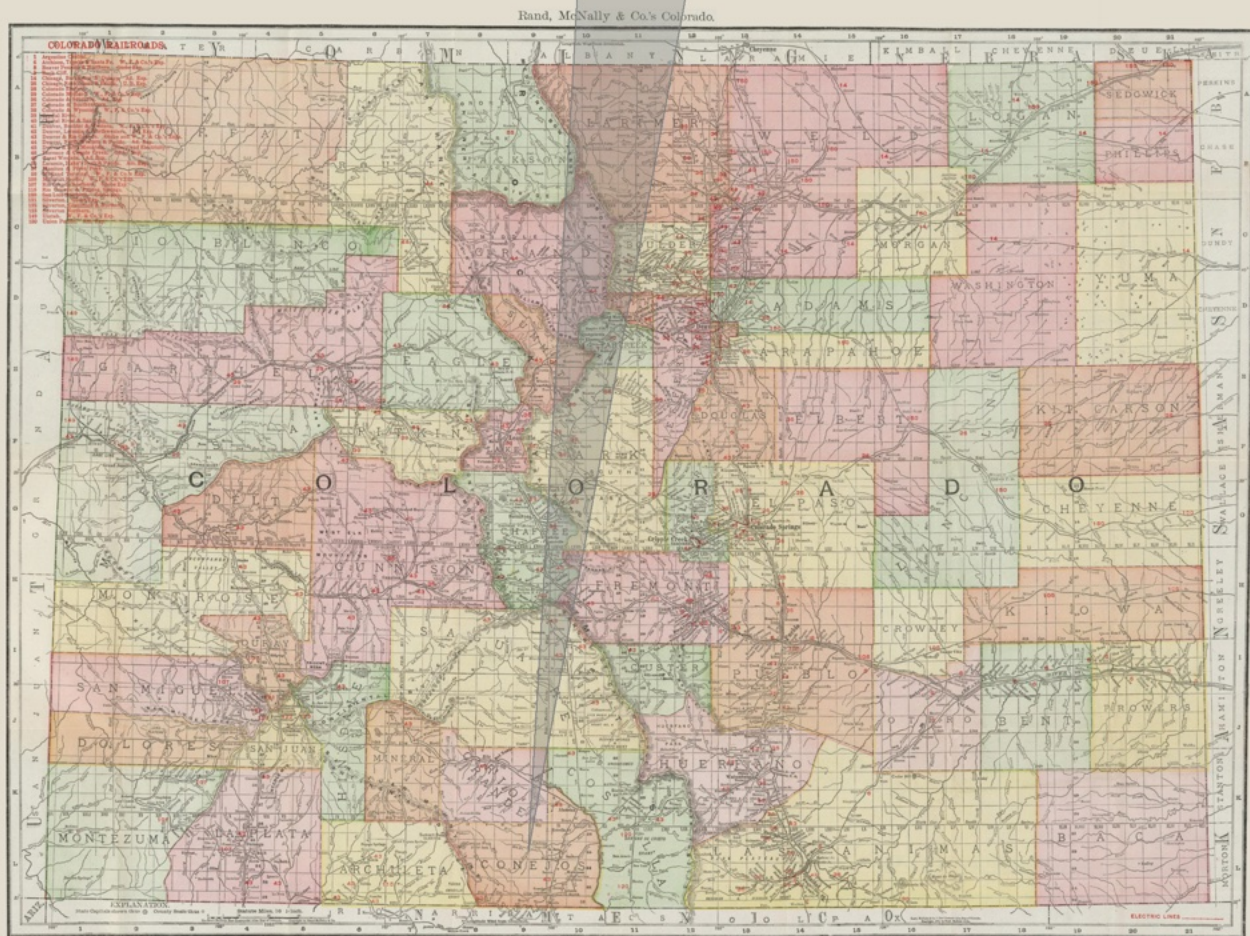


# Conejos County



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

*Established: November 7, 1861*

*County Seat: Conejos*

## **CONEJOS COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Conejos County was one of the sixteen original counties created by the Colorado Territorial Legislature on November 1, 1861 [SRM: originally named Guadalupe the name was changed to Conejos November 7, 1861]. As first constituted, Conejos County occupied much of the southwestern portion of the Territory. On February 10, 1874 La Plata, Hinsdale and Rio Grande Counties were authorized reducing Conejos County to what are today Archuleta and Conejos Counties. Archuleta County was removed on April 14, 1885 and Conejos County assumed its present day boundaries. Over the years there were other alterations to the boundaries of the surrounding counties. Eventually, Montezuma and Mineral Counties claimed portions of the original Conejos County.

Conejos County is ethnically diverse. The early immigrants were from New Mexico and there is still a heavy Spanish-American population in Conejos County. In the 1880's the Mormons came to the Conejos River Valley and established several agricultural communities in which the Church of the Latter Day Saints is still prominent. Mining and the railroad added other nationalities to the mix.

Initially the county seat was at Guadalupe, which never had its own post office. In the years prior to 1876, much of the population of Guadalupe shifted across the Conejos River to a new settlement, Conejos, which became the county seat and has retained the position in spite of being overshadowed by Antonito, its close neighbor.

Currently Conejos County is an irregular rectangle. The maximum east-west distance is about fifty-four miles and the maximum north-south distance is a little more than twenty-seven miles. Rio Grande and Alamosa Counties bound it on the north. The eastern boundary with Costilla County is along the Rio Grande River. The southern boundary is shared with Taos and Rio Arriba Counties of New Mexico. The western boundary is with Archuleta County.

Topographically the eastern portion of the county is part of the San Luis Valley and is generally level. There is a north-south trending series of basaltic mesas that force the Conejos River to flow northward from Antonito before emptying into the Rio Grande River in the northeastern corner of the county.

The western portion of the county is increasingly mountainous and at three places the Continental Divide briefly enters Conejos County.

With the exception of the tiny areas west of the Continental Divide, the streams of Conejos County all drain into the Rio Grande River. The three principal tributaries are the Alamosa River, La Jara Creek and the Conejos River. Los Pinos Creek flows north through the Toltec Gorge from New Mexico to join the Conejos River near Alamosa.

Throughout its existence, the economy of Conejos County has been primarily based on agriculture – farming and raising livestock. Timber has also contributed to the economy. Platoro, on the upper reaches of the Conejos River, was the only significant mining development in Conejos County and it had only a modest and intermittent impact. In the mid and late twentieth century the production of perlite provided employment for a few hundred residents.

The only significant industry in the county was the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. In 1880 the railroad built south from Alamosa, established Antonito and via the Toltec Gorge and Cumbres Pass went into New Mexico and then on west to Durango and Silverton. Antonito became a junction point on the railroad with a branch line to Santa Fe and was an important rail center servicing the trains that climbed over Cumbres Pass.

The tracks of the Santa Fe Branch were removed in 1942. Regular service beyond Antonito on the Durango Branch ceased in 1968 and the tracks beyond Chama were removed by 1971. The section

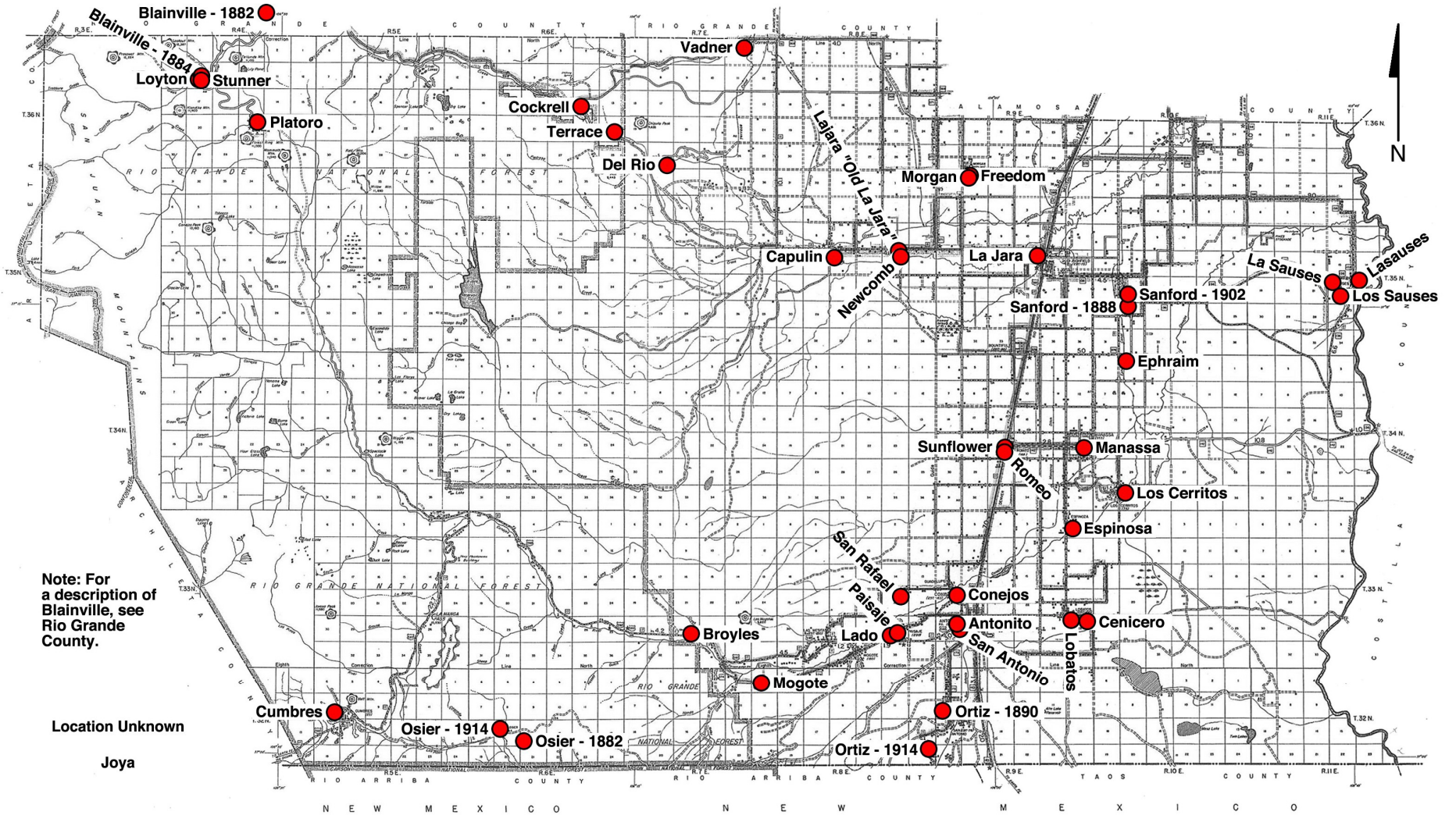
between Antonito and Chama became the joint property of the states of Colorado and New Mexico and operates during the summer months as the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway.

US Highway 285 runs south from Alamosa, through Antonito and on into New Mexico. Colorado Highway 17 is the road from Antonito over Cumbres Pass into New Mexico. There are other state highways that link the active towns. County roads provide a network in the east-central portion of the county and with Forest Service roads offer limited access into the mountains to the west. There are large sections of the county that lack roads or have only trails.

In the twenty-first century, Conejos County still depends heavily on agriculture. Recreational activities play an increasing part in the county's economy. The Cumbres and Toltec Railroad brings a large number of visitors. Hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities flourish in the western portion of the county. However, Conejos County is somewhat remote from the principal routes of tourist travel and major population centers, thus it has not developed to the extent that have other sections of Colorado. There are many that consider that a good thing.



**Conejos River near Colorado State 17**  
Photograph by Tom C. from <http://mapio.net/a/2355473/>

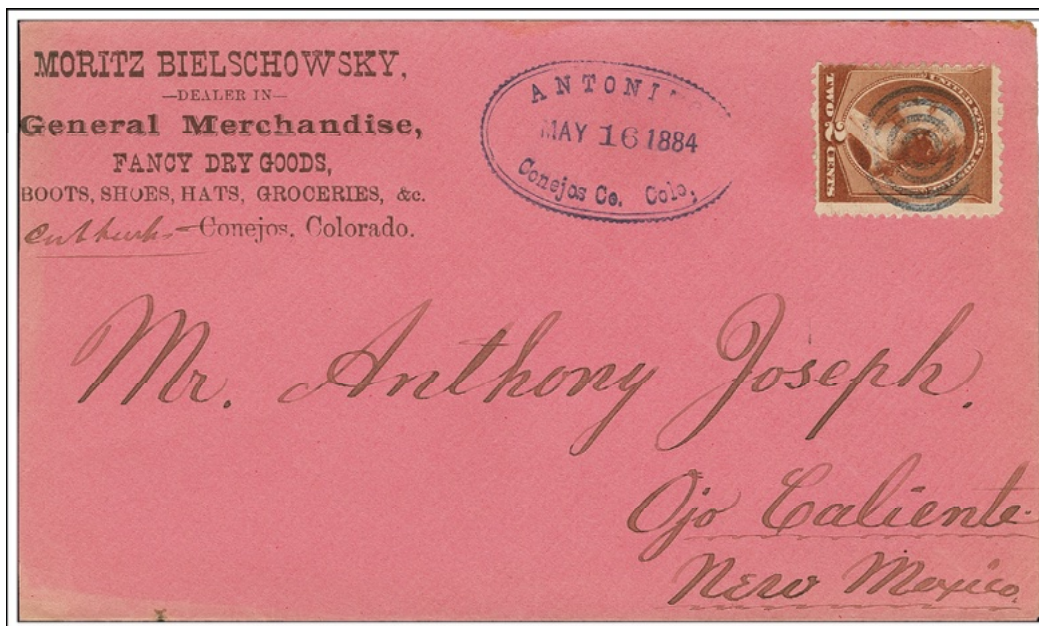


**Post Office Location Map – Conejos County**

## ANTONITO

Antonito was a creation of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Prior to the arrival of the railroad Conejos was the principal settlement. The company failed to receive desired land and other concessions at Conejos and thus, as was all too typical of the Rio Grande, they chose to establish a new town little more than a mile southeast of the existing Conejos.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the site of Antonito in 1880. In November of that year a post office with the name San Antonio was established. Two months later, at the end of January 1881 the name was changed to Antonito. The stated reason for the change in name was to avoid confusion with a similarly named community some four miles to the south of the new Antonito.



**ANTONITO, / Conejos Co., Colo.**

**May 16, 1884**

Antonito is located north of the San Antonio River from which the original name was taken. Antonito (“Little Anthony”) is the diminutive form of Antonio.

Antonito became a division point for the Denver and Rio Grande and it was the junction of the San Juan Branch from Alamosa to Durango via Chama, New Mexico, with the New Mexico Branch of the railroad.

Antonito was incorporated in 1889. Although Antonito quickly outgrew Conejos, in size and activity, the Conejos County seat has remained in Conejos (originally Guadalupe) ever since the county was authorized on November 1, 1861.

In the twenty-first century Antonito is still connected by rail to Alamosa and during the summer months the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway operates excursion trains between Antonito and Chama, New Mexico.

When the railroad was in full operation, Antonito was a thriving community, providing housing and services for the railroad personnel and acting as a major shipping and supply point for the ranches and farms in the surrounding countryside.

**ANTONITO – Continued**

Another factor in the economy of Antonito was the development of perlite mines in the vicinity of No Aqua, New Mexico. Perlite is a natural volcanic glass that when heated expands to become a light-weight material used in insulation and other products. A processing mill was built at Antonito and during the 1980's employed some 125 people. Antonito earned the nickname, "The Perlite Capitol of the World."

Today the railroad is a minor part of the economy of Antonito. Tourists who come to ride the train do contribute to the economy and Antonito is still a shipping and supply center for the region.

Antonito is located on US Highway 285 about six miles north of the Colorado-New Mexico State line. In 1999 the Antonito Post Office was on the corner of Main Street and Fifth Avenue.

Latitude = 37:04:45 North Longitude = 106:00:29 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 20 1880	---	Section 29 T33N R9E 40 yards west of D&RG tracks Proposed name "SAN ANTONIO" changed name to ANTONITO January 24, 1881 Proposed postmaster - Richard J. Bruner
Jan 24 1881		Name changed from San Antonio
Jan 24 1881		Bruner, Richard J.
Mar 10 1881		Marriott, James S.
Oct 11 1881		Smith, Oscar F.
Apr 26 1882		Helphenstine, Alfred
Jun 16 1882		Sheridan, Samuel W.
Jul 3 1883		Timmons. Marion
Jan 16 1885		Blandison, C. H.
Jan 29 1885		Sprouse, Bayles E.
Oct 26 1885		DuBar, Charles O.
Feb 6 1890		Wright, Albert B.
Apr 9 1892		Riley, Josephine
Mar 15 1894		Waring, Edward
Dec 27 1899		Frazey, Jefferson D.
Aug 26 1909	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T33N R9E 350 feet west of D&RG
Feb 21 1912		Frazey, Jefferson D. P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Mar 2 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T33N R9E 270 feet west of the D&RG tracks
Jul 17 1917		Frazey, Jefferson D. P&S
May 27 1919		Hurst, H. Louise Acting
Feb 18 1920		Hurst, H. Louise P&S
Oct 20 1923		Hurst, Charles C. Acting
Dec 18 1923		Hurst, Charles C. P&S
Apr 9 1928		Hurst, Charles C. P&S
Mar 18 1932		Hurst, Charles C. Nominated
Apr 4 1932		Hurst, Charles C. Confirmed
May 12 1932		Hurst, Charles C. Commissioned
Apr 16 1936		Joyce, William D. Acting
Apr 28 1936		Joyce, William D. Assumed charge
May 7 1936		Joyce, William D. Nominated
May 13 1936		Joyce, William D. Confirmed
May 19 1936		Joyce, William D. Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1936		Joyce, William D. Commissioned
May 8 1940		Joyce, William D. Nominated
May 14 1940		Joyce, William D. Confirmed
May 19 1940		Joyce, William D. Appointed Presidential
Jun 7 1940		Joyce, William D. Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 29 T33N R9E Northeast Corner of 4th and Main
Jun 23 1966		Montins, Joseph R. Nominated

## ANTONITO – Continued

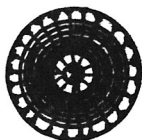
Jun 26 1966	Montins, Joseph R.	Appointed & Confirmed
Jun 30 1966	Montins, Joseph R.	Acting
Jul 7 1966	Montins, Joseph R.	Commissioned

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ANTONITO / COLORADO CI 21P 29.0/26.5/17.0	Hstp Fancy, Wheel-of-fortune	Apr 18 1882 Mar 24 1884
2	ANTONITO, / Conejos Co. Colo. OV 20T 38x23/36x21	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	May 16 1882 Oct 2- 1885
3	ANTONITO, / CONEJOS CO., COLO CI 21P 30.0/28.0/20.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm	Jun 3 1884 Oct 9 1884
4	ANTONITO / COL. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Sep 12 1885 Sep 19 1885
5	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge, Negative X-roads	Feb 3 1889 Mar 24 1893
6	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Mar 24 1893 Jul 10 1896
7	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 3 1899
8	ANTONITO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars P-21x13mm	Oct 29 1907 Dec 1 1914
9	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Oct 8 1917
10	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Oct 2 1924 Dec 24 1931
10.1	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Aug 16 1932 Jun 7 1939
10.2	ANTONITO, / COLO. RC 10P ?x?	Hstp No killer, partial strike Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	1930s
11	ANTONITO, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 21 1939
12	ANTONITO / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Dec 14 1939 Apr 11 1959
13	ANTONITO, / COLO. CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 3 1961 Feb 9 1962
14	ANTONITO, CO / 81120 CI 10P 22.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Aug 20 1966 Oct 11 1978
15	ANTONITO, CO / 81120 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Sep 27 1971 Oct 17 1972
16	ANTONITO, CO / 81120 CI 10P 38.0	4bars S-24x20mm	--- 7 1984
16.1	ANTONITO, CO / 81120 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Dec 17 1985 May 29 1993
17	ANTONITO, CO / 81120 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	May 29 1991 May 18 1994



1

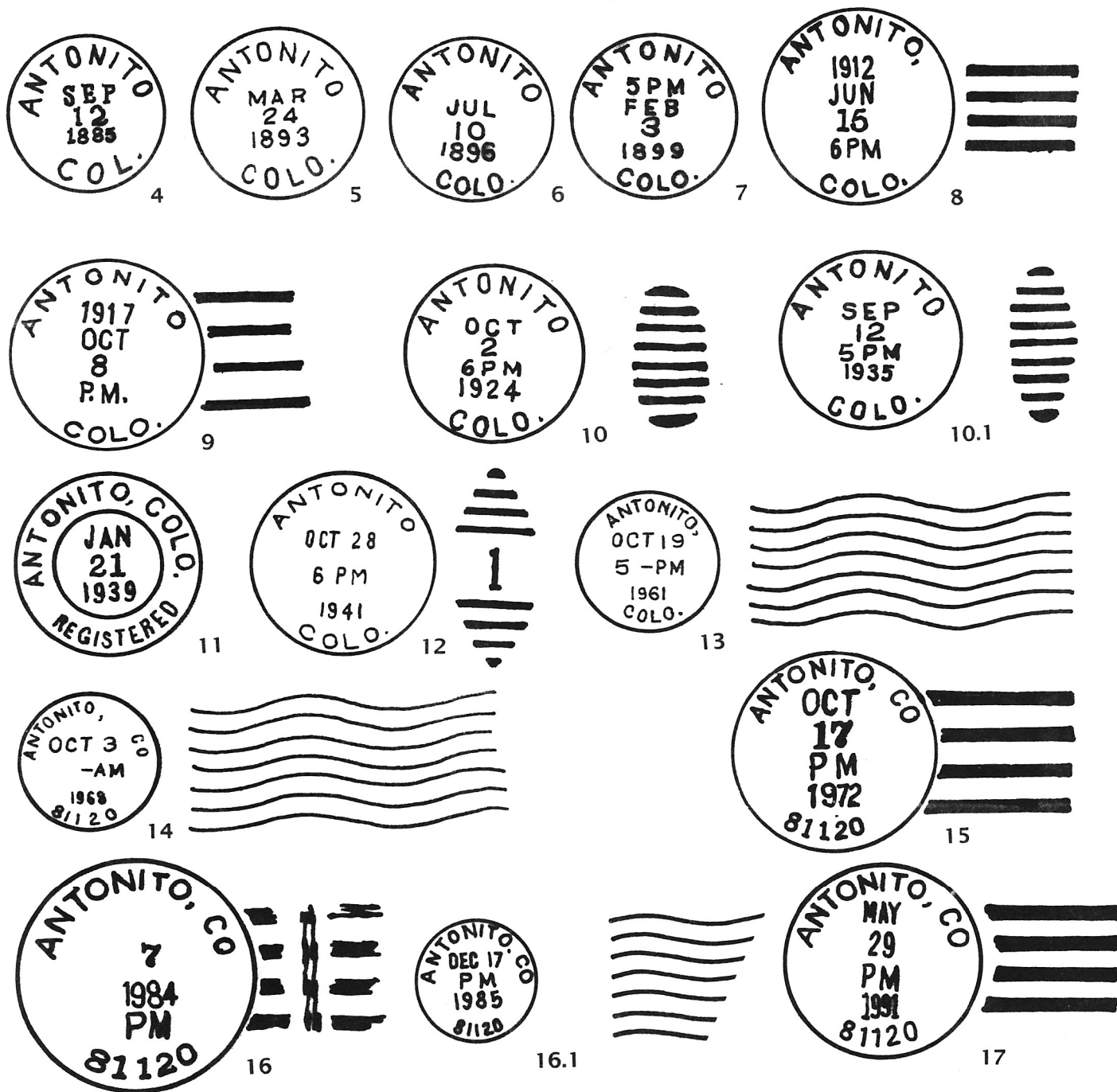


2



3

ANTONITO - Continued



**THE CUMBRES AND TOLTEC SCENIC RAILROAD**

For several years, special cancels were available on the opening day of the railroad's season. Usually, a different station name was designated and markings were used from each of the railroads terminal points: Antonito, Colorado and Chama, New Mexico.

The markings are listed here in chronological order, from both Antonito and Chama.



## ANTONITO – Continued

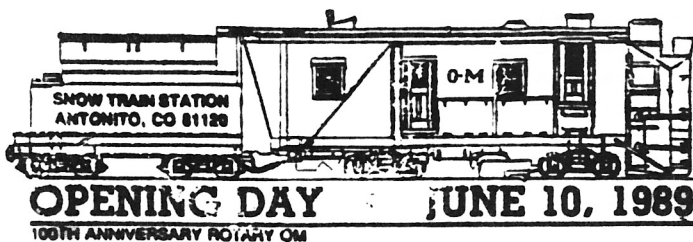
## CUMBRES AND TOLTEC STATION – Continued

## Chronology of the Post Office

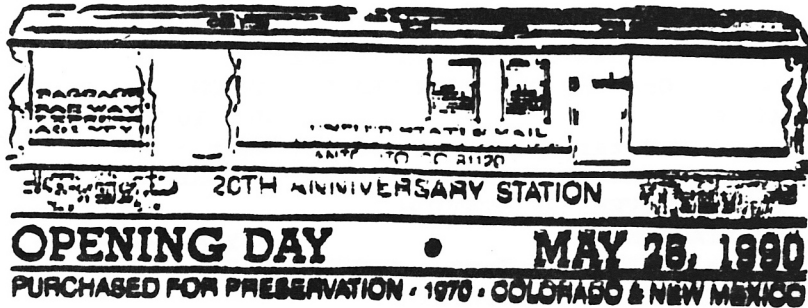
Jun 11 1988	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Jun 10 1989	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 26 1990	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 25 1991	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 23 1992	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 29 1993	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 28 1994	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 27 1995	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
May 25 1996	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Jun 3 1998	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Jun 3 1998	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station [GALLOPING GOOSE STATION]

Confirmed types of postal markings  
FOR ANTONITO

2-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 // SNOW TRAIN STATION IR 00R 90.0x28.0	Jun 10 1989 Pict Scene - Rotary plow and tender; Text - OPENING DAY / 100TH ANNIVERSARY ROTARY OM
3-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 / 20TH ANNIVERSARY STATION IR 00R 99.0x36.0	May 26 1990 Pict Scene - RPO car; Text - OPENING DAY / PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION - 1970 - COLORADO & NEW MEXICO
4-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 // 20TH ANNIVERSARY STATION IR 00R 83.0x33.0	May 25 1991 Pict Scene - Passenger car; Text - OPENING DAY / START OF SCHEDULED PASSENGER SERVICE - 1971
5-A	ANTONITO CO 81120 // SPECIAL COVER / STATION IR 00R 82.0x49.0	May 23 1992 Pict Scene - Railroad caboose; Text - OPENING DAY / FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING DAY COVERS
6-A	ANTONITO. CO 81120 / C & T S R.R. STATION CI 10P 33.0	May 29 1993 Special cancel, but no picture
7-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 // COAL TIPPLE STATION SL 00R 90.0x33.0	May 28 1994 Pict Scene - Steam locomotive and tender; Text - OPENING DAY / PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION - 1970 - COLORADO - NEW MEXICO, with cachet
8-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 // 25 YEARS / STATION RC 10P 71.0x33.0	May 27 1995 Pict Scene - Front view of steam engine at upper left; Text - C.& T.S.R.R., with handstamp "CARRIED ON THE / CUMBRES & TOLTEC / SCENIC R.R. / MAY 27 1995"
9-A	ANTONITO, COLORADO 81120 // WATER TANK STATION RC 10H 113.0x45.0	May 25 1996 Pict Scene - Railroad water tank
10-A	ANTONITO, CO 81120 // Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Station IR 00R 48.0x43.0	Jun 3 1998 Pict Scene - Printed postmark in black, red and gold on large size cacheted envelope
11-A	ANTONITO, COLORADO 81120 :: GALLOPING GOOSE / STATION CI 10P 29.0	Jun 3 1998 Text at right - RIO GRANDE / SOUTHERN



ANTONITO - Continued  
CUMBRES AND TOLTEC STATION - Continued



3-A



5-A



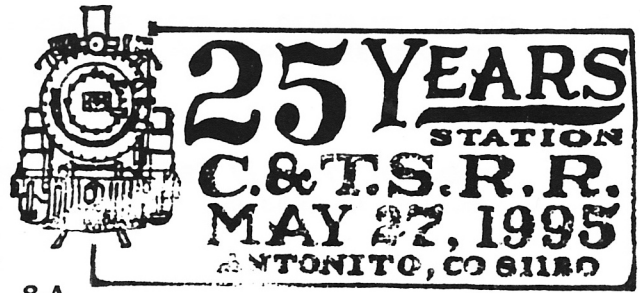
6-A



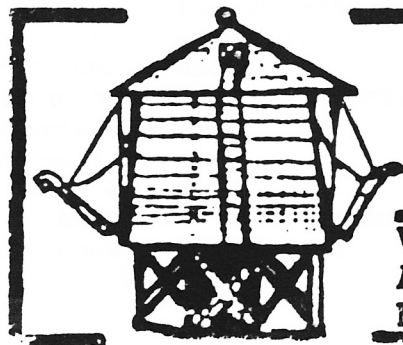
4-A



7-A



8-A



9-A



Antonito, CO 81120  
June 3, 1998

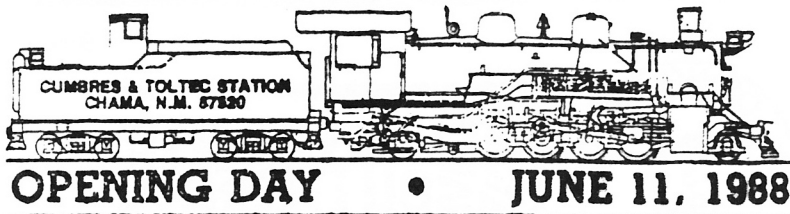
10-A



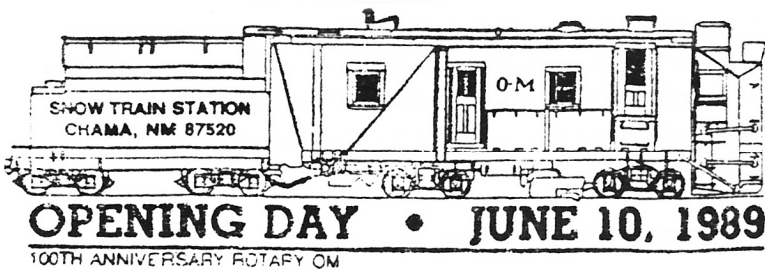
11-A

ANTONITO – Continued  
CUMBRES AND TOLTEC STATION - Continued  
FOR CHAMA

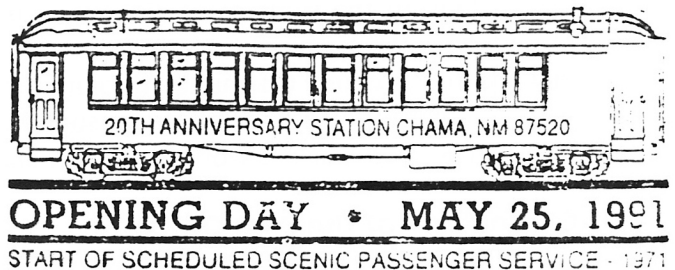
- 1-C CHAMA, N.M. 87520 // CUMBRES & TOLTEC STATION Jun 11 1988  
IR 00R 102.0x26.0 Pict Scene - Steam engine and tender;  
Text - OPENING DAY
- 2-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // SNOW TRAIN STATION Jun 10 1989  
IR 00R 99.0x34.0 Pict Scene - Rotary plow and tender; Text -  
OPENING DAY / 100TH ANNIVERSARY ROTARY OM
- 3-C CHAMA, NM 87520 / 20TH ANNIVERSARY STATION May 26 1990  
IR 00R 108.0 X 39.0 Pict Scene - RPO car; Text - OPENING DAY /  
PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION - 1970 -  
COLORADO & NEW MEXICO
- 4-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // 20TH ANNIVERSARY STATION May 25 1991  
IR 00R 85.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Passenger car; Text - OPENING DAY /  
START OF SCHEDULED PASSENGER SERVICE - 1971
- 5-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // SPECIAL COVER / STATION May 23 1992  
IR 00R 82.0x49.0 Pict Scene - Railroad caboose; Text – OPENING DAY /  
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING DAY COVERS
- 6-C CHAMA, NM 87520 / C & T S R.R. STATION May 29 1993  
CI 10P 33.0 Special cancel, but no picture
- 7-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // COAL TIPPLE STATION May 28 1994  
SL 00R 99.0x44.0 Pict Scene - Steam locomotive and tender; Text –  
OPENING DAY / PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION –  
1970 – COLORADO – NEW MEXICO, with cachet
- 8-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // 25 YEARS / STATION May 27 1995  
RC 10P 70.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Front view of steam engine at  
upper left; Text - C.& T.S.R.R., with  
handstamp "CARRIED ON THE / CUMBRES &  
TOLTEC / SCENIC R.R. / MAY 27 1995"
- 9-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // WATER TANK STATION May 25 1996  
RC 10H 113.0x45.0 Pict Scene - Railroad water tank
- 10-C CHAMA, NM 87520 // Cumbres & Toltec Scenic Railroad Station Jun 3 1998  
IR 00R 48.0x43.0 Pict Scene - Printed postmark in black, red and gold  
on large size cacheted envelope
- 11-C CHAMA, NM 87520 :: GALLOPING GOOSE / STATION Jun 3 1998  
CI 10P 30.0 Text at right - RIO GRANDE / SOUTHERN



1-C

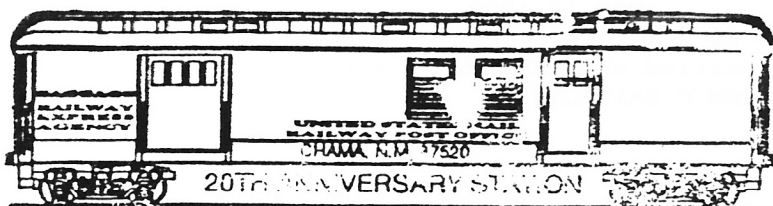


2-C



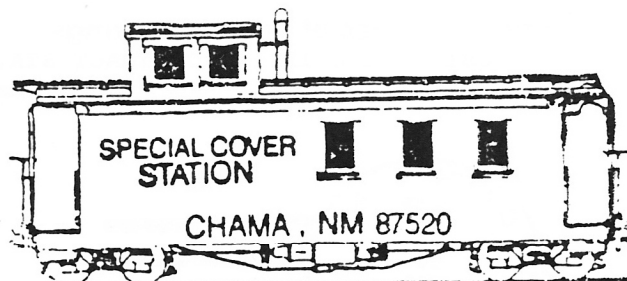
4-C

ANTONITO - Continued  
CUMBRES AND TOLTEC STATION - Continued



**OPENING DAY • MAY 26, 1990**  
PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION-1970-COLORADO & NEW MEXICO

3-C

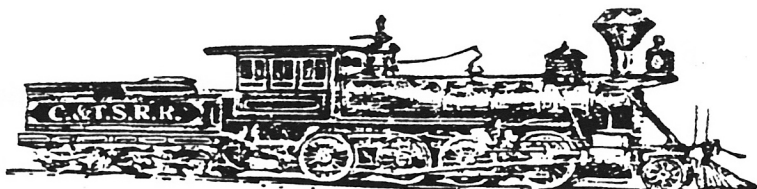


**OPENING DAY • MAY 23, 1992**  
FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF OPENING DAY COVERS

5-C



6-C



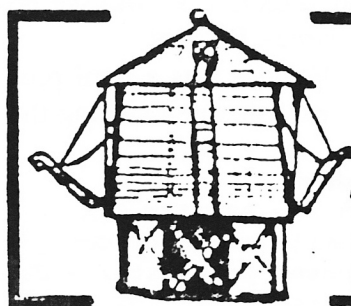
COAL TIPPLE STATION CHAMA, NM 87520  
**OPENING DAY • MAY 28, 1994**  
PURCHASED FOR PRESERVATION • 1970 • COLORADO • NEW MEXICO

7-C



**25 YEARS**  
STATION  
C.&T.S.R.R.  
**MAY 27, 1995**  
CHAMA, NM 87520

8-C



WATER TANK STATION  
CHAMA, NEW MEXICO 87520  
MAY 25, 1996

9-C



Chama, NM 87520  
June 3, 1998

10-C



**RIO GRANDE**  
**SOUTHERN**  
CHAMA, NEW MEXICO 87520

11-C

## ANTONITO – Continued

**OSIER CONTRACT STATION**

During the summer of 1999 the Osier Contract Station was in operation at Osier. Osier is the place where the trains of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railroad meet to exchange passengers who are making the complete Chama to Antonito, or vice versa trip. Osier is also the lunch stop for the trains.

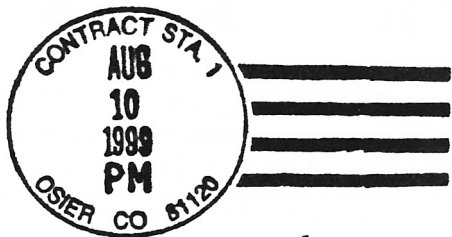
Apparently, after a single season, the operators of the concession at Osier found that operating the Contract Station was not worth the effort and they did not renew the contract for the year 2000.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Summer 1999      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	OSIER CO 81120 // CONTRACT STA. 1 CI 10P 30.0	Aug 10 1999 Oct 18 1999 4bars S-28-16mm, on cachet envelope, Handstamp "Carried on / CUMBRES & TOLTEC / SCENIC RAILROAD"
---	--	--



1

**BROYLES**

In my extensive reading of Colorado historical literature I have found no mention of a place named Broyles in Conejos County.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports do provide a location for Broyles. Starting at the bridge over the Conejos River, north of Mogote, drive west on Colorado Highway 17 about five and one half miles. That will bring you to a community now called Fox Creek. At that location there are some older homes and this fits with the Site Location Report. It is about a mile west of the Broyles Bridge over the Conejos River.

It should be noted that Fox Creek was the proposed name for the post office. I have no idea as to the source of the accepted name - Broyles.

It seems obvious that Broyles was a rural post office, perhaps one that was intended to provide services to hunters, campers and fishermen visiting the area.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 17 1905	---	SE/4 Sec 28 T33N R7E 1/4 mile north of Conejos River, 1/4 mile west of Fox Creek Proposed postmaster - James W. Hartley Proposed name "FOX CREEK" - rejected
Sep 29 1905		Established
Sep 29 1905		Hartley, James W.
Oct 31 1908		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BROYLES

**CAPULIN**

The organized community of Capulin began in 1867 with the arrival of Mexican immigrants from Ojo Caliente, New Mexico led by Hippolito Romero. There were settlers in the area at least as early as 1859 and in 1862 the farmers diverted water from the Alamosa River to irrigate their crops.

In 1909 the present townsite was platted by a group of which Luis J. Rivera was one of those involved in developing the new town.

The name Capulin is an adaptation of the Aztec word, “capolin,” meaning wild cherry or choke cherry.

In the early twentieth century, Capulin was a small but thriving community with three general stores, a parochial school and a lively dance hall. In 1912 one of the San Luis Valley’s most beautiful Catholic churches was built at Capulin.

From its beginnings Capulin was a gateway to the Alamosa and La Jara Canyons and the ranching and mining areas along those streams. It was, and to some extent still is, an outfitting point for hunters and fishermen on their way into the San Juan Mountains to the west.

Today Capulin remains a small, active community with a number of residences and a few small businesses. It is located on Colorado Highway 15 (Conejos County Road X) four miles west of Colorado Highway 371 and two miles east of where Colorado 15 turns north towards Monte Vista.

In 1999 the post office was on the north side of the road in a bright lime green adobe building. It was in the same building in 1972.

The 1881 location of the Capulin Post Office was a mile to the east, in the northeast quadrant of the intersection of County Road 9 with Colorado 15. There is a group of farm buildings at that location.

Latitude = 37:17:02 North Longitude = 106:06:39 West.



**Post Office, Capulin, Colorado**

**Photograph by William H. Bauer**

**May 9, 1999**

## CAPULIN - Continued

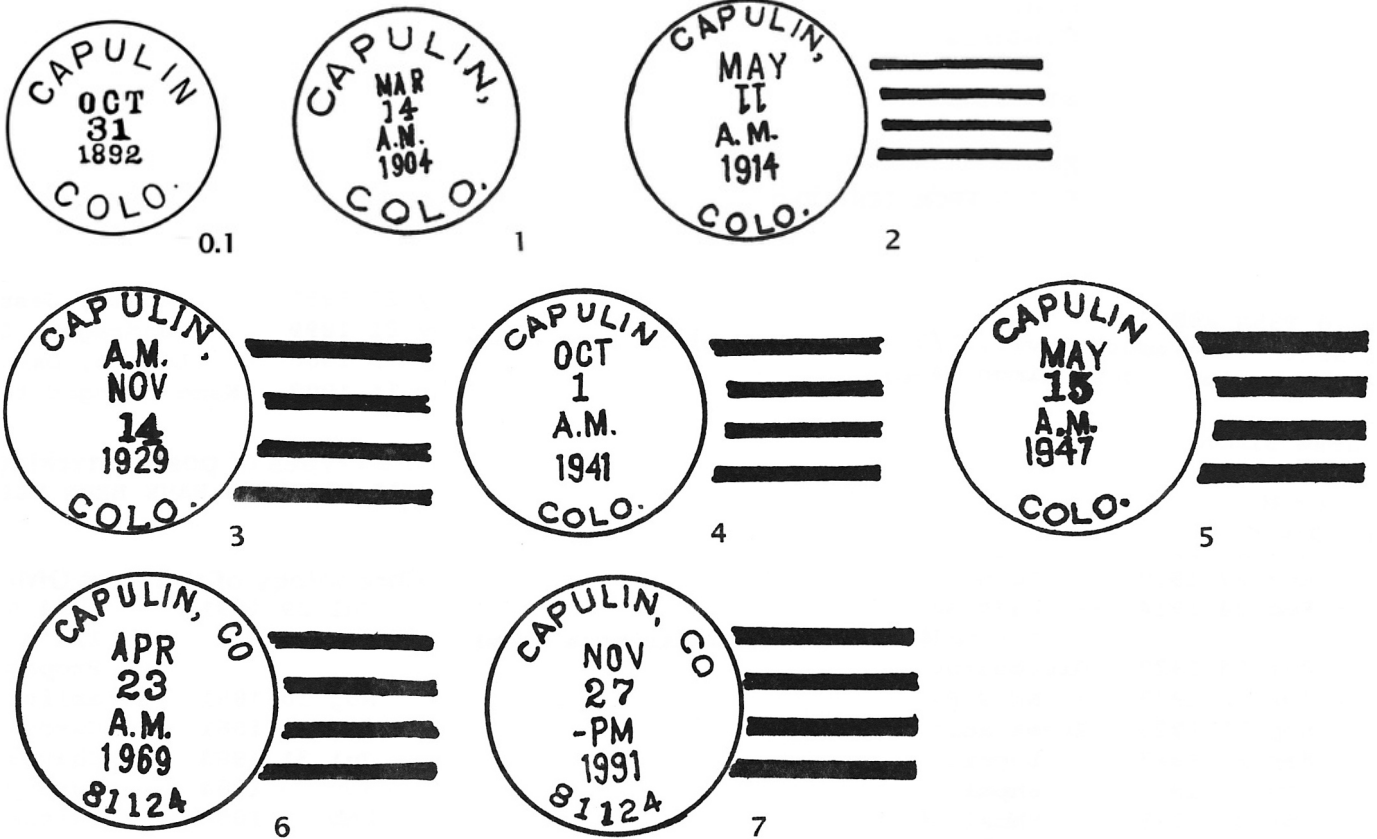
## Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 29 1881	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T35N R8E 1/8 mile south of Alamosa River, 1/2 mile north of La Jara Creek Proposed postmaster - Jose Simon Garcia	
Aug 10 1881		Established	
Aug 10 1881		Garcia, Jose Simon	
Jul 31 1883		Chaves, Pedro J.	
Nov 25 1884		Murphy, John M.	
Feb 5 1886		Martinez, David	
Nov 29 1899		Ortiz, Romualdo	
Aug 27 1910		Gomez, Jose L.	
Feb 24 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 16 T35N R8E 1/4 mile north of La Jara creek, 1/4 mile south of Alamosa Creek	
Jul 14 1922		Discontinued Mail to La Jara	
Apr 2 1923	---	NE/4 Sec 17 T35N R8E	
Sep 21 1923		Re-established	
Sep 21 1923		Lopez, Timateo	
May 6 1925		Shpall, Sham H.	Acting
Apr 23 1925		Shpall, Sham H.	Appointed
May 19 1930		Kupetz, Mary	Acting
Aug 9 1930		Kupetz, Mary	Appointed
Oct 8 1930		Kupetz, Mary	Confirmed
Oct 24 1930		Kupetz, Mary	Commissioned
Sep 9 1937		Cordova, Armando	Assumed charge
Sep 25 1938		Cordova, Armando	Acting
Jan 25 1937		Cordova, Armando	Confirmed
Feb 8 1938		Cordova, Armando	Commissioned
Nov 27 1938		Cwengel, Mrs. Frieda	Assumed charge
Dec 3 1938		Cwengel, Mrs. Frieda	Acting
Jan 25 1939		Gomez, Alexander B.	Confirmed
Feb 17 1939		Gomez, Alexander B.	Commissioned
Mar 5 1939		Gomez, Alexander B.	Assumed charge
Jun 18 1939		Gomez, Manuelita	Assumed charge
Jul 28 1939		Gomez, Manuelita	Acting
Oct 17 1939		Cwengel, Sol	Confirmed
Oct 30 1939		Cwengel, Sol	Commissioned
Nov 7 1939		Cwengel, Sol	Assumed charge
Feb 18 1941		Trujillo, Mrs. Carmen	Assumed charge
Mar 14 1941		Trujillo, Mrs. Carmen	Acting
Apr 22 1941		Trujillo, Mrs. Carmen	Confirmed
Jun 7 1941		Trujillo, Mrs. Carmen	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	Main Street	
Jan 18 1943		Malouff, Miss Patricia L.	Assumed charge
Mar 6 1943		Malouff, Miss Patricia L.	Acting
May 13 1943		Malouff, Miss Patricia L.	Confirmed
May 27 1943		Malouff, Miss Patricia L.	Commissioned
Nov 6 1949		Sivyer, Mrs. Patricia L.	Name changed by marriage
Nov 21 1952		Trujillo, Maria R.	Possession
Dec 11 1952		Trujillo, Maria R.	Acting
Oct 6 1954		Trujillo, Maria R.	Appointed
Nov 4 1954		Trujillo, Maria R.	Commissioned
Nov 16 1954		Trujillo, Maria R.	Possession
Apr 28 1978		Sowards, Avaline	Officer in charge
Oct 21 1978		Gallegos, Lorraine M.	Appointed

**CAPULIN - Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	CAPULIN / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Oct 31 1892
1	CAPULIN, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Doane Type 2, with ? ?? x ??mm	Mar 14 1904 Sep 19 1907
2	CAPULIN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	May 11 1914
3	CAPULIN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 14 1929 Dec 26 1936
4	CAPULIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 1 1941 Dec 9 1943
5	CAPULIN / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	May 15 1947 May 19 1960
6	CAPULIN, CO / 81124 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 23 1969 Mar 15 1973
7	CAPULIN, CO / 81124 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 17 1989 Nov 27 1991



**CENICERO**

Cenicero was founded in the early 1860's by a group of people from Cochiti, New Mexico. The settlers were members of the Penitente brotherhood - La Hermandad de Nuestro Padre Jesus - and south of Cenicerero they constructed the first morada in the San Luis Valley. At Cenicerero there was a plaza surrounded by adobe walls for protection against Indian attack.



**CENICERO – Continued**

Cenicero is a Spanish word and is reported to mean, “ash heap.” This is believed to be a reference to a group of volcanic hills located about nine miles southwest of the community.

The early settlers were farmers and also raised sheep.

In 1902, the name of the post office was changed to Lobatos and at the same time it was moved about a half mile to the west.

The old town of Cenicero is now on a large ranch called the T-Bone. From US Highway 285 in Antonito, drive east on Eighth Avenue. East of Antonito this becomes Conejos County Road G. It is three and three-tenth miles to County Road 17. Lobatos was in the southeast quadrant of this intersection. It is another mile east to County Road 18. Cenicero was in the southwest corner of this intersection. That corner is an open field and appears swampy, which may have contributed to moving the settlement west to Lobatos.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 7 1894	---	NE/4 NE/4 Sec 25 T33N R9E 1/4 mile north of San Antonio Creek Proposed postmaster Luis Jaramillo
Apr 13 1894		Established
Apr 13 1894		Jaramillo, Luis
May 22 1895		Lobato, Jesus M.
Nov 21 1899		Mondragon, Celedonio
Aug 2 1900		Lobato, Daniel F.
Mar 14 1902		Name changed to Lobatos

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CENICERO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Mar 27 1895
---	---------------------------------	-------------	-------------



1

**COCKRELL**

Cockrell was a small hamlet on the Alamosa River in an area that was principally devoted to raising cattle and sheep. It was on the wagon road that eventually crossed the Continental Divide via Elwood Pass. The settlement took the name of Peter M. Cockrell who was postmaster from 1879 to 1886.

The stated location plots on the north side of the Terrace Reservoir, a short distance west of the dam that contains the reservoir. It is about two miles from the Forest Service Road 255 bridge that crosses the Alamosa River and the site of the Terrace Post Office.

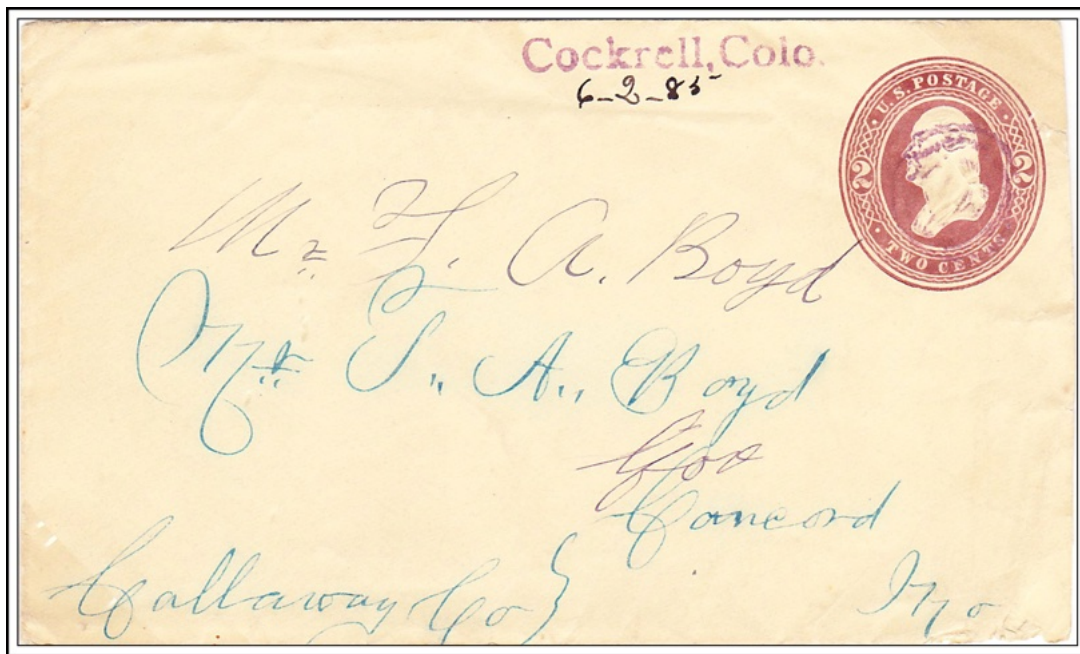
The present day road is on the hillside above the river and it seems probable that Cockrell was below the road within the reservoir basin. There is no visible evidence of buildings or a community.

Approximately two miles west of the dam, the presence of a mine dump on the hillside above the road, indicates that there was some mining activity in the area.

**COCKRELL – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Sep 29 1879 --- Location not reported - Unsurveyed Upon north side of Alamosa Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Peter M. Cockrell  
Sketch map shows it in NE/4 NW/4 Sec 14 [Does sketch map follow proposed PM?]
- Oct 15 1879 Established
- Oct 15 1879 Cockrell, Peter M.
- Mar 27 1885 --- WSW/4 Sec 14 T36N R6E On north side of Alamosa River, 4 miles south of Cat Creek  
Postmaster P. M. Cockrell
- Oct 11 1886 Games, John C.
- Dec 21 1889 Games, Rhoda F.
- Jul 17 1890 Eaton, Effie
- Dec 22 1892 Discontinued Mail to Jasper



**Cockrell, Colo. June 2, 1885**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Cockrell, Colo. Jun 2 1885  
SL 00R 38.5x4.0 Hstp Target, manuscript date below town-state

**Cockrell, Colo.**  
6-2-85

1

**CONEJOS**

In 1854 Major Lafayette Head with a group of Spanish-Americans established a colony on the north side of the Conejos River and it took the name of Guadalupe. On November 1, 1861 this small settlement became the county seat of Conejos County when the county was authorized by the Territorial Legislature.

### CONEJOS – Continued

The Guadalupe site was on low ground that was subject to flooding and soon Lafayette Head and others moved to higher ground on the south side of the river. For a short time the new community may have continued the name of Guadalupe. However, when a post office opened in 1862 it was under the name of Conejos and Conejos was recognized as the county seat.

Conejos is the Spanish word for rabbits.

In 1856 a church, Our Lady of Guadalupe, was constructed. The original building was frequently enlarged but in 1926, except for the walls, it was destroyed by fire. It was rebuilt and is a large attractive edifice, worthy of a visit to Conejos. The church is still in operation and is recognized as the oldest surviving church in Colorado.



**CONEJOS, / COL.**

**March 16, 1879**

For several years Conejos was the principal town in this part of the county. In 1880 the Rio Grande Railroad was built into the area. As was typical the railroad established a new town to serve its needs. This was Antonito, less than a mile to the southeast of Conejos.

In spite of the rapid growth of Antonito, Conejos has retained the county seat; however it has no real business district. The church, the Court House, a school and the post office are all clustered together.

Access to Conejos is from US Highway 285 just north of Antonito. The exit is well marked and the town is about a mile to the west of the highway.

Latitude = 37:05:18 North Longitude = 106:01:09 West

### Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 25 1862	Established
Feb 25 1862	Head, Lafayette
May 2 1864	Rosebaum, Louis
Mar 10 1865	Lusera, Samuel
Apr 18 1866	Lawrence, John

**CONEJOS – Continued**

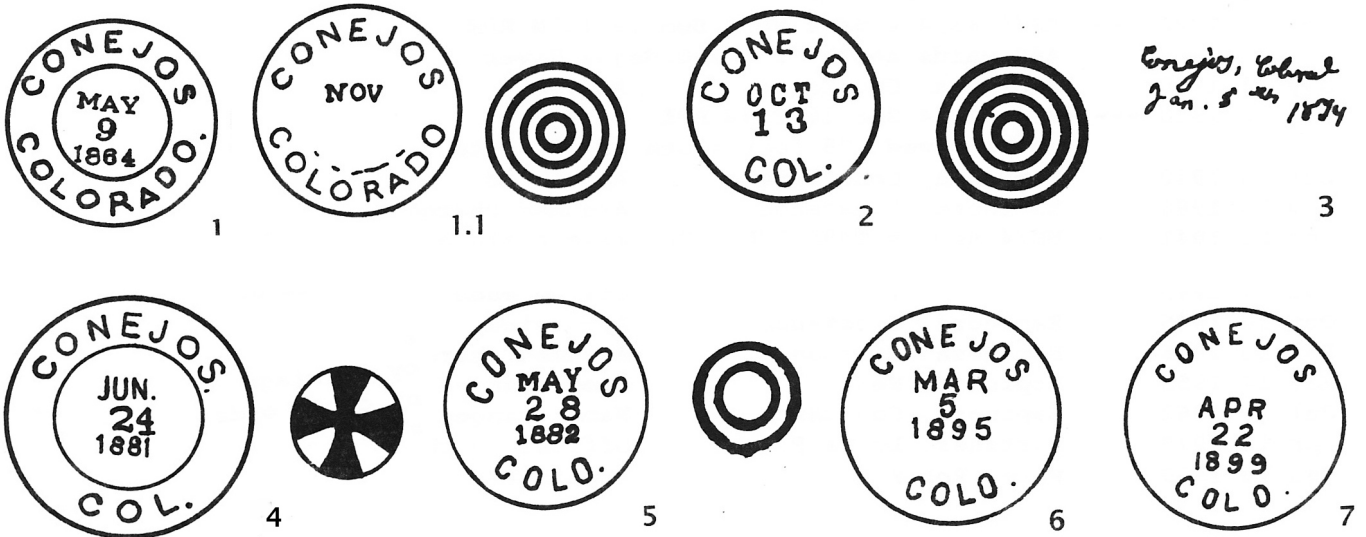
Jun 7 1866	Harris, Edward R.	
Apr 19 1867	Watson, Fred	
Feb 13 1868	Unfug, Charles O.	
Nov 2 1869	Stollsteimer, Christian	
Jan 20 1871	--- Unsurveyed On north side of Conejos Creek	
	County Seat "GUADALUPE" - post office name "CONEJOS"	
Oct 15 1872	Shiffer, Herman	
May 17 1873	Valdez, Crescencie	
May 3 1875	--- SW/4 SE/4 sec 18 T33N R9E 1/2 mile east of the Conejos Creek	
Jul 17 1876	--- NE/4 Sec 19 T33N R9E On the south side of the Rio Conejos	
	The local name is GUADALUPE	
Nov 27 1876	Trujillo, Flavio	
Dec 26 1876	Trujillo, Flavio D.	
Jun 10 1878	Bielschowsky, Moritz	
Jul 22 1878	Gale, Jonathan A.	
May 9 1879	Williford, Jay	
Dec 13 1880	Triplett, Goldie M.	
Feb 28 1881	Austin, Gerard	
Nov 28 1881	Collison, Danna W.	
Nov 27 1885	Hatch, S. Wright	
Dec 9 1886	Hughes, Mary H.	
Aug 6 1888	McClure, Sarah M.	
Dec 5 1891	McClure, William B.	
Feb 23 1914	--- NE/4 Sec 19 T33N R9E	
Jan 5 1915	Young, Eva M.	
Jul 12 1918	Valasquez, Agapita	
Apr 6 1920	Salazar, Juan M.	Confirmed
May 10 1920	Salazar, Juan M.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1920	Salazar, Juan M.	Assumed charge
Sep 8 1920	--- SE/4 NE/4 & SW/4 NW/4 Sec 19 T33N R9E 440 yards south of the Conejos River	
May 31 1940	Espinoza, Constance	Acting
Jun 1 1940	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Assumed charge
Jun 14 1940	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Acting
Jul 6 1940	--- SE/4 NE/4 Sec 19 T33N R9E To be moved 125 feet south of old site	
Oct 4 1940	Espinoza, Constance	Confirmed
Oct 30 1940	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Commissioned
Nov 15 1940	Espinoza, Constance	Assumed charge
Oct 23 1941	--- NE/4 Sec 19 T33N R9E 3/4 mile north of Conejos River	
Jul 1 1945		Office made Presidential
Sep 26 1945	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Nominated
Sep 29 1945	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Confirmed
Oct 30 1945	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Appted Presidential & Commissioned
Feb 15 1946	Espinoza, Constance	Assumed charge
May 14 1955	Ness, Mrs. Constance	Name changed by marriage
Jul 25 1962	Espinoza, Miss Constance	Name changed by court order
Apr 14 1978	Martinez, Loyda P.	Officer in charge
Jan 13 1979	Ware, Roger A.	Appointed
Jun 6 1980	Martinez, Loyda P.	Officer in charge
Oct 4 1980	Martinez, Loyda P.	Appointed

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CONEJOS / COLORADO. CI 11P 27.0/15.0	Hstp Pen cancel	May 9 1864 Apr 14 1866
1.1	CONEJOS / COLORADO CI 11P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm, There is a slight indication of an inner frame line	Nov -- 187-

CONEJOS – Continued

2	CONEJOS / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Oct 13 187-
3	Conejos, Colorado MS	Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm Jan 5 1874 Jan 10 1881
4	CONEJOS, / COL. CI 21H 32.0/29.0/19.0	Mscp Pen cancel Mar 16 1879 Jun 24 1881
5	CONEJOS / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Fancy, Pinwheel in circle Apr 11 1882 Jul 24 1882
6	CONEJOS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 18mm Mar 5 1895 Aug 2 18--
7	CONEJOS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not recorded Mar 23 1899 Jun 27 1904
8	CONEJOS / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid, smudge, negative X-roads Jun 22 1906
9	CONEJOS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval Apr 2 1910 Apr 29 1910
10	CONEJOS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x14mm Mar 7 1927 May 23 1939
11	CONEJOS / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm Jul 18 1940 Feb 12 1943
12	CONEJOS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-22x19mm Aug 30 1948
13	CONEJOS, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm Oct 27 1959 Nov 14 1962
14	CONEJOS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm Dec 15 1965
15	CONEJOS, CO / 81129 CI 10P 32.5	Mach 7 wavy lines Nov 4 1967 Oct 17 1972
16	CONEJOS, CO / 81129 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm Nov 24 1975
17	CONEJOS, CO / 81129 CI 10P 23.0	4bars S-24x19mm Feb 13 1973 May 28 1993
		Mach 7 wavy lines



*Conejos, Colorado  
Jan. 5 1874*



## CONEJOS STATIONS – Continued

**OLDEST PARISH IN COLORADO****Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 18-19 2008 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1.1 Conejos, Colorado / 81129 // OLDEST PARISH / IN COLO... Jul 18 2008  
IR 00R 65.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Crude map of Western Hemisphere  
with symbols; Text - (around map)  
Celebrating 150 Years! - Celabrando 150 Anos! -
- 1.2 Conejos, Colorado / 81129 // OLDEST PARISH / IN COLO... Jul 19 2008  
IR 00R 65.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Crude map of Western Hemisphere  
with symbols; Text - (around map)  
Celebrating 150 Years! - Celabrando 150 Anos! -



**OLDEST PARISH  
IN COLORADO  
STATION**

July 18, 2008  
Conejos, Colorado  
81129

1.1



**OLDEST PARISH  
IN COLORADO  
STATION**

July 19, 2008  
Conejos, Colorado  
81129

1.2

**CUMBRES**

In December 1880 construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the summit of the divide between Los Pinos and Chama Creeks. At an elevation of 10,015 feet, a post office was established and Cumbres became a year around settlement for Rio Grande employees working for the railroad.

There was a depot, service sheds and a wye for turning equipment that had been used to help trains up the long grades from Chama to the south or Antonito to the north. The depot is still standing and there is a water tank that during the summer months is used by the excursion trains of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway.

Cumbres Pass is crossed by Colorado Highway 17 from Antonito. The road trip up the Conejos River Canyon, over La Manga Pass (10,230 feet), then to Cumbres Pass and on to Chama New Mexico is an enjoyable drive. During the summer months, with good timing, it offers a number of places where the excursion trains can be viewed. In winter months, deep snow is the rule. One year, on opening day at the end of May when Jim Ozment and I rode the train, the snow at Cumbres was still higher than the roofs of the train cars.

Latitude = 37:01:11 North Longitude = 106:26:50 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

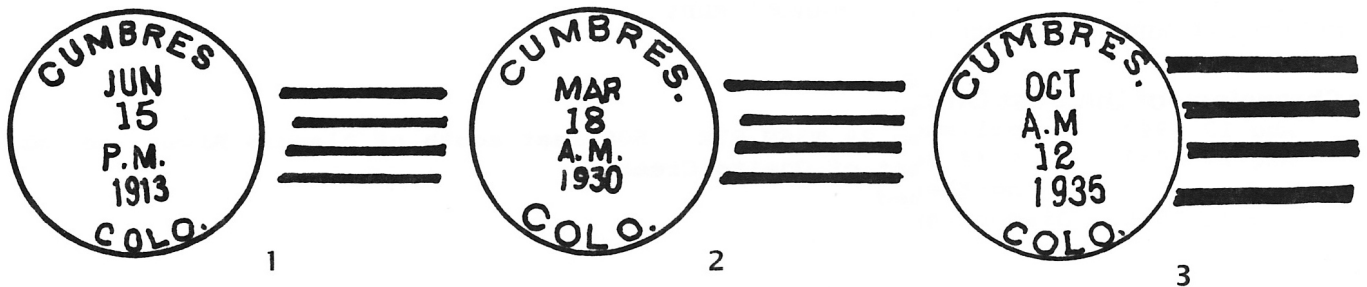
Oct 23 1889 --- Unsurveyed Located in Depot, D&RG  
Nov 25 1889 Established  
Nov 25 1889 Graham, George  
Dec 5 1891 Close, George W.  
Sep 6 1893 Discontinued Papers to Osier

**CUMBRES – Continued**

Jan 22 1895	---	Unsurveyed land 20 feet south of D&RG tracks	
Feb 8 1895		Re-established	
Feb 8 1895		Adirhold, Jennie B.	
Mar 5 1900		Collins, Morton H.	
Feb 2 1901		Aderhold, Herman H	
Aug 10 1901		Ordered closed	
Aug 31 1901		Discontinued Papers to Osier	
Dec 13 1906		Re-established	
Dec 13 1906		Tyler, Roy H.	Rescinded Apr 13 1907
Jun 13 1907	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T32N R5E Proposed office on Pueblo & Silverton Route	
		Proposed postmaster -M. D. Wright	
Oct 4 1907		Wright, Marine D.	
Nov 27 1908		Good, Harry E.	
Nov 25 1910		Lively, Charles R.	
Jul 31 1918		Discontinued Mail to Osier	
Jul 20 1923	---	SE/4 Sec 7 T32N R5E 0.2 miles south of Cumbres Creek, 125 feet north of the D&RG tracks	
		Applicant for postmaster - J. L. Mason	
Nov 1 1923		Re-established	
Nov 1 1923		Mason, Joseph L.	
Oct 13 1928		Lively, Charles R.	Acting
Nov 9 1928		Lively, Charles R.	Appointed
Feb 18 1937		Order closed	
Feb 27 1937		Discontinued Mail to Chama, New Mexico	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CUMBRES / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Jun 15 1913
2	CUMBRES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x14mm	Mar 18 1930
3	CUMBRES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 12 1935



**DEL RIO**

I have found no reference to Del Rio in the historical literature of Colorado. Fortunately, the Post Office Department Geographic site Location Report provides a location for the post office.

From Capulin, drive west on Colorado Highway 15 to where that road turns north. Continue straight ahead, now on Conejos County Road X. After a mile and a half this road curves to the northwest. The turn is at Centro and is marked by a large junkyard. In part this road is also designated as Road 6 and soon becomes Forest Service Road 255. Go seven miles to Conejos County Road BB. Turn right on that road and descend down towards the Alamosa River.



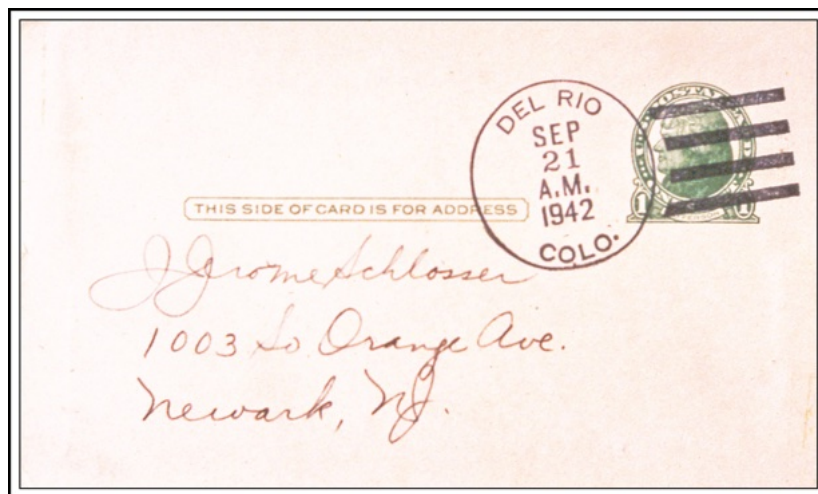
## DEL RIO – Continued



**Abandoned buildings (a motel?) at the site of Del Rio, Colorado**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer

In 1999, on the west side of the road and before reaching the river, there was what appeared to be an abandoned motel. There were several buildings including one that had doorways to several side-by-side rooms. There was also a single building on the east side of the road.

From Del Rio, return to Forest Service Road 255 and continue west towards Terrace and Cockrell in Conejos County and Jasper in Rio Grande County.



**DEL RIO / COLO.**

**September 21, 1942**

**DEL RIO – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 13 1942	Established	
Aug 14 1942 ---	SE/4 Sec 29 T36N R7E	500 feet south of Alamosa River, one mile northeast of Ojeito Creek
Aug 13 1942	Vigil, Abdon J.	Confirmed
Sep 2 1942	Vigil, Abdon J.	Commissioned
Jan 2 1946	Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1946	Discontinued Mail to Capulin	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 DEL RIO / COLO. Sep 21 1942 May 3 1943  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



**EPHRAIM**

Ephraim was one of the Mormon settlements in the San Luis Valley. It was founded in 1881. Like its neighbor Manassa, it was named for a son of the Biblical Joseph. The chosen location was not a good one; at times becoming swampy and by 1888 the settlers had moved two miles further north to establish Sanford. Some historians have assumed that Ephraim and Sanford were the same but that is definitely not the case.

The residents of Ephraim were engaged in agriculture. They constructed an irrigation system but poor drainage contributed to the swampy conditions and forced the move to the new location at Sanford.

From Colorado Highway 142 on the east edge of Manassa, drive north on Conejos County Road 18 (First Street) three and one-half miles to Road T. Turn east for one mile to Road 19. Ephraim was located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection. There does not appear to be any early structures remaining, but there is modern activity and a few buildings.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 15 1881 ---	NW/4 Sec 5 T34N R10E	
	Proposed postmaster - James Otteson	
Jul 5 1881	Established	
Jul 5 1881	Otteson, James	
Nov 30 1886	Heisett, Niels H.	
Jun 2 1888	Moved to Sanford	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 EPHRAIM, / COLO. Nov 14 1882 Nov 25 1882  
CI 10P 26.5 Hstp No killer, two stars at each side of CDS



## **ESPINOSA**

Espinosa was one of the early settlements along the Conejos River. It was a fortified plaza built by Don Incarnacion de Espinosa and was originally called Los Fuerticitos de Incarnacion Espinosa - "The little fort of Incarnacion Espinosa." The name was later shortened to Espinosa.

Supposedly the name Espinosa translates as, "thorny." For an unknown reason the name of this community is most often spelled Espinosa. However, the known postmarks use the spelling Ezpinoza.

Espinosa was typical of the small Spanish-American communities in the San Luis Valley. The residents were either engaged in farming or raising sheep.

As late as the 1940's, Espinosa was a viable community but gradually the population moved to more active towns and Espinosa faded into history.

The 1965 General Highway Map of Conejos County still identified Espinosa on Conejos County Road 17 three miles south of Colorado Highway 142, the road that connects Manassa to US Highway 285. There is a short side road to the east. In 1999 all I could find was one old abandoned building but there was evidence for the previous existence of other buildings along the side road and on both sides of Road 17.

Latitude = 37:07:50 North Longitude = 105:56:44 West



**Abandoned building on the east side of County Road 17 at site of Espinosa, Colorado  
Photograph by William H. Bauer**

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

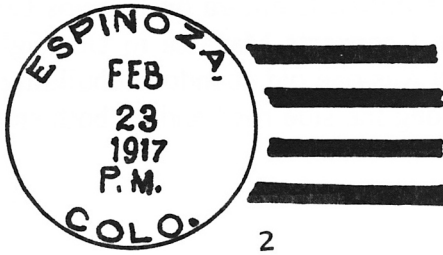
Jan 17 1905	---	SW/4 Sec 1 T33N R9E About a half mile on the left side Proposed postmaster - Amanda G. Espinoza
Feb 4 1905		Established
Feb 4 1905		Espinoza, Amanda

**ESPINOSA – Continued**

Mar 9 1914 --- N/4 Sec 1 T33N R9E 800 yards north of the Conejos River 200 yards south of Espinoza Hot Springs Creek  
Aug 26 1933 Ordered closed  
Sep 15 1933 Discontinued Mail to Manassa

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                  |   |
|---|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 | ESPINOZA, / COLO.<br>CI 10P ???  | Feb 21 1911 May 15 1911<br>Doane Type 2, with 1<br>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 2 | ESPINOZA, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | Feb 23 1917<br>4bars S-25x20mm  |

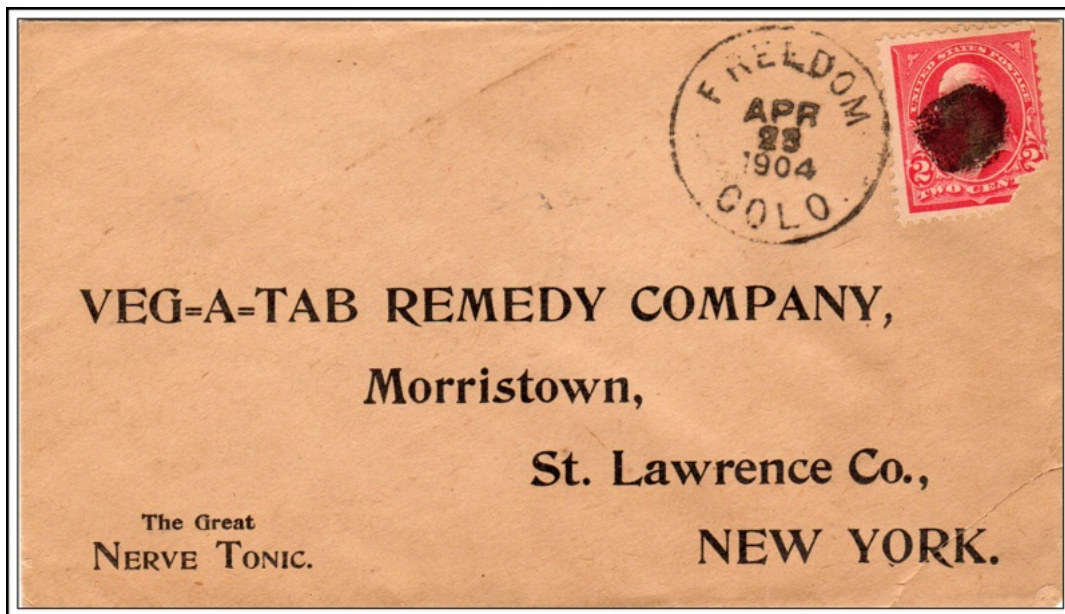


**FREEDOM**

I have found no specific reference to this community in the historical literature of Colorado.

According to the Post Office Department records it came into existence with a change of name to the Morgan Post Office. The new name lasted only four years before it faded into obscurity.

Please refer to the brief discussion of Morgan for more information about the place and for directions to the location.



**FREEDOM / COLO. April 23, 1904**

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

May 14 1901	Name changed from Morgan
May 14 1901	Price, Martin G.
Jul 13 1901 ---	NW/4 Sec 32 T36N R9E [Late Morgan]
Mar 23 1905	Ordered closed
Apr 15 1905	Discontinued Papers to La Jara

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	FREEDOM / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Aug 29 1901 Apr 23 1904 Hstp Pen cancel; Cork, smudge
---	--------------------------------	--



1

**JOYA**

I have found no reference to Joya in the historical literature of Colorado that I have studied. One day after the appointment of a postmaster, the establishment was rescinded. Perhaps Mr. Martinez changed his mind, or he failed to post the required bond. As is most often the case with post offices that were rescinded, there is no Geographical Site Location Report on file.

Any information about this place would be greatly appreciated.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

No entry found in the Geographic Site Location Reports for Conejos County	
May 27 1904	Established
May 27 1904	Martinez, O. M.
May 28 1904	Establishment rescinded

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM JOYA**

**LA JARA**

In 1880 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built south from Alamosa on the way to Chama, New Mexico and from there to Durango in southwestern Colorado. A water tank was placed where the railroad crossed La Jara Creek. This location was about six miles east of the site of "Old Lajara."

There was also a railroad depot and a small community began to develop. At first the community was called Llano Blanco (White Plain). For a short time the site was known as El Tanque (The Tank). But in 1884, when a post office opened it took the name of La Jara.

The Post Office Department records refer to the old settlement as Lajara - one word - and to the new settlement as La Jara - two words.

The name La Jara comes from the creek on which it is located. The Spanish name is translated as, "rock rose" which is locally confused with brush, a reference to the willows and the thick brush along the banks of La Jara Creek.

**LA JARA – Continued**

In contrast to the surrounding towns, non-Mormons settled La Jara. It became a marketing and supply center for the surrounding farms and ranches. A plat for the town was filed in 1887 and it was incorporated in 1910, although one report claims the incorporation was in 1897.

The town is still an active community with a number of agriculture related businesses. Most of the town lies on the east side of US Highway 285. In 1999 the post office was at the northwest corner of Main and Poplar Streets.

Latitude = 37:16:28 North Longitude = 105:57:39 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 5 1884</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Section 14, T35N R9E 150 feet west of D&amp;RG</b>	
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Albert T. Clark</b>	
<b>Jul 15 1884</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>Jul 15 1884</b>		<b>Clark, Abel T.</b>	
<b>May 11 1886</b>		<b>Limberg, Ferdinand A.</b>	
<b>Jul 3 1889</b>		<b>Darling, Albert M.</b>	
<b>Oct 12 1891</b>		<b>Warburton, George S.</b>	
<b>Sep 2 1893</b>		<b>Olds, Henry</b>	
<b>Sep 14 1897</b>		<b>Braiden, William A.</b>	
<b>Sep 17 1903</b>		<b>Cochran, Jason M.</b>	
<b>May 7 1907</b>		<b>Mosier, Mahala E.</b>	
<b>Jan 1 1910</b>			<b>Office made Presidential</b>
<b>Mar 8 1910</b>		<b>Mosier, Mahala E.</b>	<b>Re-appointed</b>
<b>Jan 12 1914</b>		<b>McCunniff, Thomas</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Feb 27 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 14 T35N R9E 1/4 mile east of La Jara Creek,</b>	
		<b>500 feet east of D&amp;RG track</b>	
<b>Jul 24 1918</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Mar 18 1918</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>P</b>
<b>Aug 29 1919</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Sep 1 1919</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>E/2 Sec 14 T35N R9E Main St between Poplar and Walnut Streets,</b>	
		<b>470 feet from RR Station, East side of RR</b>	
<b>Oct 1 1923</b>		<b>Mount, Cecil M.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Dec 18 1923</b>		<b>Mount, Cecil M.</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>Apr 16 1928</b>		<b>Fleischman, George F.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Jan 16 1929</b>		<b>Richardson, Ira B.</b>	
<b>Dec 2 1933</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Dec 16 1933</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>Jan 23 1934</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
<b>Feb 1 1934</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Feb 20 1934</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Mar 21 1938</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
<b>Mar 28 1938</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Apr 1 1938</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Appointed Presidential</b>
<b>Apr 14 1938</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Oct 20 1941</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 14 T35N R9E</b>	
<b>Nov 5 1941</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>New site - 140 feet south of old site, on rear of same lots, 140 feet deep</b>	
<b>May 15 1942</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
<b>Jun 4 1942</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>
<b>Jun 5 1942</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Appointed Presidential</b>
<b>Jun 29 1942</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Commissioned</b>
<b>Jun 30 1942</b>		<b>McCunniff, Robert E.</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>Nov 30 1944</b>		<b>Murphy, Ruth Harrah</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Dec 1 1944</b>		<b>Murphy, Ruth Harrah</b>	<b>Assumed charge</b>
<b>Oct 3 1945</b>		<b>Murphy, Ruth Harrah</b>	<b>Nominated</b>
<b>Oct 29 1945</b>		<b>Murphy, Ruth Harrah</b>	<b>Confirmed</b>

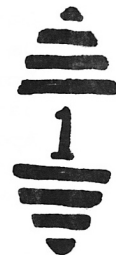
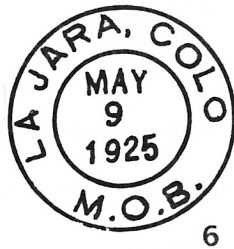
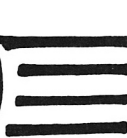
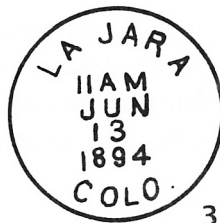
LA JARA – Continued

Oct 30 1945	Murphy, Ruth Harrah	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Mar 31 1946	Murphy, Ruth Harrah	Assumed charge
May 31 1971	Howey, George E.	Officer in charge
Nov 13 1971	Howey, George E.	Appointed
Nov 13 1971	Howey, George E.	Assumed charge
Oct 7 1977	Thompson, Lorraine M.	Officer in charge
Dec 30 1977	Anderson, Donald W.	Officer in charge
Nov 4 1978	Cole, J. Paul	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

[SRM Note: See Old Lajara below for type 1 cancel]

2	LA JARA / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Sep 21 1885
3	LA JARA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Oct 19 1888 Nov 6 1898
4	LAJARA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	May 2 1899 Aug 27 1903
5	LA JARA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x13mm	Dec 20 1907 Apr 10 1912
6	LA JARA, COLO. / M.O.B CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 9 1925
7	LA JARA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	May 28 1933 Aug 13 1935
8	LA JARA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Nov 22 1939 Aug 22 1950
9	LA JARA / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Sep 2 1958 Oct 6 1965
10	LA JARA, COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 23 1967
11	LA JARA, CO / 81140 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Oct 17 1972
12	LA JARA, CO / 81140 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Aug 17 1970 May 28 1993
13	LA JARA CO 81140 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 31 1985 Apr 17 1995
14	LA JARA CO, / 81140 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x17mm	Apr 15 1993







**LAJARA "Old La Jara" – Continued  
Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 14 1875	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T35N R8E	40 yards south of Lakeview Creek
Mar 5 1875		Established	
Mar 5 1875		Garrett, Mancil	
Jan 24 1876		Ortiz, Jose Nestor	
Mar 6 1876		Garrett, Mancil	
Aug 26 1879		Newcomb, Daniel E.	
Jan 24 1882		Wainwright, Richard S.	
May 5 1882		Garrison, David R.	
Jan 23 1883		Newcomb, Daniel E.	
May 15 1884		Moved to Newcomb	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	La Jara Colo	Dec 13 1880	Jul 27 1881
	MS	Mscp	Pen cancel

**LA SAUSES / LASAUCES**

Settlement in this area began in 1863-1864. Antonio Marquez, Jose Rodriguez and Francisco Borrego were among the first to establish farms on the west bank of the Rio Grande River and south of the Conejos River.

When a post office opened in 1882 it was with the name Los Sauses. The Los Sauses Post Office lasted only a few months. "Sauses," is Spanish for willows and is masculine in gender. When a new post office opened in 1890, it was with the name La Sauses. Apparently this was a Post Office Department error - the wrong gender and the singular La instead of the plural Las. However the errors became permanently attached to the settlement and the Lasauses name can be found on modern maps. In 1895 La Sauses fell victim to the Post Office Department campaign to revise and shorten post office names and La Sauses became Lasauses.

This community was agricultural in nature. It did have a store, which in 1999 was still standing but was rapidly deteriorating. It seems probable that this was also the post office.

Beginning in Sanford, at the end of Colorado Highway 136, turn east on what becomes Conejos County Road V. This road eventually becomes Road W and curves north through a group of hills. Eight miles from Sanford you intercept Conejos County Road 27. The first location of the La Sauses Post Office was in the southeast quadrant of this intersection. There is nothing of interest remaining.

Continue east another mile to County Road 28 and turn south. You are now in Lasauses. The second location of the post office (Lasauses) was on the east side of the road.

Lasauses is perhaps the least prosperous appearing of the communities I have visited in Colorado. Along Road 28 there is the abandoned store building and some scattered dwellings. There is a church, in relatively good condition, even if nothing else is. I observed one very odd sight - a chain link fence enclosure with two small children inside.

The La Sauses Cemetery is two miles south of the intersection of Roads W and 28.

**LA SAUSES / LASAUCES – Continued**



**Old store building at La Sauses, Colorado**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 9, 1999

Latitude = 37:16:00 North Longitude = 105:44:45 West

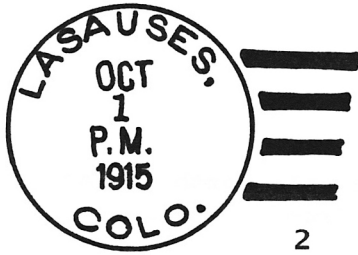
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Mar 31 1890 --- NW/4 Sec 22 T35N R11E 1/4 mile west of Rio Grande River  
Proposed postmaster - Juan B. Naranjo
- Jun 25 1890 Established
- Jun 25 1890 Naranjo, Juan B.
- Feb 28 1895 Cordova, Decidero
- Feb 28 1895 Spelling changed to Lasauses
- Apr 22 1898 Martinez, Jose
- Mar 2 1914 --- N/2 NW/4 Sec 23 T35N R11E NM PM One mile west of the Rio Grande,  
two miles south of Conejos Creek
- Oct 26 1916 Narango, Juan B.
- Jul 31 1920 Discontinued Mail to Sanford

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 LA SAUSES / COLO. Jan 18 1897  
CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring  
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
- 2 LASAUSES, / COLO. Oct 1 1915  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x19mm

## LA SAUSES / LASAUCES – Continued

**LADO**

Lado is described as a, “small agricultural settlement on the Rio Conejos, three miles west from the town of Conejos.” The location description given in the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report is not clear and it could be in error. However, if Lado was located in Section 26 then it is likely that it was at or near the location of the Paisaje Post Office (1906 to 1920).

Assuming this is correct, then the Lado/Paisaje site is on Conejos County Road 10.75, a half-mile north of Colorado Highway 17. The intersection of those two roads is two and a half miles west of the intersection of Colorado 17 and US 285, on the southwest edge of Antonito.

Given the proximity of this location to both Antonito and Conejos, it is no surprise that the Lado Post Office lasted for only one year.

Along Road 10.75, which angles to the northwest, are a few small houses, some derelict adobe buildings and a church where Road 10.75 intersects County Road G. From that intersection, turn east on Road G and go a short distance to the site of San Rafael on the north side of Road G.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 9 1884	---	Section 26 (or 19??) T33N R8E Location from document is not clear, may be in error. 3 miles west of Conejos. 1/2 mile south of the Conejos River Proposed postmaster - Oscar Fitzland Smith
Feb 25 1884		Established
Feb 25 1884		Smith, Oscar F.
Mar 9 1885		Discontinued Mail to Conejos

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LADO**

**LOBATOS**

In 1902 the name of the Cenicero Post Office was changed to Lobatos. Actually, this also involved a move west of less than a mile. Lobato was the family name of the first postmaster at the new location.

Lobatos was a small agricultural community composed of farmers and sheep ranchers. There was a loose assemblage of residences with a few small businesses. Today only a scattering of residences remain. The proximity to Antonito has moved the commercial activity to that town. The Holy Family Church was built in 1952 and has been occasionally renovated. At one time it had “his” and “hers” outhouses in back.

From US Highway 285 in Antonito, drive east on Eighth Avenue. East of Antonito this becomes Conejos County Road G. It is three and three-tenth miles to County Road 17. Lobatos was in the southeast quadrant of this intersection.

Latitude = 37:04:46 North Longitude = 105:56:54 West

**LOBATOS – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 14 1902	Name changed from Cenicero
Mar 14 1902	Lobato, Daniel F.
Apr 8 1902 ---	Late CENICERO, NW/4 Sec 25 T33N R9E 1/2 mile north of San Antonio River, two miles north of Poncha Creek
Oct 14 1911	Discontinued Mail to Antonito
Oct 14 1912	Re-established
Oct 14 1912	Jiron, Julian G.
Mar 25 1915	Mondragon, Celedonio
Dec 13 1920	Discontinued Mail to Antonito

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LOBATOS**

**LOS CERRITOS**

In 1852 Juan Maria Garcia and Pablita Martinez were the first settlers at the site of Los Cerritos. The Ute Indians forced them to leave. Within a few years Rafael Garcia, Antanacio and Ignatius Trujillo brought their families to the location and remained. Agriculture was the principal occupation of the residents.

The name Los Cerritos refers to the two small, inactive volcanic cones that are south of Manassa and west of the location of Los Cerritos.

Los Cerritos must have been a reasonably sized community as there are two good sized cemeteries on the east and south sides of the eastern hill. Unfortunately the cemeteries are all that remain of Los Cerritos. It is probable that the cemeteries are still in use by the residents of Manassa. The Los Cerritos community was east of the hills, on the level ground along the Conejos River.

The easiest way to visit the site of Los Cerritos is to begin in Manassa. Drive east on Colorado Highway 142 to Conejos County Road 19. Turn south and go a mile and a half. That will bring you almost to the bridge over the Conejos River. The Los Cerritos Cemetery is on the left and the village was on the flats along the river.

Latitude = 37:08:54 North Longitude = 105:54:37 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 9 1888 ---	NW/4 Sec 32 T34N R10E On the south side of the Conejos River and one mile northwest of the north branch of the Conejos River Proposed postmaster - James A. McDaniel
Jun 3 1889	Established
Jun 3 1889	McDaniel, James A.
Jul 26 1899	McDaniel, Joseph E.
Nov 22 1899	Cantu, Jose C.
May 3 1909	Elledge, James H.
Aug 27 1919	Trujillo, Juan De Dias
Jan 5 1912	Salazar, Jose Candido
Mar 3 1914	Ordered closed
Apr 15 1914	Discontinued Mail to Manassa

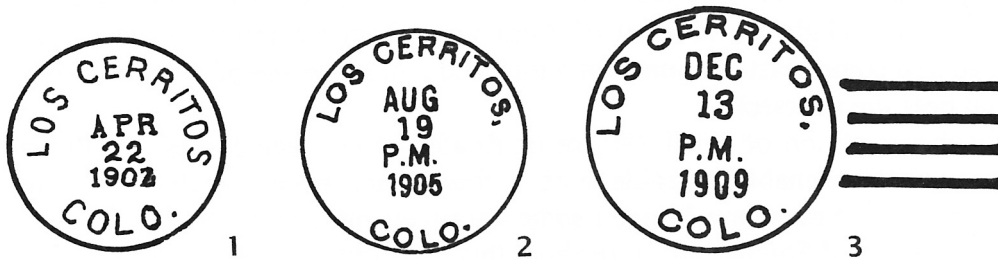
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	LOS CERRITOS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 26 1890 Apr 22 1902 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2	LOS CERRITOS, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Aug 19 1905 Aug 10 1907 Doane Type 2 with 1

**LOS CERRITOS - Continued**3 LOS CERRITOS, / COLO.  
CI 10P 32.0

Apr 13 1909 Nov 2 1912

4bars S-25x13mm

**LOS SAUSES**

Los Sauses was the first post office to be established on the west bank of the Rio Grande River and a short distance south of the Conejos River. The Los Sauses Post Office had a brief existence and the La Sauses Post Office followed a few years later in the same area.

Please refer to the discussion of La Sauses/Lasauses for the history of this settlement and directions to the location.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 24 1882	---	SE/4 Sec 22 T35N R11E On the west side of the Rio Grande Del Norte on the south side of Conejos Creek Proposed postmaster -Deciderio Cordova
Jul 21 1882		Established
Jul 21 1882		Cordova, Decidero
Feb 15 1883		Discontinued Mail to Ephraim

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LOS SAUSES

**LOYTON**

Prospecting in the western portion of today's Conejos County began at least as early as 1879. One of the earliest camps was called Conejos Camp. The history of the next few years is confusing. It appears that the name of Conejos Camp was changed to Loyton and later this became Stunner.

It is the location of Conejos Camp/Loyton that is confusing. Various historians have placed it on the headwaters of the Conejos River, or La Jara Creek, or the Alamosa River. There also seems to be a connection to Blainvale.

This is another instance where the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports provide help in straightening out the situation.

While the exact location of Blainvale is somewhat questionable, based on the descriptions from the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports it was on the Alamosa River about three miles west of Jasper-Cornwall, very near where the Alamosa River leaves Rio Grande County and re-enters Conejos County. When the Blainvale Post Office closed it was moved further west to a new location and took the name of Loyton. Once again the Site Location Reports refer to a location on the Alamosa River.

The post office operated as Loyton for only six months before the name was changed to Stunner. The Site Location Report for Loyton was altered to refer to Stunner, at the same location.

**LOYTON – Continued**

From these various reports it is clear that Camp Conejos/Loyton/Stunner were on the Alamosa River and there is no reason to doubt that they were essentially the same place. As best I can determine, that location was on the north side of Stunner Pass where the road from Platoro via the pass joins the road along the Alamosa River. At that location there is visible evidence of past mining activity.

Forest Service Road 250 is the road that begins west of Capulin, follows the Alamosa River through Jasper, climbs over Stunner Pass (10,541 feet), descends to Platoro and then follows the Conejos River to a junction with Colorado Highway 15 west of Antonito. From Summitville, in Rio Grande County, Forest Service Road 380 comes east to a junction with Road 250 at the site of Stunner. There is a Forest Service campground near the intersection.

I can not vouch for the condition of Road 380 or of Road 250 between Jasper and Platoro. I suspect that in summer they are reasonably passable with a four-wheel drive vehicle. The ongoing environmental cleanup at Summitville may have brought some improvement to these roads.

Please refer to the discussion of Stunner for more about this particular post office location.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 10 1884	Moved from Blainvale in Rio Grande County
Sep 10 1884	Page, Alvira H.
Oct 2 1884	Name changed to Stunner [SRM: This would be only 1 month not 6 as stated above. Census files indicate Oct 2 1886 with new postmistress at Stunner.]

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LOYTON**

**MANASSA**

In 1879 a group of Mormons living at Los Cerritos decided to acquire land to the north of their community. In the summer of 1879 Manassa was laid out and surveyed, “into thirty-two blocks of ten acres each including streets, and each block was divided into four lots of two and one-half acres each.” A short time later the west half of the section was surveyed. That made the town of Manassa one mile square. Manassa was incorporated in 1899.

Mormon Elder Lawrence M. Peterson suggested the name Manassa in honor of the eldest son of Joseph of ancient Israel.

Manassa developed as an agricultural community with only minor amounts of mining and the manufacture of turquoise jewelry. The economy of Manassa is still largely based on agriculture. There is a modest business district providing services and supplies to the town’s residents and the surrounding farms and ranches.

Manassa is noted as the birthplace of the famous boxer, Jack Dempsey. There is a small museum devoted to his memory.

Manassa fits the pattern of nearly all of the towns in the San Luis Valley. The most prominent, best maintained, and often the largest building in the community, is the local church.

From Romeo, on US Highway 285, drive east three miles on Colorado Highway 142 to Manassa.

Latitude = 37:10:27 North Longitude = 105:56:13 West

MANASSA – Continued



MANASSA / COLO. February 1, 1881

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 29 1879	---	SW/4 Sec 32 T34N R10E	
Feb 3 1879		Established	
Feb 3 1879		Peterson, Lawrence M.	
Sep 23 1879		Allan, Peter	
Apr 22 1881		Christensen, William	
Jan 15 1889		Sprouse, Baylus E.	
Oct 17 1889		Sowards, Louis W.	
Mar 31 1892		Smith, Silas S. Jr.	
Dec 6 1893		Trapp, John W.	
Mar 12 1895		Haskell, Thales H.	
Jan 25 1907		Dalton, Hannah D.	
Jan 6 1915	---	SE/4 Sec 24 T34N R9E	
Jan 21 1915		Thomas, Will M.	
May 7 1921		Daniels, Dallas E.	
May 10 1921	---	Move 1259 feet west to Center Sec 24 T34N R9E	
Apr 1 1923			Office made Presidential
Dec 18 1923		Daniels, Dallas E.	
May 29 1928		Fradenberg, Edwin C.	
Oct 20 1933		Brady, Frank	Acting
Oct 30 1933		Brady, Frank	Assumed charge
Jan 23 1934		Brady, Frank	Nominated
Feb 1 1934		Brady, Frank	Confirmed
Feb 20 1934		Brady, Frank	Commissioned
Mar 21 1938		Brady, Frank	Nominated
Mar 28 1938		Brady, Frank	Confirmed
Apr 1 1938		Brady, Frank	Appointed Presidential
Apr 19 1938		Brady, Frank	Commissioned
Apr 30 1938		Brady, Frank	Assumed charge
Nov 1 1941	---	Sec 24 T34N R9E	

**MANASSA – Continued**

May 15 1942	Brady, Frank	Nominated
Jun 4 1942	Brady, Frank	Confirmed
Jun 5 1942	Brady, Frank	Appointed Presidential
Jun 29 1942	Brady, Frank	Commissioned
Jul 15 1942	Brady, Frank	Assumed charge
Aug 31 1963	Gilleland, Cletus M.	Acting
May 21 1965	Gilleland, Cletus M.	Confirmed
May 25 1965	Gilleland, Cletus M.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1965	Gilleland, Cletus M.	Assumed charge
Jun 8 1965	Gilleland, Cletus M.	Commissioned

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Manassa Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Nov 23 1880
2	MANASSA / COLORADO SL 00R 30.0x17.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star	Feb 1 1881 Sep 9 1882
3	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Mar 24 1886 May 9 1899
4	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Not present	Aug 8 1905
5	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	May 5 1908 Feb 21 1913
6	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jun 11 1934 Oct 15 1938
6.1	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Nov 9 1926 May 17 1941
7	MANASSA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Jun 17 1941 Sep 8 1954
7.1	MANASSA, / COLO. RC 10P 37.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	1950s Sep 13 1965 Jun 3 1968
8	MANASSA, CO / 8114 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Aug 17 1970 Oct 17 1972
9	MANASSA, CO / 81141 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x18mm	May 6 1976 Nov 13 1987
10	MANASSA, CO / 81141 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 17 1990 Dec 2 1991
11	MANASSA, CO / 81141 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	May 24 1991
12	MANASSA CO 81141 / USPS CI 11P 29.5/19.5	Hstp No killer	Apr 14 1993 Jul 18 1995
13	MANASSA CO / 81141 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x15mm	Feb 25 1998
14	MANASSA CO / 81141 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-21x13mm	

*Manassa Col  
Nov 23 / 80*

1

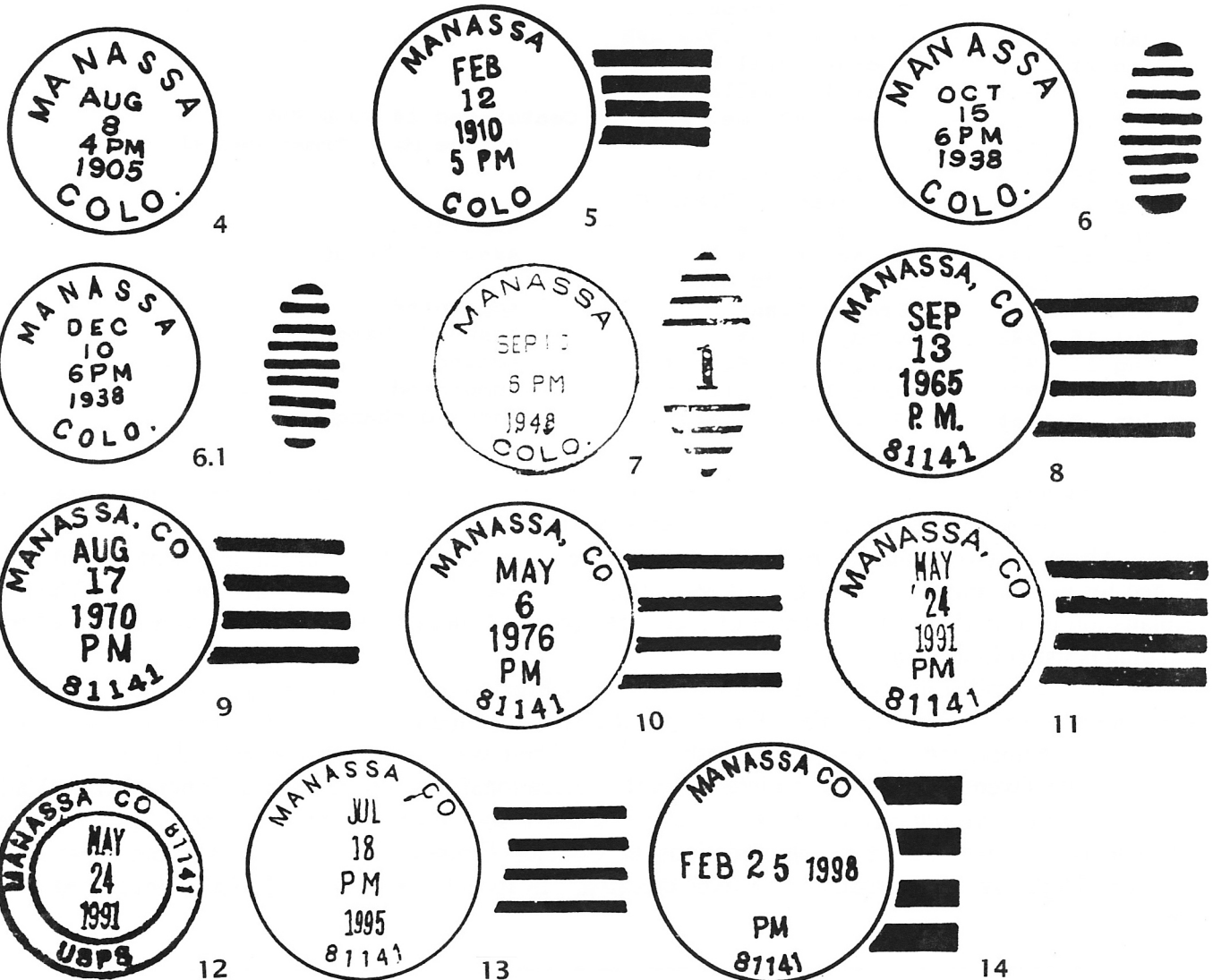
MANASSA  
FEB 1 1881  
COLORADO

2





MANASSA – Continued



**CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 Manassa, CO 81141 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 15 2000  
SL 00R 78.0x2.5 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / 100 /  
The Life of a Century

**CENTENARIAN**



**The Life of a Century**

June 15, 2000 – Celebrate the Century Station Manassa, CO 81141



**MOGOTE – Continued**

Frances Harvey Mead, in *The Canyon...The River...The Villages and the People of Conejos County* lists the postmasters of Mogote and states that the post office was in their homes. That could explain the reported location. If accepted, that claim is a good example, that often moves of the small rural post offices were not reported to the officials in Washington.

Latitude = 37:03:34 North Longitude = 106:05:30 West



**The Dios Es Amor Church, now a private residence – Mogote, Colorado**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 9, 1999

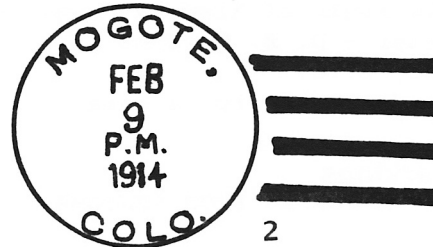
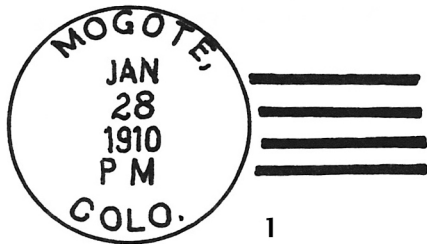
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 12 1897 ---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 1 T32N R7E 1/4 mile south of the Conejos River, 3 miles east of Fox Creek Proposed postmaster - Isadora Hocker (??) Sketch map seems to place it north of the Conejos River
Aug 27 1897	Established
Aug 27 1897	Hocker, Isadora
Sep 8 1899	Jaramillo, Luis
Nov 4 1913	Tafoya, Juan B.
Sep 1 1914	Suazo, Onesimo
Jul 26 1917	Ruybal, Epimania
Jan 28 1919	Valdez, Juan N.
Dec 31 1920	Discontinued Mail to Antonito

**MOGOTE – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |                 |                        |
|---|--------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| 1 | MOGOTE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-??X14mm | Apr 3 1909 Oct 11 1911 |
| 2 | MOGOTE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Feb 9 1914 Jul 25 1915 |



**MORGAN**

There was no organized community named Morgan. It was a rich farming district with its children attending the rural Morgan School until a consolidated school was established in La Jara. It is assumed that Morgan was the name of one of the local landowners.

On May 14, 1901 the post office name was changed from Morgan to Freedom. The post office operated under that name until 1905. But apparently the locals preferred the name Morgan as the USGS Conejos County Topographic Map of 1979 (Sheet 2) labels the location as Morgan.

The location is on Conejos County Road AA, one mile east of Colorado Highway 371. From Colorado Highway 15, drive north three miles to County Road AA and turn east. The location was in the southeast quadrant of the intersection with Road 13. The location is the site of a large modern farm complex.

Latitude = 37:19:40 North Longitude = 106:01:10 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |   |  |
|-------------|---|--|
| Dec 29 1899 | — | NW/4 Sec 32 T36N R9E Not a village - Agricultural community<br>Proposed postmaster - Martin G. Price |
| Aug 25 1900 |   | Established  |
| Aug 25 1900 |   | Price, Martin G.   |
| May 14 1901 |   | Name changed to Freedom  |

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MORGAN**

**NEWCOMB**

In 1884 the post office at “Old La Jara” was closed and moved five miles to the west-northwest to the Daniel Newcomb Ranch, taking the name of Newcomb. The new location, on the south side of Spring Creek and a half-mile south of the Alamosa River, was locally known as the Newcomb Farm or the La Jara Creamery Ranch. Daniel E. Newcomb was the last postmaster at Old La Jara and the first at Newcomb.

Two months after the move, the La Jara Post office reopened at a different location. The Newcomb Post Office lasted only two years.

### **NEWCOMB – Continued**

To reach the site, drive west from La Jara on Colorado Highway 15 to the intersection with Colorado Highway 371. Turn north. The location was a half-mile north of Colorado 15 and on the east side of Colorado 371. In 1999 there were still some older farm buildings at the location.

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

Feb 14 1875	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T35N R8E	40 yards south of Lakeview Creek
May 15 1884		Moved from "Old" La Jara	
May 15 1884		Newcomb, Daniel E.	
Apr 18 1886	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T35N R9E	
		Local name - Newcomb Ranch or La Jara Creamery Ranch	
		1/2 mile south of Alamosa River, on south side of Spring Creek	
		Postmaster - D. E. Newcomb	
May 10 1886		Eskridge, L. D.	
May 13 1886		Discontinued Papers to La Jara	

### **Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NEWCOMB**

### **ORTIZ**

The settlement of Ortiz began when Jose Maria Casias, a Civil War veteran, took a homestead on the western side of the Los Pinos River. Nestor Ortiz joined him in the early 1870's, opened a store and became a wool broker for the surrounding sheep ranchers. Nestor Ortiz was also skilled in the manufacture of filigree silver jewelry.

In 1890 a request was made for a post office to be named for the Los Pinos River. At the time there was a Los Pinos Post Office in La Plata County so another name had to be chosen. The post office was to be in the store belonging to the Ortiz family, so the name Ortiz was selected to honor the pioneer family.

Ortiz was an important sheep ranching center. It was a compact community with stores, bars and schools. There were Presbyterian and Baptist missions and a very active Catholic Church dedicated to San Cayetano and Juan Nepomuceno. During prohibition Ortiz had a reputation as a center for bootlegging.

From Antonito drive southwest on US Highway 285 to where US 285 turns south away from Colorado Highway 17. Stay on US 285, but almost immediately turn right on to Conejos County Road 12.5. For the first mile this road goes southwest, then turns due south for three miles where the road again angles to the southwest. Go to the intersection of County Roads 12.5 and B. Turn south into the community of Ortiz. There are a few homes, a few trailers, some collapsing adobes and the Catholic Church which is still well maintained.

This short trip will take you through the community of San Antonio that was mentioned in the discussion of Antonito.

Latitude = 37:00:15 North Longitude = 106:02:37 West

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

May 5 1890	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T32N R8E	
		1/4 mile south of Los Pinos and San Antonio Creek	
		NOTE: "Los Pinos can not be granted owing to existence of Los Pinos - La Plata County"	
May 23 1890		Established	
May 23 1890		Ortega, Felix de Jesus	
Jun 23 1890	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T32N R9E NM PM	1/4 mile south of Los Pinos and San Antonio Creeks. Six miles southwest of the D&RG

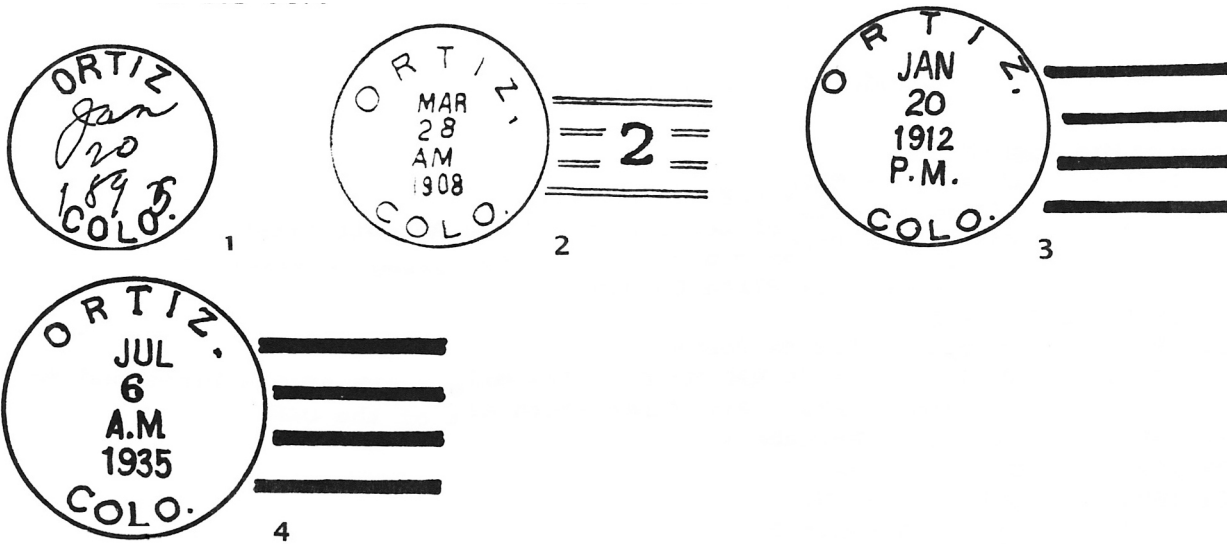
**ORTIZ – Continued**

Jul 24 1891	Cisneros, Bernabela	
Nov 25 1891	Ortiz, Elena S.	
Jul 24 1894	Ortiz, Jose N.	
Sep 21 1899	Ortiz, Antonio J.	
May 16 1902	Valdez, Rafael E.	
Mar 11 1902	Dupont, Nabor	
Feb 25 1903 ---	To move 500 yards north Postmaster - A. J. Ortiz	
Jan 13 1905	Ortiz, Frederico	
Jun 23 1906	Ortiz, Antoni	Rescinded Jul 23 1906
Jul 5 1906	Ortiz, Jasper F.	
Nov 7 1910	Ortiz, Antonil J.	
Apr 15 1914 ---	NE/4 Sec 24 T32N R8E 2000 feet north of the Los Pinos River, 4000 feet north of the San Antonio River. 1-5/8 miles east of the Denver & Rio Grande RR, 400 feet north of the county line.	
Feb 20 1919	Slanard, Peter J.	
Jul 23 1920	Jaeger, Samuel R.	
Sep 1 1921	Lopez, Epifanio	Acting
Nov 4 1921	Lopez, Epifanio	Appointed
Sep 16 1931	Casios, Felipe	Acting
Mar 26 1931	Casios, Felipe	Possession
Apr 8 1931 ---	NE/4 Sec 24 T32S R8E NM PM 1150 yards north of Los Pinos Creek, south side of D&RG, 6 ?? from tracks	
Jul 25 1931	Ordered closed	
Aug 15 1931	Discontinued Mail to Antonito	
Feb 21 1934 ---	Section 24 T32N R8E 100 yards south of the Los Pinos River (???), on south side of D&RG ,7 ?? from it. The document shows the name 'RUBEN' which is crossed out in favor of ORTIZ Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Ruben M. Quintana	
Jan 8 1935	Re-established	
Jan 8 1935	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Confirmed
Jan 21 1935	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Commissioned
Feb 5 1935	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Assumed charge
Jan 25 1938	Ruybalid, Tito C.	Confirmed
Feb 7 1938	Ruybalid, Tito C.	Commissioned
Feb 15 1938	Ruybalid, Tito C.	Assumed charge
Dec 2 1938	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Assumed charge
Jan 13 1939	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Acting
Jan 14 1939	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Confirmed
Mar 18 1939	Quintana, Mrs. Ruben M.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 24 T32N R8E 1/8 mile north of Los Pinos River	
Jan 12 1943	Discontinued Mail to Antonito	
Jan 28 1943	Ordered closed	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	ORTIZ / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Nov 5 1890 Jan 20 1895 Hstp Target, 4-ring partial
2	ORTIZ, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Feb 18 1907 Mar 28 1908 Doane Type 2 with 2; S-23x13mm
3	ORTIZ, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Jan 10 1912 Mar 15 1917 4bars S-??x19mm
4	ORTIZ, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Jul 6 1935 Sep 12 1942 4bars S-25x20mm, cds is distorted

## ORTIZ – Continued



## OSIER

Prior to the arrival in 1880 of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, Osier was a tiny settlement on a toll road that came from the Conejos River Valley and went on to New Mexico. This was a difficult and hence not an important route for travel.

With the arrival of the railroad Osier became a construction camp and continued to exist as railroad facility providing coal and water for the trains. It was also a place of shelter and communications for the train crews and in winter for snow removal operations.

Osier was also a busy location for the shipment of livestock from the surrounding ranges.

The depot and the water tank still stand. The depot now houses a lunch stop for the summer excursion trains of the Cumbres and Toltec Scenic Railway. Osier is also the point where trains originating at either Antonito or Chama meet. Engines are exchanged and passengers can either continue on over the complete run, or switch to the other train for the return to their place of origin.

Osier is located at Mile Post 318.48 (from Denver). It is on a slope above Los Pinos Creek and a short distance before the railroad enters the spectacular Toltec Gorge.

It is possible to drive to Osier from the Antonito side. I have not made that trip and I suspect that it is not the best of roads. It is perhaps best suited to a four-wheel drive vehicle. The easiest and most pleasant way to visit Osier is to take the train from Chama or Antonito. I highly recommend the trip. Although not as popular as the better known Durango and Silverton excursion trains, it is my opinion that the Cumbres and Toltec offers more spectacular views than does the Durango and Silverton. I would also recommend making the full trip in order to fully appreciate the difficulty of operating a railroad in the high mountains and to enjoy all of the spectacular scenery. From either Antonito or Chama, a bus, included in the excursion, will return you to your place of origin.

The Osier Post Office was discontinued in 1928. In the summer of 1999 a Contract Station of Antonito was operated at Osier, but the station did not resume operation in 2000.

Latitude = 37:00:48 North Longitude = 106:20:09 West

**OSIER – Continued**



**Water tank and railroad structures – Osier, Colorado**  
 Photograph by Steven R. Morehead May 31, 2016

**Chronology of the Post Office**

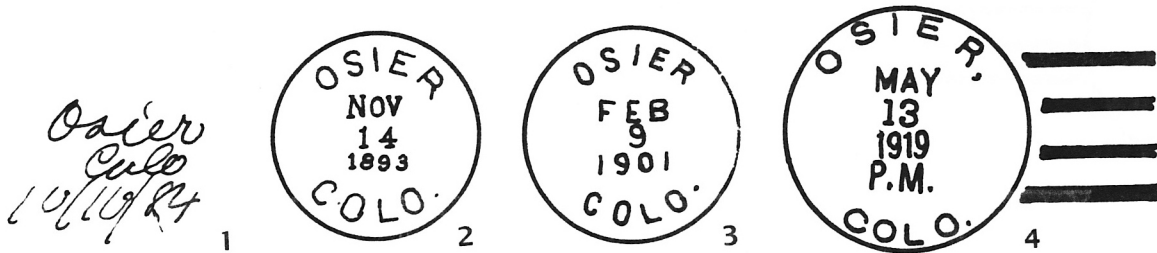
- |             |     |   |           |
|-------------|-----|---|-----------|
| May 1 1882  | --- | T32N R6E Will be on D&RG at Osier Station<br>Proposed postmaster - William Jenkins  |           |
| May 15 1882 |     | Established   |           |
| May 15 1882 |     | Jenkins, William  |           |
| Mar 11 1887 |     | Discontinued Papers to Chama, New Mexico  |           |
| Nov 17 1887 | --- | S/4 Sec 16, T32N R6E (Document says west) 1/2 mile south of<br>Los Pinos Creek, 60 rods north of D&RG<br>Map shows it north of Los Pinos Creek<br>Proposed postmaster - William Jenkins |           |
| Dec 22 1887 |     | Re-established  |           |
| Dec 22 1887 |     | Jenkins, William  |           |
| Jul 29 1889 |     | Discontinued Papers to Chama  |           |
| Nov 2 1889  |     | Re-established  |           |
| Nov 2 1889  |     | Jenkins, William  |           |
| Jun 11 1911 |     | Deary, Mary A.  |           |
| Feb 9 1914  |     | Jenkins, William  |           |
| Feb 18 1914 | --- | NW/4 Sec 17 T32N R6E 514 feet on east side of D&RG,<br>100 yards from Bear Creek (SE)   |           |
| Nov 22 1922 |     | Jenkins, Clarence W.  | Acting    |
| Jan 27 1923 |     | Jenkins, Clarence W.  | Appointed |
| May 12 1926 |     | Martinez, Hignio  | Acting    |
| Jul 30 1926 |     | Martinez, Hignio  | Appointed |
| May 26 1928 |     | Ordered closed  |           |
| May 31 1928 |     | Discontinued Mail to Cumbres  |           |



**OSIER – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Osier / Colo MS	Mscp No killer	Oct 10 1884
2	OSIER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Nov 14 1893 18mm
3	OSIER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 9 1901
3.1	OSIER, / COLO. CI 10P ??.	Doane Type 1 with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jul 20 1908 Aug 16 1909
4	OSIER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jun 8 1913 Aug 9 1922



**CONTRACT STATION (Of Antonito)**

For simplicity, the listing of this station is mentioned here. Please refer to Antonito for the complete details.

**PAISAJE**

Paisaje is one of three post offices that over the course of several years operated in the area west of Conejos and Antonito. The first post office in the area was Lado (1884-1885). Next was San Rafael (1890-1895) and finally, Paisaje (1906-1920).

In spite of the various names the community was, from its founding in 1857, locally known as San Rafael. Why the post office was named Lado is unknown. Lado is a Spanish word, for which one meaning is, “companion.” Paisaje is another Spanish word meaning, “landscape.” Sometimes it is also translated as, “passage” and in this case might refer to an easy crossing of the Conejos River at the location.

It has been claimed that in 1906 when an application was made for a post office the desired name was San Rafael, repeating the early post office name and the name of the community. This was rejected because of the existence of a San Rafael Post Office in Marin County California. It is a mystery why that reason was not a factor when the San Rafael Post Office was approved in 1890.

The area west of Conejos and Antonito is one of small farms along the Conejos River with larger ranches on the uplands away from the river.

The Lado/San Rafael/Paisaje site is on Conejos County Road 10.75, a half-mile north of Colorado Highway 17. The intersection of those two roads is two and a half miles west of the intersection of Colorado 17 and US 285, on the southwest edge of Antonito.

Along Road 10.75, which angles to the northwest, are a few small houses, some derelict adobe buildings and a church where Road 10.75 intersects County Road G. From that intersection, turn east on Road G and go a short distance to the site of San Rafael on north side of Road G.

Latitude = 37:04:04 North Longitude = 106:03:36 West

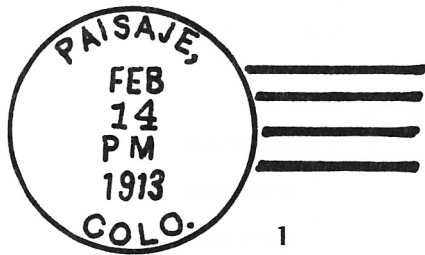
**PAISAJE – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 31 1906 ---	SE/4 Sec 26 T33N R8E 3/4 mile south of Conejos River Proposed postmaster - Leocadio Archuleta
Jun 25 1906	Established
Jun 25 1906	Archuleta, Leocadio
Aug 7 1909	Lopez, Jose G.
Dec 31 1920	Discontinued Mail to Antonito

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	PAISAJE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0 ??x??	Dec 19 1910 Feb 14 1913 Doane Type 3, with 1 [POSSIBLY MISDRAWN, WITHOUT "1?"]
---	---------------------------------------	---



**PLATORO**

It is believed that mining began at Platoro about 1882, but it was not until 1888 that a post office was opened. Both gold and silver were produced at Platoro and it was the combination of the Spanish words for silver (plata) and gold (oro) that created the name Platoro.

Mining at Platoro was an on again off again proposition. The difficult transportation routes and the long winters meant that only the highest grade ores were worth extracting. When those gave out mining ceased until new opportunities arose.

Some new claims were filed in 1901 and 1902. In 1913 a rich deposit of gold ore was discovered on Klondyke Mountain and the Gilmore Mine produced for a couple of years. There was another flurry of activity in 1916.

Over the years there were sporadic operations at the Mammoth Revenue Mine. In 1959 Alfred Hoyle launched the Platoro Project. A new mill was built and the principal effort was to reprocess the tailings pile from the Mammoth Revenue Mine. There may have been some additional work within the mine proper. When I visited Platoro in 1988 it appeared that there was still some mining activity but I believe that has now ceased.

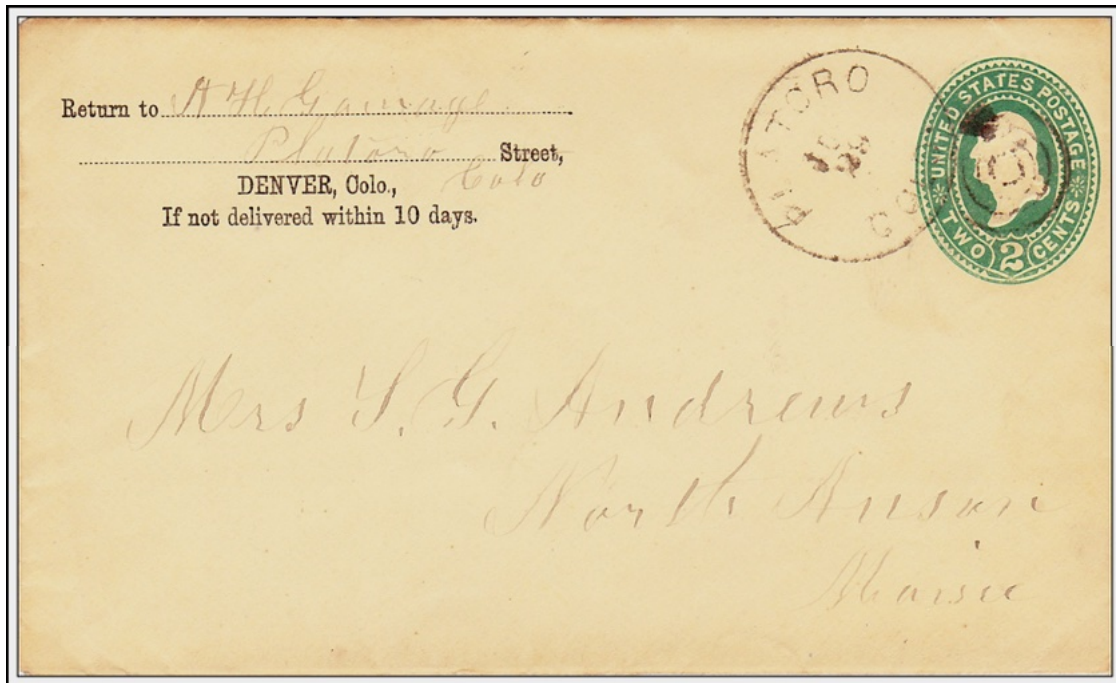
In 1947 the large Platoro Reservoir was built on the Conejos River, a short distance upstream from Platoro. Two years earlier Clint Wileys had built the Skyline Lodge as a hunting and fishing destination for San Luis Valley sportsmen. The development of the reservoir and the improvement of the road from Antonito to Platoro have contributed to Platoro's modest success as a summer community and resort.

To reach Platoro, drive west from Antonito on Colorado Highway 17 to the intersection with Forest Service Road 250. Highway 17 goes south to Cumbres Pass, while Road 250 continues to follow the Conejos River. Road 250 is a gravel road and at times is on the cliffside above the river but it should not be a difficult trip in the summer months.

It should be possible to continue on from Platoro over Stunner Pass to the site of Stunner/Loyton and perhaps even on to Summitville in Rio Grande County.

Latitude = 37:21:07 North Longitude = 106:31:56 West

## PLATORO – Continued



PLATORO / COLO. July 29, 1890

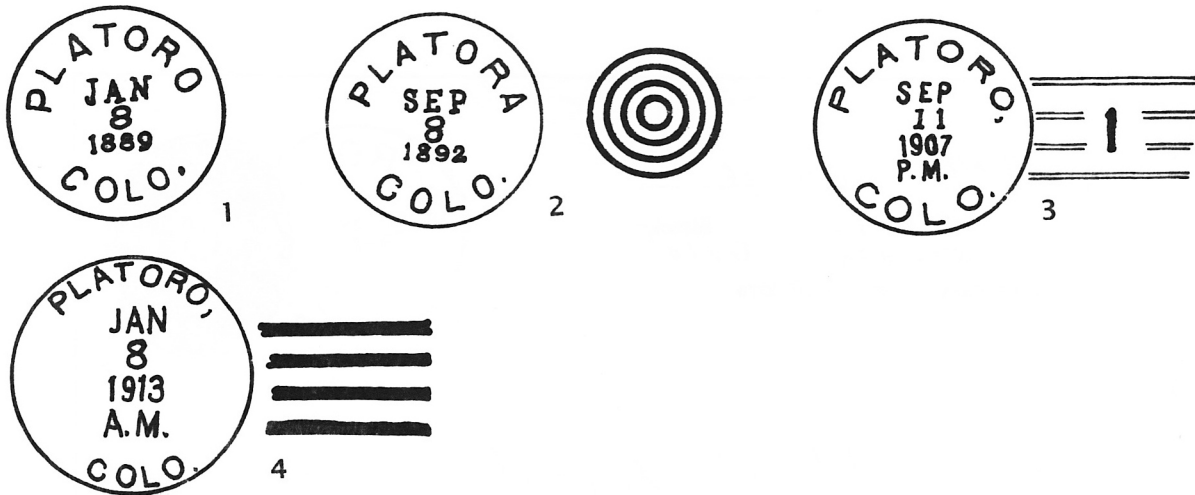
## Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 25 1888	---	Unsurveyed Stunner four miles northwest, on Conejos River Proposed postmaster - Josephine K. Manning
Mar 12 1888		Established
Mar 12 1888		Manning, Josephine L.
Aug 22 1889		Weiss, Adam J.
May 15 1895		Discontinued Mail to Jasper
Mar 1 1898	---	NE/4 Sec 22 T36N R4E On the Conejos River Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Alice Jones
Apr 9 1898		Re-established
Apr 9 1898		Jones, Alice
Mar 31 1900		Roush, Lillian I.
Apr 19 1900		Mix, Mary K.
May 31 1913		McCunniff, Emmett
Dec 19 1914		Stewart, Mary J.
Apr 30 1919		Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PLATORO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Jan 8 1889 Jul 29 1890
2	PLATORA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Sep 8 1892 Dec 23 1893
3	PLATORO, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2, with 1	Sep 11 1907 Jun 23 1910
4	PLATORO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-22x13mm	Jan 27 1910 Dec 20 1914

**PLATORO – Continued**



**ROMEO**

At first this location was a settlement known as Sunflower and from 1889 to 1892 had a post office under that name. The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad station was also called Sunflower.

On October 30, 1899 the Romero Town Company filed a plat for a town to be named Romero. Zeph Charles Felt was president of the company and owner of the land on which the town was platted.

It is believed that the town was named for an early settler. When a post office opened in 1901 the name was altered to Romeo. This may have been to avoid confusion with other similarly named communities and perhaps with Romero, New Mexico. The depot and siding had been established to serve the surrounding ranches and farms and also the town of Manassa, located three miles to the east of the railroad.

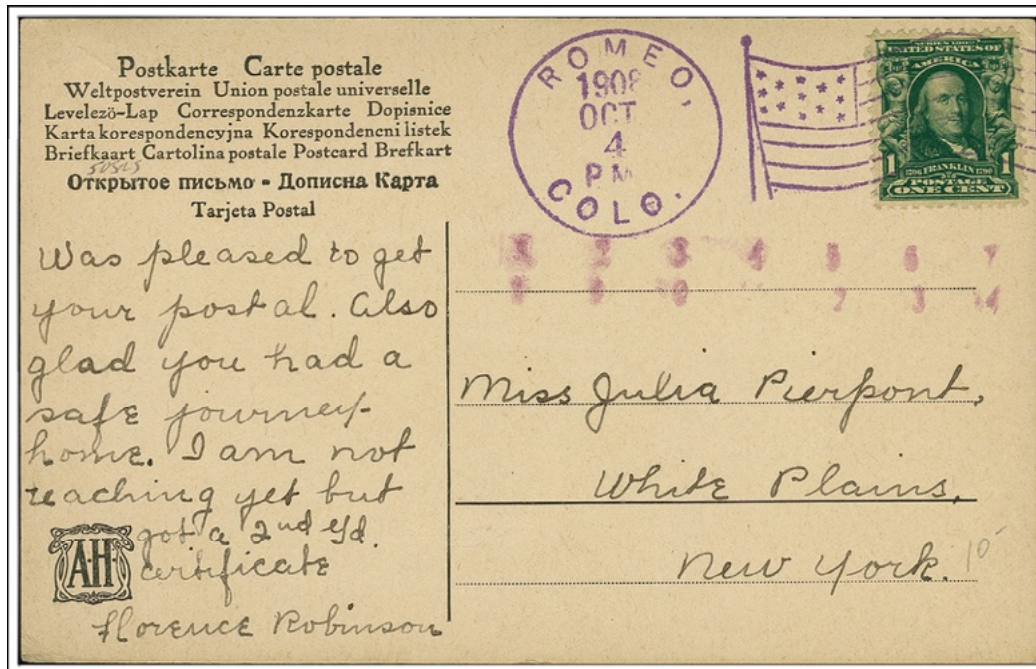
Apparently Romeo was slow to develop and in 1908 the Post Office Department moved to close the Romeo Post Office. That ordered closing was quickly reversed and by 1923 Romeo had grown large enough to be incorporated.

The importance of Romeo has diminished as Antonito and Manassa have grown. Romeo does have a stockyard, potato exchange and vegetable packing sheds. It is still a shipping point for Manassa and the surrounding countryside. However, the bank once located in the two-story Colonial Hotel Building, is gone and only a few businesses on Main Street still cater to the farmers and ranchers.

Romeo is on the east side of US Highway 285, midway between La Jara and Antonito. In 1999 the Romeo Post Office was on the south side of Colorado Highway 142, one block east of US 285. The building was relatively new, apparently built just for the post office.

Latitude = 37:10:20 North Longitude = 105:59:05 West

## ROMEO – Continued



ROMEO, / COLO. October 4, 1908 – Handstamp Flag Cancellation

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 10 1901	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R9E About 430 feet east of the D&RG Proposed postmaster - Homer Neel	
Jul 24 1901		Established	
Jul 24 1901		Neel, Homer	
Dec 2 1907	---	New location, will shorten distance from RR by 700 feet	
Jan 15 1908	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T34N R9E 750 feet due east of D&RG Station	
Aug 15 1908		Ordered closed	
Sep 10 1908		Discontinued Mail to La Jara	
Sep 14 1908		Closing order rescinded	
Sep 19 1908		Haynie, Joseph V. Jr.	
Feb 15 1912		McVey, Edwin P.	
Nov 14 1913		Rugg, Percival N.	
Feb 25 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R9E 75 rods east of D&RG	
Nov 13 1925		Rugg, Percival N. Jr.	Acting
Feb 6 1926		Rugg, Percival N. Jr.	Appointed
Jul 26 1926		White, Margaret E.	Acting
Oct 22 1926		White, Margaret E.	Appointed
Nov 2 1926		White, Margaret E.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1940		Barton, Alonzo	Acting
Jan 1 1941		Barton, Alonzo	Assumed charge
Jan 7 1941		Barton, Alonzo	Acting
Nov 1 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T34N R9E Main street (Hwy 142), 350 feet east of D&RG RR tracks and station	
Sep 1 1942		Barton, Alonzo	Confirmed
Sep 18 1942		Barton, Alonzo	Commissioned
Sep 30 1942		Barton, Alonzo	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1963			Office made Presidential
Oct 31 1965		Sorensen, Shirley B.	Acting
Apr 4 1968		Sorensen, Shirley B.	Nominated, Appointed & Confirmed
Apr 17 1968		Sorensen, Mrs. Shirley B.	Assumed charge

**ROMEO – Continued**



**The old post office building at Romeo, Colorado**  
 Photograph by James L. Ozment May 4, 1997

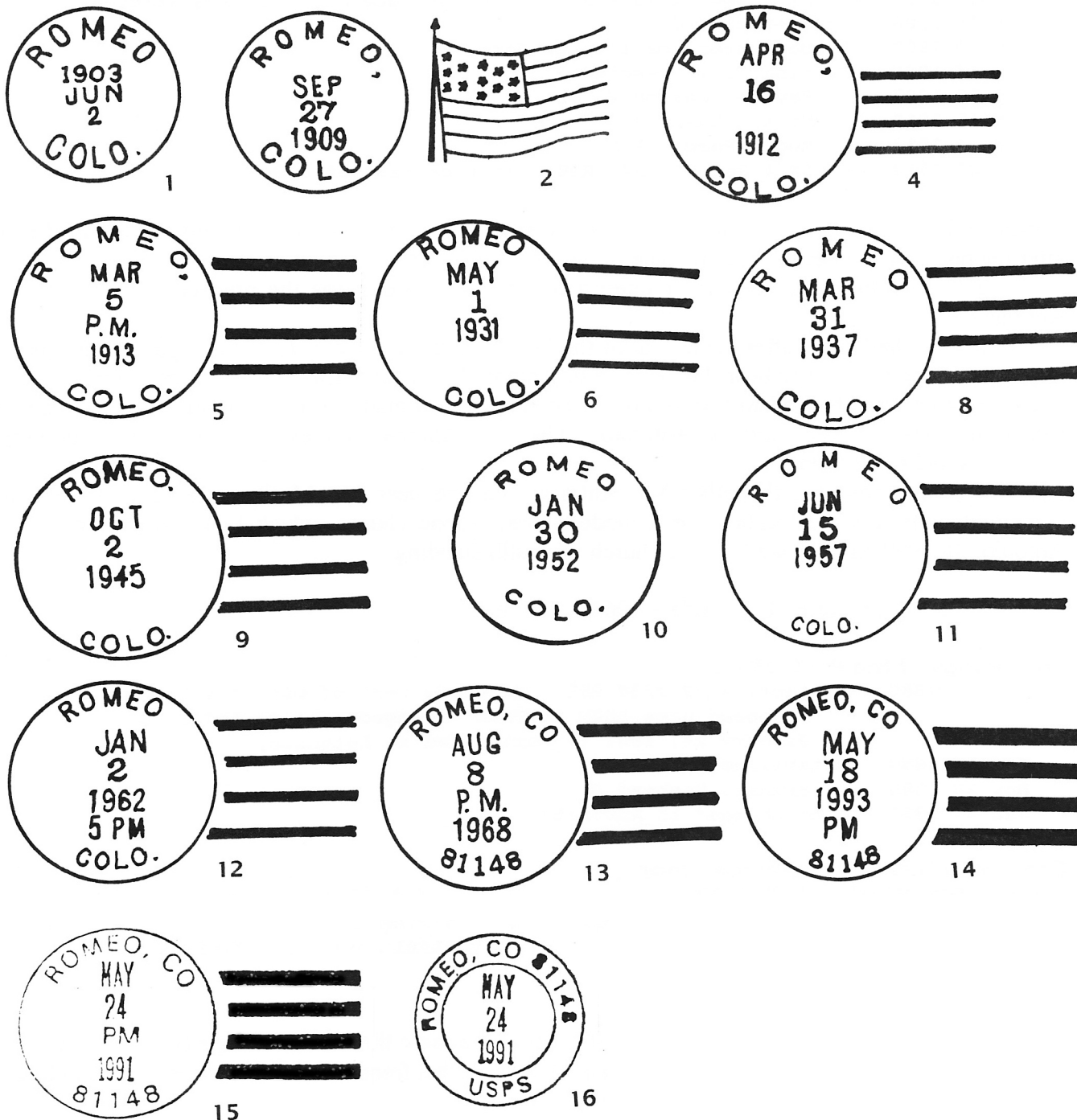
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jun 2 1903 Apr 8 1908
2	ROMEO, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Waving flag, simulates machine flag cancel	May 14 1908 Sep 27 1909
3	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jan 22 1910
4	ROMEO, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Apr 16 1912
5	ROMEO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 5 1913 Jul 28 1917
6	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	May 1 1931 Jan 6 1934
7	ROMEO / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Oct 3 1927
8	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 31 1937 Sep 22 1948
9	ROMEO, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 2 1945
10	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 30 1952 Oct 6 1952
11	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 15 1957
12	ROMEO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jan 2 1962 Nov 26 1962

ROMEO – Continued

- |    |  |                        |                         |
|----|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 13 | ROMEO, CO / 81148<br>CI 10P 32.5               | 4bars S-24x19mm        | Oct 16 1967 Jul 19 1977 |
| 14 | ROMEO, CO / 81148<br>CI 10P 31.0               | 4bars S-26x20mm        | Dec 20 1985 May 18 1993 |
| 15 | ROMEO, CO / 81148<br>CI 10P 32.0               | 4bars S-24x18mm        | May 24 1991 Sep 16 1991 |
| 16 | ROMEO, CO 81148 / USPS<br>CI 11P 28.0/18.5     | Hstp No killer         | May 24 1991             |
| 17 | <b>ROMEO, CO / 81148</b><br><b>CI 10P 33.0</b> | <b>4bars S-24x19mm</b> | <b>Feb 23 1998</b>      |

[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



**ROMEO – Continued**

**ROMEO STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

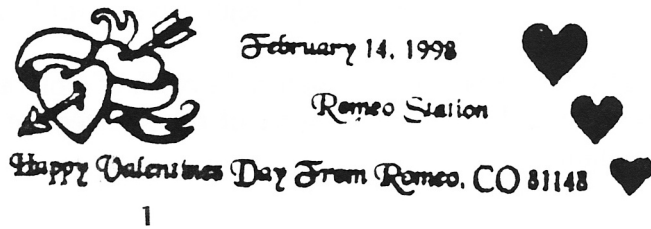
Feb 14 1998      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1    Romeo, CO 81141 // Romeo Station  
     SL 00R 47.0x20.0

Feb 14 1998

Pict Scene - at left, heart, ribbon, arrow; at right, three hearts:  
Text - Happy Valentines Day From....



**SAN ANTONIO**

In the southern portion of Conejos County there have been two locations and perhaps a third, named San Antonio. One is a community located south of Antonito on the road to Ortiz. The questionable one was west of Antonito in the vicinity of Las Mesitas, on Colorado Highway 17 shortly after the highway crosses to the north side of the Conejos River.

The third location, the one of interest for this discussion, was the predecessor to modern day Antonito.

In late 1880, soon after the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, application was made for a post office that was to bear the name San Antonio. The application was granted, but two months later the name was changed to Antonito. The change was made to avoid confusion with a similarly named settlement to the south of Antonito. That San Antonio still exists as a loose community of residences and small farms.

It is doubtful that the other San Antonio, the one near Las Mesitas, was ever an organized community. It was the location for a modest sized, adobe church which I believe was named San Antonio. In 1999 only the walls of the church were still standing.

Latitude = 37:01:15 North    Longitude = 106:01:39 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 20 1880	---	Section 29 T33N R9E 40 yards west of D&RG tracks Proposed name "SAN ANTONIO" changed name to ANTONITO January 24, 1881 [Report filed as Antonito]
Nov 26 1880		Established
Nov 26 1880		Bruner, Richard J.
Jan 24 1881		Name changed to Antonito

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1    SAN ANTONIO, / COLORADO  
     CI 10P 33.0

Feb 10 18(82?) SRM: Apparently 1882 after  
name change

Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm



## SAN ANTONIO – Continued



1

## SAN RAFAEL

San Rafael was settled in the mid-1850's, about the same time as Guadalupe (Conejos). Over the course of years it came to be also known as Paisaje, a name that frequently appears on maps, including the USGS Conejos County Topographic Map of 1979 (Sheet 2).

As San Rafael it was one of the larger villages in the area and as late as 1939 had its own general store. There is an attractive, but simple church that is dedicated to San Rafael and San Pedro. The current building, built in 1929, replaces an earlier one and in 1999 it seemed to be still in use.

The initial post office to serve this community was named Lado. It lasted only one year (1884-1885). In 1890 a new post office was opened and took the name of San Rafael. That one lasted five years before it too was closed. In 1906, a third post office, Paisaje, opened to serve the community.

It has been claimed that in 1906 when an application was made for a new post office the desired name was San Rafael, repeating the early post office name and the name of the community. This was rejected because of the existence of a San Rafael Post Office in Marin County, California. It is a mystery why that reason was not a factor when the San Rafael Post Office was approved in 1890.

The area west of Conejos and Antonito is one of small farms along the Conejos River with larger ranches on the uplands away from the river.

The Lado/San Rafael/Paisaje site is on Conejos County Road 10.75, a half-mile north of Colorado Highway 17. The intersection of those two roads is two and a half miles west of the intersection of Colorado 17 and US 285, on the southwest edge of Antonito.

Along Road 10.75, which angles to the northwest, are a few small houses, some derelict adobe buildings and a church where Road 10.75 intersects County Road G. From that intersection, turn east on Road G and go a short distance. San Rafael was to the north of Road G. This mile long stretch of road comprises the combined settlement of Lado-San Rafael-Paisaje.

## Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 4 1890	--	T33N R8E 3 miles westerly from Conejos, 1/2 mile south of the Conejos River Proposed postmaster - Bernardo Romero Sketch maps shows it in SE/4 NE/4 Sec 19, Accuracy ????
May 17 1890		Established
May 17 1890		Romero, Bernardo
Jan 24 1895		Discontinued Mail to Conejos

## Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SAN RAFAEL

**SANFORD**

By the late 1880's, the site of Ephraim had become waterlogged from irrigation and the Mormon elders made a decision to move about three miles north to an elevated mesa. The settlers at Ephraim and also those at Richfield (near La Jara) were encouraged by the church to move to the new location. By 1888 the migration of people, houses, barns, the cooperative store and the school from Ephraim was complete and the new community was in full operation.

The post office at Ephraim was moved, taking the name of Sanford, for Silas Sanford Smith, the first president of the San Luis Stake (Mormon Church). The town of Sanford was incorporated in 1907.

Sanford was, and still is, an agricultural community serving the surrounding farms and ranches. It consists of scattered homes of all qualities and a big, fancy, modern Mormon Church.

Starting on US Highway 285, just south of La Jara, drive east three miles on Colorado Highway 136 and turn south into Sanford.

Latitude = 37:15:30 North Longitude = 105:54:15 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 23 1888	---	NW/4 Sec 29 T35N R10E Proposed postmaster - James Otteson	
Jun 2 1888		Moved 1/2 mile from Ephraim	
Jun 2 1888		Otteson, James	
Feb 6 1889		Discontinued Papers to La Jara	
Apr 9 1889		Re-established	
Apr 9 1889		Crowther, James F.	
Jul 9 1898		Maloy, Marion D.	
Apr 19 1899		Peterson, Swen	
Mar 29 1900		White, James T.	
May 1 1900		Coray, Julia A.	
Sep 2 1902	---	SW/4 Sec 20 T35N R10E Two miles south of Conejos River, on south side of La Jara Creek	
Jan 29 1907		Reed, Alice J.	
Jan 19 1915	---	SW/4 Sec 20 T35N R10E Move 50 rods northwest of old site	
Oct 1 1923			Office made Presidential
Jan 31 1924		Reed, Alice J.	
Jul 1 1925			Office relegated
Jul 21 1925		Reed, Alice J.	
Jul 3 1930		Reed, Alice J.	
Jul 13 1933		Reed, Alice J.	Confirmed
Aug 5 1933		Reed, Alice J.	Commissioned
Aug 10 1933		Reed, Alice J.	
Oct 22 1941	---	Sec 1 T36N R10E (very questionable)	
Jul 1 1943			Office made Presidential
Feb 10 1944		Reed, Alice J.	Nominated
Feb 17 1944		Reed, Alice J.	Confirmed
Feb 18 1944		Reed, Alice J.	Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Jun 30 1944		Reed, Alice J.	Assumed charge
Oct 31 1954		Young, Katherine La Rue	Assumed charge
Dec 6 1954		Young, Katherine La Rue	Acting
May [Apr?] 23 1956		Nielson, Ralph A.	Nominated
May [Jun?]4 1956		Nielson, Ralph A.	Confirmed & Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1956		Nielson, Ralph A.	Commissioned
Jul 27 1956		Nielson, Ralph A.	Assumed charge
Nov 9 1973		Anderson, Donald W.	Officer in charge
Feb 23 1974		Nielson, Fern W.	Appointed

## SANFORD – Continued



## Post Office – Sanford, Colorado

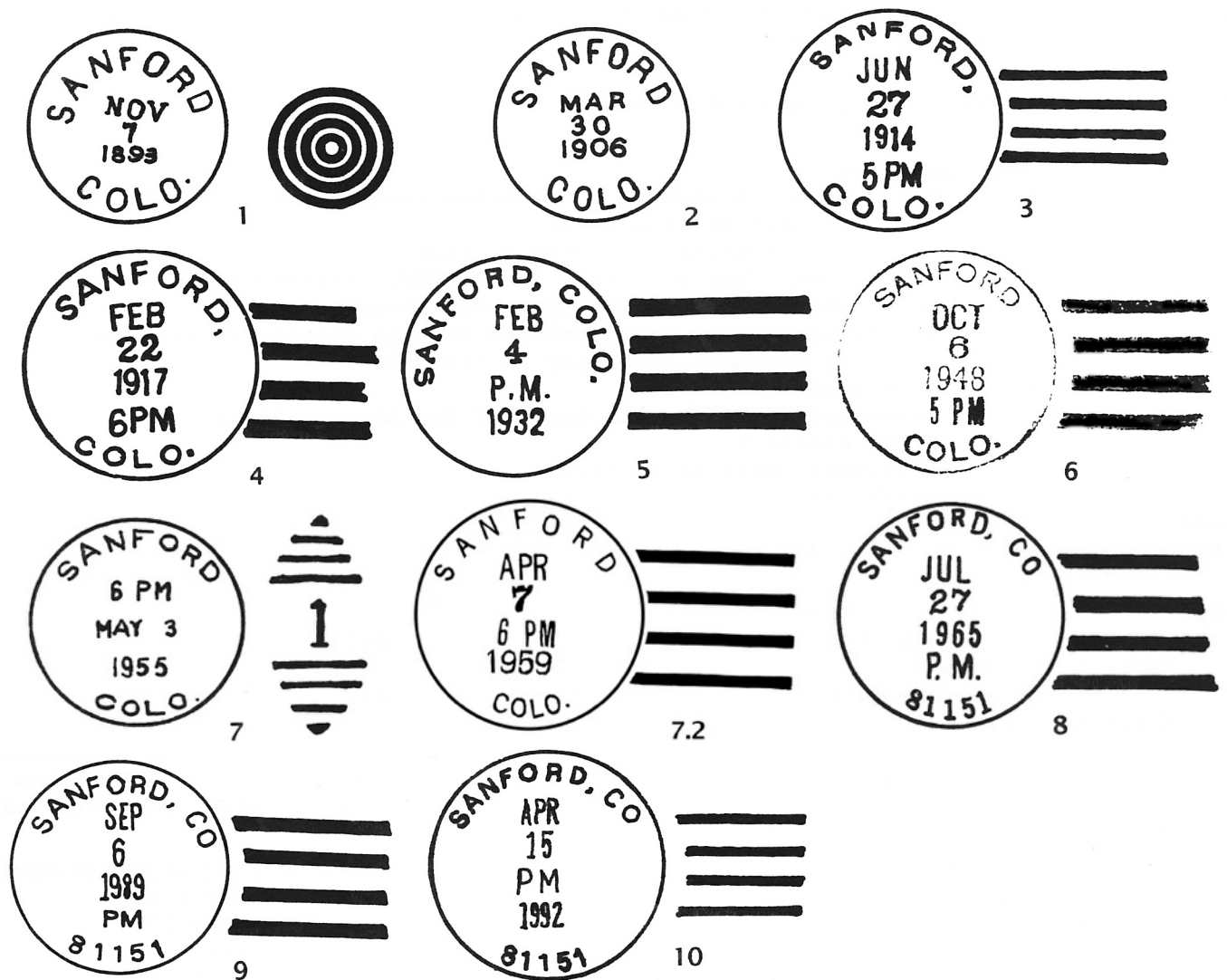
Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 9, 1999

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SANFORD / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Nov 7 1893
2	SANFORD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	May 8 1898 Mar 30 1906
3	SANFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x13mm	Nov 4 1908 Jun 27 1914
4	SANFORD, COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 22 1917 Dec 21 1929
5	SANFORD, COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Feb 4 1932 Nov 17 1936
6	SANFORD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-20x19mm	Sep 23 1940 Oct 6 1948
7	SANFORD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Mar 30 1953 Oct 30 1958
7.1	<b>SANFORD, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.0</b>	<b>Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box</b> <b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b>	<b>1950s</b>
7.2	SANFORD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 7 1959
8	SANFORD, CO / 81151 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 27 1965 Sep 1 1976
9	SANFORD, CO / 81151 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Apr 9 1986 Sep 6 1989
10	SANFORD, CO / 81151 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-20x15mm	May 14 1991 May 28 1993

**SANFORD – Continued**



**STUNNER**

The small mining settlement of Stunner began first as Conejos Camp, became Loyton and finally took the name of Stunner.

Please refer to the discussion of Loyton for a recap of the early history of this location and directions to the site.

Stunner, located near the headwaters of the Alamosa River was a small mining camp. It was not a rich one. A lack of rich ores, the difficulty of transportation and the long winters all combined to make the life of Stunner rather brief. Both gold and silver were produced from the mines.

Activity at Stunner was sufficient to keep the post office in operation for ten years. In 1913 the Stunner Post Office was reopened but was closed again after only six months of operation.

In May 1988 Jim Ozment and I visited the site of Stunner. There was visible evidence of the mining activity.

**STUNNER – Continued**

Ken Jessen, writing in 2001 (*Ghost Towns Colorado Style - Volume Three - Southern Region*) reports the following:

*An old photograph of Stunner reveals that it was never a large town, with one false front store and five cabins.*

*The site today is difficult to find and it sits next to a U. S. Forest Service campground. The dead-end road to the campground passes through the site. There is one cabin on the hillside overlooking the town site that may be of later vintage.*

Latitude = 37:22:54 North Longitude = 106:34:14 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 16 1884 ---	Unsurveyed Blainvale 4-1/2 miles northeasterly from Stunner 1/4 mile west of Alamosa River Proposed postmaster - Almira H. Page The document has one entry as "LOYTON," crossed out, with a note, ch n to "Stunner" Loyton was thought to be in Rio Grande County, also crossed out and Conejos substituted. A second document is simply as "Stunner."
Oct 2 1884	Name changed from Loyton [SRM: Or 1886 as in census files? Note postmistress below]
Mar 30 1885 ---	Unsurveyed 1/8th mile north of the Alamosa River
Oct 2 1886	Page, Almira H.
Nov 17 1894	Discontinued Mail to Platoro
Jun 25 1913	Re-established
Jun 25 1913	Hamilton, Henry C.
Jan 31 1914	Discontinued Mail to Jasper

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	STUNNER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Aug 6 1894
1.1	STUNNER COLO MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Aug 1 1913
2	STUNNER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 24 1913



1

*Stunner Colo  
Aug 1 1913*

1.1



2

**SUNFLOWER**

Sunflower was established midway between La Jara and Antonito as a station of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The station was for the convenience of the surrounding farms and the community of Manassa, three miles to the east. The post office was in the nearby ranch house of postmaster William Greene.

The Sunflower Post Office lasted only three years. On October 30, 1899, on behalf of the Romero Town Company, Zeph Charles Felt, owner of considerable farmland, filed a plat for the town of Romero. When a post office opened in 1901 it was under the altered name of Romeo.

**SUNFLOWER – Continued**

From the description given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report the Sunflower Post Office was on the west side of present day Romeo and west of the railroad, near US Highway 385.

Please refer to the discussion of Romeo for additional history and description of this location.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 3 1889</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Oct 11 1888</b>	<b>--- SE/4 Sec 21 T34N R9E 200 yards west of D&amp;RG, station not named Proposed postmaster - Cornelius H. Greene Name suggested as "SUN FLOWER", contracted to one word</b>
<b>Jun 3 1889</b>	<b>Greene, William</b>
<b>Jan 14 1892</b>	<b>Discontinued Mail to Manassa</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SUNFLOWER**

**TERRACE**

I have found no reference in the historical literature of Colorado to a settlement named Terrace. Once again I am relying on the location provided to the Post Office Department.

The reported location plots along Forest Service Road 255, east of the dam that contains the Terrace Reservoir. Construction on the Terrace Reservoir began in 1904, but was halted when money ran out. The Terrace Irrigation Company was formed in 1910 and the reservoir was completed in 1911. From that information it appears that the name Terrace was in use prior to the construction of the reservoir and is likely a physical description applicable to the location of the post office.

After returning from Del Rio to Forest Service Road 255, continue west a mile and a half, crossing to the north side of the Alamosa River. Beyond the bridge there is a fairly large level area along the river. There are several well-kept, occupied buildings in the area, including the Last Dollar Ranch.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Nov 27 1894</b>	<b>--- SE/4 Sec 24 T36N R6E On north side of Alamosa River, four miles south of Cat Creek Proposed postmaster - Theodore E. Mithoff</b>
<b>Dec 18 1894</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Dec 18 1894</b>	<b>Mithoff, Theodore E.</b>
<b>Apr 4 1900</b>	<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Apr 14 1900</b>	<b>Discontinued Papers to Capulin</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TERRACE**

**VADNER**

Vadner has been described as a, "small ranch post office on Cat Creek." The location provided in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports supports that description. The countryside surrounding the location is rangeland, best suited for livestock; however there is some irrigation in the area.

It has been reported that the name of the post office was the name of one of the local ranches. Vadner is located immediately south of the Conejos-Rio Grande County line. To visit the site, drive south from Monte Vista on Colorado Highway 368 to the county line. Turn west on the road along the county line (Rio Grande Road 12S/Conejos Road FF). Go four miles to Colorado Highway 15, crossing it and going another mile. Vadner was located south of the road, just before the road angles to the southwest.

**VADNER – Continued**

There are no remaining buildings but the ground appears to have been scraped. I did find a couple of rusty cans and a piece of rusty window screen, which could point to the former existence of buildings at the site.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 30 1884	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T36N R7E 7 miles north of the Alamosa River, 1/8 mile south of Cat Creek
Sep 18 1884		Established
Sep 18 1884		Sheldon, Henry R.
Jul 31 1885		Discontinued Mail to Alamosa

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM VADNER

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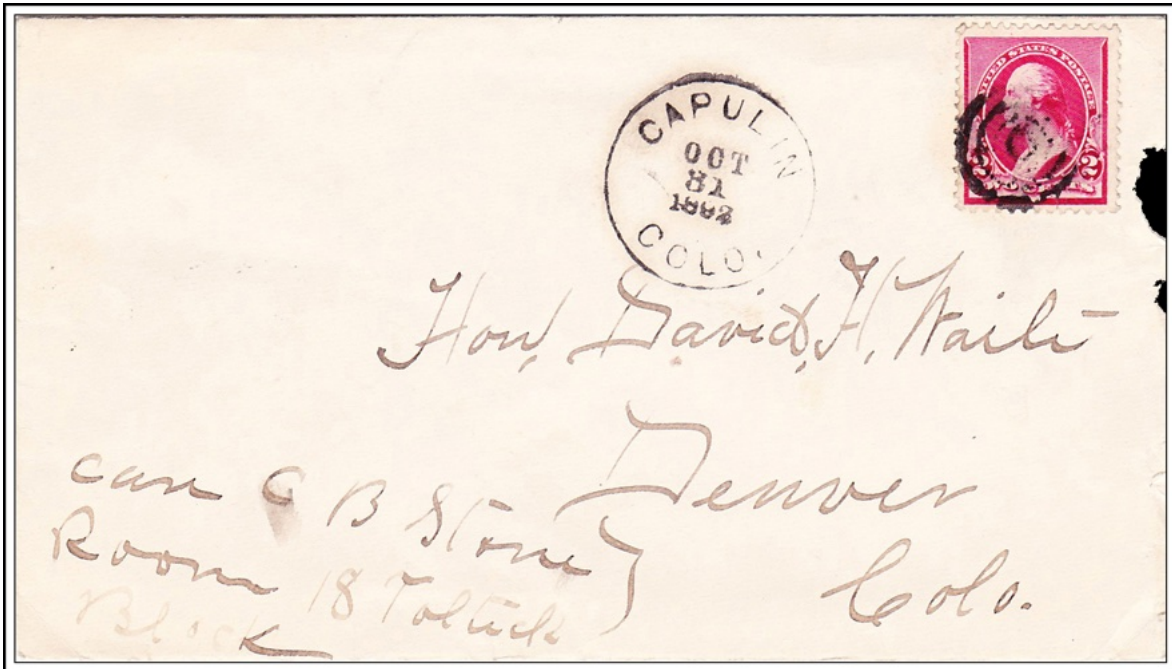
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**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

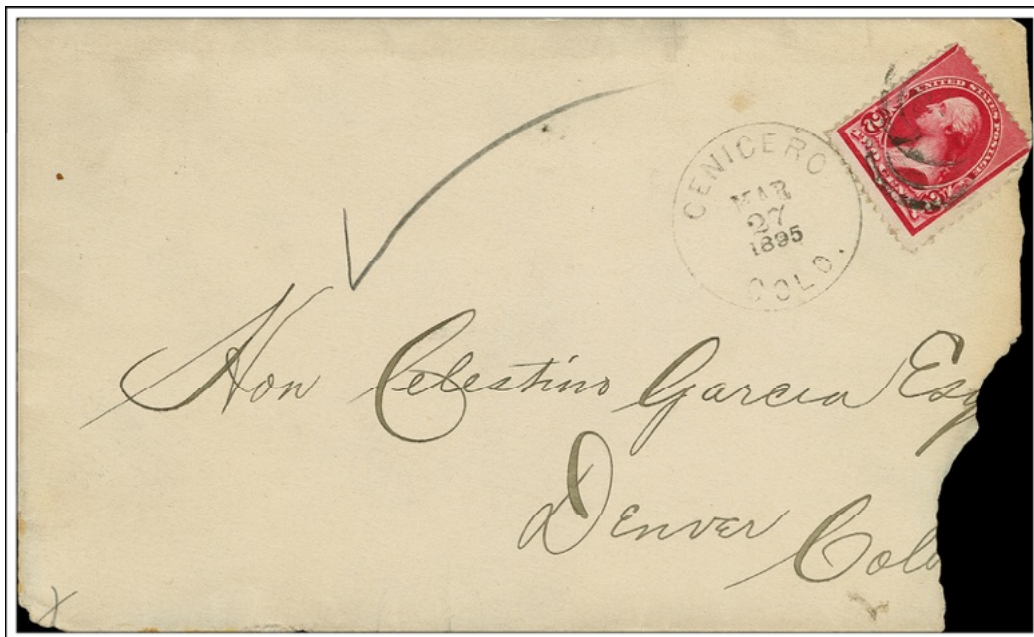
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF CONEJOS COUNTY COVERS



CAPULIN / COLO.

October 31, 1892



CENICERO / COLO.

March 27, 1895

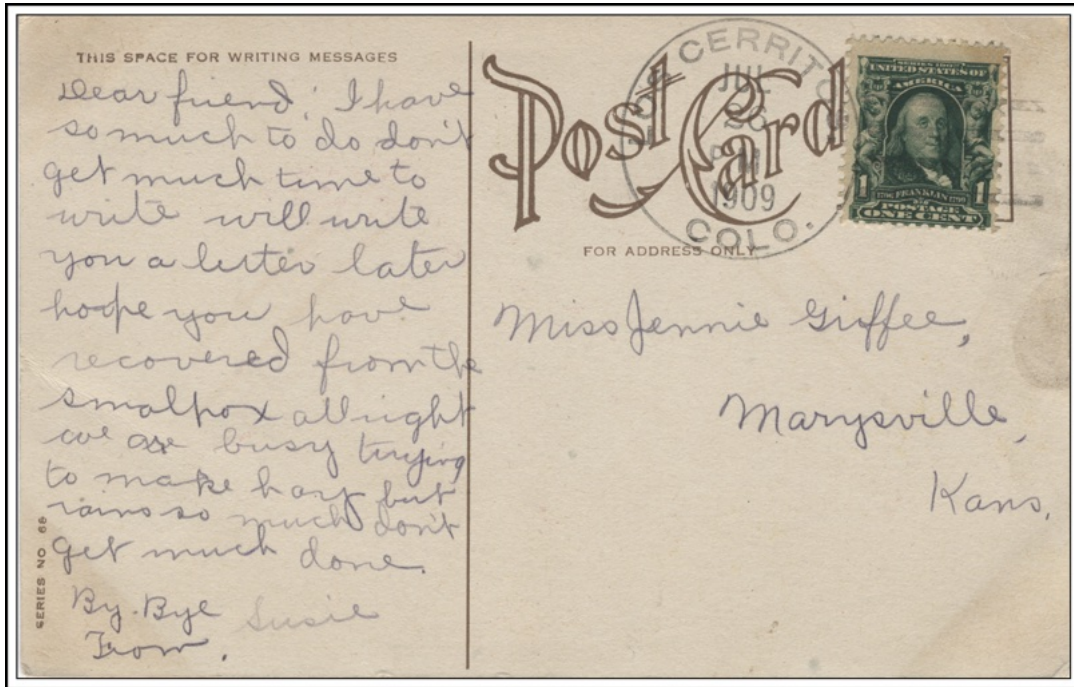


Conejos , Colorado January 5, 1874 – An unusually tiny manuscript postmark



CONEJOS / COLORADO

November -- 187-

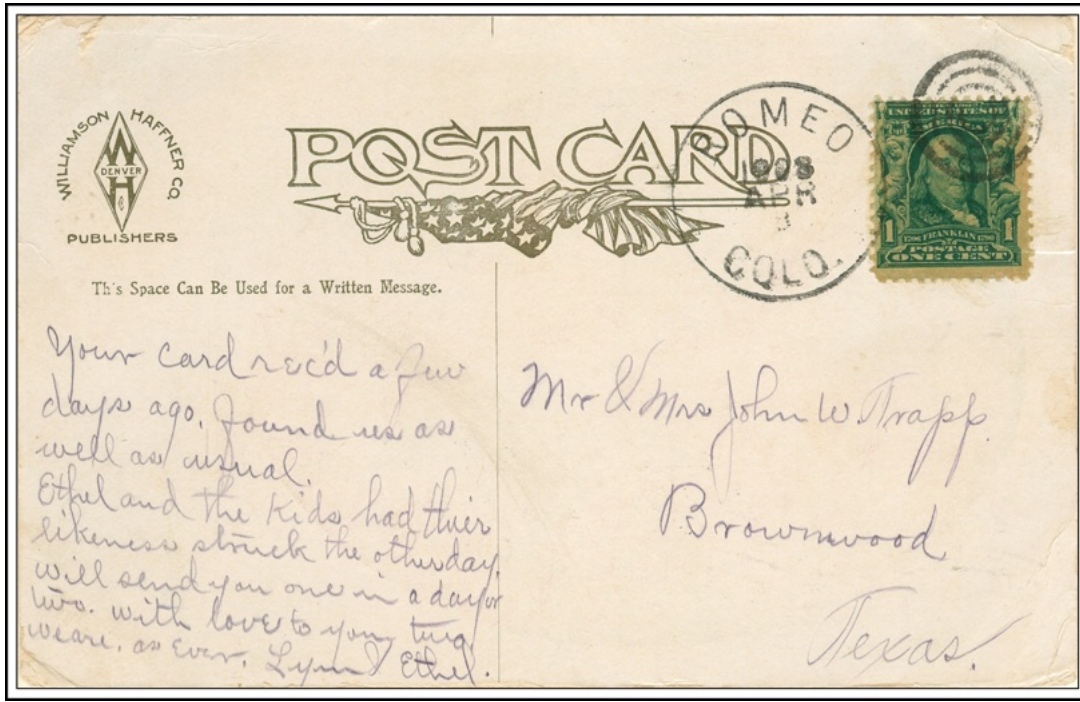


LOS CERRITOS, / COLO. July 26, 1909



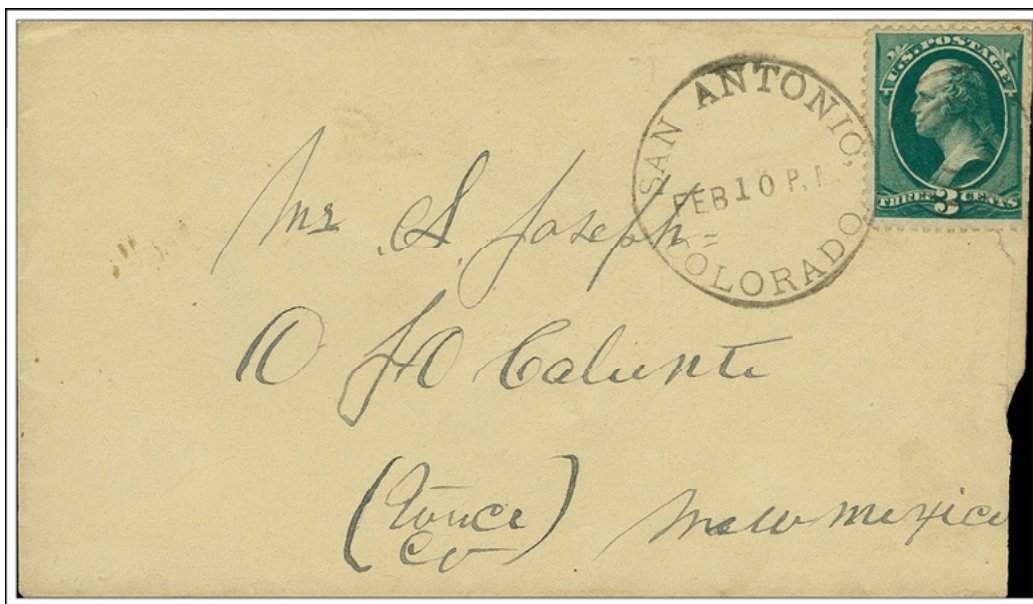
Osier / Colo manuscript

October 10, 1884



ROMEIO / COLO.

April 8, 1908



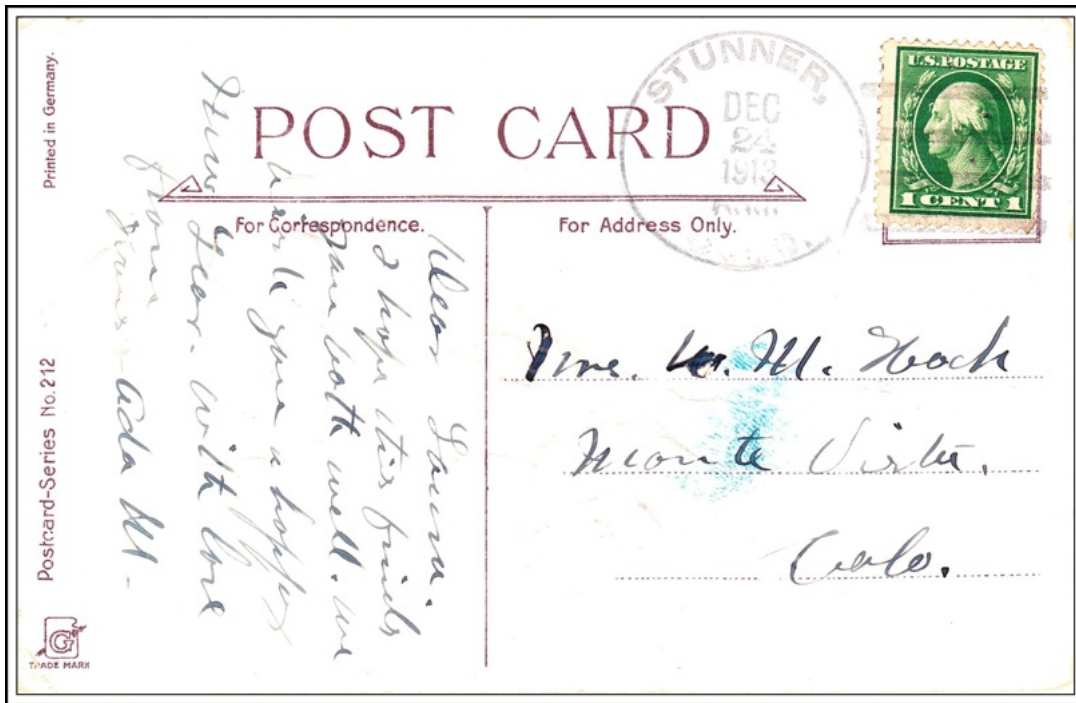
SAN ANTONIO, / COLORADO

February 10



SANFORD, / COLO.

November 4, 1908



STUNNER, / COLO.

December 24, 1913