Acting
Feb 2 1933		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Confirmed
Feb 13 1933		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Commissioned
Feb 4 1936		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Appointed
Mar 5 1936		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Commissioned
Oct 31 1941	---	Sec 33 T33S R64W 1/2 mile southwest of State highway 12 and Purgatoire River	
Jul 1 1945			Office made Presidential
Sep 26 1945		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Nominated
Oct 29 1945		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Confirmed
Oct 30 1945		Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Appointed Presidential

SOPRIS – Continued

Jan 21 1946	Brunelli, Mrs. Mary D.	Assumed charge
May 19 1949 ---	T33S R64W Move 50 feet west of old site	1 mile east of state highway 12 1 mile west of railroad
Jul 1 1967		Office relegated
Sep 30 1967	Sebben, Mrs. Mary I.	Acting
Dec 28 1968	Ordered closed	
Jan 2 1969	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|-----|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| 1 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Not present | Mar 14 1894 Aug 1 189- |
| 2 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval | Feb 7 1901 May 27 1914 |
| 3 | SOPRIS, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x14mm | Aug 13 1909 Jan 31 1911 |
| 3.1 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval | Apr 4 1912 |
| 4 | SOPRIS, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??x20mm | Very slight difference from B5 below
Apr 9 1917 |
| 5 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval | Jan 30 1934 |
| 6 | SOPRIS, / COLO.
CI 10P 35.0 | 4bars S-26x20mm | Apr 3 1934 May 4 1940 |
| 7 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-23x19mm | Feb 23 1941 Feb 1 1954 |
| 8 | SOPRIS / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-??x19mm | Aug 20 1955 Sep 13 1960 |
| 9 | SOPRIS, CO / 81072
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Aug 18 1967 Dec 31 1968 |



SOPRIS – Continued



SPRINGVALE

I have found no historical references to a Springvale in Las Animas County. The location on the North Fork of the Purgatoire River is in an area devoted to raising livestock. From its location I would class it as a ranch post office.

Begin at the junction of Colorado Highway 12 with Las Animas County Road 21.6 just to the north of North Lake. Turn south on Road 21.6 and go two and one-half miles to County Road 30.0 near the Trinidad Water Filtration Plant. Road 30.0 descends a short grade and crosses the North Fork of the Purgatoire River into a pleasant valley where there is a large ranch. In 2001 on the south side of the river there was a single log building near the crossing of the river. I suspect that was only a barn and that Springvale was at the ranch complex.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 15 1874** --- **NW/4 Sec 4 T33S R68W On Purgatoire River (North Fork) at junction of St. Johns Creek, south side**
Sketch map shows it on the road from Pueblo to Cimmaron, New Mexico, however 40 miles west of Trinidad
- Jul 21 1874** **Established**
- Jul 21 1874** **Withing, Russell**
- Nov 9 1875** **Discontinued**

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SPRINGVALE

STAGE CANYON

The historical information that I have found in reference to this place seems to be inconsistent. The place is described as a stage station on the Santa Fe Trail and when the stage line ceased operating the post office was moved to the mouth of Bent Canon where Eugene Rourke lived and where he was postmaster for several years. Indeed, Eugene Rourke was the postmaster of Bent Canyon from 1878 to 1883 but that was thirty-five years before there was a post office at Stage Canyon.

After 1873 the Stage Canyon location was on the New Santa Fe Stage Road. It is likely that it continued as a small agricultural settlement for many years thereafter and eventually acquired a post office in 1919.

Like its neighbor Bent Canon, a few miles to the southeast, the site of Stage Canyon is within the boundaries of the Fort Carson Pinon Canyon Maneuver Area and there is no public access to the site.

My trusty Colorado Highway Department Map of Las Animas County (1977) shows no roads to the location of Stage Canyon as provided by the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report

STAGE CANYON – Continued

An examination of the reported location using Google Earth, does show some sign of activity, however, it is most likely recent military activity.

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 22 1918	---	SE/4 Sec 10 T28S R57W Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Ethel Rice
Feb 11 1919		Established
Feb 11 1919		Rice, Ethel
Sep 27 1919		Carter, Nell R.
Nov 30 1920		Discontinued Mail to Timpas

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STAGE CANYON

STAMFORD

Stamford has been described as, “A farming and stock-raising hamlet 42 miles west from Trinidad.”

I have doubts that there was ever much of a hamlet at Stamford. The area is a cattle and sheep ranching country and the fact that the post office was reported at three different locations along the North Fork of the Purgatoire River does not speak for an established community.

The 1883 and the 1888 locations are not on any present-day public road. They are in the area south of North Lake and between Colorado Highway 12 and Las Animas County Road 21.6.

The 1905 location is just north of where Highway 12 crosses the North Fork. From the store and lodge in the eastern portion of Stonewall it is seven and a half miles to a small side road to the left that goes a short distance to a roofless log cabin (2001). On the east side of the highway a short distance further north, is another log building, occupied and in good condition. As best I can determine Stamford was at or near this location. I did not attempt to visit the 1883 and 1888 sites of the Stamford Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

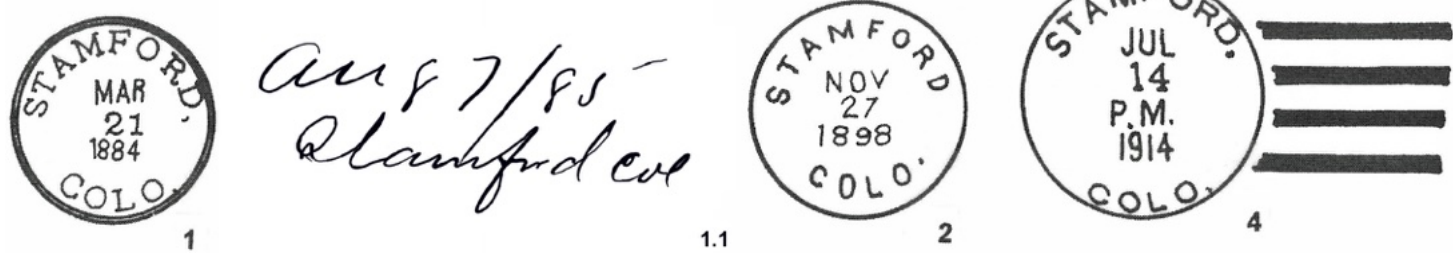
Apr 15 1883	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T32S R68W On west side of the North Fork Purgatoire River Proposed postmaster - Arthur Smith
May 2 1883		Established
May 2 1883		Smith, Arthur
Jan 8 1886		Chaplin, B.
May 11 1886		Mitchell, Reuben A.
Mar 16 1887		Wood, Richard C.
May 16 1888		Sawyer, Edward N.
Aug 6 1888	---	SW/4 NE/4 Sec 30 T32S R68W 100 yards north of the north branch of the Picketwire
Jun 10 1889		Boynton, Mrs. Sarah E.
Apr 18 1894		Sawyer, Edward
Feb 5 1900		Merhling, Charles R.
Jan 22 1902		Riley, Mrs. Annie E.
May 24 1902		Ordered closed
Jun 14 1902		Discontinued Papers to Stonewall
Mar 18 1905	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 24 T32S R69W 1/2 mile northeast of North Creek it is a ranch Proposed postmaster - James W. Coe
Jul 27 1905		Re-established
Jul 27 1905		Coe, James W.
Apr 8 1907		Riley, Edwin

STAMFORD – Continued

May 23 1913 Rhodes, Caroline E.
Apr 8 1918 Ingmire, Clara
Apr 15 1920 Discontinued Mail to Weston

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	STAMFORD, / COLO. CI 20P 26.0/25.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 21 1884
1.1	STAMFORD COL MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Aug 7 1885
2	STAMFORD / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target	Sep 18 1894 Nov 27 1898
3	STAMFORD, / COLO. CI 10P ???.?	Doane Type 3 with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jul 15 1909
4	STAMFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jul 14 1914 Jan 16 1918



STARKVILLE

About 1879 H. G. (or Albert) Stark opened a coal mine - the Starkville Mine - about four miles south of Trinidad and near the line of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad. The mine became a major source of coal for the railroad and there were also some coke ovens at the community. Starkville was a station on the railroad.

For much of its existence Starkville depended on the Starkville Mine. That mine closed in 1922 but other mines in the area provided employment and Starkville has survived. In modern times Starkville has become a southern residential suburb of Trinidad.

Prior to the opening of the coal mine there was a small settlement known as San Pedro. That community was about a mile south from the center of what became Starkville. For four months in early 1879 there was a San Pedro Post Office. In late May 1879 that office was closed and the Starkville Post Office was opened. Starkville was an Independent Post Office until 1975 when it became a Community Post Office under the administration of Trinidad.

In 1972 the post office was in a small, attractive house that was painted pink. In 1999 it was in a garage attached to another small, less attractive house with a barely noticeable sign above the garage door. The post office was not open when I was there so I have no idea what might have been inside. I am not even certain that a post office is still in operation at Starkville.

From Trinidad drive south on Interstate 25 to Exit 11, the Starkville Exit. Follow the signs into the community and good luck finding the post office if there is still one there.

Latitude = 37:06:55 North Longitude = 104:31:25 West STARKVILLE

STARKVILLE – Continued



STARKVILLE / COLO.

December 22, 1911

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 23 1879	--	SE/4 Sec 2 T34S R64W 100 feet west of tracks Original name San Pedro – "name & site 1 m to Starkville" Proposed postmaster – Joseph Marshall [Postmaster at San Pedro]	
May 23 1879		Formerly named San Pedro	
May 23 1879		Bateman, Samuel H.	
Jul 9 1879	--	NW/4 Sec 1 T34S R64W West side of Raton Creek	
Jan 17 1881		Garner, William A.	
Sep 24 1885		Wenger, Daniel B.	
Jul 3 1889		Morris, John T.	
Apr 18 1890		Tilley, John	
Jan 29 1901		Januson, Thomas L.	
Oct 2 1897		Schenck, Stewart Z.	
Jul 11 1901		Deck, William G.	
May 15 1902		Elfresh, Francis H. M.	
Jun 14 1910		Lamme, Henry G.	
Jan 5 1915		Reinoehl, Elizabeth	
Feb 8 1919		Lamme, Henry G.	
Oct 29 1920		Williams, Claude O.	
Jul 12 1922		Hawton, Thomas H.	Acting
Oct 24 1923		Bishop, R. E.	Acting
Dec 18 1923		Bishop, R. E.	Appointed
Mar 6 1925		Hepplewhite, Robert	Acting
Jun 25 1925		Hepplewhite, Robert	Appointed
Jul 1 1930		Baker, Frank J.	Possession
Aug 14 1930		Baker, Frank J.	Acting
Nov 20 1930		Baker, Frank J.	Confirmed
Feb 4 1931		Baker, Frank J.	Appointed
Jan 14 1935		Ozzello, Angelo L.	Confirmed

STARKVILLE – Continued

Feb 9 1935	Ozzello, Angelo L.	Commissioned
Feb 13 1935	Ozzello, Angelo L.	Assumed charge
Feb 20 1935 ---	No survey reported 200 feet west of Raton Creek Change in location - Reason: More space which would give me a chance to have little merchandise in connection.	
	Cancellations	
	1st/4 2nd/4 3rd/4 4th/4	
	\$ 91.83 \$75.50 \$69.29 \$103.11	
Aug 15 1938	Ozzello, Angelo L.	Possession
Aug 16 1938	Ozzello, Domenic	Assumed charge
Aug 18 1938	Ozzello, Domenic	Acting
May 18 1939	Naglich, Mrs. Blanche T.	Confirmed
May 24 1939 ---	Section 14, [SRM: (sic) Block 2 in Carbondale??] T34S R64W 1/4 mile west of no name creek 4 miles south of the Picketwire	
Jun 5 1939	Naglich, Mrs. Blanche T.	Commissioned
Jun 23 1939	Naglich, Mrs. Blanche T.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1941 ---	Survey not reported 1/4 mile west of Raton Creek 4 miles south of Purgatoire River	
Jun 28 1974	Welch, Mrs. Mary	Officer in charge
Mar 1 1975	Converted to a Community Post Office of Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	STARKVILLE, / COLORADO. CI 10P 29.0	Jul 28 1882 Aug -- 1882 Hstp Not present, manuscript date
2	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jan 22 1884 Apr 7 1887 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
3	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Feb 18 1895 Hstp Cork, Smudge [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
4	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Sep 20 1889 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
5	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Oct 25 1907 Aug 1 1908 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
6	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	Nov -- 1912 Dec 21 1920 Hstp Grid, 8-bar rectangular
7	STARKVILLE / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Aug 16 1922 Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
8	STARKVILLE, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	May 7 1935 Apr 18 1938 4bars P-25x19mm
9	STARKVILLE. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jul 2 1940 Feb 23 1943 4bars S-23x19mm
10	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Sep 21 1948 Jun 1 1949 4bars S-23x19mm
11	STARKVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Feb 20 1954 Feb 19 1962 4bars S-24x20mm
12	STARKVILLE, CO / 81074 CI 10P 32.0	Apr 15 1969 Sep 13 1975 4bars S-24x19mm

FOR LATER POSTMARKS FROM STARKVILLE, COMMUNITY POST OFFICE OF TRINIDAD



1



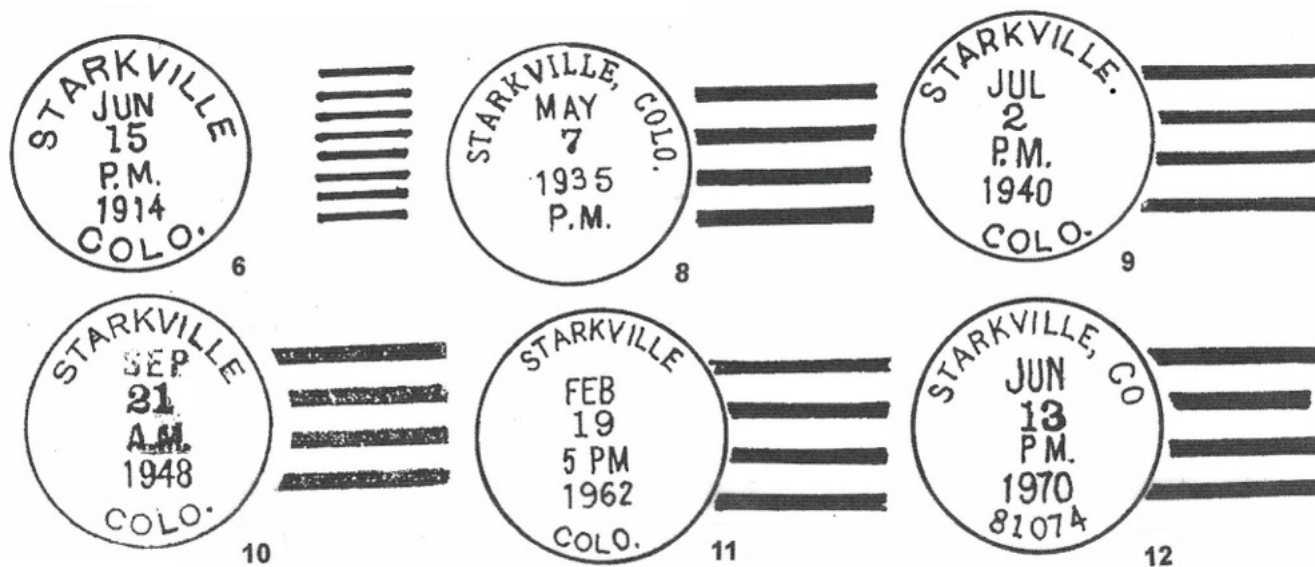
2



5



STARKVILLE – Continued



STEVENSON

By error this post office was listed under Las Animas County in our 1970 book *Colorado Postal History - The Post Offices*. I believe the error occurred because the Stevenson Post Office was established and closed before Baca County was carved from eastern Las Animas County in 1889. Without a Geographical Site Location Report to the contrary the error was perpetuated in the 1990 book *Colorado Post Offices*.

In addition I found something, lost somewhere in the dim recesses of my mind, that caused me to locate a Stevenson about a mile northwest of Boncarbo in Las Animas County.

It was not until I was preparing this chapter that I realized that if the Stevenson Post Office was near Boncarbo that when it was discontinued the mail would not have been sent to Stonington.

This note is by way of apology for the error and to avoid any further confusion. Stevenson will be added to Baca County by way of an addendum.

STOCKVILLE

Stockville was one of many short-lived rural post offices in eastern Las Animas County. The rise and fall of these settlements depended on the understanding or lack thereof, of the natural climatic conditions in this part of the Great Plains. Another factor was the influence of technology, particularly as it affected transportation, agriculture and the demand for the products of the area's farms and ranches.

The name Stockville may have been chosen as representative of the primary activity of the area—raising livestock.

Unfortunately most of these tiny settlements did not adapt to the changing conditions and soon faded away. Often very little remains where they once stood. Some never grew beyond a single ranch or farm but the establishment may have been viable in and of itself and has survived.

From Trinidad drive east on US Highway 160 passing Las Animas County Road 113.0 (the road to Trinchera). Continue east five and eight-tenths miles to County Road 119.5. Turn south on that road and go a little more than a mile to where the road turns southwest. Stockville was to the southeast of the turn but there is no road down to Trinchera Creek. From Road 119.5 the distant countryside seems devoid of any buildings or remnants. Near Road 119.5 there is a stone house, corral and some sheds that do not appear to be permanently occupied but may have seasonal use.

STOCKVILLE – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 27 1873	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T34S R59W	On west side of Trinchera Creek Glenham 18 miles east
May 19 1873		Established	
May 19 1873		Wright, James	
Feb 23 1875		Bancroft, George S.	
Jun 1 1875		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STOCKVILLE

STONEWALL

In 1867 Juan Guterrez built a cabin here on the head of the Middle Fork of the Purgatoire River and began raising cattle. At first the valley was known as El Valle de Guterrez.

James Stoner took a homestead to the west of the Guterrez ranch near the gap in the massive volcanic dike that dominates the scenery. This feature became known as “Stoner’s Wall” and when the post office was established in 1878 it took the name of Stonewall.

The area east of the volcanic dike is a somewhat level valley up to a mile wide, with streams and some small ponds. Thus it provides a better place for ranching than much of the surrounding countryside.

I have found no indication that a town of Stonewall was ever platted. The modern community consists of two parts. One is at the foot of The Stonewall and appears to be a guest ranch and a campground. The second portion is to the east on the east side of a lower, less precipitous ridge and includes the Picketwire Store and Lodge and some small residences.

The Allen Coal Mine is located approximately a mile east of Stonewall. In 1952-1953 the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad constructed a rail line from Weston to the mine.

Stonewall is located on Colorado Highway 12, ten miles from Weston. On the west side of the "Stonewall," Highway 12 turns north towards Cucharas Pass.

Latitude = 37:09:08 North Longitude = 105:01:00 West STONEWALL

Chronology of the Post Office

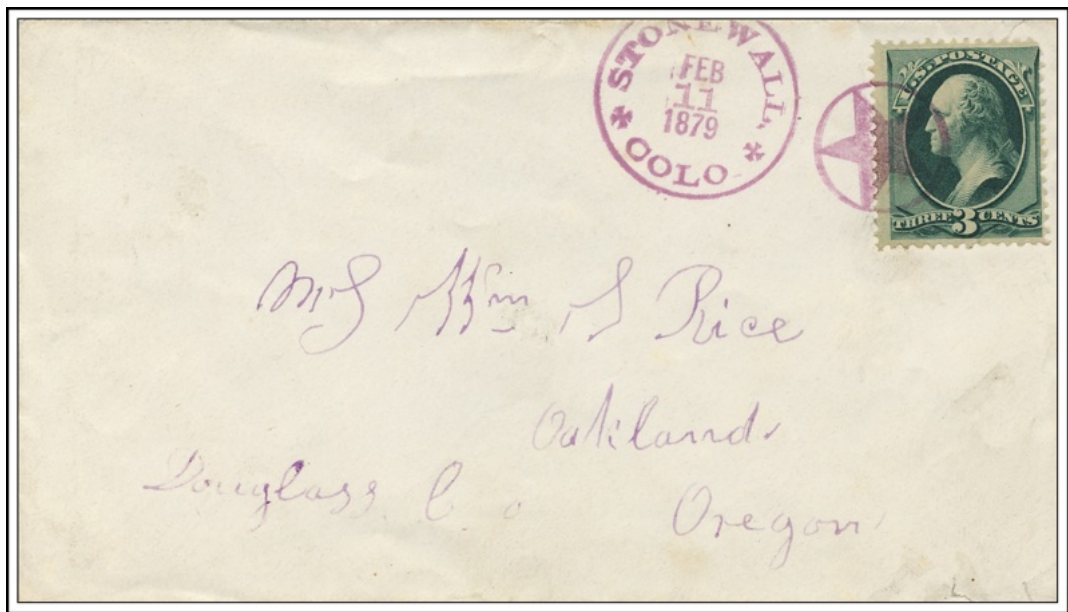
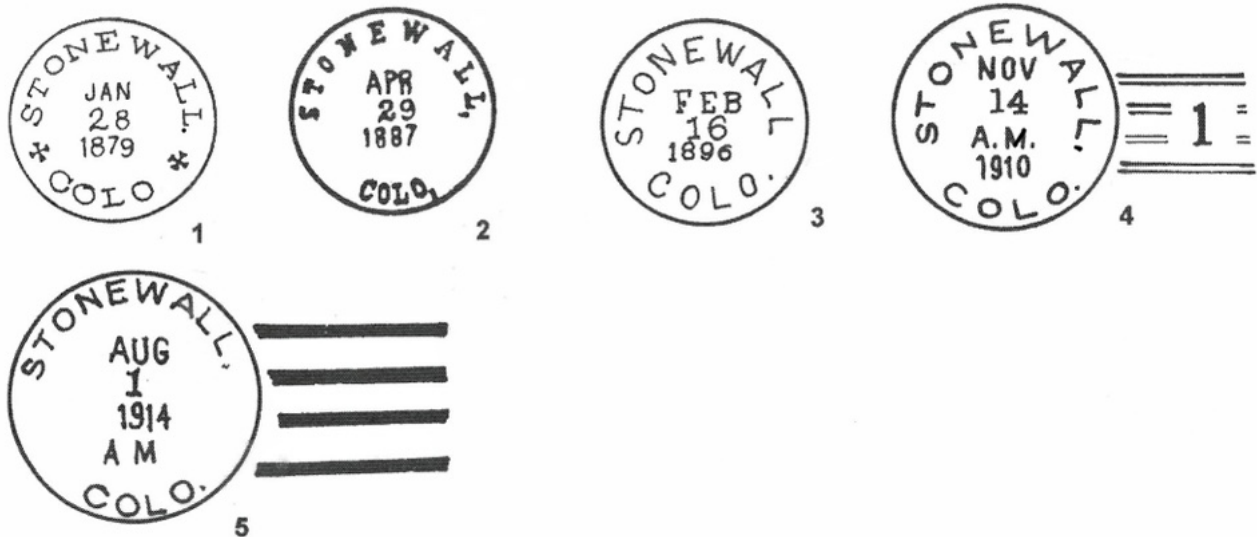
Jul 17 1878	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T33S R68W	On north side of Purgatoire
Aug 6 1878		Established	
Aug 6 1878		Gibbons, Henry W.	
Apr 16 1880		Laisberg, George	
Jun 21 1880		Russell, Richard	
Dec 2 1885		Strong, George A.	
Jun 10 1889		Rynearson, Morton	
Jan 9 1891		Shrouse, Jacob W.	
Feb 8 1905		Storz, Adolf C.	
Apr 2 1915	---	NW/4 Sec 29 T33S R68W	100 feet north of Las Animas River
Apr 7 1915		Chaplin, Alphonse	
Jan 31 1918		Discontinued	Mail to Weston

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|----------|---------------------------|--|
| 1 | STONEWALL. / COLO | Feb 4 1879 Oct 2 1882 |
| | CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Fancy, Positive star in circle, |
| | | small Maltese Cross at each side of CDS |
| 2 | STONEWALL, / COLO. | Apr 29 1887 Aug 14 1893 |
| | CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Grid, 10-bar circular |

STONEWALL – Continued

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 3 | STONEWALL / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Not present | Feb 16 1896 |
| 4 | STONEWALL, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Doane Type 2 with 1, S-24x14mm | Aug 20 1907 Jul 29 1912 |
| 5 | STONEWALL, / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Aug 1 1914 Jun 21 191- |



+ STONEWALL . + / COLO. February 11, 1879

STRANGE

In preparing the write-up for this post office I became aware of the high probability that there was an error in the Site Location Report that was filed with the Post Office Department.

The Strange Story, an article by Evalyn Capps Walker in the summer 1977 issue of the *Colorado Magazine* (page 308) contained the following:

STRANGE – Continued

In the year 1880 Henry J. Strange and his family moved to a small settlement on the Apishapa River. According to a newspaper clipping the plaza was a cluster of adobe buildings about the Catholic Church, the store, and the schoolhouse. When Grandfather Strange owned it, it was known as the "Strange Post Office." He had a store there and was also in the lumber business... (Now known as Aguilar, in 1882 and 1883 there was a post office at "Strange Post Office." In 1884 there was no post office and the population was about twenty-five.

If that description is correct and I now believe that it is, then Strange was located on the east edge of what is today the town of Aguilar in Section 26, Township 30 South, Range 65 West.

Unfortunately the Site Location Report places it six miles further west in Section 26, Township 30 South, Range 66 West. I have re-checked the microfilm of the Site Location Reports and the text and the sketch map clearly show Range 66 West. However, that does not fit with the additional location reference information on the document.

I am left to conclude that Strange was in fact an early predecessor to the town of Aguilar. The location would be on the northeast corner of the town between Las Animas County Road 53.7 and the road that connects Aguilar to Interstate 25 at Exit 34.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 7 1881 --- NW/4 Sec 26 T30S R66W 1 mile north of the Apishapa Creek
6 miles west of D&RG [SRM: As explained above R66W should probably be R65W]
Name proposed as Saint Johns - rejected
Proposed postmaster - Henry J. Strange
- Mar 21 1881 Established
- Mar 21 1881 Strange, Henry J.
- Oct 5 1883 Discontinued Papers to Apishapa

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 STRANGE / COLO.
CI 20P 28.0/25.5

Jul 20 1883
Hstp Not present; two small stars at each side of the CDS



1

TABASCO

Driving southwest from Ludlow on Las Animas County Road 40.2, Tabasco was the first in a series of coal mining towns in Road (Berwind), Canyon.

Tabasco was founded in 1900 and was a company town under the ownership of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. Colorado Fuel & Iron Number 34 Mine was on the west edge of the community. The mine operated through a single opening exploiting a five-foot seam of coal. There was a coal washing plant and coke ovens at Tabasco.

The Road Canyon Railway was another major spur originating at Ludlow. It served Tabasco, Berwind and Tollersburg, it ended at Vallorso.

TABASCO – Continued

Tabasco is the name of a Mexican state and the name given to a hot sauce made from chili peppers.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25 drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of these roads. Turn south on Road 61.5 to Road 40.2. Go west one and seven-tenths miles on Road 40.2. At this point the canyon is narrow and there is evidence of the mining activity. A few hundred yards further and on the south side of the road are the remnants of several buildings.

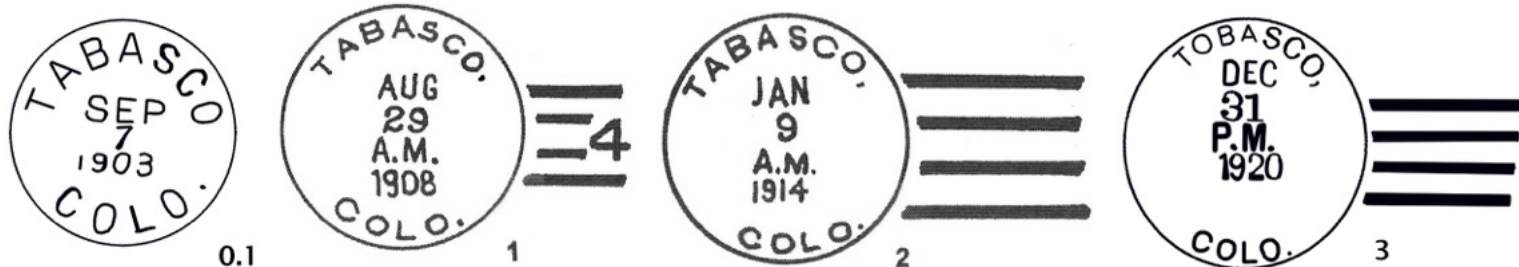
Berwind is the next coal town along the road and was less than a mile from Tabasco so it is difficult to separate the two. Tollerburg was yet another mile to the southwest.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 28 1901 --- NW/4 SE/4 Sec 25, T31S R65W
Shown on sketch map 1-1/2 miles SSE of Hastings, and 2 miles SW of Ludlow
Proposed postmaster - James Cameron
- Sep 26 1901 Established
- Sep 26 1901 Cameron, James
- Apr 8 1902 McGarvey, James P.
- May 18 1905 Reeder, Walter C. H.
- Oct 22 1906 Phillips, David G.
- Apr 28 1910 Ferguson, Montello P.
- Mar 18 1920 Myers, Louis M.
- Mar 9 1922 Caskey, Ralph J.
- Feb 12 1925 Ordered closed
- Mar 14 1925 Discontinued Mail to Berwind

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 0.1 TABASCO / COLO. Sep 7 1903
CI 10P 29.5 Hstp No killer Size approx from postcard size
- 1 TABASCO, / COLO. Jan 3 1907 Feb 2 1912
CI 10P 32.0 Doane Type 3 with 4
- 2 TABASCO, / COLO. Jan 9 1914 Apr 11 1914
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm
- 3 TOBASCO, / COLO. Dec 31 1920
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x14mm Note misspelling



TERCIO

Tercio was the third in the series of coal mines and towns established by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company along the Purgatoire River. It was seven and a half miles south of Stonewall. Tercio was purely a company town to provide housing for the miners. The post office was located in the Colorado Supply Company store.

TERCIO – Continued

According to CF&I company records Tercio was originally called Torres and then Rincon and finally Tercio. However, the Torres Post Office was not at Tercio but was three miles to the west-northwest and was a ranch post office. The operation of the Torres Post Office overlapped a portion of the operation of the Tercio Post Office.

In 1902-1904 the Colorado and Wyoming Railway built a line from Weston to Tercio and a spur to the nearby mine at Cuatro. The railroad was removed in 1952-1953.

From Colorado Highway 12 at Stonewall drive south on Las Animas County Road 13.0 six and three-tenths miles to Road 12.0. Continue to the east on Road 13.0. In 2001 I could only go another two miles to just beyond the Tercio Cemetery and the remnants of a Catholic Church. At that point a locked gate barred further progress. I could look down into the valley where Rincon Creek joins the Purgatoire. Large coal dumps were visible and there appeared to be some buildings, which because of the distance I could not identify. I believe they are ranch buildings at the old site of Tercio.

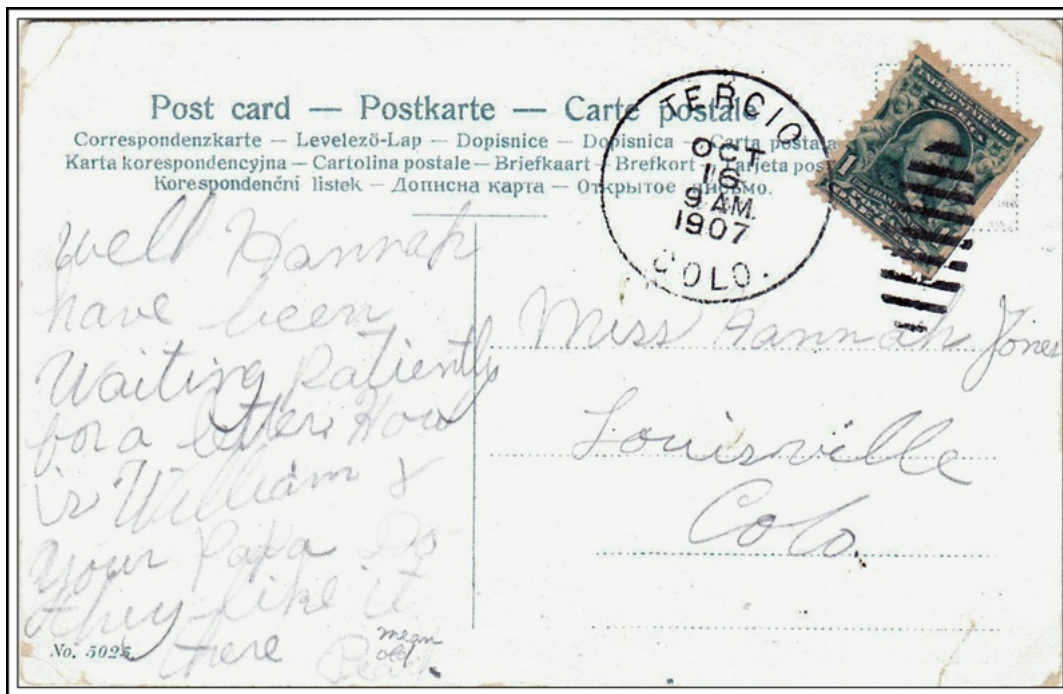
In attempt to locate the nearby site of Cuatro I examined the satellite photography contained in Google Earth. I could not satisfactorily resolve that problem but I did get a good view of the site of Tercio. There is still abundant evidence of the mining activity. There is one large building visible and it is possible that the road is now open. As with Cuatro, a repeat visit might be desirable.

Latitude = 37:03:04 North Longitude = 104:59:46 West TERCIO

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 12 1902	---	NW/4 Sec 27 T34S R68W 1/3 mile south of the Purgatoire 1/16 mile east of Rincon Creek Proposed postmaster - Daniel P. Jones	
Jul 5 1902		Established	
Jul 5 1902		Jones, Daniel P.	
Jan 6 1909		Jessee, John W.	
Jul 2 1909		Cory, Jesse T.	
Oct 11 1913		Redda, Benjamin G.	
Aug 4 1915	---	SE/4 Sec 28 T34S R68W 100 yards south of the Colorado & Wyoming tracks	
Nov 15 1915		Vigil, Florentine	
Sep 27 1917	---	Survey not reported 590 yards south of the Purgatoire River 900 feet south of the Colorado & Wyoming Railroad Note: I have resigned, and my successor who is manager of the only store will have it at the proposed site. Florentino Vigil, P.M.	
Feb 14 1918		Ayres, Jeff M.	
Jul 2 1922		Robson, Joseph C.	
Mar 3 1923		Mendine, Martin F.	Acting
Mar 14 1923		Mendine, Martin F.	Appointed
Sep 30 1929		Valpando, Marcus I.	Acting
Dec 17 1929		Valpando, Marcus I.	Confirmed
Jan 15 1930		Valpando, Marcus I.	Commissioned
Mar 1 1942	---	Survey not reported 1800 feet south of the South Fork of the Purgatoire River	
May 29 1947		Fernandez, Felix	Assumed charge
Sep 15 1947		Fernandez, Felix	Confirmed
Sep 30 1947		Fernandez, Felix	Commissioned
Sep 23 1949		Ordered discontinued	
Sep 30 1949		Discontinued Mail to Weston	

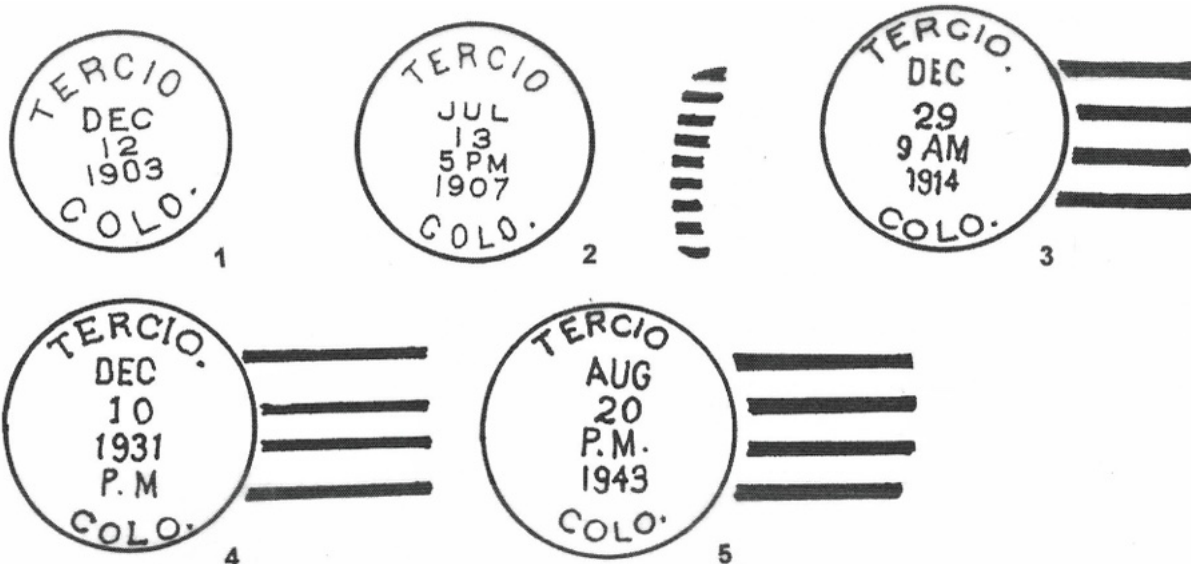
TERCIO – Continued



TERCIO / COLO. October 16., 1907

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | TERCIO / COLO.
CI 10P 28.5 | Hstp no killer | Dec 12 1903 |
| 2 | TERCIO / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval | Jul 13 1907 Oct 16 1907 |
| 3 | TERCIO, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??x19mm | Dec 29 1914 |
| 4 | TERCIO, / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Dec 10 1931 May 4 1942 |
| 5 | TERCIO / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-23x19mm | Aug 20 1943 Aug 20 1949 |



THATCHER

The site of Thatcher was originally a stage station known as Hole-In-The-Rock because of a natural spring. In 1877 the Pueblo and Arkansas Valley Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atchison Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad built through the location and the settlement took the name of Thatcher for Mahlon D. Thatcher, a prominent, merchant, banker and rancher in Southern Colorado.

By May 1871 the Thatcher brothers acquired from Johnson Barrett, a ranch that included the former Hole-In-The-Rock Stage Station. That property became the basis for the Bloom Land and Cattle Company. The community of Thatcher developed at the headquarters of the Circle Diamond Ranch.

On March 22, 1928 C. W. Taylor and N. W. Bolling filed a town plat for Thatcher.

From the location of Delhi drive eight and a half miles southwest on US Highway 350 to Las Animas County Road 76.5. There are a few buildings along the highway including the ruins of what might have been a store at the intersection with Road 76.5. On the west side of the railroad the abandoned Thatcher School was still standing.

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 22 1883	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T29S R60W 20 feet east of the AT&SF 1/2 mile east of Timpas Creek Proposed postmaster - George D. Parrish	
Nov 9 1883		Established	
Nov 9 1883		Parrish, George D.	
Feb 18 1884		Shirumores, Charles S.	
May 16 1884		Miller, L. J.	
Jun 6 1884		Green, Jeremiah	
Dec 3 1884		Discontinued Mail to La Junta	
Jan 29 1885		Re-established	
Jan 29 1885		Thompson, John M.	
Jan 14 1886		Brown, B. F.	
May 1 1886		Sinclair, J. H.	
Feb 10 1888		Thompson, John M.	
Oct 13 1888		Discontinued Papers to Hoehne	
Dec 30 1890		Re-established	
Dec 30 1890		Cram, Ernest R.	
Jun 6 1891		Thompson, John M.	Failed to qualify
Dec 30 1890		Cram, Ernest R.	
Apr 29 1895		Townsend, Wesley N.	
Oct 9 1896		Durant, Belle	
Jul 9 1898		Miller, Harry B.	
Feb 6 1899		Van Loon, Irving L.	
Feb 5 1900		Lance, James T.	
Aug 9 1900		Bloom, John W.	
Oct 18 1900		Schrum, Claud A.	
Sep 24 1909		Monroe, James T.	
May 20 1911		Discontinued Mail to Delhi	
Jun 24 1911	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 3 T29S R60W 1/4 mile east of Timpas Creek	
Aug 29 1911		Re-established	
Aug 29 1911		Thompson, George T.	
Jan 24 1914		Martin, Minnie	
Jul 10 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 3 T29S R60W 1/4 mile east of Timpas Creek West side and 80 yards from AT&SF tracks	
Jun 2 1920		Monroe, Fay	
Jul 17 1923		Munger, Emily O.	Confirmed
Aug 2 1923		Munger, Emily O.	Commissioned
Sep 1 1923		Munger, Emily O.	Assumed charge

THATCHER – Continued

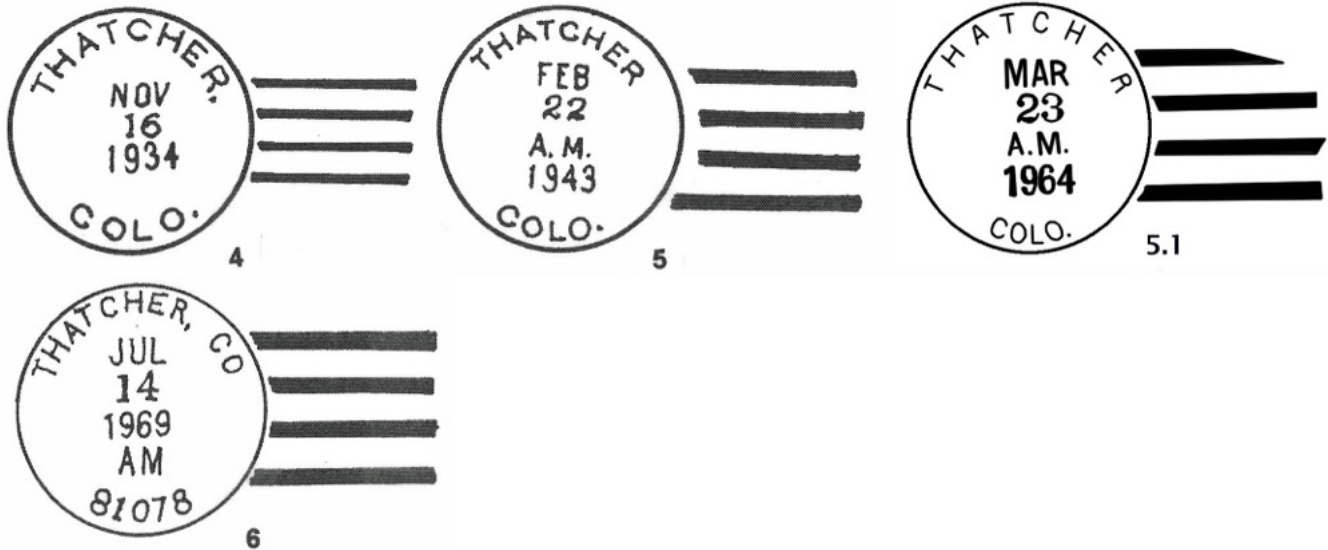
Dec 10 1929	---	S/2 NE/4 Sec 3 T29S R60W 800 feet west (?) of Timpas Creek West side of AT&SF and 1922 feet from station	
Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T29S R60W 1/4 mile west of U.S. 360 2200 feet west of Santa Fe tracks and station (this part doesn't agree with the sketch map, may refer to the station only.)	
Jan 1 1944		Keith, Rachel U.	Assumed charge
Jan 8 1944		Keith, Rachel U.	Acting
Aug 26 1944		Keith, Rachel U.	Confirmed
Sep 25 1944		Keith, Rachel U.	Commissioned
Nov 8 1948	---	Moved - 1975 feet west from old site	Now 1131 feet west of AT&SF
Jul 31 1951		Osborn, Mrs. Grace E.	Assumed charge
Aug 20 1951		Osborn, Mrs. Grace E.	Acting
Nov 8 1951		Osborn, Mrs. Grace E.	Confirmed
Nov 23 1951		Osborn, Mrs. Grace E.	Commissioned
Dec 22 1955		McDougal, Jessie B.	Assumed charge
Jan 13 1956		McDougal, Jessie B.	Acting
Feb 24 1956		McDougal, Jessie B.	Confirmed
Mar 7 1956		McDougal, Jessie B.	Commissioned
Nov 1 1957		Lusk, Edna Lee	Possession
Nov 5 1957		Lusk, Edna Lee	Acting
Mar 21 1957		Lusk, Edna Lee	Appointed
Jan 19 1963		Claflin, Mrs. Bertha L.	Acting, possession
Jun 7 1963		Claflin, Mrs. Bertha L.	Commissioned
Jun 21 1963		Claflin, Mrs. Bertha L.	Possession
Jun 12 1970		Bolling, Mrs. Mary	Officer in charge
Jul 20 1973		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	THATCHER / COL. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Cork, double grid	Oct 5 1896
2	THATCHER / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jun 4 1899
3	THATCHER, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x14mm	Nov 10 1908
4	THATCHER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Feb -- 1933 Oct 21 1941
5	THATCHER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Feb 22 1943 Jul 7 1952
5.1	THATCHER / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 23 1964
6	THATCHER, CO / 81078 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 14 1969 Sep 16 1971



THATCHER – Continued



TOBE

The status of Tobe raises some questions. It was established as a post office in 1910 and is so entered in the Records of Postmaster Appointments. However, in those records there is a double entry for Tobe and it is not listed in the 1915 and 1916 Postal Guides. It is possible that there was a break in service during that time.

In 1916 a Geographical Site Location Report was filed and effective May 4, 1916 H. W. Matthews was appointed the postmaster. On June 25, 1920 S. J. Matthews filed a town plat for Tobe. It would seem that the Matthews clan had high hopes for their settlement.

There is no indication that there was any development of a community. In 1938 a new Site Location Report was filed indicating that the post office had moved a mile west of the previous location. Accompanying that report was a note “No town or village, only post office of Tobe.”

Tradition attributes the name to Tobe Benavides, a local resident. The tradition also claims that the residents wanted to name the place Benavides but that was rejected by the Post Office Department in favor of Tobe. I have found nothing in the Post Office Department records to support that claim.

The Tobe Post Office lasted until 1960. And a 2006 Edition AAA map still shows Tobe on US Highway 160 west of Kim.

The longevity of Tobe leads me to think that there may have been more there than just a farm or ranch. Perhaps there was a combination store and service station which would be reasonable for the location on an important road.

To visit the site of Tobe from Kim, first drive south two miles on US Highway 160 and then west fourteen miles to Las Animas County Road 169.0. The 1938 site of Tobe was in the northwest quadrant of that intersection. When I visited there in 2001 the only evidence of the “town” was a concrete step and some other scattered debris.

The 1916 location of Tobe was a mile east of County Road 169.0 and on the north side of US 160. There is nothing visible at that location.

Latitude = 37:13:09 North Longitude = 103:36:40 West TOBE

TOBE – Continued



TOBE, / COLO. April 26, 1911

Chronology of the Post Office

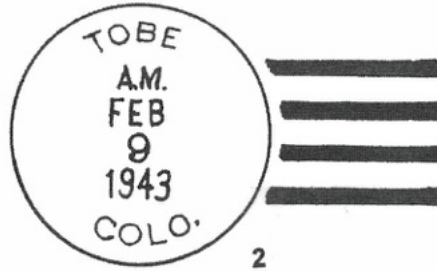
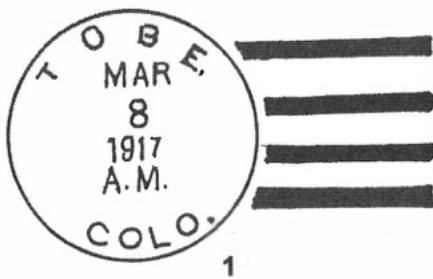
Dec 17 1910	Established	
Nov 5 1910	---	W/2 N/2 NW/4 Sec 12 T33S R56W 5 miles east of Chiquoquo Creek Proposed postmaster - Augusta Custer
Dec 17 1910		Custer, Augusta
Not listed in 1915/1916 postal guides		
A double listing on the microfilm may indicate a break in service during this time.		
May 4 1916	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T32S R55W 1 mile northeast of Tobe Creek Applicant for postmaster - H. W. Matthews
Jul 28 1916		Matthews, Hilliard McW. [SRM: Site Report signed by H.W. Matthews and transcription of PO Appts. is Hillard McW. Matthews]
Aug 15 1920		Seay, George A.
Jun 11 1921		Robertson, Joe
Aug 17 1921		Griffin, Eugene V. Acting
Oct 1 1921		Griffin, Eugene V. Appointed
Jun 17 1924		Griffin, Alma Acting
Jun 23 1924		Griffin, Alma Appointed
Nov 30 1927		Bryant, Dennis D. Acting
Jan 16 1928		Bryant, Dennis D. Appointed
Jun 23 1937		Robertson, Lon Confirmed
Jul 2 1937		Robertson, Lon Commissioned
Jul 7 1937		Robertson, Lon Assumed charge
Apr 21 1938	---	No town or village, only post office of Tobe SE/4 Sec 30 T32S R55W 1-1/2 mile north of Tobe Creek
Feb 16 1941		Jackson, Mrs. Grace Assumed charge
Feb 24 1941		Jackson, Mrs. Grace Acting
May 1 1941		Jackson, Mrs. Grace Confirmed
May 12 1941		Jackson, Mrs. Grace Commissioned

TOBE – Continued

Jan 6 1942	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T32S R55W	
Sep 2 1944		Schenck, Mrs. Gertrude	Confirmed
Sep 3 1944		Schenck, Mrs. Gertrude	Commissioned
Oct 18 1944		Schenck, Mrs. Gertrude	Assumed charge
Nov 30 1958		Gawel, Walter J.	Assumed charge
Dec 1 1958		Gawel, Walter J.	Acting
Jan 11 1960		Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1960		Discontinued Mail to Branson	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TOBE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 26 1911 Sep 12 1917
2	TOBE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 6 1940 Mar 4 1952



TOLLERBURG

Tollerburg was the third of the closely spaced coal camps some two miles into Berwind Canyon. It has not attracted much historical attention. I assume that it was another operation of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. The Road Canyon Railway also served Tollerburg.

From the number of foundations along the road there was evidently a company town to serve the mine, which was on the south side of the valley.

The town appears to have taken its name from that of the first postmaster – Giacomo Toller.

From Exit 27 of Interstate 25 drive west on Las Animas County Road 44.0 to Road 61.5. The Ludlow monument is near the intersection of these roads. Turn south on Road 61.5 to Road 40.2. Go west one and seven-tenths miles on Road 40.2. At this point the canyon is narrow and there is evidence of the mining activity. A few hundred yards further, and on the south side of the road, are the remnants of several buildings (Tabasco). Continue west passing the site of Berwind and a couple of recent buildings; Tollerburg was another half mile. There are mine dumps on the south side of the valley and a number of foundations. Many of the foundations were for small buildings, likely housing for the miners working at Tollerburg.

From the junction with Road 61.5 it is a mile and a half to the beginning of the Tabasco-Berwind-Tollerburg complex and three miles total to Tollerburg.

It is interesting that between 1901 and 1931 at least two of the three post offices were in simultaneous operation. From 1909 to 1915 all three - Tabasco, Berwind, and Tollerburg were open for business. This might be an indication of the control the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company exercised over the miners, requiring them to patronize the appropriate company store not a competitor.

TOLLERBURG – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 27 1909 --- NW/4 NW/4 Sec 1 T32S R65W On west bank of Road Canon
1 mile westerly of Berwind
Postmaster Giacomo Toller

Mar 18 1909 Established

Mar 18 1909 Toller, Giacomo

Sep 13 1915 Toller, Julia

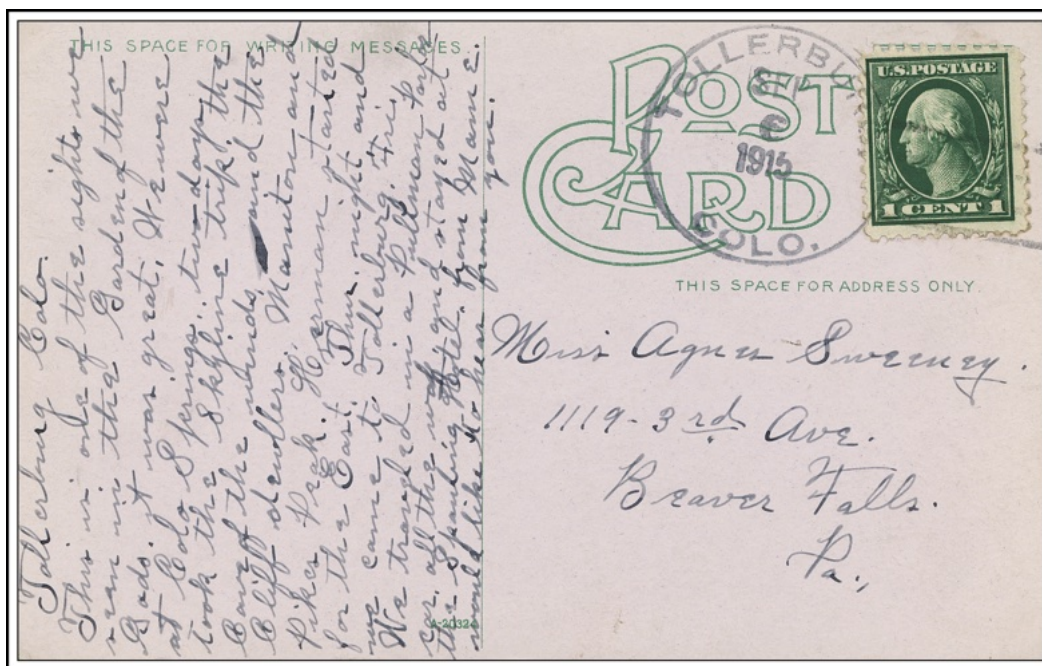
Sep 14 1918 Bishop, Allen B.

Apr 6 1920 Williams, Thomas E.

Aug 20 1929 Matz, Frank P.

May 27 1931 Ordered closed

May 30 1931 Discontinued Mail to Ludlow

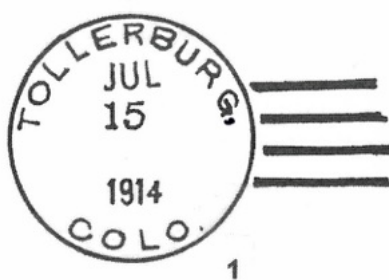


TOLLERBURG, / COLO.

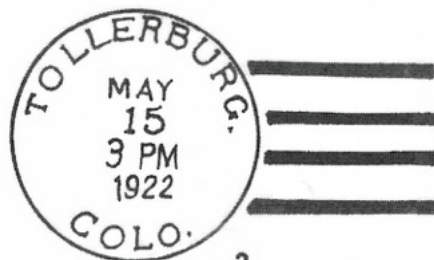
September 6, 1915

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | TOLLERBURG, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x14mm | Oct 25 1909 May 9 1915 |
| 2 | TOLLERBURG, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | May 15 1922 |



1



2

TORRES

Torres was a ranch post office about six miles south of Stonewall. There is no evidence that there was coal mining in the immediate area. However, the coal towns of Tercio and Cuatro were about three miles to the east.

In Spanish the word Torre means "tower". Torres is a common Spanish name and Jose Luis Torres was the name of the first postmaster here. It is a safe assumption that the post office took his family name.

From Colorado Highway 12 at Stonewall drive south on Las Animas County Road 13.0 six and three-tenths miles to Road 12.0. Turn west on Road 12.0 and go one and three-quarter miles. That will bring you into an open area along the South Fork of the Purgatoire River where there is one very large ranch and some other scattered establishments. The buildings are a mixture of old and more recent construction.

In 2001 on a low rise to the south of Road 12.0 there was a two-story house, seemingly occupied, but not in the best of shape. There was a remnant foundation between the house and the road. I believe this was at or very near the location of the Torres Post Office.

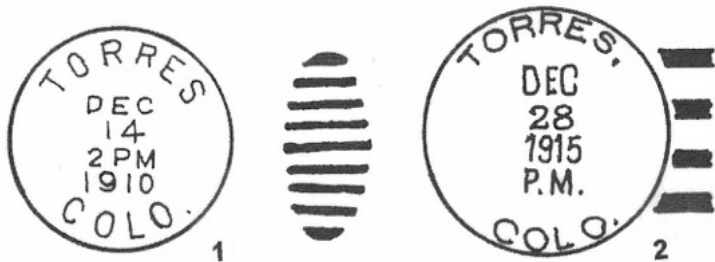
Latitude = 37:04:10 North Longitude = 105:03:20 West TORRES

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 10 1894	---	E/2 Sec 23 T34S R69W 1/4 mile south of the South Fork of the Purgatoire
		Proposed postmaster - Jose Luis Torres
Sep 25 1894		Established
Sep 25 1894		Torres, Jose Luis
Jan 22 1900		Vigil, Jose G.
Aug 30 1900		Barela, Candido
Aug 28 1902		Gale, Ira B.
Nov 20 1911		Slater, James C.
Dec 23 1913		Mack, James B.
Jun 30 1918		Discontinued Mail to Tercio

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TORRES / COLO.		Sep 10 1909	May 5 1914
	CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval		
2	TORRES, / COLO.		Dec 28 1915	
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm		



TRINCHERA

Trinchera Plaza, established in 1873, was the original settlement in this area. However, that is not the same place as the town of Trinchera. Trinchera Plaza was three miles to the southwest and over the years was the site of the Brazil, Grinnell and San Jose Post Offices.

TRINCHERA – Continued

Trinchera is a Spanish word meaning “trench, or entrenchment”. It is believed to be a reference to the gap and channel formed by Trinchera Creek as it flows through the mesa to the south.

The town of Trinchera was established in 1888 when the Denver, Texas and, Fort Worth, Railroad reached the area. A town plat for Trinchera was not filed until August 10, 1916, when A. K. Hollenbeck took the action.

For many years Trinchera was a significant village with a business district, church and school. There are still a few residents and the church is still active. The depot has been moved to a side street, restored, and serves as a community hall and museum.

The Burlington Northern and Santa Fe Railroad, formerly The Colorado and Southern, still operates trains through Trinchera.

The Trinchera Post Office occupies a portion of a former service station and serves a few patrons still living in the village and the surrounding countryside.

Trinchera can be visited by coming from several directions. From the west it is a bit complicated, so I do not recommend that approach. From the east, Trinchera is ten miles west of Branson via Las Animas County Road 6.8. When that road leaves Trinchera, to the east, it has become Road 8.8. From US Highway 160, to the north, Road 119.5 will intersect Road 8.8 a short distance west of Trinchera.

Latitude = 37:02:32 North Longitude = 102:02:49 West TRINCHERA



Post office, Trinchera, Colorado

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 9, 2001

TRINCHERA – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 11 1888	---	SE/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W ; 1/4 mile east of Trinchera Creek On south side of tracks within 40 feet of Trinchera Station Proposed postmaster - Charles Wallers [SRM: Clear signature of Wallers on Site Location Report; transcription of Post Office Appointments is Walters]	
Feb 14 1889		Established	
Feb 14 1889		Walters, Charles W.	
Jun 13 1889		Chaney, Henry	
May 21 1896		Carter, Hugh B.	
Nov 28 1896		Vigil, Elias A.	
Apr 20 1898		Chaney, Henry	
Jun 20 1900		West, David	
Jul 27 1901		Jordan, Edward G.	
Sep 4 1901	---	SE/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W 1554 feet south of the railway	
Oct 2 1906		Dougherty, James F.	
Jul 21 1909		Dougherty, John L.	
Sep 10 1912		Dougherty, Joseph A.	
Apr 21 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W 100 feet south of the Colorado & Southern tracks	
Oct 8 1918		Hardin, Achsah A.	
May 13 1919		Massie, Mattie J.	
Jun 11 1919		Hardin, Sebastian C.	Declined
Feb 12 1920		Summers, Clarence	
Oct 14 1920		Blye, Laura E.	Confirmed
Oct 21 1941	---	part NW/4 NW/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W 435 feet south of railroad station 375 feet south of tracks	
Feb 1 1940		Johnson, James F.	Assumed charge
Feb 14 1940		Johnson, James F.	Acting
Aug 23 1940		Ward, Mrs. Ida A.	Confirmed
Oct 10 1940		Ward, Mrs. Ida A.	Commissioned
Oct 23 1940		Ward, Mrs. Ida A.	Assumed charge
Jun 4 1947		Arnett, Mrs. Ida A.	Name changed by marriage
Jul 11 1947	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W 675 feet southwest of station 100 feet south of tracks 400 feet east of Trinchera Creek	
Jul 11 1947		Hudson, Robert E.	Assumed charge
Aug 4 1947		Hudson, Robert E.	Acting
Jun 17 1948		Hudson, Robert E.	Confirmed
Jul 16 1948		Hudson, Robert E.	Commissioned
Sep 27 1948	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 32 T34S R59W Move 500 feet northwest Now 20 feet from US 160 (???)	
Jan 13 1961		Arnett, Mrs. Ida A.	Assumed charge
Jan 16 1961		Arnett, Mrs. Ida A.	Acting
Sep 16 1964		Arnett, Mrs. Ida A.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1972		Hudson, Mrs. Mary Lou	Officer in charge
Jun 2 1973		Sheldon, John R.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	TRINCHERA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-21x14mm	Sep 10 1909
1	TRINCHERA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x14mm	Mar 18 1912
2	TRINCHERA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 2 1917

TRINCHERA – Continued

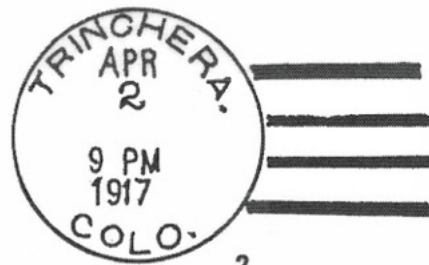
2.1	TRINCHERA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Jan 15 1915
3	TRINCHERA, / COLO CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Feb 25 1932 Mar 29 1941
3.1	TRINCHERA, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Dplx Grid, 8(?) -bar oval	Jun 30 1937
4	TRINCHERA / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x18mm	Jan 23 1942 May 14 1956
5	TRINCHERA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 13 1963
6	TRINCHERA, CO / 81081 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 29 1968 Dec 9 1976
7	TRINCHERA, CO / 81081 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 14 1993 Aug 14 1995
8	TRINCHERA, CO / 81081 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	May 9 2001



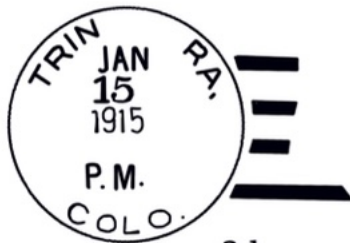
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TRINIDAD

By at least 1859, settlement had begun on the Purgatoire River at what would become the city of Trinidad. Gabriel and Juan Guterrez built the first cabin. Initially the place was called Rio de Las Animas. It was a rendezvous for trappers, traders and travelers on the Mountain Branch of the Santa Fe Trail.

At some early point the name began to change. There are mentions of it being called Santissima Trinidad - "Most Holy Trinity." By 1862 when a post office was opened, it was simply Trinidad.

There are unresolved questions as to the origin of that name. One possible source is that it was named for a daughter of Felipe Baca. But there are considerable doubts that Felipe Baca had a daughter named Trinidad.

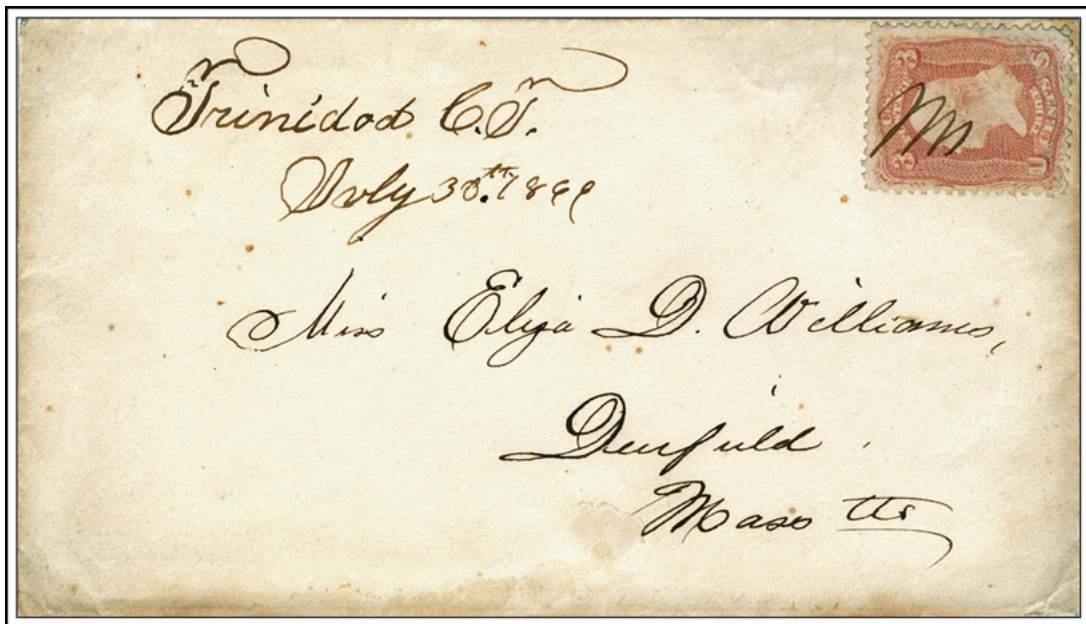
Another claim is that it was suggested by Gabriel Guterrez to honor "an affinity named Trinidad; a handsome woman (not his wife) with whom he had been enamored in New Mexico." The most logical derivation of the name is The Holy Trinity.

The early settlers at Trinidad were mostly Mexican, coming from New Mexico to settle on the Baca Land Grant. They engaged in farming and ranching.

For a brief period in the early 1860's Trinidad declined and its post office was closed in 1864. Grays Ranch, four miles to the northeast, threatened to become the primary town of the area. But by 1866 with increased travel on the Santa Fe Trail and the road to Denver, the trend had reversed and the Grays Ranch Post Office was moved to Trinidad. Trinidad's location on the principal roads near where they began the climb to Raton Pass, made it an important supply and rest stop on the trail.

In 1877 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad approached Trinidad but chose to place its terminal at El Moro, three miles north of the town. The Pueblo and Arkansas Valley Railroad, a subsidiary of the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe, also reached Trinidad in 1877. The Santa Fe would win the race for the route over Raton Pass and would thus play an important part in the subsequent development of Trinidad.

A town plat for Trinidad was filed on July 7, 1877 and the town was incorporated on December 30, 1879. It has been reported that Trinidad was previously incorporated by the Territorial Legislature. When Las Animas County was authorized in 1866, Trinidad was designated the county seat.



Trinidad C.T.

July 30, 1866

TRINIDAD – Continued

The access to the railroad prompted development of the large coal deposits that surrounded Trinidad. There was an attempt to create a steel industry at Trinidad but that effort quickly failed. As coal mining grew in importance, so did Trinidad.

Today coal mining has virtually ceased but Trinidad remains a viable city. It serves travelers on Interstate 25 and is the commercial and cultural center of a large area of southern Colorado.

The Trinidad Post Office building was constructed in 1910 and is typical of the Federal style of the time used for post offices in larger communities.

Latitude = 37:10:10 North Longitude = 104:30:00 West TRINIDAD

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 13 1862	---	Unsurveyed	On south side of Purgatoire River	
Jun 17 1862		Established		
Jun 17 1862		Frazer, William		
Dec 17 1862		Archibald, Albert W.		
Sep 19 1864		Discontinued		
Feb 6 1866		Moved from Grays Ranch		
Feb 6 1866		Bransford, William A.		
Jul 19 1867		Barraclough, Henry		
Feb 4 1871	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T33S R63W		
Jun 14 1874		Archibald, Caleb P.		
Dec 23 1874		Archibald, Caleb P.		P&S
Aug 15 1876		Barraclough, Henry A.		P&S
Jun 15 1880		Clark, Julius W.		P&S
May 9 1884		Stark, Herbert		P&S
Mar 8 1887		Fox, John H.		P
Feb 28 1888		Fox, John H.		P&S
Sep 21 1890	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T33S R63W	200 yards south of the Purgatoire 2-1/2 miles east of Raton or Chicken Creek	
Feb 8 1892		Roosa, John		P&S
Oct 30 1894		Landford, Thomas J.		P
Mar 1 1895		Landford, Thomas J.		P&S
Jan 17 1899		Miller, Joseph R.		P&S
Dec 20 1902		Stone, Daniel W.		P&S
Dec 13 1906		Stone, Daniel W.		P&S
Dec 13 1909		Finch, Duane D.		P&S
Nov 20 1913		Virgil, J. U.		P&S
Apr 20 1914	---	T33S R63W		
Jun 23 1915		Andreita, M. Virgil		P
Jan 5 1916		Andreita, M. Virgil		P&S
Nov 2 1921		Grisham, James S.		P&S
Dec 18 1929		Grisham, James S.		P&S
Jan 18 1934		Beshoar, Ben B.		Acting
Jan 26 1934		Beshoar, Ben B.		Assumed charge
Jan 23 1934		Beshoar, Ben B.		Nominated
Feb 1 1934		Beshoar, Ben B.		Confirmed
Feb 26 1934		Beshoar, Ben B.		Commissioned
Mar 16 1938		Beshoar, Ben B.		Nominated
Mar 22 1938		Beshoar, Ben B.		Confirmed
Mar 25 1938		Beshoar, Ben B.		Appointed Presidential
Apr 15 1938		Beshoar, Ben B.		Commissioned
Jun 22 1942		Beshoar, Ben B.		Nominated
Sep 21 1942		Beshoar, Ben B.		Appointed Presidential

TRINIDAD - Continued

Nov 24 1942	Beshoar, Ben B.	Commissioned
Jan 31 1953	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Assumed charge
Feb 25 1953	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Acting
Feb 25 1954	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Nominated
Mar 18 1954	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Confirmed
Mar 18 1954	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Appointed Presidential
Mar 18 1954	MacLiver, Thomas T.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1970	Greene, Jay D.	Officer in charge
Apr 2 1971	Bowles, Joseph W.	Officer in charge
May 1 1971	Bowles, Joseph W.	Appointed
Dec 30 1974	Caywood, Howard	Officer in charge
Jun 7 1975	Davis, Ralph W.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1.A	Trinidad C.T. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jul 30 1866
1.B	Trinidad Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Nov 10 186? Jan 3 1870
2	TRINIDAD / COL CI 10P 24.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Mar 2 186- Sep 11 186-
3	TRINIDAD / COLO CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Oct 3 1869
4	TRINIDAD / COL. CI 11P 26.0/15.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 11 1870 Jan 5 1872
5	TRINIDAD / COL.TY. OC 10P 24.0x24.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Sep 29 1873
6	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, Double grid, Smudge; Target, 4-ring	Oct 6 1872 Feb 10 1880
7	TRINIDAD, / COLORADO. CI 11P 27.0/17.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm, Maltese cross at each side of CDS	Apr 3 1879
8	TRINIDAD, / COLO. CI 11P 29.5/16.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 19mm, small star at each side of the CDS	Mar 26 1882 Aug 12 1882
9	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Grid, large 9 bar oval	Jul 9 1884 Aug 1 1887
10	TRINIDAD / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative S-roads, Smudge	Apr 28 1887 Oct 31 1887
11	Trinidad, Colorado, / REGISTERED. SL 00R 43.0x21.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 19 1888
12	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Nov 1 1887 Aug 28 1888
13	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, Positive "A", Smudge	Nov 1 1887 May 10 1894
14	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval, large	Jun 1 1887 Jan 28 1893
14.1	Trinidad (no cds) -- --- ----	Hstp Cork smudge, only marking, circular use [NOT ILLUSTRATED]	Aug 27 1891
15	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Target, large 5-ring oval [KILLER NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	May 19 1893 Nov 2 1894

TRINIDAD - Continued

*Trinidad C.O.
July 30th 1888*

Trinidad Jan 30

1.A

1.B



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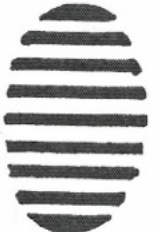
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Trinidad, Colorado,
AUG 19 1888
REGISTERED.



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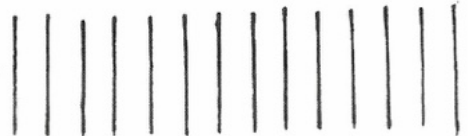
REGISTERED
10/25-1897
Trinidad, Colo.



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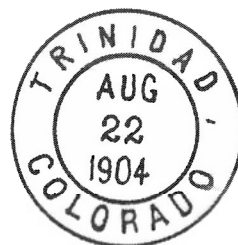
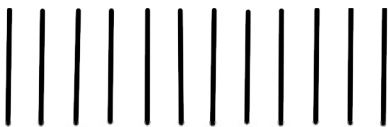
TRINIDAD - Continued

16	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	May 10 1894 Jan 25 1896 Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval
17	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 10P 24.5	Aug 20 1896 May 13 1901 Dplx Grid, Oval with 1 and circle 2 digit year date
18	Trinidad, Colo. // REGISTERED SL 00r 33.0x16.0	Sep 2 1897 Oct 25 1897 Hstp No killer
19	TRINIDAD, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 29.0	Dec 21 1898 Hstp No killer, backstamp [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
20	TRINIDAD, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Nov 1 1899 Hstp No killer
21	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Nov 1 1902 Nov 7 1908 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle
22	TRINIDAD, COLO. :: RECEIVED CI 10P 24.0	Nov 4 1905 Mach 2 bars / RECEIVED / 2 bars, to left of additional vertical bars
23	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 10P 24.0	May 21 1903 Sep -- 1904 Mach Vertical bars
23.1	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Jun 20 1904 Mach Vertical bars Town and state close
24	TRINIDAD / COLORADO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Aug 22 1904 Hstp No killer
25	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Feb 1 1907 Jan 29 1916 Flag 13 star waving flag, split year date
26	TRINIDAD COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Aug 30 1913 Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
27	TRINIDAD, COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Jan 29 1914 Hstp No killer
28	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Mar 5 1917 Apr 15 1939 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle
29	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 10P 22.5	Aug 3 1917 Dec 14 1920 Flag 13 star waving flag
30	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Aug 19 1923 Sep 19 1924 Mach Slogan in box with bars; SAN ISABEL / NATIONAL FOREST / COLORADO
31	TRINIDAD COLORADO MS	Jul 13 1925 Mscp 7 lines. A hand drawn, simulated machine postmark
32	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Dec 22 1926 Apr 3 1934 Mach 6 wavy lines, thin letters
33	TRINIDAD / COLO. OV 11P 26x20/16x8	Sep 1 1931 Hstp Parcel post double oval
34	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Jun 28 1934 Apr 5 1941 Mach 6 wavy lines
35	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Aug 12 1941 Oct 29 1954 Dplx Grid, diamond with 1
36	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Feb 13 1941 Aug 28 1944 Mach 6 wavy lines
36.1	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.5	Jun 5 1943 Hstp No killer
37	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	May 11 1956 Hstp No killer
38	TRINIDAD, COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	Jun 7 1957 Sep 23 1964 Hstp No killer

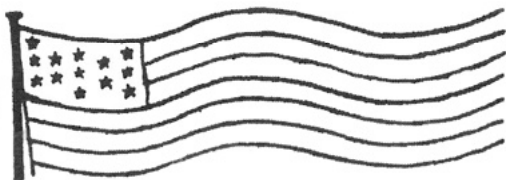
TRINIDAD – Continued



23.1



24



25



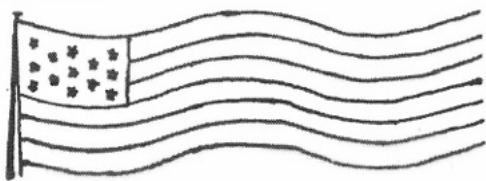
27



1917



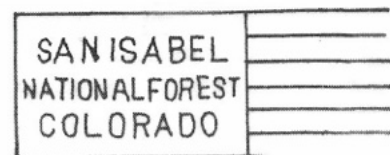
28



29



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31



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34



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36



36.1



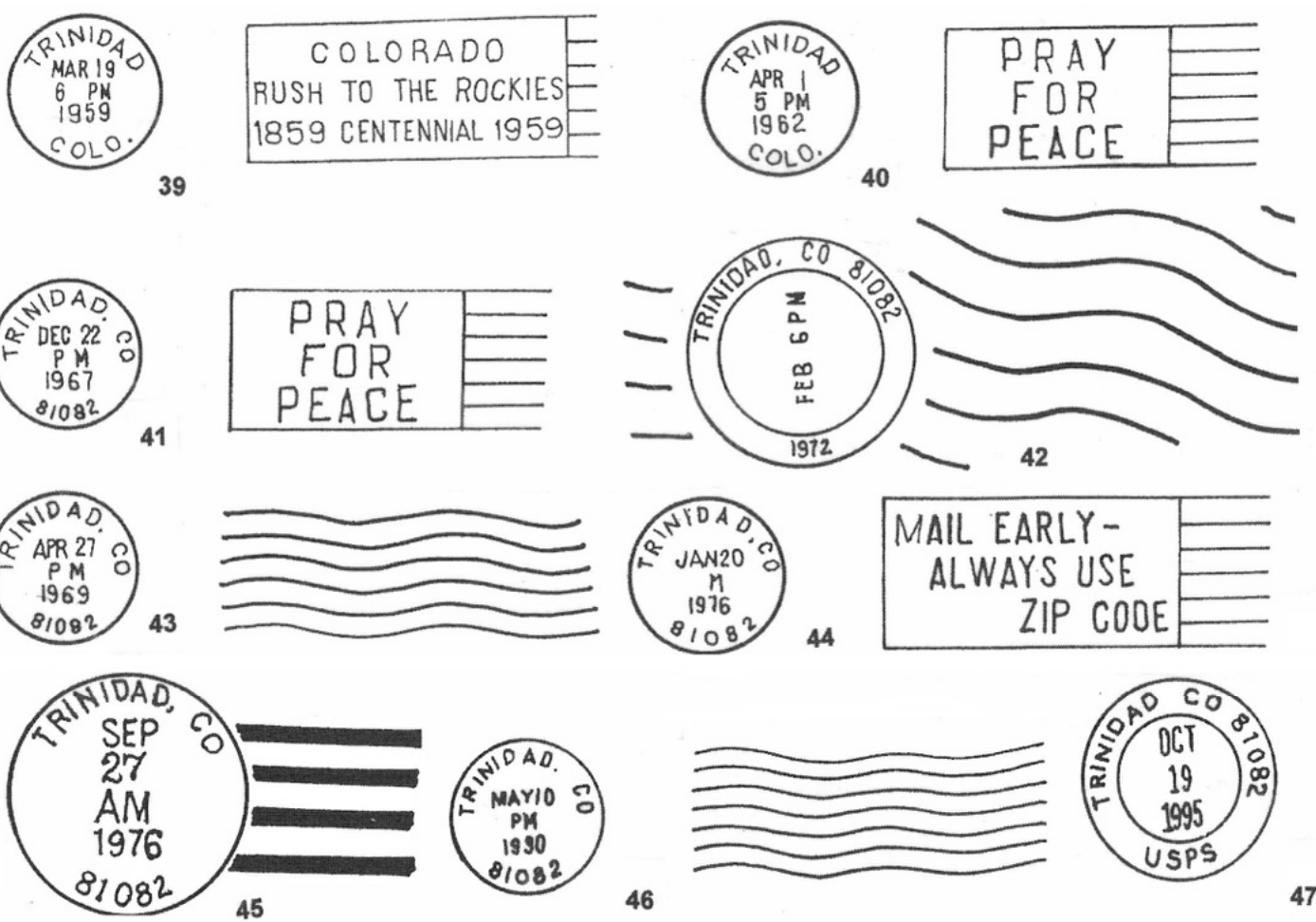
37



38

TRINIDAD – Continued

39	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mar 16 1959 Jun 11 1959 Mach Slogan in box with bars: COLORADO / RUSH TO THE ROCKIES / 1859 - CENTENNIAL - 1959
40	TRINIDAD / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Apr 18 1960 Jun 5 1966 Mach Slogan in box with bars: PRAY / FOR / PEACE81
41	TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 CI 10P 20.5	Apr 11 1966 Dec 22 1967 Mach Slogan in box with bars; PRAY / FOR / PEACE
42	TRINIDAD, CO 81082 CI 10P 32.5/24.0	Feb 6 1972 Oct 28 1982 Rolr 7 wavy lines
43	TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 CI 10P 20.5 51	Apr 27 1969 Oct 10 1978 Mach 6 wavy lines
44	TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 CI 10P 21.0	Jan 20 1976 Mach Slogan in box with bars; MAIL EARLY - ALWAYS USE / ZIP CODE
45	TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 CI 10P 33.0	Sep 27 1976 4bars S-24x19mm
46	TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 CI 10P 21.0	May 7 1990 May 24 1993 Mach 7 wavy lines
47	TRINIDAD CO 81082 / USPS CI 11P 27.0/18.0	Apr 14 1992 Oct 19 1995 Hstp No killer



TRINIDAD – Continued

AUXILLARY MARKING

A-1 trinidad colo.
IR 00P 33.0x17.0

Aug 2 1946

Hstp pointing hand, RETURNED / TO / WRITER



TRINIDAD STATIONS

NUMBER 1

Chronology of the Post Office

- Feb 1 1906 Established as a Station of Trinidad
---- 825 Arizona
- Jan 1 1908 Discontinued
---- 131 Main Street
- Jan 8 1908 Re-established
- May 31 1909 Discontinued
---- 200 Pine Street
- Jun 1 1909 Re-established
- Jan 31 1915 Discontinued
- Mar 16 1915 Re-established
- Jun 30 1916 Discontinued
---- 300 Pine
- Jul 5 1916 Re-established
---- 200 Pine Street [Until July 9 1916]
- Aug 31 1917 Discontinued
- Nov 16 1918 Re-established
- May 21 1919 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM STATION NO. 1

NUMBER 2

Chronology of the Post Office

- Dec 6 1914 Established as a Station of Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 TRINIDAD (STA. NO. 2) COLO. Nov 27 1918
CI 11P 28.0/19.0 Hstp No killer



TRINIDAD STATIONS— Continued

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN STAMP CLUB STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

----- Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

NON-POSTAL STATION MARKINGS ARE KNOWN TO EXIST.

C.O.D.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 1 1928 Established as a Station of Trinidad

Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE C.O.D. STATION

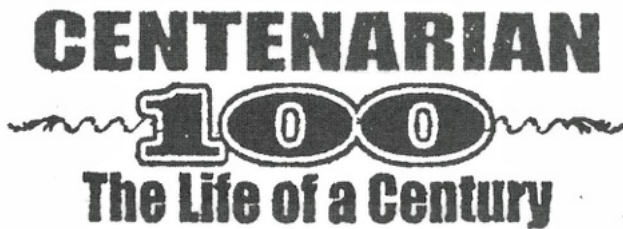
CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Trinidad, CO 81082 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 15 2000
SL 00R 97.0x3.0 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /
The Life of a Century



June 15, 2000 · Celebrate the Century Station Trinidad, CO 81082 1

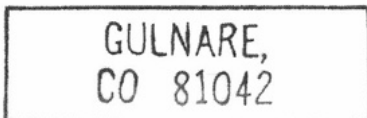
GULNARE COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

Chronology of the Post Office

May 9 1992 Established as a Community Post Office of Trinidad

Confirmed types of postal markings

11 GULNARE, / CO 81042 --- -- 1990s
SL 10P 48.0x16.0 Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box Style



TRINIDAD STATIONS – Continued

INTERNMENT CAMP BRANCH

This was a World War II Prisoner of War Camp some six miles northeast of Trinidad. A Branch Post Office was established here but it seems to have served the military personnel and not the prisoners of war.

Most of the postmarks from this branch office are philatelic favor cancels. I have seen one or two that appear to have been legitimate use. Although there is some mail from the prisoners, it appears that the mail was sent to another location where it was censored prior to being turned over to the Red Cross for transmission to Germany.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 15 1943 Established as a Branch of Trinidad NOTE: "The post office building is located at about the center of the garrison section of the camp."
Bev B. Beshoar, P.M.
The map shows the camp in SE/4 Sec 2, NE/4 Sec 11, NW/4 Sec 12, SW/4 Sec 1 T33S R63W. This is about 6 miles ENE from Trinidad and 2 miles south of Beshoar as shown on the submitted map
- Jan 31 1946 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 TRINIDAD, COLO. / INTERNMENT CAMP BR. May 10 1943 May 21 1945
CI 11P 30.0/19.0 Hstp No killer



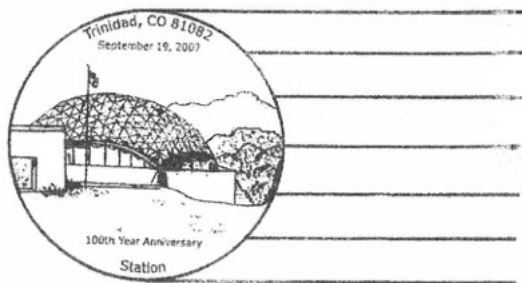
100TH YEAR ANNIVERSARY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 19 2007 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Trinidad, CO 81082 / 100th Year Anniversary / Station Sep 19 2007
CI 10P 36.0 Pict Scene - Geodesic Building in center of cds



TRINIDAD STATIONS – Continued

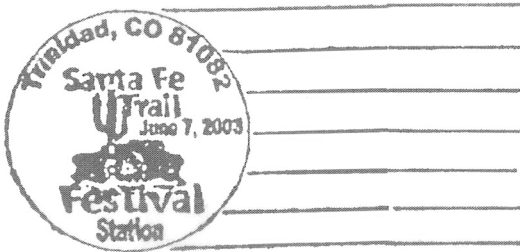
SANTA FE TRAIL FESTIVAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 7 2003 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Trinidad, CO 81082 / Santa Fe / Trail / Festival / Station | Jun 7 2003 |
| | CI 10P 32.0 | Pict Scene - Cactus, wagon wheel, mesa in center of cds; with 7 lines attached right of cds |



1

SANTA FE TRAIL SYMPOSIUM STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 28 2007 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Trinidad, CO 81082 // Santa Fe Trail / Symposium Station | Sep 28 2007 |
| | RC 10P 68.0 x 36.0 | Pict Scene - Oxen Yoke Cancel "perforated on edges" |



1

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 28 1975 Established as a Community Post Office of Trinidad
Feb -- 2002 Discontinued

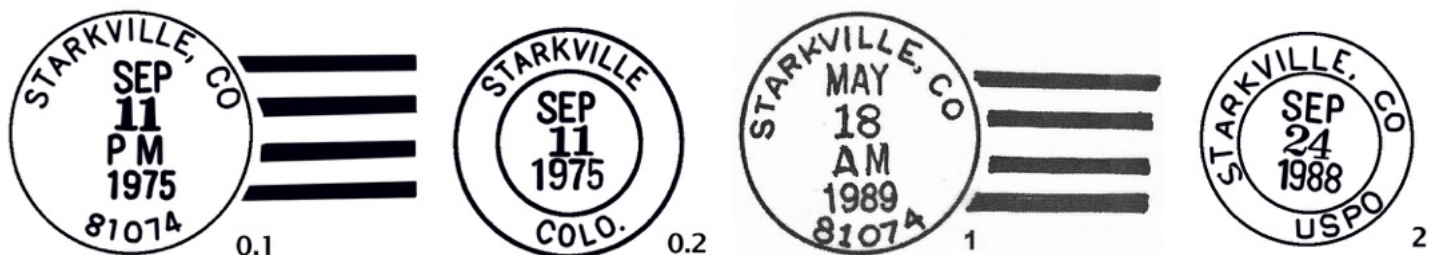
TRINIDAD STATIONS – Continued

STARKVILLE COMMUNITY POST OFFICE– Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

FOR EARLIER MARKINGS FROM STARKVILLE SEE THE LISTING FOR THE INDEPENDENT STARKVILLE POST OFFICE

- | | | | |
|-----|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 0.1 | STARKVILLE, CO / 81074
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Sep 11 1975 |
| 0.2 | STARKVILLE / COLO.
CI 11P 30.0/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Sep 11 1975 |
| 1 | STARKVILLE, CO / 81074
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-23x18mm | Sep 24 1988 Jul 16 1994 |
| 2 | STARKVILLE, CO / USPO
CI 11P 28.0/18.5 | Hstp No killer | Sep 24 1885 |



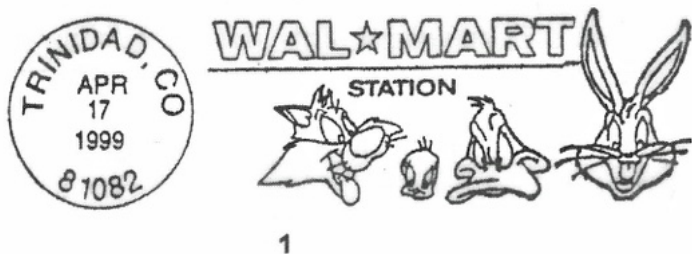
WAL*MART

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 17 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|-------------|
| 1 | TRINIDAD, CO / 81082 :: WAL*MART / STATION
CI 10P 24.0 | Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck,
Bugs Bunny | Apr 17 1999 |
|---|---|---|-------------|



TROY

Assuming that the Post Office Department records are correct, the Troy Post Office came into existence in 1887 when the Humbar Post Office was moved a mile and a half southeast and took the name of Troy. There is a Geographical Site Location Report to support that new location which is two miles north of US Highway 160 and one mile east of Las Animas County Road 169.0. There are no public roads to the location and it is not visible from either road.

In 1899 a Geographical Site Location Report was filed for Troy which places Troy nearly ten miles southeast of the 1887 location. That seems an exceptional distance for a post office to have moved and retained the same name.

TROY – Continued

The date of the 1899 report is five months after Lizzie Bell assumed the duties of Postmaster. Perhaps the post office was moved when she became the postmaster and there was a delay in filing a new location report. Another possibility is that after Lizzie became the postmaster she or her family, packed up and moved to the new location taking the post office with them. I will leave this problem for someone else to resolve.



Troy, Colorado – site overview

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 8, 2001

To reach the 1899 site of Troy follow the directions that have been given to the 1906 site of Dalerose. Or begin on US Highway 160 at Las Animas County Road 185. Drive south as far as you can go, about nine and a half miles. After the road turns to the southeast it becomes Road 20.6.

In 2001 I ventured into this country. As I approached the end of Road 20.6 I passed through a ranch and onto a very rough road with frequent mud holes. I thought I was going to the 1908 site of Troy but I later discovered I had made an error in plotting that site on my work map. I soon came to a gate and decided, correctly, to turn around. At that point the owner of the ranch caught up with me. He told me that the mud holes were no longer a county road. We went back to the ranch and had a pleasant, if confusing conversation.

I explained my purpose and that I was tracking down the sites of Troy and Dalerose. According to him the Troy Post Office was never in this valley but that the Dalerose Post Office had been at his ranch, in a small building to the left of his front door. I am willing to accept that the Dalerose Post Office may have been there. It would not be the only case where a change in location was not reported to Washington. However, I still believe that the Troy Post Office was also there but since that was much earlier, memories of it may have faded.

TROY – Continued

Next, it was on to the final site of Dalerose and the other locations of the Troy Post Office. Here I suggest you refer to the directions that have previously given to the 1926 site of Dalerose and from there to continue on to the additional sites of Troy.

Once you get to Las Animas County Road 197.0 (Road 22.1), you can continue the trip. At the intersection of Road 20.2 with Roads 197.0 and 22.1, the 1934 location was in the vicinity of the intersection. After turning east on to Road 22.1, on the left and a short distance from the road are the ruins of small stone building. I would select that as the 1934 site for the Troy Post Office. While I was photographing that site, a local resident stopped to talk. He told me that I could drive in to the next site of Troy and could also go all the way to the final location at the end of Road 22.1.

A mile and a half further east a farm road goes north to a group of ruined stone buildings. This was the 1908 location of Troy. The 1914 location was close by and may also have been in this group of buildings.

From here continue east to the end of Road 22.1, six miles from the last stop. That brings you to an active ranch with several old stone buildings. This was final location of the Troy Post Office (1938).

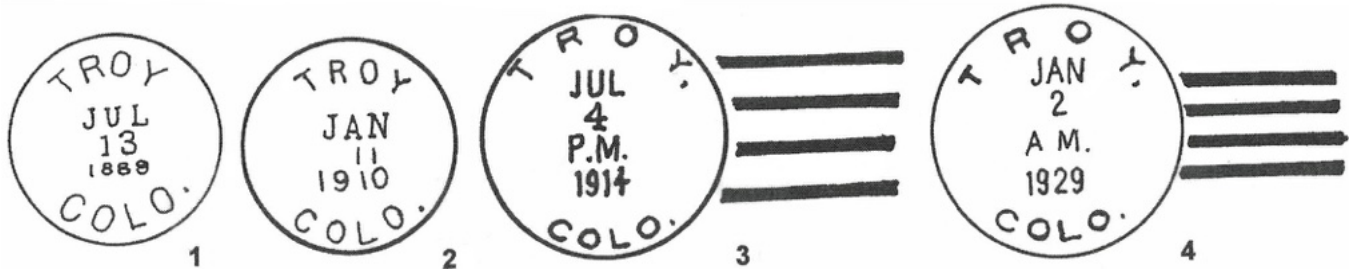
Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 14 1887	---	NW/4 Sec 21 T32S R55W 1 mile east of Humbar Creek Also involved a move from the NE/4 Sec 17 T32S R55W	
Oct 27 1887		Moved from Humbar	
Oct 27 1887		Dickson, Robert E.	
May 9 1889		Weeden, Charles E.	
Jun 26 1890		Trump, L. H.	
Feb 9 1891		Gee, Lute S.	
Jul 5 1898		Martinez, B.	
Feb 8 1899		Bell, Lizzie M.	
Jul 3 1899	---	Sec 2 T34S R54W 1/4 mile south of Carrizo Creek	
Jun 24 1903		Montoya, Juanita	
Nov 29 1904		Montoya, Moses A.	
Jun 14 1906		Velasquez, Tomas	
Nov 7 1908	---	Move from: SE/4 Sec 1 T34S R54W To: NW/4 Sec 25, T33S R53W (7 miles east) 1/2 mile north of Carrizo Creek	
Nov 27 1908		Trujillo, Luis M.	
May 2 1914	---	NE/4 NE/4 Sec 26 T33S R53W 3/4 mile north of Carrizo Creek	
Aug 30 1917		Trujillo, Genoveva M.	Confirmed
Oct 13 1917		Trujillo, Genoveva M.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1917		Trujillo, Genoveva M.	Assumed charge
Aug 20 1934		Duran, Mrs. Martha Lovato	Assumed charge
Sep 6 1934		Duran, Mrs. Martha Lovato	Acting
Oct 26 1934		Duran, Mrs. Martha Lovato	Confirmed
Oct 27 1934	---	SE/4 Sec 22 T33S R53W A move of office 3/4 mile west 1-1/2 mile north of Carrizo Creek Reason for move: "Former postmaster deceased and no one at her location to keep the office."	
Nov 9 1934		Duran, Mrs. Martha Lovato	Commissioned
Oct 21 1938	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T34S R52W 1/2 mile north of Carrizo Creek This entry represents a move of several miles (6 miles to southeast)	
Oct 28 1938		Oxandaburu, Mrs. Juanita	Assumed charge
Nov 2 1938		Oxandaburu, Mrs. Juanita	Acting
Feb 6 1939		Oxandaburu, Mrs. Juanita	Confirmed
Mar 13 1939		Oxandaburu, Mrs. Juanita	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T34S R52W 1/4 mile west of Carrizo Creek	
Jun 23 1942		Ordered closed	
Jul 31 1942		Discontinued Mail to Kim	

TROY – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TROY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Jul 20 1887 Jul 13 1889
2	TROY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Jan 11 1910
3	TROY, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 4 1914
4	TROY, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Jan 2 1929 Jan 11 1929



TYRONE

The first settlement at this location was named Yetta. A plat for Yetta was filed in 1919. In 1929 the name was changed to Tyrone. I have found no explanation for the change in name or the source of the new name.

Tyrone/Yetta was a station on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad from La Junta to Trinidad. The surrounding area is devoted to livestock. In recent years the US Army has raised concerns that they would greatly expand their Pinon Canyon Maneuver Facility to include the site of Tyrone as well as other old communities in this portion of Las Animas County.

From the site of Wormington (Simpson Siding) drive three and four-tenths miles southwest on US Highway 50 to the intersection with Las Animas County Road 64.0. There is a ranch to the east of the highway. In 1998 there was a white-painted, brick building. Barely visible on the front was the lettering, "U. S. POST OFFICE / TYRONE, COLO." Across the road is another abandoned building that appears to have been a school.

In 1941 a Site Location Report was filed that placed the Tyrone Post Office about two miles further to the southwest and just south of where US 50 crosses Bremer Arroyo. In 1998 there were some piles of dirt at that location but no other sign of activity.

There are no later Site Location Reports but it is obvious that at some time the post office had moved back to the original location and was there when it was discontinued in 1968.

Chronology of the Post Office

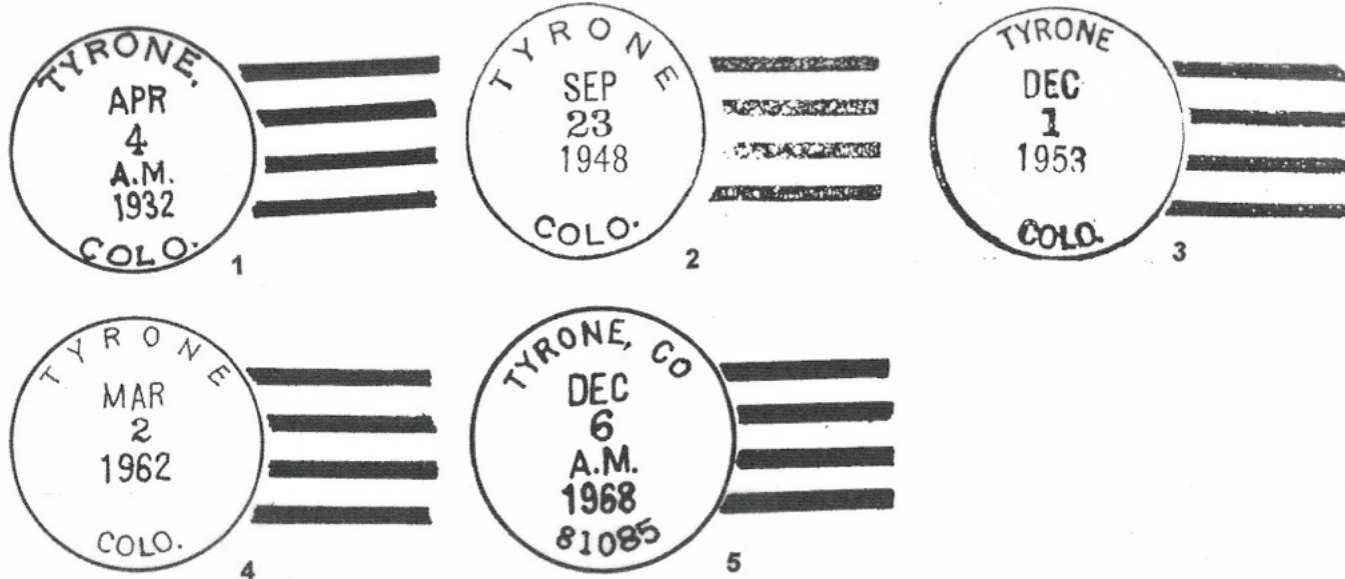
Aug 1 1929	Formerly named Yetta	
Oct 10 1924	Swegart, Dora [From Yetta]	
Dec 21 1929	Swegart, Mrs. Maud	Acting
Jan 31 1930	Swegart, Mrs. Maud	Confirmed
Feb 26 1930	Swegart, Mrs. Maud	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 22 T30S R61W On U.S. 350	864 feet east of railroad station (AT&SF)
Nov 2 1945	Larson, John A.	Assumed charge
Jan 29 1946	Larson, John A.	Confirmed
Feb 26 1946	Larson, John A.	Commissioned
Apr 5 1950	Larson, Mrs. Eunice M.	Assumed charge

TYRONE – Continued

Apr 19 1950	Larson, Mrs. Eunice M.	Acting
Jan 26 1951	Larson, Mrs. Eunice M.	Confirmed
Mar 15 1951	Larson, Mrs. Eunice M.	Commissioned
Apr 13 1953	Gyurman, Mrs. Ada M.	Assumed charge
May 8 1953	Gyurman, Mrs. Ada M.	Acting
Sep 8 1953	Gyurman, Mrs. Ada M.	Confirmed
Oct 21 1953	Gyurman, Mrs. Ada M.	Commissioned
Dec 6 1968	Discontinued Mail to Model	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	TYRONE. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 4 1932 Apr -- 1941
2	TYRONE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 1 1943 Apr 20 1950
3	TYRONE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x21mm	Dec 1 1953 Aug 26 1955
4	TYRONE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 2 1962 Dec 25 1962
5	TYRONE, CO / 81085 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 24 1967 Dec 6 1968



VALDEZ

Gabriel Valdez homesteaded here around 1900 and gave his name to the community that developed on the south side of the Purgatoire River. Initially the settlement was an agricultural community. Soon the property was acquired by the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company and mining began at the Frederick Coal Mine. The town of Valdez grew to provide housing and services for the miners.

From the westernmost group of buildings and the church that I associated with Madrid, drive three miles west on Colorado Highway 12 to a road that crosses to the south side of the Purgatoire River. On the south side of the river the road branches and parallels the river and the alignment of the Colorado and Wyoming Railroad. The site of Valdez was along the east branch of the road. In addition to some coal mine dumps and remnant foundations of buildings, there are several abandoned buildings and a few still in use. There are a few houses on the north side of the river that today are considered to be Valdez.

VALDEZ – Continued

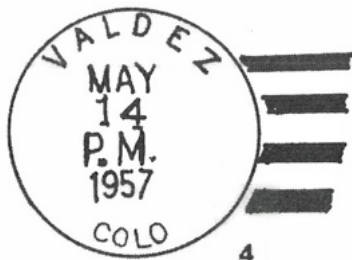
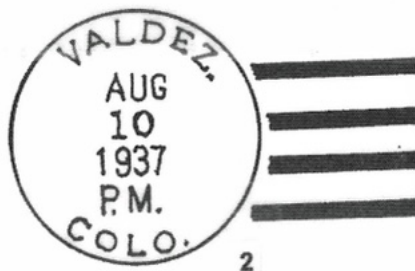
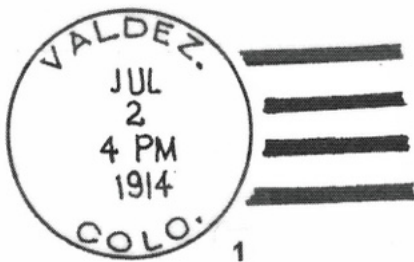
After crossing the river the west branch leads into older site of Segundo.
Latitude = 37:07:20 North Longitude = 104:42:05 West VALDEZ

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 13 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T32S R65W 1/4 mile south of Purgatoire	
Apr 20 1910		Established	
Apr 20 1910		Taylor, Wilbur B.	
May 11 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T32S R65W 300 yards south of the Purgatoire River	
May 1 1920		Taylor, Thomas C.	
Jul 12 1922		Boyd, Clyde H.	Acting
Dec 11 1922		Boyd, Clyde H.	Appointed
Aug 30 1929		Mendine, Martin F.	Acting
Dec 6 1929		Mendine, Martin F.	Confirmed
Jan 7 1930		Mendine, Martin F.	Commissioned
Jan 10 1930		Mendine, Martin F.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 32 T33S R65W 1/4 mile south of Purgatoire River 25 feet north of Colorado & Wyoming tracks 1 mile east of Segundo Station	
Aug 23 1944		Mendine, Martin F.	Nominated
Sep 1 1944		Mendine, Martin F.	Apptd Presidential, Confirmed & Commissioned
Jul 6 1949		Favatella, Tony	Assumed charge
Feb 27 1951		Favatella, Tony	Confirmed
Mar 12 1951		Favatella, Tony	Commissioned
Oct 19 1956		Meek, Robert M.	Assumed charge
Oct 26 1956		Meek, Robert M.	Acting
Jul 25 1958		Meek, Robert M.	Nominated
Aug 8 1958		Meek, Robert M.	Appointed, Confirmed & Commissioned
Sep 12 1961		Ordered closed	
Sep 15 1961		Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	VALDEZ. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 5 1914 Jul 2 1914
2	VALDEZ, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 8 1932 Feb 17 1943
3	VALDEZ / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Aug 6 1948 Nov 9 1953
4	VALDEZ / COLO CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 14 1957 Apr 4 1959



VALLORSO

Vallorso is another coal camp on the road that passes through Tabasco, Berwind and Tollersburg. The site, on Las Animas County Road 40.2, is four and a half miles from the junction with Road 61.5 near Ludlow. The location is at the junction of Bear Canyon and Road Canyon, which then forms Berwind Canyon.

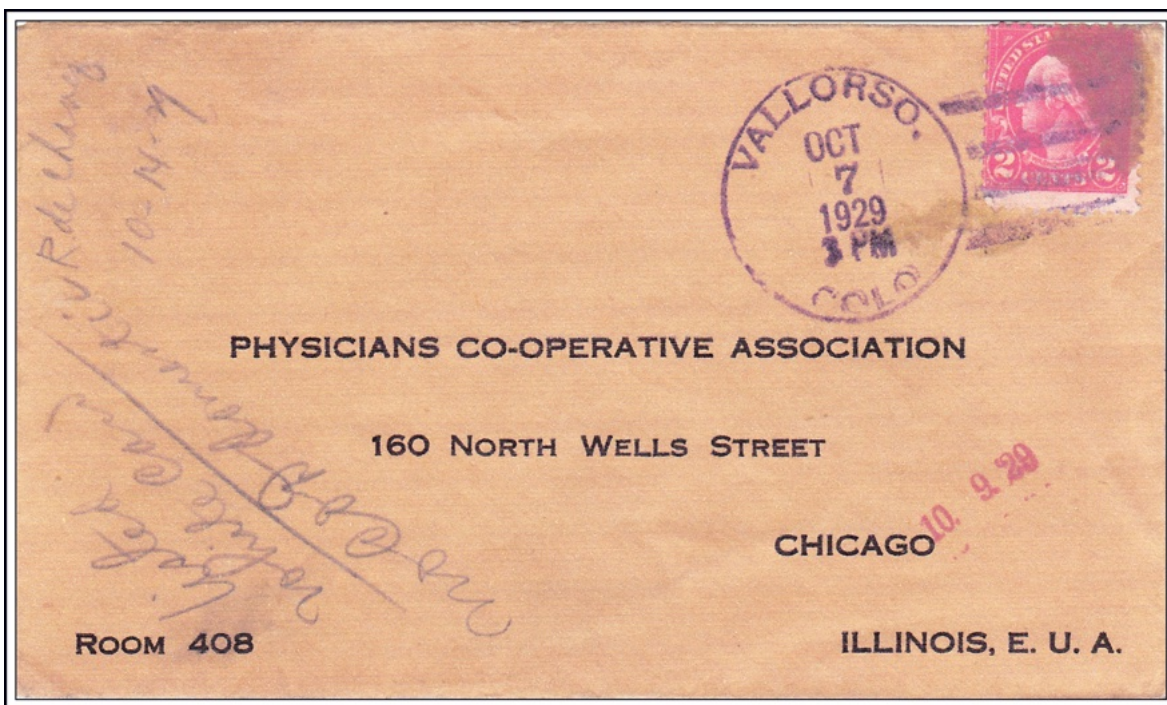
The coal mine here was operated by the Bear Canon Coal Company. Vallorso was the end of track for the Road Canyon Railway, a spur from the railroad junction at Ludlow.

The name is supposedly of Italian origin -“Vall’Orso”- Bear Valley. There may have been a desire to name the post office Bear Valley or perhaps Bear Creek. The latter would have been in conflict with the Bearcreek Post Office in Montezuma County which was still open in February but closed in December 1918.

A small brick building, several foundations, and some mine dumps mark the site of Vallorso.

From Vallorso you can continue southwest to Boncarbo and the associated site of Dicks and from there to Cokedale and to Colorado Highway 12 west of Trinidad.

Latitude = 37:16:58 North Longitude = 104:38:40 West VALLORSO



VALLORSO, / COLO.

October 7, 1929

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 2 1918	---	New town at Bear Canon Coal Mine in Bear Canon NW/4 Sec II (sic) T32S R65W 200 feet west of Bear Creek (dry) Sketch map shows it about 1-1/2 miles southwest of Tollerburg Applicant for postmaster - Peter D. Miller	
Sep 14 1918		Established	
Sep 14 1918		Miller, Peter D.	
Nov 22 1924		Barbata, Pete	Confirmed
Dec 10 1924		Barbata, Pete	Commissioned
Dec 16 1924		Barbata, Pete	Assumed charge

VALLORSO – Continued

Oct 19 1935	Benchat, Mrs. Mae	Assumed charge
Oct 23 1935	Benchat, Mrs. Mae	Confirmed
Nov 5 1935	Benchat, Mrs. Mae	Acting
Nov 8 1935	Benchat, Mrs. Mae	Commissioned
Nov 18 1938	Stevens, Mrs. Sarah J.	Assumed charge
Nov 22 1938	Stevens, Mrs. Sarah J.	Acting
Nov 23 1938 ---	SE/4 SW/4 Sec 2 T32S R65W 150 feet south of Dry Arroya	
Dec 13 1938	Stevens, Mrs. Sarah J.	Confirmed
Dec 30 1938	Stevens, Mrs. Sarah J.	Commissioned
Oct 25 1941 ---	Mine Office Building SE/4 Sec 2 T32S R65W 50 feet south of Dry Road Canon Arroya	
Jun 13 1947	Bertolla, Mrs. Maude	Assumed charge
Oct 16 1947	Toller, Mrs. Livia A.	Confirmed
Oct 31 1947	Toller, Mrs. Livia A.	Commissioned
Nov 18 1947	Toller, Mrs. Livia A.	Assumed charge
Apr 19 1954	Ordered closed	
May 31 1954	Discontinued Mail to Trinidad	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	VALLORSO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Dec 24 1918
2	VALLORSO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 6 1928 Oct 7 1929
3	VALLORSO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 11 1938 Feb 23 1946
4	VALLORSO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-22x19mm	Sep 25 1948 May 31 1954



1



2



3



4

VARROS

When the Segundo Post Office was established in July 1901 it was located on the north side of the Purgatoire River. By January 1902 Segundo had moved to the south side of the river.

In September 1902 a new post office named Varros opened in the same quarter section as the original location of Segundo, on the north side of the river. The Varros Post Office survived for only four months apparently losing out to Segundo on the south side of the river. The expanding coal mines on the south side of the river would have attracted businesses and those working in the mines.

VARROS – Continued

The location of Varros is about a half mile west of the bridge that crosses the Purgatoire River to the locations of Segundo and Valdez.

Segundo, like Valdez, seems to have migrated to the north side of the river where there is a small community on Highway 12 that is now called Segundo. Varros was on the eastern edge of that community.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 13 1902	---	SE/4 Sec 36 T33S R66W 1/4 mile north of the Las Animas River 1/4 mile south of railroad Proposed postmaster - Arthur Smith
Sep 21 1902		Established
Sep 21 1902		Smith, Arthur
Jan 29 1903		Ordered closed
Feb 14 1903		Discontinued Papers to Segundo

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM VARROS

VEGA RANCH

As its name implies, this was a ranch post office located about eighteen miles east of present day Interstate 25. A 1922 map places Vega Ranch at the west end of the Seven Lakes Reservoir. That location does not agree with the Site Location Report filed for Vega Ranch in 1916. I do not preclude the possibility of a second, unreported location for Vega Ranch.

Begin at Exit 34 from Interstate 25 and drive east on Las Animas County Road 60.0 nine and one half miles to County Road 75.0 and turn north. Go two miles and turn east on Road 64.0. Go an additional two miles to Road 79.0 and turn south a half mile to a Road 62.8 and turn east. This road will bring you into a ranch yard.

The route given above was what I followed in 2001. There was a road that would connect directly from Road 60.0 to Road 62.8, but I did not like the looks of it so chose the longer, more traveled route.

At the ranch I spoke with a Mexican lady who probably did not understand much of what I said. I did “interpret” her broken English to say I could go ahead on the road east which was no longer a county road.

I drove east about another mile to the end of the road at a large cattle pen. There were a few trees and evidence of there having been buildings there in the past. I believe that was the reported location for the Vega Ranch Post Office.

Using Google Earth I examined the possible location of Vega Ranch at the west end of the Seven Lakes Reservoir. The satellite photography showed a dry lake. To visit that site start at Tyrone on US Highway 350 and drive six miles west on Las Animas County Road 91.0; at the end the road turns southwest as Road 64.0 and enters a large ranch complex on the northeastern corner of the lake. Nothing was recognizable on the west end of the lake.

Chronology of the Post Office

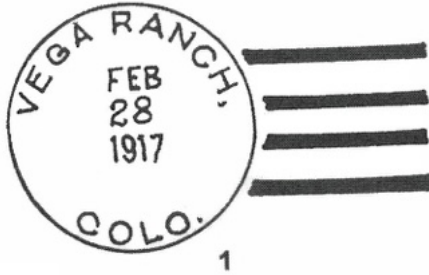
May 26 1916	---	SE/4 Sec 1 T30S R63W 1/4 mile south of the Apishapa River Applicant for postmaster - William Monaghan
Sep 21 1916		Established
Sep 21 1916		Monaghan, William
Aug 16 1918		Wright, Joseph H.

VEGA RANCH – Continued

Mar 10 1919	Beirne, Harry L.
Aug 11 1922	Ban, Robert C.
May 23 1924	Ordered closed
Jun 14 1924	Discontinued Mail to Augusta

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	VEGA RANCH, / COLO.	Feb 28 1917
	CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm



VIGIL

This small community was located at the junction of the Middle Fork and the North Fork of the Purgatoire River. There is no evidence that it was more than a few homes. I assume that the early residents were engaged in raising livestock. There was a coal mine about a mile to the west on the south side of the Purgatoire River.

It has been claimed that the settlement was named for Cornelio Vigil, one of the partners to whom the Vigil and Saint Vrain Land Grant was made by the government of Mexico. However, the name of the first postmaster was Jose Urbano Vigil, so perhaps it was named for him.

Vigil is located on Colorado Highway 12, six miles west of the town of Weston and five miles east of Stonewall. Virtually nothing remains other than a church and the coal mine to the west of the location.

It was at Vigil that I observed one of the oddest houses or at least location for a house that I have seen in Colorado. A couple hundred feet north of the highway there was a small concrete bridge over the river, apparently a remnant of the old highway. The bridge was no longer in use as such but setting on the bridge was a small abandoned building much like a mobile home. The western approach to the bridge was still in place but not the eastern approach. There was a door in the west end of the building. I am left to wonder why anyone would put a building in such an odd place. Perhaps they were simply taking advantage of the bridge as a foundation or maybe it got stuck when they were moving it elsewhere.

Latitude = 37:09:40 North Longitude = 107:56:28 West VIGIL

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 15 1894	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T33S R68W Office to be located at the junction of North Creek and Middle Creek on the west side of North Creek south side of Middle Creek 200 yards from it. (WHB: does that make any sense?)
		Proposed postmaster - Jose Urbano Vigil
Nov 5 1894		Established
Nov 5 1894		Vigil, Jose U.
Oct 28 1900		Garcia, Juan
		Failed to Qualify
Mar 1 1901		Trujillo, Lauriano
Dec 26 1907		Ordered closed Mail to Stonewall Effective Jan 31 1908
Dec 26 1907		Closing order rescinded

VIGIL – Continued

Jan 13 1908	Chacon, Emilio
Jun 7 1909	Trulillo, Lauriano
Nov 16 1911	Chacon, Emilio
Dec 31 1912	Discontinued Mail to Weston
Jul 7 1913 ---	NE/4 NE/4 Sec 24 T33S R68W 500 yards north of the Purgatoire River 600 yards east of the North Fork of the Purgatoire River [WHB: Does this report indicate that there was a plan to re-establish the Vigil Post Office in 1913? If so, it did not happen.]



A scene on the north side of Colorado Highway 12 near the location of Vigil, Colorado
Why is this abandoned building sitting on an abandoned bridge?

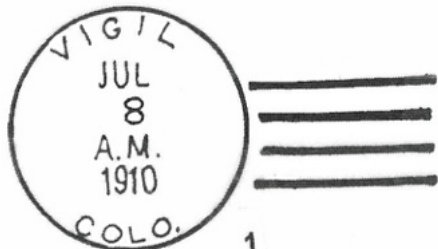
Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 7, 2001

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 VIGIL / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0

Jul 8 1910
4bars S-23x14mm



VILLEGREEN

Villegreen was a rural post office several miles northeast of Kim. For much of its existence it seems likely that it was little more than a ranch or farm post office. It is possible that at some of these various locations there was an associated store.

The final site of Villegreen was at the intersection of Las Animas County Roads 179.0 and 44.0 five miles north of US Highway 160. My first visit to Villegreen was in 1975. At that time the post office was still in operation in a combination store and Standard gas station. In 1998 when Jim Ozment and I visited the place the post office had been closed for several years and the store and service station were also history. It did appear that someone was living in the building. The old building shared the northwest corner of the intersection with a few small outbuildings, some apparently abandoned cars and other junk.

To check out the earlier sites of Villegreen, drive west two miles on Road 44.0 to Road 175.0. The 1919 location of Villegreen was in the northeast quadrant of the intersection. In 1998 there was some scattered rubble at that location.

The original location of Villegreen was one mile south of Road 44.01 on the east side of Road 175.0. That location is an open field that has been plowed repeatedly such that nothing remains of any habitation at the location.

The history of Villegreen began in a time when rainfall was sufficient to support limited agriculture - grain, hay and livestock. Soon thereafter the drought that brought on the Dust Bowl years struck. Many of the farmers and ranchers gave up and left the area.

Today there is some grain or hay production but ranching predominates in this section of Las Animas County. In addition the Federal Government is slowly acquiring land to be included in the National Grasslands reserves.

The name of this place is an example of how local legend can become accepted when the truth lies elsewhere. Numerous brief descriptions of Villegreen have stated that the name was a combination of the French word "Ville" (village) with the name of the Postmaster - James L. Greene. That is not quite the case.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report clearly shows that the desired name was Greenville. Yes that would have combined the French word with Mr. Greene's name but the Post Office Department did not like the arrangement and reversed the two syllables.

In 1917 in Colorado there were post offices at Green Knoll, Green Mountain Falls and Greenwood. I suspect that the application for Green Knoll was already in process when this one was received and the Post Office Department did not want any more "Green" to confuse their clerks sorting mail. So they simply reversed the two syllables giving us Villegreen.

I also note that historians have spelled the name as James L. Greene. However, the Post Office Department Records lack the final "e."

From Villegreen you can wander northward into remote country and visit the sites of Officer, Kant and Yeiser before reaching Colorado Highway 109 in the southeastern corner of Otero County and from there on to La Junta on US Highway 50. In May 1998 that was the route that Jim Ozment and I chose. The result was the adventure that I have described in the discussion of the Officer Post Office. If you chance this route, I wish you an easier journey.

Latitude = 37:18:21 North Longitude = 103:31:11 West VILLEGREEN

Chronology of the Post Office

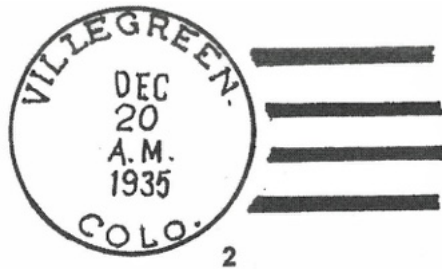
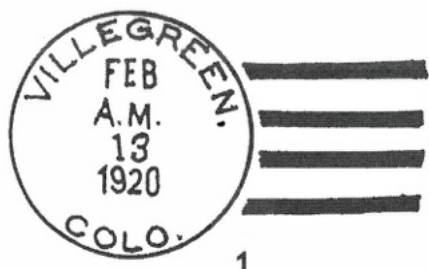
**Feb 4 1917 --- NW/4 Sec 2 T32S R55W
Proposed as Greenville
Applicant for postmaster - James L. Green**

VILLEGREEN – Continued

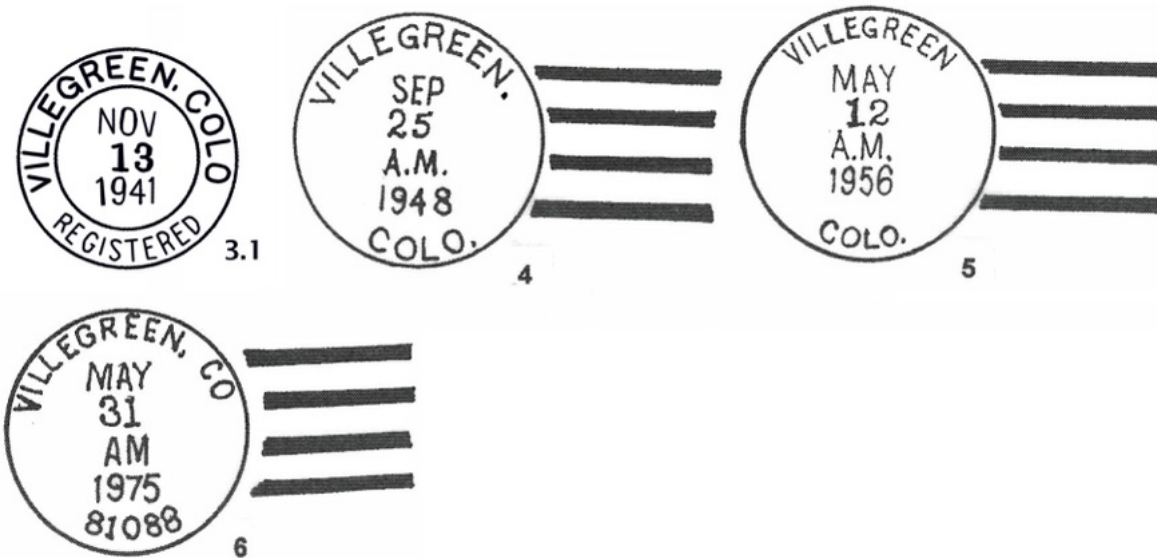
Apr 21 1917	Established	
Apr 21 1917	Green, James L.	
Sep 17 1919	--- SE/4 Sec 27 T31S R55W	
Dec 10 1919	Stockton, William F.	
Nov 26 1920	Drake, William J.	
Nov 16 1921	Maye, Frank H.	
Feb 24 1922	Cooper, Clara W.	
Apr 20 1923	Soape, Lewis P.	Appointed
May 26 1923	Soape, Lewis P.	Commissioned
Jun 4 1923	Soape, Lewis P.	Possession
Feb 5 1926	Barnes, Mrs. Oma B.	Appointed
Mar 26 1926	Barnes, Mrs. Oma B.	Commissioned
Apr 5 1926	Barnes, Mrs. Oma B.	Possession
Jan 12 1927	Ballard, Mrs. Zelma F.	Appointed
Jan 26 1927	Ballard, Mrs. Zelma F.	Commissioned
Feb 14 1927	Ballard, Mrs. Zelma F.	Possession
Oct 28 1941	--- SE/4 Sec 27 T31S R55W	
Apr 19 1945	--- New site: SE/4 Sec 25 T31S R55W	
	Sketch map shows old site to be in SE/4 SE/4 Sec 27 T31S R55W	
Feb 17 1949	Ballard, Paul	Possession
Mar 10 1949	Ballard, Paul	Acting
Apr 26 1949	Ballard, Paul	Appointed
Jun 22 1949	Ballard, Paul	Commissioned
Nov 18 1977	Ballard, Phil	Officer in charge
Feb 21 1981	Ballard, Phil	Appointed
Nov 11 1985	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	VILLEGREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 13 1920
2	VILLEGREEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 20 1934 Dec 20 1935
3	VILLEGREEN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 18 1940 Apr 9 1943
3.1	VILLEGREEN, COLO / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 13 1941
4	VILLEGREEN. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 25 1948 Dec 21 1953
5	VILLEGREEN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 12 1956 Sep 8 1958
6	VILLEGREEN, CO / 81088 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 26 1969 Sep 16 1975



VILLEGREEN – Continued



WATERVALE

Watervale was basically a railroad post office on the Denver, Texas, and Fort Worth Railroad. That railroad chose to bypass the hopeful settlements to the north and took a more southern route to Emery Gap in New Mexico. The name Watervale is likely a reference to an available source of water for the locomotives of the railroad.

For a few years there was a Watervale Town Company and even a newspaper called the *Echo*. The choice of a southern alignment for the railroad doomed the community of Indianapolis, seven miles to the north. Many of the buildings there were moved to Watervale.

Watervale was never a big success. However, with interruptions in service, there was a post office there for a period of more than thirty years.

Today very little if anything remains at Watervale. Depart from Branson on Las Animas County Road 6.8 and drive west five miles to an unmarked road to the south. In 2001 that road was blocked by a gate; however, you can see the tracks of the Colorado and Southern Railroad a half-mile to the south and what may be some type of small structures. For the athletic it would not be a hard walk to investigate the site but it does appear that the road crosses private property.

Examining the location of Watervale using Google Earth I could see abundant evidence of the railroad activity. However I did not observe any remaining structures.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 6 1888	Established
Jul 6 1888	Kunkleman, William H.
May 16 1889	Bowman, Howard E.
Jun 26 1890	Pierce, Melville D.
Dec 11 1891	Gibbons, Thomas E.
Jun 9 1893	Discontinued Mail to Trinchera
Jun 13 1896	Re-established
Jun 13 1896	Murphy, James H.
Jun 21 1898	McNaughton, Therese H.
Jun 13 1899	Mellon, T. H.
Aug 10 1900	Ordered closed

WATERVALE – Continued

- Aug 31 1900 Discontinued Papers to Trinchera
- Jun 14 1903 --- NE/4 SW/4 Sec 1 T35S R59W 25 feet south of the Colorado & Southern tracks
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Therese Hoops Mellon
- Aug 18 1903 Re-established
- Aug 18 1903 Mellon, Therese H.
- May 12 1905 Bell, Lizzie M.
- Apr 20 1912 Hudson, William M.
- Mar 15 1913 Bell, Lizzie M.
- Mar 21 1917 Adams, Harry N.
- Dec 31 1917 Discontinued Mail to Coloflats
- Sep 10 1919 --- SE/4 Sec 1 T35S R59W 110 feet south of the Colorado &
Southern tracks (re-establishment)
- Nov 19 1919 Re-established
- Nov 19 1919 Hicks, Endemma
- Mar 31 1921 Discontinued Mail to Branson

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | WATERVALE, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Doane Type 1 with 1 | Aug 1 1909 Jan 1- 1910 |
| 2 | WATERVALE, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-25x13mm | Apr 17 1910 Dec 10 1914 |



WENGER

This post office began operation as Wenger. That was a misspelling of the name Menger. The confusion is easy to understand. On the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report and in the Records of Postmaster Appointments the name appears to be spelled with a W.

However, after the change in name, in the Records of Postmaster appointments it just as clearly begins with an M.

The Wenger Post Office opened on June 15, 1891 and on July 15, 1891 the error in spelling was corrected and the name was changed to Menger. After the change in name the post office name matched that of the first postmaster - Oscar Menger.

The easiest way to reach the site of Menger/Wenger is to drive east from Gulnare on Las Animas County Road 46.0 about three miles to Road 50.9. Turn back west on that road and stay on that road for nine miles until it ends at a ranch complex on the southern slope of the South Spanish Peak - the location of Menger/Wenger.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 15 1891 Established
- Jun 15 1891 Wenger, Oscar [Post Office Department mis-read signature of Oscar Menger]
- Jul 15 1891 Name changed to Menger [It appears that this change was to correct a mis-spelling.]

WENGER – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WENGER

WESTON

The early history of Weston is somewhat confusing. There are reports that a trapper by the name of J. A. Weston settled here perhaps as early as 1860 and the town was eventually named in his honor. The first true settlement here seems to have been by Juan Sisneros and his family who came in the 1880's and began ranching. Later in the decade the Rocky Mountain Timber Company used the settlement as a supply base and contributed to the growth of the community. The Colorado Fuel & Iron Company's Cinco (Fifth) Mine was located a half-mile south of the settlement on the South Fork of the Purgatoire River.

Prior to becoming Weston the settlement was called Los Sisneros, Los Cisneros, or La Junta. The latter name was appropriate as it is at the junction of the North and South Forks of the Purgatoire River.

There are also claims that the name Weston was acquired when a blacksmith by the name of Weston became the postmaster in 1892. The Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments do not list anyone with the name of Weston as having been postmaster at Weston. In various accounts, the name of the blacksmith appears as Bert Weston, J. A. Weston and S. A. Weston. My choice for the source of the name is the early trapper, J. A. Weston, who may have become a blacksmith in the developing community.

In 1902-1903 the Colorado and Wyoming Railway was built from Valdez to Weston and from there along the South Fork of the Purgatoire River to the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company coal mines at Tercio and Cuatro. That line was removed in 1951-1952 and a new line was built along the North Fork to the Allen Mine near Stonewall. The railroad would have also served the Cinco Mine south of Weston.

Weston is located on Colorado Highway 12 west of Trinidad. In 2001 it was still an active community with a few businesses, a church and a number of residences. There were also a number of abandoned buildings.

Latitude = 37:07:58 North Longitude = 104:50:54 West WESTON

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 15 1889	---	NW/4 Sec 36 T33S R67W On the south bank of the Rio Las Animas and on north bank of South Creek Proposed postmaster - Richard C. Wood
Sep 9 1889		Moved from Cordova
Sep 9 1889		Wood, Richard C.
Apr 14 1894		Martinez, Jose B.
Dec 31 1897		Martinez, Jose E.
Apr 11 1899		Wood, D. Hoyt
May 25 1900		Winter, George H.
Jun 13 1902	---	SE/4 Sec 35 T33S R67W 200 yards south of the Las Animas River and 300 yards north of South Creek
May 25 1903		Merhling, Charles R.
Apr 22 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 35 T33S R67W
Dec 19 1914		Baysinger, Charles L.
Jan 7 1915	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 36 T33S R67W
Jun 22 1915		Merhling, Marie B.
Jul 13 1917		Merhling, Ella B.
May 5 1927		Murray, Orlando M. Acting
Jul 23 1927		Hardin, Glenn T.

WESTON – Continued

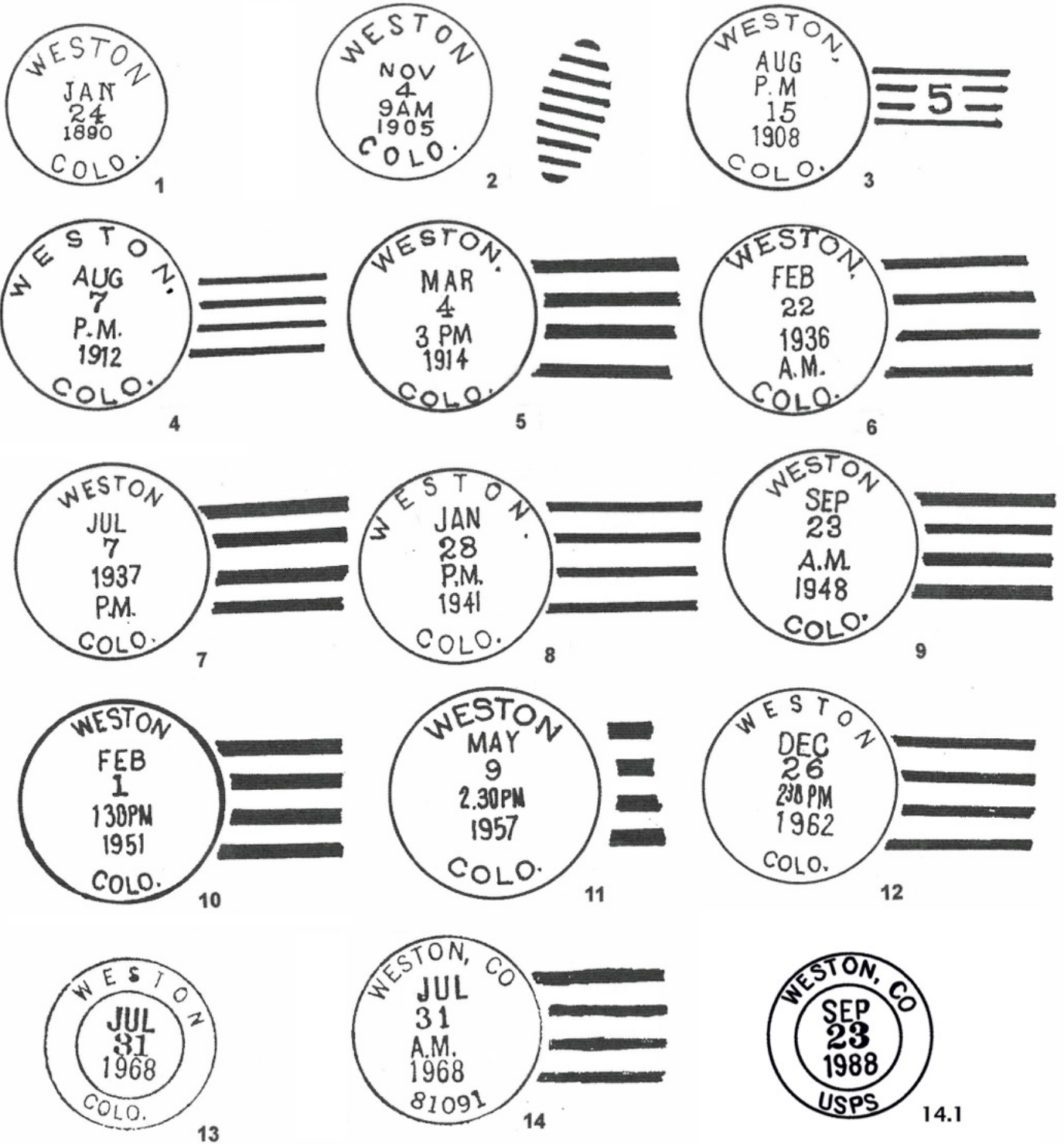
May 23 1929	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 36 T33S R67W	
Jun 22 1929		Baldossar, Domenic P.	Acting
Sep 30 1929		Baldossar, Domenic P.	Appointed
Nov 11 1929		Baldossar, Domenic P.	Commissioned
Mar 25 1935		Mendine, Mrs. Pauline T.	Assumed charge
Apr 3 1935		Mendine, Mrs. Pauline T.	Acting
Nov 4 1935		Mendine, Mrs. Pauline T.	Confirmed
Nov 29 1935		Mendine, Mrs. Pauline T.	Commissioned
Oct 23 1941	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 35 T33S R67W 400 yards south of the North Fork and 1/4 mile north of the South Fork	
Jan 6 1944		Mauro, Albert Ross	Assumed charge
Jan 14 1944		Mauro, Albert Ross	Acting
Apr 6 1945		Mauro, Albert Ross	Confirmed
Jun 26 1945		Mauro, Albert Ross	Commissioned
Jul 1 1945			Office made Presidential
Oct 18 1945		Mauro, Albert Ross	Nominated
Nov 15 1945		Mauro, Albert Ross	Confirmed
Nov 16 1945		Mauro, Albert Ross	Appointed Presidential
Feb 11 1946		Mauro, Albert Ross	Commissioned
Jul 17 1947		Mauro, Albert Ross	Confirmed
Aug 21 1947		Mauro, Albert Ross	Commissioned
Jul 26 1972		Yanes, Louis	Officer in charge
Feb 17 1973		Yanes, Louis	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

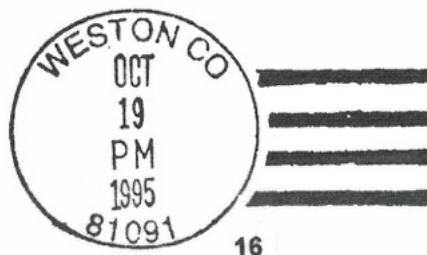
1	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Jan 24 1890 Dec 21 1898
2	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Nov 4 1905
3	WESTON, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 5; S-23x13mm	Aug 15 1908 Sep 15 1909
4	WESTON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Apr 22 1912 Aug 7 1912
5	WESTON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Mar 4 1914
6	WESTON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 14 1930 Oct 1 1936
7	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 7 1937 Feb 6 1945
8	WESTON. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 28 1941 Jun 24 1944
9	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 23 1948 Jan 9 1950
10	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Feb 1 1951
11	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	4bars S-??x21mm	May 9 1957
12	WESTON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 11 1962 Dec 26 1962
13	WESTON / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 31 1968
14	WESTON, CO / 81091 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jul 31 1968 Jan 11 1979
14.1	WESTON, CO / USPS CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 23 1988

WESTON – Continued

- | | | | |
|----|--|-----------------|------------------------|
| 15 | WESTON, CO / 81091
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x19mm | Apr 4 1989 Dec 21 1989 |
| 16 | WESTON CO / 81091
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x17mm | Oct 19 1995 |
| 17 | WESTON CO 81091 / USPS
CI 11P 29.5/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Oct 19 1995 May 7 2001 |



WESTON – Continued



WOOTTON

Wootton was a station on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad a short distance north of the summit of Raton Pass. Reportedly it was situated on the site of the 1860's Santa Fe Trail toll gate and stage station operated by Richens Lacey, "Uncle Dick", Wootton.

During the nineteenth century there was no post office at this place. In 1907, from April to September, the post office named Katcina may have operated at this location. By August 1908 the community had grown large enough to request a post office which was granted with the name Wootton. In June 1910 a petition was prepared to request the establishment of a voting and justice precinct at Wootton. In September 1910 there were thirty-five children of school age and a school was in operation.

I am not clear as to exactly what activities took place at Wootton in the twentieth century. Certainly there was a railroad station and perhaps other railroad facilities. According to the USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 5) there was some mining nearby, most likely coal.

Exit 2 from Interstate 25 is identified as the Wootton Exit, however, as soon as you reach the frontage road on the north side of the interstate a locked gate blocks further progress southward toward the Wootton location.

I went to the summit of Raton Pass and from the parking lot I could look down toward the site of Wootton or what I think was the site. I could see the remnants of what appeared to be a large water tank that may have been used to supply water to the railroad during the age of steam.

I have had the opportunity to examine the area using Google Earth. It is obvious that the road south from the I-25 Wootton Exit is an access road for the railroad. It appears that what I observed from the I-25 parking lot was not at the Katcina/Wootton site but may still have been a water supply tank for railroad operations there.

The photography shows evidence that the railroad had a siding complex and perhaps maintenance sheds related to support activity on the Raton Pass segment. There are no remaining structures. However, there is a complex of modern buildings a short distance south of the exit from I-25. Those buildings may be a Highway Department maintenance yard.

Latitude = 36:59:57 North Longitude = 104:29:14 West WOOTTON

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 15 1909	---	McBride Creek is 1 mile north Survey not reported
Dec 4 1908		Established
Dec 4 1908		Bailey, Judge C.
Oct 7 1909		Karper, Percy B.
May 17 1910		Bailey, Judge C.
Apr 18 1913		Martin, Seward L.
Jul 10 1915		Berg, Albert V.
Jan 14 1922		Discontinued Mail to Morley

WOOTTON – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|---|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | WOOTTON / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-26x14mm | Sep 20 1910 Dec 22 1911 |
| 2 | WOOTTON. COLO. / M.O.B.
CI 11P 28.5/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Aug 28 1912 |



WORMINGTON

Wormington was a post office on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad about five miles southwest of Thatcher. The post office was named for Dexton F. Wormington, a homesteader in the area. There was a store at Wormington and a railroad siding, but no organized community.

Although the post office was named Wormington, the railroad siding was called Simpson. The siding is still there and is still called Simpson.

Wormington/Simpson is now the entrance to the Department of the Army, Pinon Canyon Maneuver Site. The Army facility covers a large area in this portion of Las Animas County. Since 2000 there has been a growing controversy over the Army's desire to expand the Maneuver Site by several hundred thousand acres.

From the site of Thatcher drive southwest on US Highway 350 to the intersection with Las Animas County Road 70.0, to the west. A sign at that spot marks the Simpson Siding. In 1998 there were no structures remaining at the site of Wormington.

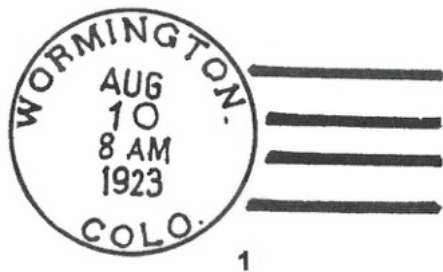
Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | | |
|-------------|-----|---|----------------------|
| Jan 14 1919 | --- | SE/4 Sec 19 T29S R60W 150 feet east of AT&SF tracks | |
| | | Applicant for postmaster - Charles C. Davidson | |
| Apr 19 1919 | | Established | |
| Apr 19 1919 | | Davidson, Charles C. | |
| Dec 7 1920 | | Millage, Daisy C. | |
| Jul 27 1921 | | Spangler, John C. | |
| Aug 11 1922 | | Selvage, Raleigh W. | |
| Apr 16 1923 | | Kelly, Harry | Possession |
| May 22 1923 | | Kelly, Harry | Appointed |
| Jul 2 1923 | | Smith, Laura M. | |
| Sep 24 1923 | | Davidson, Dora | Confirmed |
| Sep 28 1923 | --- | SW/4 Sec 19 T29S R60W 300 feet east of AT&SF tracks | Station name Simpson |
| Aug 23 1934 | | Ordered closed | |
| Sep 29 1934 | | Discontinued Mail to Thatcher | |

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | WORMINGTON, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-23x19mm | Aug 10 1923 |
|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|

WORMINGTON – Continued



YACHITA

Yachita was briefly a rural post office in eastern Las Animas County. I have no other information as to its history. Its location was near Yachita Creek, so the name may have come from the creek or vice versa.

From the Intersection of US Highway 160 and Colorado Highway 389 drive east on US 160 four miles to Las Animas County Road 147.0 and turn north. The location of Yachita was two miles north of US 160 and on the east side of road 147.0. I did find a cellar pit, numerous rusty cans and shards of pottery and glass.

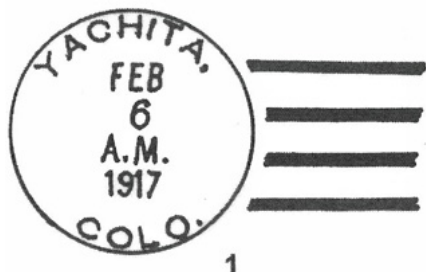
County Road 147.0 is the road that begins the journey north to the location of the proposed Kilroy Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 28 1916 --- SW/4 Sec 4 T33S R57W 2-1/2 miles west of Chaquaqua Creek
1 mile east of Yachita Creek
Applicant for postmaster - Verona E. Chilcote
- Oct 6 1916 Established
- Oct 6 1916 Chilcote, Verona E.
- Oct 11 1917 Chilcote, Eva L.
- Jul 31 1918 Discontinued Mail to Atwell

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 YACHITA, / COLO. Feb 6 1917 May 16 1918
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x20mm



YEISER

There is no question that Yeiser was a rural or ranch post office in Smith Canyon in northeastern Las Animas County. It appears that the Yeiser Post Office moved often. There is no evidence of a community having developed at any of the sites.

YEISER – Continued

The 1904 Geographical Site Location Report requested the name of Woodford. That would have reflected the name of the first postmaster. Once again a potential conflict with a similarly named office in California, Woodfords in Alpine County, meant another name was needed. There was another suggestion which is unclear on the document. Both suggestions were rejected in favor of Yeiser. Adam R. Yeiser, an early resident was the likely source of the post office name. The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports contain five locations for the Yeiser Post Office. When I plot those locations on a topographic map, some of them seem highly improbable, in particular the two locations contained in the 1907 report. Both of those locations plot on the sides of steep, narrow canyons with no nearby suitable site for habitation.

The 1917 and 1918 locations are marginally more acceptable. These two also plot at poor locations for habitation but within a half-mile or less there is some reasonably level ground that could have supported a ranch. The 1978 USGS Topographic Map for Las Animas County (Sheet 3) does show a grave and a building near the plotted 1918 site of Yeiser. Perhaps that location has some validity.

In May 1998 Jim Ozment and I, as the last stop on that tour of Las Animas County visited the original 1904 location of Yeiser. There is a small active ranch at that location.

Our visit to this site of Yeiser was the continuation of the trip from Villegreen and Officer via Las Animas County Roads 179.0 and 177.9. Road 177.9 intersects Road 193.5 within sight of the Las-Animas-Otero County line. The 1904 location was two and a half miles south of the intersection on Road 193.5. Since on that day we were traveling without a functioning spare tire, we did not deem it reasonable to continue south into the wilderness to check any of the other possible sites of Yeiser. We turned back, crossed into Otero County, went the short distance on Otero County Road E to Colorado Highway 109 and then on to La Junta.

Google Earth provides an opportunity to view these remote locations. With some difficulty I believe that I did identify and examine the correct locations. I could find no evidence of habitation at the 1917 site but did observe a single building at the 1918 site of Yeiser.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 2 1904	---	NW/4 Sec 23 T28S R54W Proposed names - Woodford, Tupa (?) - rejected, crossed out Proposed postmaster - Alva Woodford
Apr 16 1904		Established
Apr 16 1904		Woodford, Alva
Feb 4 1905		Anstine, Sylvester
Mar 14 1906		Hardy, Emles Jane
Feb 23 1907	---	Location does not fit standard Federal Land Survey A move 1/4 mile northwest of a previous location From the sketch map, moved From: NW/4 NW/4 Sec 6 T29S R53W To: SE/4 NE/4 Sec 36 T28S R54W
Mar 8 1907		Yeiser, Adam R.
Jan 14 1910		Goodrich, Charles
Dec 15 1913		Cook, Emma C.
Sep 20 1915		Cook, Jessie
Aug 5 1916		Walker, Mary F.
Jun 8 1917	---	Move 6 miles north NE/4 Sec 19, T29S R53W 1/2 mile east of Smith Canon Creek
Jun 20 1917		Autry, Addie
Dec 7 1918	---	Move 5 miles west to NE/4 Sec 20 T29S R54W 2 miles west of Pinon Creek Note: Order [SRM: closed?] 17 Dec 1918 / Disc Jan 1919 [SRM: ??]
Dec 17 1918		Goodrich, Maggie
Jul 31 1929		Discontinued Mail to Officer

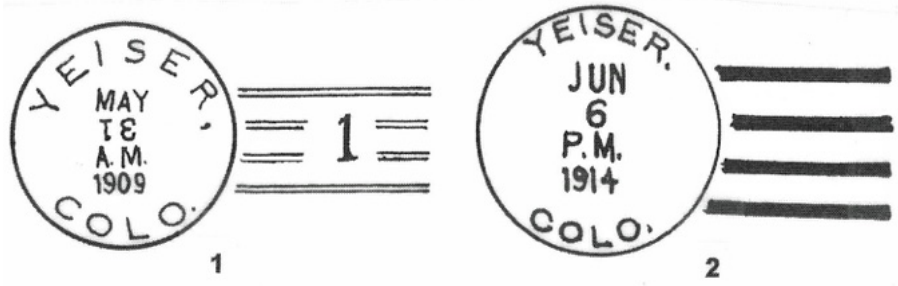
YEISER – Continued



Yeiser, Colorado – site overview
 Photograph by William H. Bauer May 6, 2001

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | YEISER, / COLO.
CI 10P 29.0 | Feb 25 1908 Oct 19 1909
Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm |
| 2 | YEISER. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Jun 6 1914 Nov 24 1916
4bars S-25x19mm |



YETTA

The early history of this place is unrecorded. By 1916 there was a small community on the Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railroad.

The source of the name Yetta is undetermined. One claim is that it was for the wife of the postmaster. However, the person who applied for the position and the first postmaster, were both women, so the name had to come from some other source.

YETTA – Continued

On September 22, 1919 Fred Schmidt filed a town plat for Yetta. There is no evidence that there was any significant development here.

In 1929 the name of the post office was changed to Tyrone. This is another instance where the reason for the name change is not recorded.

From the site of Wormington (Simpson Siding) drive three and four-tenths miles southwest on US Highway 50 to the intersection with Las Animas County Road 64.0. There is a ranch to the east of the highway. In 1998 there was a white painted, brick building and barely visible on the front was the lettering “U. S. POST OFFICE / TYRONE, COLO.”

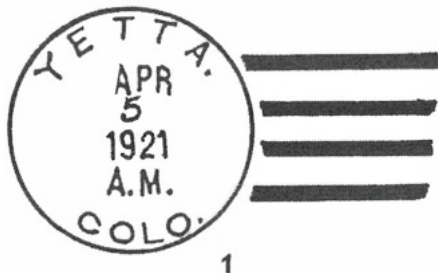
Across the road is another abandoned building that appears to have been a school.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan -- 1916	---	NE/4 Sec 11 T30S R61W 180 feet east of AT&SF tracks, Tyrone Station Name proposed as Tyrone - crossed out Applicant for postmaster - Clara G. Schmidt	
Aug 5 1916		Established	
Aug 5 1916		Peters, Caryolyn S.	Declined
Oct 25 1916		Schmidt, Clara G.	
Dec 15 1917		Stafford, George L.	
Feb 11 1919		Pendell, Earl H.	
Oct 25 1920	---	NW/4 Sec 11 T30S R61W 200 feet east of the AT&SF tracks Station name Tyrone	
Nov 6 1920		Cocharn, Orlie M.	
Jul 1 1921		Millage, Maude	
Jan 9 1923		Hogan, William V.	Acting
Jan 18 1923		Hogan, William V.	Appointed
May 21 1924		Vannest, Elvina	
Oct 7 1924		Swegart, Dora	Acting
Oct 10 1924		Swegart, Dora	Appointed
Aug 1 1929		Name changed to Tyrone	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 YETTA, / COLO. Apr 5 1921 Nov 5 1926
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



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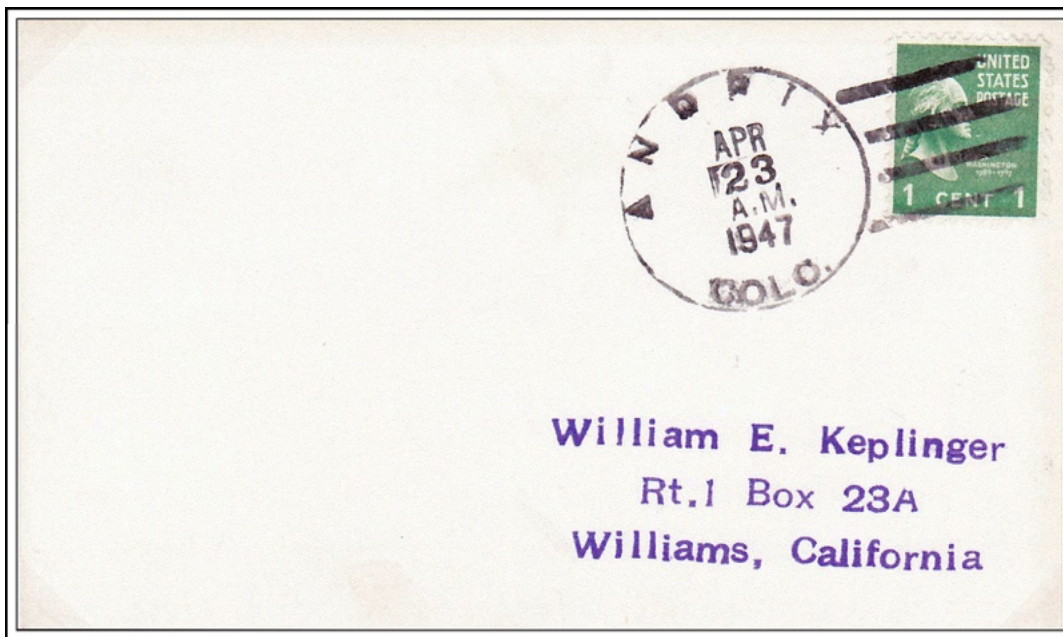
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These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.

A GALLERY OF LAS ANIMAS COUNTY COVERS



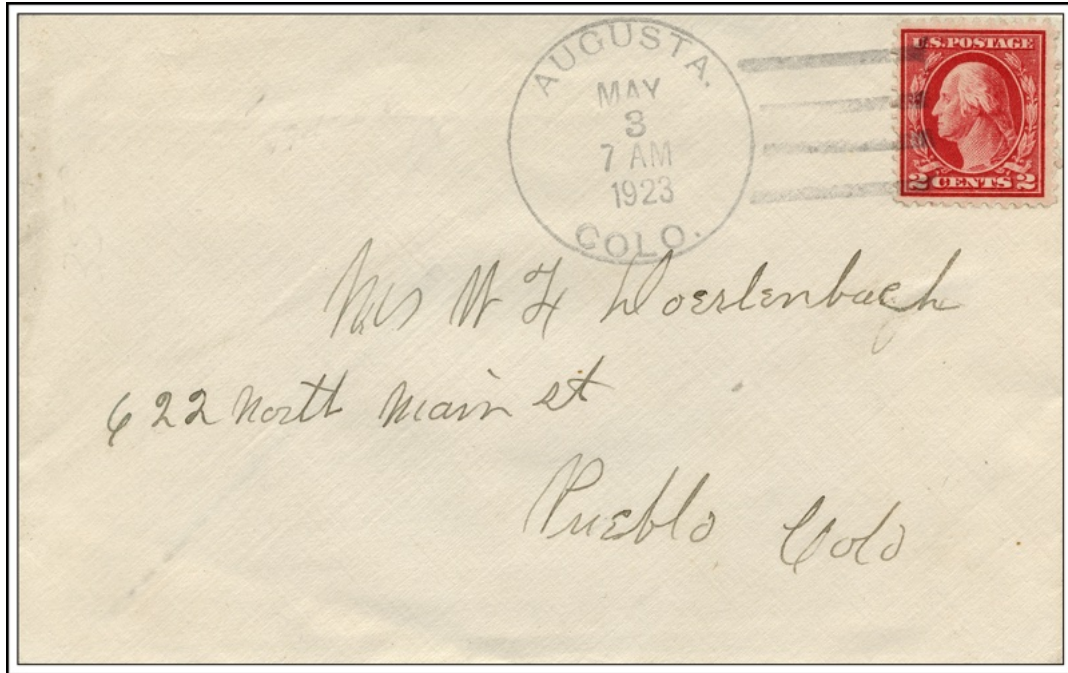
ANDRIX / COLO.

April 23, 1947



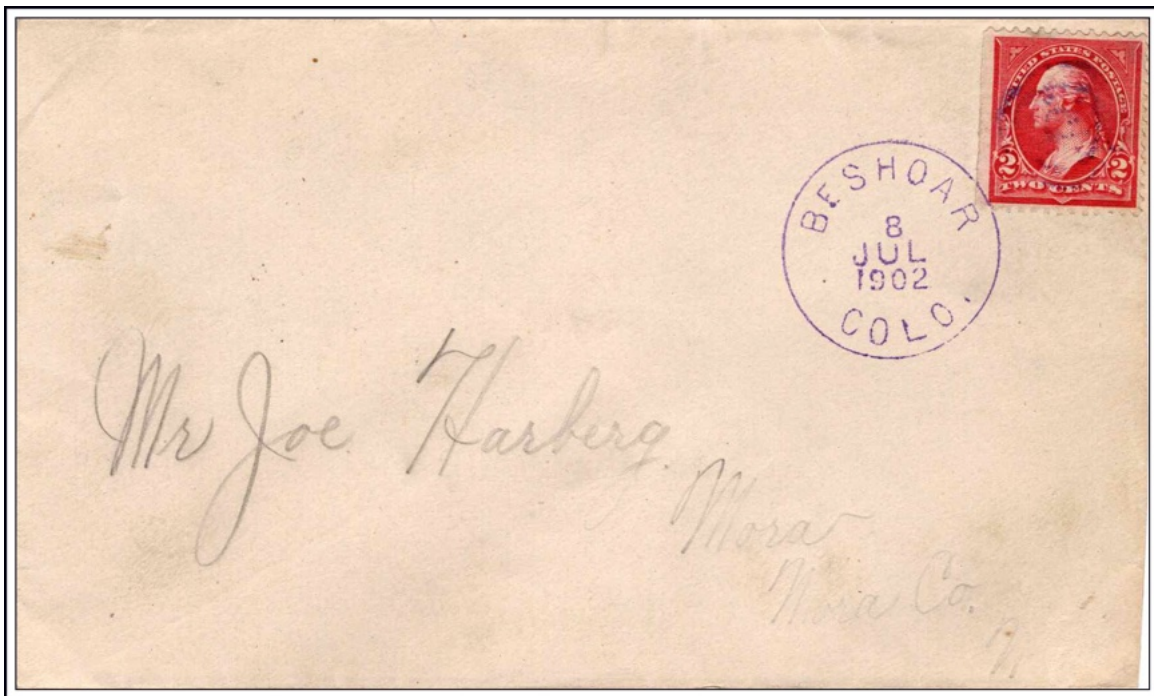
APISHAPA, / COLO.

August 10, 1908



AUGUSTA, / COLO.

May 3, 1923



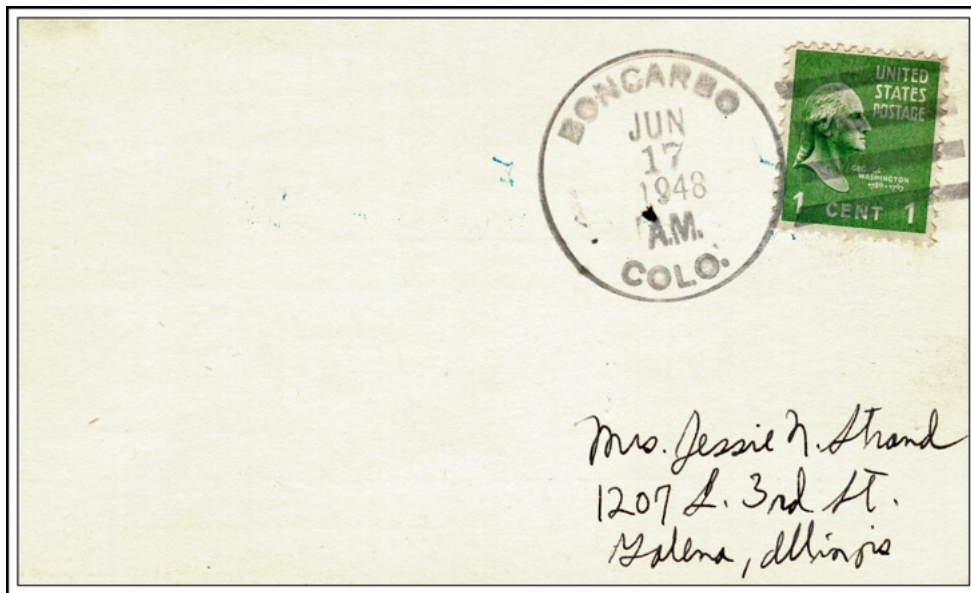
BESHOAR / COLO.

July 8, 1902



Bent Canon / Colo

March 22, 1881



BONCARBO / COLO.

June 17, 1948



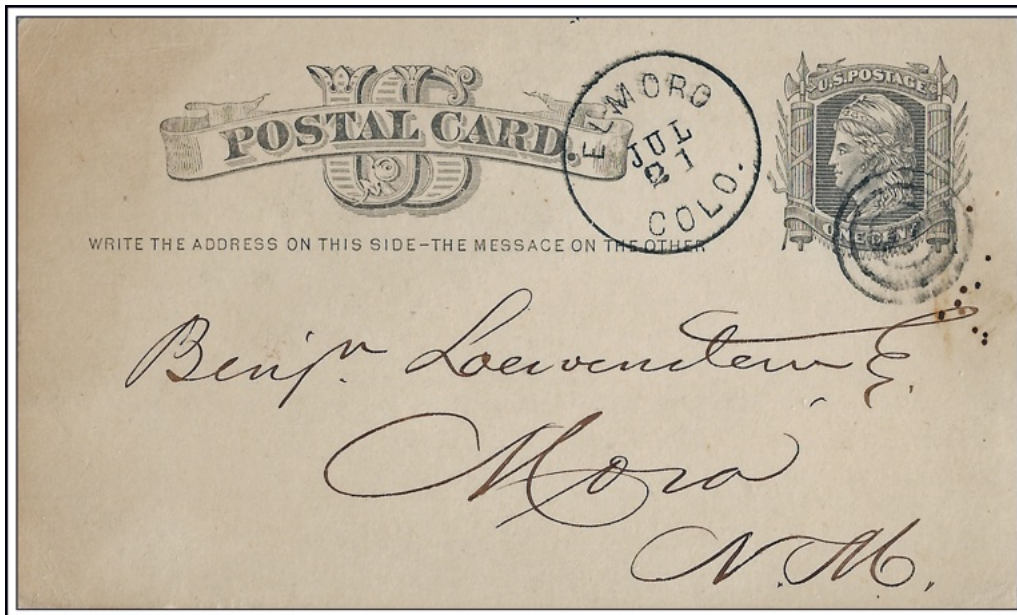
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October 4, 1907



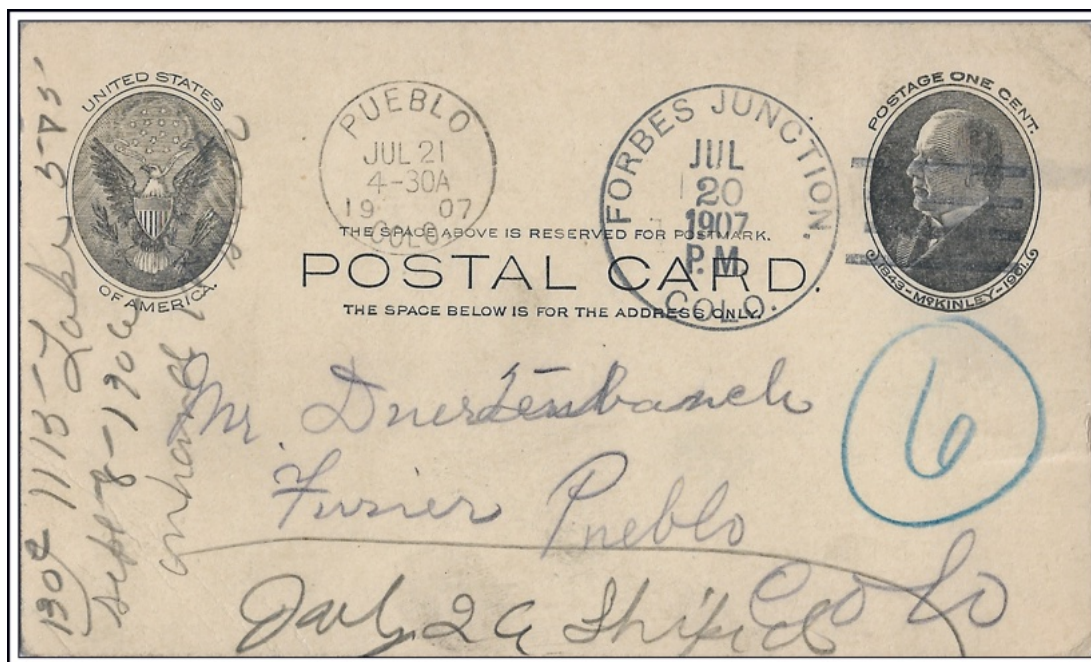
DEAN / COLO.

March 24, 1910



ELMORO / COLO.

July 21, (1877)



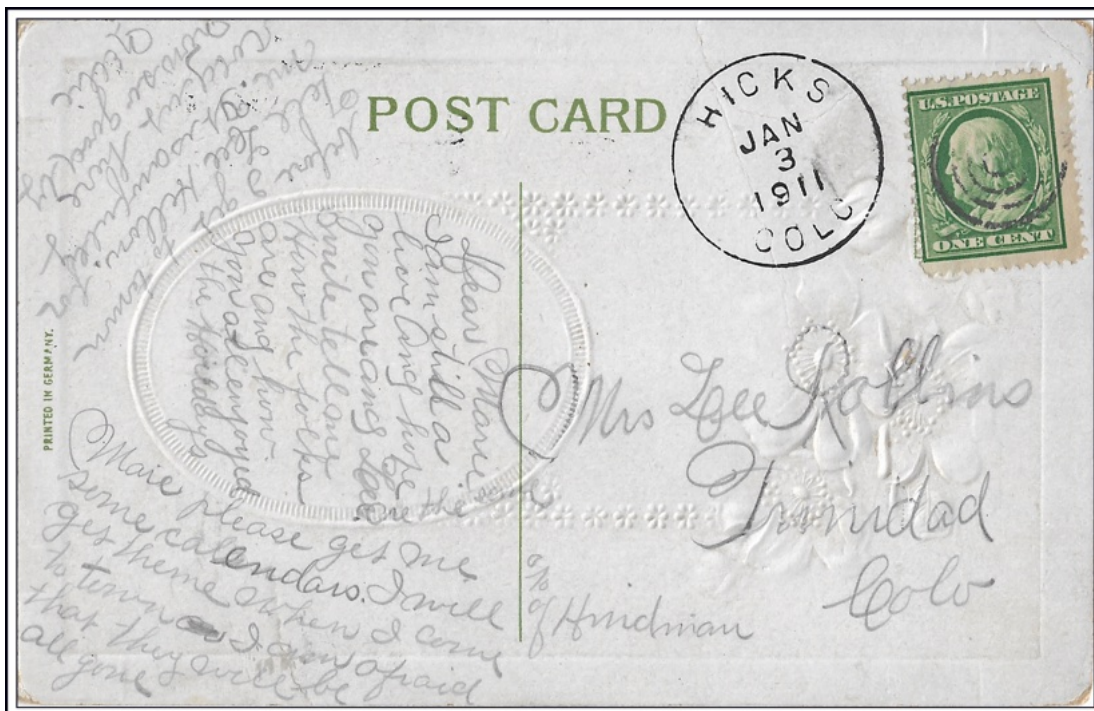
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July 20, 1907



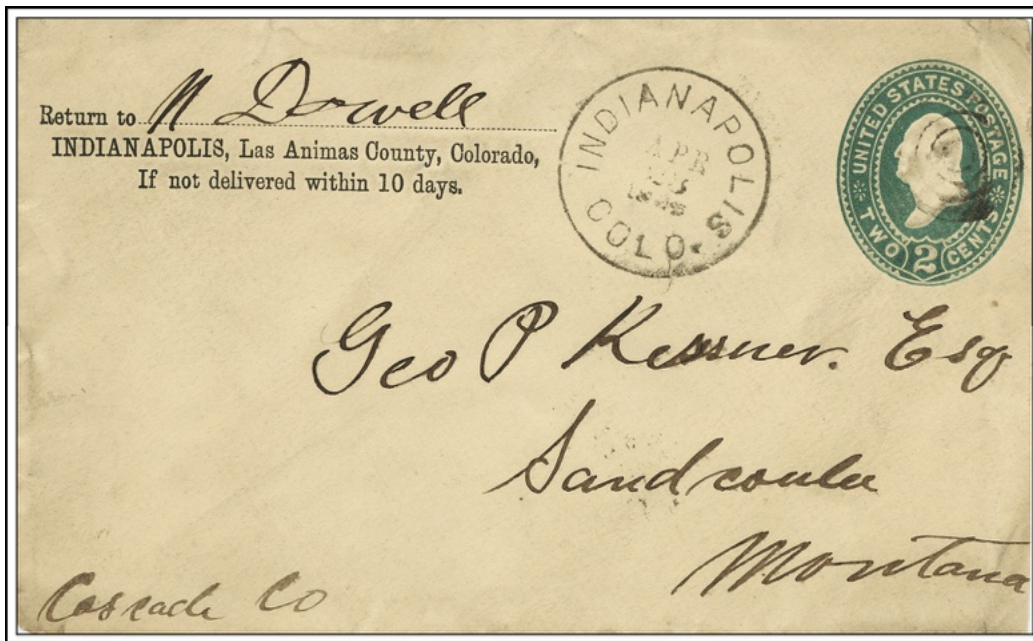
HASTINGS / COLO.

April 27, 1904



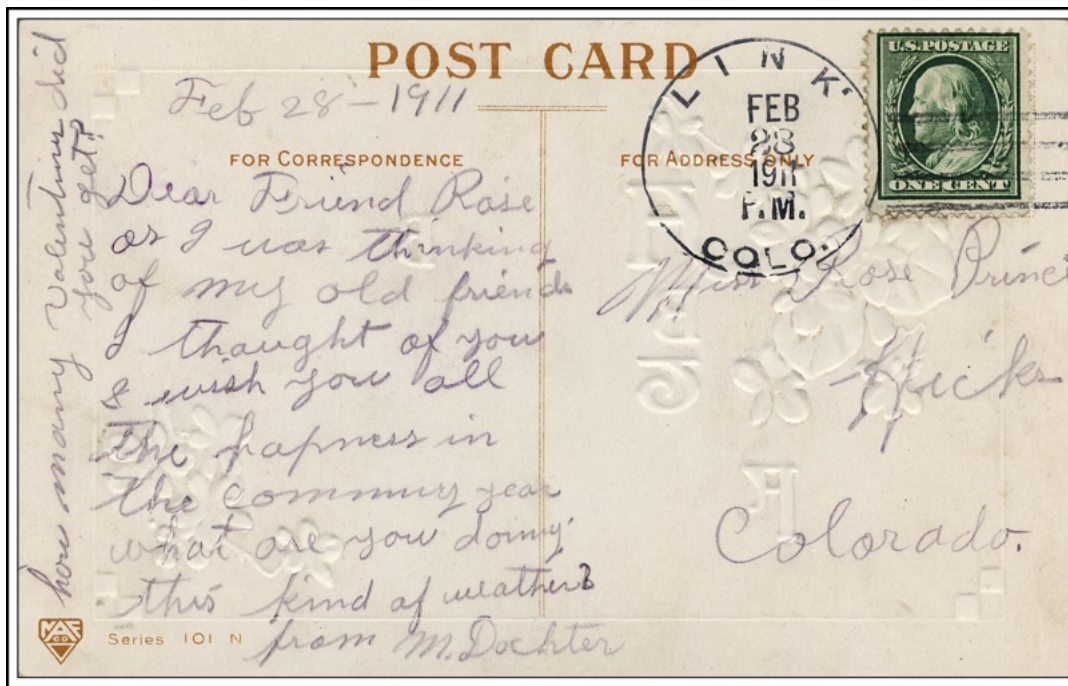
HICKS / COLO

January 3, 1911



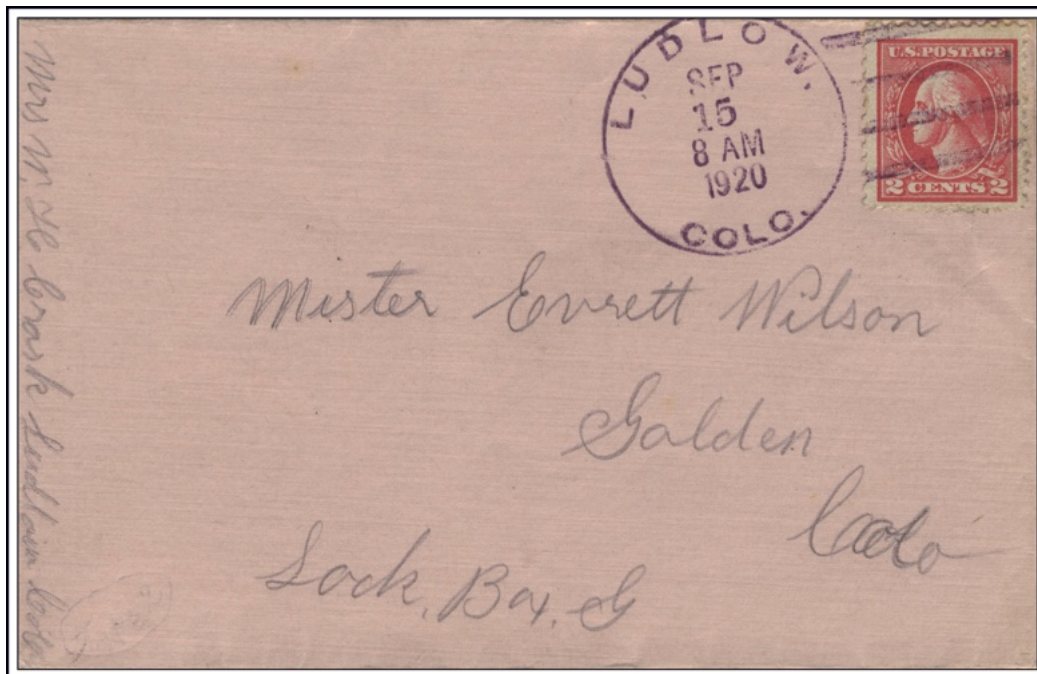
INDIANAPOLIS / COLO.

April 23, 1889



LINK / COLO.

February 23, 1911



LUDLOW, / COLO.

September 15, 1920



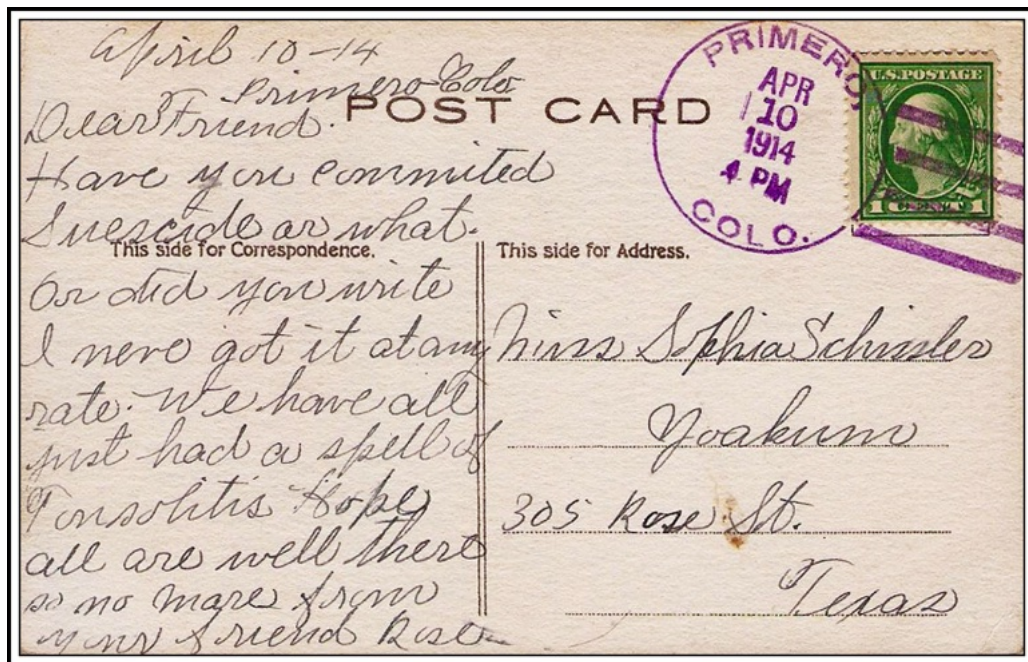
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May 5, 1910



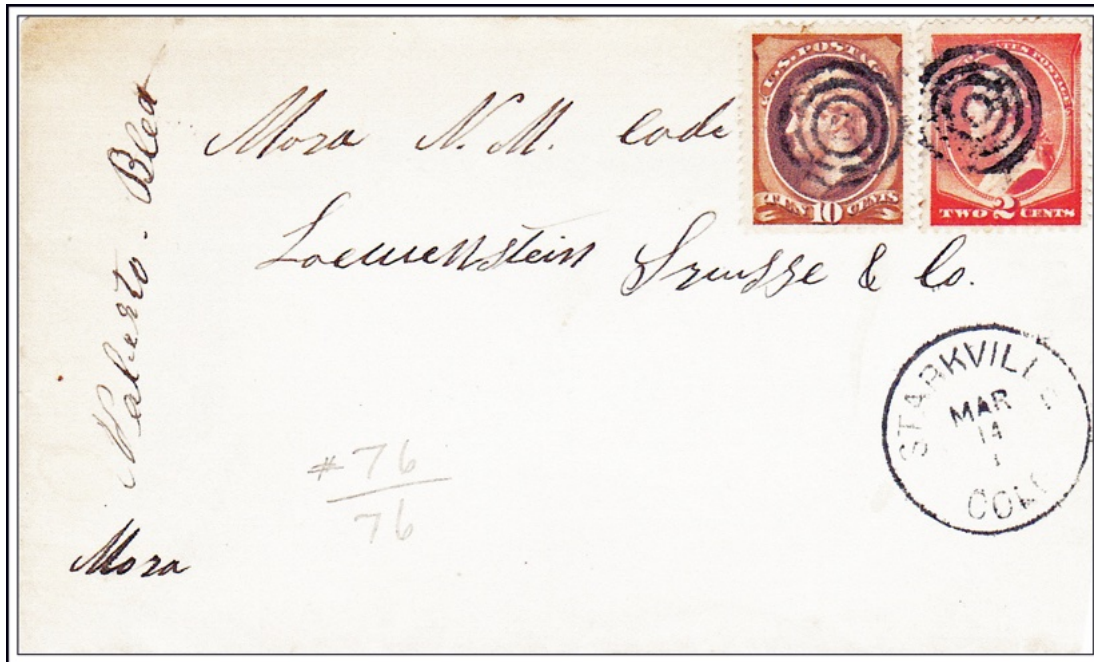
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May 27, 1896

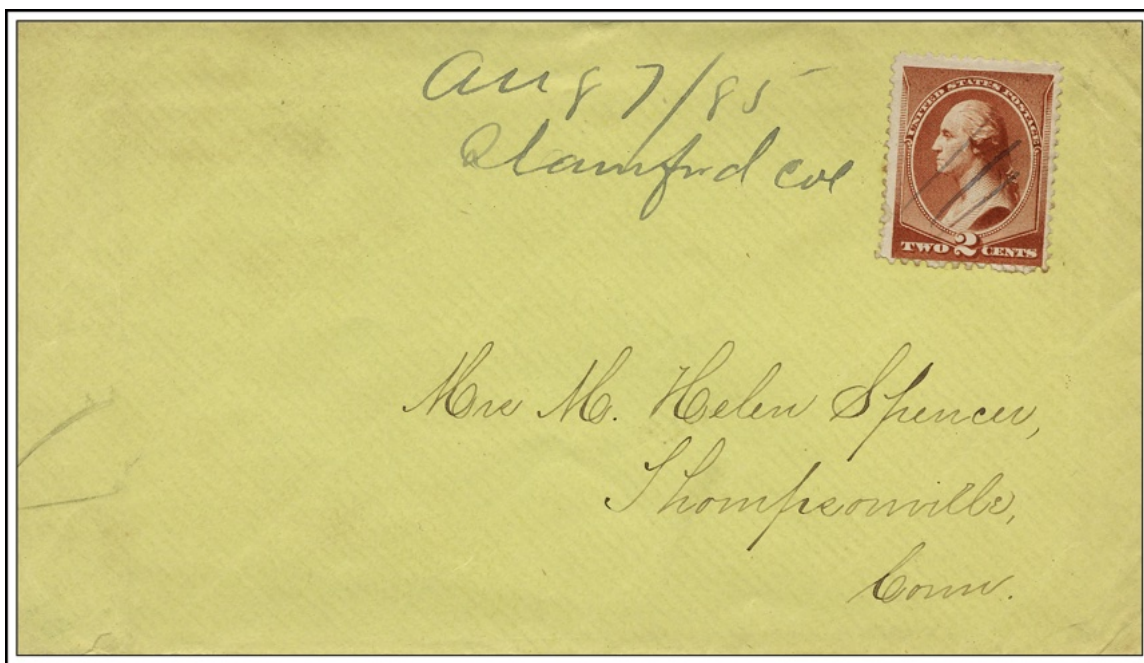


PRIMERO, / COLO.

April 10, 1914



STARKVILLE / COLO. March 14, 1885



Stamford Col August 7, 1885



STONEWALL, / COLO

October 2, 1882



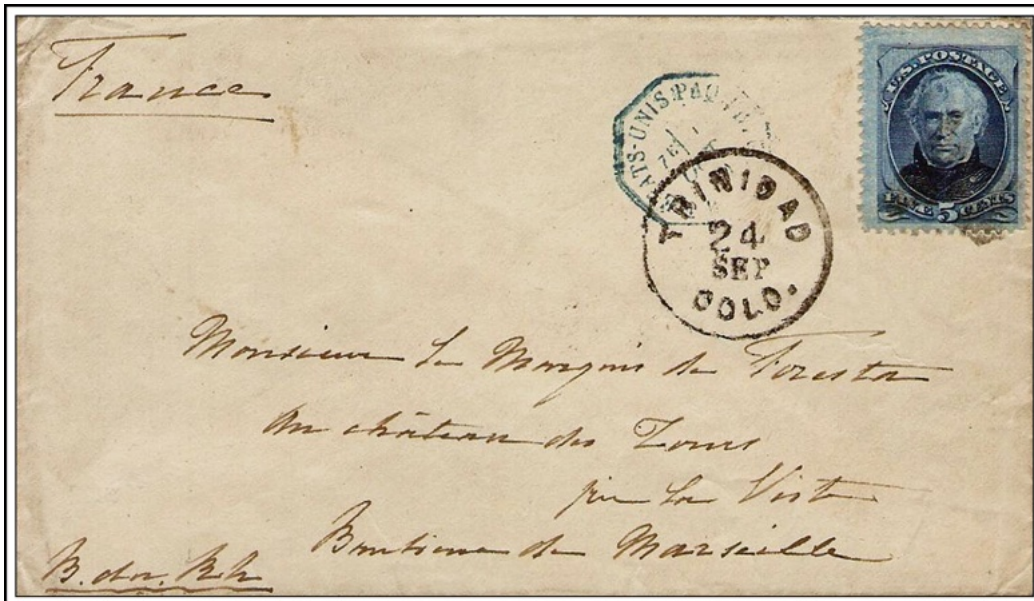
TABASCO, / COLO.

July 19, 1910



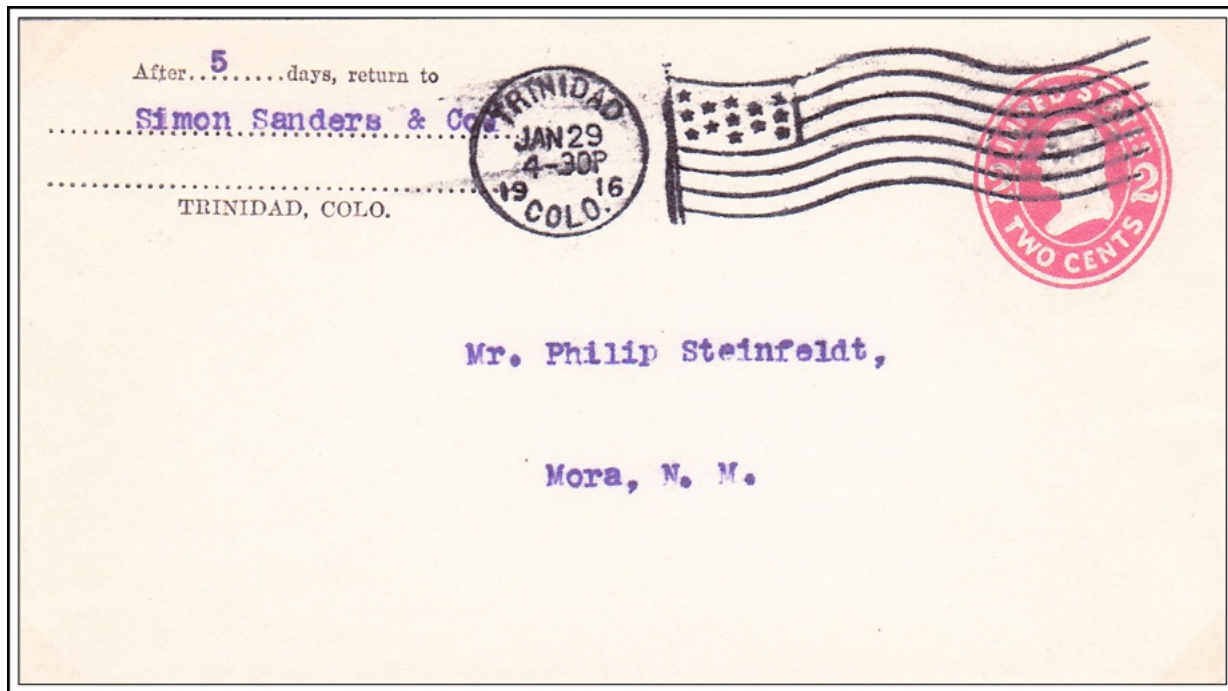
TORRES / COLO.

August 23, 1909



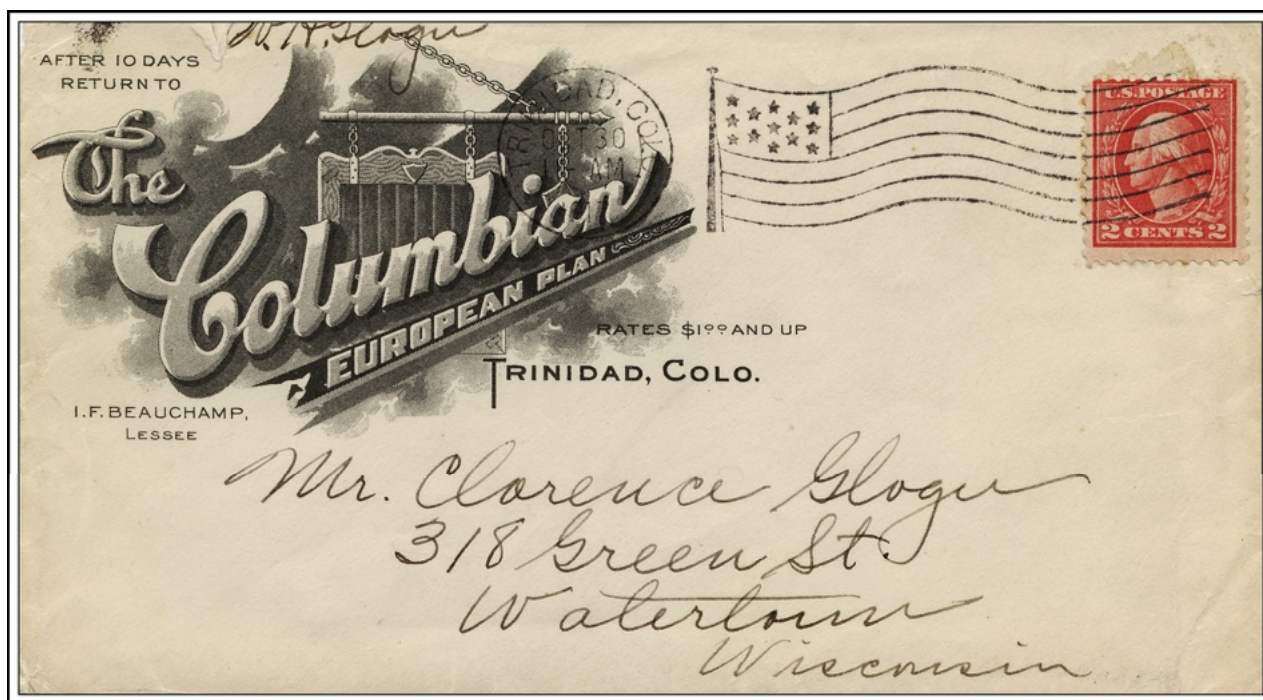
TRINIDAD / COLO.

September 24, (1880)



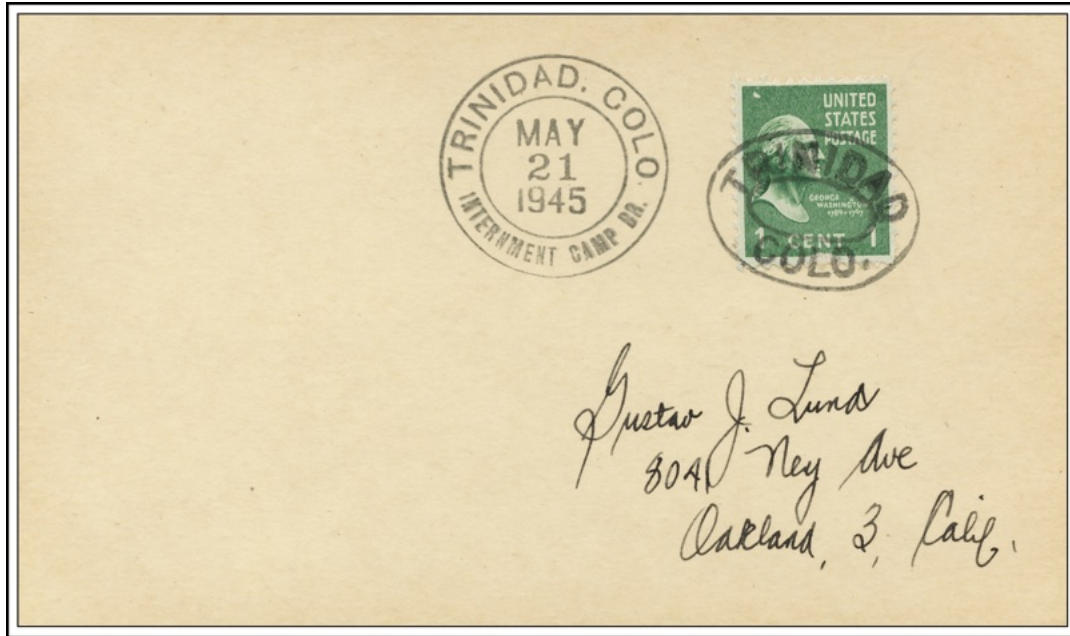
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January 29, 1916

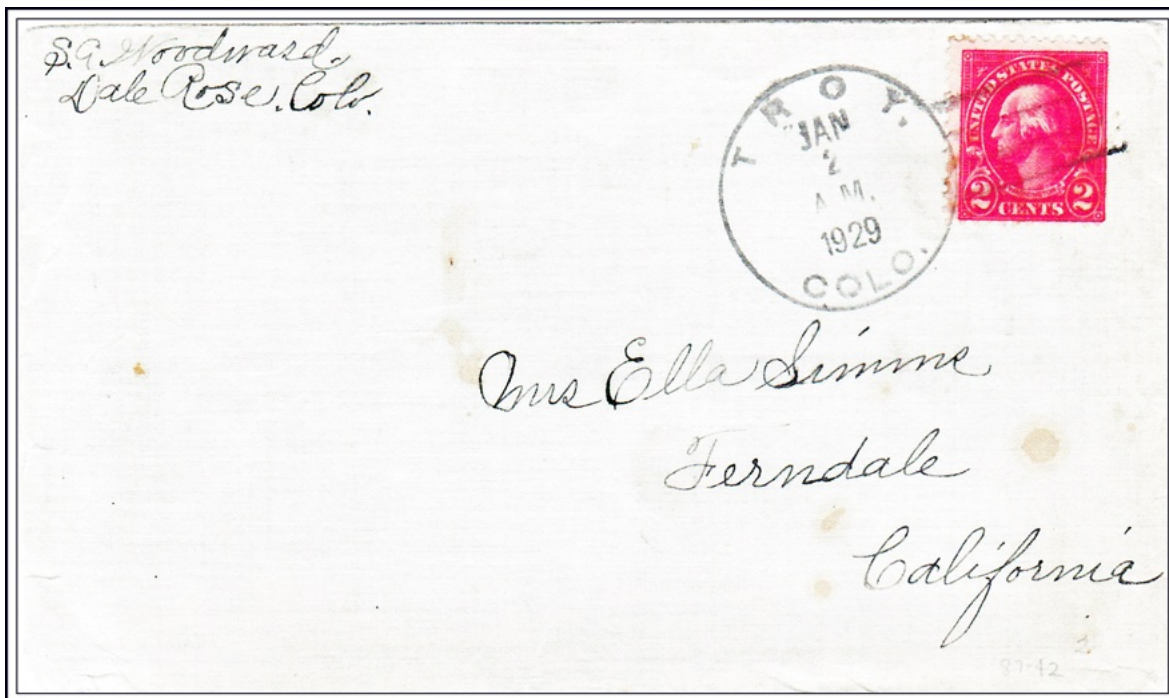


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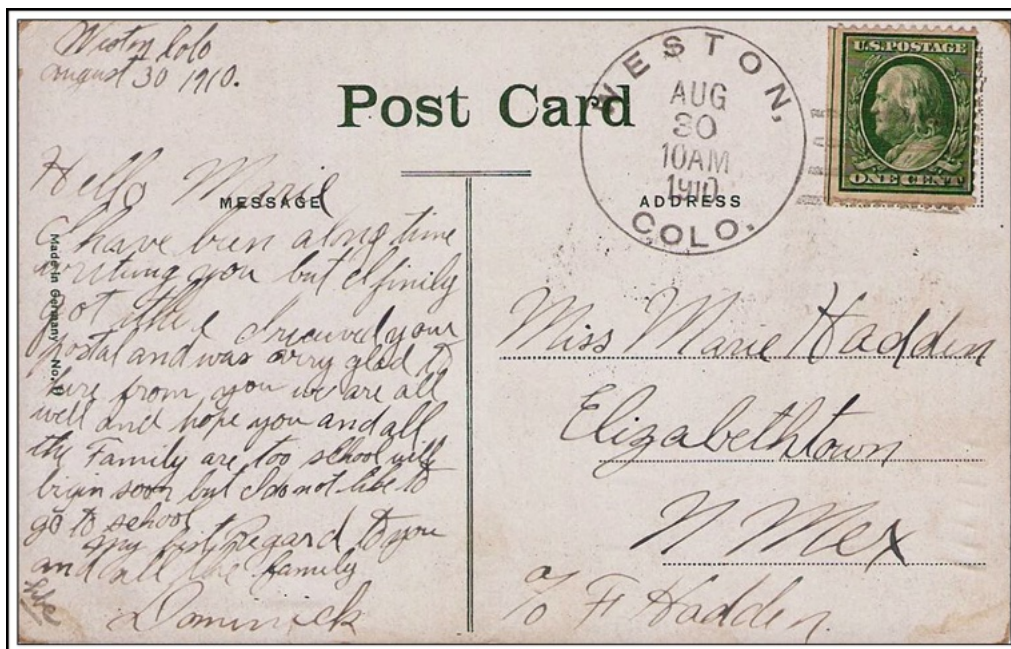


TROY, / COLO. January 2-, 1929



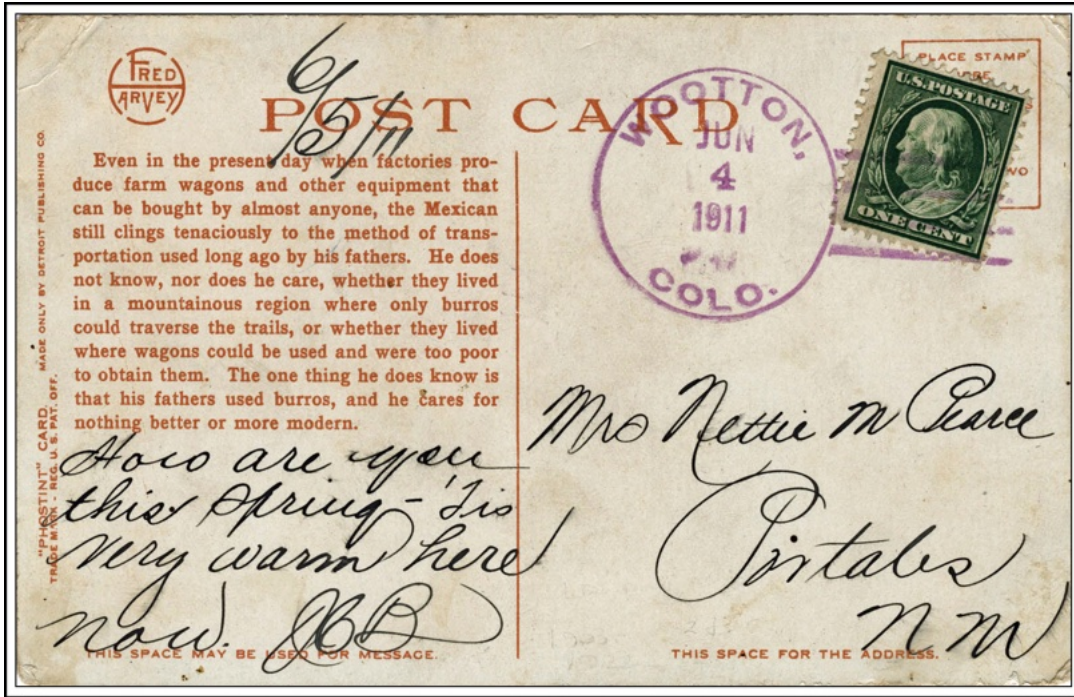
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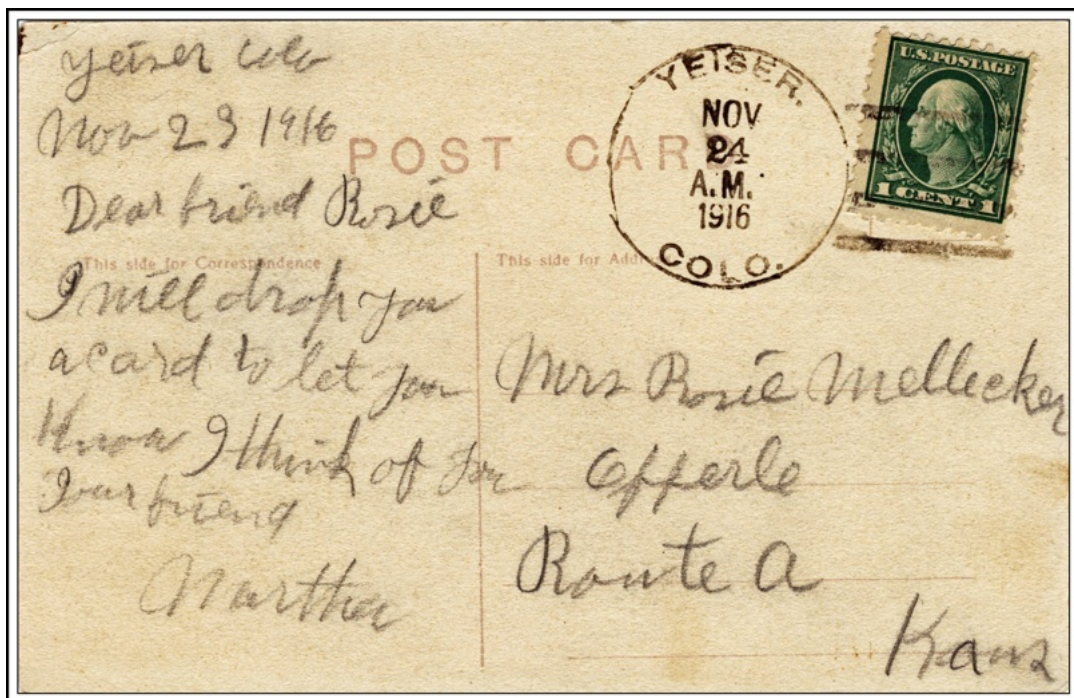
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August 20, 1910



WOOTTON, / COLO.

June 4, 1911



YEISER, / COLO.

November 24, 1916