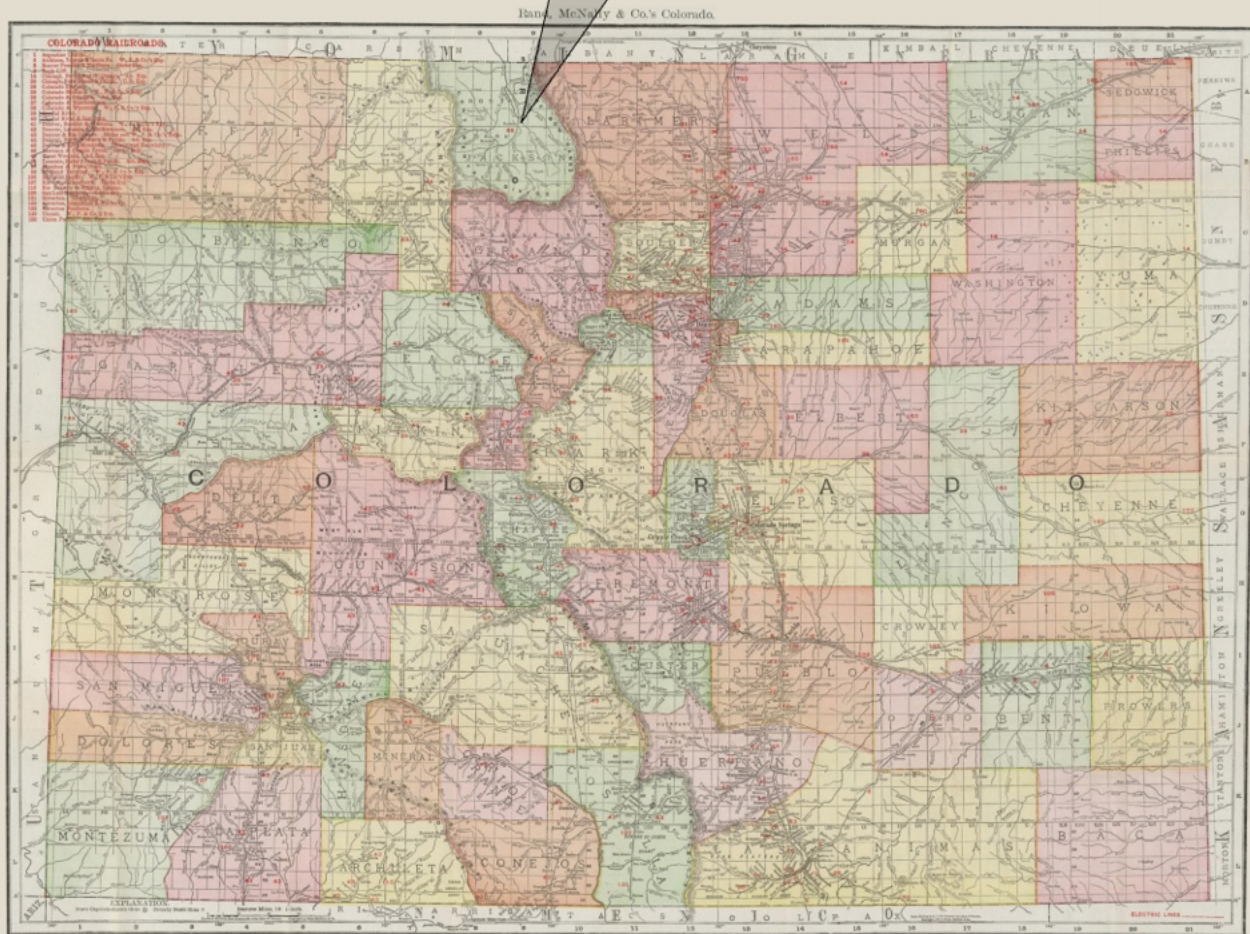


# Jackson County



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

*Established: May 1, 1909*

*County Seat: Walden*



## **JACKSON COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Jackson County lies on the western side of the Continental Divide at the northern edge of the state. The county is one of the last ones to be authorized by the Colorado Legislature. Initially the area was a part of Grand County, one of the seventeen original counties of the Territory of Colorado. Subsequently it was separated from Grand County and added to Larimer County. On May 5, 1909 the area finally achieved "independence" and Jackson County came into existence with Walden as the county seat.

Jackson County includes the mountain basin known as North Park. This is the smallest of the three Colorado Parks and in general has the more irregular surface. North Park is enclosed on three sides by high mountain ranges. On the east, the Medicine Bow Mountains to the north and the Never Summer Mountains to the south are the dominant features. To the south the Rabbit Ears Range connects the Never Summer Mountains to the Park Range, which defines the western boundary of the county and North Park. There are mountains to the north but they are breached by the North Platte River as it flows north into Wyoming.

The county is high rangeland suitable for livestock and for growing hay. The long cold winters preclude any extensive agriculture.

Jackson County is irregular in shape with a maximum north south dimension of forty-six miles and a maximum east-west dimension of forty-two miles. On the east is Larimer County, to the south Grand County and on the west lies Routt County. The northern boundary is the state line with Carbon and Albany Counties in Wyoming.

There is an extensive drainage pattern that with the spring runoff turns North Park into lush pasturage for livestock and wildlife. All of the drainage in Jackson County eventually flows into the North Fork of the North Platte River and north into Wyoming. In addition to the North Platte the principal streams, from east to west are the Canadian River, Michigan River, Owl Creek, Illinois River and Grizzly Creek.

In the early days, travel into North Park and Jackson County was difficult. The principal access was from the north from Laramie Wyoming. In the east there was a stage road over Cameron Pass (10,285 feet) but that road was not fully paved until late in the twentieth century. From the south there was a crude trail from Lulu City to Teller over 10,000 foot Illinois Pass. Today that is little more than a hiking trail. Modern roads enter Jackson County over 9,683 foot Willow Creek Pass (Colorado 125) and 9,710 foot Muddy Pass (Colorado 14). There is no major road over the Park Range; however, a county road does cross Buffalo Pass (10,180 feet) on the way to Steamboat Springs.

The principal modern highways are Colorado Highway 14 from Fort Collins to Walden where it turns south to join US 40 at Muddy Pass on the Continental Divide. From Granby, Colorado Highway 125 goes north through the center of North Park to Walden. A few miles north of Cowdrey, Highway 125 turns northwest to Rawlins, Wyoming and Colorado Highway 127 branches northeast to Laramie, Wyoming. There is a reasonably extensive network of county roads but many of these disappear into large private ranches or end in the bordering mountains. That means that you may have to make some lengthy backtracks to visit some of the post office sites.

Only a single railroad penetrated Jackson County. The railroad began as the Laramie, Hahns Peak & Pacific Railway reached the state line in 1903. By 1910 it had been extended to Coalmont as the Laramie & Routt County Railroad. Subsequently the name was changed to Colorado, Wyoming & Eastern (1914-1924) (C.W.E.), The Northern Colorado & Eastern (1924) and the Laramie, North Park & Western 1924 and later. It came south from Laramie, Wyoming through Cowdrey and Walden and on to Coalmont but in spite of its pretensions, the railroad was never extended beyond Coalmont.



### Arapaho National Wildlife Refuge

Photograph from [https://elevation.maplogs.com/poi/walden\\_co\\_usa.12767.html](https://elevation.maplogs.com/poi/walden_co_usa.12767.html)

When coal mining ended the section from Walden to Coalmont was removed. The lumber and livestock industries marginally supported the railroad for a few more years but with the closing of the lumber mill in Walden, the railroad has ceased operations.

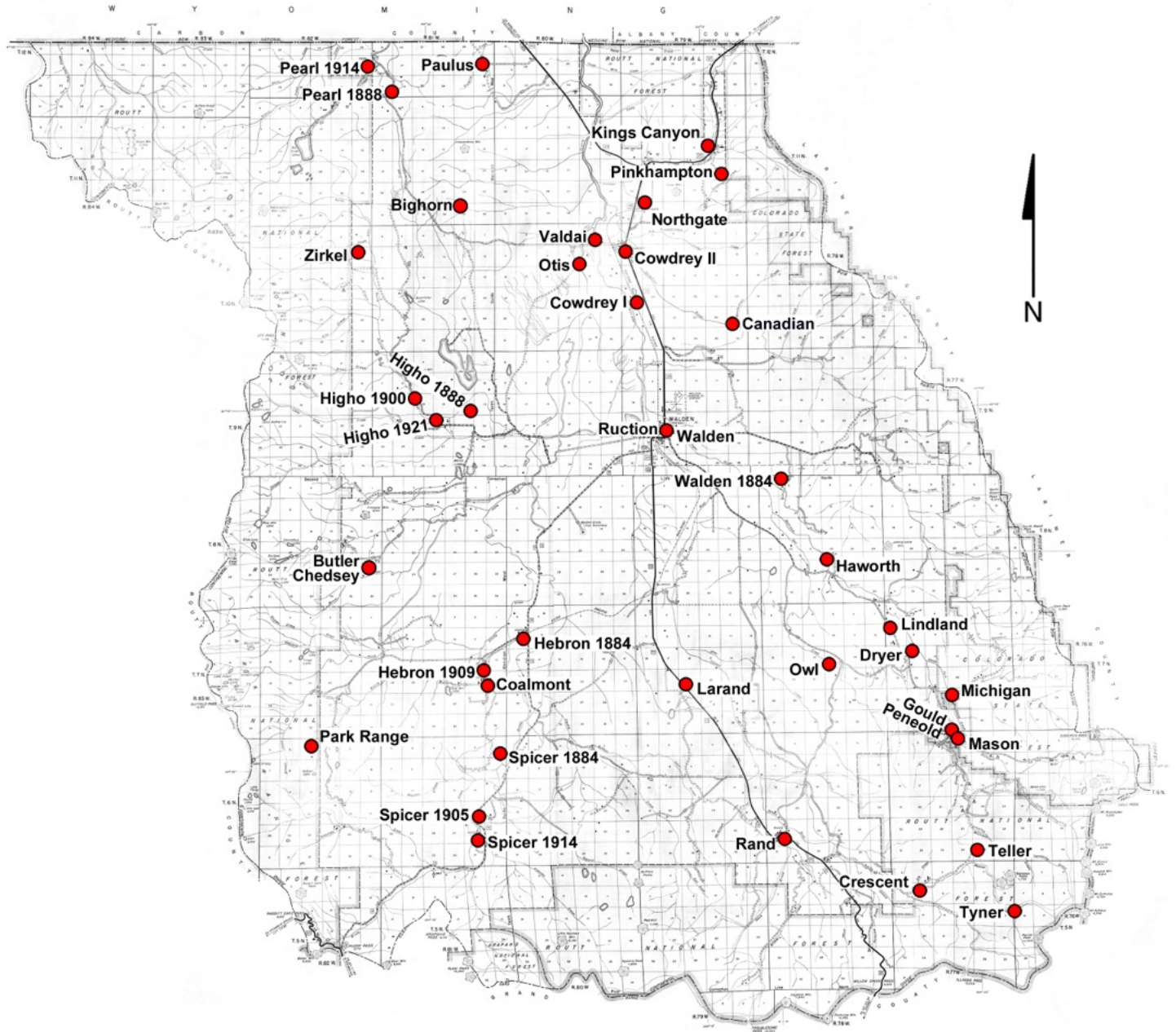
In the earliest days of settlement in North Park there were scattered attempts at precious metal mining, which are discussed in the following pages under the appropriate towns. The most successful ventures were the silver mining at Teller and the copper mining at Pearl. The silver mining lasted only a few years and the copper mining did somewhat better. Neither can claim to have been important contributors to the mineral production of Colorado. The most important mining activity was the exploitation of the large coal deposit at Coalmont.

The timber industry has played a major part in the economy of North Park, in particular the large mill that operated at Walden until only recently. There were, and still are, abundant timber resources on the mountain slopes that surround North Park. However, growing environmental concerns have brought the lumbering industry to a lesser importance to the North Park economy.

Livestock, mostly cattle but some sheep, dominate life in North Park. But ranching has never been easy. The long, cold winters at this high elevation and a short growing season for hay and feed crops forced many of the ranchers to move their livestock to lower elevations for the winter, with attendant increased costs. Modern ranching practices are resulting in consolidation of small ranches into very large corporate ranches.

**NOTE:** The early Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports for post offices that were established and discontinued before the authorization of Jackson County on May 5, 1909 remain filed under Larimer County. Included are the following towns:

Bighorn	Butler	Canadian
Cowdrey (I)	Haworth	Hebron
Mason	Michigan	Otis
Pinkhamton	Ruction	Teller
Tyner	Valdai	Walden



Post Office Location Map – Jackson County

## **BIGHORN**

Bighorn has escaped mention in the historical literature relative to Jackson County. However, the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report does give a location that spots on Placer Draw. Also, the USGS topographic map for Jackson County has a label, "placer mine" at the approximate location of Bighorn. This circumstantial evidence leads me to conjecture that this was an attempt at placer mining for gold.

Examination of the site does show some evidence of placer mining activity. The short life of the post office, two years, indicates that such placers as were there were neither extensive nor rich.

The name was apparently a reference to bighorn sheep. In modern times the name has been applied to the Big Horn Ranch, which includes a large portion of the rangeland west of Cowdrey.

From Cowdrey, drive west approximately seven and one-half miles. This should bring you to a marked intersection for a good road south to the Lake John State Wildlife Refuge. From this intersection, another, much poorer, road goes north. In less than a mile, the road is on a level area above Placer Draw. A quarter mile west of the intersection you can look up the draw. Visible are the remains of a structure and some scarring of the land is also evident. Continuing west and north will take you to Pearl.

## **BIG HORN – Continued**

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

<b>Dec 1897</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 35 T11N R81W</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - John Riggen</b>
<b>Mar 3 1898</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Mar 3 1898</b>		<b>Riggen, John</b>
<b>Feb 2 1900</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Feb 15 1900</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Pearl</b>

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

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BIG HORN**

## **BUTLER**

Very little is known about Butler. What has been written indicates that it was a small ranch community devoted to cattle-raising. That impression is reinforced by a visit that will take you into grazing land in a remote section of the eastern foothills of the Park Range.

The first postmaster was Mary E. Butler, so it appears that the office was named for her family. There is also a Butler Creek in the area of the sites.

The Butler Post Office lasted from 1890 to 1911. In 1917 a new post office was opened in the area but it took the name of Chedsey.

To reach the site of Butler, drive south out of Walden on Colorado 125. Turn west on Colorado 14. Go west for a half-mile to where Colorado 14 turns south. At that second turn keep straight, to the west. Continue west and southwest on this road about nine to ten miles. Just before the road crosses to the south side of the North Platte River there will be a road to the north that leads to the Delany Lakes. About one and a half miles from the river crossing there is fork in the road. Keep to the right. This road goes west about two miles then curves to the southwest. Another two miles and the road turns again to the westward. Butler (and later Chedsey) was in the area south of the road. There are remains of one log building; otherwise nothing is left to mark the sites.

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

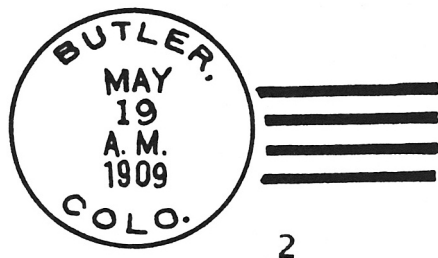
<b>May 20 1890</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 25 T8N R82W</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Mary Ellen Butler</b>

**BUTLER – Continued**

Jun 16 1890	Established
Jun 16 1890	Butler, Mary E.
May 30 1905 ---	S/2 NE/4 Sec 25 T8N R82W Indicated move one mile west to NE/4 SE/4 Sec 26 8 miles west of the North Platte River 1/8 mile west of North Cheyenne Creek Proposed postmaster - Isaac W. Trinder
Jun 7 1905	Trinder, Isaac W.
Jun 4 1908	Baker, John H.
Nov 30 1911	Discontinued Mail to Hebron

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |   |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | BUTLER / COLO.<br>CI 10P ???   | Aug 16 1907 Feb 12 1911<br>Doane Type 3, with 1<br>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 2 | BUTLER, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0 | May 19 1909 Nov 29 1911<br>4bars S-23x13mm  |



**CANADIAN**

Canadian was established as a stage station and road ranch where the stage road to Teller crossed the Canadian River. There was a small settlement. When mining at Teller ceased and the stages ceased running, Canadian slowly declined, becoming what in later days was known as the Webb Ranch. Angie Webb and Myers Webb were postmasters at Canadian during the late 1880's.

Reportedly there was a little mining, likely placer mining, in the area but that never amounted to anything.

From Walden drive almost four miles north on Colorado 125. Turn east on a paved road. Continue east two and a half miles to a fork in the road. Keep to the left for another half-mile to a side road to the north. This is a lightly used road that goes over a low hill and drops down to the broad valley of the Canadian River. The road ends at the Sanbon Irrigation Ditch. There is small pump building there but no other buildings are present. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places the site of Canadian in the valley a short distance north of the end of the road.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 25 1883 ---	SW/4 Sec25 T10N R79W Close to and on north side of the Canadian River Proposed postmaster - Moses M. Godfrey
Mar 6 1883	Established
Mar 6 1883	Godfrey, Hosea M.
Nov 12 1885	Bailey, Mrs. Alice
Apr 19 1886	Dulaney, David E.
Aug 20 1887	Webb, Angie M.
Feb 25 1890	Webb, Myers
Dec 24 1890	Holdrige, Ellen
Jul 3 1891	Discontinued Mail to Walden

## CANADIAN – Continued

## Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |                                       |  |
|---|---------------------------------------|--|
| 1 | CANADIAN, / COLO.<br>CI 20P 28.0/26.0 | Jan 21 1885<br>Hstp Target, 5-ring 18mm                      |
| 2 | CANADIAN, / COLO.<br>CI 11P 27.0/18.0 | Mar 18 1887 Jul 29 1887<br>Hstp Fancy, grid, 10-bar circular |



1



2



## CHEDSEY

Chedsey was a brief successor to Butler some six years after the Butler Post Office was closed.

Like Butler, Chedsey was a ranching community. I have found nothing that would indicate the source of this name. It would seem likely that it was named for one of the local ranch families but that is not confirmed.

To visit the site of Chedsey, follow the directions given to the site of Butler.

## Chronology of the Post Office

- |             |    |  |
|-------------|----|--|
| Jan 16 1917 | -- | SE/4 Sec 26 T8N R82W (See the 1905 site of Butler)<br>100 yards north of Beaver Creek<br>Applicant for postmaster - George F. Williams |
| May 12 1917 |    | Established  |
| May 12 1917 |    | Williams, George F.  |
| Jun 15 1918 |    | Discontinued Mail to Coalmont  |

## Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CHEDSEY

## COALMONT

The story that is told of the discovery of the coal deposits at Coalmont is that coyote hunters, attempting to dig a coyote out of a hole, uncovered the deposit. The discovery, about 1890, is attributed to the Reach brothers; however, one reference refers to the Riach Coal Field. The deposit was at one time estimated to contain 400 million tons of coal.

Serious exploitation of the coal deposit began in 1911 when the Laramie, Hahns Peak, and Pacific Railroad reached the site. The railroad was proposed to continue west to Hahns Peak but Coalmont was the end of the line. The mine remained in operation until late in the twentieth century. The railroad from Walden to Coalmont was removed several years after mining at Coalmont ceased.

The coal deposit at Coalmont was close to the surface and this was one of the earliest strip mines in Colorado. There was also some underground mining.

A good-sized community developed around the mine site. When I first visited Coalmont in 1972 the post office, located in a small building, was still in operation. By 1991, almost everything was gone. There are remnants of the mining structures, a couple of decaying buildings and the Coalmont schoolhouse, which at that time was still in good condition and appeared freshly painted.



**COALMONT – Continued**

The name Coalmont is said to be a contraction of Coal Mountain, a reference to the near surface occurrence of the coal seam.

To reach Coalmont from Hebron, drive southwest on the road that goes to Buffalo Pass. A little more than two miles from Hebron, and on the east side of Little Grizzley Creek, there is a road to the south. Coalmont was a mile down that road and can be easily recognized by the remnants of the mining activity.

Latitude = 40:33:45 North Longitude = 106:26:38 West



**The Community Building, Coalmont, Colorado**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 15, 1998

**Chronology of the Post Office**

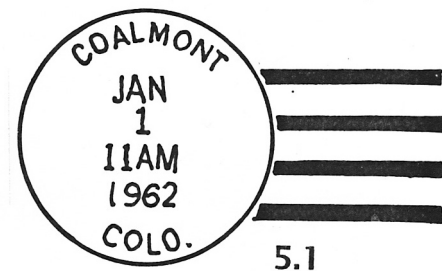
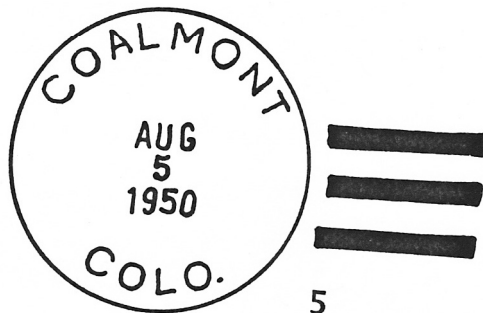
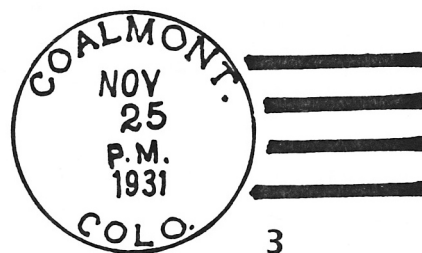
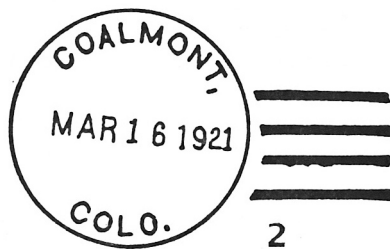
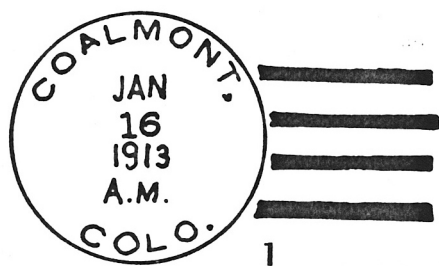
Mar 4 1912	---	From the sketch map: SW/4 SW/4 Sec 24 T7N R81W At end of the railroad	
Mar 11 1912		Established	
Mar 11 1912		Kennedy, Stewart	Rescinded
Oct 11 1913		Westfall, John M.	
Apr 23 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 24 T7N R81W	105 feet west of the Laramie Hahns Peak & Pacific Railway
Jan 14 1915		Pendleton, Joseph	
Sep 28 1916		Smith, Henry W. J.	
Dec 19 1918		Dietles, Myron A.	
Mar 8 1820		Shupe, Frank L.	
Jul 13 1921		Ferrier, Wallace T.	
Mar 16 1923		Newell, Miss Stella M.	
Jun 11 1924		Miessen, William H.	Confirmed
Jul 16 1924		Miessen, William H.	Commissioned

COALMONT – Continued

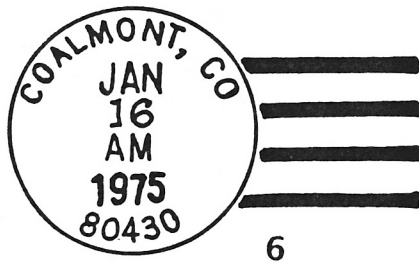
Jul 31 1924	Miessen, William H.	Assumed charge
Apr 6 1937	Ledford, Lucian G.	Assumed charge
Apr 14 1937	Ledford, Lucian G.	Acting
Jul 9 1937	Ledford, Lucian G.	Confirmed
Aug 25 1937	Ledford, Lucian G.	Commissioned
Apr 1 1938	Moore, Ralph W.	Assumed charge
Apr 15 1938	Moore, Ralph W.	Acting
Jun 22 1938	Moore, Ralph W.	Confirmed
Sep 9 1938	Moore, Ralph W.	Commissioned
Oct 25 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 24 T7N R81W 500 feet northeast of Coalmont Railroad Station	
Feb 28 1951	Moore, Ralph W. Jr.	Assumed charge
Apr 25 1951	Moore, Ralph W. Jr.	Acting
Jun 21 1951	Brinker, Mrs. Evelyn M.	Possession
Jul 5 1951	Brinker, Mrs. Evelyn M.	Acting
Jul 30 1951	Brinker, Mrs. Evelyn M.	Appointed
Aug 23 1951	Brinker, Mrs. Evelyn M.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1951	Brinker, Mrs. Evelyn M.	Possession
Apr 30 1977	Brinker, Ms. Mary L.	Officer in charge
Dec 21 1983	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	COALMONT, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 4 1912 Dec 18 1917
2	COALMONT, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Mar 16 1921
3	COALMONT. / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 25 1931 Dec 11 1936
4	COALMONT / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 21 1940 May 14 1945
5	COALMONT / COLO. CI 10P 39.0	4bars S-21x16mm	Apr 6 1949 Apr 26 1951
5.1	COALMONT / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 26 1960 Jan 1 1962
6	COALMONT, CO / 80430 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 18 1967 Jan 16 1975



**COALMONT – Continued**



**COWDREY (I)**

The described location that was reported in 1901 is difficult to fit to the geography. Section nineteen is three miles south of the modern location of Cowdrey. The location is three miles, not six miles east of the North Platte River but it is one-quarter mile east of the Michigan River.

The historical literature makes no mention of Cowdrey having been at any location other than its present day site.

In 1882 Charles Cowdrey is credited with homesteading land near a lone school. He built a home there and a short time later opened a road ranch and a store. The post office was established in his home and Clara Cowdrey was the first postmaster.

The post office was closed in 1906 and did not reopen until 1915. When it did reopen, the Geographic Site Location Report is for a site at present day Cowdrey.

Another factor in the story is that in 2001, the Cowdrey Post Office commemorated its centennial with a special postmark. (See Cowdrey (II))

Thus it remains to be answered by the local historians as to where was Charles Cowdrey's 1882 homestead? If it was at present day Cowdrey, then the initial site location report is in error and Cowdrey has always been at the same location. In any event, the town was named for Charles Cowdrey.

If the location in section nineteen is valid, it would be on Colorado Highway 125, three miles south of present day Cowdrey. There is nothing there close to the highway but there is a ranch out on the flats nearer to the river.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 18 1901	---	SE/4 Sec 19 T10N R79W Six miles east of the Platte 1/4 mile east of Michigan Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - Clara A. Cowdrey	
Dec 21 1901		Established	
Dec 21 1901		Cowdrey, Clara A.	
Jun 22 1903		Lyon, Frank E.	Order rescinded Jul 18 1903
Dec 21 1901		Cowdrey, Clara A.	
Feb 3 1905		Dow, Jessie	
Dec 28 1906		Ordered closed	
Jan 15 1907		Discontinued Mail to Walden	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	COWDREY / COLO.	Sep 20 1906
	CI 10P 28.0 (?)	Hstp Target, traced from a downloaded image, scale not precise

## COWDREY (I) – Continued



1

## COWDREY (II)

Please refer to the preceding discussion of Cowdrey (I) for the early history of this post office.

By 1915 the present site of Cowdrey had begun to develop into more than just a ranch post office and country store. It acquired a few businesses to serve the surrounding ranches and became a small residential community at the junction of the road west to Pearl with the main road north from Walden to Wyoming.

Today, Cowdrey is still a small community with the only post office in Jackson County north of Walden. There are a few scattered residences and a couple of small, roadside businesses.

Latitude = 40:51:35 North Longitude = 106:18:45 West



**Post Office at Cowdrey, Colorado**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

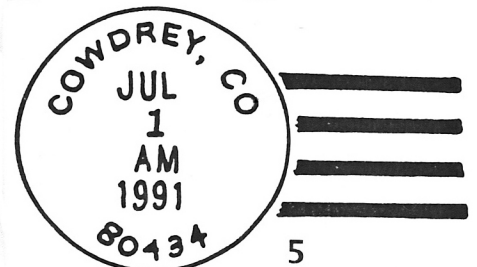
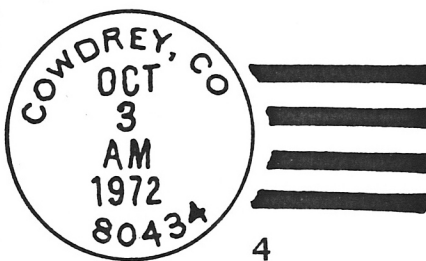
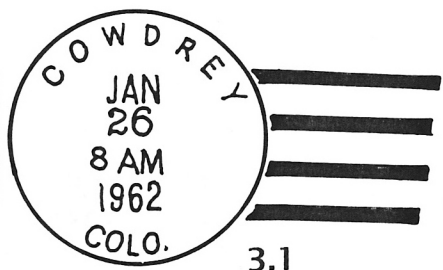
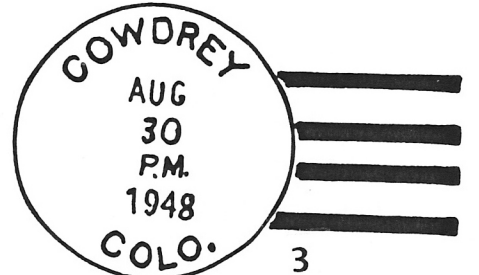
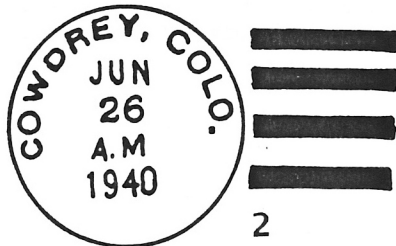
September 22, 2002

**COWDREY (II) – Continued  
Chronology of the Post Office**

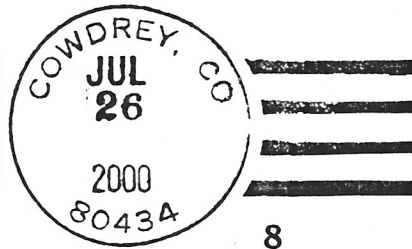
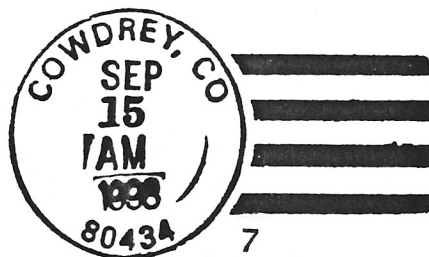
Feb 15 1915	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 7 T10N R79W 1/4 mile west of the Canadian River Applicant for postmaster - Edward Raymond Thorne	
Apr 5 1915		Established	
Apr 15 1915		Thorne, Edward R.	Confirmed
Apr 23 1915		Thorne, Edward R.	Commissioned
Jan 27 1942	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T10N R79W Canadian River is 1/4 mile east and Michigan River 1 mile west of post office	
Jun 30 1953		Jecks, Charles A.	Assumed charge
Jul 28 1953		Jecks, Charles A.	Acting
Mar 1 1954		Jecks, Charles A.	Confirmed & Appointed
Mar 29 1954		Jecks, Charles A.	Commissioned
Apr 8 1954		Jecks, Charles A.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1954			Office made Presidential
Jul 1 1960			Office relegated
Aug 29 1969		Paxton, Russell J.	Officer in charge
Jul 17 1971		Paxton, Russell J.	Appointed & Possession

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	COWDREY, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 28 1915 May 1 1917
2	COWDREY, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars P-21x19mm	Oct 15 1931 May 3 1943
3	COWDREY / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 5 1946 Oct 18 1949
3.1	COWDREY / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 26 1962
4	COWDREY, CO / 80434 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 22 1970 Nov 23 1987
5	COWDREY, CO / 80434 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 12 1989 May 28 1993
6	COWDREY, CO / USPO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 1 1991
7	COWDREY, CO / 80434 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-27x21mm	Sep 15 1998
8	COWDREY, CO / 80434 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 26 2000



## COWDREY (II) – Continued



## COWDREY STATIONS

## CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

In 2000, the Colorado and Wyoming Section of the United States Postal Service announced that any town within that section that had a resident who would be 100 or more years old in the Millennial Year, could use a special postmark to commemorate that individuals age. Unfortunately, the person living in Cowdrey died before the planned date of commemoration and the postmark was not used.

The marking is reported below as a matter of record.

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000 Intended to operate as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Cowdrey, CO 80434 // Celebrate the Century Station SL 00R 99.0x3.0	Jun 15 2000 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- / The Life of a Century Announced but was not placed in use
---	---	---

## CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION STATION

## Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 21 2001 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	COWDREY, CO 80434 (CENTENNIAL / CELEBRATION / STATION) CI 11P 33.0/29.0	Dec 21 2001 Pict Scene - Post office building in center of cds; Text – Dec. 21, 1901 – Dec. 21, 2001
---	--	--



1

## **CRESCENT**

Crescent is described as a small mining camp southwest of Teller City and it is noted that it had a post office. The settlement is also shown on Nells Colorado Map of 1885 and on a Geological Survey map of 1913.

No document for Crescent has been found in the Colorado file of the Post Office Department's Geographic Site Location Reports.

To reach the site that I have spotted on the Post Office Location Map of Jackson County, drive south on Colorado 125 two miles from Rand. A dirt road to the east will eventually lead you to the site of Teller City. Approximately four miles from Highway 125 there is a fork in the road. It is in the vicinity of the fork that I believe Crescent was briefly in existence. However, there is no evidence of a settlement.

Kenneth Jessen in *Ghost Towns, Colorado Style - Volume 1 - Northern Region* describes this as the location of Tyner. That is not correct, as Tyner was located on Jack Creek, southeast of Teller City.

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

	<b>No document found in the Jackson County Geographic Site Location Reports</b>
<b>Apr 7 1880</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 7 1880</b>	<b>Sturgis, William J.</b>
<b>Nov 22 1880</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>

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

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

## **DRYER**

The only information I have located relative to the Dryer Post Office is that contained in the Post Office Department records

The Geographic Site Location Report places it on the Michigan River and what is now Colorado Highway 14, about five miles northwest of Gould. This is a short distance northwest of where a connecting road crosses from Highway 14 to Rand on Colorado Highway 125. I was able to find one building, apparently a seasonal residence, partially hidden in the trees on the west side of the highway.

The short life of the post office indicates that at best it served a few local residents and perhaps some summer visitors. When it was discontinued the papers were sent to the Owl Post Office, which was the nearest office, and was just north of the previously mentioned connecting road.

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

<b>Mar 2 1916</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 17 T7N R77W [year questionable] 1/4 mile west of the Michigan River</b>
		<b>First page of the microfilm document is difficult to read, as it is out of focus.</b>
<b>Aug 3,1916</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 3 1916</b>		<b>Fraser, Frank R.</b>
<b>Oct 31 1917</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Owl</b>

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

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

## **GOULD**

This small settlement on the Michigan River has had a lengthy history. In 1880 a small mining camp known as Mason was a temporary settlement in the area. The first permanent settlement was an 1898 homestead by Edward Bradley Gould. Another early settler was a family by the name of Penfold, Here three communities would have post offices: first Mason, then for a few months Peneold (a misspelling of Penfold) and finally Gould.

**GOULD – Continued**

The mining activity along the upper Michigan River did not last long. However in 1936 the Michigan River Timber Company established a camp, perhaps only a few hundred yards from the location of Mason.

It was intended that the camp be named for the Penfold family, however, the Post Office Department misspelled the name as Peneold. After a short time, rather than correct the error, the office was renamed Gould.

Gould outlasted the timbering activity and continues to survive as a resort settlement serving campers, fishermen, hunters and travelers along Colorado 14. The post office was discontinued in 1973.

My first visit to the site was in 1972. The post office was in a combination log store building and Conoco service station. Leaning against a smaller building next to the post office was a large sign that read: "GOULD P. O. W. BRANCH CAMP." This puzzled me for some time until I learned that during World War II there had been a Prisoner of War Camp for captured German soldiers near Greeley. POWs from that camp were often sent to small temporary camps to aid in agricultural and conservation projects. Apparently one such camp was near Gould.

The building that was the post office in 1972 still stands on the west side of Colorado Highway 14. It has been expanded and has acquired a large false front. It is still a store serving visitors to this area of Jackson County. There is also a nearby small resort complex, which may be on the site of the early settlement of Mason.

Latitude = 40:31:35 North Longitude = 106:01:34 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

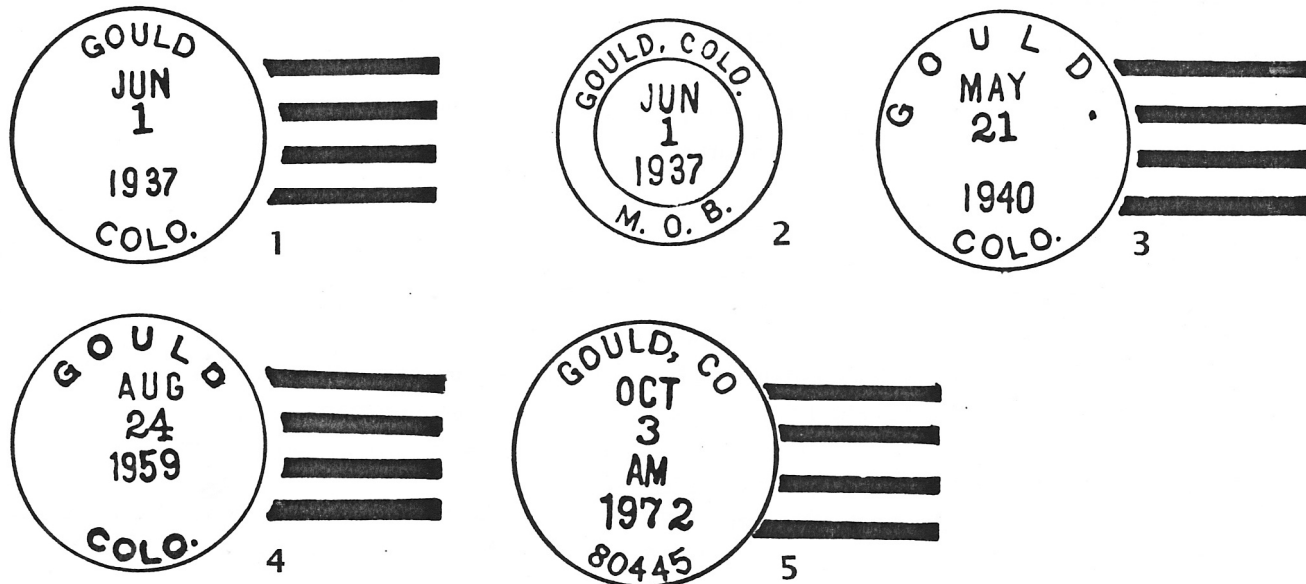
May 1 1937	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 34 T7N R77W 100 yards east of the Michigan River	
Jun 1 1937		Name changed from Peneold	
Feb 2 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice	Confirmed
Feb 17 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice	Commissioned
Feb 26 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice	Assumed charge
Oct 25 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 34 T7N R77W Middle Fork of the Michigan River is 200 yards west of Office Sketch map places it on west side of Highway 14	
Mar 31 1945		Kenney, Mrs. Velma S.	Possession
May 10 1945		Kenney, Mrs. Velma S.	Acting
May 8 1946		Kenney, Mrs. Velma S.	Appointed
Jun 5 1946		Kenney, Mrs. Velma S.	Commissioned & Possession
Nov 9 1955		Kenney, Harvey W.	Possession
Dec 2 1955		Kenney, Harvey W.	Acting
Mar 2 1956		Kenney, Harvey W.	Appointed
Mar 15 1956		Kenney, Harvey W.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1956		Kenney, Harvey W.	Possession
Mar 14 1973		Discontinued Mail to Walden	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	GOULD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jun 1 1937 Jul 27 1939
2	GOULD, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 1 1937
3	GOULD. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm, wide spaced letters	May 21 1940 Feb 23 1944
4	GOULD / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm, closer spaced letters	Dec 19 1952 Aug 27 1962
5	GOULD, CO / 80445 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 13 1969 Oct 3 1972



**GOULD – Continued**



**HAWORTH**

Haworth was a small community that developed southeast of Walden on the Michigan River and the road to Cameron Pass, the modern Colorado Highway 14. At maximum it may have had fifty to sixty residents.

The location is where the Michigan River Valley begins to widen out and there is sufficient open area to support ranching. It is quite possible that Haworth was also a camp for timbering operations in the first half of the twentieth century.

In present times, there are a few houses along Highway 14 and a private road to the east takes you across the river to a large ranch about a mile from the highway. The Geographic Site Location Reports make it seem likely that the post office was at this ranch.

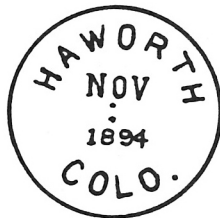
The source of the name Haworth is unknown.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Aug 19 1884 --- N/2 Sec 27 T8N R78W 6 rods east of the Michigan River  
4 rods east of Meadow Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Samuel E. Bostwick
- Aug 26 1884 Established
- Aug 26 1884 Bostwick, Samuel E.
- Oct 28 1892 Howard, Mrs. Ruth A.
- Mar 17 1898 Discontinued Mail to Walden
- Mar 7 1905 --- SE/4 Sec 22 T8N R78W 1/2 mile northeast side of Michigan River  
Proposed postmaster - William Henry Winscome (?)
- Jun 17 1905 Re-established
- Jun 17 1905 Winscom, William H.
- May 10 1906 Ordered closed
- May 31 1906 Discontinued Mail to Walden

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

1	HAWORTH / COL. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Not recorded	Aug 22 1887
2	HAWORTH / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Not recorded	Nov -- 1894

**HEBRON**

Hebron was a small ranch post office located on the Laramie, North Park, and Western Railroad (Laramie, Hahns Peak, and Pacific Railroad) where that railroad crossed what is now Colorado Highway 14 from Muddy Pass to Walden. The railroad is gone and Hebron consists of only a few buildings and no businesses.

The name is undoubtedly a Biblical reference, however, the claim that it was selected by Barbara Peterson, "Postmistress at the time" is not correct as she did not become postmistress until four years after the establishment of the Hebron Post Office. Perhaps she did name the community prior to the opening of the post office.

Hebron is about eleven miles southwest of Walden, on the west side of Colorado 14. It is at the junction where the road west to Steamboat Springs, over Buffalo Pass, intersects the highway. The old railroad grade is still visible at Hebron.

Latitude = 40:35:46 North Longitude = 106:24:23 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 14 1884	---	SW/4 Sec 5 T7N R80W One mile west of the Grizzly River Proposed postmaster - Fredrick R. Morey
Jul 11 1884		Established
Jul 11 1884		Morey, Frederick R.
Jul 10 1886		Marr, William
Feb 23 1888		Bailey, Mrs. Alice
Nov 19 1888		Peterson, Barbara H.
Mar 24 1909		Heineman, William J.
Sep 17 1909	---	NE/4 Sec 23 T7N R81W Against southeast side of Big Grizzly Creek
Mar 21 1910		Monroe, William J.
Oct 26 1910		Case, Carl C.
Jul 25 1913		Clark, Ernest J.
May 2 1914		Trowsell, Archie L.
Feb 9 1920		Ross, Fred D.
Nov 24 1920		Miller, Clarence E.
Feb 15 1922		Discontinued Mail to Coalmont

**HEBRON – Continued**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                                |                                 |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | HEBRON / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.0  | Hstp Not present                | Jul 24 1895             |
| 2 | HEBRON, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | Doane Type 3, with 2; S-??x13mm | Nov 16 1908 Nov 29 1913 |



**HIGHO**

Higho was truly a ranch post office. The post office was located at no less than four separate locations, each of which was undoubtedly a ranch. There is no indication that there was an organized community at any of the locations.

The only historical mention of Higho is that it was, “On Lone Pine Creek west of Lake John on 1922-23 maps.” This description matches the final location of the Higho Post Office, which is still a large active ranch: the Lone Pine Ranch. When I visited this site in 1991 I was told that the post office had been in a small, story and a half building, which is still well maintained. However the door to the post office had been closed off and replaced by a window.

To visit the sites of Higho, drive south out of Walden on Colorado 125. Turn west on Colorado 14. Go west for a half-mile to where Colorado 14 turns south. At that second turn keep straight, to the west for about five miles to an intersection with one of the roads that goes to Lake John. Turn north in the direction of Lake John. At the next fork, keep to the left on the lesser-traveled road. At a “T” intersection turn north. A quarter mile north the road turns west. The reported 1881 and 1914 locations of Higho were in the open fields north of the turn but nothing is visible from the road. Two miles from the turn you come to another “T” intersection. The branch to the south will take you two miles to the Lone Pine Ranch, the final site of Higho. The branch to the north will, in a mile and a half bring you to another ranch on the west side of the road and somewhat downslope from the county road. This location matches the 1900 location for Higho. If you continue ahead on this road you are on the way to the site of the Zirkel Post Office but that is another story that will conclude my adventures in Jackson County.

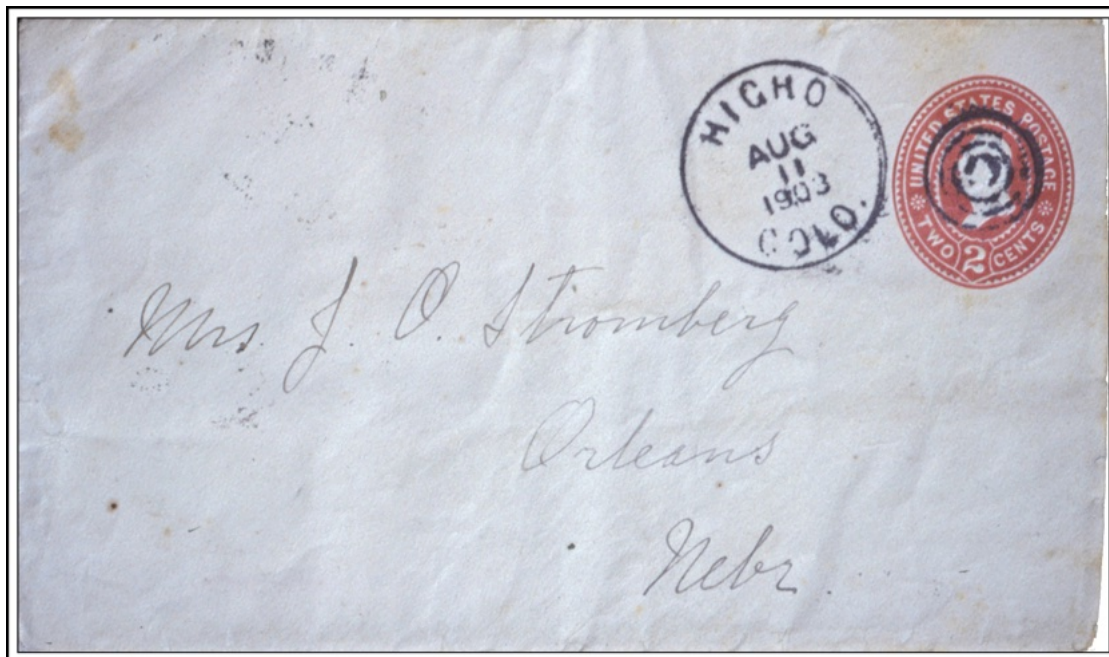
Latitude = 40:44:19 North Longitude = 106:28:37 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Oct 24 1888 --- SE/4 Sec 14 T9N R81W  
Proposed postmaster - Ida Ellen Shippey
- Jun 14 1889 Established
- Jun 14 1889 Shippey, Ida E.
- Jan 31 1900 Discontinued
- Mar 3 1900 --- NW/4 Sec 16 T9N R81W About 100 yards west of the North Fork of  
the North Platte River  
Proposed postmaster - Eva J. Flinian
- Apr 14 1900 Re-established
- Apr 14 1900 Flinian, Eva J.

**HIGHO – Continued**

Oct 1 1901 Bergquist, Ester  
 Apr 28 1914 --- NW/4 NE/4 Sec 14 T9N R81W  
 300 feet east of the South Fork of the North Platte River  
 May 23 1921 --- NW/4 Sec 20 T9N R81W 400 yards east of Lone Pine Creek  
 A move 2-1/2 miles southwest from previous site  
 Jun 2 1921 Carlstrom, Fred G.  
 Jul 24 1930 Ordered closed  
 Aug 15 1930 Discontinued Mail to Walden



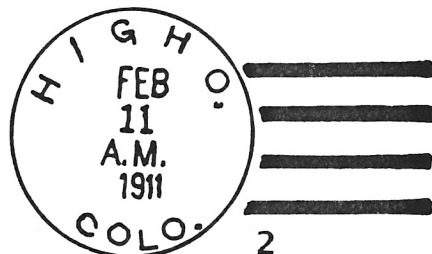
**HIGHO / COLO. August 11, 1903**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

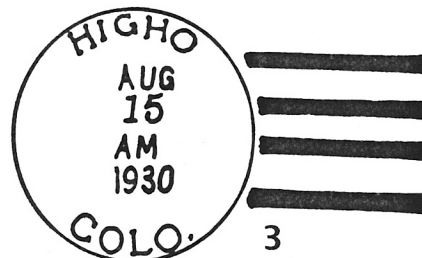
- |   |                               |                          |                         |
|---|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | HIGHO / COLO.<br>CI 10p 28.0  | Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm | Apr 29 1893 Dec 4 1909  |
| 2 | HIGHO, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm          | Feb 11 1911 Feb 4 1919  |
| 3 | HIGHO / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0  | 4bars S-??x??mm          | Aug 15 1930 Aug 15 1930 |



1



2



3

**KINGS CANYON**

Kings Canyon was originally a ranch and a rest stop for freighters coming into North Park from Wyoming. It was also on the route chosen by the Laramie, North Park, and Western Railroad when it built into the Park to tap the timber and coal resources of the area. Later it became a stop for the occasional tourist entering the park from that direction.

The post office was named for W. W. King who owned and operated the roadhouse. The original Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report was submitted with the name Nelson. That was deleted and Kings Canyon was substituted. That may indicate a local favor for the name Nelson, which might explain why on a 1970 map the location is labeled as Camp Nelson.

Kings Canyon is located on Colorado Highway 127 approximately three miles east-northeast of the junction of Colorado Highways 125 and 127. It is in a small valley where Laramie Creek from the north joins Pinkham Creek from the east, at the entrance to a the short but narrow gorge through which Pinkham Creek flows before it enters North Park.

The railroad grade is still present and there are a few older buildings on the north side of the highway. To the east side there is small ranch complex.

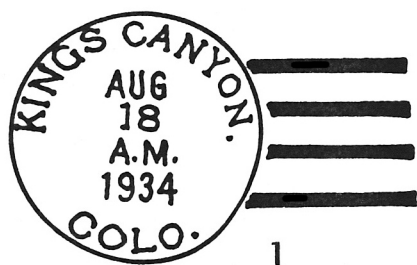
Latitude = 40:55:37 North Longitude = 106:13:35 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Mar 17 1928 --- SE/4 NW/4 Sec 14 T11N R79W 300 yards north of Pinkhampton Creek  
Sketch map places it on north side where a creek crosses the railroad  
Applicant for postmaster - Albert B. Lawson
- Jun 13 1928 Established
- Jun 13 1928 Lawson, Albert B.
- Aug 7 1936 Ordered closed
- Aug 31 1936 Discontinued Mail to Cowdrey

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 KINGS CANYON, / COLO. Jun 9 1934 Aug 31 1936  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



**LARAND**

The only description of Larand that I have found describes it as a stop on the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railroad. From visiting the site I believe that it was probably used to load livestock for shipment out of North Park. There may have been an associated ranch but there is no evidence for any substantial settlement.

The location is where the old railroad grade of the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railroad crosses Colorado Highway 125 between Rand and Walden almost eight miles due south of Walden. It is in a wide shallow valley at the east end of Peterson Ridge. [SRM: The Geographic Site Location Report places it 5 miles south of railroad.]

**LARAND – Continued**

When I visited the site in 1991 I found a few scattered pieces of lumber but nothing else, other than the abandoned railroad grade. [SRM: This is the site of the Larand Station, not the post office]

Latitude = 40:37:21 North Longitude = 106:17:32 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 12 1914	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 21 T7N R79W South side of L.H. & P Railroad at a distance of 5 miles Railroad station name is Larand
Oct 8 1914		Established
Oct 8 1914		Miller, Henry C.
Jun 21 1915		Oauk, Raymond H.
Aug 15 1916		Discontinued Mail to Walden

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**LINDLAND**

Lindland was another of the short-lived post offices along the Michigan River and the road from Walden to Cameron Pass. Reproduced below is a letter from the Peter Altfillisch, Lindland's only postmaster in which he explains the origin of the name and states that they only operate the post office during the summer months. That fact leads to a conclusion that Lindland was likely a resort operation catering to summer visitors and fishermen.

The location is a little more than three miles southeast of the site of Haworth and perhaps five miles northwest of Gould. There is a modern residence on the east side of Colorado Highway 14 and some evidence of more extensive activity in the past.

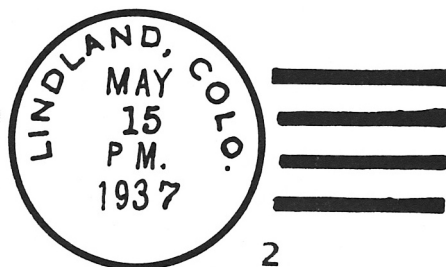
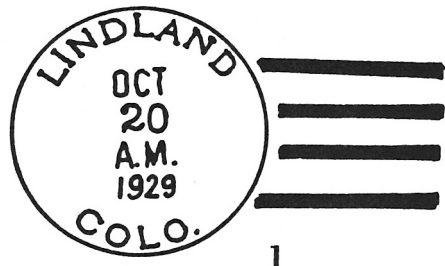
The Geographic Site Location Report for Lindland indicates that there was an interest in reviving the name Haworth but for some reason that was rejected in favor of Lindland. That should not be taken as an indication that Haworth and Lindland were at the same place - they were not.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 6 1922	---	NW/4 Sec 7 T7N R77W 1/2 mile west of the Michigan River 1/4 mile west of Peterson Creek Applicant for postmaster - P. L. Altfillisch
Sep 18 1922		Established
Sep 18 1922		Altfillisch, Peter L.
Apr 14 1937		Ordered closed effective Apr 30 1937 Mail to Walden
Apr 16 1937		Modified
May 15 1937		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	LINDLAND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 20 1929 Oct 20 1929
2	LINDLAND, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	May 15 1937 May 15 1937



**LINDLAND – Continued**

From the *COLORADO PROSPECTOR* - Volume 8, Number 4, Page 3

741 King St.  
Denver, Colo.  
Feb. 5/35

Colorado Historical Society  
State Museum, Denver, Colo.

Dear Sirs:

In reply to your inquiry relative origin of the name known as Lindland, Colo. will say. It originated from P. O. Inspector in charge at Denver, at the time the office was established.

His name being Lindland. Lindland is close by a large Bald mountain known as Custer also just below Custer at this point, the Michigan flows abundant with trout.

Lindland has been established about 13 or 14 years. We operate the P.O. only in the summer months. I have not my records with me for reference since I only abide there during the summer. Trusting this will be of some help.

I am yours truly,  
P. L. Altfillisch P. M.

Lindland, Colo.

**MASON**

Mason was a small camp on the stage road over Cameron Pass to Teller City. It also seems that there was a minor amount of placer mining in the vicinity. With the cessation of activity at Teller City Mason also ceased to exist.

In the twentieth century the site began to redevelop as a guest ranch and eventually a new post office, first named Peneold but quickly changed to Gould was established.

The site of Mason is on present day Colorado Highway 14 and as best I can determine it was immediately south of the Gould Store in the area currently occupied by the privately operated Aspen Campground and tourist cabins. There is no obvious evidence of the earlier activity.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 19 1880</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed Land At junction of East Creek with Forks of the Michigan</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Frederick B. Parker</b>
<b>Jul 8 1880</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 8 1880</b>		<b>Parker, Frederick B.</b>
<b>Oct 5 1880</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**MICHIGAN**

There are numerous references to Michigan in the historical literature of Colorado. All agree that it was a briefly active mining camp on the road over Cameron Pass and into North Park. However, there is confusion as to precisely where the camp was located.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is of some help as it refers to specific streams. But even that is not precise as I have not been able to locate Michigan Creek on any of the maps that I possess. I have interpreted that reference to be equivalent to North Michigan Creek, the stream that flows out from the North Michigan Creek Recreation Area about two miles north of Gould.

**MICHIGAN – Continued**

If this is correct, there is no visible evidence of mining activity along the stream. The valley is heavily covered with willows that obscure any sign of what would have been placer mining.

To visit the area, drive north from Gould on Colorado Highway 14 two miles to where the highway makes a sharp left turn. Follow the signs to the North Michigan Creek Recreation Area.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 23 1880	---	1/8 mile north of the Michigan River and 1/8 mile north of Michigan Creek Lulu seven miles southeast	No other information
Jul 26 1880		Established	
Jul 26 1880		Clark, James A.	
Nov 30 1880		Keay, Wilbur P.	
Jun 9 1881		Toney, James	
Feb 23 1882		Discontinued	Mail to Chambers

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**NORTHGATE**

Northgate was a ranch post office north of Cowdrey and on the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railroad. It seems probable that it was also a shipping point for livestock.

The post office opened in 1913 during the time that there was no post office at Cowdrey. It did last a few years beyond the re-opening of the Cowdrey Post Office but could not sustain its business in competition with the larger Cowdrey community.

There is still a modest sized ranch at the site of Northgate.

The site is almost equidistant, two miles, between Cowdrey and the intersection where Colorado Highway 125 turns west towards Rawlins and Highway 127 goes east to Laramie. The ranch is on the east side of the highway and about a quarter mile from the highway. The entrance to the ranch is just south of where the grade of the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railroad crossed Highway 125.

Latitude = 40:53:09 North    Longitude = 106:17:37 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

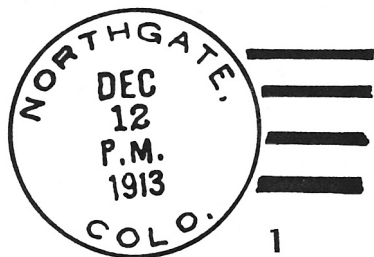
Oct 11 1911	---	NW/4 Sec 32 T11N R79W North Platte River 2 miles west	
		Government Creek 1 mile south	
Jan 16 1912		Established	
Jan 16 1912		Payne, Arthur, W.	
Feb 15 1918		Discontinued	Mail to Cowdrey

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1    NORTHGATE, / COLO.  
CI 10P 32.0

Mar 31 1913    Dec 12 1913

4bars S-25x19mm





**NORTHGATE – Continued**



**Occupied ranch at the site of Northgate, Colorado**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer                      September 15, 1998

**OTIS**

Otis was the earliest of the four ranch post offices located in the northern part of Jackson County. Valdai, Cowdrey, Northgate and the re-established Cowdrey followed it.

The location is somewhat uncertain but it appears to have been located two and a half miles west of present day Cowdrey and west of the North Platte River.

To reach this location, drive west from Cowdrey on the road to Pearl and the site of Bighorn. A very short distance beyond the last of the bridges over the North Platte River a poor dirt road goes to the south and southwest. About a mile down this road there is some evidence for a couple of buildings having once been present on the east side of the road. No structures remain and the age of this activity is uncertain.

The post office only lasted three months, which lends credence to there having been only minimal activity at Otis.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 3 1881	---	Unsurveyed One mile west of the North Platte River Pinkhamton is 18 miles east of the proposed office Proposed postmaster - Cecil R. Laurence
Feb 15 1881		Established
Feb 15 1881		Lawrence, Cecil R.
May 16 1881		Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**OWL**

Owl has been described as a settlement west of Lindland and between the Michigan and Illinois Rivers. The *1910 Colorado Business Directory* gave the population as five. This, along with the location in an open area of rolling hills and grasslands would qualify Owl as a ranch post office.

The settlement was named for nearby Owl Mountain.

Four miles north of Gould and a mile or so south of the locations of Lindland and Dryer a dirt road goes west from Colorado Highway 14, eventually to Rand on Colorado Highway 125. This road runs almost due west for three miles, then curves around the north end of a ridge before dropping down to cross Owl Creek. On the east side of the bridge over Owl Creek a side road goes to the northwest along the creek. A half mile from the turn-off there are three abandoned buildings on a low bluff on the east side of the road. There is also a small gravel pit just beyond the buildings. This was the site of Owl



**Abandoned cabin at the site of Owl, Colorado**

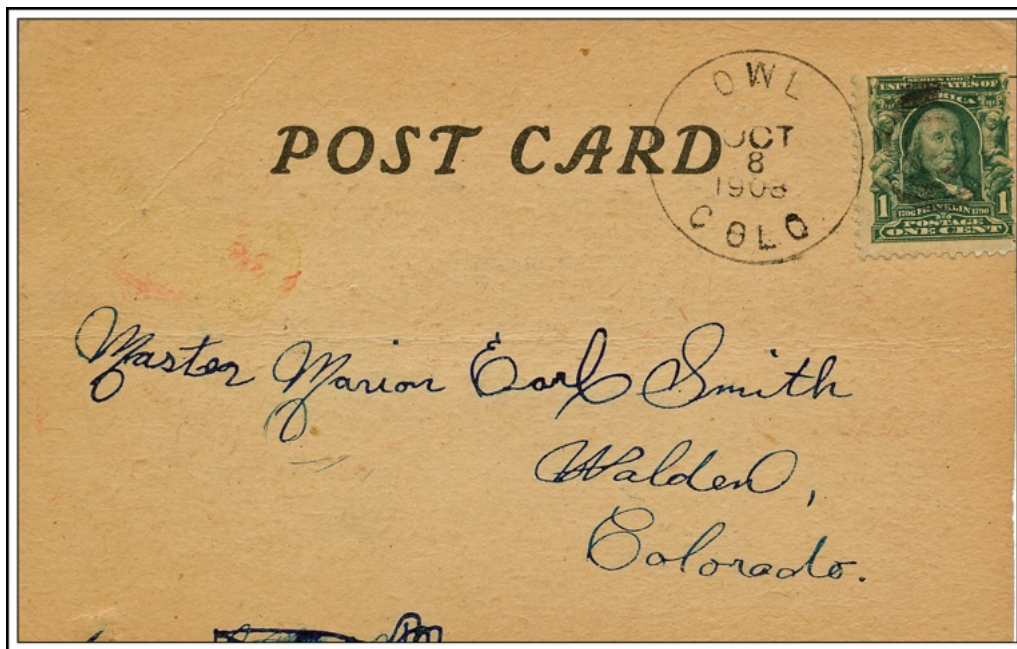
Photograph by William H. Bauer

July 3, 1991

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Dec 1 1899  | --- | SW/4 Sec 15 T7N R78W 3 miles east to the Michigan River<br>On the west side of Owl Creek This is an obvious error in direction from Michigan Creek (W. H. B.) The sketch map does show it on the west side of Owl Creek but also west of the Michigan River<br>Proposed postmaster - August Speck |
| Dec 26 1899 |     | Established   |
| Dec 26 1899 |     | Speck, August   |
| Oct 31 1918 |     | Discontinued Mail to Walden   |

**OWL – Continued**

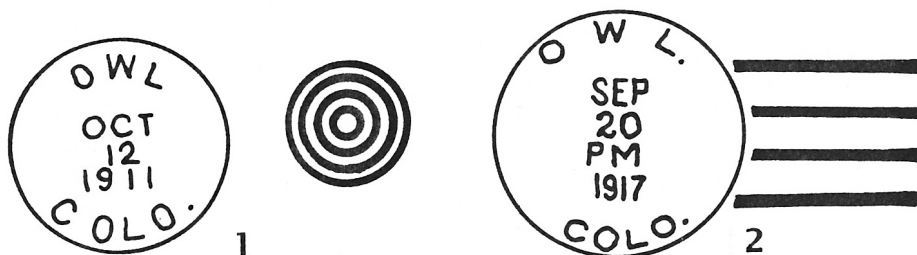


**OWL / COLO.**

**October 8, 1908**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |                             |                          |                         |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | OWL / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm | Oct 8 1908 Oct 12 1911  |
| 2 | OWL, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm          | Jun 21 1913 Sep 20 1917 |



**PARK RANGE**

The Jackson County file of Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports does contain a document for a proposed Park Range Post Office. There is no further indication that the post office was authorized but I am including it here, for the record.

The location given for Park Range places it on the far western edge of Jackson County and south of the road from Hebron over Buffalo Pass to Steamboat Springs.

If this is correct, it would have been some two miles to the south and east of a side road that leads to the Hidden Lakes-Stambaugh Reservoir complex. There are ruins of two log cabins in that area.

Another possibility would place it about a mile further east at a ranch on Little Grizzley Creek. Access to that location is by way of another road to the south that starts two miles east of the road to the Hidden Lakes.

**PARK RANGE – Continued**

Park Range was apparently intended to serve lumbering operations on the Park Range from whence came the proposed name.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 7 1913 --- NE/4 Sec 4 T6N R82W South Fork of Little Grizzly Creek 1-3/4 miles northeast Crosby Creek 5/8 miles east of proposed office The sketch map would further point to the NW/4 of the NE/4 of Sec 4

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PARK RANGE

**PAULUS**

Paulus has not been mentioned in any of the material I have read that relates to the history of North Park.

The site given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is at the far northern edge of Jackson County, almost within sight of the Colorado-Wyoming State line.

As Colorado Highway 125 approaches the state line it is out in a broad, open valley used for livestock grazing. A mile and a half south of the state line, a road to the west angles off from the highway for a short distance and then goes due west almost two miles before entering the timber on the east slope of Independence Mountain. Just after entering the timber the road curves to the north to a small ranch hidden in the timber. There are a few buildings there and the ranch was occupied (1991). The first building along the road is a log structure on the east side of the road. According to the residents this building housed the Paulus Post Office when it was active during the 1920's.

This rather remote location is an indication that Paulus was a ranch post office that for a few years served residents of an area along the Colorado-Wyoming border.

The source of the name is unknown; however, the Site Location Report originally requested the name Six Mile, a reference to the location a short distance south of Sixmile Creek.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 17 1920 --- Sec 25 T12N R81W 1/4 mile south of Six Mile Creek  
Applicant for postmaster - Herbert J. Wills  
Dec 16 1920 Established  
Dec 16 1920 Wills, Herbert J.  
Oct 9 1933 Ordered closed  
Oct 31 1933 Discontinued Mail to Cowdrey

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PAULUS

**PEARL**

There were many attempts at mining within what is now Jackson County. However, all but one were abandoned within at most a couple of years after their discovery. The exception was the copper mining activity at Pearl in northern Jackson County.

Pearl is located in Big Creek Park, near the border with Wyoming. The Wheeler brothers, Luke, Bill and Bob first homesteaded the area in 1884. The presence of copper ore was recognized early but at the time it was of little value and there was no attempt at exploitation. The community of Pearl developed as a ranch community with a post office to serve the scattered ranches in the Big Creek Park area.

**PEARL – Continued**

About 1900 Charles Knapp acquired much of the land and founded the Pearl Mining and Smelting Company and began development of the copper deposit. The principal mine was the Zirkel located on the South Fork Big Creek, about three miles southwest of the community of Pearl. There were other lesser mines in the area, including the Swede Group Mines two miles to the south of Pearl.

A smelter was constructed at the mouth of the creek and the smelter stack was still standing in 1991. The ore was largely copper but the smelter also produced minor amounts of zinc, lead, silver and gold. During the mining period Pearl grew to a modest company town for the workers at the mine and the smelter. There were several businesses, a blacksmith, a printing office, a town hall and an elected mayor.

The good ore lasted only a few years before it was exhausted and as shipping costs exceeded the value of the remaining low-grade ore, the mining ceased.

With the end of the mining most of the residents departed Pearl and it returned to its earlier economy based on ranching. There are still a few scattered buildings which have been maintained as residences.

There are two versions of the naming of Pearl. One version claims that it was named for a daughter of Benjamin Franklin Burnett who was supposedly one of the founders. Another daughter of Burnett, Lulu, is the namesake of Lulu City in Grand County. The problem with this version is that there does not appear to be any solid connection between Burnett and the activity at Pearl.

The second version claims that the name was for Pearl Wheeler, the first postmaster of Pearl. The problem here is that the name Pearl Wheeler does not appear in the list of appointed postmasters for Pearl. The first postmaster was one Edward E. Wheeler. Was he another of the Wheeler brothers and was Pearl his wife or was she a sister of the clan? It does seem more logical that the town and post office were named for a Pearl Wheeler, no matter who she might have been.

From Cowdrey, drive west on the road that passes the site of Big Horn. It is some fifteen miles to Pearl with its scattered buildings. If you look closely at the edge of the timber on the east side of Big Creek Park you should see some remains of the smelter. In addition there should be a sign directing campers to Big Creek Lake.

Latitude = 40:59:07 North Longitude = 106:32:47 West [SRM: For 1914 site]

**Chronology of the Post Office**

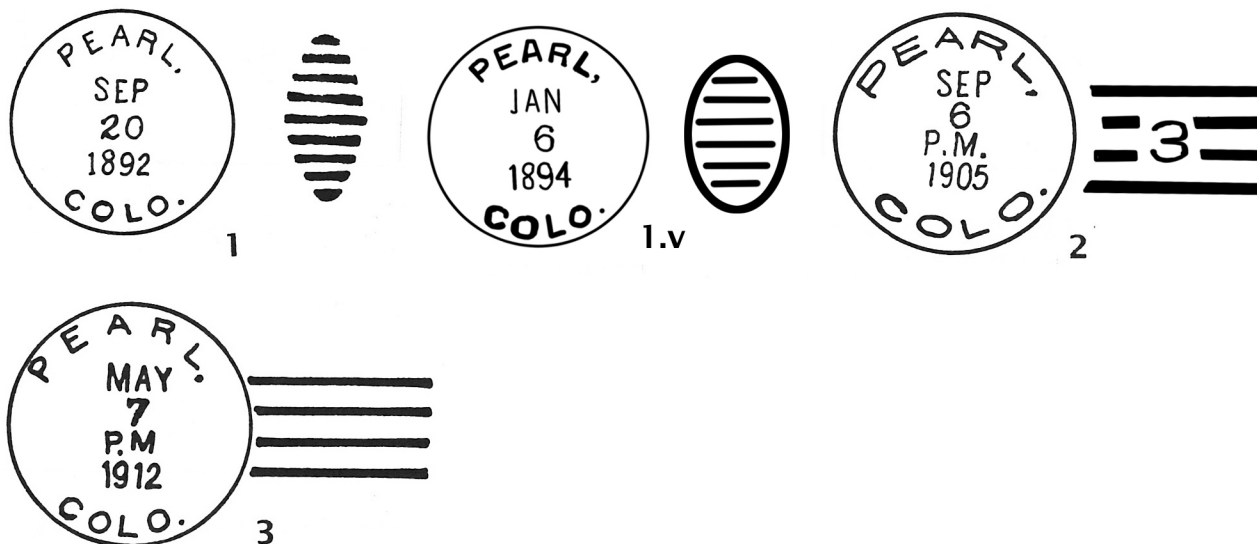
<b>Dec 29 1888</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>E/2 SE/4 Sec 31 T12N R81W Two (?) miles east of Big Creek</b>
		<b>Proposed postmaster - Edward E. Wheeler</b>
<b>Jan 19 1889</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jan 19 1889</b>		<b>Wheeler, Edward E.</b>
<b>Aug 26 1889</b>		<b>Robinson, Mary H.</b>
<b>Jun 11 1891</b>		<b>Elmes, Maud</b>
<b>Jun 8 1905</b>		<b>Crawford, Mark</b>
<b>Jan 9 1906</b>		<b>Willford, Ollie J. S.</b>
<b>Jul 11 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Change site 2 miles W (attached note)</b>
<b>Jul 13 1914</b>		<b>Rhea, Carrie</b>
<b>Aug 30 1919</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Cowdrey</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

<b>1</b>	<b>PEARL, / COLO.</b>		<b>Sep 20 1892</b>
	<b>CI 10P 29.0</b>	<b>Hstp Grid, 9 bar oval</b>	
<b>1.v</b>	<b>PEARL, / COLO.</b>		<b>Jan 6 1894</b>
	<b>CI 10P 29.0</b>	<b>Hstp, 6-bar oval</b>	

## PEARL – Continued

2	PEARL, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Sep 6 1905 May 8 1909
		Doane Type 3 with a 3
3	PEARL, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	Dec 27 1910 Jun 16 1914
		4bars S-24x13mm



## PENEOLD

The history and location of this post office have been described under Gould so please refer to that discussion. Suffice it to say here that Peneold was the first name given to the post office that was soon renamed Gould. It also appears that the intention was to name the place Penfold but the Post Office Department erred in the spelling.

The post office did operate at Peneold for three months. The majority of the recorded Peneold postmarks are last day postmarks and are often in combination with first day postmarks for Gould.

## Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 9 1937	---	SW/4 Sec 34 T7N R77W Michigan River 100 yards west of post office
Feb 2 1937		Established
Feb 2 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice
		Confirmed
Feb 17 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice
		Commissioned
Feb 26 1937		Hoskinson, Mrs. Alice
		Assumed charge
Mar 29 1937		Name changed to Gould effective Jun 1 1937

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PENEOLD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Feb 27 1937 May 31 1937
		4bars S-23x18mm
2	PENEOLD, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	May 31 1937
		Hstp No killer

**PENEOLD – Continued**



**PINKHAMTON**

James O. Pinkham, a French-Canadian, was one of the earliest settlers to locate in the North Park area. He built a log, fort-like structure that eventually became a stage station, roadhouse and the Pinkhamton Post Office, the first in North Park. Some references credit him with bringing the first herd of cattle into North Park in 1874 or 1875.

The location for Pinkham that is given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is puzzling. It places Pinkham near the northern edge of the triangle formed by the state line and Colorado Highways 125 and 127. This is within the boundaries of the Routt National Forest.

The sketch map that accompanies the 1911 Site Location Report for Northgate also shows the location of Pinkhamton, but at a location a mile or so south of the later Kings Canyon site.

The published literature on the history of North Park provides only a partial resolution to the problem. H. D. Hampton, in his article *With Grinnell in North Park* states: "Two or three hours of riding brought us to Pinkham's Ranche, where the park begins. The road forks here, the left hand branch leading along the east side of the Park down to the Owl Creek mines and the various passes across the range into Middle Park."

Stephen Payne in his history of the North Park, *Where The Rockies Ride Herd* includes a comment: "...to J. S. King's ranch, to which the Pinkhamton post office had been moved, for the mail." This implies that the Pinkhamton Post Office was indeed near Kings Canyon, but that move, is not included in the Geographic Site Location Reports. John S. King was the last postmaster of Pinkhamton.

Lee Whitely, in his fine history *The Cherokee Trail* describes a location for Pinkhamton that fits with the location shown on the Northgate sketch map. When he visited the site there was still a building there. In September 1998 I attempted to locate that building. It was no longer standing when I visited but I did find a foundation and scattered debris from an old house. This was on Jackson County Road 6, one and two-tenths miles south from Colorado Highway 127 at Kings Canyon.

In conclusion, I believe that Pinkhamton was at the location I visited and that this is the site that best fits with the historically reported locations. This does not preclude the possibility that the 1879 Geographic Site Location Report was also correct and the post office moved from there.

The post office was named for James. O. Pinkham, whose name was also given to Pinkham Creek and to Pinkham Mountain.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

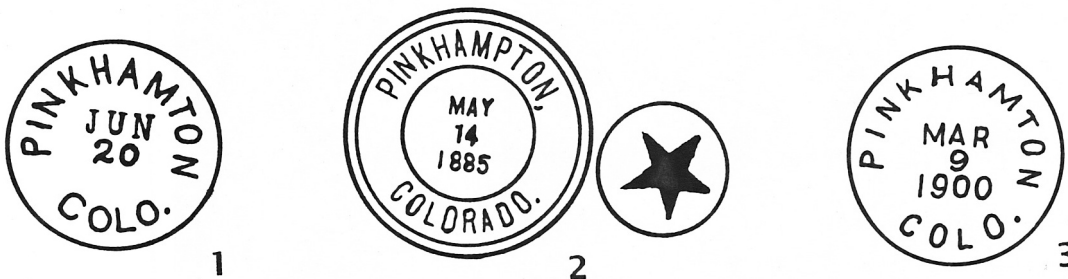
- Oct 18 1879 --- Sec 30 T12N R79W About six miles east or right of the North Platte  
Eight miles west of Beaver Creek Sketch map shows it at junction of roads to  
Hahns Peak and Tyner, plotted at center of section  
Proposed postmaster - James Pinkham  
\*\*\*\* The sketch map that accompanies the report for Northgate shows  
Pinkhamton in the SW/4 Sec 23 T11N R79W
- Oct 24 1879 Established

**PINKHAMTON – Continued**

Oct 24 1879	Pinkham, James
Feb 17 1882	Berry, Fifield
Mar 22 1886	Lawrence, John N.
Jul 16 1886	Boyer, Gertrude A.
Jun 29 1887	Moore, Miss Mary
Jul 6 1888	Kinney, George E.
May 9 1889	Moore, Mary L.
Mar 6 1890	Bolza, Maurice E. A.
Jun 26 1890	Masterson, Elizabeth
Oct 5 1894	Hendrickson, David
Nov 30 1898	King, John S.
Aug 30 1904	Ordered closed
Sep 15 1904	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	PINKHAMTON / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Jun 2 1889 Oct 12 1889 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
2	PINKHAMPTON, / COLORADO. CI 21P 32.0/29.0/18.0	May 13 1882 May 14 1885 Hstp Fancy, positive star-in-circle
3	PINKHAMTON / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 9 1900 Hstp Not present

**RAND**

Rand came into existence about 1883, supposedly when Charles Rand established a ranch in the southern end of North Park. A small community developed around his ranch and there are still a few scattered houses in the vicinity of the original location.

As with many Colorado towns there is controversy as to exactly who should be considered the namesake of the town. For Rand, one group claims that it was named for Jack Rand a frontier scout and trapper. Others support the choice of the early rancher Charles Rand. A third possibility is George Rand who was the first postmaster.

The Geographic Site Location Report indicates a preference to name the post office Willow. That name was rejected and Rand was assigned. Since George M. Rand was the proposed postmaster, it seems most likely that the Post Office Department made the choice of name in his favor.

The post office at Rand has been at several locations, all of which are within a short distance of the junction of Colorado Highway 125 with the road from Rand east to Gould. Four locations are described in the chronology below. Only the last of these (1914) is of visual interest. My first visit to Rand was in the fall of 1972. The post office was in an attachment to a slowly deteriorating log building in the northeast corner of the previously mentioned road intersection. My next visit was in 1991 and the post office had moved a half-mile south to a new, typical rural post office building. The old log building was still there but had been cleaned up and become an attractive residence.



**RAND – Continued**

Rand is well marked and continues to survive as a tiny community on Colorado Highway 125, with a couple of businesses that provide some service to residents and ranchers in this end of North Park.

The earliest postmarks from Rand are inscribed, "Rand / North Park, Colo." and are recorded from 1884. At that time North Park was a part of Larimer County and there was a movement by the residents to separate from Larimer County and become North Park County. The movement was fueled by the lengthy and difficult trip from North Park that was necessary to reach the Larimer County seat in Fort Collins. Perhaps the unusual postmark was connected to an effort that failed.

Latitude = 40:27:14 North Longitude = 106:10:51 West



**For many years the Rand Post Office was located in this building.  
The post office is now located about one-half mile to the south.  
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 22, 2002**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Jul 28 1883 | --- | NE/4 SW/4 Sec ?? T6N R78W From sketch map it is plotted in the SW/4 NE/4 Sec 16 4 miles east of the Illinois River 50 yards south of Indian Creek<br>Proposed postmaster - George M. Rand |
| Sep 3 1883  |     | Established   |
| Sep 3 1886  |     | Rand, George M.   |
| Nov 13 1886 |     | Discontinued Mail to Haworth  |
| Apr 28 1887 | --- | SW/4 Sec 32 T6N R78W 1 mile northeast of the Illinois River<br>1/2 mile southwest of Willow Creek<br>Proposed postmaster - Mary E. Shomber  |

## RAND – Continued

Jun 2 1887	Re-established	
Jun 2 1887	Shomber, Mary E.	
Jul 26 1889	Wythe, Carrie F.	
Oct 15 1892	Dow, Jessie	
Sep 8 1899	Munroe, Jane	
Dec 21 1908	---	From: NW/4 Sec 19 T6N R78W To: SE/4 SE/4 Sec 30 T6N R78W A move 2-1/2 miles east of previous site
Jan 18 1909	Ish, Alice V.	
Sep 3 1913	Jurgenson, John	Confirmed
Nov 6 1913	Jurgensen, John	Commissioned
Nov 20 1913	Jurgensen, John	Assumed charge
May 23 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T6N R78W 100 yards north of Willow Creek
Sep 22 1935	Jurgensen, Mrs. Marie	Assumed charge
Oct 12 1935	Jurgensen, Mrs. Marie	Acting
Nov 15 1935	Jurgensen, Mrs. Marie	Confirmed
Dec 5 1935	Jurgensen, Mrs. Marie	Commissioned
Sep 11 1936	Ridings, Troy G.	Assumed charge
Sep 16 1936	Ridings, Troy G.	Acting
Sep 26 1936	Ridings, Troy G.	Appointed & Confirmed
Oct 19 1936	Ridings, Troy G.	Commissioned
Oct 28 1936	Ridings, Troy G.	Assumed charge
Aug 26 1937	Lemons, Oscar D.	Appointed & Confirmed
Sep 14 1937	Lemons, Oscar D.	Commissioned
Sep 21 1937	Lemons, Oscar D.	Assumed charge
Apr 16 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Possession
Apr 17 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Assumed charge
May 6 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Acting
Oct 25 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 29 T6N R78W Illinois River 1 mile northeast
Nov 4 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Appointed & Confirmed
Nov 27 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Commissioned
Dec 3 1941	Howard, Mrs. Alice H.	Assumed charge
Dec 30 1966	Ridings, William G.	Possession, Acting
Jun 22 1967	Mosman, Mrs. Dorothy May	Commissioned
Jun 30 1967	Mosman, Mrs. Dorothy May	Assumed charge

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	RAND, / NORTH PARK, COLO. CI 20P 32.0/30.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Aug 18 1884 Dec 8 1884
2	RAND, / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target	Aug 29 1890 Mar 6 1891
3	RAND, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not present	May 31 1895
4	RAND / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 15 1898 Jan 3 1902
5	RAND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Doane Type 3 with 2, P-23x14mm	Jul 26 1906 Apr 22 1911
6	RAND, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 23 1914
7	RAND, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Dec 2 1937 Oct 21 1944
8	RAND / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 21 1948
9	RAND / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Aug 27 1955

**RAND – Continued**

10	RAND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jun 28 1951 Oct 10 1962
11	RAND, CO / 80473 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 7 1968
12	RAND, CO / 80473 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Aug 21 1969 Sep 15 1975
13	RAND, CO / 80473 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 8 1986 Sep 2 1997
14	RAND, CO / USPO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 2 1991



**RAND, / NORTH PARK, COLO.**

**December 1, 1884**



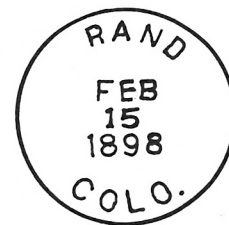
1



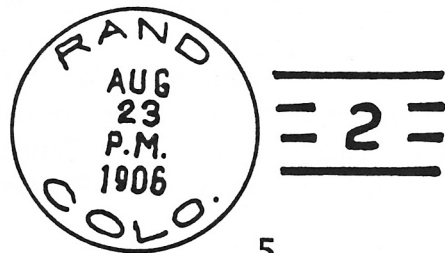
2



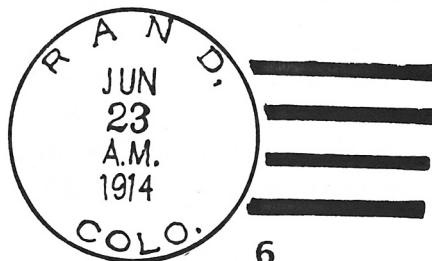
3



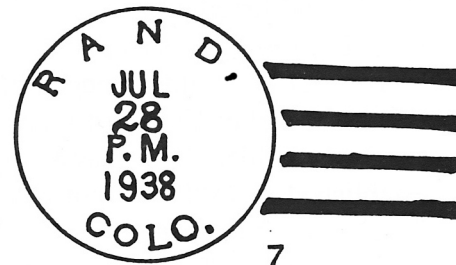
4



5



6

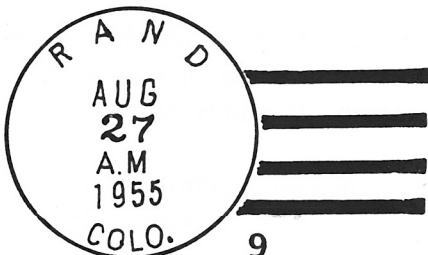


7

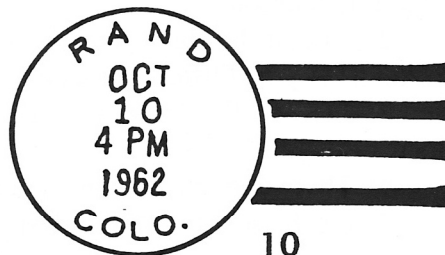
## RAND – Continued



8



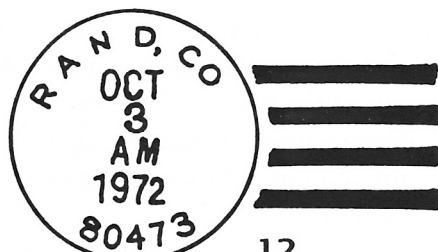
9



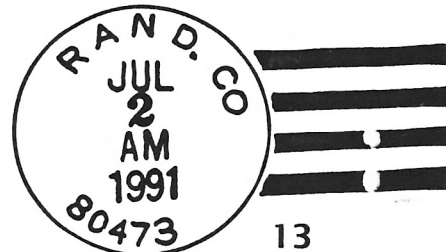
10



11



12



13



14

## RUCTION

Any discussion of Ruction has to involve the history of Walden. The story of Walden is not as clear as one might think. There are at least three other names involved with Walden: Dunham, Sagebrush and Sage Hen Springs.

From the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports it is clear that the Walden Post Office was once several miles to the southeast of the present day town of Walden. The 1881 and 1884 reports place Walden on the east side of the Michigan River and of Owl Creek. By 1914 a Site Location Report places the Walden Post Office at its present location.

The early post office in the area has been referred to as Dunham reportedly for Otto Dunham. Otto Dunham is recorded as the Walden postmaster from July 1882 to October 1883. Mr. Dunham followed Marcus Walden, who was the first postmaster of Walden (February 1881 - July 1882).

The lengthy series of articles, *Place Names in Colorado*, that appeared in the *Colorado Magazine* from 1940 to 1943 states that, "...the settlement was first known as Sagebrush. The present name honors Mark (sic) A. Walden, one time postmaster at Sage Hen Springs, some four miles southeast of Walden. When the Teller City Post Office was discontinued (1882 or 1883) it was moved to the site of the present town of Walden." So, now we have to bring Teller into the discussion. But, the Teller Post Office, established in 1880 was not discontinued until December 16, 1885, more than four years after the Walden Post Office first opened.

Confused? So am I. Therefore I offer the following scenario.

**RUCTION – Continued**

1. The Teller Post Office opened June 17, 1880. It was at the end of the stage line from Laramie through Pinkhamton.
2. One of the stage stations was at Sage Hen Springs, which was probably on the ranch of Marcus A. Walden. A post office was established there and named for Marcus A. Walden.
3. In 1885 the Teller City Post Office closed. It simply ceased operations and it was not moved to Walden's ranch.
4. There may have been an early settlement named Sagebrush at what is now the town of Walden.
5. On August 1, 1889, a post office named Ruction was opened at Sagebrush. George W. Seifert was the postmaster. In June 1892 Mr. Seifert sought to be appointed postmaster of Walden but he was not commissioned. This does support the proposition that Ruction and the current Walden were the same place.
6. The Ruction Post Office closed on September 16, 1889. On that date or shortly thereafter, the Walden Post Office moved to Ruction and that settlement became Walden. The 1889 year date agrees with the accepted date for the establishment of the town of Walden.
7. There have never been post offices named Dunham, Sagebrush or Sage Hen Springs in Colorado.

All of this is made slightly more difficult as in my reading of the history of North Park and Colorado I have found no reference to a town of Ruction.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 20 1889	---	SW/4 Sec 21 T9N R79W One mile south of the Michigan River
		Proposed postmaster - George W. Seifert
Aug 1 1889		Established
Aug 1 1889		Seifert, George W.
Sep 16 1889		Discontinued Papers to Walden

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**SPICER**

Spicer was never an organized community but that did not prevent it from having a post office that seems to have been passed frequently from one rancher to another over the course of its life. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports contain six different locations for the Spicer Post Office.

The area where these sites are located is ranchland along Grizzly Creek and Colorado Highway 14 after it has completed the descent from Rabbit Ears Pass. Although the valley has widened out the topography is still rolling hills.

For a stretch of about three miles, Highway 14 follows the creek almost due east. The road then turns almost due north for about two miles. The locations of Spicer commence in this north-south section and continue for another four miles towards Walden. All of the plotted locations are to the west of the highway. Several ranches, including the Van Valkenburg Ranch, are visible from the highway and almost all of them were home to the post office at some time from 1884 to 1954. The area is advertised as "The Spicer Ranches" and has also been known as "Spicer Park."

The name is attributed to Nickols Spicer whom, it is claimed, was instrumental in obtaining the post office. However, Mr. Spicer was never the postmaster for Spicer.

The Van Valkenburg Ranch is the closest to the highway. It was the post office location in 1905. The other ranches are set back on private roads that may be gated off.

**SPICER – Continued**

Latitude = 40:28:00 North Longitude = 106:27:20 West

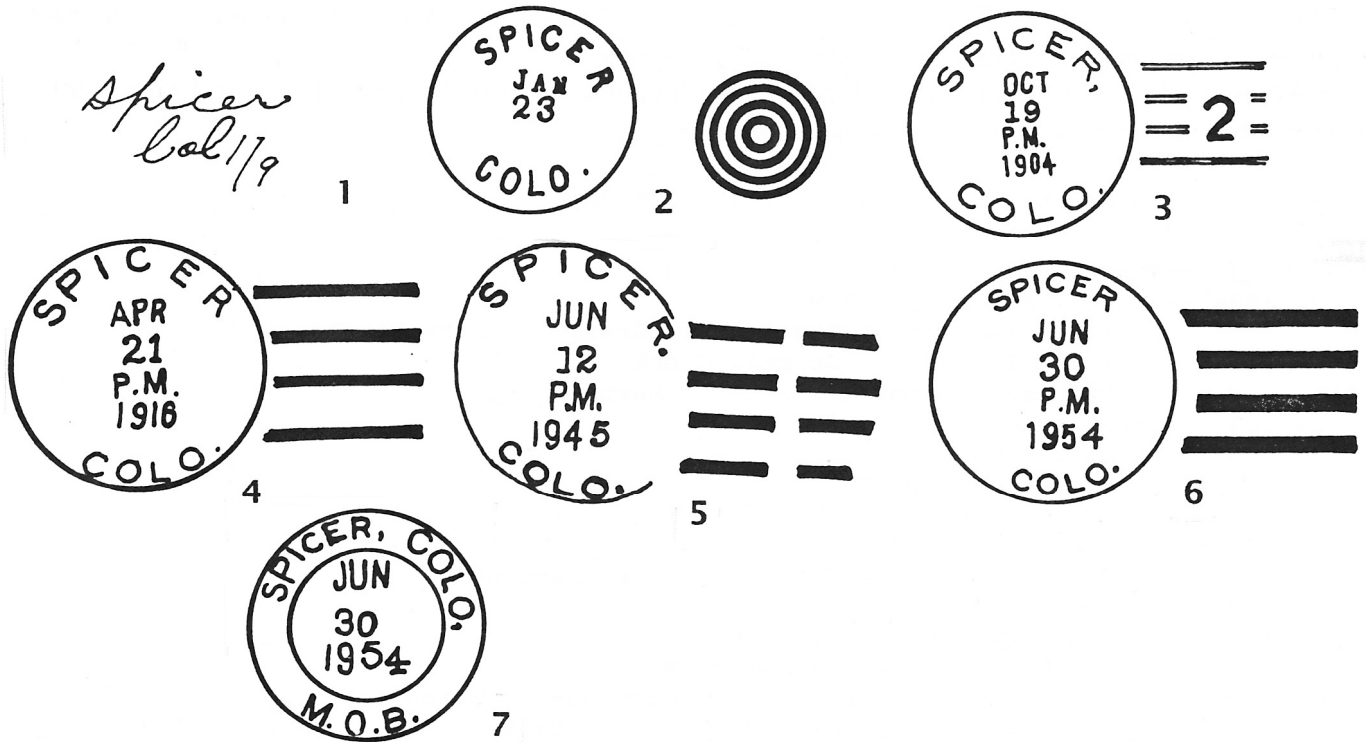
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 20 1884	---	SE/4 Sec 1 T6N R81W 1/2 mile west of Big Grizzly Creek or North Platte 1/2 mile west of Grizzly Creek Proposed postmaster - James Murphy	
Apr 29 1884		Established	
Apr 29 1884		Murphy, James	
Sep 1 1899		Monroe, Joseph V.	
Dec 15 1900		Larson, Lars	
Apr 23 1903		Coyte, Ralph M.	
Nov 14 1903		Cockrane, Thomas	Order rescinded
Apr 23 1903		Coyte, Ralph M.	
Jan 6 1905	---	From: SW/4 Sec 23 T6N R81W To: W/2 NW/4 Sec 13 T6N R81W A move 1 mile northeast of previous location Proposed postmaster - William H. Graham	
Feb 18 1905		Graham, William H.	
May 11 1906		Coyte, Ralph M.	
Dec 7 1909		Murphey, Joseph A.	
May 1 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 26 T6N R81W 100 yards west of the North Platte 1/2 mile west of Arapahoe Creek	
Dec 27 1920	---	NW/4 Sec 13 T6N R81W 1/2 mile east of Big Grizzly Creek	
Jan 14 1921		Van Valkenburg, Edward	
Jul 4 1922	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T6N R81W 500 feet east of Grizzly Creek A move 3 miles south of previous location	
Jul 15 1922		McNamara, Flora M.	Confirmed
Aug 29 1922		McNamara, Flora M.	Commissioned
Oct 1 1922		McNamara, Flora M.	Assumed charge
Oct 25 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 26 T6N R81W Arapahoe Creek 1/2 mile east Grizzly Creek 1/8 mile west of office	
Jun 10 1954		Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1954		Discontinued Mail to Coalmont	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	Spicer / Col. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jan 9 1890
2	SPICER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Jan 23 188- Jan 19 1890
3	SPICER, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Doane Type 2 with 2, S-??x13mm	Oct 19 1904 Nov 1 1908
4	SPICER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm (from very poor photocopy)	Oct 26 1914 Apr 21 1916
5	SPICER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 17 1938 Jun 12 1945
6	SPICER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Mar 29 1947 Jun 30 1954
7	SPICER, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 30.0/19.5	Hstp No killer	Jun 30 1954

SPICER – Continued



**TELLER**

The mining camp of Teller lasted only a few years but it has been the subject of more comment in the writings on Colorado history than settlements that lasted a great deal longer. Part of this is its remote location in the canyon of Jack Creek, only a few miles from Lulu City on the other side of the Continental Divide and the Never Summer Mountains. Another factor in the popularity of Teller (City) is its rapid rise to a claimed population of as many as 1,300 and its precipitous abandonment. Legend has it that the abandonment was so quick that food was left in dishes setting on the tables. The high cost of transportation of the mined ores also contributed to the failure of Teller.

The mining activity commenced in 1879 and the ore, while it lasted, was rich in silver and copper. The discovery is attributed to Madore Cushman, locally known as "Old Cush." Cushman's deed to the town site was the first such deed recorded in Grand County. Teller was connected to the outside world by a crude road over the Divide to Lulu City and by a lengthy stage road north to Laramie, Wyoming. A third route was over Cameron Pass and down the Cache La Poudre to Fort Collins.

It is claimed that Teller had a lavish hotel, many businesses, twenty-seven saloons and numerous parlor houses. It must have been some party while it lasted!

Teller was named for Henry M. Teller who was a Colorado Senator for thirty years and also served as Secretary of the Interior under President Chester Arthur.

To reach the site of Teller, begin on Colorado Highway 125 approximately two miles southeast of Rand. Jackson County Road 121 goes east from that point. Five miles from Highway 125 a Forest Service Road branches to the left. This fork is at or near the site of the Crescent Post Office. From the fork it is four miles to Teller. This part of the road may or may not be in good condition. It travels along Jack Creek and during the spring or storm runoff it might be rather swampy.

**TELLER – Continued**

The route is marked and there is a campground at the site of Teller. Some remnant log structures were still present in 1998 but there seemed to be less than on my first visit in 1991.

A hundred yards or so beyond the obvious site of Teller the road forks. The road to the east goes over Calamity Pass to Lily Lake then down the South Fork of the Michigan River to Gould. I have not driven this road but I suggest you do not attempt it unless you have a 4-wheel drive vehicle.

The other fork continues south up Jack Creek and will take you to the site of Tyner. This is most definitely a 4-wheel drive road.

Latitude = 40:26:00 North Longitude = 106:00:10 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 17 1880	---	Unsurveyed On east side of Jack Creek Tyner 4 miles southeasterly Proposed postmaster - Frank D. Yates
Jul 19 1880		Established
Jul 19 1880		Yates, Frank D.
Apr 13 1881		Tompkins, Eugene
Aug 9 1881		Cohen, Eugene S.
Jan 8 1883		Springer, John G.
May 26 1884		Schwarz, Robert
Nov 17 1884		Cushman, Madore
Dec 16 1885		Discontinued Papers to Rand



TELLER, / COLO.

June 30, 1884

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	TELLER, / COLO. CI 20P 33.0/29.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 1 1881
2	TELLER, / COLO. CI 20P 30.0/28.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star; Target, 4-ring 18mm	Jul 24 1882 Jun 30 1884



**TELLER – Continued**



1



2



**TYNER**

Tyner was another mining camp located on the upper reaches of Jack Creek. At first it was thought that the ore found there would rival that found at Teller but that was not to be the case. The peak population at Tyner was estimated to be no more than 100.

With transportation problems even greater than those of the mines at Teller, Tyner was soon abandoned.

Kenneth Jessen in *Ghost Towns Colorado Style - Volume One - Northern Region* discusses Teller, Tyner and Crescent. He places Tyner north of Teller, at or near the site of Crescent. He briefly mentions a place he names Park City as being south of Teller and that there are two partially collapsed cabins at that site. I believe he is in error and that this reference should be to Tyner.

To reach the site of Tyner, follow the directions to Teller. At the fork just beyond Teller, keep to the right and continue south up Jack Creek. Three miles from Teller you will reach another fork in the road you are now at the site of Tyner. However, there is little evidence that this was once a mining camp. The area is heavily wooded, but with a little exploration along a trail and some 100 yards into the forest I did find the remains of a cabin sitting on a small bluff above Jack Creek. The location is in a narrow, steep-sided canyon and unless there has been major improvement since 1998 this is a rough 4-wheel drive road.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 18 1879	---	Unsurveyed	As near as can be ascertained T6N R80W On the right hand bank of Jack Creek
Oct 24 1879		Established	
Oct 24 1879		LaFevre, Jonathan	
Jul 20 1881		Discontinued	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**VALDAI**

Valdai is another of the short-lived post offices in Jackson County that have escaped mention in the historical literature of the area.

The location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Valdai two miles west of present day Cowdrey and just before the road from Cowdrey crosses the North Platte River. There is a large, operating ranch on the north side of the road at this location. I believe this was the site of Valdai and that it was a ranch post office that for a short time served residents in a large area where Pinkhamton was the only other active post office.

**VALDAI – Continued**

If you continue west on this road you will pass the site of Big Horn and eventually reach the site of Pearl.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 23 1888	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T10N R80W 1/2 mile east of North Platte 2 miles west of Government Creek Name originally proposed as Lindsey Proposed postmaster - George Birkett
Jun 14 1889		Established
Jun 14 1880		Birkett, George
Dec 23 1889		Birkett, Livona
May 11 1892		Discontinued Mail to Pinkhamton

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	VALDAI / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Nov 4 1891
		Hstp Not present

**WALDEN**

The early history of Walden has been previously reviewed in the convoluted discussion of the post office at Ruction. Please refer to that section. To add a touch more confusion to the matter, the initial Geographic Site Location Report indicates that the preference in names for this post office was either Michigan or Willow. The Post Office Department rejected those suggestions and chose to name the office for its first postmaster, Marcus A. Walden.

Initially Walden was a combination ranch and stage station on the stage route that originated in Laramie, Wyoming, entered Colorado on the eastern side of North Park, ran though Pinkhamton and terminated at Teller City on Jack Creek in the south end of what is now Jackson County.

In July 1991 I decided to investigate the early location for Walden. From the center of Walden I drove east a couple blocks on Colorado Highway 14. Where Highway 14 turns south, I continued due east for four miles. The road then angles to the southeast. Another two miles brought me to a side road south, the entrance to the Owl Creek Ranch. I drove into the ranch and met the lady who resided there. After I explained my mission to her, she told me that yes, there had been an early stage station in the meadow about a quarter mile south of the present ranch buildings. She indicated there was nothing left at that location. With that information I began to get a somewhat clearer picture of the history of early Walden. Once the stages had no reason to go south to Teller City, activity at the stage station and the post office shifted west to what is now well known as Walden.

Following the move to the present location on the modern Colorado Highways 14 and 125, Walden began to develop and soon became the major population and commercial center for North Park. Walden was incorporated December 2, 1890. When Jackson County was formed, Walden was designated the county seat on June 3, 1909. As we move into the twenty-first century, Walden still holds that position.

**WALDEN – Continued**

Since its establishment, ranching and associated agriculture have been a significant player in the economy of Walden. Until fairly recently, Walden was also the site of a large lumber mill processing timber from the mountain forests that surround North Park. That industry continued to support the Colorado, Wyoming and Eastern Railroad, even after coal mining at Coalmont ended and the tracks to Coalmont were removed. A more recent and growing factor in the economy of Walden is tourism: hunting, fishing, camping and just enjoying the scenery of North Park.

Any of the major roads, from north, south or east that enter Jackson County will eventually bring you to Walden.

Latitude = 40:43:54 North Longitude = 106:16:59 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 2 1881	--	Not reported On the east side of the Michigan River 1/4 mile east of Owl Creek Proposed postmaster - Marcus A. Walden	
Feb 28 1881		Established	
Feb 28 1881		Walden, Marcus A.	
Jul 26 1882		Dunham, Otto	
Sep 5 1882		Dunham, Otto	
Oct 22 1883		Richards, Henry H.	
Feb 7 1884	--	NW/4 Sec 5 T8N R78W 3/4 mile east of the Michigan River 1-1/4 mile east of Owl Creek Sketch map agrees	
Aug 17 1889		Peaslee, Harriet A.	
Dec 19 1891		Docker, Mrs. Harriet A.	
Jun 22 1892		Seifert, George W.	Not commissioned
Jul 21 1892		Baugh, Harry L.	
May 28 1895		Mosman, Clarence E.	
Jun 27 1899		Walker, Mary	
May 28 1895		Mosman, Clarence E.	
Feb 5 1913		Wilkins, Florence A.	
Apr 25 1914	--	SW/4 S/4 Sec 21 T9N R79W	
Oct 1 1916			Office made Presidential
Dec 20 1916		Osier, Ernest A.	P&S [Apptd by President & confirmed by Senate]
Jul 1 1921		Coen, Samuel	Acting
Nov 17 1921		Coen, Samuel	Acting
Dec 14 1925		Coen, Samuel	Acting
Mar 12 1926	--	SE/4 Sec 20 T9N R79W	
Mar 18 1930		Coen, Samuel	P&S
Jun 15 1934		Norris, Byron M.	Nominated
Jun 18 1934		Norris, Byron M.	Confirmed
Jul 19 1934		Norris, Byron M.	Commissioned
Jan 28 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Acting
Jan 31 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Assumed charge
Jul 22 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Nominated
Jul 27 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Confirmed
Jul 30 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 24 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Commissioned
Aug 31 1937		Riddle, Henry R.	Assumed charge
Oct 21 1941	--	SW/4 Sec ? T9N R79W	
Oct 29 1941		Riddle, Henry R.	Nominated
Nov 6 1941		Riddle, Henry R.	Confirmed
Nov 7 1941		Riddle, Henry R.	Appointed Presidential
Jan 9 1942		Riddle, Henry R.	Commissioned
Jan 31 1942		Riddle, Henry R.	Assumed charge

WALDEN – Continued

Aug 31 1950	Riggen, Mrs. Virginia M.	Acting
May 1 1952	Hankins, Delbert P. Jr.	Nominated
May 21 1952	Hankins, Delbert P. Jr.	Confirmed
May 22 1952	Hankins, Delbert P. Jr.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 31 1952	Hankins, Delbert P. Jr.	Assumed charge
Oct 5 1979	Griffith, Charles D.	Officer in charge
Dec 15 1979	Wigington, Mrs. Sue C.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

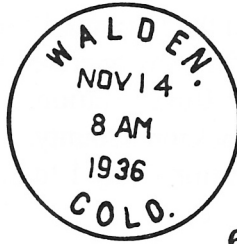
1	WALDEN, / COLO. CI 11P 26.5/18.0	Hstp Not present	May 29 1882 Jan 13 1890
2	WALDEN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Mar 26 1889 Apr 2 1894
3	WALDEN / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 11 1899 Mar 5 1902
4	WALDEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x14mm	Mar 30 1908 Sep 17 1912
5	WALDEN / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jun 6 1933 Jun 14 1933
6	WALDEN, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Jun 25 1935 May 22 1950
7	WALDEN / COLO. RC 10P 39.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	--- -- 194-
7.1	WALDEN, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x16.5	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box	1950s
		<b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b>	
8	WALDEN / COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 28 1954 Feb 10 1969
8.1	WALDEN, CO / 80480 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Oct 7 1968 Dec 10 1971
9	WALDEN, CO / 80840 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 1 1967 Nov 6 1986
9.1	WALDEN, CO / 80840 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 15 1988
10	WALDEN, CO / 80480 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 3 1991 Jun 1 1993
11	WALDEN CO / USPO CI 11P 28.5/18.5	Hstp No killer	Jul 1 1991
12	WALDEN CO / 80480 CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-13x24mm	Sep 15 1998
13	WALDEN CO 80480 / USPS CI 11P distorted	Hstp No killer	Sep 15 1998



**WALDEN – Continued**



5



6



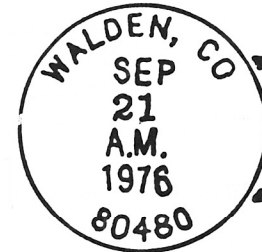
7



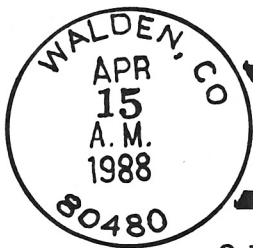
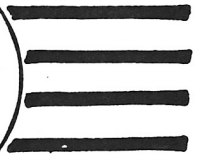
8



8.1



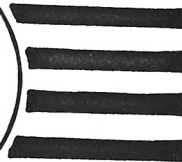
9



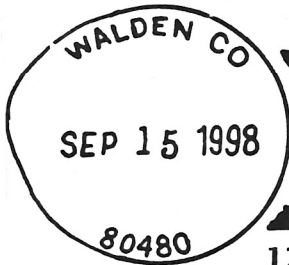
9.1



10



11



12



13

**WALDEN STATIONS  
COALMONT RURAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

-----      Converted to a Rural Station of Walden  
Dec 21 1983      Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**FOR POSTAL MARKINGS FROM COALMONT, PLEASE REFER TO THE LISTINGS UNDER COALMONT AS AN INDEPENDENT POST OFFICE.**

**LENDEVEY RURAL STATION**

Glendevy is located in Larimer County on the Laramie River. For many years it was an independent post office. From June 22, 1963 to April 23, 1965 it was operated as a Rural Station of Jelm Wyoming. On April 24, 1965 the authority over the Glendevy Rural Station was transferred to Walden, therefore it is appropriate to include that period here under Jackson County. From 1966 to the closing in 1975 the Glendevy Post Office was a summer only operation (May 1 to September 30).

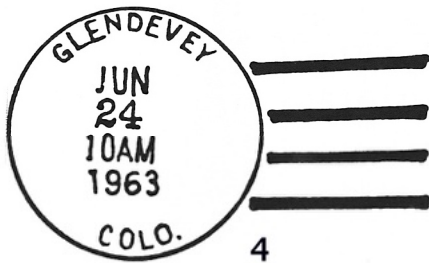
**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 24 1964 Became a Rural Station of Walden
- Feb 9 1966 Reclassified as a Rural Branch of Walden, summer only.
- Jan 31 1975 Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

Types 1, 2 and 3 will be listed under Glendevy as an Independent Post Office in Larimer County

- 4 GLENDEVEY / COLO. Jun 21 1963 Jun 24 1963  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm
- 5 JELM, WYO. GLENDEVEY RUR. STA. / USPO Jul 24 1963 Jul 29 1963  
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 Hstp No killer
- 6 GLENDEVEY, CO / 80485 Jul 12 1968 May 10 1971  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x19mm



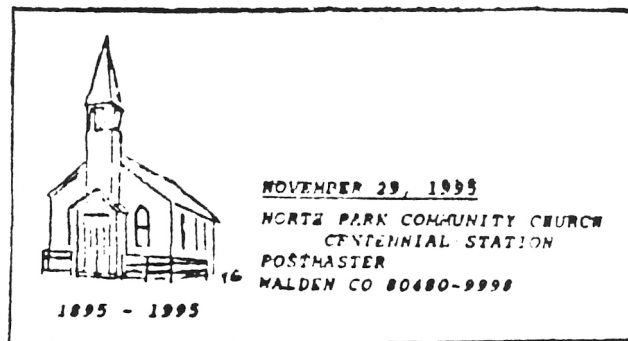
**NORTH PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH CENTENNIAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Nov 29 1995 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 WALDEN CO 80480-9998 // NORTH PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH / CENTENNIAL STATION  
Nov 29 1995  
RC 10P 80.0/45.0 Pict Scene - Church Building; 1895 - 1995 Station name:  
NORTH PARK COMMUNITY CHURCH /  
CENTENNIAL STATION



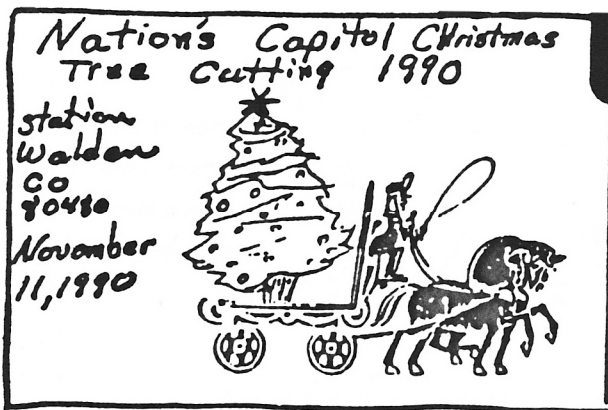
**WALDEN STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 11 1990 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station  
Dec 14 1990 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Walden/ CO / 80480 // Station<br>RC 10P 78.0x22.0     | Nov 11 1990<br>Pict Scene - Horses pulling wagon with Xmas Tree;<br>Text - Nation's Capitol Christmas / Tree Cutting 1990 |
| 2 | WALDEN, COLORADO 80480 // STATION<br>IR 00R 43.0x65.0 | Dec 14 1990<br>Pict Scene - Christmas Tree; Text - NATION'S<br>CAPITOL 1990 CHRISTMAS / TREE LIGHTING                     |



**NATION'S CAPITOL 1990 CHRISTMAS  
TREE LIGHTING**



**POSTMARK: WALDEN, COLORADO 80480  
DECEMBER 14, 1990**

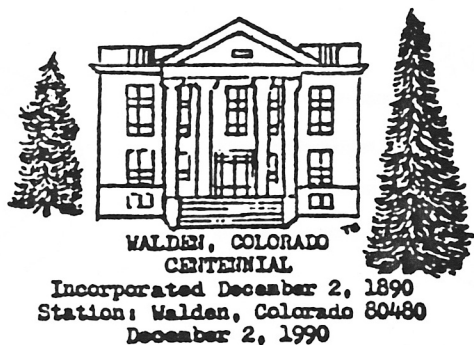
**WALDEN CENTENNIAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 2 1990 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | Walden, Colorado 80480 // Station<br>IR 00R 60.0x43.0 | Dec 2 1990<br>Pict Scene - Court House and trees; Text -<br>WALDEN, COLORADO / CENTENNIAL /<br>Incorporated December 2, 1890 |
|---|---|--|



1

## ZIRKEL

The name Zirkel appears on modern maps as the name of a mine about three miles southwest of Pearl and as that of Mount Zirkel (12,180 feet), on the Continental Divide at the head of Shafer Creek in Fryingpan Basin. Both of these have been mentioned in the history of Jackson County but neither had any direct relation to the post office named Zirkel.

It appears that Zirkel was another ranch post office located on Shafer Creek a mile west of where that stream joins the North Fork of the North Platte River.

The Geographic Site Location Report requested the name Shafer. That was rejected and the office was named Zirkel. It seems logical that it was so named for Mount Zirkel a few miles west of the ranch. It is claimed that the name was that of Ferdinand Zirkel, a German petrologist who was a member of the Fortieth Parallel Survey.

To reach the site of Zirkel, begin with the directions to the sites of Higo. Follow those instructions to the "T" intersection where the south branch goes to the Lone Pine Ranch. Take the north branch, past another site of Higo and continue north along the west slope of Sheep Mountain to a complex called Fort Boettcher which is a half mile to the west of the main road. I believe this a guest ranch as well as the operations center for the extensive Big Horn Ranches.

In all my travels in Colorado to visit post office sites, past and present, and in visiting more than 2,300 locations only once have I been chased out. The visit to Zirkel was that occasion.

I came up the county road from Higo and went past the Fort Boettcher and continued a short distance into a ranch yard. The road continued through the ranch yard and a fence. At the fence was a sign that indicated the end of the county road. OK. So, I turned around to the ranch buildings and knocked on doors trying to raise someone. The only respondent was a friendly dachshund. I looked at the road beyond the fence and feeling that it was too good to be a ranch road, in fact it was better than many of the county roads I had driven earlier in the day, so I decided to take my chances and proceed.

I soon passed some ranch hands working in a field but they seemed to pay me no mind. I continued on, encountering a couple of fishermen walking along the road. That gave me a little more confidence that I was on a public road, either county or Forest Service. At about four and a half miles the road turns west and crosses the river. From the turn I had come about three-quarters of a mile and was about to turn north again for the final short stretch to the Zirkel site, when I happened to look in my rearview mirror and discovered a large pickup truck with lights flashing.

I stopped and a ranch hand came to the car window. He asked what I was doing and informed me that I was on private property and should leave at once. I explained my purpose and that all I wanted to do was go to the site, observe what was there, take some pictures and then I would leave. After a few minutes of conversation he reluctantly agreed to let me go ahead, with him following. I did so, quickly took pictures, and headed back to safety. The ranch hand followed me all the way to where I had entered the private road. I did get my pictures but it was a hurry-up strike and with a few minutes more I could have done better.

There were still several buildings at the Zirkel site or as it is better known the Shafer Ranch. My escort did tell me that there were plans to rehabilitate and improve the site as a guest facility. I don't know for sure but perhaps by stopping at Fort Boettcher you could get permission to go to visit the Shafer Ranch.

### Chronology of the Post Office

<b>Mar 7 1899</b>	---	<b>NE/4 NW/4 Sec 12 T10N R82W 4 rods south of Shafer Creek From the sketch map it seems that the original request might have been for the name Shafer Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Susan Shafer</b>
<b>May 5 1899</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>May 5 1899</b>		<b>Shafer, Mrs. Susan</b>



**ZIRKEL – Continued**

Nov 23 1905	Shafer, Frank W.
Dec 8 1910	Hargreaves, Thomas
Dec 30 1911	Discontinued Mail to Higho

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**BIBLIOGRAPHY – JACKSON COUNTY****REFERENCES – BOOKS**

- ALDRICH, John K. *Ghosts of Northern Colorado*; 1988; Centennial Graphics; Lakewood, Colorado; 40pp; illus.; map
- BENSON, Maxine *1001 Colorado Place Names*; 1994; University Press of Kansas; Lawrence, Kansas; 237pp; sketches
- BLACK, Robert C., III *Island in the Rockies, The History of Grand County, Colorado to 1930*; 1969; Pruett Publishing Co.; Boulder, Colorado; 435pp; illus.
- BROWN, Robert L. *Colorado Ghost Towns, Past, Present*; 1973; Caxton Printers, Ltd.; Caldwell, Idaho; 371pp; illus.
- CROFUTT, George A. *Crofutt's Gripsack Guide of Colorado*, 1885; Overland Publishing Co; Omaha, Nebraska; Reprint: 1966; Cubar Associates; Golden, Colorado; 266pp; illus.; maps
- DAWSON, J. Frank *Place Names in Colorado*; 1954; J. Frank Dawson Publishing Co.; Denver, Colorado; 52pp
- EBERHART, Perry *Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps*; 1968; fourth, revised edition; Swallow Press; Chicago, Illinois; 496pp; illus.
- EICHLER, George R. *Colorado Place Names*; 1977; Johnson Publishing Co.; Boulder, Colorado; 109pp; illus.
- GRISWOLD, Don and Jean *Colorado's Century of Cities*; 1958; Smith-Brooks; 307pp; illus.
- JESSEN, Kenneth *Ghost Towns Colorado Style - Volume One - Northern Region*; 1998; J. V. Publications; Loveland, Colorado; 508pp; illus.; maps
- PAYNE, Stephen *Where The Rockies Ride Herd*; 1965; Sage Books; Denver, Colorado; 359pp; illus.
- WHITELEY, Lee *The Cherokee Trail*; 1999; Denver Posse of Westerners Merrill Mattes Brand Book; Johnson Printing; Boulder, Colorado; 161pp; illus.; maps

**REFERENCES – COLORADO MAGAZINE**

- HAMPTON, H. D., (Ed.) *With Grinnell in North Park*; Fall 1971, Vol. 48, No. 4, pp273-298, illus.
- PAYNE, John T as told to James R. Harvey *Early Days in North Park Colorado*; November 1937, Vol. 14, No. 6, pp230-232
- Place Names in Colorado* [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]  
Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

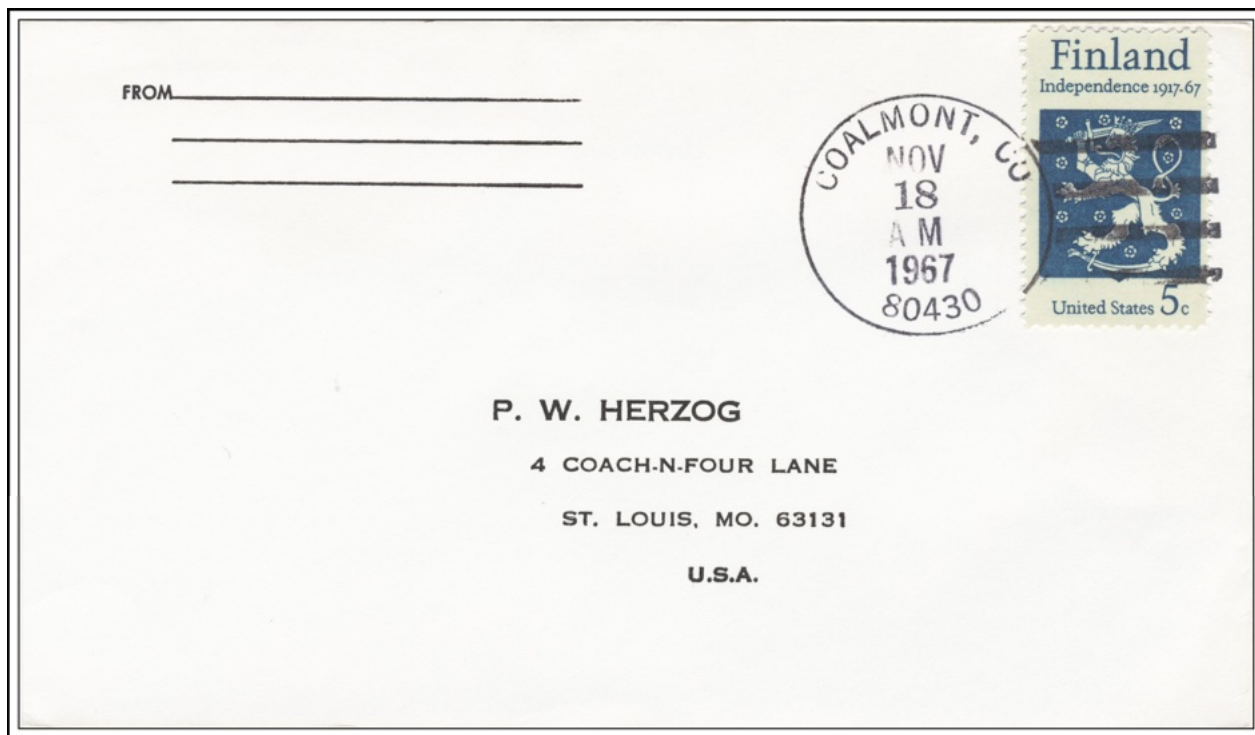
**ROGERS FILE**

This is a card file of information on places and place names in Colorado, collected by James Grafton Rogers. It is located at the History Colorado Center, Denver and is available on microfilm.

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

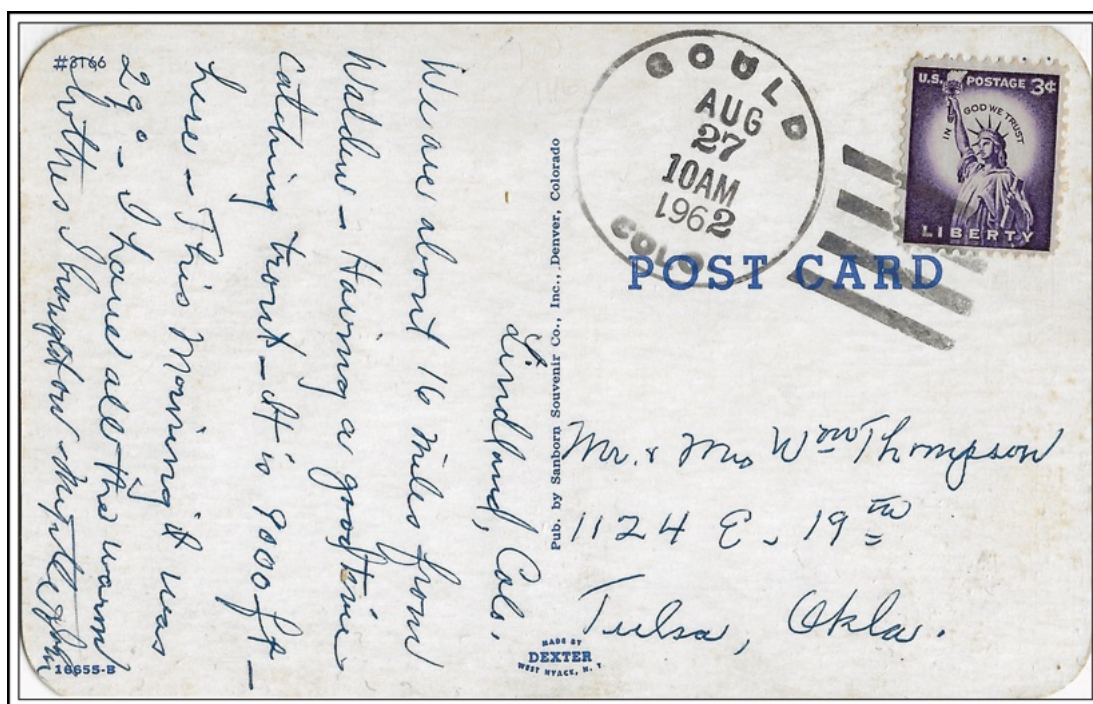
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF JACKSON COUNTY COVERS



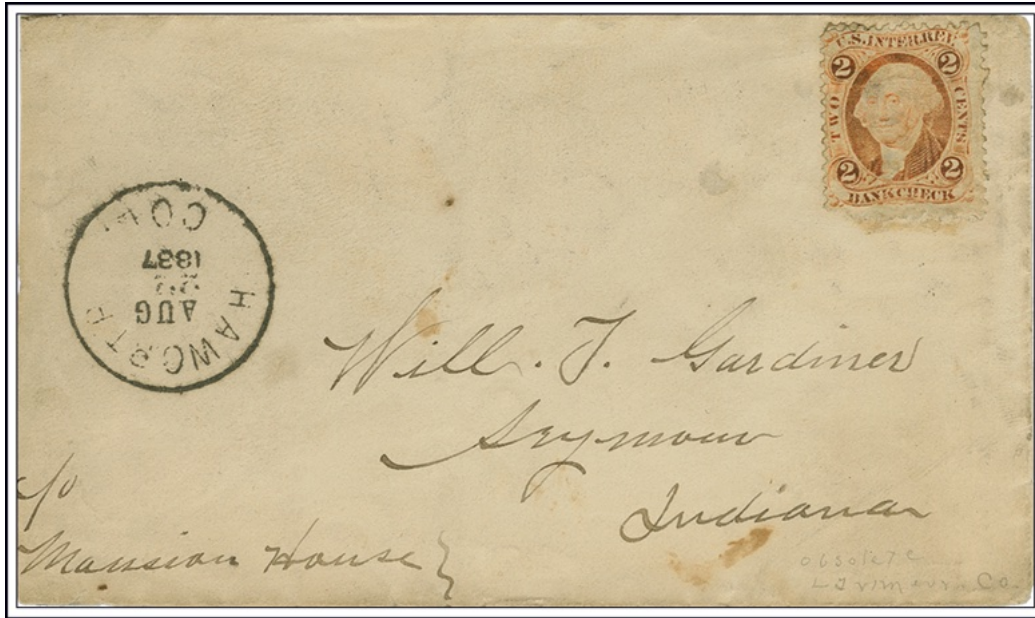
COALMONT, CO / 80430

November 18, 1967



GOULD / COLO.

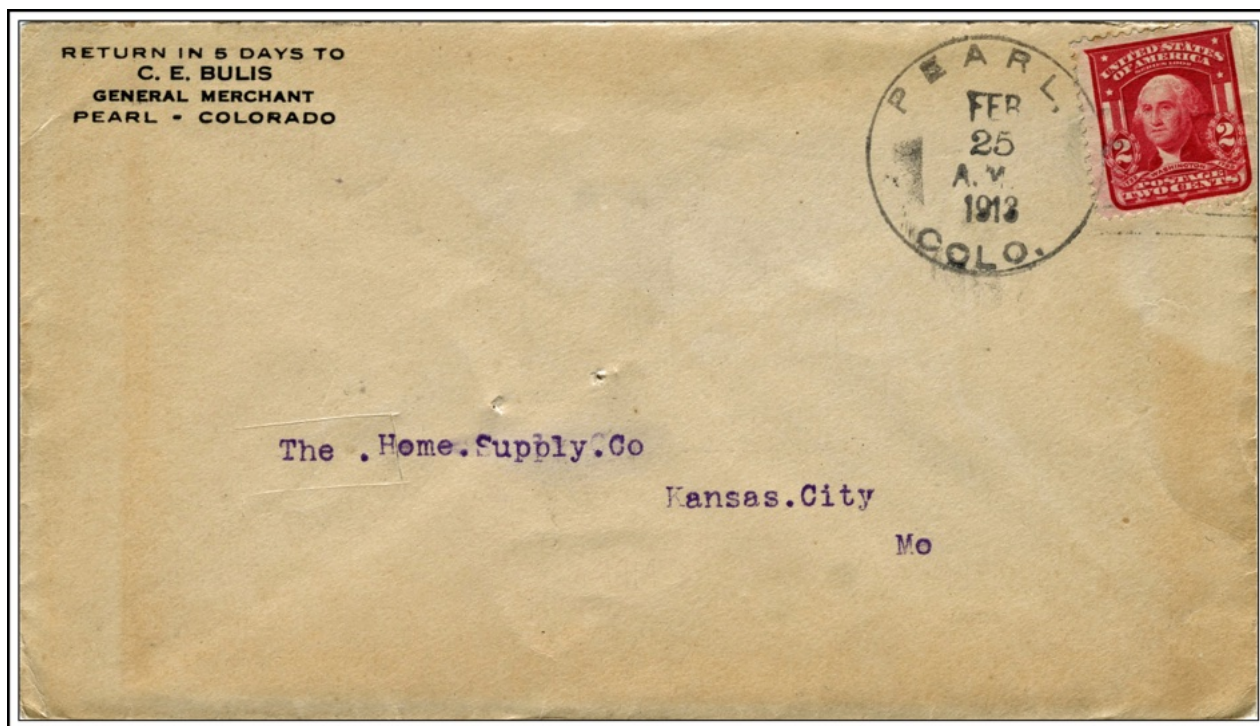
August 27, 1962



HAWORTH / COL. August 22, 1887 Note illegal use of revenue stamp



HEBRON, / COLO. October 29, 1909



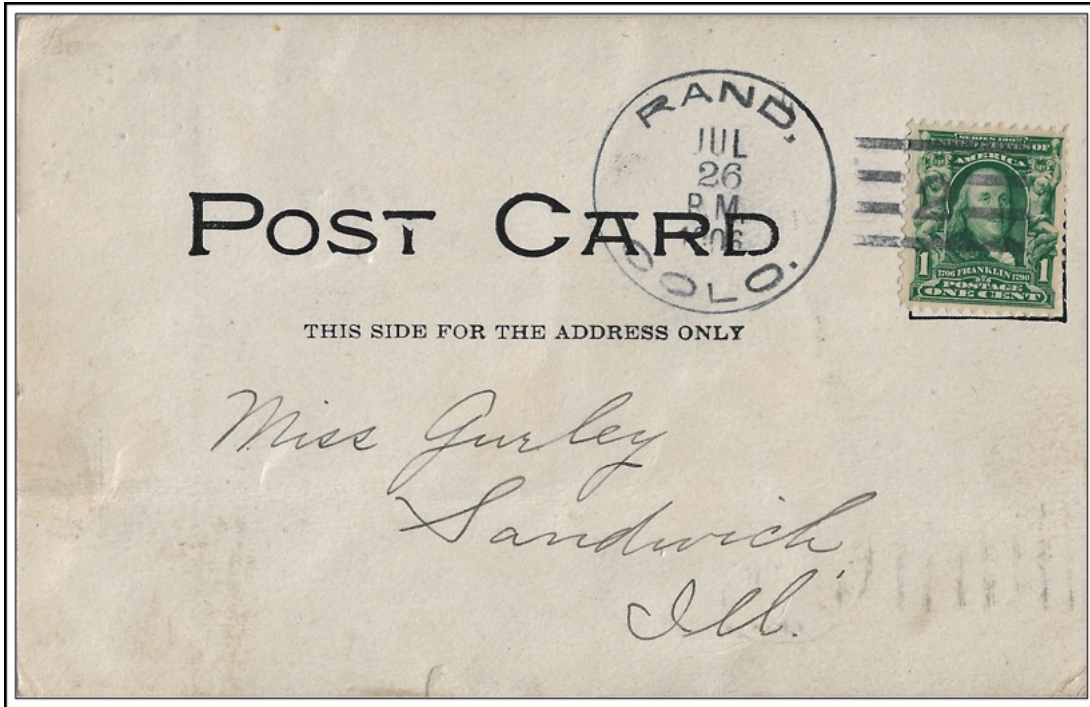
PEARL, / COLO.

February 25, 1912



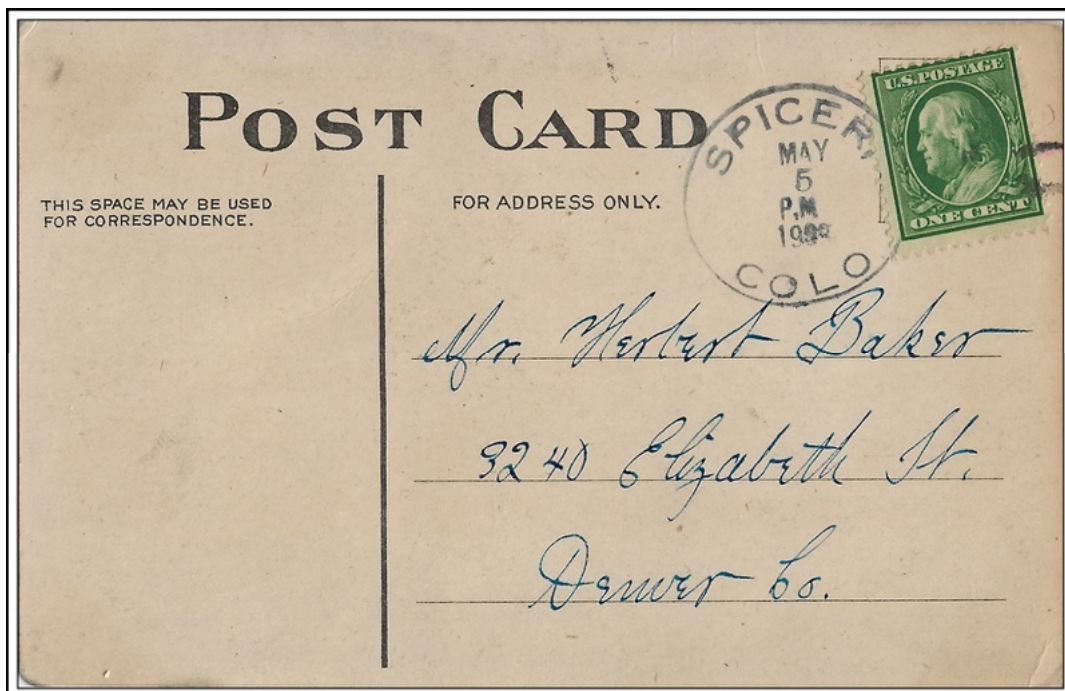
PINKHAMPTON, / COLORADO.

May 13, 1882



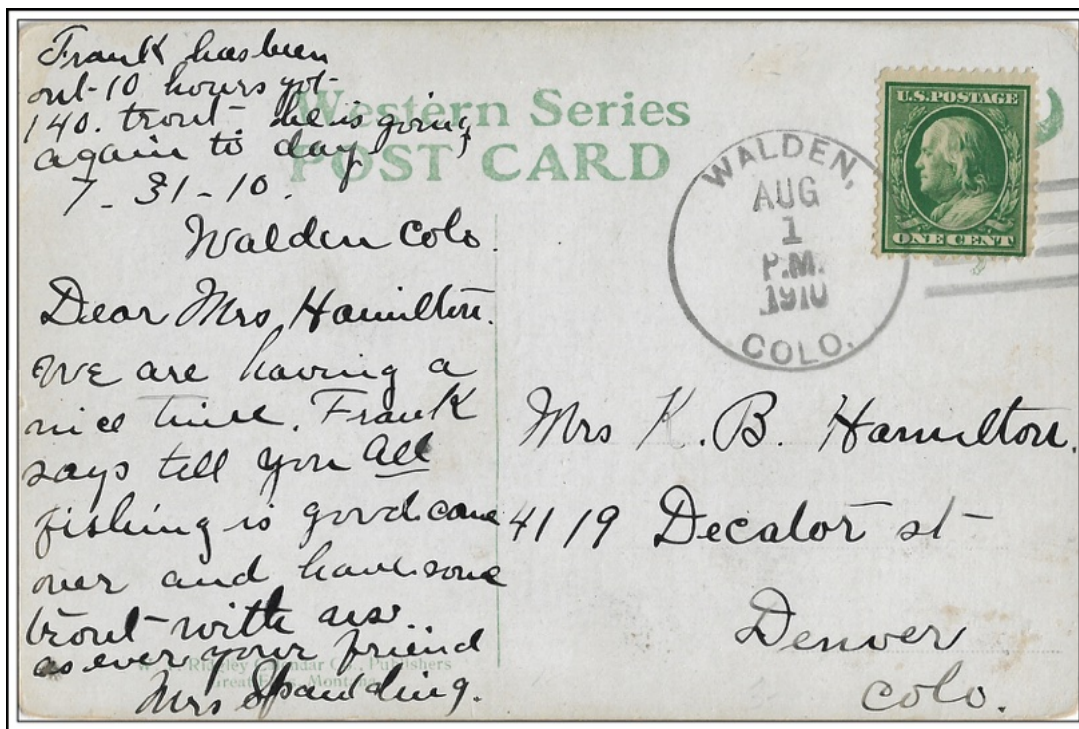
RAND, / COLO.

July 26, 1906



SPICER, / COLO

May 5, 1909



WALDEN, / COLO.

August 1, 1910

