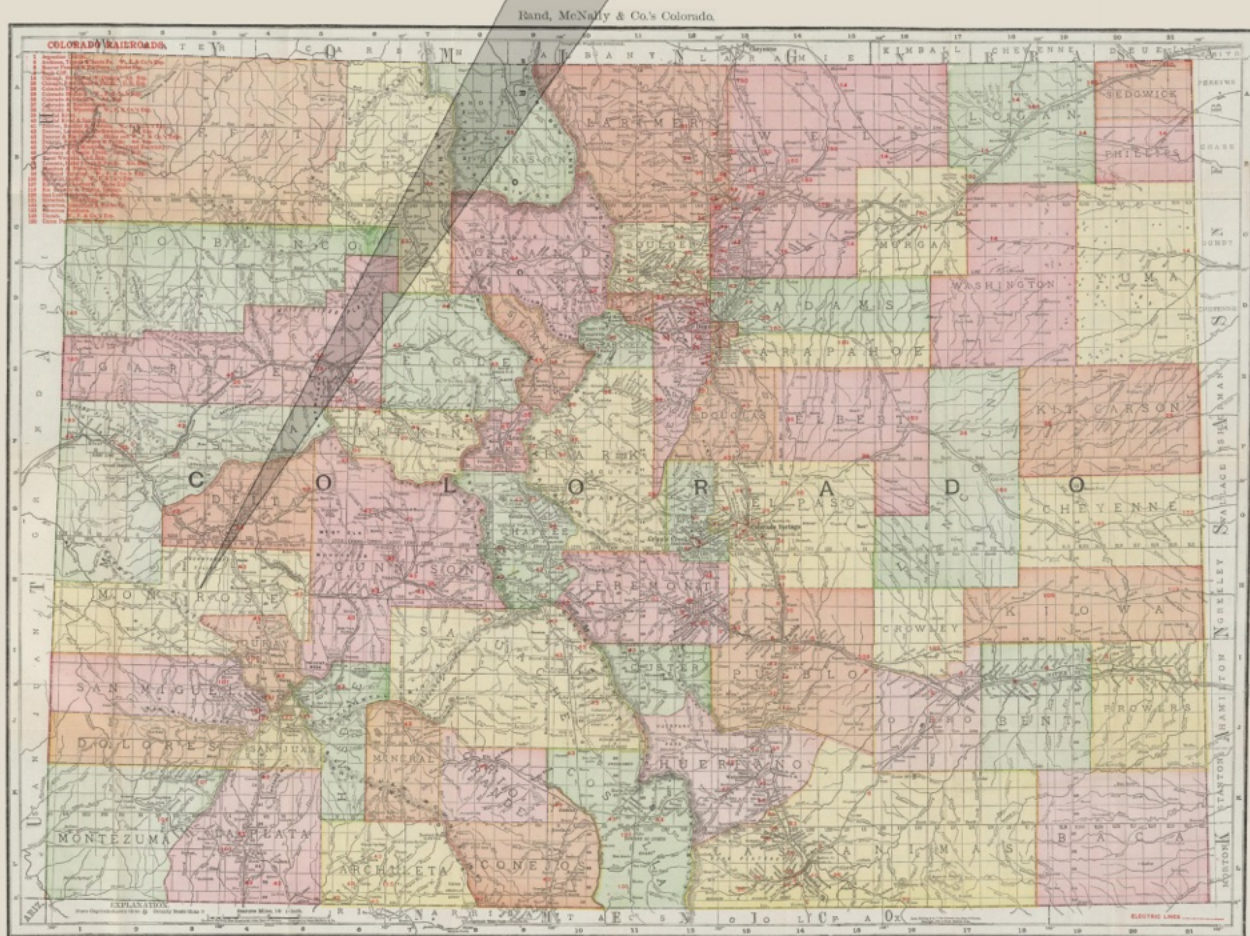


# Montrose County



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

*Established: February 11, 1883*

*County Seat: Montrose*



## **MONTROSE COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Montrose County is located on the western edge of Colorado, north of the San Juan Mountains. The area that is now Montrose County was originally a part of the large Lake County that included much of West-Central Colorado. A portion of southern Montrose County was included in San Juan County when that county was authorized on January 31, 1876. On March 9, 1877 that portion and the rest of what would become Montrose County became a part of the original Gunnison County. Finally, on February 11, 1883 The Colorado Legislature authorized Montrose County with its present day boundaries and with the town of Montrose as the county seat.

The county resembles a pair of offset horizontal rectangles. The maximum north-south dimension of thirty-five miles occurs in the central portion where the two rectangles overlap. On the east and west ends of the county thirty-two miles (eastern end) and thirty miles (western end) are the north-south dimensions. The maximum east-west dimension is eighty-seven miles.

Montrose County lacks the high elevations of most western slope counties. On the Uncompaghere Plateau there are elevations of around 9,500 feet and the northeastern corner of the county approaches 8,500 feet in altitude. The low point at 5,200 feet, is where the Uncompaghere River exits the county. With the exception of the Uncompaghere Valley there is very little level ground in Montrose County. Most of the county is highly dissected by numerous streams, most of which are intermittent in nature.

Four major rivers transect the county. On the west is the San Miguel River, which joins with the Dolores River before leaving the county. In the east the Uncompaghere River flows from the south, exiting into Delta County, where it eventually joins the Gunnison River which comes into Montrose County from Gunnison County. In addition to the rivers, Cedar Creek and Horsefly Creek are the most prominent secondary streams.

The most spectacular geographic feature of the county is the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. For many years this deep, narrow gorge was classed as a National Monument. It has recently been upgraded to National Park status. The canyons of the Dolores and San Miguel Rivers are also attractive scenic features. The Paradox Valley, although less spectacular, is a geological oddity (see the discussion for the town of Paradox).

Early travel through Montrose County largely followed the river valleys. In 1882 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built from Gunnison into Montrose County. At Cimarron it was forced to divert from the river and climb over Cerro Summit before descending to Montrose and from there following the Uncompaghere River northwest into Delta County. The Denver and Rio Grande also constructed a branch line from Montrose south to Ouray. Both of these rail lines are history.

US Highway 50 from Gunnison through Montrose and on to Grand Junction is the major road in the county. US Highway 550 runs south from Montrose through Ouray and on to Durango. Colorado Highways 90, 141 and 145 are the thoroughfares in western Montrose County. Highway 92 serves the northeastern corner of the county.

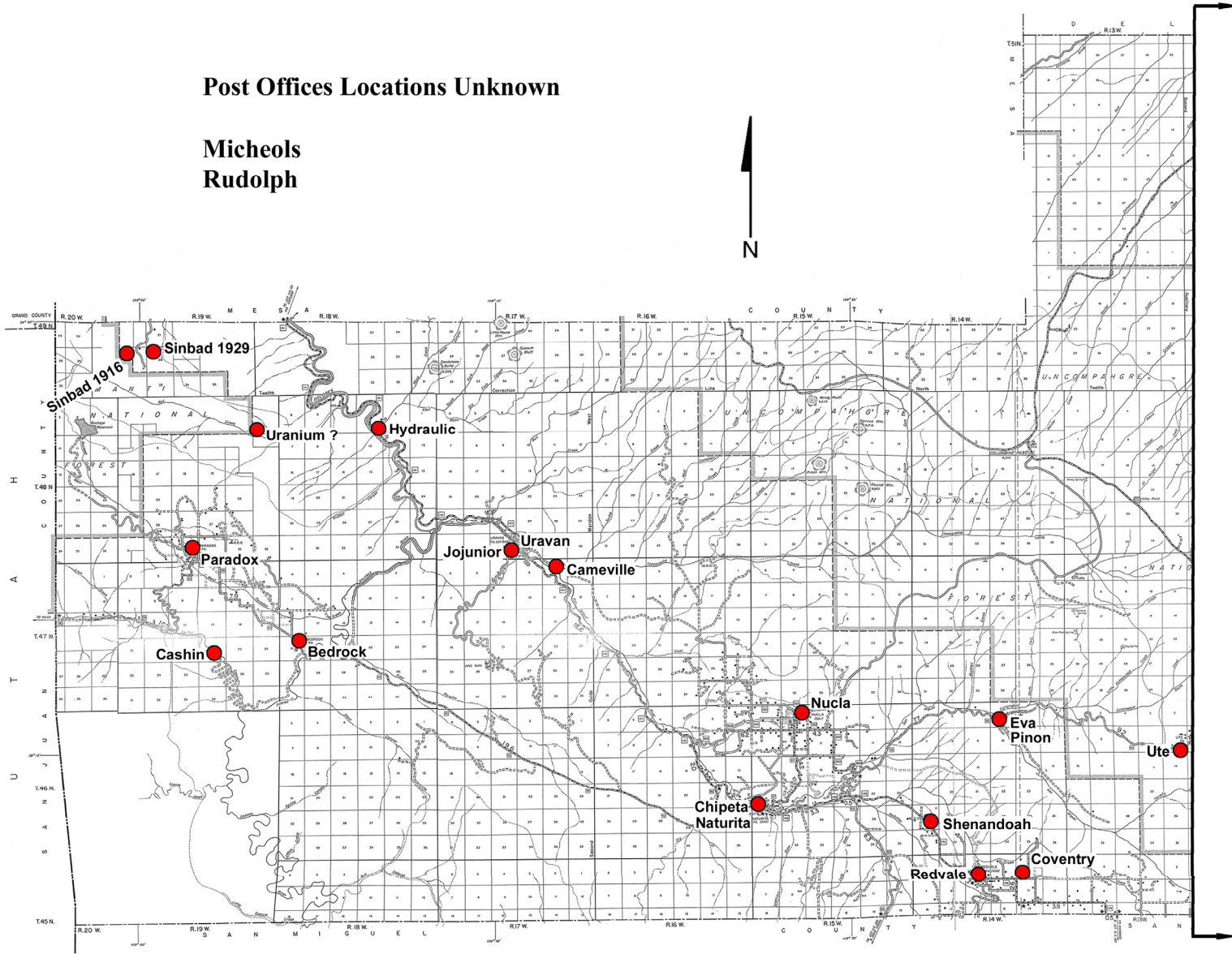
There is an extensive network of county roads but the Black Canyon and the Uncompaghere Plateau limit the number of through roads.

Most towns and post office locations in Montrose County are along the major highways and thus are easily accessible if you know where to look. A few, including Barnes, Cashin, Horsefly and River Portal are in more remote but still accessible locations.

Montrose is the major city in the county. Naturita, Nucla, Olathe and Paradox are also active communities. The other towns that still exist are today a few residences with perhaps a small business or two.

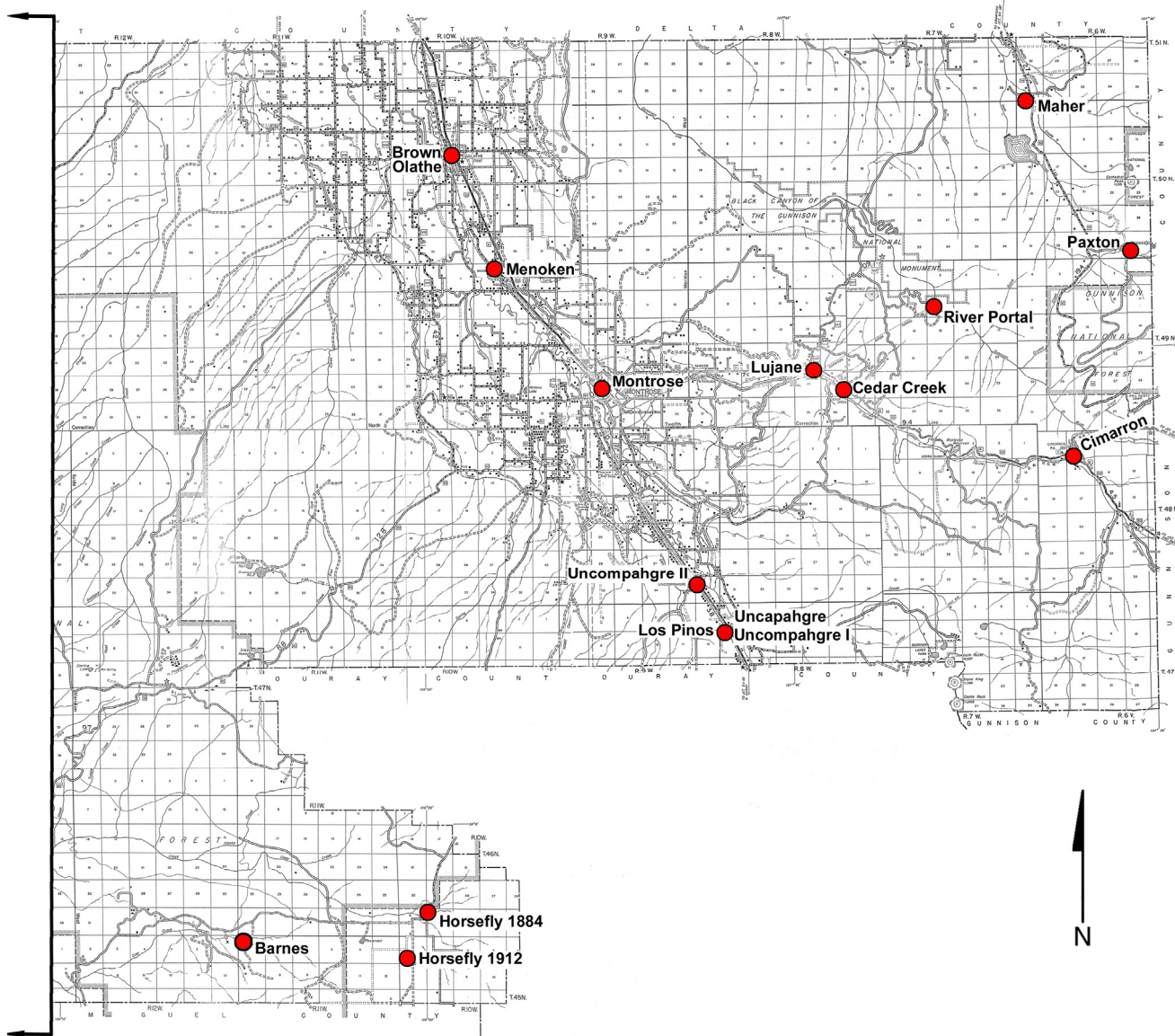
Post Offices Locations Unknown

Micheols  
Rudolph



Post Office Location Map – Western Montrose County





Post Office Location Map – Eastern Montrose County

Traditional precious metal mining has played almost no part in the economy of Montrose County. There was some copper mining in the western part of the county and some placer mining along the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers. And during the post World War II atomic energy boom the mining of uranium ores contributed to local economies.

Agriculture has been the most important, long-term contributor to the county's economy. Much of the county is given to ranching but there is significant farming along the Uncompaghe River and there are also fruit orchards in Montrose County. The forests of the highlands in Montrose County continue to be a source of timber for the lumber industry.

In recent years the moderate climate of the area around Montrose has attracted an influx of residents and with them has come some light industry, particularly those of a high-tech nature. In addition to the climate, the proximity to the San Juan Mountains and the opportunities for hunting and fishing have contributed to the county's growth.

An apology is necessary for many of the descriptions of travel to the post office sites in Montrose County. These places were visited in September 1994 on the first, serious exploration trip that Jim Ozment and I made into Western Colorado. At that time I had not developed the procedures I later followed to describe the mileage and roads we followed to the locations. Thus, I have approximated distances but I have taken road designations from the DeLorme *Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer* (1991).



**Paradox Valley and Dolores River**

Photograph by Mark Iverson

From [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Paradox\\_Valley\\_and\\_Dolores\\_River.jpg](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Paradox_Valley_and_Dolores_River.jpg)

## **BARNES**

I have found no description of Barnes and thus have no positive idea as to what its purpose may have been. I can speculate that based on its location in the Uncompaghre National Forest that it was a short-lived lumber camp, much like its neighbor, Horsefly. If this was a lumber camp, perhaps it was named for one of the principals behind the lumber operation.

To reach this site, please refer to the directions given to the site of Horsefly. If you come from the direction of Montrose, then Barnes was approximately seven miles west of Dave Wood Road and on the south side of Sanborn Park Road. This would be where the road turns from a southwesterly direction to due west for a short distance before angling slightly to the northwest.

I have not been to that location but it is doubtful that there is any visible evidence of Barnes.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Sep 5 1901</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 6 T45N R11W Six miles east of the San Miguel River On the south side of Clay Creek Proposed postmaster - John Johnson</b>
<b>Nov 15 1901</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Nov 15 1901</b>		<b>Johnson, John</b>
<b>Mar 30 1903</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Apr 15 1903</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Placerville</b>

### **Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BARNES**

## **BEDROCK**

Bedrock was a small community on the southern edge of the Paradox Valley, a short distance north of the Dolores River. The Paradox Valley does support some agriculture but it is largely open range for cattle.

There is no evidence that Bedrock was more than the store and a few cabins. The Bedrock Store has achieved some degree of historic fame and it continues to be in operation in the twenty-first century. It is a classic general store from the past.

For a few years, from 1899 to about 1905, Bedrock was a supply point for the copper mines at Cashin, three miles to the west on La Sal Creek.

Wilson Rockwell, writing in *Uncompaghre Country* claims that, "Prior to 1908 the Cashin Post Office was moved to ... Bedrock...across the road from the general store. ... The post office continued to be called Cashin ... until July 1, 1912, when it was transferred to the [Bedrock] store building."

There is no evidence to support the continued operation of the Cashin Post Office after 1905. The Bedrock Post Office was closed in 1903 but did reopen in 1911.

The name selected for this post office was consistent with its location on a shelf of sandstone at the foot of the sandstone cliffs that form the sides of the Paradox Valley.

Drive west from Naturita on Colorado Highway 141 to the intersection with Colorado Highway 90. Highway 90 will take you over the ridge from the San Miguel River and into the south end of the Paradox Valley. It is then a nearly straight line up the valley to the Dolores River and Bedrock.

Continuing on Highway 90 will take you towards Paradox and over the valley side to La Sal Creek and the road to Cashin. The road continues on into Utah.

Latitude = 38:18:54 North Longitude = 108:53:25 West **BEDROCK**



## BEDROCK – Continued



The store at Bedrock, Colorado, a former site of the Bedrock Post Office

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 22, 2003

## Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 9 1883	---	Unsurveyed On west bank of Dolores River 4 miles north of La Sal Creek Proposed postmaster - Alva W. Galloway	
Nov 8 1883		Established	
Nov 8 1883		Galloway, Alva W.	
Sep 5 1885	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 21 T47N R18W On west side of Dolores River 1/2 mile south of Paradox Creek	
Sep 9 1889		Cooper, Lucy E.	
May 27 1890		Galloway, John R.	
Feb 3 1899		Craig, Luellen W.	
Mar 6 1899	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 19 T47N R18W 1 mile northwesterly from the Dolores River 2 miles south of Paradox Creek	
Dec 23 1901		Galloway, James P.	
Apr 10 1903		Nafua, John	
Aug 17 1903		Ordered closed	
Sep 15 1903		Discontinued Papers to Paradox	
Oct 12 1911		Re-established	
Oct 12 1911		Rader, Arder R.	
Apr 27 1914	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 19 T47N R18W 1/4 mile west of the Dolores River 1/2 mile south of Paradox Creek	
Jul 23 1915		Hartman, Bruce A.	
Sep 7 1920		Kling, Bert	
Dec 2 1921		Sawyer, Charles H.	
Dec 4 1925		Shideler, Mrs. Nellie E.	Acting
Mar 27 1926		Shideler, Mrs. Nellie E.	Appointed



**THE COLORADO POSTAL ENCYCLOPEDIA  
MONTROSE COUNTY**

**BEDROCK – Continued**

Apr 10 1926	Shideler, Will W.	Confirmed
Apr 26 1926	Shideler, Will W.	Commissioned
May 10 1926	Shideler, Will W.	Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 19 T47N R18W 1/4 mile east to the Dolores River 5 miles northeast to the San Miguel River	
Apr 30 1956	Bell, Mrs. Anna B.	Assumed charge
May 18 1956	Bell, Mrs. Anna B.	Acting
Oct 5 1956	Bell, Mrs. Anna B.	Appointed
Oct 11 1957	Stuart, Mrs. Mary A.	Assumed charge
Oct 15 1957	Stuart, Mrs. Mary A.	Acting
Feb 28 1958	Stuart, Mrs. Mary A.	Confirmed
Mar 11 1958	Stuart, Mrs. Mary A.	Appointed
Nov 9 1962	Wetherell, Otis E.	Assumed charge
Nov 13 1962	Wetherell, Otis E.	Confirmed

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

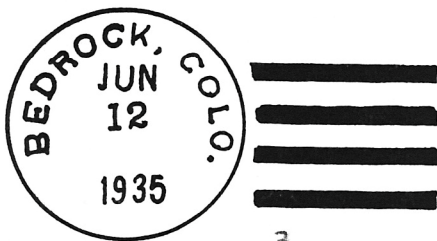
1	Bedrock Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 19 1885 Jun 30 1893
2	BEDROCK, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 5 1912
3	BEDROCK, COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars P-24x19mm	Jun 12 1935 Jan 14 1943
4	BEDROCK / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 8 1943 Sep 21 1960
5	BEDROCK / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 10 1953 Dec 7 1955
6	BEDROCK, CO / 81411 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 7 1967 May 29 1990
7	BEDROCK CO / 81411 CI 11P 34.0/26.0	4bars S-12x24mm	Jan 31 2000 May 23 2003
8	BEDROCK CO / USPS CI 11P 30.0/22.0	Hstp No killer	May 23 2003

*Bedrock Colo Oct-1912*

1



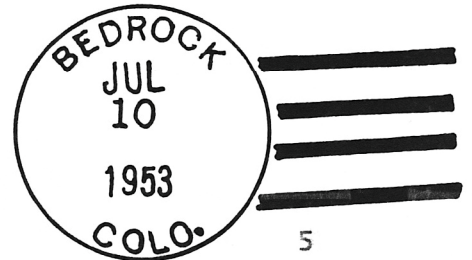
2



3

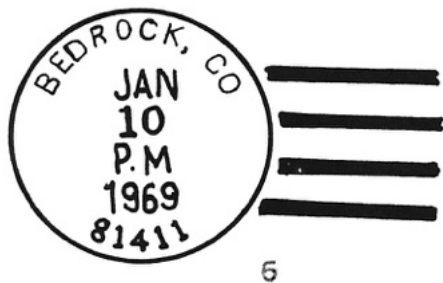


4



5

BEDROCK – Continued



**BEDROCK STORE STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 2 1995      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1      Bedrock, Co. 81411 // Bedrock Store Station      Sep 2 1995  
IR 72.0x38.0      Pict Scene - The Bedrock Store



**120th ANNIVERSARY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 8 2003      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1      BEDROCK CO / 81411 :: 120th Anniversary Station      Nov 8 2003  
IR 72.0x33.0      Pict Scene - Building and flag; Text (in script) - 120th /  
Anniversary / Station / Celebration / 1883-2003



**BROWN**

This community began with the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad construction crews. A switch and a section house were constructed and the place was given the name of Colorow after a Ute Indian chief that had a rather unpleasant reputation.

In 1883 a post office was acquired with Harlan H. Brown as the postmaster. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report suggested the name Harlan but it was altered to Brown. Obviously both choices were connected to postmaster Harlan Brown. The first location of the post office was in the railroad section house.

In late 1891 the post office was briefly “moved” about five miles southeast to the community of Menoken. It is not clear if that move actually took place, because within a few months it was restored to Brown.

In 1896 the name of the post office and the town was changed to Olathe.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

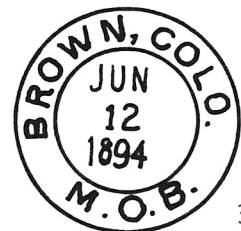
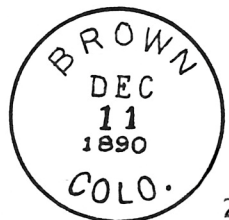
- Mar 19 1883 --- Not Reported On the east side of the Uncompahgre River  
Montrose 12 miles southeasterly Delta 12 miles northwesterly  
Proposed postmaster - Harlan H. Brown
- Apr 2 1883 Established
- Apr 2 1883 Brown, Harlan H.
- Dec 28 1883 Magann, John
- Jan 8 1885 Mears, Mrs. Lizzie S.
- Apr 16 1888 Roberts, Samuel H.
- May 9 1889 De Silva, Katie
- Oct 1 1891 Moved to Menoken Name changed to Menoken
- Jun 2 1892 Re-established
- Jun 2 1892 Change of name rescinded
- Jul 7 1892 Hersum, Mrs. Katie
- Jun 4 1896 Name changed to Olathe

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1.1 Brown Colo. MS Oct 19 1884 Jul 12 1886
- 1.2 Brown MS Mscp Pen cancel Apr 3 1891
- 2 BROWN / COLO. CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring May 6 1888 Jun 29 1896
- 3 BROWN, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0 Hstp Used on a U. S. Postal Note Jun 12 1894

*Brown Colo*  
*7.12.88*  
1.1

*Brown* *4/3/91*  
1.2



**CAMEVILLE**

Cameville was a small settlement where Tabeguache Creek joins the San Miguel. I have found no report as to the purpose for this settlement. It is possible that it was another camp established to exploit some placer gold deposits that did not prove extensive. Cameville did survive for several years most likely as a way station on the road along the river and into what is now western Montrose County.

One report claims that the settlement was named for the Hon. Virgil M. Came who for many years was connected with the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad and later with the Union Pacific. However, the first postmaster was Edward A. Came, therefore it is much more likely that the camp took his name. When it was filed the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report proposed the simple name of Came. The Post Office Department added "ville" to the suggested name.

The easiest way to locate the site of Cameville is to drive southeast from the site of Uravan. From Uravan, Colorado Highway 141 is on the north side of the San Miguel River. About two miles from Uravan the highway crosses to the south side of the river. Tabeguache Creek joins the San Miguel River at that point; thus Cameville was in the vicinity of the bridge. There is no visible evidence of a settlement. That is not surprising given the narrow valley, the low ground and the river's habit of frequent flooding, which would have removed debris from an early settlement.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 24 1882	--	Unsurveyed land On the river two miles southwesterly of Tabeguache Creek A map at the front of the Montrose County document file shows Cameville at the mouth of Tabeguache Creek, and the San Miguel River Proposed postmaster - Edward A. Came
Nov 7 1882		Established
Nov 7 1882		Came, Edward A.
Dec 12 1882		Forrestall, George L.
Dec 18 1890		Davis, George G.
Aug 20 1890		Discontinued Papers to Naturita

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	CAMEVILLE / G.L.FORRISTALL,P.M. / COLORADO	Sep 4 1883
	CI 11P 29.0/21.0	Hstp Fancy, Outline star in double circle
2	CAMEVILLE / COLORADO	Mar 25 1884 Feb 3 1888
	CI 11P 29.0/20.0	Hstp Fancy, Outline star in 20mm double circle [Type 1 with the postmaster's name removed]



1



2

**CASHIN**

The Cashin Mine and post office were located on La Sal Creek about three miles west of Bedrock. The Cashin Mine was a copper mine, producing copper carbonate ore (azurite). The history of the discovery and early ownership of the property is subject to question. Most reports attribute the discovery of the ore to Tom Swain who sold the property to a man named Cashin who then began development and hence the name of the mine. Other reports claim that at the time of the discovery Mr. Cashin who had bought it from James Huff owned the property. In any event Mr. Cashin sold the mine to a Michigan syndicate that further developed the property. Mining at Cashin spanned the period from 1898 to 1905.



**CASHIN – Continued**

It is possible to visit the site of the Cashin Mine. From Bedrock continue west on Colorado Highway 90. The road climbs to the crest of Nyswanger Mesa, which forms the southern side of the Paradox Valley. The road crosses the mesa and descends towards La Sal Creek. Partway down the grade Montrose County Road X 4, on the left, descends steeply to the creek. This is the road that will take you to Cashin. However, I do not recommend this road for other than four-wheel drive vehicles as much of it is along the creek and at times in the creek bed. It tends to be quite sandy. It would also not be a good idea to be on this road if there are storms in the area. It is three and a half miles from Highway 90 to Cashin. A half-mile before reaching Cashin you will pass the Cliffdweller Mine on the east side of the valley.

In 2003 there were still a few abandoned buildings at Cashin. One is at the edge of the road. Another is somewhat hidden in the brush along La Sal Creek. And a third, a stone building, is on the east side of the valley. There is scattered evidence of other collapsed structures. The mine was on the cliffs that form the west side of the valley.

Many years ago Jack Willard wrote two articles about Cashin. One gave the history of the mine and the other told the story of an incident connected to the mine. Both those articles are reproduced as addenda to this chapter of *The Colorado Postal Encyclopedia*.

Latitude = 38:18:39 North Longitude = 108:56:56 West CASHIN MINE



**One of the abandoned buildings at the site of Cashin, Colorado  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 22, 2003**

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

Jun 18 1898	---	"Unsurveyed as I am informed" 4 miles west of the Dolores River on the banks of La Sal Creek Proposed postmaster - James N. McBride
Sep 14 1898		Established
Sep 14 1898		McBride, James N.
Apr 20 1904		Ordered closed
Apr 30 1904		Discontinued Papers to Paradox
Jan 4 1905		Re-established
Jan 4 1905		Bacon, Raymond F.
Apr 29 1905		Order rescinded
Apr 29 1905		Discontinued

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	CASHIN / COLO.	May 7 1899 Feb 22 1902
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, Cork smudge

**CEDAR CREEK**

Cedar Creek was a small station on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad about ten miles east of Montrose. It served as a shipping point for surrounding ranches and a freight station for supplies to the ranches. The station and post office were named for the location on Cedar Creek.

In 1994 there was one abandoned house on the south side of US Highway 50, between Montrose County Roads N 73 and N 74, both of which go north from US 50.

Latitude = 38:28:44 North Longitude = 107:42:50 West CEDAR CREEK

**Chronology of the Post Office**

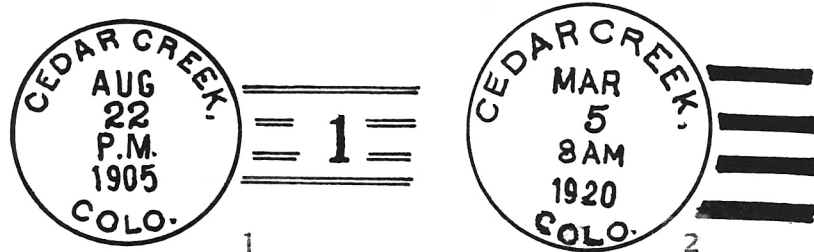
Sep 15 1904	---	SE/4 Sec 25 T49N R8W 6 miles south of the Gunnison River Zero miles north of Cedar Creek Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Anna Maid
Oct 19 1904		Established
Oct 19 1904		Maid, Anna
Jul 6 1906		Ordered closed
Jul 31 1906		Discontinued Mail to Lujane
Aug 22 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 25 T49N R8W Cedar Creek and D&RG run through town
Dec 8 1910		Re-established
Dec 8 1910		Maid, Anna
Oct 31 1912		Discontinued Mail to Montrose
Jun 24 1915	---	S/2 SW/4 Sec 30 T49N R7W 7 miles south of the Gunnison River 1/8 mile north of Cedar Creek 1/8 mile north of D&RG tracks Applicant for Postmaster - Edna H. Morgan
Mar 7 1917		Re-established
Mar 7 1917		Potter, Sarah
Apr 25 1918		White, Drue L.

**CEDAR CREEK – Continued**

Jan 16 1923	Menke, Mrs. Maude M.
Jan 2 1924	Ordered closed
Jan 15 1924	Discontinued Mail to Montrose

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- |   |                                     |  |
|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | CEDAR CREEK, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0 | Aug 22 1905<br>Doane Type 2 with 1       |
| 2 | CEDAR CREEK, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | Jun 9 1911 Mar 5 1920<br>4bars S-??x20mm |



**CHIPETA**

Centered on the home of E. J. Warner, the settlement of Naturita began in 1881. A post office with the name Chipeta opened in October of that year but eleven months later the name was changed to Naturita.

The location, on the San Miguel River and with some suitable land, offered possibilities for agricultural development. However, a limited amount of farmland placed the emphasis on ranching.

Chipeta was the name of the wife of the Ute Indian Chief Ouray.

The location of Chipeta is within the boundaries of the present day town of Naturita on Colorado Highway 141 and the San Miguel River.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 12 1881	---	SW/4 Sec 19 T46N R15W Two miles below junction of Naturita Creek and San Miguel River
Oct 21 1881		Established
Oct 21 1881		Smith, J. Dunlop Jr.
Jun 20 1882		Blake, Rockwood H.
Sep 15 1882		Name changed to Naturita

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CHIPETA**

**CIMARRON**

This community is located where the Cimarron River joins the Gunnison River. It was the point where westbound travelers left the Gunnison River to climb over Cerro Summit. About 1875 Captain W. M. Cline established a ranch at the river junction and it became a stopping point for stages and freight wagons en route to or from the San Juan Mountains and the Gunnison region. The diversion from the Gunnison River was necessary to avoid the impassible Black Canyon of the Gunnison River.

Initially the location was called Cline's Ranch. In 1881 the ranch was sold to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in anticipation of the railroad's construction of its main line into western Colorado. On August 9, 1882 the railroad reached the site and a new town, now called Cimarron, became the end of track during construction over Cerro Summit. The community was named for the Cimarron River.



**CIMARRON – Continued**

Following construction, Cimarron became a small railroad center with shops, water tanks and a base for helper engines needed on the climb to Cerro Summit. As railroad activity decreased Cimarron continued to exist as a shipping point for cattle and sheep from the surrounding country.

The trains stopped at Cimarron for twenty minutes and the Black Canyon Hotel provided meals to railroad passengers. The hotel also had accommodations for forty guests, most of whom were hunters and fishermen.

The community of Cimarron continues to exist. It offers minimal services to residents of the surrounding area and for travelers on U.S. Highway 50, which replaced the railroad. Cimarron is the site of the National Park Service Visitor Center for the Morrow Point Dam.

Latitude = 38:26:33 North Longitude = 107:33:22 West CIMARRON



CIMARRON, / COLO. April 30, 1885

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 18 1883	---	Not reported 1 mile east of the Gunnison [River] Cimarron Creek passes on north side of town North side of D&RG Track Directly on platform where cars stop for meals Proposed postmaster - W. R. Ross (William Randall)
Aug 28 1883		Established
Aug 28 1883		Ross, William R.
Jan 14 1884		Armstrong, George W.
Dec 8 1887		Huffsmith, Charles C.
Feb 6 1888	---	The land is not surveyed 1-1/4 miles south of the Gunnison River Right on the west, or both sides, of Cimarron Creek
Jul 3 1889		Armstrong, George W.
Dec 14 1889		Fay, Aaron C.
Jun 30 1892		Parker, Alfred
Apr 11 1898		Riddle, Helen
Jan 24 1901		Zoellner, Mary C.
Mar 14 1901		Smith, Andrew W.
May 21 1903		Linscott, Alice G.



**CIMARRON – Continued**

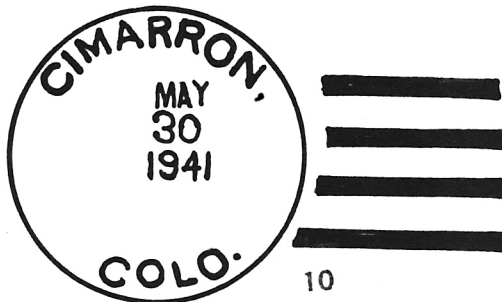
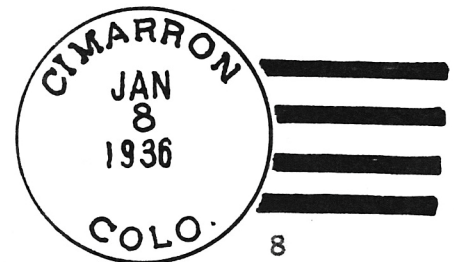
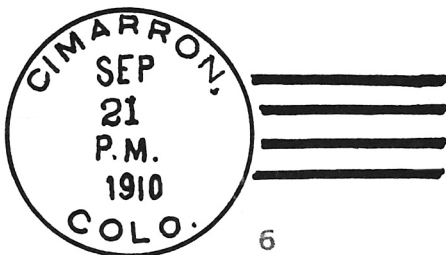
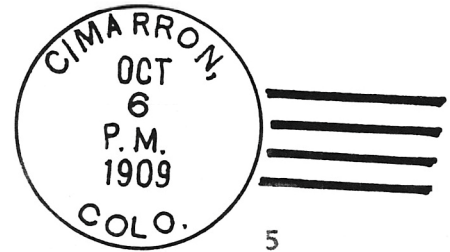
Oct 8 1903	Brower, William O.	
Apr 16 1907	Moore, Ida B.	
Dec 30 1910	Wright, Emma L.	
May 6 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 5 T48N R6W 150 feet west of Cimarron Creek 300 feet south of Squaw Creek	
Jan 14 1915	Robbins, Albert C.	
Jun 12 1918	Callan, Sara L.	
Jun 7 1923	Callaway, Mrs. Della B.	Acting
Aug 18 1923	Callaway, Mrs. Della B.	Appointed
Apr 9 1925	Callaway, Mrs. Sara L.	
Nov 7 1928	Smith, Edwina N.	Acting
Feb 11 1929	Smith, Edwina N.	Appointed
Jan 10 1931	Collins, Mrs. Carrie S.	Possession
Jan 17 1931	Collins, Mrs. Carrie S.	Acting
Aug 12 1931	Collins, Mrs. Carrie S.	Appointed
Aug 31 1931	Collins, Mrs. Carrie S.	Commissioned
Oct 19 1932	Corn, Sidney M.	Confirmed
Nov 15 1932	Corn, Sidney M.	Commissioned
Nov 22 1932	Corn, Sidney M.	Assumed charge
Oct 31 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 5 T48N R6W	
Dec 17 1942	Bear, Mrs. Josephine M.	Assumed charge
Dec 31 1942	Bear, Mrs. Josephine M.	Acting
Sep 25 1943	Newberry, Mrs. Nellie J.	Assumed charge
Oct 5 1943	Newberry, Mrs. Nellie J.	Acting
Nov 4 1943 ---	Not described A move 350 feet W & N of old site US 50 is 20 feet south Cimarron River 150 feet east	
Apr 1 1944	Newberry, Mrs. Nellie J.	Appointed
Jul 13 1944	Newberry, Mrs. Nellie J.	Commissioned
Jul 20 1944	Newberry, Mrs. Nellie J.	Possession
Jun 30 1963	Newberry, William H.	Possession, Acting
Jun 5 1964	Newberry, William H.	Commissioned

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

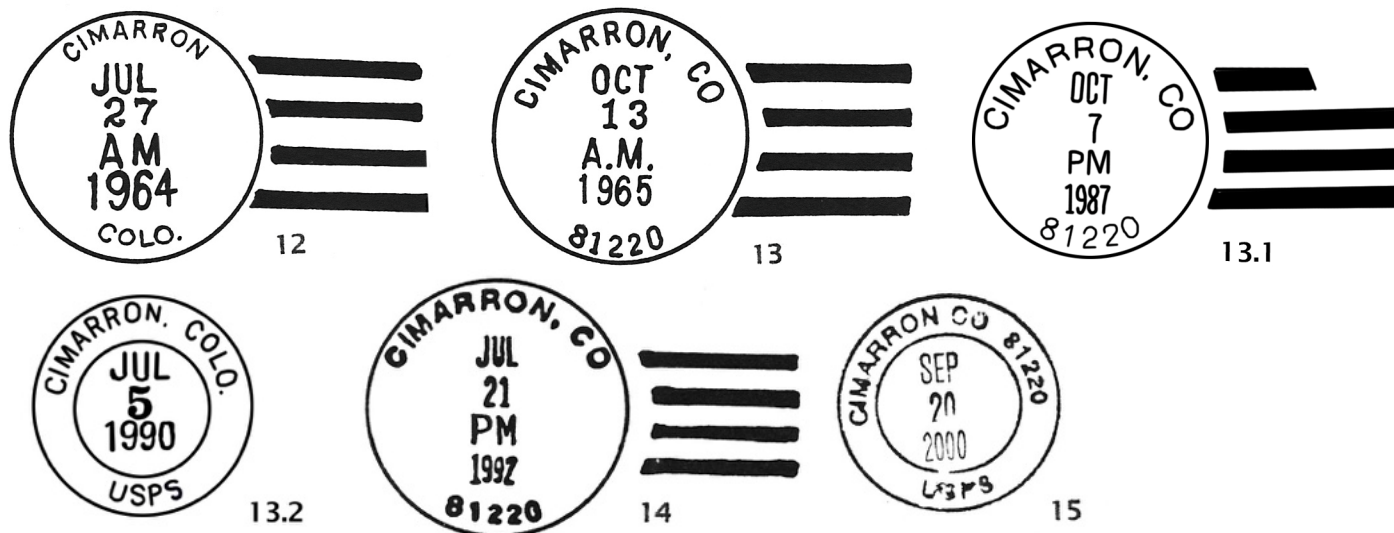
1	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Sep 2 1884 Sep 29 1885
1.1	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 11HP 32.0/29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jun 17 1887
2	CIMARRON / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Dec 15 1890
3	CIMARRON / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not present	Nov 27 1894
4	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 2, with 2	Sep 11 1904 Dec 21 1907
5	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Mar 12 1908 Oct 6 1909
6	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-26x14mm, wider spacing of letters	Sep 21 1910 Jul 1 1914
7	CIMARRON, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Jul 11 1935 Sep 29 1941
8	CIMARRON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jan 8 1936
9	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 7 1940

CIMARRON – Continued

10	CIMARRON, / COLO. CI 10P 38.0	4bars S-27x21mm	Aug 19 1940 Jul 29 1941
11	CIMARRON / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 29 1943 Jun 3 1951
12	CIMARRON / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 7 1959 Jul 27 1964
13	CIMARRON, CO / 81220 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 13 1965 Mar 27 1987
13.1	CIMARRON, CO / 81220 CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 7 1987 Jul 5 1990
13.2	CIMARRON, COLO. / USPS CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 5 1990
14	CIMARRON, CO / 81220 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-20x16mm	Jul 21 1992 Apr 14 1993
15	CIMARRON CO 81220 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 20 2000 Sep 23 2000
16	CIMARRON CO 81220 / USPS CI 11P 30.0/22.5	Hstp No killer	May 14 2008 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



**CIMARRON – Continued**



**COVENTRY**

The establishment of Coventry has been connected to an enlargement of the Gurley Reservoir located several miles to the south of Norwood. It seems strange that those working on the reservoir would choose to live nearly twenty miles from their work site. Perhaps they were actually constructing irrigation ditches fed by the reservoir. In any event the establishment of Coventry predates nearby Redvale by fifteen years.

From the post office in Redvale drive east on Colorado 145 about a mile and a half to where the highway turns due south. The turn south is a T intersection with Montrose County Road 11. Enter Road 11 and turn east with it. A short distance after the turn, on the north side of the road, there is a farm and ranch complex, with some older buildings, which are within the location specified by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report.

It seems logical that as Redvale grew and prospered Coventry declined. The 1991 DeLorme Mapping *Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer* denotes Coventry a mile to the southeast on Highway 145.

Latitude = 38:09:36 North Longitude = 108:22:27 West COVENTRY

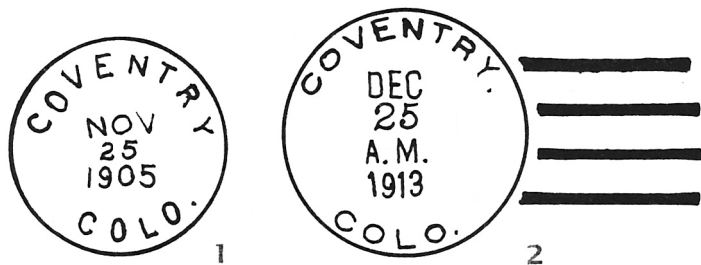
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 7 1894 --- SW/4 Sec 2 T45N R14W  
Proposed postmaster - James P. Huff
- Dec 26 1894 Established
- Dec 26 1894 Huff, James P.
- Apr 20 1898 Cole, Carlos P.
- May 25 1900 Smith, Charles H.
- Dec 22 1915 Partridge, Caroline S.
- Feb 9 1917 Thompson, Edith B.
- Dec 15 1917 Discontinued Mail to Naturita

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1 COVENTRY / COLO. Nov 25 1905 Jan 24 1912  
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Cork smudge
- 2 COVENTRY, / COLO. Dec 25 1913  
CI 10P 31.5 4bars S-24x19mm

## COVENTRY – Continued



COVENTRY, / COLO.

December 25, 1913

**EVA**

Eva was the first settlement to be established at the junction of Cottonwood Creek with the San Miguel River. The purpose for the settlement is questionable. There are reports that this was an early, unsuccessful placer mining camp or perhaps it was a lumber camp.

Drive west from the junction of Colorado Highways 141 and 145 a short distance to Montrose County Road EE 30, formerly County Road 90. Drive east on this road, staying on the south side of the San Miguel River. It is eight miles to the bridge over the San Miguel River. Just before crossing the river and north of the highway there is an old log building. This was still standing in 1994 but may not have survived. This was the location of Eva in 1889 and of Pinon in 1896. There are some other, more recent, buildings in the area. From Eva-Pinon, you can continue east on Old Road 90 to the location of Ute.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 28 1889	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T46N R14W On the south side of the San Miguel River at the junction of Cottonwood Creek and the River Proposed postmaster - William James Madden
Jun 14 1889		Established





## HORSEFLY – Continued



## HYDRAULIC

In the late 1880's prospectors discovered a placer deposit of finely powdered gold in the flats where Mesa Creek joins the Dolores River. The major problem in exploiting this deposit was the lack of water, which restricted operations to the spring and summer months. To overcome that problem and to provide water pressure for hydraulic mining operations, a flume was constructed along the walls of the canyon to bring water to Hydraulic from an intake several miles upstream. Portions of that flume can still be seen from the modern highway and are being preserved as an historical site.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report suggested the name Horner. That suggestion was rejected and Hydraulic was substituted. The name Hydraulic was a reference to one of the methods employed to exploit the placer deposits at the site.

A small community did develop at Hydraulic and lasted into the twentieth century. No structures remain at Hydraulic, however the effects of the mining are still visible.

To visit the site of Hydraulic, from Uravan continue northwest on Colorado Highway 141. For most of the distance to the Mesa-Montrose County line the highway will be on the north side of the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers and tightly hugs the canyon wall. Between Uravan and the county line two significant streams enter the river from the east. The first, about a mile and a half from Uravan, is Atkinson Creek. The second, another eight or nine miles, is Mesa Creek. This junction is a break in the canyon wall with a small open area along the stream and was the location of Hydraulic. Beyond this point the highway and the river make a long horseshoe bend around a rock projection from the west and the highway then crosses to the west side of the river. If you reach that bridge, the first to cross the river since Uravan, you have gone too far.

## Chronology of the Post Office

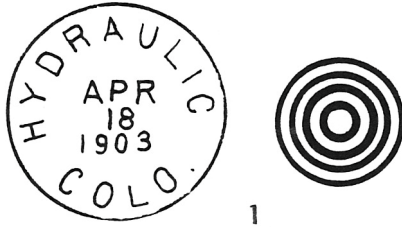
Apr 27 1888	--	"Don't know" 1/4 mile east of Dolores River, on east side of Mesa Creek Sketch map shows on northwest side at Lat 38 30' N, Lon 108 55' W Proposed postmaster - Nathaniel Parker Turner
Jul 25 1888		Established
Jul 25 1888		Turner, Nathaniel P.
Apr 9 1892		Norton, Seth W.
May 26 1893		Heaton, Myra
May 24 1893		Discontinued Papers to Naturita
Aug 15 1901	--	Country not sectionalized 108 47' W Longitude 38 28' N Latitude 1/4 mile east of Dolores River on north side of Mesa Creek Proposed postmaster - Elmer G. Anderson
Oct 1 1901		Re-established
Oct 1 1901		Anderson, Elmer G.
May 12 1905		Ordered closed
May 31 1905		Discontinued

**HYDRAULIC – Continued  
Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**1 HYDRAULIC / COLO.  
CI 10P 28.5**

**Apr 13 1903 Apr 18 1903**

**Hstp Target, 4-ring**



**JOJUNIOR**

The Post Office Department records provide very little information about this place. There is no Site Location Report, which is normal for a post office that was never in operation. In 1914 a postmaster was appointed but he declined the appointment and there was no further appointment.

In published discussions of Uravan I have found two references to a “Joe Junior Camp.” This camp is described as an early community that resulted from operations of the Standard Chemical Company that in 1912 occupied the site of the later Uravan. Apparently the early operations did not succeed and the location was abandoned until 1936 when the United States Vanadium Corporation moved in to the site.

Thus the site of Jojunior was apparently at Uravan.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Dec 16 1914</b>	<b>Established</b>	
<b>Dec 16 1914</b>	<b>Schade, Albert E.</b>	<b>Declined appointment</b>
	<b>Never in operation</b>	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings  
NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM JOJUNIOR**

**LOS PINOS**

In the fall of 1875 the Ute Indian Agency at Los Pinos on Cochetopa Creek (a site now in Saguache County) was moved west to a location on the Uncompaghre River. The post office on Cochetopa Creek retained the Los Pinos name until 1877.

For a time after the agency was moved the new agency was served by a post office known first as Uncapaghre and then Uncompaghre (I). In 1877 with the closure of the Los Pinos office in Saguache County, the post office at the new agency assumed the name of Los Pinos and operated as such until 1881 when the Ute Indians were transferred to a reservation in Utah.

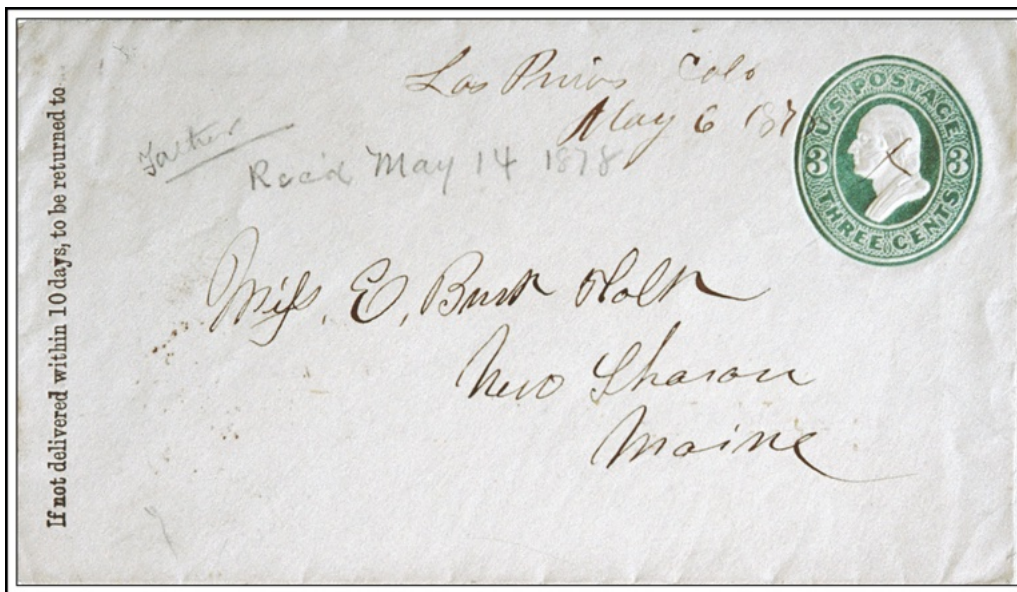
In late 1880 a new settlement began about two miles northwest of the agency location. This place acquired a post office and revived the name of Uncompaghre (II). With the closure of the post office at the agency, Uncompaghre (II) became the office serving the nearby military post and settlers along the Uncompaghre River.

The Los Pinos Agency was located on the west side of the Uncompaghre River a short distance north of the present day Montrose-Ouray County line. This stretch of US Highway 550 is lined with scattered homes and farms. On the west side of US 550 there is an historical marker for the military post that in 1886 was designated as Fort Crawford.

**LOS PINOS – Continued**

Throughout Colorado there are many streams that bear the name Los Pinos. Therefore it is not surprising that communities and post offices took the name of a Los Pinos Creek on which they were located. This was the case for the original Los Pinos Indian Agency (1872-1877). That name was “transferred” to the new agency on the Uncompaghre River (1877-1881).

The third Los Pinos Post Office (1889-1899) in Colorado was located on Los Pinos Creek in La Plata County and became present day Bayfield.



Los Pinos Colo

May 6, 1878

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 31 1873	--	Not surveyed On west side of Los Pinos Creek This is the original agency location in Saguache County
Feb 23 1877		Moved from Uncompaghre
Feb 23 1877		Wheeler, Charles D.
Aug 15 1877		McDonald, Augustus J.
Mar 11 1879		Raymond, Frank W.
Sep 8 1879		Sherman, George D.
Jul 26 1880		Brady, Joseph
Jan 13 1881		Discontinued

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1.A	Los Pinos		Jan 14 1878
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
1.B	Los Pinos Col		Apr 8 1878
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
1.C	Los Pinos Colo		Jan 2 1878 May 6 1878
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	LOS PINOS / COLO.		Aug 17 187- Sep 1 187-
	CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	

**LOS PINOS - Continued**

*Los Pinos 1/4/78*

1.A

*Los Pinos Colo  
4/22/78*

1.C



2



*Las Pinos Col  
April 8 1877*

1.B

**LUJANE**

Lujane was the construction camp at the west portal of the Gunnison-Uncompahgre Diversion Tunnel. The tunnel diverts water from the Gunnison River for irrigation projects in the Uncompahgre Valley. The east portal of the tunnel is at River Portal on the Gunnison River.

The first camp was about a mile from the later location of Lujane and the Lujane Post Office. The camp was moved during the winter of 1904-1905 to a more convenient location. By August 1905 some 350 men were employed on the construction project and Lujane grew to a town of 800 inhabitants. It consisted of dining halls, bunkhouses, store rooms, offices, a power house, machine shops, stables and cottages for families. Upon completion of the diversion tunnel most of this was removed. By the summer of 1910 the post office was no longer needed.

Lujane is about a half-mile east of the intersection of US Highway 50 with Colorado Highway 347, the access road to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. It is on the south side of the highway. There are still a few small buildings, an old outhouse and of course the structures at the mouth of the diversion tunnel. There are access roads from US 50 but they may be blocked off.

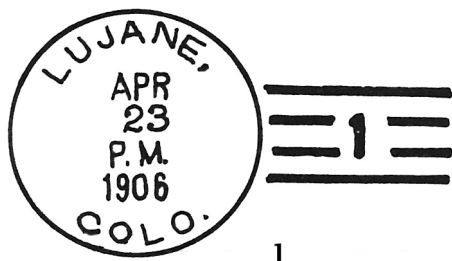
Latitude = 38:29:14 North Longitude = 107:43:59 West LUJANE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

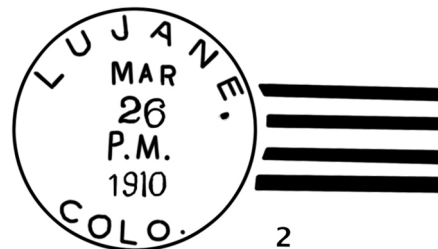
- Jul 29 1905 --- NW/4 NE/4 Sec 26 T49N R8W 9 miles east of the Uncompahgre River  
1/8 mile north of Cedar Creek 20 rods north of the D&RG  
Proposed postmaster - Robert E. McCollum
- Sep 1 1905 Established
- Sep 1 1905 McCollum, Robert E.
- Jul 15 1910 Discontinued Mail to Montrose

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1 LUJANE, / COLO. Apr 23 1906 Feb 1? 1910  
CI 10P 32.0 Doane Type 3, with 1
- 2 LUJANE, / COLO. Mar 26 1910  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x14mm



1



2



**MAHER**

Maher was established in 1882. It is in ranching country between the South Fork of the Gunnison River and the main Gunnison River. The location is in the extreme northeast corner of Montrose County and in the past has been reported as being in Delta County or Gunnison County.

The settlement was named for Caleb Maher, a stage driver and the first postmaster. According to local tradition Caleb Maher walked some seventy miles to Gunnison to submit the application for the post office. Belford and Leroux were other names that may have been suggested for this post office.

The location of Maher is on the high tablelands north of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison. Agriculture is limited to the production of hay. Raising livestock has always been the principal occupation.

My first visit to Maher was in 1975. The post office was still in operation in a small, brown, log building on the west side of the highway. By 2000 the post office had closed but the building was still there.

Maher was never a large community but there are a few buildings scattered along the highway. The most prominent is the old Maher School, now a community center. The community center is just south of Clear Fork Road (Road C 81) and adjacent to the Montrose County Shop, a transfer/collection station for garbage and refuse. When I was there it seemed to be home to a herd of cats.

The Post Office Department records give two locations for the Maher Post Office. The first is a mile and a half south of the Delta-Montrose County line. There are some modern buildings but none of any significant age. The second location is a mile further and just beyond the old school. Also, on the west side of the highway is a sprawling building complex that was likely the Maher Store and Garage but has been converted to a residence.

To reach Maher begin at Hotchkiss on Colorado Highway 133. Drive south on Colorado Highway 92 through Crawford. This is the road to the north side of the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. Highway 92 continues south and then east along the northern rim of the Black Canyon to cross the Gunnison River at the Blue Mesa Reservoir dam in Gunnison County and there connecting to US Highway 50.

Latitude = 38:38:42 North Longitude = 107:35:03 West MAHER

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 15 1884	---	Not reported	
Apr 7 1884		Established	
Apr 7 1884		Maher, Caleb	
Dec 30 1884		Niles, Nettie	
Jan 8 1886		Baltzier, William T.	
May 13 1895		McCully, Addie	Declined
Jun 15 1895		Sanderson, Oscar R.	
Aug 27 1897		Zimmerman, Floyd D.	Failed to qualify
Jan 27 1898		Rawson, Zebina F.	
Dec 12 1901		McCully, Addie R.	
Jun 20 1902		Foster, Addie	
Jan 18 1909	---	NW/4 Sec 31 T51N R6W	
Jan 28 1909		Foster, William M.	
May 23 1913		Tuttle, Teresa S.	
Apr 24 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T50N R6W	
Feb 21 1918		Kruemling, Paul E.	
May 7 1924		Collins, Carrie B.	Confirmed
Jun 28 1924		Collins, Carrie B.	Commissioned
Aug 1 1924		Collins, Carrie B.	Assumed possession
Oct 23 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 6 T50N R6W 1-1/2 miles east to Little Muddy Creek	

**MAHER – Continued**

Dec 31 1944	Goodwin, Wallace G.	Assumed possession
Jan 31 1945	Goodwin, Wallace G.	Acting
Mar 8 1945 ---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 31 T51N R6W A move	350 rods north of previous location
Apr 6 1945	Goodwin, Wallace G.	Confirmed
Jun 26 1945	Goodwin, Wallace G.	Commissioned
Jan 23 1947 ---	SE/4 NW/4 Sec 31 T51N R6W A move	200 feet south of previous location
	On the south side of Muddy Creek	
Dec 31 1949	Bass, Mrs. Ella L.	Acting, Possession
Jan 25 1950	Bass, Mrs. Ella L.	Acting
Feb 16 1950	Bass, Mrs. Ella L.	Appointed
Apr 19 1950	Bass, Mrs. Ella L.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1950	Bass, Mrs. Ella L.	Possession
Apr 30 1960	Little, Mrs. Carol M.	Possession
May 3 1960	Little, Mrs. Carol M.	Acting
Jul 20 1960	Little, Mrs. Carol M.	Confirmed
Feb 26 1988	Discontinued	



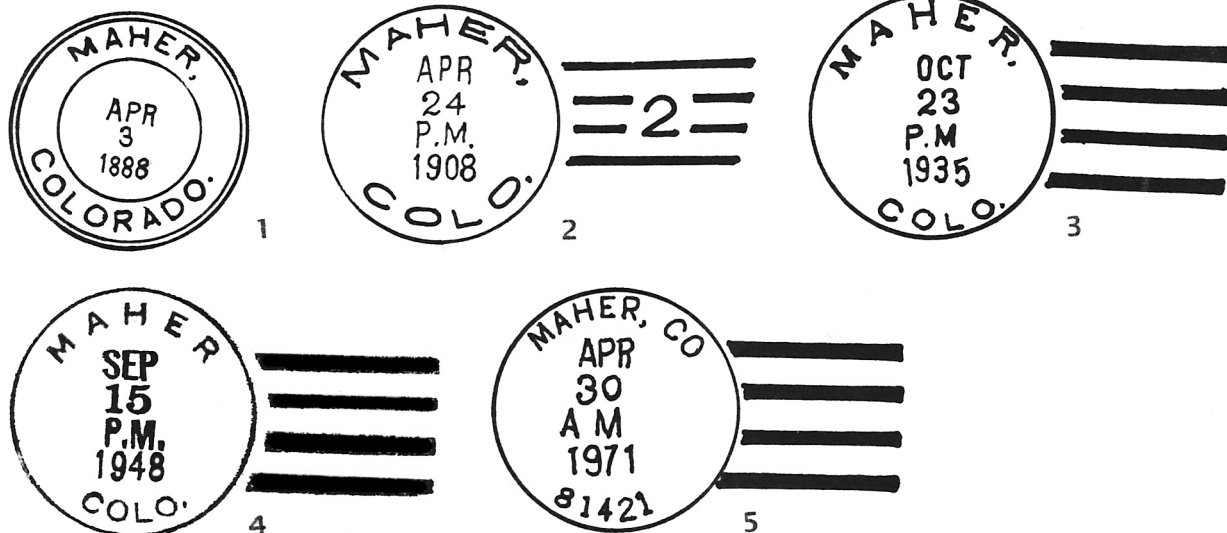
**Old store at Maher, Colorado, possibly the post office location but now a residence**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer      September 22, 2000

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	MAHER, / COLORADO. CI 21P 31.0/29.0/19.0	Jan 7 1888 Feb 2 1891 Hstp Cork, Smudge
2	MAHER, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Aug 11 1906 Dec 3 1908 Doane Type 3, with 2, S-24x14mm
3	MAHER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Oct 23 1935 Oct 26 1943 4bars S-24x19mm

**MAHER – Continued**

4	MAHER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 3 1946 Jul 25 1958
5	MAHER, CO / 81421 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 22 1969 Apr 14 1987

**MENOKEN**

Menoken was a small village about midway between Montrose and present day Olathe. It may have had a post office for only a few months but the name continued to exist as a siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

The post office at Menoken was moved there from Brown (later Olathe) but apparently that move was rescinded and the post office returned to Brown. There is no Geographical Site Location Report for Menoken.

It can be assumed that Menoken was an agricultural settlement. The source of the name is unknown to me.

From Montrose drive five miles west on US Highway 50 to Jay Jay Road. Menoken was to the west of the highway. There are a few scattered residences and the modern Menoken Christian Church.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 1 1891	Moved from Brown
Oct 1 1891	DeSilva, Katie
Jun 2 1892	Order rescinded
Jun 2 1892	Returned to Brown

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MENOKEN

**MICHEOLS**

Nothing is known about this proposed post office location. There is no Geographic Site Location Report, which is a good indication that the post office was never placed in operation. It was not reported in the annual *Postal Guides* but no date is known for the rescinding of the establishment or the discontinuance of the office.

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

Dec 27 1919      Established

Dec 27 1919      Ayres, Lester L.

No further entries   Probably never operated   Not listed in postal guides

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MICHEOLS**

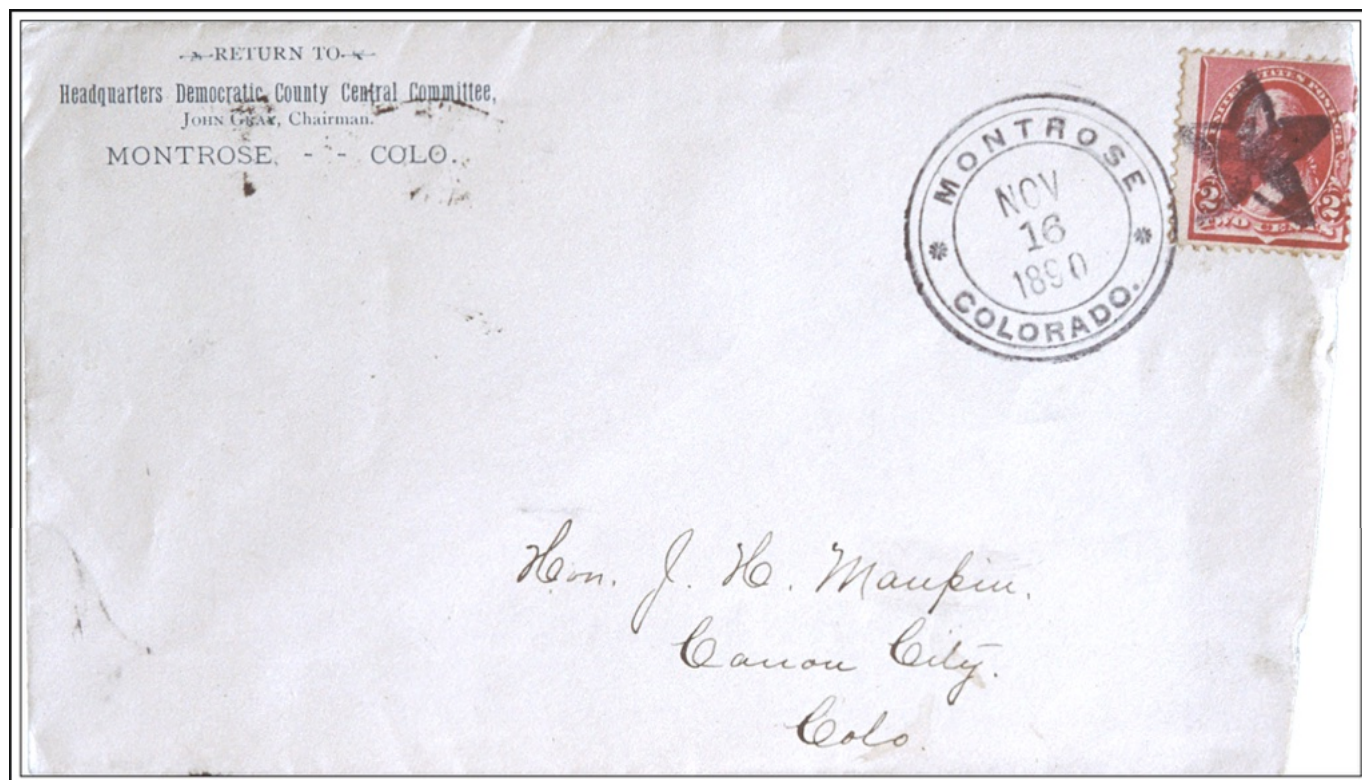
**MONTROSE**

Montrose is located at the junction of the Uncompaghre and Gunnison Rivers. Settlement there began in late 1881 following the removal of the Ute Indians to a reservation in Utah.

The early settlers recognized that the area offered possibilities for the raising of fruit and the town was first called Pomona after the Roman goddess of fruit. On January 20, 1882 a meeting was held and the town name was changed to Montrose. The new name was the suggestion of Joseph Selig and was for the Duchess of Montrose a heroine in Sir Walter Scott's novel *A Legend of Montrose*.

O. D. Lautsenheimer and Joseph Selig assisted by A. Pumphrey, John "Dad" Baird, S. A. Culbertson, Ben Nichols and Major Adams located a 320-acre townsite. The town plat was filed on February 25, 1882 and Montrose was incorporated on May 1 of the same year.

Montrose County was created February 11, 1883 by an act of the Colorado State Legislature and Montrose was designated as the county seat - a title that it continues to hold.



**\* MONTROSE \* / COLORADO.**

**November 16, 1890**



**MONTROSE – Continued**

The location of Montrose was an excellent one. It became a hub for transportation routes that went either west along the Gunnison River to Grand Junction or south to Ouray and the mining communities in the San Juan Mountains. The freight company owned by Dave Wood had its principal offices and warehouses at Montrose. Sanderson's stage lines also operated from Montrose.

The arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad contributed to the growth of the city and it became the junction point for the railroad branch south to Ouray.

Agriculture played a major role in the local economy. Farming and orchards planted along the river bottoms were productive. In the early twentieth century the Gunnison River Diversion Tunnel (see Lujane and River Portal) brought more water to the farmland south of Montrose. Raising livestock dominated on the higher, more arid lands above the valley floors.

Agriculture continues to play an important role at Montrose. The climate has made it a pleasant place to live and has attracted a growing number of small high-tech industries to the area. The city is the principal shopping and supply center for a large area of southwestern Colorado and is home to the airport that serves the ski resorts at Telluride.

Montrose is at the intersection of US Highways 50 and 550.

Latitude = 38:28:42 North Longitude = 107:52:32 West MONTROSE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 26 1882	---	Unsurveyed land 1/2 mile northeasterly of Uncompahgre River 1 mile southwesterly from Cedar Creek Proposed postmaster - Nathan K. Hunter	
Feb 14 1882		Established	
Feb 14 1882		Hunter, Nathan K.	
Dec 5 1882		Roberts, Abel	
Dec 15 1882		Roberts, Abe [sic]	
Jul 31 1885		Buddecke, Adolphus E.	P
Jan 12 1886		Buddecke, Adolphus E.	P&S [Apptd. by President & confirmed by Senate]
Sep 6 1889		Roberts, Abe	P
Dec 19 1889		Roberts, Abe	P&S
Mar 6 1894		Kyle, James F.	P&S
May 26 1897		Sherman, Daniel E.	P&S
Mar 14 1901		Johnson, James B.	P
Aug 27 1906		Herrington, George A.	P
Dec 11 1906		Herrington, George A.	P&S
Jan 10 1911		Herrington, George A.	P&S
Dec 11 1912		Herrington, Susan K.	Acting
Mar 19 1914		Reeves, Aylmer	P&S
Apr 28 1914	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 28 T49N R9W 2794 feet east of Uncompahgre River 3893 feet west of Cedar Creek	
Sep 5 1918		Reeves, Aylmer	P&S
Jan 4 1923		Asbury, William D.	P&S
Jan 17 1927		Asbury, William D.	P&S
Feb 20 1931		Asbury, William D.	P&S
Mar 7 1934		Cooper, Horace O.	Acting
Mar 16 1934		Cooper, Horace O.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1935		Monell, Townsend W.	Nominated
Jan 21 1935		Monell, Townsend W.	Confirmed
Feb 6 1935		Monell, Townsend W.	Commissioned
Jun 22 1939		Monell, Townsend W.	Nominated
Jul 5 1939		Monell, Townsend W.	Confirmed
Jul 12 1939		Monell, Townsend W.	Appointed Presidential

**MONTROSE – Continued**

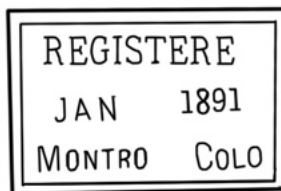
Aug 1 1939	Monell, Townsend W.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941 ---	Not reported South half block 94 Seligo	Additions to town of Montrose
Dec 31 1941	McLemore, Clarence L.	Acting
Jan 1 1942	McLemore, Clarence L.	Assumed charge
Jul 2 1943	Buskirk, Frank H.	Nominated
Jul 6 1943	Buskirk, Frank H.	Confirmed
Jul 7 1943	Buskirk, Frank H.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Aug 31 1943	Buskirk, Frank H.	Assumed charge
Oct 2 1959	Loesch, Malcom R.	Assumed charge
Oct 6 1959	Loesch, Malcom R.	Acting
Mar 17 1961	White, Homer B.	Assumed charge
Mar 29 1961	White, Homer B.	Acting
Mar 18 1964	Schmidt, Jacob N.	Confirmed
Mar 26 1964	Schmidt, Jacob N.	Appointed
Apr 11 1964	Schmidt, Jacob N.	Assumed charge
Jun 22 1972	Hast, Bernard R.	Officer in charge
Jun 24 1972	Hast, Bernard R.	Appointed & Assumed charge
May 19 1978	Dobbs, David E.	Officer in charge
May 31 1978	Smy, Allison K.	Officer in charge
Dec 1 1978	Sutton, William A.	Officer in charge
Mar 24 1979	Alire, Henry J.	Appointed

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	MONTROSE, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Fancy, "Pearl Button"; Cork smudge Apr 12 1881 Feb 19 1885
2	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 20T 30.0/27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm Aug 1 1882 Jul 26 1883
3	MONTROSE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer Sep 3 1884 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
3.1	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 20P 31.0/28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 21mm sans serif lettering Jul 31 1885
4	MONTROSE / COLORADO CI 20P 28.0/25.5	Hstp Target, 5-ring 20mm Feb 3 1886 Jan 31 1890
5	MONTROSE, / COLORADO CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not recorded May 23 1887
6	MONTROSE, COLO. // REGISTERED CI 20P 38.5/35.5	Hstp Not recorded Jul 29 1887
7	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge Nov 16 1889
8	MONTROSE / COLORADO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm Mar 23 1889 Feb 27 1890
9	MONTROSE / COLORADO. CI 21P 36.0/27.0/22.5	Hstp Fancy, shaded star Dec 6 1889 Dec 2- 1890
10	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 19mm; Fancy, shaded star Jun 30 1890 Aug 16 1890
11	MONTROSE, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp No killer Jan 15 1891 Jan 30 1891
12	NO LISTING	
13	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads, 8-segment pie, hobnail grid Jan 12 1891 Apr 18 1899
13.1	MONTROSE, COLO. // REGISTERED RC 11P 37x24/34x21	Hstp No killer Jan -- 1891

MONTROSE – Continued

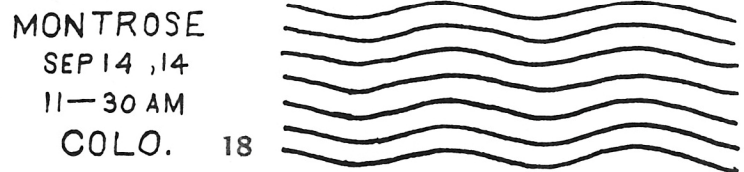
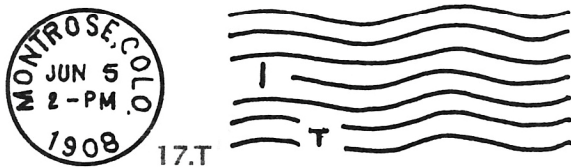
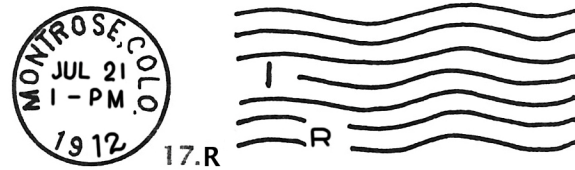
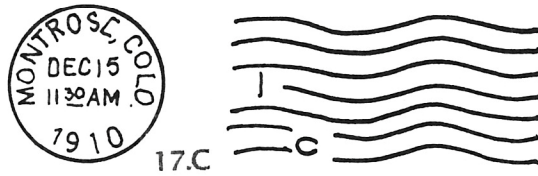
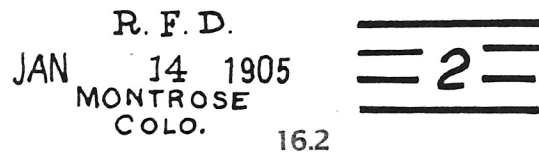
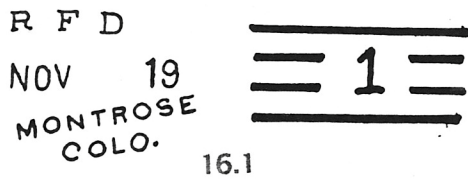
- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 14   | MONTROSE, COLO. / REC'D.<br>CI 10P 27.0        | Jul 2 1893 Aug 25 1895<br>Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 15   | MONTROSE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 29.0                | Jun 20 1904 Mar 9 1906<br>Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval                           |
| 16.1 | MONTROSE / COLO. // R.F.D.<br>SL 00R 25.0x20.0 | Jun 17 1907 Nov 19 1907<br>RFD 4 bars with 1                              |



- |      |  |   |
|------|--|---|
| 16.2 | MONTROSE / COLO. // R.F.D.<br>SL 00R 36.0x16.0 | Jan 7 1905 Jan 21 1907<br>RFD 4 bars with 2                         |
| 17.C | MONTROSE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 20.0               | Sep 16 1910 Dec 31 1912<br>Mach 7 wavy lines with 1-C               |
| 17.R | MONTROSE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 21.0               | Mar 7 1909 Jul 21 1912<br>Mach 7 wavy lines with 1-R                |
| 17.T | MONTROSE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 20.0               | Jun 5 1908 May 21 1910<br>Mach 7 wavy lines with 1-T                |
| 18   | MONTROSE / COLO.<br>SL 00R 25.0x18.0           | Dec 17 1913 Jul 21 1916<br>Mach 7 wavy lines, abbreviated year date |

**MONTROSE – Continued**

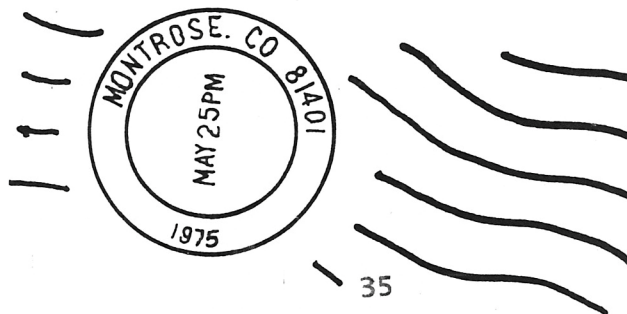
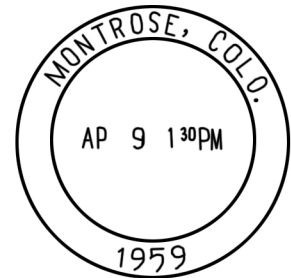
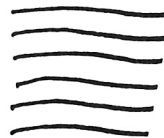
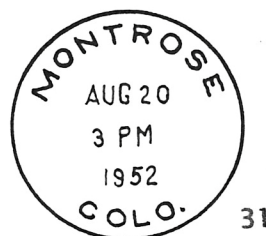
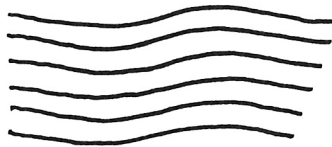
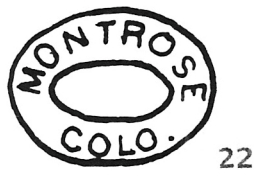
19	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Mar 15 1918 Dplx Grid, oval with circle & 1
20	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Jul 27 1919 Jul 7 1923 Mach 7 wavy lines
21	MONTROSE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Aug 11 1924 Hstp No killer
22	MONTROSE / COLO. OV 11P 28x22/17x9	Aug 11 1924 Hstp No killer
23	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	May 12 1933 Jul 10 1948 Mach 6 wavy lines
24	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Oct 9 1935 Dec 8 1942 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle
25	MONTROSE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	May 23 1938 Mar 28 1951 Dplx Grid, oval with 1
26	MONTROSE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 33.0	Nov 26 1938 Jul 6 1941 Hstp No killer, backstamp
27	MONTROSE / COLO. OV 11P 26x17/19x8	Jul 6 1941 Hstp No killer
28	MONTROSE, COLO. / RECEIVED CI 10P 34.0	Jun 18 1942 Jul 24 1953 Hstp No killer





MONTROSE – Continued

- 29 MONTROSE, COLO. / REGISTERED Oct 30 1946  
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 Hstp No killer
- 30 MONTROSE / COLO. May 24 1948  
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 Hstp No killer
- 31 MONTROSE / COLO. Aug 20 1952 Mar 18 1957  
CI 10P 30.0 Dplx Grid, diamond with 1



**MONTROSE – Continued**

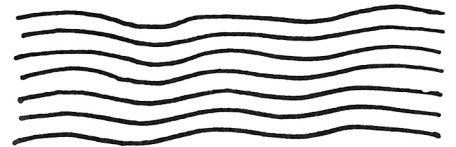
- 32 MONTROSE, / COLO. --- -- 1950s  
 RC 10P 35.0x17.0 Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style
- 33 MONTROSE, COLO. / REC'D. Oct 19 1956  
 CI 10P 33.0 Hstp No killer
- 34 MONTROSE / COLO. Sep 17 1951 Apr 2 1965  
 CI 10P 21.0 Mach 6 wavy lines
- 34.1 MONTROSE, / COLO. Apr 9 1959  
 CI 11P 36.0/27.0 Hstp No killer
- 35 MONTROSE, CO 81401 Aug 28 1967 May 25 1975  
 CI 11P 33.0/23.5 Rolo 7 wavy lines
- 36 MONTROSE, CO / 81401 Apr 21 1966 May 15 1974  
 CI 10P 21.0 Mach 6 wavy lines, narrow space between  
 Town & State
- 37 MONTROSE, CO / 81401 Aug 26 1969  
 CI 10P 20.0 Mach Slogan: Smokey Bear; Remember /  
 Only you can / PREVENT / FOREST FIRES
- 38 MONTROSE, CO / 81401 Jun 4 1975 Dec 9 1985  
 CI 10P 21.0 Mach 7 wavy lines
- 39 MONTROSE, CO / 81401 Aug 1 1976 Oct 21 1976  
 CI 10P 21.0 Mach Slogan between lines: COLORADO /  
 THE CENTENNIAL STATE / 1876 - 1976
- 39.0 MONTROSE / CO Apr 1 1982  
 CI 10P 31.0 Hstp No killer May be a DCDS, smeary partial inner ring
- 39.1 MONTROSE / CO Jun 3 1991  
 CI 10P 30.0 Hstp No killer
- 40 MONTROSE CO / 81401 Apr 15 1993  
 CI 10P 20.0 Mach 7 wavy lines narrow space between  
 Town & State
- 41 MONTROSE CO 81041 / USPS Jul 5 2000 Jun 20 2001  
 CI 11P 29.0/21.0 Hstp No killer



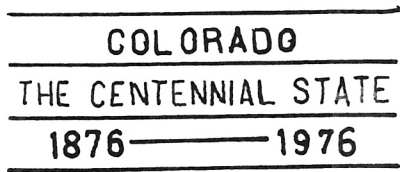
37



38



39



39.0



39.1



40



41

MONTROSE – Continued

MONTROSE STATIONS

NUMBER 1

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 19 2000      Established as a Contract Station of Montrose

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1      MONTROSE CO 81041 // CONTRACT STATION #1 / USPS      Sep 19 2000  
CI 11P 29.0/19.5      Hstp No killer



1

BALLOON AFFAIRE STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 5 1996      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1      MONTROSE / COLORADO / 81401 // Balloon Affaire Station      Jul 5 1996 Jul 6 1996  
IR 00R 77.0x30.0      Pict Scene - Group of hot air balloons; Text - July 5, 6, 7, 1996



1

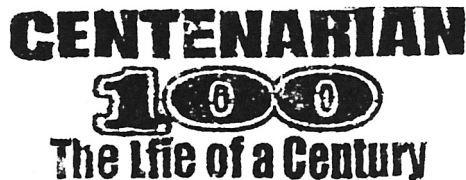
CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1      Montrose CO 81401 // Celebrate the Century Station      Jun 15 2000  
SL 00R 75.0x2.5      Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / 100 /  
The Life of a Century



June 15, 2000 - Celebrate the Century Station, Montrose, CO 81401

1

**MONTROSE STATIONS – Continued**

**MONTROSE MAIN STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 4 2007      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1      Montrose CO 81401 // Montrose Main Station      Jul 4 2007  
IR 00R 54.0x30.0      Pict Scene – Post office building; Text - Proudly  
Serving our wonderful community!/ 1932 – 2007 /  
75th ANNIVERSARY



**PARTY TOWN STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 12 2008      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1      MONTROSE CO 81401 // CPU PARTY TOWN      May 12 2008  
CI 11P 31.0/21.0      Hstp No killer?      [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

**WAL\*MART STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 17 1999      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1      Montrose, CO / 80401 :: WAL\*MART / STATION      Apr 17 1999  
CI 10P 20.0      Pict Scene - Sylvester, Tweety, Daffy Duck, Bugs Bunny



**NATURITA**

Settlement here began in 1881 and the community was first named Chipeta. In 1882 the name of the town and post office were changed to Naturita.

The name is reputed to have been suggested by Mrs. Rockwood (sic) Blake and is a corruption of a Spanish word for nature. The choice was to note the pleasant setting along the San Miguel River that contrasted with the surrounding arid country.



**NATURITA – Continued**

Agriculture was the focus for the economy of Naturita, primarily ranching. And it so continues to the present time.

During the years following World War II this portion of Montrose County was a scene of intense activity with prospectors searching for economic deposits of uranium ore (carnotite). For several years Naturita benefited from that activity.

Naturita is located on Colorado Highway 141 at the upper end of the San Miguel-Dolores River Canyon. It is a small community with some businesses and a number of residences. The river and the canyon walls restrict the size of the community, which is somewhat overshadowed by the larger town of Nucla, three miles to the north.

Latitude = 38:13:06 North Longitude = 108:34:05 West NATURITA

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 12 1881	---	SW/4 Sec 19 T46N R15W Two miles below junction of Naturita Creek and San Miguel River	
Sep 15 1882		Formerly named Chipeta	
Sep 15 1882		Blake, Richard H.	
Nov 30 1885		Warner, Edward J.	
Dec 21 1885		Warner, Edwin J.	
Feb 3 1886		Payson, Amon R.	
Dec 17 1887		Warner, Emeline A.	
Oct 27 1894		Blake, Rockwood H.	
Jan 5 1895		Presnell, Lemuel E.	
Apr 22 1898		Brammier, Eva	
May 16 1902		Veatch, Presley B.	
Jun 26 1903		Fort, Caroline L.	
Nov 6 1903	---	NE/4 Sec 30, T46N R15W South side of San Miguel River 1/2 mile west of the mouth of Naturita Creek	
Feb 15 1904		Cooper, Myrtle I.	
Jan 7 1910		Crabtree, Miss Moss	
Oct 20 1913		Eaton, Clarence H.	
Apr 28 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 30 T46N R15W 150 feet south of San Miguel River 1 mile south of Naturita Creek	
Sep 30 1915		Cooper, Myrtle I.	
Sep 9 1920		McNutt, Robert S.	
Apr 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Jan 17 1922		Loback, Myrtle	P&S
Jul 1 1923			Office relegated
Jul 17 1923		Loback, Myrtle	
Feb 27 1928		Smith, Cora	Acting
Aug 10 1928		Gaasch, Nellie B.	
Aug 8 1929		Jacobson, Maggie	Acting
Dec 5 1929		Jacobson, Maggie	Confirmed
Jan 8 1930		Jacobson, Maggie	Commissioned
Jan 18 1930		Jacobson, Maggie	Assumed charge
Nov 6 1941	---	Sec 30 T46N R15W San Miguel River 200 feet north Naturita Creek 1-1/4 mile east of Post office	
Jul 1 1943			Office made Presidential
Feb 10 1944		Jacobson, Maggie	Nominated
Feb 21 1944		Jacobson, Maggie	Confirmed
Feb 22 1944		Jacobson, Maggie	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 16 1946		Jacobson, Maggie	Confirmed
Aug 20 1946		Jacobson, Maggie	Commissioned

**NATURITA – Continued**

Jul 1 1949		Office made Presidential
Dec 26 1963	Barnes, Mrs. Elizabeth C.	Assumed charge
Jul 26 1965	Simon, Kenneth W.	Appointed
Aug 5 1965	Simon, Kenneth W.	Commissioned
Aug 13 1965	Simon, Kenneth W.	Assumed charge

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 11P 33.5/22.5	Hstp Fancy, 7-bar rectangular grid	Oct 6 1885 Dec 23 1887
1.1	Naturita Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	May 14 1887
2	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Fancy, Maltese Cross,	Jun 2 1888 Aug 7 1889
3	NATURITA / COLO CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm; Fancy, Double outlined Maltese cross	Mar 5 1890 Jan 10 1892
4	NATURITA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 3 1899
5	NATURITA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, Oval 8-bar	Apr 3 1900 Jan 31 1906
5.1	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Sep 20 1910
6	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 10 1917
7	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 1 1931 Mar 22 1938
8	NATURITA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Oct 5 1939 Oct 20 1948
9	NATURITA / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 17 1950
10	NATURITA / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1	Jun 7 1954 Mar 10 1961
11	NATURITA, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 24 1955 Dec 24 1955
12	NATURITA / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 6 1956
12.1	NATURITA, COLO. CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Rolr 6 slanted wavy lines	Jun 6 1964
12.2	NATURITA, / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 27 1964
13	NATURITA, CO / 81422 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jul 26 1968 May 15 1976
14	NATURITA, CO / 81422 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25x20mm	Oct 10 1972 Sep 27 1994
15	NATURITA, CO / 81422 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 18 1990
16	NATURITA, CO / USPS CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 25 1994 Sep 27 1994
17	NATURITA, CO / 81422 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Feb 15 1995
18	NATURITA CO / 81422 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	May 22 2003

NATURITA - Continued



1

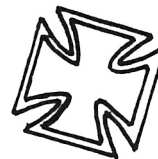


*Naturita Colo  
5/14-87*

1.1



2



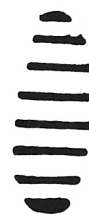
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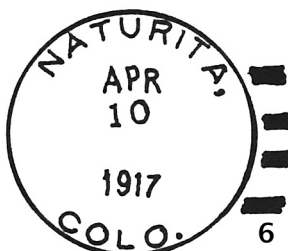
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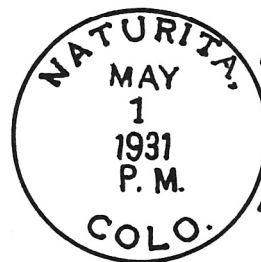
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5.1



6



7



8



9



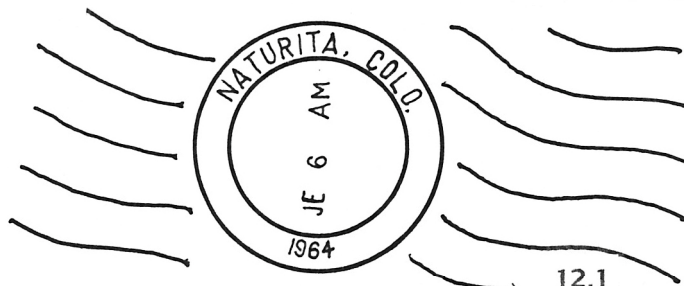
10



11



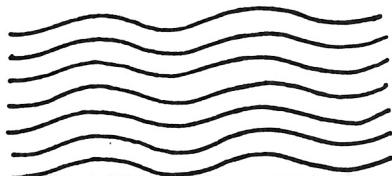
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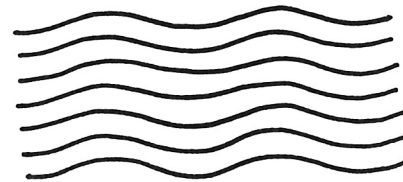
12.1



12.2



13



**NATURITA – Continued**



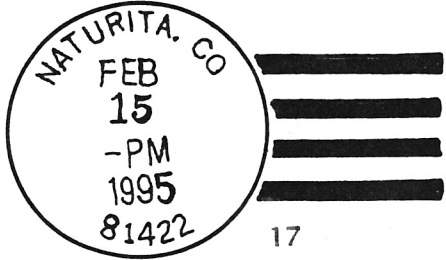
14



15



16



17



18

**URAVAN BOARDING HOUSE STATION**

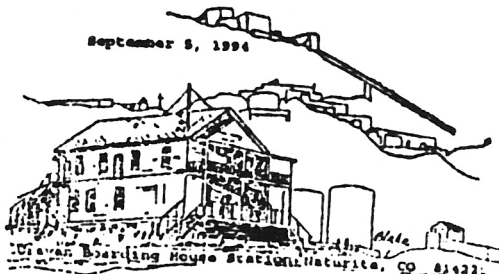
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 5 1994

Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Naturita, CO 814221 :: Uravan Boarding House Station<br>IR 00R 62.0x33.0 | Sep 5 1994<br>Pict Scene - Boarding house and other buildings |
|---|--|---|



1

**NUCLA**

With a capital stock of \$100,000 the Colorado Cooperative Colony, a socialistic colony, was incorporated February 16, 1894. The colony acquired land in Tabeguache Park but before it could be put to productive use an irrigation ditch had to be constructed.

While the irrigation system was under construction the colony settled near the junction of Cottonwood Creek and the San Miguel River at what had been the site of the short-lived settlement and post office of Eva. This temporary site was named Pinon and had a post office with that name. Construction of the irrigation system took longer than anticipated and it was not until 1904 that the colony members began moving to their planned town. Nucla was incorporated in 1915.

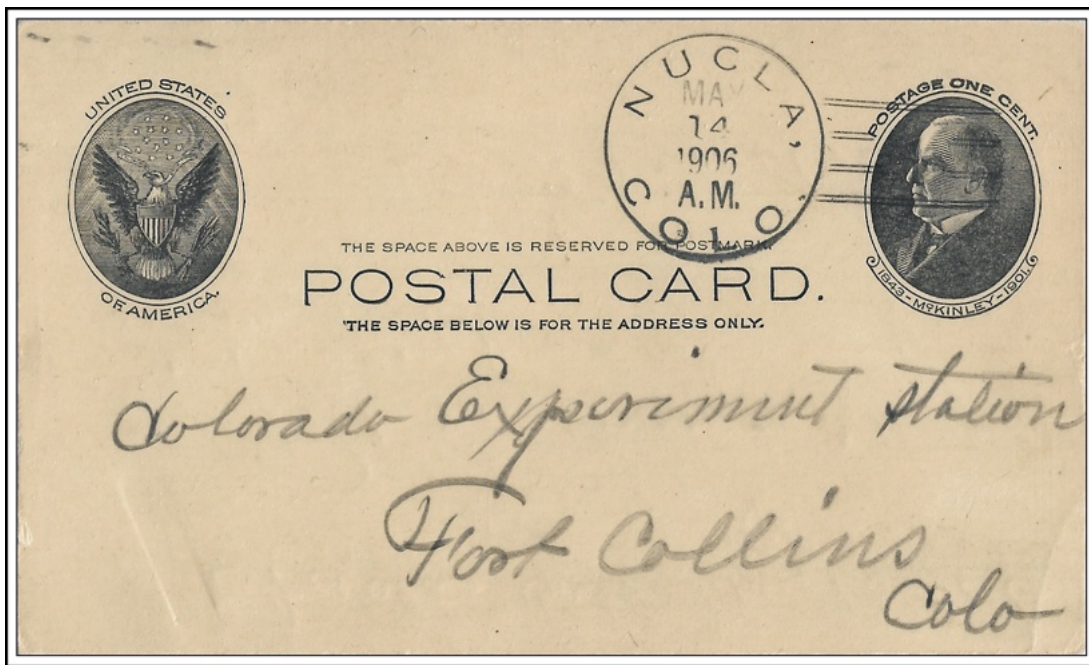


**NUCLA – Continued**

The colony did not want to waste valuable agricultural land so the town was platted on a rocky hill above the farmland. It was name Nucla. This name was an adaptation of “nucleus” and was suggested by C. E. Williams, one of the colony members. His explanation was that colonists believed that the socialistic form of government would spread from their colony throughout the rest of the nation. They were wrong. Within a few years nearly all of the socialistic aspects of the colony had disappeared, the victims of the realities of making a living from agriculture in a semi-arid climate and of the natural instincts of the settlers.

Nucla is located about three miles north of Naturita. From Colorado Highway 141 in Naturita drive north on Colorado Highway 97 to Nucla. Nucla is still the center for an agricultural region. It has a number of agricultural related businesses and a modest residential district. It is the largest of the communities in the western portion of Montrose County.

Latitude = 38:16:10 North Longitude = 108:32:50 West NUCLA



NUCLA, / COLO.

May 14, 1906

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 10 1904	---	NE/4 Sec 5 T46N R15W	
		Proposed postmaster - Mary E. Riehl	
Dec 12 1904		Established	
Dec 12 1904		Riehl, Mary E.	
Aug 7 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T46N R15W	
Sep 11 1914		Havard, Martha N.	
Apr 1 1920			Office made Presidential
Dec 21 1921		Hopkins, William A.	P&S
Dec 12 1923		Baldwin, Edward F.	Acting
Feb 26 1924		Baldwin, Edward F.	Appointed
Mar 1 1928		Baldwin, Edward F.	Appointed
Mar 4 1932		Baldwin, Edward F.	Nominated
Mar 18 1932		Baldwin, Edward F.	Appointed Presidential

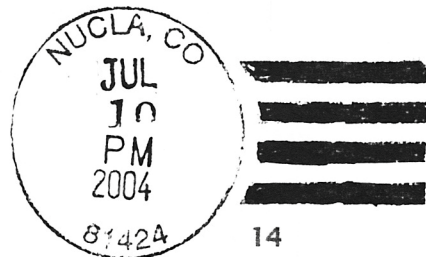
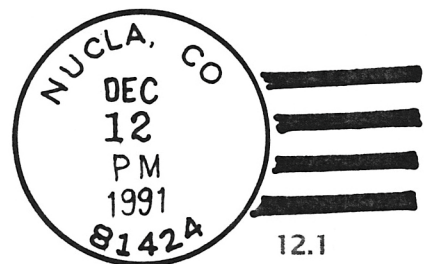
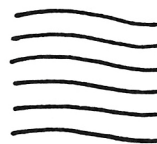
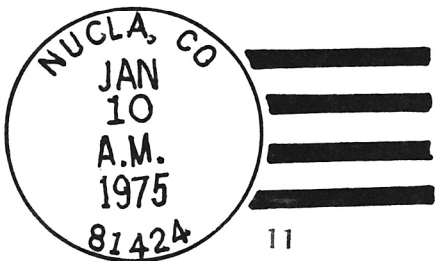
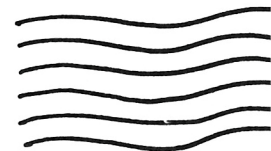
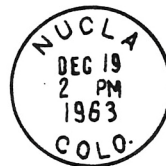
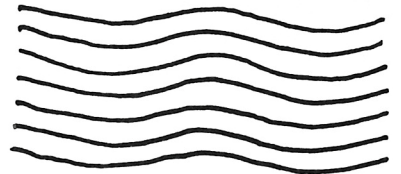
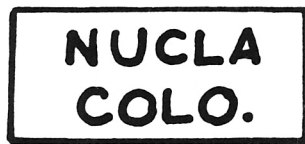
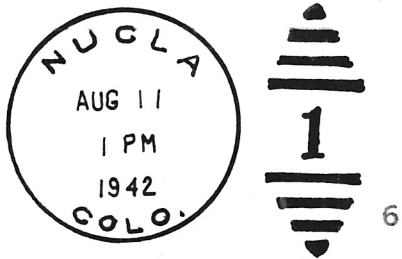
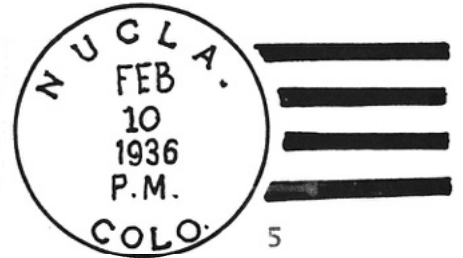
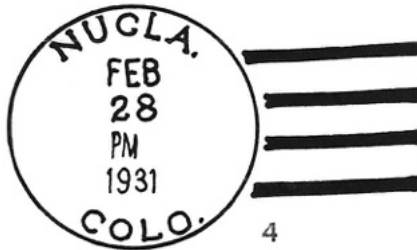
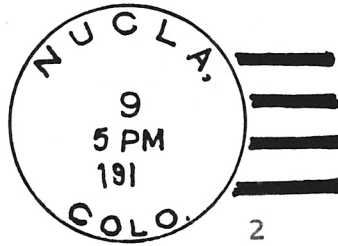
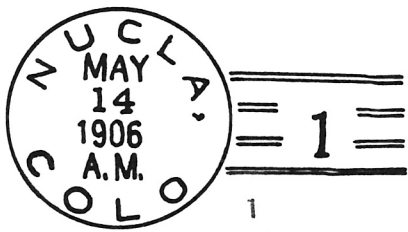
**NUCLA – Continued**

Apr 23 1932	Baldwin, Edward F.	Commissioned
Dec 23 1933	Baldwin, Edward F.	Confirmed
Feb 8 1934	Baldwin, Edward F.	Commissioned
Apr 7 1937	Baldwin, Edward F.	Nominated
May 7 1937	Baldwin, Edward F.	Confirmed
May 24 1937	Baldwin, Edward F.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 28 1937	Baldwin, Edward F.	Commissioned
May 17 1941	Baldwin, Edward F.	Nominated
Jun 9 1941	Baldwin, Edward F.	Confirmed
Jun 17 1941	Baldwin, Edward F.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 5 1941	Baldwin, Edward F.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 5 T46N R15W Corner Center Ave. and West 4th Street	
Jun 30 1952	Skees, Charles Robert	Assumed charge
Jul 24 1952	Skees, Charles Robert	Acting
Apr 14 1954	Skees, Charles Robert	Nominated
May 24 1954	Skees, Charles Robert	Confirmed, Apptd Presid. & Commissioned

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	NUCLA, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2, with 1; S-24x13mm	Oct 17 1905 Dec 20 1911
2	NUCLA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x19mm	--- 9 191-
3	NUCLA / COLO CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Not present	Aug 9 1916
3.1	NUCLA, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx 9 bar oval year date from enclosure	Apr 6 1922
4	NUCLA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 28 1931 Nov 1 1933
5	NUCLA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	bars S-23x19mm	Jul 2 1935 Dec 10 1941
6	NUCLA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Aug 11 1942 Apr 8 1959
7	NUCLA / COLO. RC 10P 39.0x19.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style	--- -- 1940s
8	NUCLA / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 11 1948 Feb 27 1952
9	NUCLA / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 8 1949 Sep 8 1955
9.1	NUCLA / COLO. RC 10P 44.0x20.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style	1950s
10	NUCLA / COLO. CI 10P 21.5	Mach 6 wavy lines	Dec 19 1963 Mar 4 1964
11	NUCLA, CO / 81424 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 10 1972 Aug 13 1976
12	NUCLA, CO / 81424 CI 10P 20.5	Mach 6 wavy lines	Sep 25 1969 May 28 1993
12.1	NUCLA, CO / 81424 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 12 1991 Dec 12 1991
13	NUCLA, CO / 81424 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 6 1993 Sep 27 1994
13.1	NUCLA, CO / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 25 1994
14	NUCLA, CO / 81424 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 10 2004 Jul 13 2004

NUCLA - Continued



**NUCLA STATIONS**

**CENTENNIAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 3 2004      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1      NUCLA, CO 81424 / Sta. / CENTENNIAL      Jul 3 2004  
IR 00R 61.0x42.0      Pict Scene - Tower; Text - 1904 - 2004 / CENTENNIAL



**NUCLA STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 4 1994      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1      Nucla CO 81424 // Nucla Station      Jul 4 1994 Jul 4 1994  
L 00R 17.0x7.0      Pict Scene - Town scene and mountain profile



**OLATHE**

Olathe began in 1882 as a section house on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. At first it was named Colorow but became Brown when a post office was acquired. In 1896 the name was changed to Olathe. Reportedly the new name was for the town of Olathe, Kansas. It is a Shawnee Indian word meaning, "beautiful." Olathe is an incorporated town.

Olathe is an agricultural community with a number of businesses related to agriculture. It also has a significant residential district.

The town has become famous for its "Olathe Sweet Corn." Each year it holds a festival to promote that product. Periodically pictorial postmarks have commemorated the event.



**OLATHE – Continued**

Olathe is on US Highway 50 about ten miles southeast of Delta. In recent years a bypass for US 50 was constructed to the east of the community.

As a devotee of sweet corn, I must offer my personal comments. Olathe Sweet Corn is definitely delicious and in taste it is way ahead of any sweet corn I ever sampled in California. However, the sweet corn grown here in Central New York State will give Olathe a run for its money. And when fresh out of the field our local corn may even be the winner. Nevertheless I enjoy Olathe Sweet Corn when I am fortunate enough to visit Colorado at the appropriate time of the year.

Latitude = 38:36:18 North Longitude = 107:58:54 West OLATHE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

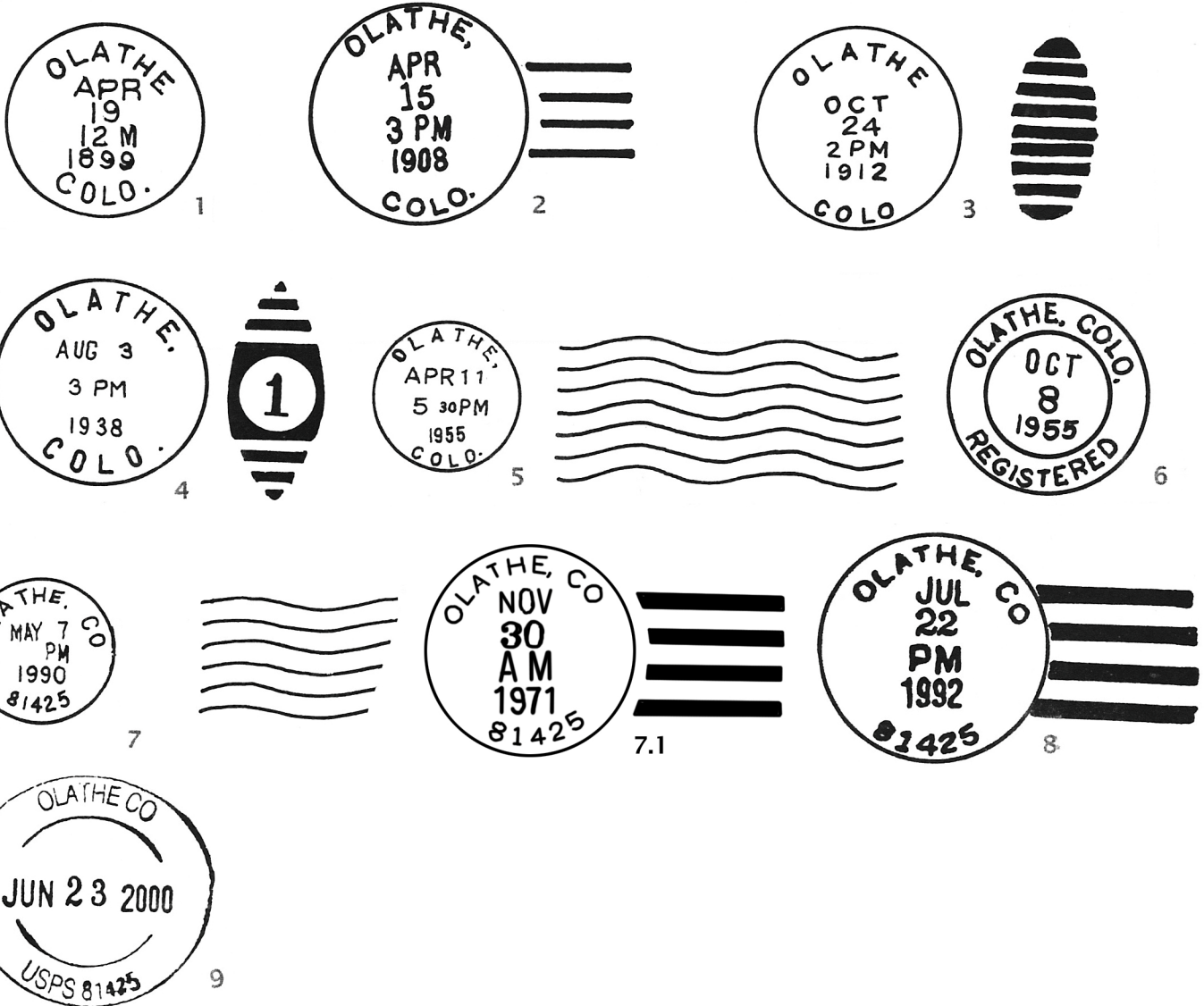
Jun 4 1896	Name changed from Brown	
Jun 4 1896	Hersum, Katie	
Jul 16 1896	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T50N R10W 5 rods east of the Uncompahgre River
Oct 16 1897	Hyatt, Elisha L.	
Jan 10 1901	Robbins, Avis	
Jun 3 1902	Hersum, William O.	
Apr 23 1903	Casner, Benjamin A.	
Jul 1 1910		Office made Presidential
Jul 30 1910	Burns, Thomas	P
Jan 10 1911	Burns, Thomas P.	P&S
Apr 22 1914	---	SE/4 SW/4 Sec 10 T50N R10W
Jan 12 1915	Uglow, John	P&S
Feb 28 1920	Uglow, John	P&S
Apr 7 1924	Foster, Martha H.	P&S
Apr 9 1928	Foster, Martha H.	P&S
Apr 1 1932	Foster, Martha H.	Nominated
Apr 27 1932	Foster, Martha H.	Confirmed
May 28 1932	Foster, Martha H.	Commissioned
May 20 1936	Showalter, Henry C.	Nominated
May 29 1936	Showalter, Henry C.	Confirmed
Jun 2 1936	Showalter, Henry C.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 25 1936	Showalter, Henry C.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1936	Showalter, Henry C.	Assumed charge
Oct 24 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T50N R10W D&RG Station 420 feet east Uncompahgre River 1/4 mile west of post office
Dec 16 1947	Showalter, Mary A.	Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949	Mills, William Graham	Nominated
Jun 1 1949	Mills, William Graham	Confirmed
Jun 2 1949	Mills, William Graham	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Aug 1 1949	Mills, William Graham	Assumed charge
Jul 16 1976	Wallacen, Ralph	Officer in charge
May 21 1977	Jacobs, Mrs. Frances E.	Appointed
Nov 16 1978	Ruybal, John G.	
Jul 14 1979	Wallace, Ralph P.	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	OLATHE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Mar 27 1898 Apr 19 1899
2	OLATHE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-??x13mm	Apr 15 1908 Oct 12 1911
3	OLATHE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Oct 24 1912 Feb 17 1933

**OLATHE – Continued**

4	OLATHE, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	May 23 1931 Dec 19 1960
5	OLATHE, / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Oct 17 1942 Apr 4 1958
6	OLATHE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Mach 7 wavy lines Oct 8 1955
7	OLATHE, CO / 81425 CI 10P 20.5	Hstp No killer Sep 19 1969 May 28 1993
7.1	OLATHE, CO / 81425 CI 10P 31.0	Mach 6 wavy lines Nov 30 1971 Feb 23 1982
8	OLATHE, CO / 81425 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-21x18mm Apr 16 1990 Jul 22 1992
9	OLATHE CO / USPS 81425 CI 11P 35.0/23.0	4bars S-25x19mm Jun 23 2000 Hstp No killer, distorted





**PARADOX – Continued**

Geologically the Paradox Valley is a breached anticline. An anticline is an upfold of layered sedimentary rock in the form of an arch. The upper portions of the Paradox arch have eroded away. The resistant sandstone layer forms the cliffs that surround the valley. The underlying, easily eroded shale forms the valley floor.

In 1875, A. C. Peale, a member of the U. S. Geological and Geographical Survey under F. V. Hayden, observed that contrary to the usual situation where the major stream draining a breached anticline flows parallel to the axis of the anticline, in the Paradox Valley it flows at right angles to the valley. Peale considered this a paradox and thus the name of the anticline and its valley. For this situation to exist the river (the Dolores) must have been present prior to the formation of the anticline and was able to erode downwards during the gradual uplift of the anticline.

To reach Paradox, follow the directions to Bedrock and continue west beyond that community to Montrose County Road 5.75. Turn north on that road and it will take you into Paradox.

Although Paradox no longer has a post office, it continues to exist with a few small business that supply the residents and the surrounding ranches. It also has a good-sized regional school.

There is another, more scenic way to reach Paradox. Near Uravan, from Colorado Highway 141, cross to the south side of the San Miguel River to Montrose County Road Y 11. Follow that road northwest along the San Miguel River and then southwest along the Dolores River. This is not a paved road but in dry weather it is an easy drive. Road Y 11 will take you into the Paradox Valley and intersects Colorado Highway 90 about two miles east of Bedrock.

Latitude = 38:22:06 North Longitude = 108:57:42 West PARADOX



**The store at Paradox, Colorado, the final site of the Paradox Post Office  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 22, 2003**



## PARADOX – Continued

## Chronology of the Post Office

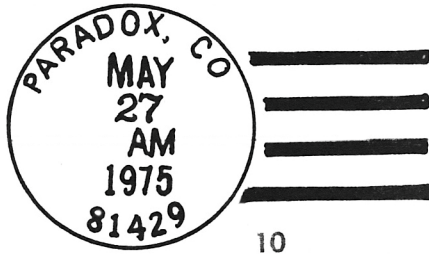
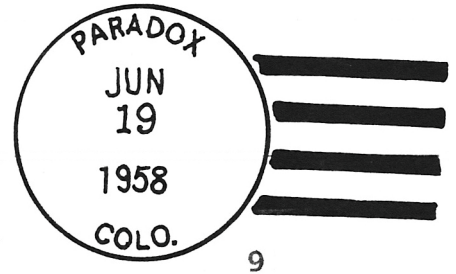
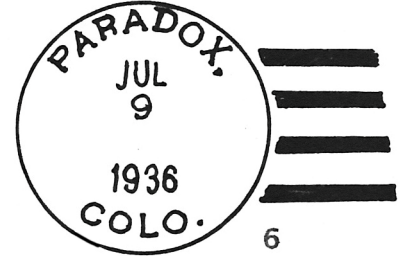
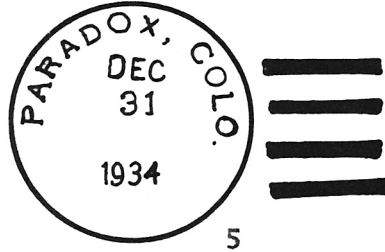
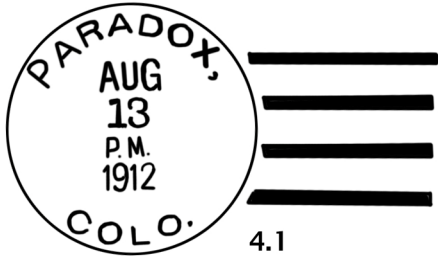
Jan 5 1882	---	Unsurveyed	
Jan 9 1882		Established	
Jan 9 1882		Goshorn, Thomas	
Dec 7 1883		Webb, Miss Ella	
Dec 12 1884		Webb, Miss Adelia A.	
Jul 10 1886		Ray, Thomas	
Jul 26 1895		Wilkinson, Charles A.	
Aug 20 1896	---	NE/4 Sec 33 T48N R19W	8 rods west of Paradox or Spring Creek
May 11 1899		Hamilton, Mollie E.	
Sep 9 1911		Fredericks, Ethel B.	
Apr 25 1914	---	NW/crn SE/4 SE/4 Sec 33 T48N R19W	1/8 mile east of Paradox Creek
May 21 1914		Brooks, Ethel	
Feb 28 1917		Monroe, Lizzie R.	Confirmed
Apr 3 1917		Monroe, Lizzie R.	Commissioned
Apr 14 1917		Monroe, Lizzie R.	Assumed charge
Jan 23 1935		Colombo, Mrs. Margurite M.	Assumed charge
Feb 15 1935		Colombo, Mrs. Margurite M.	Acting
Apr 17 1935		Colombo, Mrs. Margurite M.	Confirmed
May 23 1935		Colombo, Mrs. Margurite M.	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	Lot 3 Block 2, SE/4 Sec 33 T48N R19W	
Mar 15 1951		Campbell, Paul W.	Possession, Acting
Apr 2 1951		Campbell, Paul W.	Acting
Apr 5 1951		Campbell, Paul W.	Appointed
May 31 1951		Campbell, Paul W.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1951		Campbell, Paul W.	Possession
Nov 19 1954		Redd, Mrs. Helen R.	Possession, Acting
Dec 20 1954		Redd, Mrs. Helen R.	Acting
May 6 1955		Redd, Mrs. Helen R.	Appointed
Jun 14 1955		Redd, Mrs. Helen R.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1955		Redd, Mrs. Helen R.	Possession
---	----	Discontinued (1990's ?)	

## Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1	Paradox Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jul 14 1887
2	PARADOX / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	18mm Mar 6 1890
3	PARADOX / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	18mm Aug 21 1895 Apr 24 1899
4	PARADOX, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3, with 2	Nov 2 1906 Sep 16 1910
4.1	PARADOX, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Aug 13 1912
5	PARADOX, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Dec 31 1934
6	PARADOX. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 9 1934 Apr 3 1954
7	PARADOX. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Sep 23 1937 Nov 17 1943
8	PARADOX / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Dec 10 1949 Nov 28 1950
9	PARADOX / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 17 1957 Dec 31 1959
10	PARADOX, CO / 81429 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 5 1969 Oct 16 1991

PARADOX – Continued

*Paradox Colo*  
*7/14/87* 1



PAXTON

I have not encountered any reference to this place in the histories of Colorado that I have read. The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report does provide a location and thus I was able to visit the site.

The initial intention may have been to name this post office Dyre. I have no ideas as to the origin of either name.

Follow the directions to Maher that have been previously given. From Maher continue south on Colorado Highway 92 seven and one half miles to the Crystal Creek Forest Access Road, Montrose County Road J 82. Go east one mile to a road junction, Forest Service Road 717 or County Road 18. There is a small log shed that is apparently connected to an irrigation ditch. After crossing Crystal Creek there is a large old building a short distance south of the road.

Based on the short life of the Paxton Post Office and the presence of the irrigation ditch, I suspect that this was a temporary settlement during construction of an irrigation system that provides water to the hayfields in this remote portion of Montrose County.

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

Sep 27 1905	---	SW/4 Sec 35 T50N R6W 5 miles northeast of the Gunnison River 1/8 mile south of Crystal Creek Proposed postmaster - Oscar Flanary
Nov 3 1905		Established
Nov 3 1905		Flanary, Oscar
Nov 5 1906		Stoner, Ralph
Mar 27 1907		Ordered closed
Apr 15 1907		Discontinued Mail to Maher

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PAXTON**

**PINON**

In 1896 a new settlement was established at the junction of Cottonwood Creek and the San Miguel River. In 1889 this was the location of the short-lived settlement named Eva.

In 1896 the Colorado Cooperative Company entered the area along the San Miguel River. They planned a settlement in Tabeguache Park. The members of the colony could not move to that location until an irrigation ditch was constructed that would bring water to the site. While construction was in progress the members of the colony located at the old site of Eva. This was a small bench of some fifteen acres on the south side of the San Miguel River.

Construction of the irrigation project was more difficult than anticipated and it was not completed until 1904. With completion of the irrigation project the colony members moved from Pinon to their planned community, which is today's Nucla.

East of Naturita and from the junction of Colorado Highways 141 and 145 drive west a short distance to Montrose County Road EE 30, formerly County Road 90. Drive east on this road and stay on the south side of the San Miguel River. It is eight miles to the bridge over the San Miguel River. Just before crossing the river and north of the road there is an old log building. The building was still standing in 1994 but may not have survived. This was the location of Eva in 1889 and of Pinon from 1896 to 1905. There are some other, more recent, buildings in the area.

In addition, after crossing the San Miguel River on Old County Road 90 and as you rise away from the river you will pass the Pinon Cemetery.

For a detailed history of the Colorado Cooperative Colony, of the Pinon settlement and the eventual move to Nucla, I recommend the article *A Western Slope Utopia* by Modupe Labode in the Colorado Historical Society's publication *Colorado History Now*, December 2004.

Latitude = 38:16:00 North Longitude = 108:24:00 West PINON

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 6 1896	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T46N R15W (14W?) 6 rods south of the San Miguel River 1/4 mile from Cottonwood Creek, other side of river Proposed postmaster - Addison Herbert Wetherbee
Feb 21 1896		Established
Feb 21 1896		Wetherbee, Addison H.
Jun 5 1896		Wolf, Edward H.
Dec 26 1896		Bowen, Miles D.
May 15 1900		Barnes, Julia W.
Jun 18 1900	---	NW/4 Sec 10 (3) T47N (46N) R14W There are alterations to the reported location – which is correct? The sketch map fits the original entries 1/4 mile east of the San Miguel River, on the south side of Cottonwood Creek



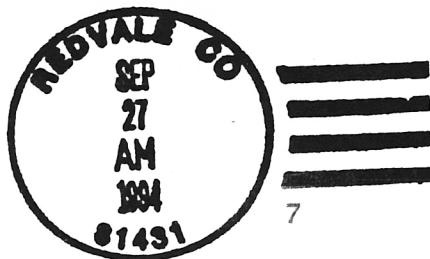
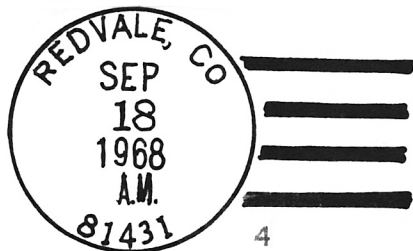
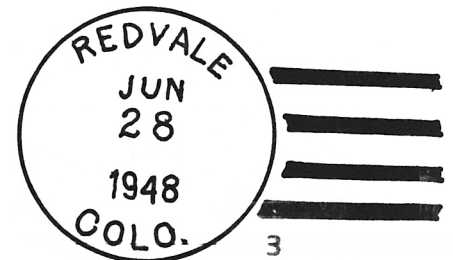
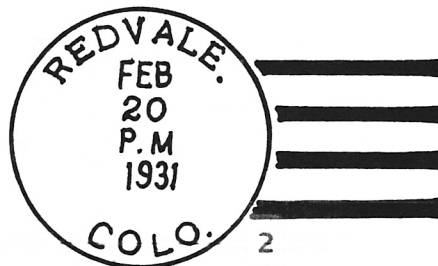
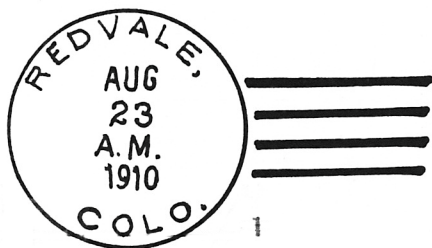


**REDDVALE – Continued**

Jan 31 1955	Cambell, Mrs. Frances E.	Name changed by marriage
Oct 6 1961	Williams, James J.	Assumed charge
Oct 10 1961	Williams, James J.	Acting
Nov 30 1962	Williams, James J.	Confirmed
Dec 7 1962	Williams, James J.	Possession

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	REDDVALE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x13mm	Aug 23 1910 May 2 1917
2	REDDVALE, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Feb 20 1931 May 23 1945
3	REDDVALE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 28 1948 Apr 16 1963
4	REDDVALE, CO / 81431 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 18 1968 Sep 16 1971
5	REDDVALE, CO / 81431 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 10 1972 May 6 1991
6	REDDVALE CO 81431 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 25 1994 Sep 27 1994
7	REDDVALE CO / 81431 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	Jul 25 1994 Apr 17 1995



**RIVER PORTAL**

River Portal was the construction camp at the east end of the diversion tunnel that supplies water from the Gunnison River for irrigation projects in the Uncompaghre Valley. Lujane was the camp at the west end of the tunnel.

**RIVER PORTAL – Continued**

Like Lujane there were shops, storage facilities and housing for the workers. And in 1910, like Lujane, completion of the project meant the end of River Portal as an active community and post office.

For several years I believed that River Portal could only be reached by a hike down into the depths of the Black Canyon. In September 2000, on my way from Montrose to Denver, I decided to investigate the possibility of reaching River Portal. I took the access road (Colorado 347) to the entrance to the Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park. At the entrance to the park I was given a map of the park. I pulled to the side of the road to study the map and to my surprise the map clearly showed a road leading to River Portal, so off I went. This “impossible to visit” site proved relatively easy to reach. The road was paved all the way to the river. However, the final descent is on a 16% grade, so make sure your brakes are good and use a lower gear.

At the river I found a fairly extensive development. There are camp and picnic grounds, a boat launch for boating and fishing above (east) of the diversion dam. There is also a park ranger station and the facilities related to operation of the diversion tunnel.

In May 2003, with Jim Ozment, I made a second visit to River Portal.



**View of River Portal, Colorado and the road that descends to the Gunnison River in the  
Black Canyon of the Gunnison National Park**

**Photograph by William H. Bauer**

**May 21, 2003**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 24 1905 ---**      **Unsurveyed land Approximately T48N R7W 1/16 mile west of  
the Gunnison River 6 miles west of Crystal Creek [SRM: County Highway map  
indicates it's in center of Sec 10 T49N R7W]  
Proposed postmaster - Clara Surles**
- Jan 9 1906**        **Established**
- Jan 9 1906**        **Surles, Clara**





## **RUDOLPH**

This is another post office in Montrose County for which I have found no reference material. There was no Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report in the Montrose County file.

Jonathan E. Rudolph was to be the postmaster; thus the post office would have reflected his family name. I assume that the post office was never placed in operation.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jan 27 1886</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Jan 27 1886</b>	<b>Rudolph, Jonathan E.</b>
<b>Jun 23 1886</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>

### **Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM RUDOLPH**

## **SAMS**

The site of the Sams Post Office is in San Miguel County. An error by the Post Office Department first placed it in Montrose County but that was soon corrected. I include mention of it here to prevent any confusion that may result from the original error in location.

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Apr 18 1903</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>May 5 1903</b>	<b>Establishment rescinded Error by Post Office Department Wrong county</b>

### **Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAMS**

## **SHENANDOAH**

Shenandoah flourished for a few years then died away and by 1897 was classed as abandoned. It may have had a peak population as high as 150 and included a store, recreation hall and a hotel.

Given the location on the highlands above and south of the San Miguel River I assume that it was an agricultural settlement.

I have read one report that states: "About 1904 or 1905 Mocks Malich brought in a colony of about twenty Croatian families. Upon being brought to the San Miguel Basin by their leader they established a trading center called Shenandoah, three miles below the present site of Redvale." If this is indeed true, then that activity postdates the Shenandoah Post Office and the new settlers simply adopted the older name.

Shenandoah is an Algonquin word that is supposed to mean, "spruce stream." Another version translates it as, "daughter of the stars."

From the junction of Colorado Highways 141 and 145, drive east on Colorado 145 towards Redvale. Three and a half miles from the junction you will encounter some older buildings along the highway. A bit further on the south side of the highway, there is an old building that has the appearance of having been a store. In 1994 there was a sign that identified it as the "Shenandoah Greenhouse."

### **Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Apr 12 1892</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 30 T46N R14W</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - James H. Brandebury</b>
<b>Apr 29 1892</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 29 1892</b>		<b>Brandebury, James H.</b>

**SHENANDOAH – Continued**

Jul 25 1893	Discontinued Papers to Naturita
Aug 26 1893	Re-established
Aug 26 1893	Brandebury, Sarah L.
Jul 17 1896	Discontinued Papers to Coventry



**Abandoned building at the location of Shenandoah, Colorado**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer September 22, 1994

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 SHENANDOAH / COLO.  
 CI 10P 27.5

Dec 4 1894 Dec 12 1895  
 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm



1

**SINBAD**

Sinbad was in the extreme northwestern corner of Montrose County and the extreme southwestern corner of Mesa County in the Sinbad Valley, a breached anticline, similar to the Paradox Valley. Sandstone cliffs that reach as much as 2,000 feet above the valley floor surround the valley.



**SINBAD – Continued**

The name Sinbad is from the Arabian Nights story of *Sinbad the Sailor* and was deemed appropriate considering the remote location and the difficulty of travel to the valley. The valley encompasses enough reasonably level land that it is suitable for ranching. During its history the Sinbad Post Office was at four different locations, two of which were in Montrose County. That amount of movement confirms Sinbad as a rural or ranch post office with no organized community.

There was an attempt at copper mining high on the cliffs above the point where Salt Creek leaves the Sinbad Valley but it amounted to very little.

From the river crossing at Gateway drive southwest on Colorado Highway 141 nine and one-half miles to Mesa County Road Z.6 (possibly marked Road 7.2). This road follows Salt Creek through the escarpment and out into the Sinbad Valley. This is not one of the best roads but in dry weather it should be passable for most vehicles. Upon exiting from the canyon you come to a junction with County Road Z.9. The 1927 site of Sinbad was in the vicinity of this road junction but nothing is visible before you encounter a locked gate across Road Z.9.

Continue down Road Z.6 to the Mesa-Montrose County line. The 1925 site of Sinbad was a mile and a half west of the road but again nothing is visible from the road. The next obstacle is another locked gate, across Road Z.6. This is the entrance to the Sinbad Ranch Corporation and prevents access to the 1914, 1916 and 1929 sites of Sinbad that are in Montrose County. I suspect that somewhere down the road there are ranch buildings that were once the location of the Sinbad Post Office. North and east of this gate and a short distance from the road are a couple abandoned buildings but I can not connect them to any of the Sinbad Post Office locations.

You will have to return to Colorado Highway 141 to continue your trip.

Latitude = 38:30:10 North Longitude = 108:59:50 West SINBAD VALLEY

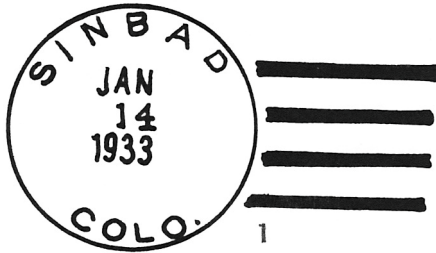
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Oct 16 1914 --- NE/4 Sec 29 T49N R19W 8 miles west of Dolores River  
1 mile northeast of Rock Creek (Roc Creek)  
Applicant for postmaster - Bertha Manning
- Dec 19 1914 Established
- Dec 19 1914 Manning, Bertha
- Dec 20 1916 --- NE/4 Sec 29 T49N R19W A move 1/2 mile east of previous location
- Jan 4 1917 Buchanan, Greta
- Jul 28 1925 Ross, Delight Acting
- Sep 11 1925 --- SW/4 Sec 17 T49N R19W A move 2 miles northwest of previous location  
Location now in Mesa County
- Sep 22 1925 Ross, Delight Appointed
- Jun 18 1927 Adams, Joseph C.
- Jun 25 1927 --- SE/4 NE/4 Sec 9 T49N R19W 5 or 6 miles west of the Dolores River  
1000 feet north of Salt Wash A move 2-1/2 or 3 miles northeasterly  
from previous location Location in Mesa County
- May 22 1929 Hogan, Flossie A.
- May 25 1929 --- NW/4 Sec 28 T49N R19W 8 miles west of the Dolores River  
2 miles east of Rock Creek A move 3 miles southwesterly of previous location
- Jul 16 1929 Site now in Montrose County
- Dec 16 1932 Ordered closed
- Jan 14 1933 Discontinued Mail to Gateway

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 SINBAD / COLO. Jan 14 1933  
 CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-23x19mm

## SINBAD – Continued

**UNCAPAHGRE**

This was the first post office established on the Uncompahgre River and was within the Ute Indian Reservation. It was closely related to Camp Crawford and to the Los Pinos Indian Agency after the agency was moved from its original location in Saguache County. Within three months the spelling was changed from “Uncapahgre” to “Uncompahgre.”

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report for Uncapahgre is filed under Saguache County.

Uncapahgre was one of a group of post offices that were located along what is now US Highway 550, just north of the Montrose-Ouray County line. In succession those offices were: Uncapahgre, Uncompahgre (I), Los Pinos and Uncompahgre (II).

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 8 1875	---	No survey <b>CONFUSION:</b> The county is first shown as Lake, crossed out and San Juan ? written in. The original name is Uncapahgre, crossed out, Uncompahgre crossed out, Los Pinos crossed out, "na. to "Cochetopa." 1/8 mile west of Uncompahgre River, so this report is connected to the Los Pinos in Montrose County.
Dec 20 1875		Established
Dec 20 1875		Bond, Charles E.
Mar 20 1876		Spelling changed to Uncompahgre

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM UNCAPAGHRE**

**UNCOMPAHGRE (I)**

Uncompahgre (I) was established on the Uncompahgre River to serve the Ute Indian Reservation in the area. The place name was first spelled Uncapahgre, and the post office opened with that spelling. In early 1877 the Los Pinos Indian Agency was moved from its original site on Cochetopa Creek, in what is now Saguache County, to the Uncompahgre Valley.

The move was to eliminate the need for the Utes to make a long trek to collect their distributions of beef and money. With the move of the agency, the name of the post office was changed from Uncompahgre (I) to Los Pinos.

In 1880 a military reservation of fourteen square miles was established and designated as the Cantonment on the Uncompahgre Military Reservation. The first troops arrived in 1880 and were located near the Los Pinos Agency. In 1884 the reservation was reduced to eight and fifty-five hundredths square miles. In 1886 it was officially named Fort Crawford. The fort was abandoned in 1890 and the land turned over to the Department of the Interior.

**UNCAPAHGRE (I)– Continued**

I am not certain of the exact location of this post office, as there is no definitive Geographic Site Location Report. It was on the west side of the Uncompahgre River, just north of the present day Montrose-Ouray County line. A short distance north of the line there is an historical marker that identifies the location of Fort Crawford to the west side of US Highway 550.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	<b>No Document found in the Montrose County Geographic Site Location Reports. [Name changed from Uncapahgre, changed to Los Pinos]</b>
<b>Mar 20 1876</b>	<b>Formerly named Uncapahgre</b>
<b>Mar 20 1876</b>	<b>McIntyre, Edwin</b>
<b>Sep 7 1876</b>	<b>Mack, David Jr.</b>
<b>Nov 27 1876</b>	<b>Wheeler, Charles A.</b>
<b>Feb 23 1877</b>	<b>Moved to Los Pinos</b>

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

<b>1</b>	<b>UNCOMPAGHRE COLO</b>	<b>Mar 8 1877</b>
	<b>Mscp</b>	<b>Pen cancel</b>
		<b>2 weeks after PO moved to Los Pinos Enclosure confirms date</b>

*Uncapahgre Colo  
3/8/77*

1

**UNCOMPAHGRE (II)**

In 1880 a new community began to develop north of the Los Pinos Indian Agency. When the new town acquired a post office it took the name Uncompahgre (II) thus reviving the name that had first been applied to the nearby Indian Agency.

This new community served the Military Cantonment (later Fort Crawford) and settlers associated with the Indian Agency. In 1881 the Ute Indians were transferred to a reservation in Utah. The military post continued to operate until 1890.

The Uncompahgre Post Office continued in operation until 1906, serving ranchers and farmers along the Uncompahgre River, north of the Montrose-Ouray County line. There is no evidence that there was an organized community but there was at least one store. Whatever may have been there was eventually supplanted by the growth of business activity at Colona, just south of the county line.

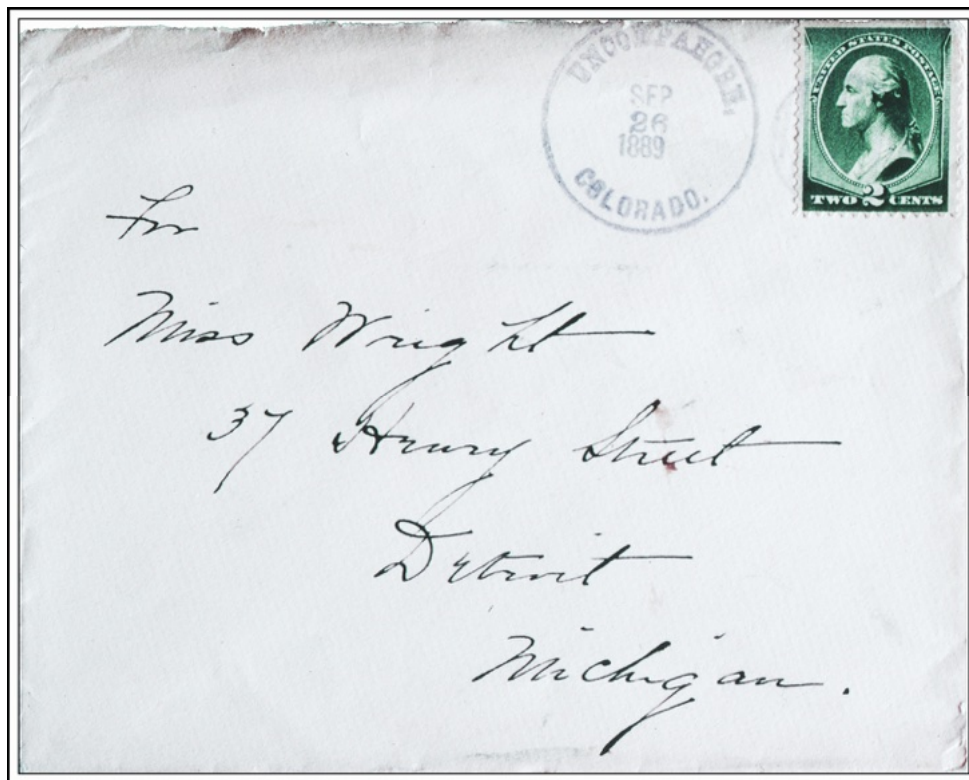
The name Uncompahgre still appears on maps of the area. It is located on US Highway 550 near Government Springs Road, a little more than three miles north of the county line. There are scattered ranches and farms along the highway but no concentrated community.

Latitude = 38:22:41 North Longitude = 107:49:05 West UNCOMPAHGRE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Oct 14 1880</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Oct 14 1880</b>	<b>Storer, E. P.</b>
<b>Nov 10 1880</b>	<b>Fenlon, James A.</b>
<b>Nov 29 1880 ---</b>	<b>Ute Reservation, Military Cantonment Unsurveyed 3/4 mile west of the Uncompahgre River Los Pinos - 4 miles southerly from Uncompahgre NOTE: "In 1896 - NE/4 Sec 35 T48N R9W"</b>
<b>Nov 6 1906</b>	<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Nov 30 1906</b>	<b>Discontinued Mail to Colona</b>

UNCOMPAHGRE (II) – Continued

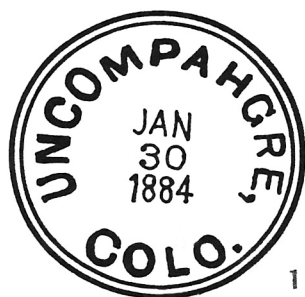


UNCOMPAHGRE, / COLORADO

September 26, 1889

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | UNCOMPAGHRE, COLO.<br>CI 20P 37.0/34.0  | Jul 6 1882 Jan 30 1884<br>Hstp Fancy, Wheel of fortune |
| 2 | UNCOMPAGHRE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0      | Jul 19 1886<br>Hstp Cork, Smudge                       |
| 3 | UNCOMPAGHRE, / COLORADO.<br>CI 10P 28.5 | Dec 24 1886 Sep 26 1889<br>Hstp Fancy, Grid in circle  |
| 4 | UNCOMPAGHRE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0      | Dec 7 1892<br>Hstp Not present                         |



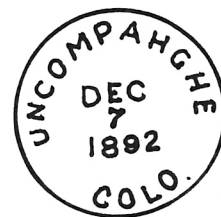
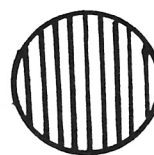
1



2



3



4

**URANIUM**

Uranium is described as a, "little town up on Rock (sic) Creek near the Copper Prince." From that description it was apparently a mining camp with copper ore the likely product. On modern maps the stream is called Roc Creek. The town name was a reference to the presence of uranium ores (carnotite) in the surrounding area.

The location provided by the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report does not fit with other evidence. The claimed location is not on Roc Creek. At the approximate distance from the Dolores River, modern maps do show a cluster of mines, with one labeled as the Rajah Mine, a short distance up Garvey Gulch from Roc Creek. Albert R. Garvey was one of the postmasters at Uranium.

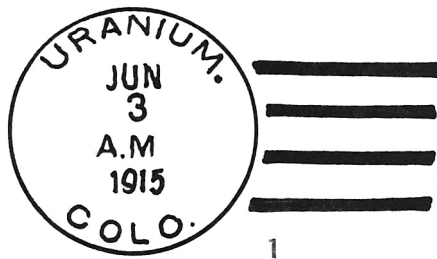
I am not certain if it is possible to reach this site. The USGS topographical map for Montrose County (Sheet 3) does show an unimproved road along Roc Creek from its junction with the Dolores River. This road begins just north of the bridge over the Dolores River where Colorado Highway 141 crosses from the east to the west side of the river several miles north of Uravan. A possible complication to visiting the site of Uranium is the extensive mining and subsequent environmental cleanup that has taken place in this general area.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 3 1900 ---	NW/4 Sec 35 T49N R19W 3 miles west of the Dolores River on north side of Rock (sic.) Creek NOTE: "The survey given here is not official. In the land office is known as unsurveyed land." This location does not seem correct. I believe that it was located in Garvey Gulch, three miles southeast of the claimed location. W.H.B. Proposed postmaster - Caroline Miller
Aug 29 1900	Established
Aug 29 1900	Miller, Caroline
Jun 20 1902	Watkins, Warren
Jan 31 1911	Pittenhouse, George
Dec 7 1911	Garvey, Albert R.
Feb 15 1922	Discontinued Mail to Naturita

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	URANIUM, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Jun 3 1915 4bars S-24x20mm
---	---------------------------------	-------------------------------



**URAVAN**

In 1936 the United States Vanadium Corporation took over the Standard Chemical Company's site of Jojunior (1914) and began operation. By February a company town had been constructed and mining and milling operations were underway. There were two principal products - vanadium and uranium. The name Uravan was coined from portions of the two element names.



**URAVAN – Continued**

The San Miguel River Valley has a long history of mining for exotic minerals. From 1881 on, carnotite was mined for the small amounts of gold contained with it. Vanadium became important for use in the steel industry. In 1898 the presence of uranium was confirmed. Several tons of the ore were shipped to France where Madame Curie used it in her experiments. Until 1928 this area produced nearly one-half the world's supply of radium.

Following World War II Uravan developed rapidly with a large mill processing carnotite ore from mines throughout the surrounding countryside. Uravan was a company town, virtually self-contained, with businesses, residences and a large boarding house for workers at the mill and the nearby mines.

I first visited Uravan in the summer of 1957 on a college field trip. We camped east of town, perhaps at the site of Cameville. In the evening we went into Uravan and spent a couple of hours rooting for the local baseball team.

In the 1980's stricter environmental standards and foreign competition threatened Uravan and eventually forced closure of the mill. The post office, housed in the security building of the mill, was discontinued in 1988. Environmental cleanup has been a major effort. There has been an effort to preserve the large boarding house at Uravan but almost everything else is, or soon will be, gone.

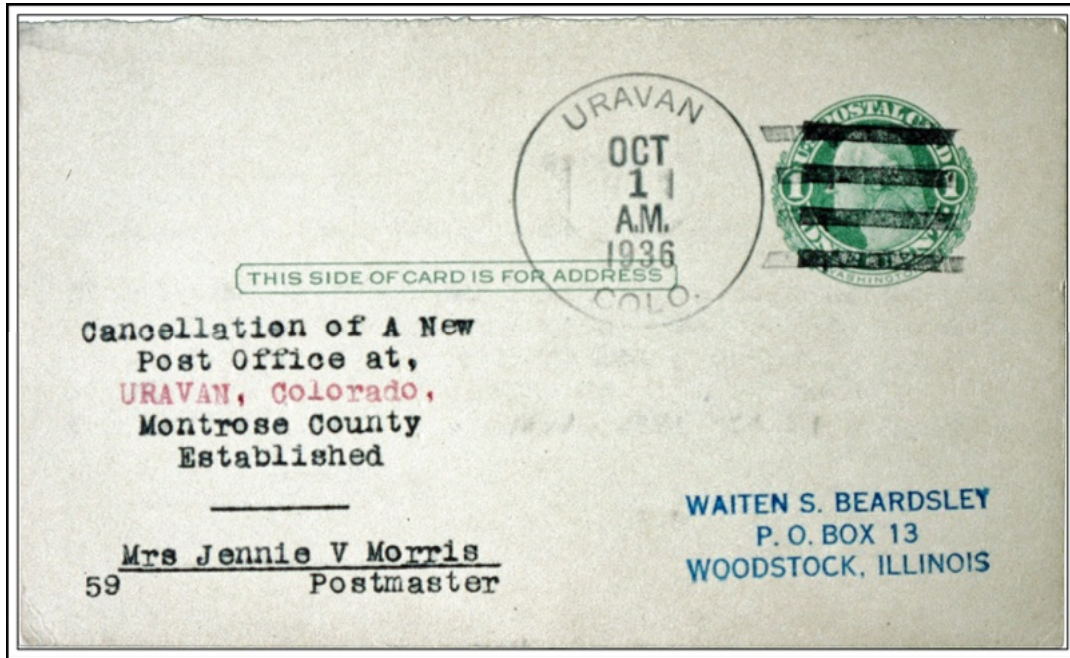
In 1994 Naturita produced a special postmark to promote the efforts to preserve the Uravan Boarding House.

Latitude = 38:22:06 North Longitude = 108:44:09 West URAVAN

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 12 1936 ---	NW/4 Sec 34 T48N R17W 300 feet southwest of the San Miguel River two miles northwest of Tabeguache Creek Applicant for postmaster - Jennie V. Morris	
Aug 27 1936	Established	
	NOTE: The post office records indicate the date of establishment as August 27 1936. However, there is positive evidence that the post office did not begin operations until October 1 1936 when a post route was established to Uravan.	
Aug 27 1936	Morris, Mrs. Jennie	Confirmed, Commissioned & Assumed charge
Jan 1 1939	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Assumed charge
Jan 7 1939	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Acting
May 13 1939	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Confirmed
May 29 1939	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Commissioned
Mar 8 1940	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Nominated
Mar 13 1940	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Confirmed
Mar 21 1940	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Appointed Presidential
Apr 9 1940	Guire, Mrs. Ethel	Commissioned
Oct 29 1941 ---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 34 T48N R17W San Miguel River 100 feet northeast of Post Office	
Jun 30 1946	Latham, Mrs. Mazel May	Acting
Jul 1 1946	Latham, Mrs. Mazel May	Assumed charge
Nov 18 1948	Latham, Mrs. Mazel May	Confirmed
Feb 1 1949	Latham, Mrs. Mazel May	Commissioned
Mar 13 1949	Latham, Mrs. Mazel May	Assumed charge
Oct 1 1949		Office made Presidential
Jun 18 1953	Benedict, Marion E.	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1953	Benedict, Marion E.	Acting
Jul 2 1954	Benedict, Marion E.	Nominated
Jul 28 1954	Benedict, Marion E.	Confirmed, Apptd Presid. & Commissioned
Oct 20 1978	Wooden, Mrs. Mary I.	Officer in charge
Jun 16 1979	Wooden, Mrs. Mary I.	Appointed
Dec 1 1986	Ceased Operation	
Jul 15 1988	Discontinued	

URAVAN - Continued

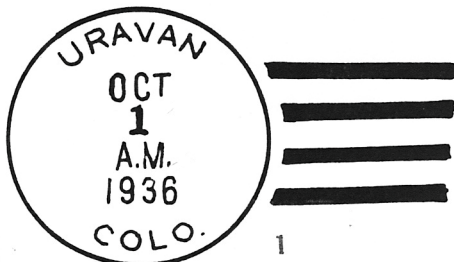


URAVAN / COLO.

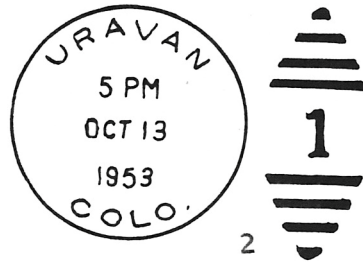
October 1, 1936

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

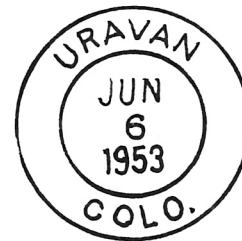
1	URAVAN / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 1 1936 Apr 24 1940
2	URAVAN / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Apr 23 1942 Apr 8 1959
3	URAVAN / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 6 1953 Jan 7 1957
3.1	URAVAN, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style	--- -- 195-
4	URAVAN, / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 9 1956 Jan 5 1963
5	URAVAN, CO / 81436 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Jul 8 1968 Feb 25 1976
6	URAVAN, CO / 81436 CI 10P 22.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 25 1976 Oct 5 1981
7	URAVAN, CO / 81436 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 28 1986



1

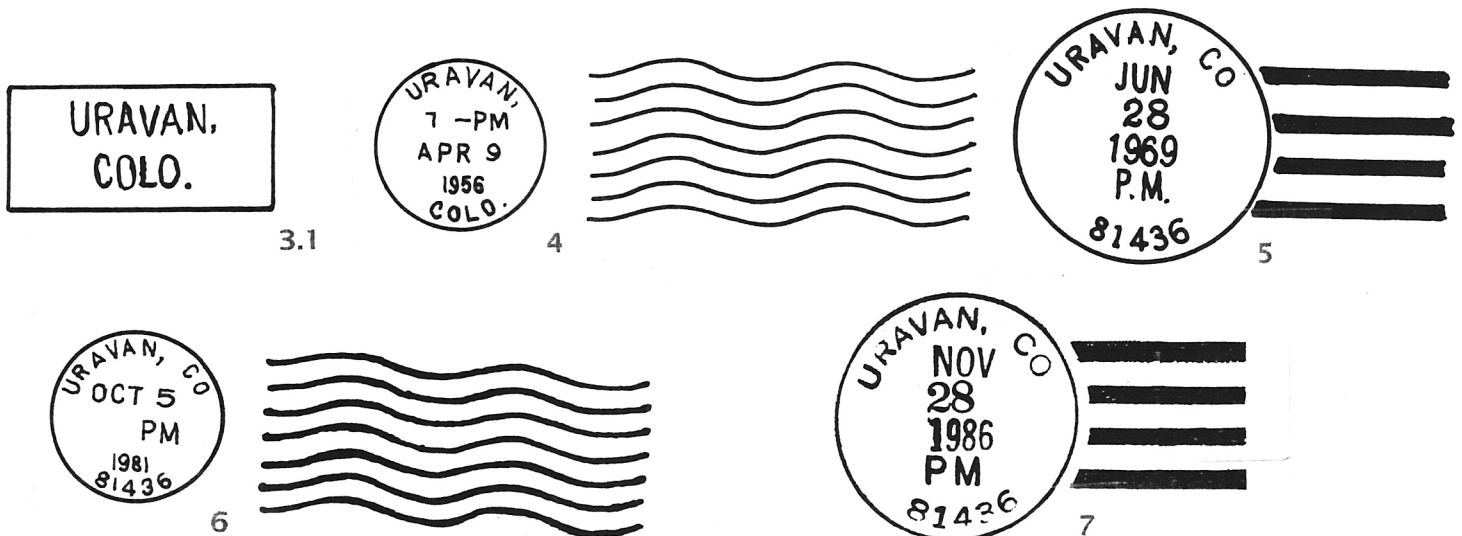


2



3

## URAVAN - Continued



## UTE

The first settlement at this site was by the United States Placer Company in 1890. Later the Colorado Copper Company operated a sawmill at the same location. It is not clear but seems likely that the first settlement was also a sawmill operation to produce timber for construction of flumes along the San Miguel and Dolores Rivers.

Finally the area was homesteaded and developed as a group of ranches. Ranching is still the local occupation.

Even though the site was settled as early as 1890 it was not until 1910 that a post office was established at Ute. According to the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report there were two locations for the post office. The first was on the north side of Montrose County Road 90. The second location was a mile to the south, not accessible by a public road.

Follow the directions that have been previously given to the locations of the Eva and Pinon Post Offices. From there, cross the San Miguel River and continue east on County Road 90 (Forest Service Road 540). It is nine miles to Ute from the bridge over the San Miguel River at Pinon. In 1994 there was an occupied, old log building on the north side of the road and some other buildings scattered about the wide, rather level valley basin.

Latitude = 38:15:20 North Longitude = 108:16:14 West UTE

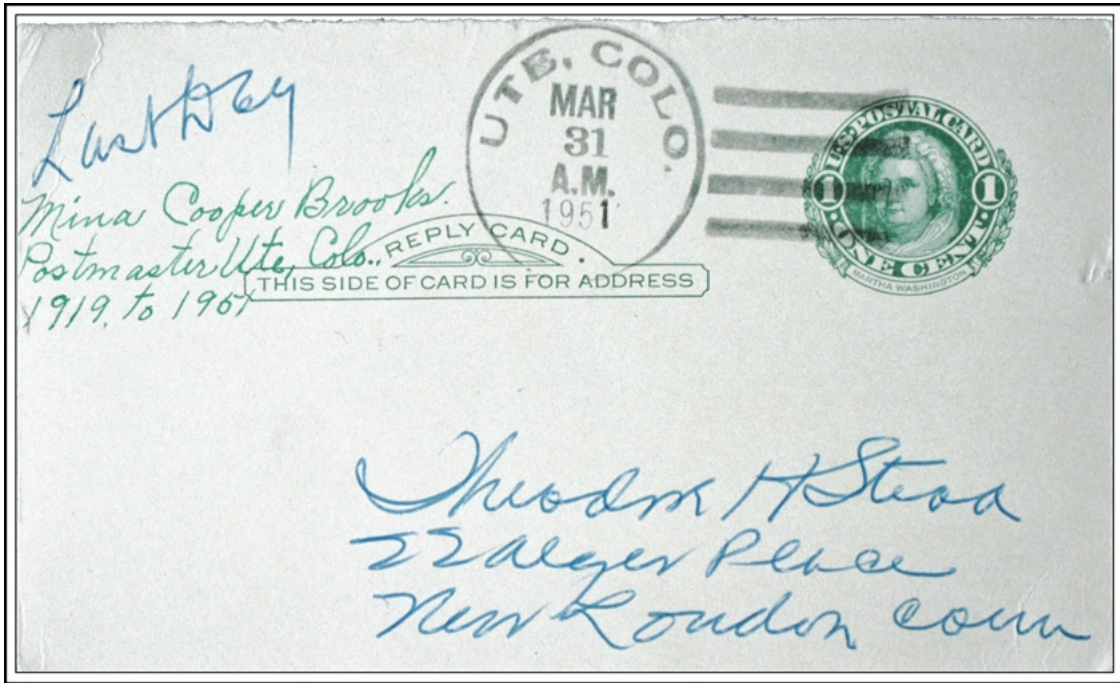
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 24 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 11 T46N R13W San Miguel River 3 miles south Horsefly Creek 1 mile east of post office site
May 24 1912		Established
May 24 1912		Marsh, Cora Leo
Jul 20 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 11 T46N R13W 1 mile southwest of Sheep Creek
Jan 29 1916		Partain, Belle
Jul 27 1917		Leubbert, Lena F.
May 12 1919		Brooks, Nina C. Assumed charge
Sep 1 1919	---	NW/4 NE/2 Sec 14 T46N R13W 1 mile west of Horsefly Creek
Sep 30 1919		Brooks, Nina C. Confirmed

**THE COLORADO POSTAL ENCYCLOPEDIA  
MONTROSE COUNTY**

**UTE – Continued**

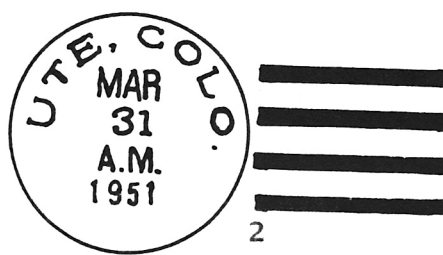
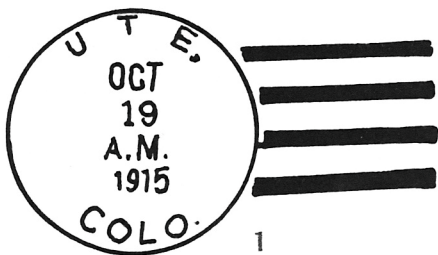
Oct 25 1919	Brooks, Nina C.	Commissioned Still Postmaster on Mar 31 1951
Dec 29 1919	--- NE/4 Sec 14 T46N R13W	
Jul 20 1927	--- SE/4 NE/4 Sec 11 T46N R13W 1/2 mile west of Sheep Creek	
Oct 25 1941	--- NE/4 Sec 11 T46N R13W Sheep Creek 3/8 mile east of office	
Mar 5 1951	Ordered closed	
Mar 31 1951	Discontinued Mail to Nucla	



**UTE, COLO.                      March 31, 1951**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- |   |                             |                 |                        |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | UTE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Oct 19 1915            |
| 2 | UTE, COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0   | 4bars P-23x18mm | Jun 7 1941 Mar 31 1951 |



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**MONTROSE COUNTY BIBLIOGRAPHY – Continued  
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**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

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, references of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.

## APPENDICES

## “81411”

By Jack Willard

“What’s in an name?”

William Shakespeare had the answer.

So did the Post Office Department.

The mail went through -- not always without some difficulty -- but a place was still a place, and somehow or other the mail got there regardless of the name.

We have fewer and bigger places these days and the Post Office Department could care less if it has a name as long as it has a number.

Take 81411 for example. It has a sort of swinging sound if you like the sound of numbers, but what about 81411 back in the old days when it had a name?

In the western reaches of Montrose County, Colorado, in the valley known as Paradox, an amateur mineralogist named Tom Swain discovered a copper mine in the year of 1896. After he sold it, the mine was given the name, Cashin.

In the parlance of our best TV westerns it was not so named because anyone died and “cashed in his chips” or because any one “cashed in” on a particularly rich mineral strike. Tom Swain simply sold his mine to a man named Cashin.

Since cattle had always been the principal occupation in the Paradox Valley, expanded activity at the mine caused quite a business boom. The ranchers not only provided food for the miners, but also benefited from the sale of hay and grain to the freighters who brought in supplies to the mine and carried the ore out for smelting.

A post office was established at the mine in 1899, which was known, as Cashin Post Office.

The mine boomed from 1899 to 1908. A Michigan syndicate bought the mine from Mr. Cashin just before the turn of the century, and created the present town of Bedrock just a few miles away. It was not long before the town consisted of two hotels, two saloons, a store, and a doctor’s office. The population was about 500 residents. The Postal Guide of 1900 indicates that there was a post office named Cashin and also one named Bedrock.

In the history of Montrose County it is reported that the location of the Cashin Post Office was moved from the mine in 1907 to “metropolitan” Bedrock. Further that the name was not changed to that of the town until July 1, 1912. It could be that the original Bedrock Post Office did not survive, and that the Cashin Post Office did, in truth, finally became the Bedrock Post Office in 1912.

As mines go, the Cashin was a good producer while expenses were low, but in 1908, when the tunnels were extended below the level of the nearby creek, it became necessary to install pumps to prevent flooding. This added expense was the difference between profit and loss, and the mine was soon shut down.

Today, the miners are gone. The ranchers that have had sufficient water to survive several droughts continue to tend their cattle, and Bedrock has become 81411.

[A sequel entitled “MURDER AT THE CASHIN” a purely non-philatelic article will appear in a later edition, if you will so indicate to the editor. The matter will be dropped if there is not sufficient interest.]

[In our previous article on Bedrock, Colorado, and the Paradox Valley, we told you how Tom Swain discovered a copper mine, which came to be known as the Cashin. When he sold the mine he invested his money in a general store at Paradox. Since that tale, a cover bearing the corner card of Tom Swain turned up in a recent auction making a useful illustration for this sequel which has no other philatelic flavor. [SRM: cover unfortunately not available for illustration]

## **MURDER AT THE CASHIN**

By Jack Willard

1921 was the year. The sporadic-working copper mine known as the Cashin was owned by a Mrs. Gates of Chicago. She employed as watchman a flamboyant local character who sported two .44 caliber six-guns named Slim Hecox.

Slim was known to carry several thousand dollars in a money belt on his person, which he was prone to display freely, especially when he was in town on a drunk. He claimed the money was his share of a bank hold-up in Coffeyville, Kansas, but no one really believed that story.

In spite of his overconfident and braggadocio manner, Hecox was a good shot and quick on the draw. His skill with a shooting iron, however, failed to save either his money or his life. His decapitated body was found near the caretaker's house at the mine. The head could not be found, and the headless corpse was buried in the Paradox cemetery shortly after Thanksgiving of that year.

Mrs. Gates hired detectives to clear up the case after the inquest failed to accomplish anything. The detectives found that a gang of ten men who had been causing trouble in the area were involved. A posse was organized which captured the outlaws when they returned to an abandoned building near Bedrock, which they used as hangout. Given the third degree, the outlaws admitted the murder and told where they had hidden Hecox's head. It had been buried up La Sal Creek some 15 miles from the Cashin. After the missing extremity had been recovered it was thought fitting to bury it with the body. The coffin had been thrown together for the occasion - factory-made coffins were not common around Paradox and Bedrock in those days - and made just big enough to accommodate the headless corpse. At any rate, since there was no space left for the newly found head, it was placed in the curvature of the watchman's bended arm. So, like the horseman in the *Legend of Sleepy Hollow*, Slim Hecox rests in the Paradox Cemetery holding his head in one arm.

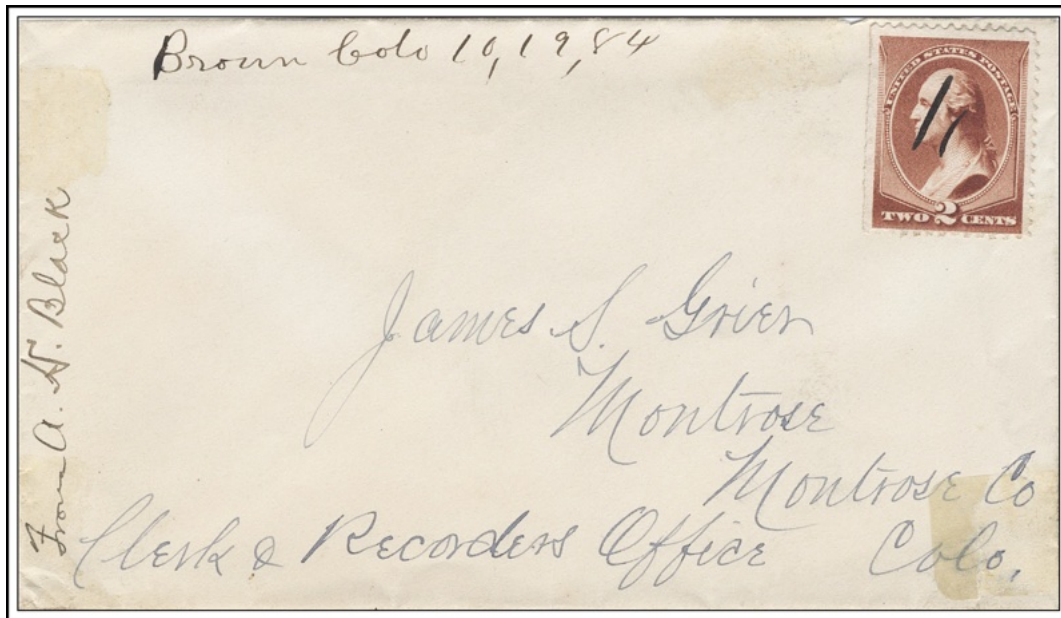
The outlaws hoped to terrorize the valley with this fiendish crime, but all were captured and sentenced to long prison terms in the state penitentiary

Articles originally published in *4th Class Cancellation Club* Newsletter  
Volume 3, Number 8, October 1967  
Volume 3, Number 11, January 1968

GALLERY OF MONTROSE COUNTY COVERS



Bedrock Colo      January 27, 1893



Brown Colo      October 19, 1884



CIMARRON, / COLO.

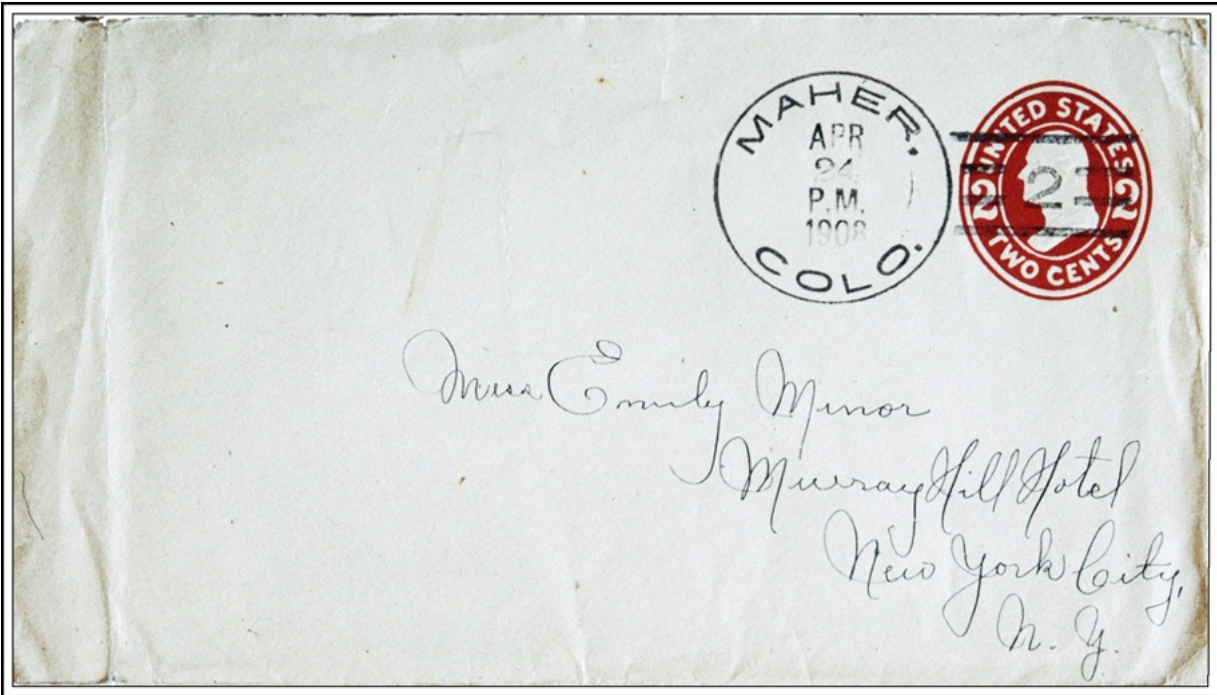
June 17, 1887



LUJANE, / COLO.

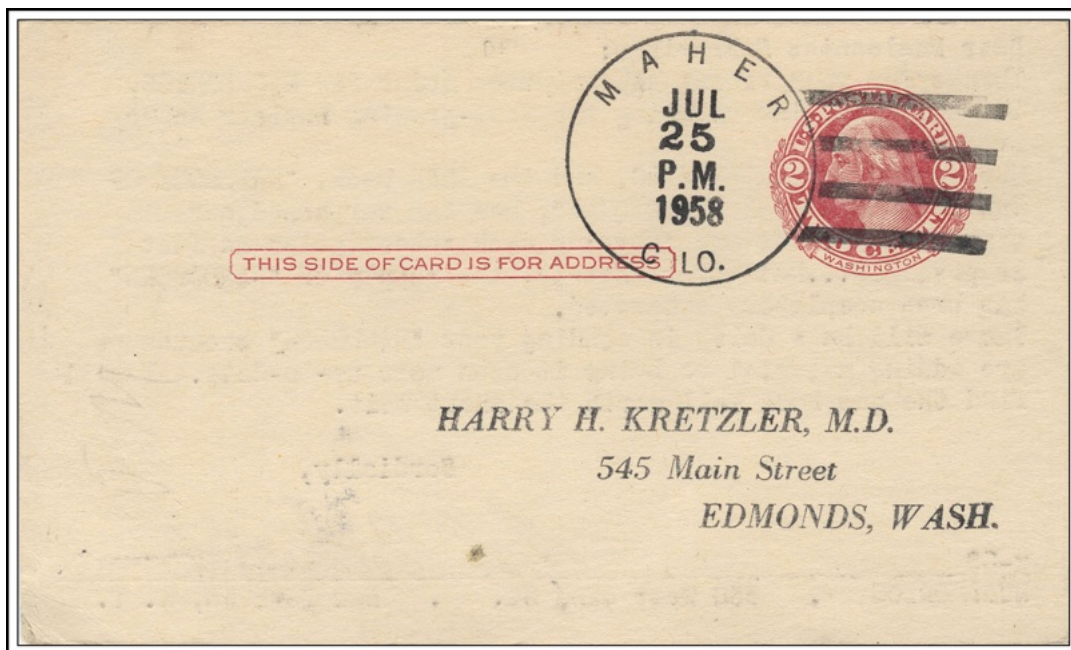
January 19, 1910





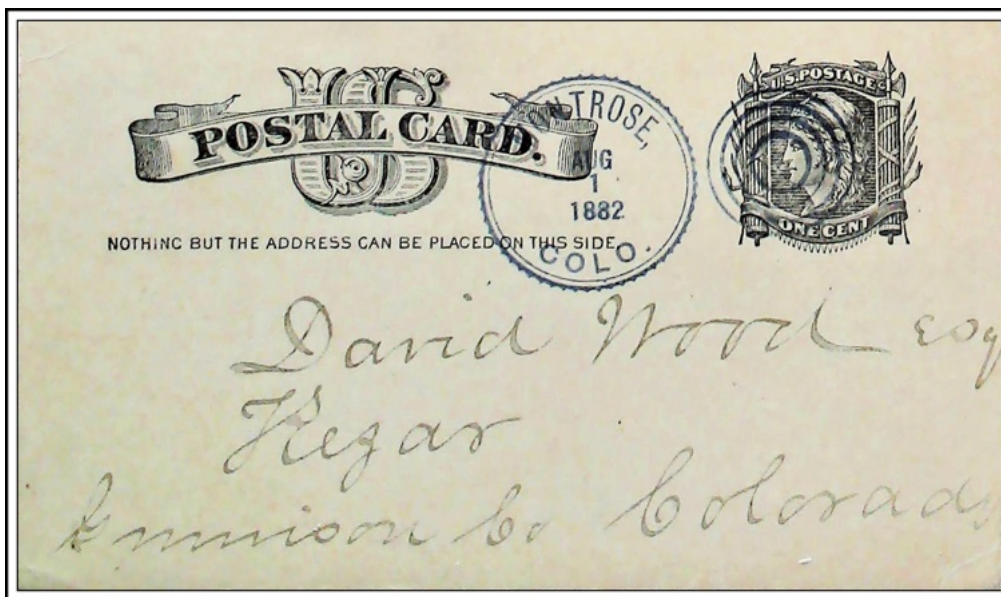
MAHER, / COLO.

April 24, 1908



MAHER / COLO.

July 25, 1958



MONTROSE, / COLO.

August 1, 1882



MONTROSE, / COLORADO. & MONTROSE, COLO. // REGISTERED

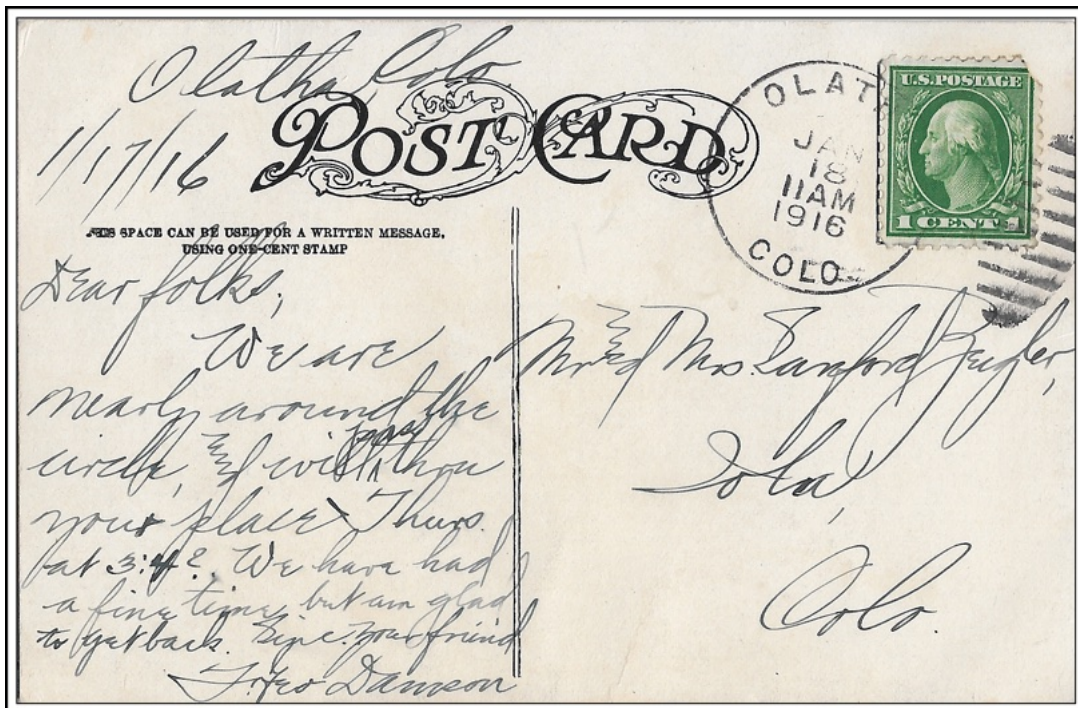
July 29, 1887





NATURITA, / COLO.

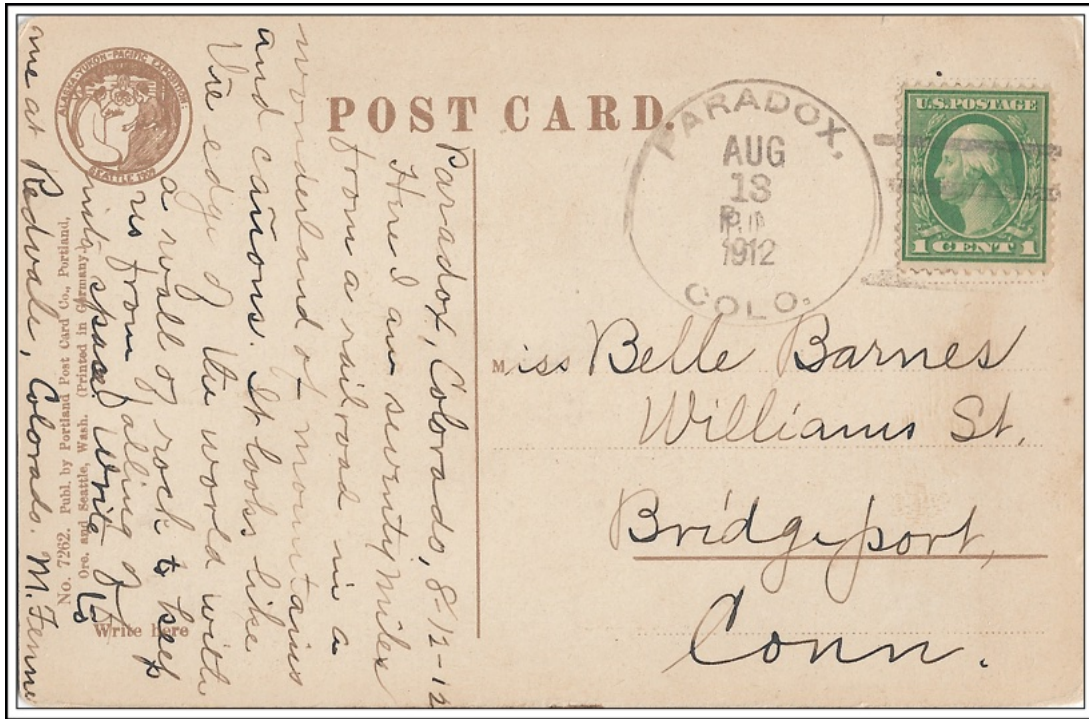
September 20, 1910



OLATHE / COLO.

January 18, 1916





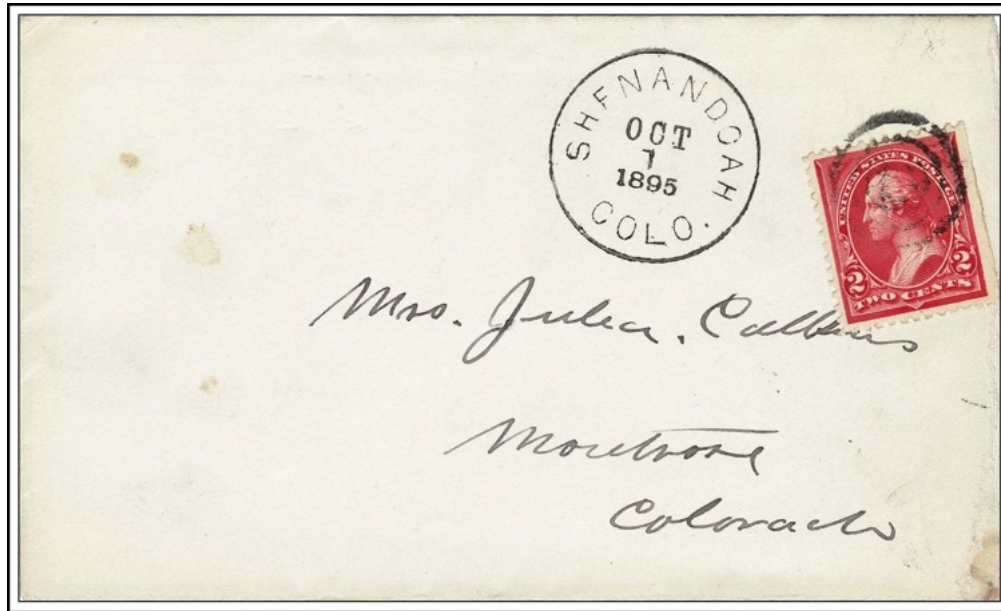
PARADOX, / COLO.

August 13, 1912



PINON / COLO.

May 27, 1903



SHENANDOAH / COLO.

October 1, 1895



Uncapahgre Colo

March 10, 1877

Spelling of first office retained