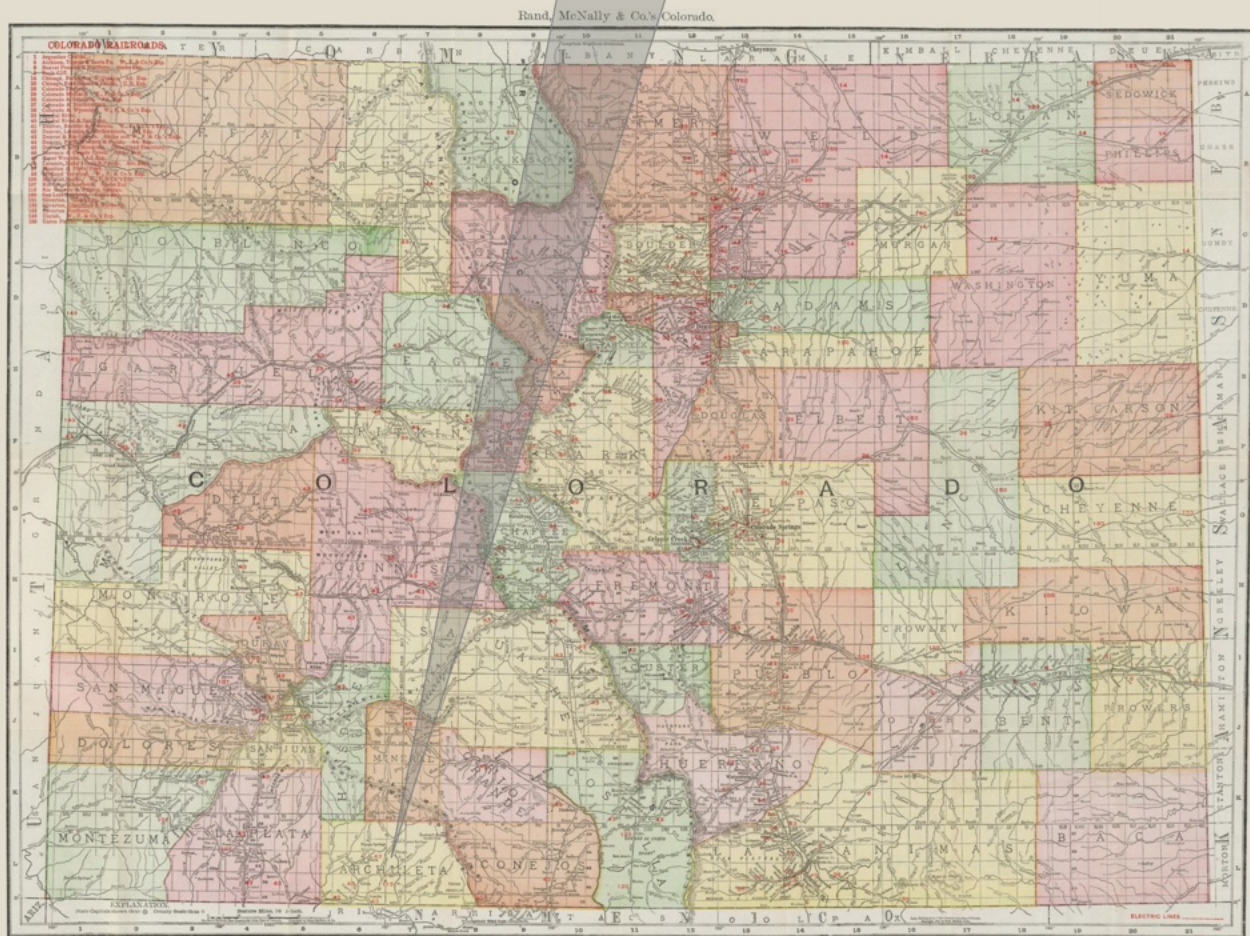


Archuleta County



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

Established: April 14, 1885

County Seat: Pagosa Springs

ARCHULETA COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Archuleta County was created March 18, 1913 from portions of Conejos & Costilla Counties. It is a somewhat irregular rectangle oriented east-west. From east to west the maximum distance is a little more than 52 miles and from north to south it is about 30 miles wide. On the north the county is bounded by Hinsdale and Mineral Counties and for about two miles by Rio Grande County. Conejos County forms the eastern boundary. To the south the state line with New Mexico is the boundary and La Plata County borders Archuleta to the west.

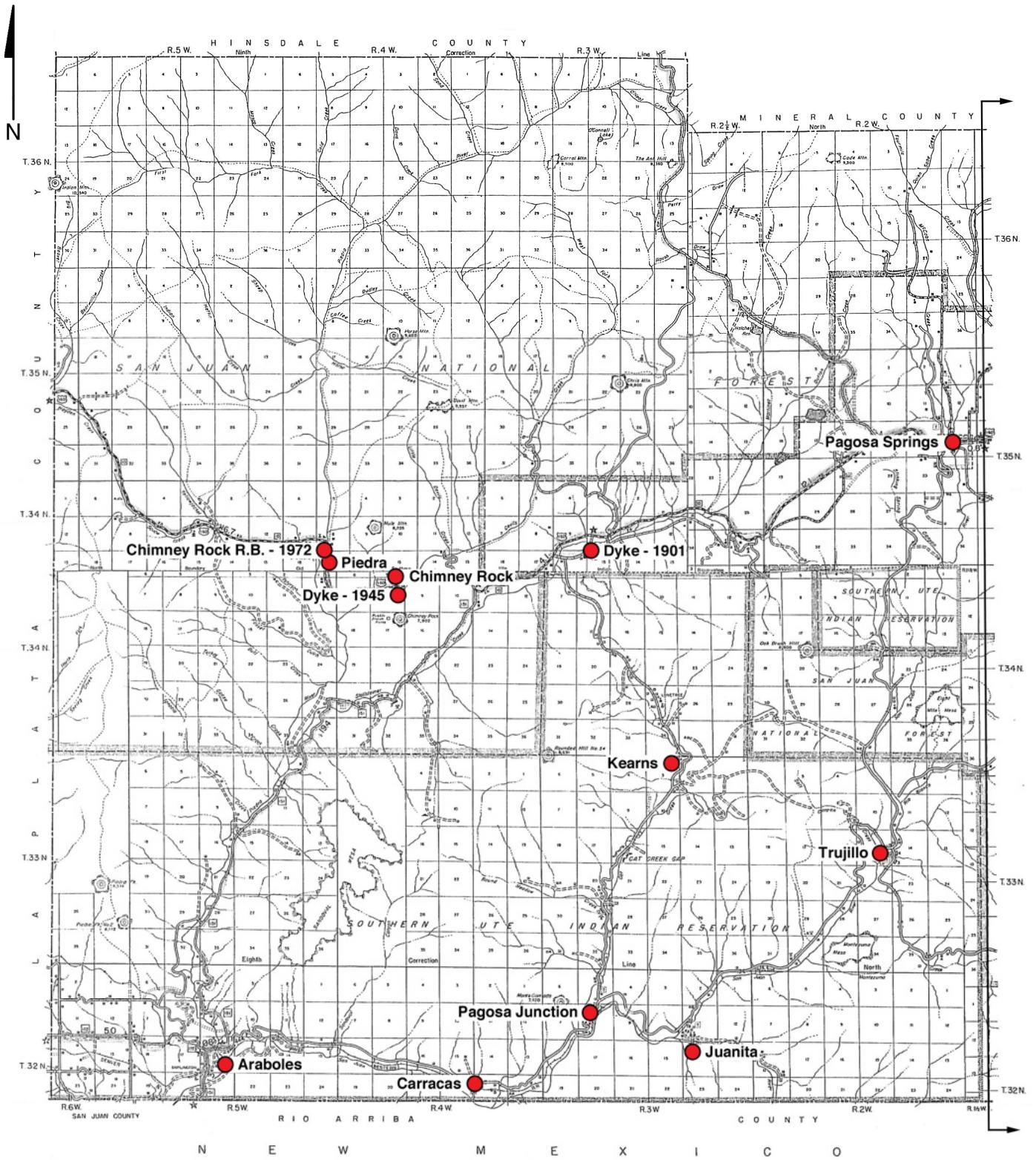
Approximately half of the county (the southern portion) is part of the southern Ute Reservation and much of the rest is federal land in either the Rio Grande National Forest or the San Juan National Forest. The topography is mountainous, with portions of the Continental Divide present in eastern Archuleta County. Drainage is from the north and east eventually leaving the county in the southwest corner through the Navajo Reservoir. The principal stream is the San Juan River, with its major tributaries the Navajo, Rio Blanco and Piedra Rivers.

Initial access to the county was by way of the military road over Elwood Pass, however that route is no longer passable. Today, the county is traversed by US Highway 160 from Wolf Creek Pass, through Pagosa Springs and on to Durango. From Pagosa Springs, US Highway 84 goes south through Chromo into New Mexico and on to Santa Fe. Most secondary roads lie in the quadrant south of US-160 and west of US-84.

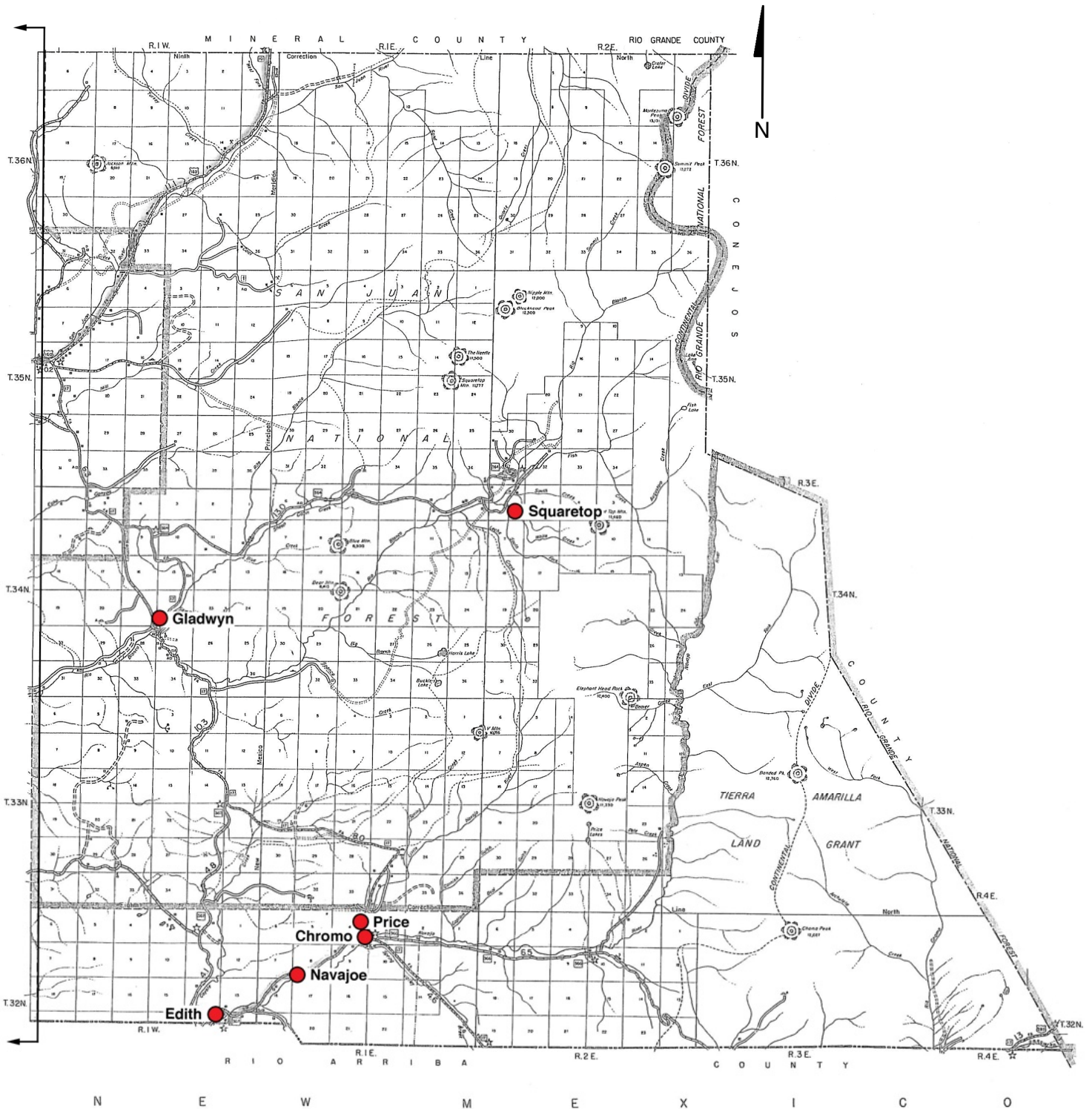
Other than acting as a transit-way to and from mines to the west, Archuleta played no important part in the mining history of Colorado. However, lumbering was another story. Through the later part of the nineteenth century lumber was the principal product of the county, with timber camps scattered throughout the county, some of which were important enough to have post offices. The timbering industry also led to the construction of a number of short line railroads by which the timber was moved to market. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, on its way to Durango and Silverton, entered the county from New Mexico and a short distance north of the state line continued westward into La Plata County. From Pagosa Junction, a railroad was built northward to Pagosa Springs. Today, with the timber industry greatly reduced, none of the railroads remain. Some track, a few cars, a pump hose and a water tank remain at Pagosa Junction and the grades can be followed in many areas.

The second important contributor to the economy was the raising of livestock, both sheep and cattle. This is still an important activity in the more open areas of the county. However, many of the large ranches are now the property of absentee landowners and have been subdivided for "ranchettes" or soon may meet that fate.

Tourism has become a significant activity, particularly in the vicinity of Pagosa Springs which has seen considerable growth in the last twenty or so years, with no signs of a slowdown. To some extent, tourism began even before the white man came to Archuleta County. The hot springs at Pagosa Springs were long a favorite place for the Native Americans to visit and they often wintered in the vicinity. As the miners came into the San Juan Region, they too found the springs an inviting place to linger and rest. Now, in a new century, visitors still come for the springs, but more for other outdoor activities in the surrounding country: hiking, camping, hunting, fishing and the guest ranch experience. Many have found the climate enjoyable and have come back to take up residence either year-round or for the summer season. Pagosa Springs also benefits from proximity to Durango, Mesa Verde, the Durango & Silverton Railroad and the ski area on Wolf Creek Pass.



Post Office Location Map – Western Archuleta County



Post Office Location Map – Eastern Archuleta County

ARBOLES

The original site of Arboles was at the junction of the Piedra and the San Juan Rivers. This site is now covered by the waters of the Navajo Reservoir and is part of a State Recreation Area. The community was established in 1881, with arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad during its construction to Durango. The name "Arboles" is a Spanish word and was a reference to the wooded area along the rivers. Construction of the Navajo Reservoir doomed the original townsite and forced the railroad to abandon its crossing of the rivers at Arboles and take a circuitous route north and then back south around the reservoir.

The community of Arboles moved about a mile and a half west to a location on the west side of the Reservoir where the community still exists. The community is within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation.

From reports, it appears that Arboles likely began as a railroad construction camp and continued as an "eating" stop on the railroad. Today it serves as a supply town for fishermen and other visitors to the Navajo Reservoir and Recreation area.

The current location of Arboles is on Colorado Highway 151 about two miles north of the New Mexico State Line and where the highway turns from north-south to an east-west direction towards La Plata County. Highway 151 originates at US Highway 160, about five miles east of Piedra.

The best viewing location for the site of Old Arboles is from the Arboles Point Park on the east side of the reservoir.

Latitude = 37:01:41-North Longitude = 107:25:07-West



ARBOLES / COLO. April 19, 1887
Postal card requiring additional postage to Germany

Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Nov 16 1882 | --- | Unsurveyed lands (Document filed under Conejos County) 60 rods west of the San Juan River, 400 1/4 mile east of the Piedra River.
Proposed postmaster - Austin Belle Patton |
| Dec 13 1882 | | Established |
| Dec 13 1882 | | Patton, Austin B. |
| Sep 24 1883 | | Gilbert, H. |
| Apr 27 1885 | --- | This place is situated on D&RG also on reservation and is not laid out in townships and ranges. |

ARBOLES - Continued

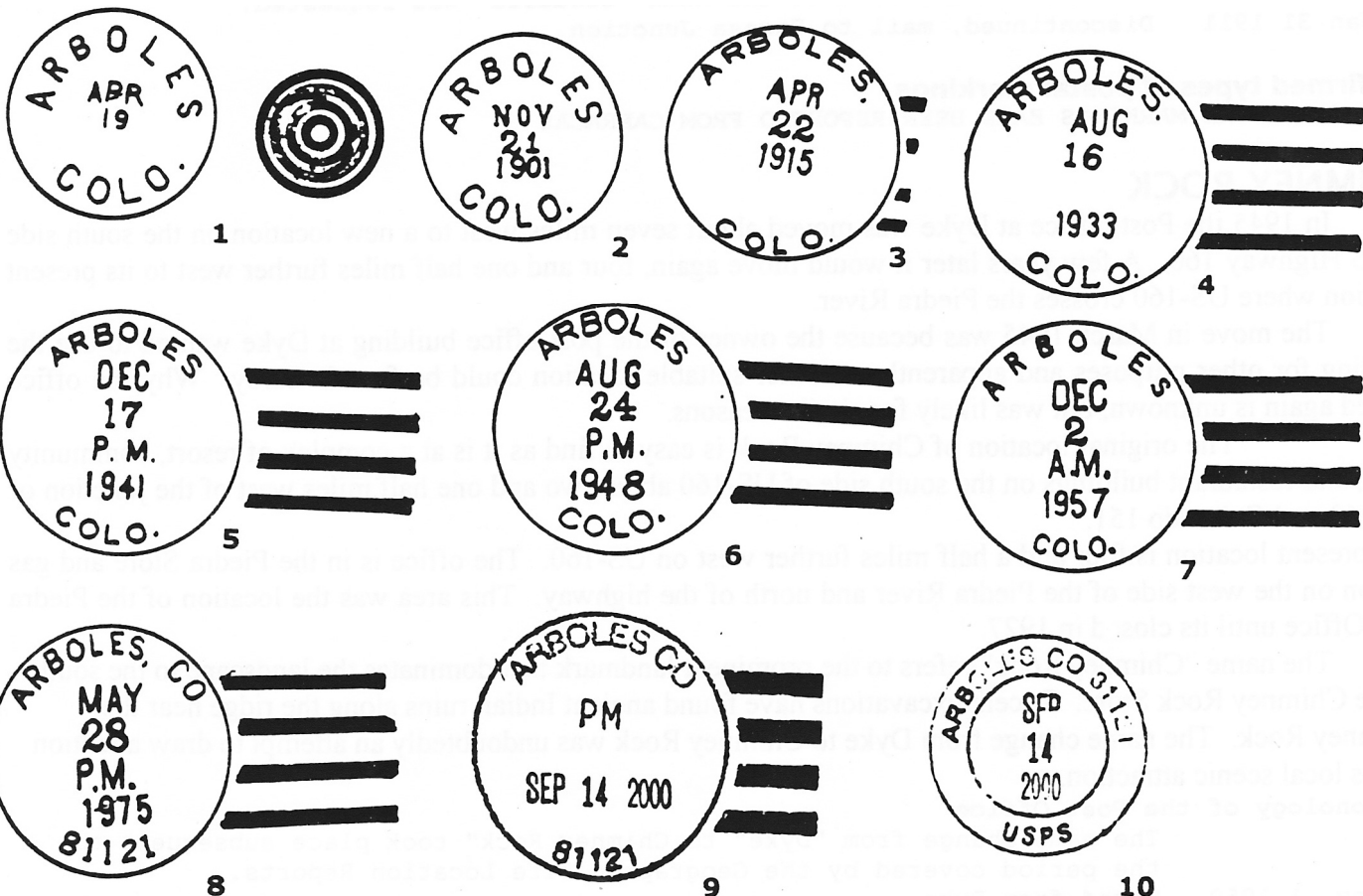
Dec 7 1883	Hatfield, Frederick B.	
May 9 1889	Hopkins, George B.	
Aug 22 1889	Burke, Thomas F.	
Apr 4 1889	Ordered closed Mail to Durango	
Apr 4 1899	Discontinued	
Apr 13 1889	Order revoked	
Apr 13 1899	Re-established	
Apr 17 1899	Scott, John R.	
Oct 9 1901	Graves, Anna M.	
Oct 27 1901 ---	Sec 16 T32N R5W 100 feet south of the D&RGW RR	
Sep 23 1902	Skinner, Florence	
Jun 11 1903	Rodriguez, Benson	Not commissioned
Aug 7 1903	Rodriguez, Benigno A.	
Mar 15 1909	Dutton, George A.	
Jan 2 1910	Smack, Daniel E.	
Mar 4 1914 ---	No reliable location given 120 feet north of the D&RG RR, 400 feet north of the San Juan River.	
Jan 16 1915	Manning, Marg L.	
Apr 27 1918	Nossaman, Elizabeth U.	
Jan 27 1927	Clark, William E.	Acting
Apr 11 1927	Clark, William E.	Appointed
Aug 30 1930	Walker, John E.	Possession
Sep 10 1930	Walker, John E.	Acting
Mar 26 1931	Walker, John E.	Confirmed
Apr 10 1931	Walker, John E.	Commissioned
Apr 08 1941	Diestelkamp, Gilbert H.	Assumed charge
Apr 16 1941	Diestelkamp, Gilbert H.	Acting
Oct 13 1941	Diestelkamp, Gilbert H.	Confirmed
Oct 24 1941	Diestelkamp, Gilbert H.	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 16 T32N R5W D&RGW RR .05 mile east of post office.	
Apr 16 1943	Barrett, Mrs. Janie L.	Assumed charge
Apr 22 1943	Barrett, Mrs. Janie L.	Acting
May 04 1943	Barrett, Mrs. Janie L.	Confirmed
May 29 1943	Barrett, Mrs. Janie L.	Commissioned
Sep 07 1955	Walker, James E.	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1955	Walker, James E.	Acting
Nov 05 1956	Walker, James E.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ARBOLES / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm	Apr 19 1887 Oct 11 1888
2	ARBOLES / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not recorded	Nov 21 1901
2.1	ARBOLES, / COLO. CI 10P ???.?	Doane Type 1 with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	May 12 1907
3	ARBOLES, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 22 1915
4	ARBOLES, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 16 1933 Jul 26 1941
5	ARBOLES / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 1 1941 Oct 28 1942
6	ARBOLES / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-22x19mm	Aug 24 1948 Jan 4 1955
7	ARBOLES / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 2 1957 Dec 9 1964

ARBOLES - Continued

8	ARBOLES, CO / 81121 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 27 1967 May 23 1993
9	ARBOLES CO / 81121 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-14x21mm	Apr 12 1995 Sep 14 2000
10	ARBOLES CO 81121 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 14 2000



CARRACAS

Carracas was located on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and is listed in Railroad Guides as early as 1883. The source of the name is open to debate. Some sources claim that it was named for the capitol of Venezuela - Caracas. It is a Spanish word that can mean either a “rattle” used during Holy Week, or is a derivation from “Caraben,” a type of sailing ship. The connection to “rattle” seems more likely as the location is within the Ute reservation and could be a reference to instruments used by the Indians.

Carracas developed as a small community on the railroad and was a likely supply center for inhabitants of the area between Arboles and Pagosa Junction. As with much of Archuleta County there was probably lumbering activity in the vicinity and at the time the post office was in operation, there could have been a large enough community to warrant the establishment of a post office. Virtually nothing remains today, although the site is still identified on the 1975 USGS map of Archuleta County.

The location is on the county road that parallels the San Juan River and the old railroad grade, approximately four miles west and south of Pagosa Junction.

CARRACAS – Continued

Latitude = 37:00:18-North Longitude = 107:15:29-West

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 3 1909	Established
Mar 3 1909	Silva, Polita
Apr 8 1909	--- Sec 23 T32N R4W Carracas station, D&RG, 103 yards north of post office. San Juan River 100 yards south.
	Some indication that the name "Cordelia" was requested.
Jan 31 1911	Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Junction

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CARRACAS

CHIMNEY ROCK

In 1945 the Post Office at Dyke was moved about seven miles west to a new location on the south side of US Highway 160. A few years later it would move again, four and one half miles further west to its present location where US-160 crosses the Piedra River.

The move in March 1945 was because the owner of the post office building at Dyke wanted to use the building for other purposes and apparently no other suitable location could be found nearby. Why the office moved again is unknown, but was likely for similar reasons.

The original location of Chimney Rock is easy to find as it is at a complex of resort, community store and restaurant buildings on the south side of US-160 about two and one half miles west of the junction of US-160 and Colorado 151.

The present location is four and a half miles further west on US-160. The office is in the Piedra Store and gas station on the west side of the Piedra River and north of the highway. This area was the location of the Piedra Post Office until it closed in 1927.

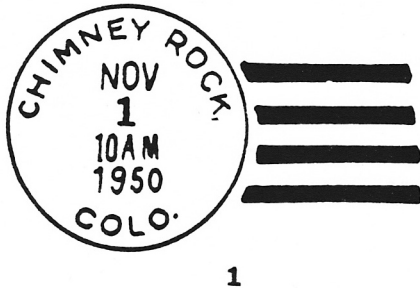
The name "Chimney Rock" refers to the prominent landmark that dominates the landscape to the south of the Chimney Rock Store. Recent excavations have found ancient Indian ruins along the ridge near the Chimney Rock. The name change from Dyke to Chimney Rock was undoubtedly an attempt to draw attention to this local scenic attraction.

Chronology of the Post Office

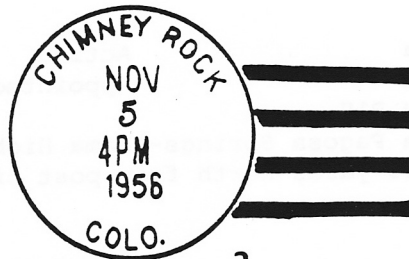
	The name change from "Dyke" to Chimney Rock" took place subsequent to the period covered by the Geographic Site Location Reports.	
Sep 14 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Confirmed
Nov 16 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Commissioned
Nov 16 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Assumed charge
Nov 1 1950	Moved from Dyke	
Oct 20 1959	Hall, Mrs Lorraine E.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1959	Hall, Mrs Lorraine E.	Acting
Jan 30 1960	Gallavan, Richard L.	Assumed charge
Feb 2 1960	Gallavan, Richard L.	Acting
Apr 9 1960	Gallavan, Richard L.	Confirmed
Apr 27 1960	Robison, Mrs. Mary Lou	Confirmed
Jul 25 1960	Robison, Mrs. Mary Lou	Assumed charge
Jul 27 1960	Robison, Mrs. Mary Lou	Acting
Dec 09 1966	Bynum, James E.	Acting
Apr 7 1967	Discontinued, effective Apr 6 1967 Mail to Pagosa Springs Later to a Community Post Office	

CHIMNEY ROCK - Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**

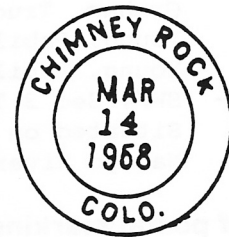
1	CHIMNEY ROCK, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Nov 1 1950 Jul 13 1953
2	CHIMNEY ROCK / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 5 1956 Jul 27 1963
3	CHIMNEY ROCK / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 14 1958



1



2



3

CHROMO

From 1880 to 1882 a post office by the name of Price existed at this location. In 1885 it was re-established, but apparently the Post Office Department believed that a different name would avoid confusion with Price, Utah which had become a prominent community on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

The name "Chromo" is of Greek derivation meaning color and could be a reference to the colorful rock strata of the surrounding area. There is also a Chromo Mountain nearby in New Mexico.

In 1895 the Biggs Lumber Company built a lumber mill at Chromo. The mill continued in operation into the early twentieth century and was for a time one of the major facilities for the timber industry in Archuleta County.

The Rio Grande & Pagosa Springs Railroad reached Chromo sometime after 1898 and for a few years was the carrier for mail to and from Chromo. The rails from Edith were removed in 1914 and by then Chromo had reverted to a small, rural community.

Chromo continues to exist as a stop on US Highway 84 from Pagosa Springs to Chama, New Mexico. During my visit to Chromo in September 2000, a large tour bus was there with its passengers using the facilities, but to the disgust of the proprietor not spending much money in the combination store, gas station and post office. There are a few scattered homes in the area of Chromo.

To reach the site, drive south from Pagosa Springs on US-84 to the bridge over the Navajo River. The Chromo Post Office is on south side of the river, about three miles north of the New Mexico Border.

Latitude = 37:02:11-North Longitude = 106:50:34-West

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 6 1885	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T32N R1E 100 yards south of Navajo River, 20 rods north of Spring Creek, (near the junction) Proposed postmaster - Martha M. Price Sketch map: site is labeled "Navajo = proposed office, Chromo."
Oct 30 1885		Established
Oct 30 1885		Price, Martha M.
Sep 20 1894		Price, Charles W.
Jun 27 1899		Lindsay, Samuel N.

Appointment rescinded Oct 4, 1894

CHROMO - Continued

Sep 13 1899	---	SE/4 Sec 4 T32N R1E	On the north side of the Navajo River	
Mar 27 1903			Price, Eva M.	
Jul 14 1905			Price, Norman B.	
Jun 15 1907			Lewis, Charles W.	
Apr 7 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T32N R1E	100 yards south of the Navajo River and 1/4 mile north of Spring Creek.	
Jun 24 1915			Young, George H.	
Nov 23 1926			Graham, Trudie	
May 3 1930			Young, Pabilita	Acting
Sep 5 1930			Young, Pabilita	Appointed
Oct 22 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 3 T32N R1E	Situated on the Pagosa Springs-Chama Highway Number 17. Navajo River 100 yards north from post office.	
Sep 30 1944			Havens, Fitzhugh	Assumed charge
Oct 11 1944			Havens, Fitzhugh	Acting
Nov 02 1944			Havens, Fitzhugh	Confirmed
Feb 13 1945			Havens, Fitzhugh	Commissioned
Jun 2 1945			Havens, Fitzhugh	Military Leave
Aug 24 1945			Havens, Mrs. Margaret Y.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1945			Havens, Mrs. Margaret Y.	Acting
Apr 30 1946			Havens, Fitzhugh	Returned from military leave
Aug 6 1958			Havens, Mrs. Margaret Y.	Assumed charge
Aug 8 1958			Havens, Mrs. Margaret Y.	Acting
Aug 3 1959			Havens, Mrs. Margaret Y.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CHROMO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm	Apr 11 1887
2	CHROMO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No present	Mar 6 1889 Apr 30 1899
3	CHROMO / COLO. CI 10P ???.?	Doane Type 3, with 2	Apr 24 1907 Apr 30 1909
4	CHROMO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm, short letters, close together	Mar 28 1917 Aug 15 1939
5	CHROMO / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm, tall letters, wide apart	Nov 11 1939 Jul 17 1954
6	CHROMO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 26 1960 Feb 16 1962
7	CHROMO, CO / 81128 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x20mm	May 12 1969 Oct 18 1975
8	CHROMO, CO / 81128 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-26x19mm	Mar 3 1987 May 17 1993
9	CHROMO CO / 81128 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 14 2000



1

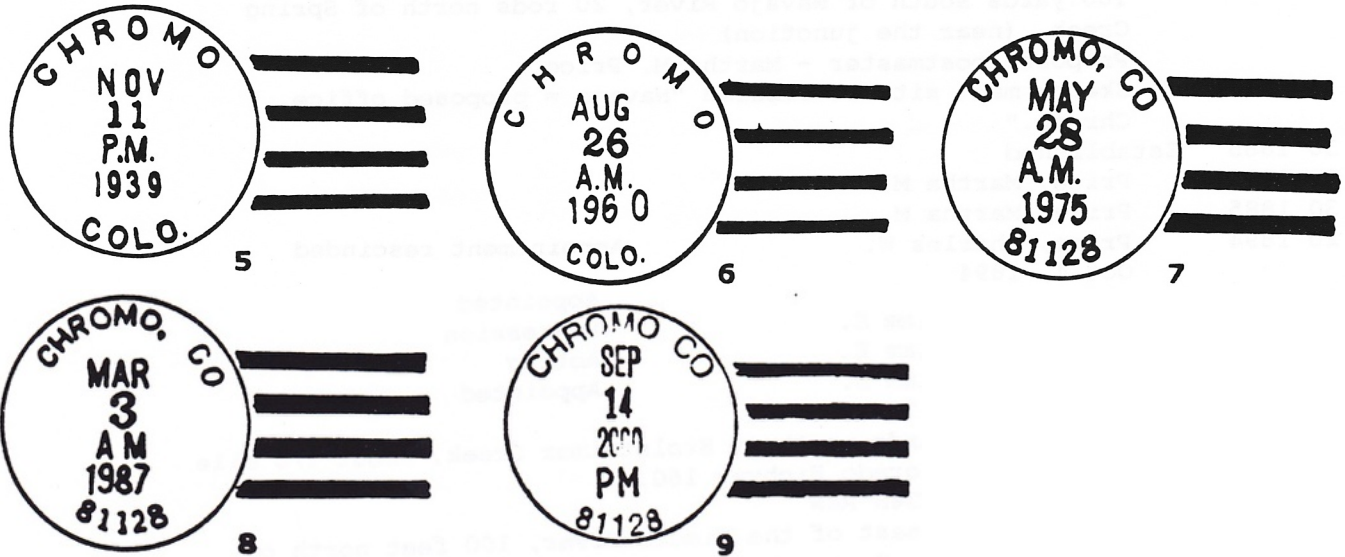


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4

CHROMO - Continued



DYKE

Dyke came into existence when the Rio Grande, Pagosa & Northern Railroad built into the area. In 1903 the Pagosa Lumber Company constructed a mill at Dyke and a small community developed around the mill and the railroad station. Spur lines were also built to timbering operations in the surrounding area. The lumber industry lasted only a few years and the railroad was eventually removed.

Prior to the arrival of the railroad, William Dyke was ranching in the area and supplied beef for the railroad construction crews. When a post office was established in 1901, Lena Dyke was the first postmaster and the office took the family name. The Dyke Post Office had an off and on existence and finally in 1945 it closed for good. At that time, the owner of the building that housed the post office wanted to use it for other purposes. Apparently no other suitable location could be found at Dyke, so the office was moved several miles west to the Chimney Rock Store, where it continued for a few years under the name of Dyke. In 1950 the office moved again and took the name of Chimney Rock.

To reach the site of Dyke, drive west from Pagosa Springs on US-160. My mileage check was from the Holiday Inn on the west side of Pagosa Springs; from there it is 10 miles to a side road, downhill, to the south and across Stollsteimer Creek. A few buildings remain. The old depot has been converted to a residence and the store still stands, in decent condition, but is abandoned. The road through Dyke will take you back to US-160 and it is another ten miles to the Piedra Store and the Chimney Rock Post Office.

Latitude = 37:13:35-North Longitude = 107:11:41-West

Chronology of the Post Office

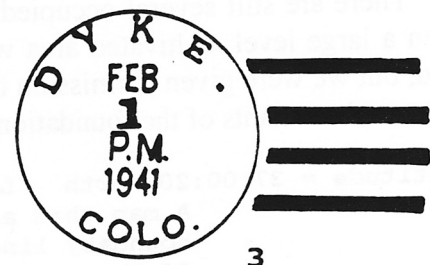
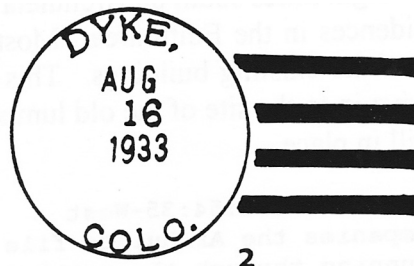
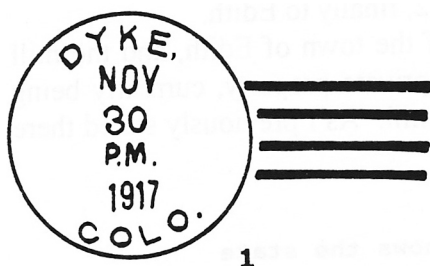
Feb 25 1901	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T34N R3W 10 rods north of Nutria or Stollsteimer Creek. About 100 feet north of Rio Grande Pagosa and Northern RR Proposed postmaster - Lena Dyke
Apr 10 1901		Established
Apr 10 1901		Dyke, Lena
Sep 30 1910		Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Springs
Dec 20 1910		Re-established
Dec 20 1910		Gallegos, Jose D.
Jul 15 1913		Discontinued
Jul 25 1916	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T34N R3W 1/4 mile south of Stalsteimer Creek Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Francis A. Healey

DYKE - Continued

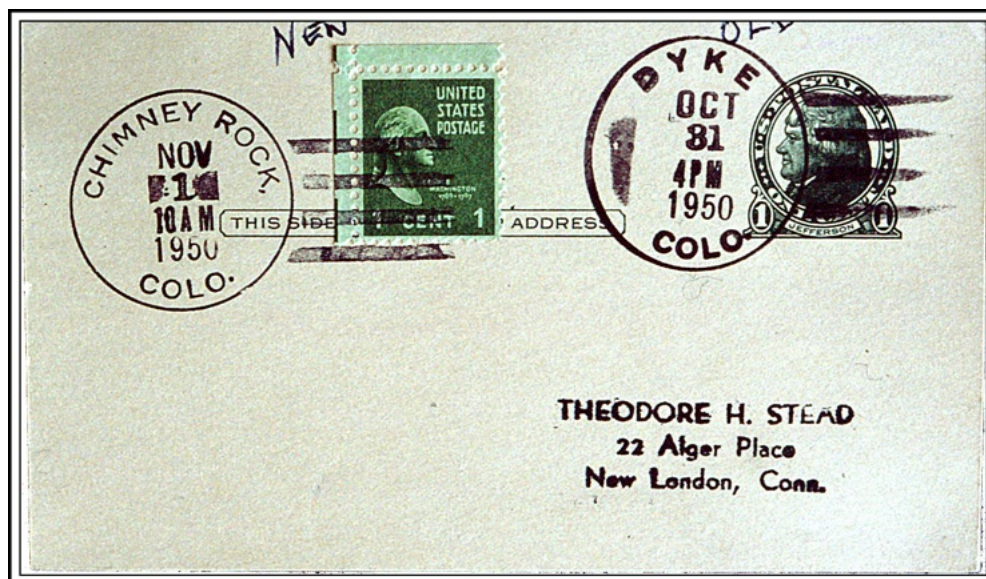
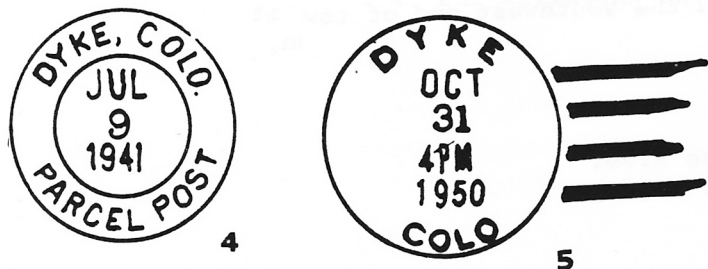
Mar 17 1917	Re-established	
Mar 17 1917	Healey, Francis A.	
Jul 15 1920	Howard, Brice O.	
Aug 18 1923	Howard, Jetlie	
Nov 19 1925	Wooleng, Martha E.	Acting
Mar 19 1926	Wooleng, Martha E.	Appointed
Dec 29 1926	Dyke, John	Acting
Jan 8 1927	Dyke, John	Appointed
Dec 15 1930	Clark, William E.	Possession
Dec 23 1930	Clark, William E.	Acting
Feb 5 1931	Clark, William E.	Commissioned
Feb 20 1931	Clark, William E.	Appointed
Oct 21 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 10 T34N R3W About 300 yards north of Stolsteimer Creek, about 1/8 mile south of Colorado Highway 160.	
Dec 4 1934	Pinyan, Leslie B.	Assumed charge
Dec 12 1934	Pinyan, Leslie B.	Acting
Dec 24 1934	Pinyan, Leslie B.	Confirmed
Jan 7 1935	Pinyan, Leslie B.	Commissioned
Jan 1 1936	Killgore, Lee	Assumed charge
Jan 8 1936	Killgore, Lee	Acting
Jan 3 1936	Killgore, Lee	Confirmed
Jan 30 1936	Killgore, Lee	Commissioned
Oct 1 1938	Belmeare, Mrs. Minnie	Assumed charge
Oct 7 1938	Belmeare, Mrs. Minnie	Acting
Mar 11 1939	Belmeare, Mrs. Minnie	Confirmed
Mar 23 1939	Belmeare, Mrs. Minnie	Commissioned
Mar 30 1945 ---	NE/4 Sec 8 T34N R4W 2-1/4 miles east of the Piedra River, 100 feet north of Devil Creek. On south side of US-160. Place also known as Chimney Rock (no office). This document involves a move of six miles to the southwest. Building sold; landlord desires to use building for other purposes and required removal of post office.	
Apr 02 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Assumed charge
Sep 14 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Confirmed
Nov 16 1945	Cooper, Mrs. Mabel G.	Commissioned
Sep 18 1950	Name changed to Chimney Rock, effective November 1, 1950	
Oct 31 1950	Moved to Chimney Rock	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	DYKE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Nov 30 1917
2	DYKE. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm; close spaced "DYKE"	Sep 30, 1929 Aug 16 1933
3	DYKE. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm; wide spaced "DYKE"	May 22 1937 Dec 2 1946
4	DYKE, COLO. / PARCEL POST CI 11P 30.0x19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 9 1941
5	DYKE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 3 1948 Oct 31 1950



DYKE - Continued



Move and change in name of the Dyke Post Office to Chimney Rock
Last Day Dyke – October 31, 1950 First Day Chimney Rock – November 1, 1950

EDITH

Edith was another creation of the New Mexico Lumber Company. In February 1895 the company incorporated the Rio Grande & Pagosa Springs Railroad and began building north from Lumberton, New Mexico (on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad). By May of that year they had begun construction of a large sawmill on the Archuleta Ranch along the Navajo River. Scattered remnants of the foundations of the mill can still be found near the river, but on private property. The mill would eventually be capable of producing 60,000 board feet per day.

Edith became a typical company town with a company store and housing built by the lumber company. On September 12, 1899 a fire burned the mill and a portion of the town. The mill was rebuilt and open fires were banned from the town.

The townsite of Edith was very close to the boundary between Colorado and New Mexico. The uncertainty over the boundary became a political issue. Ray Newburn, Jr. describes the situation as follows:

“The boundary definition was the 37th parallel, but where was the 37th parallel? The original boundary surveys had been run by Darling and Majors in 1868 and 1874 respectively and resulted in a line up to three-fourths of a mile too far south in some rough areas. The *Pagosa Springs News* claimed residents of Edith actually lived in New Mexico and

EDITH – Continued

their votes in political matters favoring the timber company were illegal in Archuleta County. Survey parties working from both east and on a new survey failed to meet, leaving an offset in the line. In 1903 the General Land Office accepted the new Carpenter survey as an improvement on that of Darling and Majors, and this seemed to move Edith into New Mexico Territory. In 1904 the Post Office department accepted this decision and Edith, Colorado became Edith, New Mexico Territory. Then in 1908 Congress passed a joint resolution accepting the decision, but President Roosevelt vetoed it. Needless to say the lumbermen were Republicans, who wanted Edith in Colorado.”

Edgar Milton Biggs, President of the New Mexico Lumber Company named the town for his two-year old daughter.

To reach the site of Edith, drive south from Pagosa Springs on US-84 to Chromo. Just before you reach Chromo, on the north side of the Navajo River, a road, Archuleta 391, leads westward along the river. From there it is about five miles to the site of Edith. This road will also take you by the site of Navajo. In the fall of 2000, Jim Ozment and I were unable to go through on this road as the bridge over the Navajo River was being replaced. This stopped us about a mile short of Edith and forced us to make a long detour, back to Chromo, eight miles north on US-84 and then another eight miles south on Archuleta 292, finally to Edith.

There are still several occupied residences in the Edith area. Most of the town of Edith and the mill were in a large level, cultivated area west of the existing buildings. This is private property, currently being farmed, but we were given permission to drive in to the site of the old lumber mill. As I previously stated there are scattered remnants of the foundations still in place.

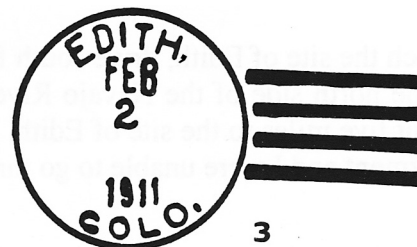
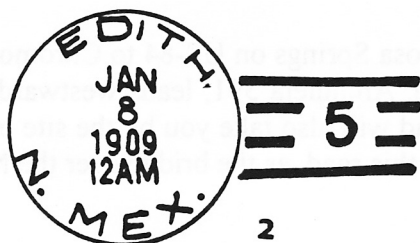
Latitude = 37:00:20-North Longitude = 106:54:35-West

Chronology of the Post Office

- A map that accompanies the Archuleta file shows the state boundary line running through the settlement of Edith. If the post office was on the northeast end of town, it would be in Colorado, if on the southwest end of town, in New Mexico.**
- Sep 28 1895 --- NE/4 Sec 23 T32N R1W 1/8 mile north of the Navajo River
Proposed postmaster - Edgar M. Biggs
 - Oct 28 1895 Established
 - Oct 28 1895 Briggs, Edgar M.
 - Apr 5 1904 --- NE/4 Sec 23 T32N R1W
 - May 4 1904 Moved to Rio Arriba County New Mexico
 - May 5 1904 Re-established
 - Feb 4 1909 Moved to Archuleta County Colorado
 - Feb 5 1909 Re-established
 - Feb 5 1909 Pound, Edgar B.
 - Dec 28 1909 Dudrow, Frank A.
 - Feb 20 1911 Amick, Thomas E.
 - Apr 5 1911 --- NW/4 Sec 24 T32N R1W 200 feet south of the Navajo River,
one mile east of Coyote Creek.
NOTE: "Ch. site to Colorado Feb 5, 1909"
 - Oct 2 1912 Kenney, Wade E.
 - Feb 8 1915 Archuleta, Jose M. Jr.
 - Jun 15 1916 --- NW/4 Sec 23 T32N R1W 1/4 mile north of the Navajo River,
¼ mile east of Coyote Creek.
 - Jun 21 1916 Kenney, Lillian M.
 - Oct 31 1917 Discontinued Mail to Lumberton, New Mexico
The state line bisected the main street of Edith causing confusion when the post office moved from one side of the street to the other. Postmarks exist from Edith, Colorado and Edith, New Mexico.

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

1	EDITH / COLO CI 10P 27.0	Apr 19 1899 Mar 31 1900 Hstp Cork, smudge
2	EDITH, / N. MEX. CI 10P 31.0	Jan 8 1909 Jun 24 1909 Doane Type 3 with 5; S-24x14mm
3	EDITH, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Jul 13 1909 Jun 22 1912 4bars S-24x14mm

**GLADWYN**

Very little is known about Gladwyn. From its location, it was probably no more than a rural store and post office serving ranches in the southeastern portion of Archuleta County. In 1885 it had a population of 25 and a newly established post office, but, in 1890 the post office closed.

In 1903-1904 the Rio Grande and Pagosa Springs Railroad built north through Gladwyn, placed a station there, but listed it as "Gladwin" in their directories.

Gladwyn is approximately nine and one-half miles south of Pagosa springs on US Highway 84, where that highway crosses the Little Blanco River, at the junction of the Little Blanco River and the Blanco River. There is a small resort at this point and a few scattered residences.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 18 1885	—	SW/4 Sec 22 T34N R1W 1/4 mile north of Rio Blanco, 50 yards north of Little Blanco Creek. (Near junction of the two streams) Proposed postmaster - Annie Chambers
Aug 2 1885		Established
Aug 25 1885		Chambers, Annie
Apr 14 1890		Discontinued Papers to Pagosa Springs

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GLADWYN

JUANITA

It appears that the town of Juanita was a creation of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and may have begun as a construction camp at the junction of the Navajo and San Juan Rivers. It developed into a small community serving local ranches and a small timber industry. It was also a convenient point for the railroad to unload freight and passengers destined for Pagosa Springs.

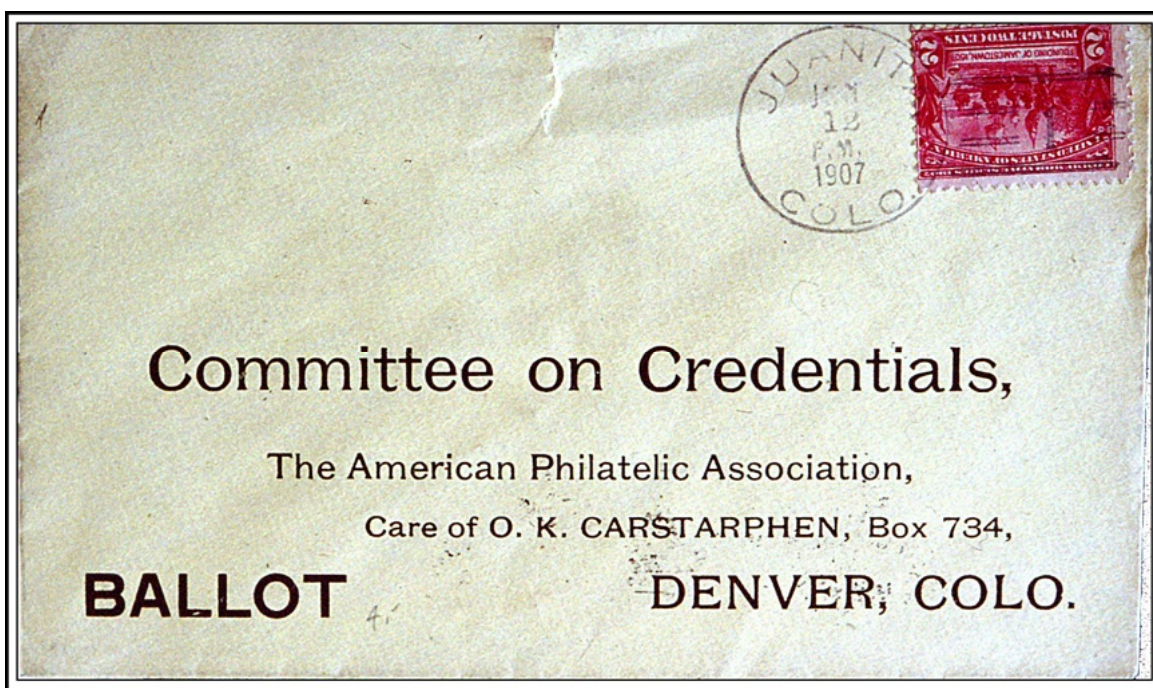
In 1904 the Navajo Lumber and Supply Company began operating a sawmill at Juanita and this growth was likely the reason a post office was authorized.

The source of the name is questionable. Popular legend claimed that it was named by "Padre Francisco" for a woman of his acquaintance. However, it seems more likely that it was named by the railroad in recognition of the Latin influence in the area and probably not for any particular person.

JUANITA - Continued

The site of Juanita is within the boundary of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. It can be reached by driving south from Pagosa Springs on Trujillo Road, through the site of Trujillo to the junction with Archuleta County Road 542. From that junction it is some seven and one-half miles southwest to the junction with a side road that crosses the San Juan River. This road traverses a low rise between the San Juan River and the Navajo River. There are a couple of abandoned buildings on the rise, but most of the settlement was on the flats along the Navajo River. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was on the south side of the Navajo River, crossing to the north side of the San Juan River about a mile west of Juanita, on a bridge that was still standing in the fall of 2000.

Latitude = 37:01:38-North Longitude = 107:09:00-West



JUANITA, / COLO. June 12, 1907 Doane type 2 with “1” in bars

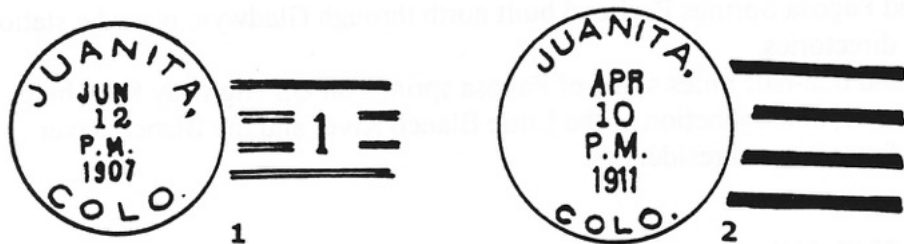
Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 12 1904 --- NW/4 Sec 14 T32N R3W – [more likely it was in the NW/ Sec 14
1/2 mile east of the San Juan River, 1/4 mile west of Navajo Creek.]
North side of Rio Grande, 12 feet from tracks.
Proposed postmaster - William H. Galbreath
- May 2 1904 Established
- May 2 1904 Galbreath, William H.
- Jun 15 1912 Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Junction

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|--|
| 1 | JUANITA, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Mar 12 1905 Nov 17 1908
Doane Type 2 with 1, S-22x13mm |
| 2 | JUANITA, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | Apr 10 1911
4bars S-24x19mm |

JUANITA - Continued



KEARNS

Kearns was founded in 1908 by the Navajo Lumber Company at a point on the Denver and Rio Grande branch line from Pagosa Junction to Pagosa Springs. It was another of the lumber camps of Archuleta County and was the terminus of at least two spur lines used to bring timber to the main line. The community continued to exist into the 1930's.

The location of Kearns is about eight miles north of Pagosa Junction on the road along Cat Creek, at a point where Kearns Canyon joins the main valley. Almost nothing remains, but there are two abandoned and decrepit log buildings on a low hillside to the west of the road. The principal portion of the settlement was more likely east of the present day road.

Some historical reports equate Kearns and Lone Tree as the same place. However, Lone Tree is about two miles further up the road from the location of Kearns provided by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports.

It is believed that the community was named for an official of the Navajo Lumber Company.

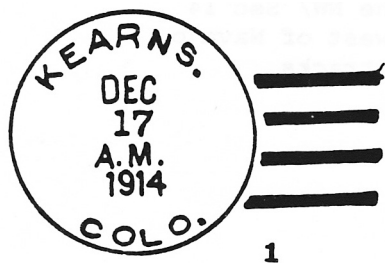
Latitude = 37:07:52-North Longitude = 107:09:35-West

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 16 1913 --- NE/4 Sec 3 T33N R3W 300 yards west of Lost(?) Creek
Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Julia Martinez (or Martiny)
- Aug 15 1913 Established
- Aug 15 1913 Martinez, Julia
- Jul 31 1918 Ordered closed Mail to Pagosa Junction; Rescinded?
- May 15 1919 Ordered closed Mail to Pagosa Junction
- May 15 1919 Discontinued; Rescinded?
- Sep 13 1919 Re-established
- Sep 13 1919 Cordova, Benito
- Oct 17 1925 Ordered closed
- Oct 31 1925 Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 KEARNS, / COLO. Dec 17 1914
- CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x19mm



NAVAJOE

Navajoe (or Navajo) was one of the earliest communities in what is now Archuleta County. Its short life has left confusion as to its exact location. Some reports claim that Navajoe was an early settlement at the site of Chromo; others make the same claim for a location at Edith. The Post Office Department Geographic site Location Report is of minimal assistance in resolving the question.

What does seem clear is that the site was on the north side of the Navajoe River at some point between the locations of Chromo and Edith. From US-84 at Chromo, driving towards Edith on Archuleta County 391, there are some old log cabins and buildings approximately a mile west of US-84. It is possible that this was the site of Navajoe.

There are only a few other buildings along this road and they are all much more modern than would be expected for a remnant from Navajoe. The source of the name is obviously the Navajoe River and ultimately the Navajoe Tribe.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 30 1878	---	Unsurveyed 1/4 mile north of the Rio Navajoe (Document filed in Conejos County)
Sep 17 1878		Established
Sep 17 1878		Archuleta, Antonio D.
Nov 6 1879		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NAVAJOE

PAGOSA JUNCTION

On August 23, 1899 the *Denver Times* reported: "Gato Watertank is now known as Pagosa Junction. It has a post office and a bar and is ready for business."

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad had built a water tank here to serve its main line to Durango. With the decision to build a branch line along Cat Creek to Pagosa Springs, the Denver and Rio Grande expanded operations at "Gato" adding buildings, a siding and a wye. The name was also changed to the now appropriate "Pagosa Junction."

With the expansion of railroad activity the community expanded and by 1910 claimed 262 inhabitants. There was a sawmill, a weekly newspaper, a church, a school and a hotel. As the timber business declined, so did Pagosa Junction. In 1935 operations on the branch line to Pagosa Springs ceased and Pagosa Junction lost its main reason to be.

The Pagosa Junction Post Office continued to operate for an additional twenty years, serving the remaining residents and the surrounding area. In the fall of 2000, there was still quite a bit to be seen at Pagosa Junction. A short stretch of track is still in place with a few old boxcars on it. The water tank was still standing, but beginning to lean precariously. The pump hose and its machinery were still present. The remains of a large building, probably the hotel, or a store, can be seen and there are even a couple of occupied residences. About a mile to the west, the railroad bridge over the San Juan River is still in place.

Reportedly there were plans to establish a railroad "museum" of some sort at Pagosa Junction, but nothing permanent has resulted from that idea.

"Gato" is the Spanish word for "cat" and is an obvious reference to Cat Creek which flows through the community to join the San Juan River at this point. "Pagosa" is from the Indian name PAGOSAH meaning "healing waters," or "hot" waters.

PAGOSA JUNCTION - Continued

Pagosa Junction can be reached by following the directions to Juanita and then continuing west along the San Juan River about three miles to Cat Creek. An alternate route would be west from Pagosa Springs on US-160 to the site of Dyke. Drive through Dyke about three-quarters of a mile and then take the road south up Hall Canyon, through Lone Tree and the site of Kearns and down Cat Creek to Pagosa Junction. The road from Juanita continues west through Carracas and towards Arboles.

Latitude = 37:02:17-North Longitude = 107:11:55-West

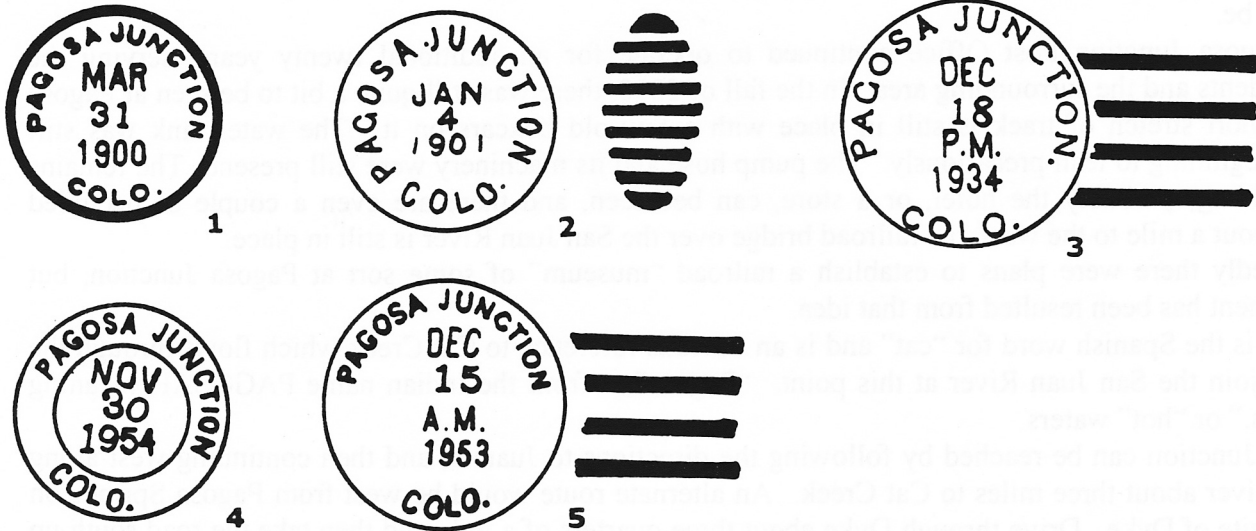
Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 25 1899	---	SE/4 Sec 8 T32N R3W Proposed postmaster - Alex T. Sullenberger	
Jul 25 1899		Established Also known as Gato	
Feb 9 1906		Zabriskie, Walter	
Jul 25 1909		Sullenberger, Alex T.	
Feb 7 1914		Thompson, Theodore A.	
May 25 1914	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 8 T32N R3W 200 feet north of the San Juan River and 200 feet east of Cat Creek.	
Jul 14 1927		Parmenter, Alice M.	Acting
Sep 17 1927		Parmenter, Alice M.	Appointed
Nov 16 1927		Gomez, Jose Felix	Acting
Nov 27 1927		Gomez, Jose Felix	Assumed charge
Feb 18 1927		Gomez, Jose Felix	Confirmed
May 04 1927		Gomez, Jose Felix	Commissioned
Sep 11 1933		Trotter, Mrs. Dorothy	Acting
Oct 02 1933		Trotter, Mrs. Dorothy	Assumed charge
Mar 14 1934		Trotter, Mrs. Dorothy	Confirmed
May 14 1934		Trotter, Mrs. Dorothy	Commissioned
Sep 04 1935		Villarreal, Joseph	Acting
Sep 07 1935		Villarreal, Joseph	Assumed charge
Dec 03 1935		Villarreal, Joseph	Confirmed
Dec 26 1935		Villarreal, Joseph	Commissioned
Mar 08 1938		Villarreal, Laurence	Acting
Mar 16 1938		Villarreal, Laurence	Assumed charge
Aug 24 1938		Villarreal, Laurence	Confirmed
Sep 14 1938		Villarreal, Laurence	Commissioned
Oct 27 1941	---	Sec 8 T32N R3W San Juan River 700 feet south, Cat Creek 900 feet west of post office.	
Feb 5 1943	---	Location not reported A move 60 feet from previous location D&RGW 400 feet east of post office. San Juan River 500 feet south.	
Nov 30 1954		Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Springs	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PAGOSA JUNCTION, / COLO. CI 10H 28.0	Mar 31 1900 Hstp No killer; This might be an over-inked double outer ring postmark
2	PAGOSA JUNCTION . COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jan 4 1901 Feb 1 1913 Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
3	PAGOSA JUNCTION, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Dec 18 1934 Jul 14 1943 4bars S-24x20mm
4	PAGOSA JUNCTION / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.5	Nov 30 1954 Hstp No killer; Last Day Postmark
5	PAGOSA JUNCTION / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Dec 30 1952 Nov 30 1954 4bars S-22x18mm

PAGOSA JUNCTION - Continued



Pagosa Junction, Colorado. Ruins of a large building, perhaps a store or hotel.
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 14, 2000

PAGOSA SPRINGS

The first white men who are reported to have seen the hot springs here were U. S. Topographical Engineers in July 1859. Prior to that the hot springs had been a favorite camping ground for the Ute and Navajo Indians who considered the waters to have medicinal properties. It was from these supposed medicinal properties that the Indians gave the springs the name "Pagosah" "meaning healing waters." The springs are slightly radioactive and have been used to heat public and private buildings in the town.

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Continued

Welsh Nossaman, Joab Baker and Lafayette Hamilton, financed by Dr. Frank Keablers came to the Pagosa Springs in the fall of 1876. They laid claim to 144 acres of placer ground and built a cabin a few rods east of the big spring and settled in for the winter.

In 1878 a military post was established at the springs to protect the settlers from the Indians. By 1882 the threat from the Indians had become minimal and the military post was moved to a location west of present day Durango. The military post attracted settlers who created a community on the opposite side of the San Juan River that was briefly known as "Fort Pagosa." The post was known as Fort Lewis, a name it retained when it moved west; however, the post office here has been known as Pagosa Springs since its establishment in 1878. In 1880, because of the value of the waters and the size of the principal spring, President Hayes designated as a townsite one square mile encompassing the spring. It was platted by the government in 1883 and in 1885; building lots were sold to the highest bidders. Pagosa Springs was incorporated March 18, 1891.

In spite of the original placer claim, Pagosa Springs has never been a mining center of any significance. It grew on the timber industry and at one time was considered the center of the lumber industry in Colorado.

In 1900 the Rio Grande and Pagosa Springs Railroad reached Pagosa Springs from its connection to the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad at Pagosa Junction. With the arrival of the railroad, the town entered a new growth phase, with two large lumber companies seeking to control the town and the county. The companies soon found it easier to cooperate and for many years they remained the principal industries of the area.

In the twentieth century the timber industry declined but tourism began to increase. The construction of a road over Wolf Creek Pass, that became US-160, helped keep the community alive. Also, when Archuleta County was created in 1885 Pagosa Springs was selected as the County Seat and has retained that position ever since.

Today Pagosa Springs has become a significant resort and residential community with rapid growth and developing suburbs. The growth is reflected in the post office. In the mid 1970's it was housed in a small unimpressive building on US-160. In 2000 it occupies a large attractive building on the southern edge of the city.

Latitude = 37:16:10-North Longitude = 107:00:33-West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 5 1878	---	No description. Parkview NM is 50 miles southeast, Florida, Colorado is 40 miles westerly.
Jun 7 1878		Established
Jun 7 1878		Swarts, Jonathan C.
Jul 2 1879		Kemp, Tully
Oct 16 1882		Hover, Newton G.
Mar 5 1887		Couloss, John P.
Jul 3 1889		Kern, Lizzie
Jan 17 1894		Seavy, Cora E.
Mar 21 1898		Garvin, Maud
May 16 1900		Laughlin, John M.
Nov 28 1900	---	SW/4 Sec 13 T35N R2W On west side of San Juan River.
Mar 11 1903		Martinez, Joseph T. P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
May 24 1907		Bostwick, Herman J. Presidential
Dec 11 1907		Bostwick, Herman J. P&S
Jun 21 1910		Todd, Elanor H. P&S
Mar 28 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 13 T35N R2W 1/8 mile east of Lomo Creek. 1/4 mile east of D&RG RR

PAGOSA SPRINGS - Continued

Jun 14 1914	McGee, Lydia J.	P&S
Sep 5 1918	McGee, Lydia J.	P&S
Aug 29 1919	Chambers, Vivian A.	P&S
Jul 28 1921	Flaugh, Vivian A.	P&S
Mar 22 1926	Flaugh, Vivian A.	P&S
Jun 17 1930	Marsh, Leroy L.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1934	Egger, Reed	Assumed charge
Jan 08 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Acting
Jan 09 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Assumed charge
Jul 10 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Nominated
Jul 17 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Confirmed
Jul 22 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 07 1935	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Commissioned
Aug 02 1939	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Nominated
Aug 04 1939	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Confirmed
Aug 09 1939	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 22 1939	Marshall, Cleatus G.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 13 T35N R2W 50 feet from San Juan River	
Nov 30 1943	Johnson, Philip R.	Acting
Dec 01 1943	Johnson, Philip R.	Assumed charge
Jun 30 1944	Ottaway, Mrs. Frances B.	Acting
Jul 01 1944	Ottaway, Mrs. Frances B.	Assumed charge
Nov 16 1944	Harman, Mrs. Mary E.	Nominated
Nov 30 1944	Harman, Mrs. Mary E.	Confirmed
Dec 01 1944	Harman, Mrs. Mary E.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Mar 01 1945	Harman, Mrs. Mary E.	Assumed charge
May 17 1947	Conder, Robert David	Acting
May 18 1947	Conder, Robert David	Assumed charge
Feb 18 1948	Chambers, Thomas W.	Acting
Feb 19 1948	Chambers, Thomas W.	Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949	Chambers, Thomas W.	Nominated
Jun 01 1949	Chambers, Thomas W.	Confirmed
Jun 02 1949	Chambers, Thomas W.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Apr 19 1951	De Vore, Richard I.	Assumed charge
May 09 1951	De Vore, Richard I.	Acting
May 01 1952	De Vore, Richard I.	Nominated
May 21 1952	De Vore, Richard I.	Confirmed
May 22 1952	De Vore, Richard I.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned

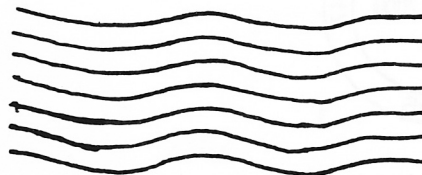
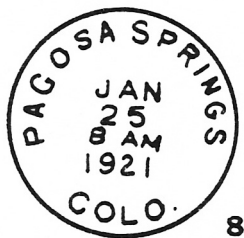
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Pagosa Springs Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 23 1878 Dec 6 1878
2	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Jul ? 187? Jul 19 18??
3	PAGOSA SPRINGS, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Oct 2 1880
4	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Hstp Target	Sep 12 1892 Oct 3 1892
5	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, Cork, Negative X-roads	Sep 6 188? Nov 18 1887
6	PAGOSA SPGS. / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Aug 26 1889 Aug 16 1894
7	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge, negative X-roads, Target 4-ring 17mm	Dec 6 1894 Jun 13 1898

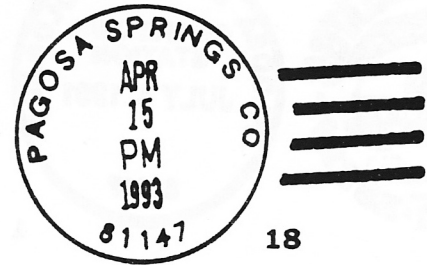
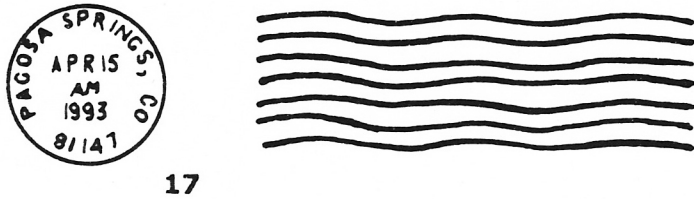
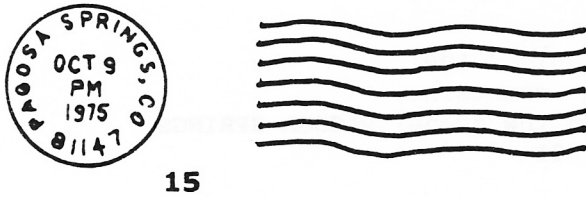
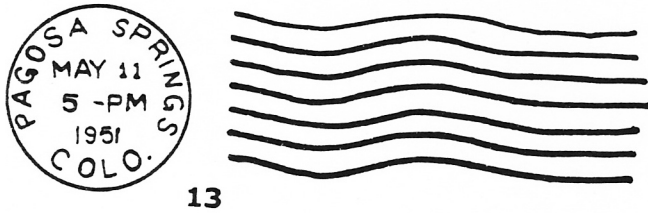
PAGOSA SPRINGS - Continued

8	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO CI 10P 29.5	Jun 21 1909 Mar 26 1921	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
9	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO CI 10P 21.5	Jul 23 1927 Jun 20 1948	Mach 7 wavy lines
10	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jan 6 1938 Sep 23 1938	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
11	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	Jun 21 1940 Oct 9 1946	Dplx Grid, pointed oval with 1
12	PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO / * CI 11P 38.0/36.0	May 21 1955	Hstp No killer
13	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Nov 20 1947 Mar 8 1957	Mach 7 wavy lines
13.1	PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Oct 13 1965 Nov 7 1966	Mach 7 wavy lines [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
14	PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO / 81147 CI 10P 32.0	May 28 1975 Oct 6 1978	4bars S-25x20mm
15	PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO / 81147 CI 10P 21.0	Oct 9 1975 May 22 1990	Mach 7 wavy lines
16	PAGOSA SPRINGS CO / 81147 CI 10P 32.5	Feb 22 1968 Feb 18 1987	4bars S-24x19mm
17	PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO / 81147 CI 10P 21.0	Jul 14 1966 Apr 15 1993	Mach 7 wavy lines
18	PAGOSA SPRINGS CO / 81147 CI 10P 34.0	Apr 15 1993	4bars S-20x15mm

*Pagosa Springs
July 19, 1918*



PAGOSA SPRINGS - Continued



PAGOSA SPRINGS / COLO.

September 12, 1892

PAGOSA SPRINGS STATIONS

CONTRACT STATION NUMBER 1

Contract Station Number 1 replaces the Sunetha Branch Post Office. It is located in the Fairfield Resort Plaza Mall in the "Pack and Mail" store. When visited in the fall of 2000 the station did not have a cancelling device that specifically identified it, only the double ring handstamp described below.

Chronology of the Post Office

Contract Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|-----|---|---|
| 0.1 | PAGOSA SPGS, CO CONT BR. 1 / USPS
CI 11P 29.0/28.5 | Oct 27, 1990
Hstp No killer
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 1 | PAGOSA SPRINGS CO 81147 / USPS
CI 11P 31.0/23.0 | Sep 14 2000
Hstp No killer. The station is not identified
in the postmark |



1

ARCHULETA COUNTY CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

May 20, 1985 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | PAGOSA SPRINGS CO / 81147 :: Centennial Station
CI 10P 26.0 | May 20 1985
Pict Scene - Mountain profile; Text - Archuleta
County / Colorado / Centennial Station
1885 - 1985 |
|---|--|---|



1

CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 4, 1991 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | PAGOSA SPRINGS, COLORADO / 81147 (CENTENNIAL / STATION)
CI 10H 37.0 | Jul 4 1991
Pict Scene - Building, mountains;
Text - (encircles the scene) PAGOSA SPRINGS
/ COLORADO EST 1891 |
|---|--|---|

**PAGOSA SPRINGS STATIONS – Continued
CENTENNIAL STATION – Continued**



1

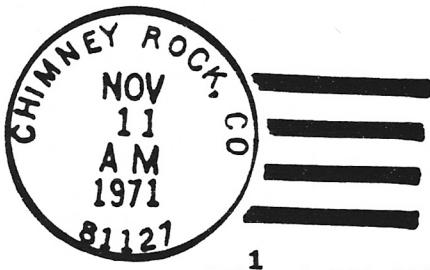
CHIMNEY ROCK RURAL BRANCH / COMMUNITY POST OFFICE

Chronology of the Post Office

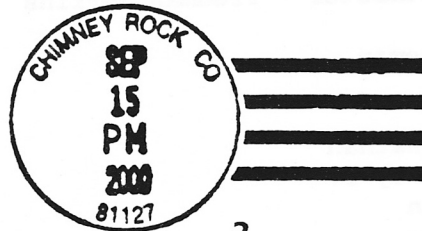
Apr 8 1967 Converted to a Rural Branch
Reclassified as a Community Post office

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | CHIMNEY ROCK, CO / 81127 | Nov 11 1971 | Oct 18 1975 |
| | CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | |
| 2 | CHIMNEY ROCK CO / 81127 | Sep 15 2000 | |
| | CI 10P 30.0 | 4bars S-27x16mm | |



1



2

SUNETHA BRANCH

Chronology of the Post Office

1988 Contract Station Established
Replaced by Contract Station Number 1

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|--|-----------------|-------------|
| 1 | PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO SUNETHA BR. / 81157 | Apr 14 1990 | Oct 28 1989 |
| | CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | |
| 2 | PAGOSA SPRINGS, CO SUNETHA BR. / USPS | Sep 16 1994 | |
| | CI 11P 28.5/18.5 | Hstp No killer | |



1



2

PIEDRA

In 1885 Crofutt described Piedra as “a post office ranch on the Rio Piedra,” and that “It is above average as a ‘road side’ stopping place.” However, various maps have located Piedra at differing locations. The locations have varied from one on Devils Creek near the present Chimney Rock Village, another at the junction of Devils Creek with the Piedra River and another at the present location where US-160 crosses the Piedra River. Although the post office has likely wandered, the most consistent location is the latter.

The Piedra post office closed for good in 1927. However, in 1950 the post office of Dyke was moved to the former location, but opened with the name Chimney Rock as a Rural Branch of Pagosa Springs.

In September 2000 Jim Ozment and I visited the site. The Chimney Rock Store and Post Office are on the north side of US-160, west of the Piedra River. A short distance west of the store, a side road to the north wanders in among a mixture of old and new buildings. This represents the Piedra community, but none can be positively identified as the post office. One abandoned building, with a curved false front was likely a store or service station, but may not be as old as 1927.

Across the highway from the modern store is an attractive, large, old barn as part of a small ranch. There are several other residences or cabins scattered in the area.

Latitude = 37:13:25-North Longitude = 107:20:25-West



Chimney Rock P.O.

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 14, 2000

Chronology of the Post Office

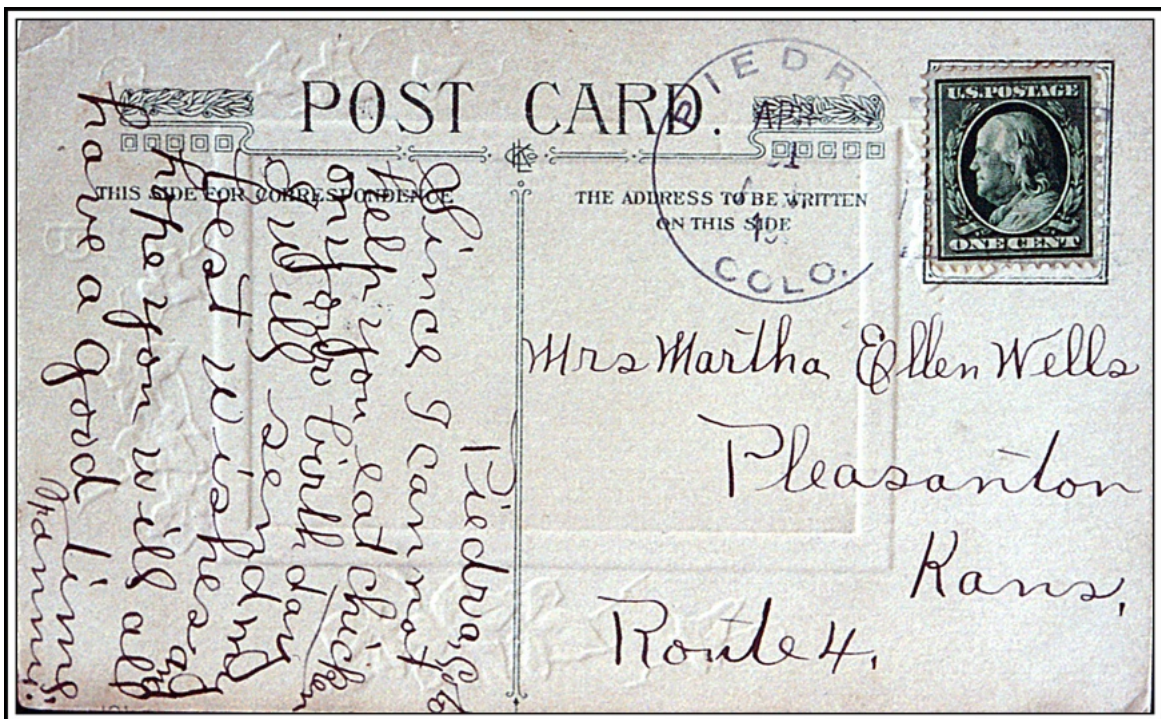
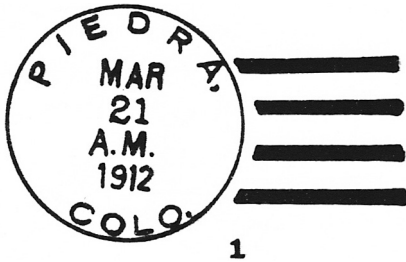
Apr 12 1879 --- No Government Survey 1/2 mile west of Piedra River, on north side of Spring Creek.
Proposed postmaster - Freeman Perkins

PIEDRA -Continued

May 16 1879	Established	
May 16 1879	Perkins, Freeman	
Jan 6 1880	Discontinued	
Jan 27 1880	Re-established	
Jan 27 1880	Peterson, Jonathan	
Jun 8 1900	Campbell, Henry J.	
Sep 26 1902	Farrow, Mason	
Mar 18 1905	Hansen, Elias	Order rescinded Apr 6, 1905
Aug 22 1905	Hansen, Elias	
Mar 25 1906	Cooper, Annie	
Aug 16 1912	Snooks, Josie E.	
Feb 28 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 17 T34N R4W	10 rods east of the Piedra River, 50 rods northeast of Yellowjacket Creek.
Jun 18 1927	Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1927	Discontinued	Mail to Dyke

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 PIEDRA, / COLO. Apr 21 1911 Sep 25 1917
 CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-??x19mm



PIEDRA, / COLO.

April 21, 1911

PRICE

Price began as a ranching operation, established by Barzillia Price, who, when the post office opened in 1880 became its first postmaster. Croffutt describes it as a "Ranche Post office" surrounded by a small population engaged in ranching, cattle and sheep, lumbering and coal mining. The mining activity was very minimal. The second postmaster was Charles Price; thus it is obvious that the name was that of the founding family.

The post office was discontinued in 1882 and when it reopened in 1885 the Post Office Department refused the original name and the name Chromo was chosen.

Today, the area, just north of the New Mexico State Line, is one of scattered ranches and some summer homes. For directions to Price, refer to the description of Chromo.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 13 1880	---	Is not surveyed lands For name: "whatever please, or, Otto Price." Otto was crossed out and Price added in a different hand. 4 rods south of Navajo River, 122 yards north of Spring Creek. Proposed postmaster - Barzillia Price NOTE - WHB.: This is approximately the same location as CHROMO.
Sep 27 1880		Established
Sep 27 1880		Price, Barzillia
Nov 11 1881		Price, Charles W.
Aug 31 1882		Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Springs

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PRICE

SQUARETOP

Squaretop has not received attention in any of the historical literature I have read. Even Ray Newburn, Jr. had no information to pass on.

Working from the information provided in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, Jim Ozment and I set out to visit the site in September 2000.

We left Pagosa Springs on US Highway 84 and 6.9 miles south we turned west on to Archuleta County 324, Blanco Basin Road. Another 9.2 miles and we climbed over a ridge and down into an area with a number of scattered houses, apparently summer cabins and fishing or hunting camps in a basin along the [Rio Blanco]. A half-mile further and we turned off and crossed the Rio Blanco and began looking for evidence of Squaretop. We were distracted by some activity and as a result wandered around for a bit. We eventually encountered a local rancher to whom we explained our quest. He was familiar with the location of the Squaretop Store and we followed him to the site, which was east of the road and only a couple hundred yards from where we had crossed the river. There we found the remains of a small log building, which were supposedly the store and probably the post office as well.

From what we found in the vicinity, it appears that Squaretop was not an organized community and was only a combination store and post office serving a few local ranchers, perhaps some timber cutters and hunters and fishermen who were visiting the area.

The source of the name is obvious, as the appropriately named Squaretop Mountain (elevation 11,760 feet) dominates the horizon to the north of the Rio Blanco. It is a spectacular sight to view.

The activity that had distracted us was apparently a group of environmentalists examining the habitat of the Rio Blanco. They had been disembarking from a bus and beginning a trek across a meadow almost at the ruins of the store.

**SQUARETOP - Continued
Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 4 1917 --- SE/4 SW/4 Sec 6 T34N R2E 200 yards south of Big Blanco River, 1/2
mile north of Milk or White Creek. "Only one road out of here."
Name "Wewanta" crossed out, "Squaretop" typed in
Applicant for postmaster - Emma L. Losee

Jun 11 1917 Established
Jun 11 1917 Losee, Emma L.
Aug 15 1918 Discontinued Mail to Pagosa Springs

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SQUARETOP



Squaretop, Remains of store

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 14, 2000

TRUJILLO

Trujillo was a small community located mainly on the south side of the San Juan River on the road that follows the river from Pagosa Springs to Juanita and Pagosa Junction. A short-lived railroad spur was constructed to this point to serve lumbering operations, but apparently it was not a significant operation. The community was large enough to support a church and a number of homes. There are a few scattered residences and the church is still active. One of the structures is constructed on the plan of a Mongolian yurt, but it is made of aluminum and is air-conditioned!

TRUJILLO - Continued

From Edith, drive three miles north on Archuleta 292 to Archuleta 542 and turn west. It is eleven miles to the junction with Trujillo Road and to the San Juan River. Turn north about three quarters of a mile to the site of Trujillo. Some of the surrounding property is part of the Redding Ranch that produces "beefalo." Trujillo is within the boundaries of the Southern Ute Indian Reservation. From Trujillo, return to the intersection and continue southwest to Juanita, Pagosa Junction, Carracas and Arboles.

Latitude = 37:06:02-North Longitude = 107:02:47-West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 3 1900	---	S/2 SE/4 Sec 15 T33N R2W 300 yards south of the San Juan River. Proposed postmaster - Virginia Archuleta
Feb 20 1900		Established
Feb 20 1900		Archuleta, Virginia
Feb 2 1901		Martinez, Julian
Aug 14 1901		Paiz, Petrolino
Apr 18 1905		Archuleta, Delfido D.
Sep 2 1905		Ordered closed
Sep 30 1905		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TRUJILLO



Trujillo
Photograph by William H. Bauer

Overview of Community
September 14, 2000

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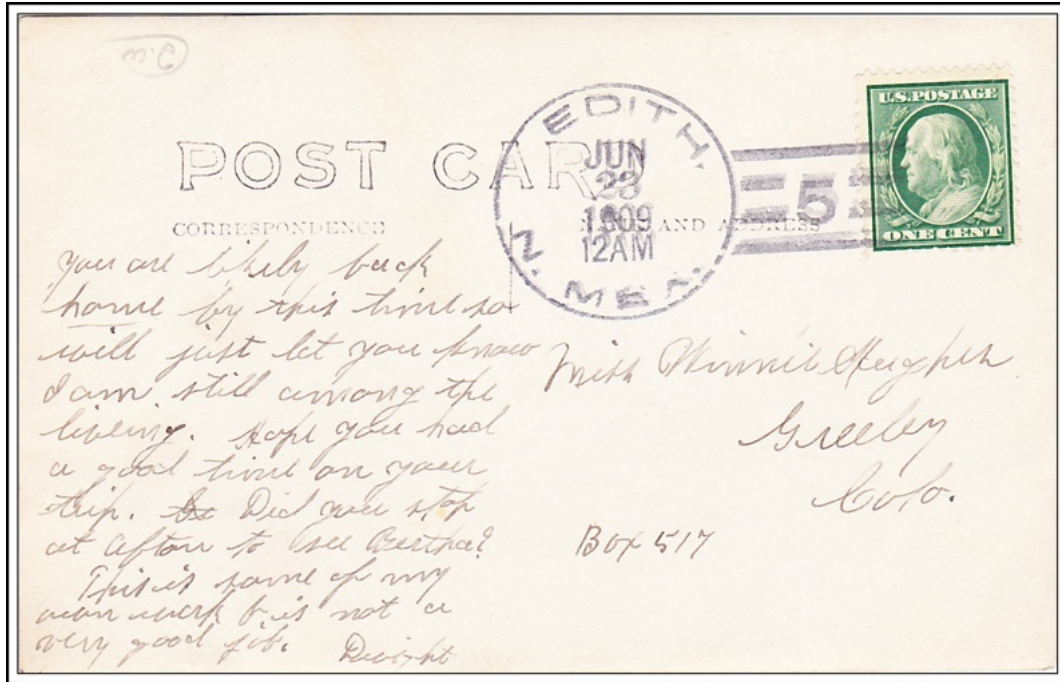
Place Names in Colorado [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]

Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

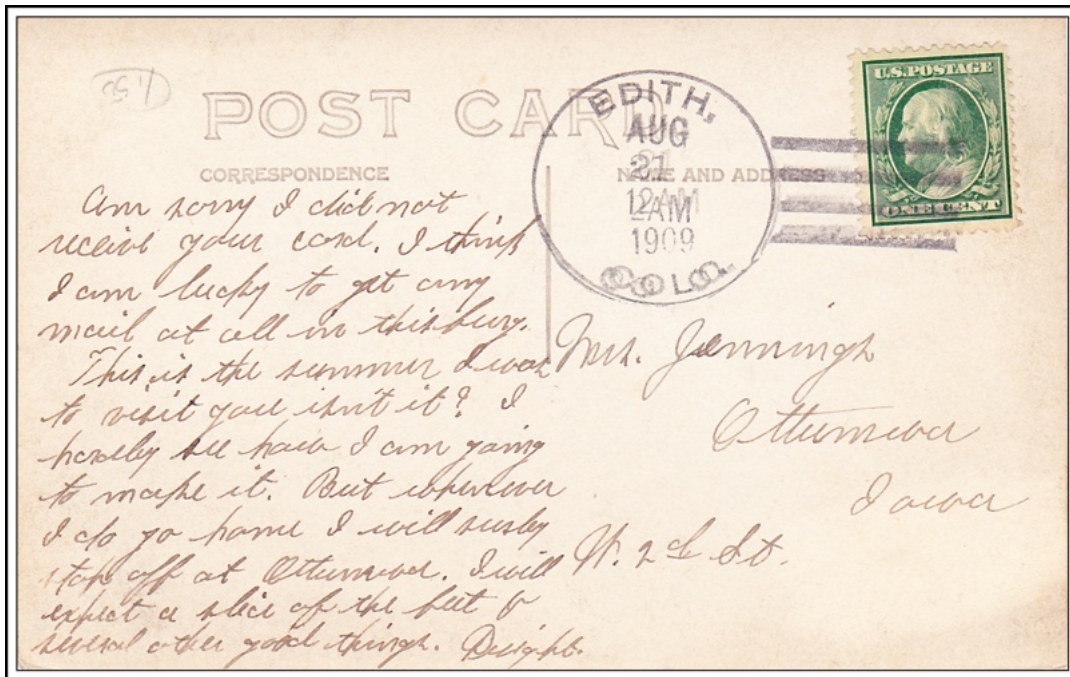
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post office department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams and rivers, to railroads and to nearby existing post offices.

A COVER GALLERY OF ARCHULETA COUNTY



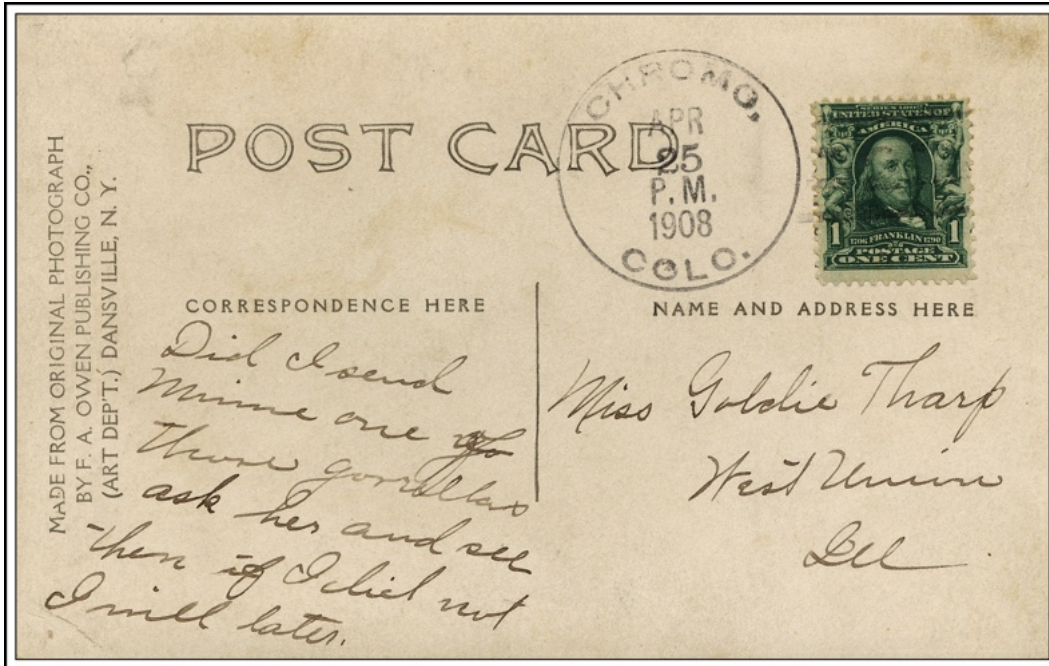
EDITH, / N. MEX.

June 23, 1909



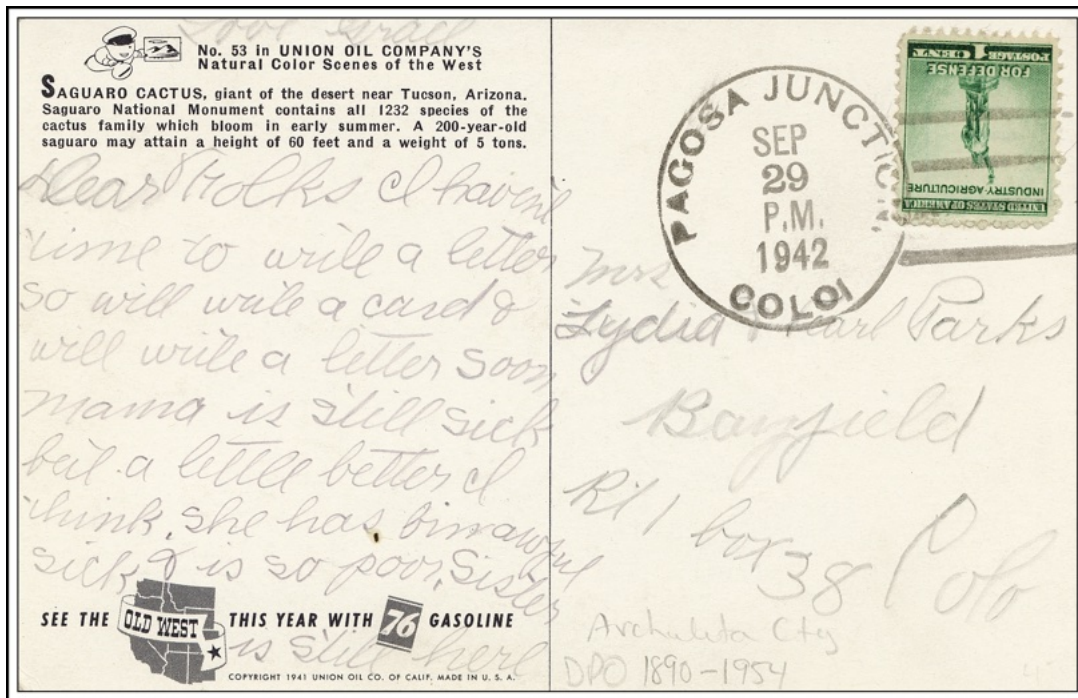
EDITH, / COLO.

August 21, 1909



CHROMO, / COLO.

April 25, 1908



PAGOSA JUNCTION, / COLO.

September 29, 1942



PAGOSA SPGS. / COLO.

August 26, 1889