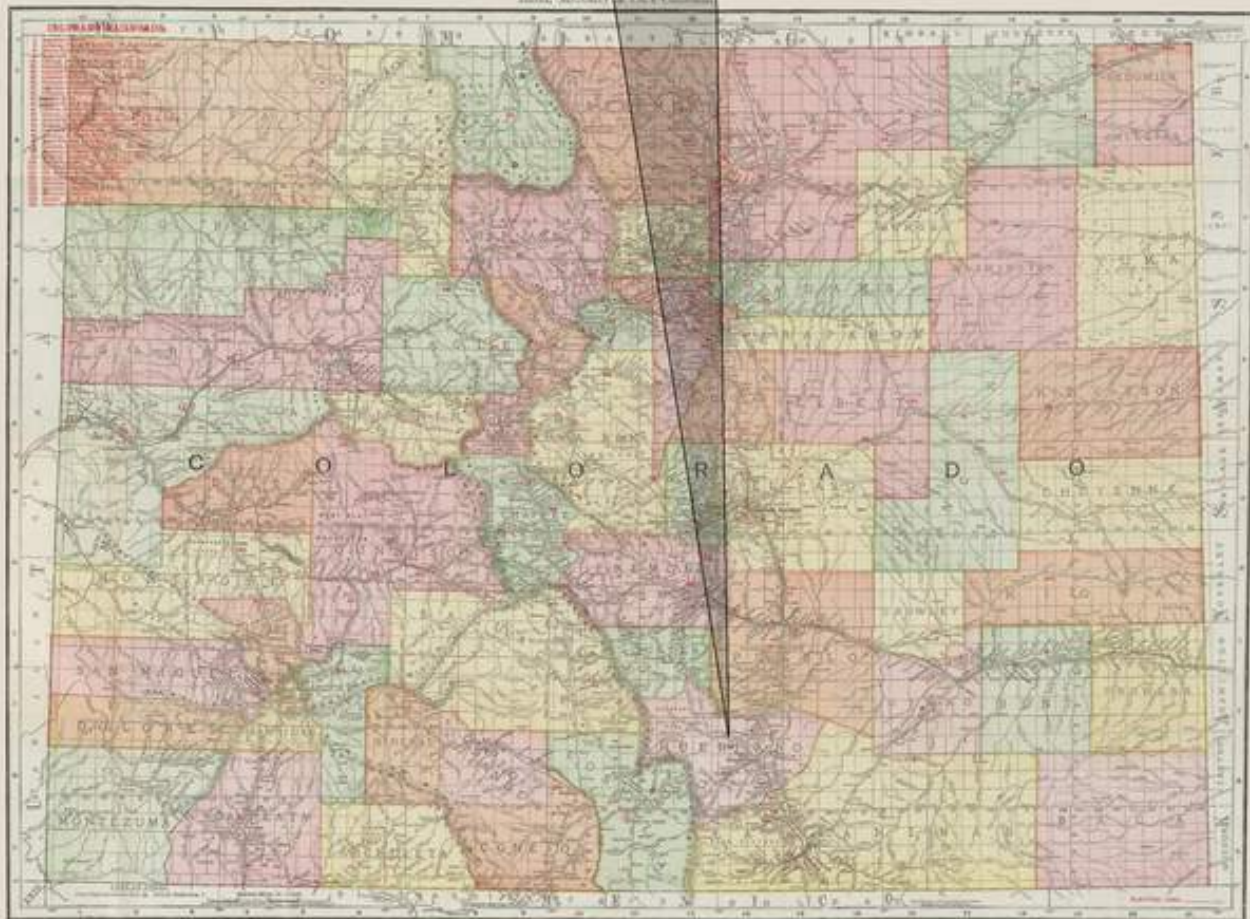


# Huerfano County



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

*Established: November 1, 1861*

*County Seat: Walsenburg*



## **HUERFANO COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Huerfano County was one of the original counties established by the Territorial Legislature in 1861. At that time the county included most of Colorado Territory south of the Arkansas River. In less than ten years the county was reduced to its present boundaries. The “lost” territory became all or part of Baca, Bent, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers and Pueblo Counties.

The county name, Huerfano, is Spanish for “orphan.” The name was first attached to the small isolated butte east of Walsenburg, then to the river that drains the county.

In its modern configuration Custer and Pueblo Counties border Huerfano County on the north. Las Animas County forms the eastern and a large portion of the southern border. Costilla County completes the southern boundary and Alamosa and Saguache Counties form the western boundary of Huerfano County.

The boundaries of the county are for the most part irregular following drainage divides. Only the boundary with Pueblo County is a series of straight lines.

The initial county seat was at Autobees, a trading post settlement on the Huerfano River where it joins the Arkansas River. Prior to 1868 the county seat was moved to Hermosillo. Both of these places are now in Pueblo County. Between 1868 and 1870 the county seat was at Badito on the upper Huerfano River. It remained there until about 1876 when the county seat was moved for one last time, to Walsenburg.

In size, Huerfano County can be considered average for Colorado. The maximum width east to west is about fifty-six miles. From north to south the maximum width is fifty-four miles. However, with the highly irregular shape of the county these dimensions are almost meaningless in describing the size of the county.

Topographically Huerfano County is a mixture of high mountains and rolling prairie. The western border is on the crest of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. The southern end of the Wet Mountains projects into the county and is separated from the Sangre de Cristo Range by the Huerfano River. South of Walsenburg the volcanic Spanish Peaks dominate the skyline as outliers from the mountain range to their west.

East of Interstate 25 the country is rolling prairie with scattered small buttes and mesas. The most notable are Huerfano Butte and the Rattlesnake Buttes.

Huerfano County lies entirely within a single drainage basin. The principal stream is the Huerfano River, which originates in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, curves through the county and exits north into Pueblo County. Its principal tributaries are the Cucharas River and Santa Clara Creek. There are numerous small streams that contribute to the major streams but most are intermittent as would be expected in a semi-arid climate.

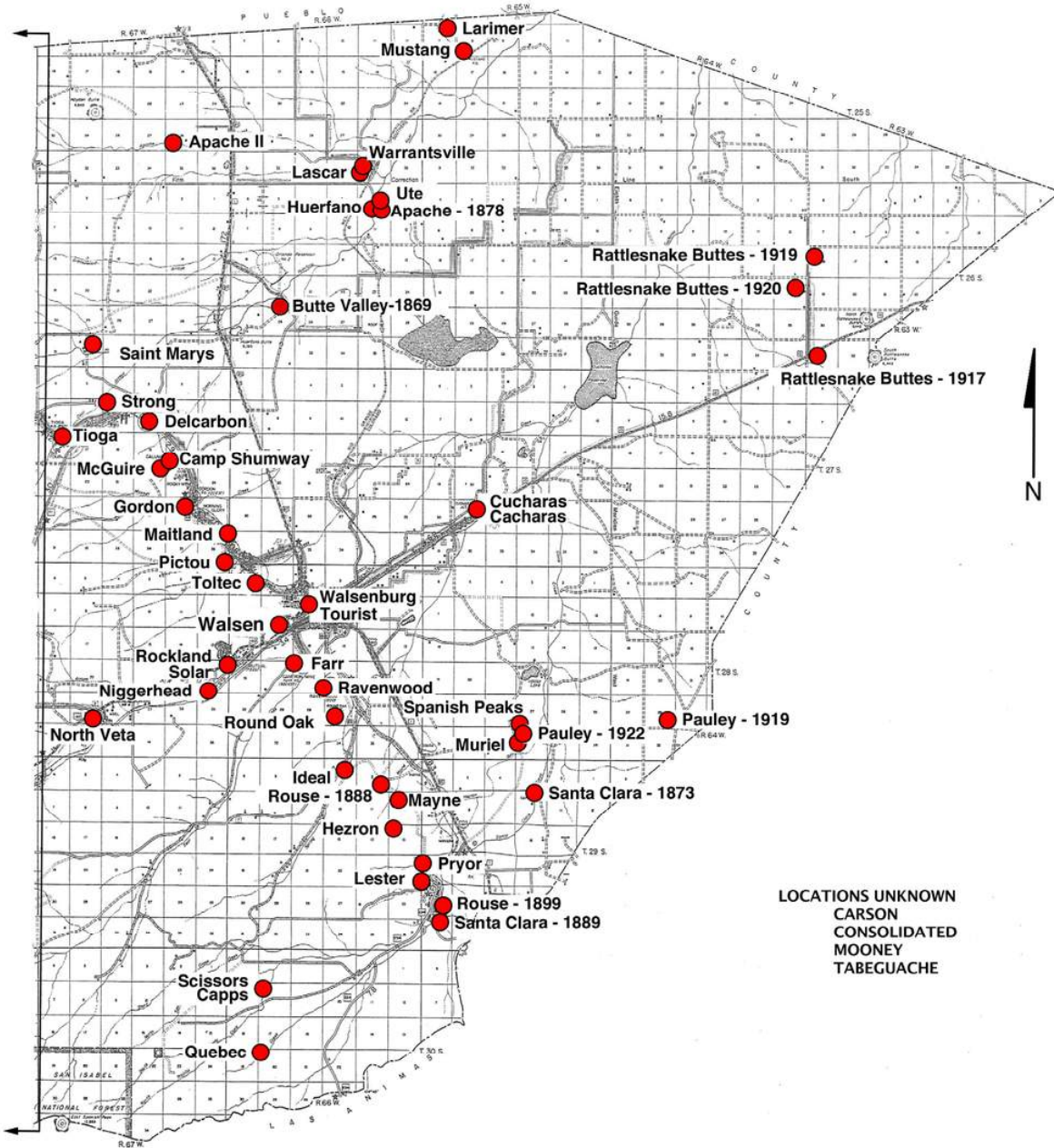
Over the years the economy of Huerfano County has changed. Initially agriculture was the primary focus – ranching and some farming along the major streams.

In the late nineteenth century the focus shifted to coal mining. This was manifested in the large number of small post offices that sprang up at the coal mines in the central part of the county. However, not long into the twentieth century most of those mines were no longer producing and their post offices disappeared.

Following that phase the economy again shifted focus, back to ranching. Ranching has changed; no longer is it only cattle and sheep. To those herds have been added bison and elk.

In more recent years tourism and recreational activities have become important but ranching is still a significant portion of the Huerfano County economy.





**Post Office Location Map – Eastern Huerfano County**

Since the early days of the trappers and exploration, Huerfano County has been on the primary routes of travel in what is now southern Colorado. The mountain passes – La Veta, Mosca and Music – first used by the Indians, were primary routes between the plains and the San Luis Valley. North-south travel was along the eastern face of the mountains. The Huerfano River Valley was another principal travel route. As settlement progressed these routes continued to be important.

When the Denver and Rio Grande and the Colorado and Southern Railroads penetrated the area they too followed the earlier routes of travel. With a change from narrow gauge to standard gauge the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was altered. In addition to its main line that passed through Walsenburg, then La Veta and first over Veta Pass, then over La Veta Pass, there was an extensive network of spurs and branch lines that served the coal mines during their period of activity. The principal branch railroad was the Loma Branch from Walsenburg up the Huerfano Valley to Alamo. Only the main line of the railroad remains in operation.

In the present century, Interstate 25 parallels the mountain front, west of the route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Prior to the construction of I-25, this was the route of US Highways 85-87, which are now largely a part of I-25. Colorado Highway 69 follows the Huerfano River and its tributary Muddy Creek, north from Walsenburg into Custer County. At Walsenburg, US Highway 160 diverges from Interstate 25 and goes west to cross North La Veta Pass into the San Luis Valley. Colorado Highway 10, originating at Walsenburg, goes northeast, eventually to La Junta on the Arkansas River.

There is an extensive network of county roads that supplement the federal and state highways. However, many of these secondary roads either wander across the countryside or dead end at some point so a good map is essential in prowling the back-country.

It is hard to believe the change in the road from Walsenburg up the Huerfano Valley; what is today Colorado Highway 69. I first came through there in 1951. At that time it was a dirt road, barely passable in many places, with narrow, questionable bridges. We were lucky to make 30 miles per hour at best. Even in the early 1970's it was still a dirt road. Now there is a good paved road with a speed limit of 65 miles per hour. The scenery is still well worth the trip from Walsenburg to Westcliffe.



**Approximate location of the 1920 Clover, Colorado Post Office**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer May 18, 1999

**ALAMO**

Alamo was at the end of the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Walsenburg. That branch line served a string of coal mines and post offices roughly parallel to the route of the modern Colorado Highway 69. The railroad reached Alamo in 1923. On the ground, this location was a move about a mile to the northwest of the original site of Alamo.

Alamo was named for the Alamo Coal Company that operated a mine at the location. Alamo is the Spanish word for cottonwood tree, but it seems likely that the reference was to the historical site in Texas.

Alamo was the most remote of the coal camps along the Loma Branch and as with the others, it was developed as a company town to provide services and homes for the miners.

I assume that prior to seeking the site of Alamo you have been visiting the other coal mines and post offices along Colorado Highway 69 and the former Loma Branch. Refer to the directions to the post office at Tioga and then continue southwest on Huerfano County Road 524. This road intersects Road 521 and quickly thereafter turns to the west. Not quite a mile after the turn you find a modern house set in among the remnants of the walls of a large building. A little further and there is a row of foundations that mark the residential portion of Alamo. The Alamo Mine and the old railroad grade are beyond the buildings and on the south side of Dog Creek Arroyo.

The 1924 Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report has a note that the post office name was to be changed to Butte Valley effective October 25, 1924. There is no further comment that this change was rescinded and the Alamo Post Office continued in operation until October 1, 1938 when it did change to Butte Valley.

Latitude = 37:39:20 North Longitude = 104:57:29 West ALAMO

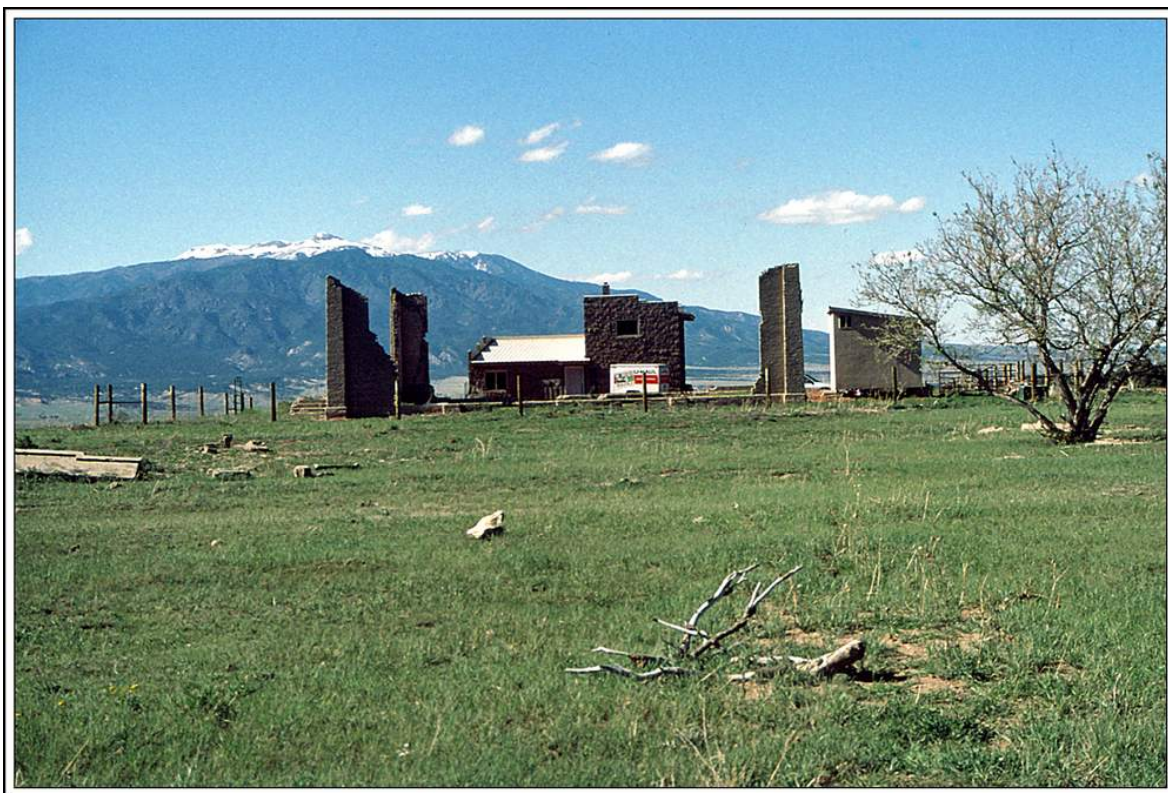
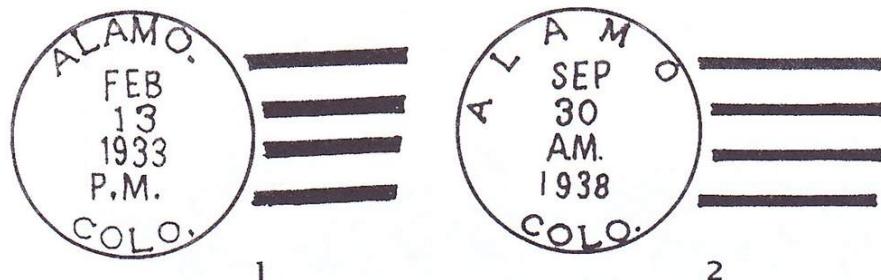
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 17 1922	--	NE/4 Sec 36 T27S R68W 1/4 east of Dog Springs Arroya Sketch map shows it SW 3+ miles from Tioga, 4 miles by road Road from Walsenburg goes through Toltec, Pictou, Maitland, Camp Shumway, Delcarbon, Strong and Tioga, thence to Alamo or to Gardner
Feb 21 1923		Established
Feb 21 1923		Martin, David J.
Sep 13 1924	--	NW/4 Sec 36 T27S R68W 1/2 mile east of Dog Springs Arroyo Changed to BUTTE VALLEY (Effective Oct 25 1924)
Oct 10 1924		Wise, Edward B. Confirmed
Oct 28 1924		Wise, Edward B. Commissioned
Nov 7 1924		Wise, Edward B. Assumed charge
Jan 5 1937		Evans, John Confirmed
Feb 23 1937		Evans, John Commissioned
Apr 1 1937		Evans, John Assumed charge
Apr 1 1938		Wise, Edward B. Assumed charge
Apr 6 1938		Wise, Edward B. Acting
Jun 11 1938		Wise, Edward B. Confirmed
Jun 28 1938		Wise, Edward B. Commissioned
Oct 1 1938		Name changed to Butte Valley

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	ALAMO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 11 1931 Aug 23 1933
2	ALAMO / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 30 1938 Sep 30 1938

## ALAMO – Continued



**Remnants of the company store and post office at Alamo, Colorado**

**A new residence has been constructed within the ruins.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 17, 1999

**APACHE (I)**

Apache is but one of several post offices in Huerfano County whose history and location(s) are confusing and difficult to interpret.

From the Post Office Department records and from other historical references it is possible that Apache was first established where the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad crossed the Huerfano River. This was in early 1878, but is several months before the Huerfano Post Office at the same location was moved to Undercliffe in Pueblo County. The unresolved question is whether the move of the Huerfano Post Office occurred earlier than reported or was it simply inoperative during the period of overlap?

**APACHE (I) – Continued**

A Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report dated November 29, 1879 indicates the Apache Post Office had been moved from the location on Huerfano Creek to a location on Apache Creek. From this it seems certain that the Apache Post Office did operate at the former site of the Huerfano Post Office. This would then explain why, when the Huerfano Post Office reopened November 10, 1882, the records state it was, “moved from Apache.”

There are reports that the location on the Huerfano River was a small community with a railroad station. It is most likely that the later location was only a ranch post office on Apache Creek.

To go to the early (1878) location, exit from Interstate 25 at Exit 64 and drive east on Huerfano County Road 110 to the railroad. Road 110 turns north along the railroad but there is a crossing of the railroad at the turn. Unfortunately when Jim Ozment and I visited the location in 1999 there was a locked gate on the east side of the tracks and we could not go on to the location. We did drive south along the railroad to where we could see the Huerfano River but from that distance we could not identify anything that might remain from Huerfano/Apache/Huerfano.

Access to the 1879 location is also from Exit 64. On the east side of Interstate 25, drive north one mile on the frontage road to Huerfano County Road 110. Turn east and go one and two-tenths miles to County Road 111. Turn north to the Shaffer Ranch, Clark Division. This is a large, active ranch on the south side of Apache Creek. I believe that from 1879 to 1882 the Apache Post Office was in this area.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 20 1878 --- SE/4 Sec 2 T26S R66W 1/8 mile west of the Huerfano River,  
two miles south of Apache Creek, west side  
100 yards from RR, Station of Huerfano (D&RG)
- May 31 1878 Established
- May 31 1878 Rice, Robert D.
- Nov 29 1879 --- NE/4 SE/4 Sec 25 (T & R not clear) Sketch map shows that it is in  
NE/4 SW/4 Sec 29 T25S R66W On south side of Apache Creek  
Requested as APACHE VALLEY, shortened to APACHE  
Proposed postmaster - Thomas H. Bagnell
- Dec 31 1879 Bagnell, Thomas H.
- Nov 10 1882 Moved to Huerfano

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1 Apache P O / Col --- -- 1878  
MS Mscp Pen cancel, no date



**APACHE (II)**

In 1894 a new post office with the name of Apache was opened in Huerfano County. This office was also on Apache Creek from which it took its name. However, it was more than three miles further west than the original Apache Post Office of the late 1870's.

It appears that this version of Apache was a ranch post office serving the surrounding countryside. It did continue to operate for thirty years so it obviously met a need in this portion of Huerfano County.

### APACHE (II) – Continued

Begin at Exit 67 from Interstate 25. Some maps label this intersection as “Apache City,” but that is a gross exaggeration as there is nothing there. From I-25 drive west on Huerfano County Road 660. Follow that road for two and eight-tenths miles to a large, active ranch on the north side of Apache Creek. That is the location of the post office as stated in the Geographical Site Location Report for Apache (II).

Latitude = 37:51:30 North Longitude = 104:49:50 West APACHE CITY

### Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 1 1894	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T25S R67W About 200 feet north of Apache Creek	
		Sketch map shows in NW/4 of SW/ Sec 26	
		Proposed Postmaster - Nathan Whitman Briggs	
Sep 10 1894		Established	
Sep 10 1894		Briggs, N. Whitman	
May 6 1898		Discontinued Papers to Ute	
Jun 21 1898		Re-established	
Jun 21 1898		Russell, Joseph	
Mar 5 1914		Becker, Elmer	
Dec 17 1920		Monnie, Carrie	
Feb 5 1923		Ordered closed	
Feb 28 1923		Discontinued Mail to Huerfano	
Apr 28 1923		Re-established	
Apr 28 1923		Smith, Mrs. Lillian E.	
Dec 12 1923		Shepherd, Mrs. June	Acting
Apr 15 1924		Smith, Mrs. A. B.	Acting
Sep 16 1924		Smith, Mrs. Lillian E.	
Aug 10 1925		Ordered closed	
Aug 31 1925		Discontinued Mail to Huerfano	

### Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1	APACHE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Jan 19 1908
2	APACHE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Oct 10 1914
3	APACHE. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Aug 20 1925



### BADITO

This place began as a trading post on the trail to the San Luis Valley. The initial name was Little Orphan, likely a translation from Spanish of the name of the river on which it was situated – The Huerfano River. Four months after the post office opened the name was changed from Little Orphan to Badito. This is a variation on a Spanish word meaning, “little ford.”

**BADITO – Continued**

Badito developed into a modest settlement based on agriculture, mostly raising livestock. Badito also supported a tavern and a blacksmith shop. One reference states that there were 100 residents in the immediate area [see the annotation below to the June 5, 1865 Geographic Site Location Report].

A note attached to the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report seems to say that Little Orphan and Badito may not have been at the same location. If that is true, then this was a move of the post office, not a simple name change.

From Walsenburg, take Colorado Highway 69 northeast and go about 15 miles to the intersection with Huerfano County Road 520, which goes to the west. The site is easy to identify. It is on the east side of Highway 69 and the Huerfano River. In 1999 there was a historical marker that identified a ruined building on the north side of the side road as the location of the post office and store. There was another, larger building on the south side of the road that was originally a ranch house and was later converted to a stable.

Latitude = 37:43:38 North Longitude = 105:00:49 West BADITO



**Abandoned building at the site of Badito, Colorado**  
Photograph by James L. Ozment May 18, 1999

**Chronology of the Post Office**

**Jun 5 1865 --- On the bank of Huerfano Creek, south side**  
**Annotated: Little Orphan ten miles below was designated as a post office. Mr. B. R. Boice was appointed post master. On Sunday last he died & it is thought before accepting the office of postmaster, this Badito office will obviate the Little Orphan which is out of the mail route five miles & it will be more convenient to the citizens and without any additional travel to the mail carrier.**

**BADITO – Continued**

- Document signed by Samuel D. P. Baxter, July 12, 1865  
This was a request for additional information, re: Little Orphan  
Additional note on second page "Chg from Little Orphan"
- Sep 12 1865 Name changed from Little Orphan
  - Dec 12 1865 Baxter, Samuel D. P.
  - Jul 6 1866 Moore, James A.
  - Apr 21 1868 Seabring, Andrew T.
  - Dec 15 1869 Unfug, Charles O.
  - Dec 2 1872 McMullen, Charles
  - Sep 5 1873 de la Riva, Antonio
  - Feb 11 1874 Fouch, Titus W.
  - May 6 1875 --- NE/4 SE/4 Sec 5 T27S R68W Sketch map shows it on the Huerfano River
  - Oct 8 1878 Cole, Samuel
  - Jun 21 1879 Baxter, Edwin W.
  - Mar 17 1902 Thorne, Joseph T.
  - Oct 8 1903 Thorne, Taylor
  - Nov 15 1910 Discontinued Mail to Tioga



**BADITO, / COLO.**

**June 4, 1910**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 BADITO / COL.<br/>CI 10P ?</li> <li>2 BADITO / COLORADO<br/>CI 10P 26.5</li> <li>3 BADITO / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 28.0</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sep 3 187-</li> <li>Hstp Target, 4-ring</li> <li>Dec 26 187- May 4 1873</li> <li>Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm <b>Or Mar 4 as tracing? No Xerox in files</b></li> <li>Jan 10 1908 Jul 4 1910</li> <li>Doane Type 2, with 1; S-24x14mm</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**BADITO – Continued**



**BIRMINGHAM**

Birmingham is an oddity in Huerfano County as it came into existence as a gold mining camp. The location was on land owned by Heber Turner and was named for Birmingham England, perhaps the hometown of Mr. Turner.

The community was mostly a tent community with an estimated peak population of 400. The gold soon played out and the site was largely abandoned; however the post office survived until 1894. So there must have been some remnant activity at the site.

Birmingham was located on the upper reaches of Williams Creek and while in operation may have served ranchers in the area.

Jim Ozment and I departed from Colorado Highway 69, a mile east of Gardner, onto Huerfano County Road 630 (National Forest Access, Williams Creek Road). At three and a half miles from Highway 69 we continued on the Williams Creek Road (Road 631). We soon encountered an open gate but there was a chain with an open padlock. We became uncertain about the advisability of going forward into private property and perhaps returning to a locked gate. Therefore we aborted the mission without reaching the site of Birmingham.

From the reports of others, it is likely that little remains at Birmingham other than a few posts and perhaps some evidence of the early mining.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 15 1883	---	SW/4 Sec 12 T25S R70W On west side of Williams Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - James Garrahan	
May 25 1883		Established	
May 25 1883		Garrahan, James	
Dec 9 1885		Hoyt, Mrs. Julia A.	
Jun 23 1886		Turner, Constance J.	
Jan 30 1888	---	Move 2/3 miles north 50 yards east of Williams Creek	
Feb 29 1888		Owens, Agnes L.	
Feb 24 1891		Turner, Christopher E.	Not commissioned
Feb 29 1888		Owens, Agnes L.	
Apr 18 1894		Owens, Anna	
Sep 19 1894		Discontinued Mail to Gardner	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BIRMINGHAM**

**BRADFORD**

Bradford, on the road from Walsenburg to Westcliffe, was the northernmost of the post offices in the western portion of Huerfano County.

**BRADFORD – Continued**

I have not found any reference to this place in any of the Colorado histories that I have read. From the location near the upper end of Muddy Creek I assume that it was a ranch post office that once served a small number of patrons in this remote portion of the county.

Please refer to the directions to Dickson that are given below. From the location of Dickson continue north on Colorado Highway 69. From the entrance to Forest Access Road 559 at Dickson it is three and eight-tenths miles north to the location of Bradford.

Bradford was on the east side of Muddy Creek and in the area just south of what is now the entrance to the Wolf Springs Ranch. The 60,000-acre ranch is (1999) owned by a man from Minnesota who made millions in the cosmetic business. [It takes a lot of lipstick to buy 60,000 acres.] It appears that he now raises bison and elk, not cattle. The entrance to the ranch is through a massive log gateway in the style popular with such landowners.

Even though Bradford is shown on the 1975 USGS Huerfano County Topographic Map (Sheet 1) there is nothing remaining along the road.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 8 1889	---	NE/4 Sec 16 T25S R71W 150 feet east of Muddy Creek
		Proposed postmaster - David S. Smith
Nov 27 1889		Established
Nov 27 1889		Smith, David S.
Aug 21 1895		Discontinued Mail to Gardner

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	BRADFORD / COLO.	Apr 23 1895
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp not present

**BUTTE VALLEY (I)**

About 1862 a group of ten Frenchmen settled on the Huerfano River near Huerfano Butte. In the group were Antonio Labrie, French Pete, Norbert Bernard, Leander Bernard, Leon Constantine and Luis Joseph Clothier. John (or Tom) Brown also joined the group.

They named their community Butte Valley for the nearby butte and the valley in which they had located.

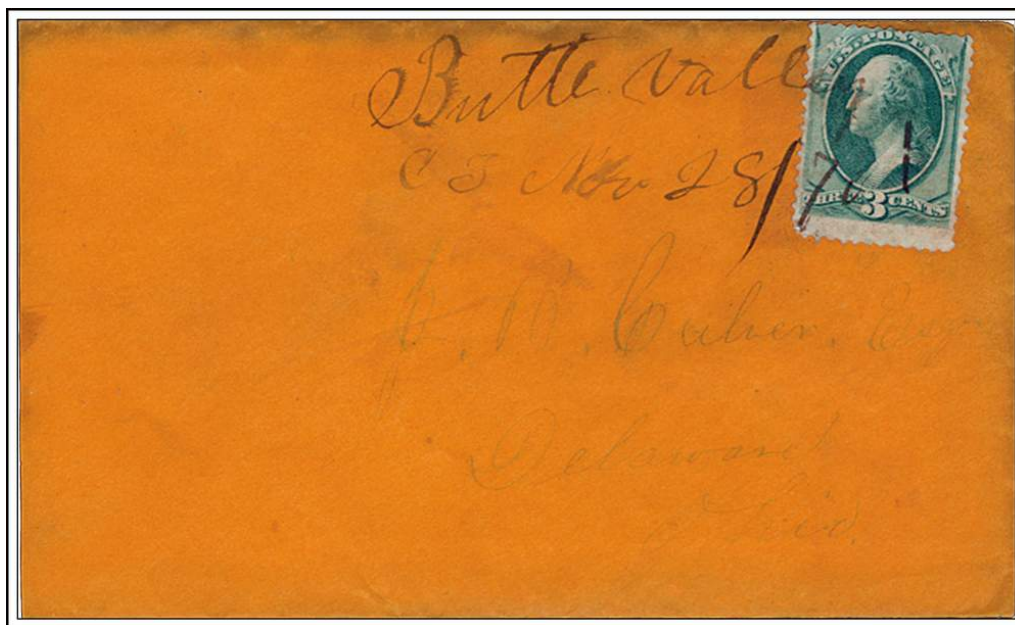
During the Civil War, soldiers pursuing the notorious Reynolds Gang came to Butte Valley. Suspecting the residents had aided the escape of the gang the settlers were arrested and taken to Denver. The Frenchmen never returned to the Huerfano but Tom (or John) Brown eventually did, living there until 1876.

In spite of that account, it has been reported that in 1867-1868 Antoine Labrie was operating the stage station at Butte Valley.

This early Butte Valley was an agricultural and ranching settlement and a stage station on the line from Pueblo south to Trinidad.

**BUTTE VALLEY (I) – Continued**

Begin at Exit 59 from Interstate 25 and drive east three and two-tenths miles on Huerfano County Road 103 to Road 104 and turn north for less than a mile. There is a large ranch on the south side of the Huerfano River. The ranch is a mixture of old and new buildings and I believe it is the likely location of the 1869-1878 Butte Valley Post Office.



**Butte Valley / C T**

**November 28, 1870**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Jul 6 1869**      **Established**
- Jul 5 1869**      **Schenck, David**
- Jul 30 1869**    **---**      **Unsurveyed No S-T-R On the south side of the Huerfano River**  
**6 miles south of Apache Creek Huerfano P.O. 27 miles**  
**Pueblo 45 miles Badito 12 miles Greenhorn 15 miles northerly**
- Dec 18 1869**      **Johnson, A. Wiley**
- Feb 26 1878**      **Discontinued**
- May 20 1878**      **Re-established**
- May 20 1878**      **Martin, Ruben P.**
- Aug 26 1878**      **Discontinued**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1.A Butte Valley / C T**      **Nov 28 1870 Sep 28 1874**
- MS**      **Mscp Pen cancel**
- 1.B Butte Valley / Col**      **Sep 16 187-**
- MS**      **Mscp Pen cancel [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]**
- 1.C Butte Valley / Colo**      **Aug 21 1873 Jul 10 1874**
- MS**      **Mscp Pen cancel**



**BUTTE VALLEY (II)**

The original Butte Valley, located on the Huerfano River near Huerfano Butte, was discontinued in 1878. The second Butte Valley Post Office came into existence in 1938 when the Alamo Post Office was moved about a mile northeast to the Butte Valley Mine. This location is about ten miles from the 1878 site and was on Dog Springs Arroyo, a tributary to the Huerfano River.

I have found no reference to this place in any of the Colorado historical literature that I have read. The Post Office Department records confirm its existence and provide a location.

In May 1999 Jim Ozment and I explored this portion of Huerfano County. From the location of Tioga we drove south towards the site of Alamo. At the intersection with Road 524.1 there is, to the west, what at the time I described as a track. This slowly disappeared and we came to a ravine that we could not cross. At that point we turned north up a hill to a small shack, then on to a fence line that we followed back east passing the foundations and cellar pits of several small houses. On the other side of the fence there was the remnant of a large house. It seems logical that this was the site of Butte Valley (II).

However, there was no road. We drove across a field with scattered brush, which likely we should not have been doing without someone's permission.

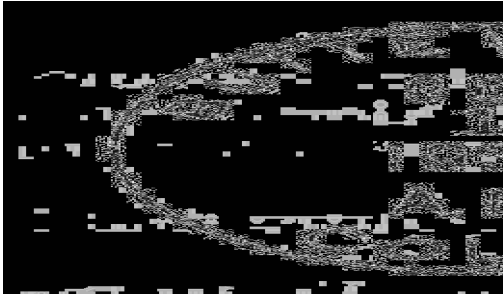
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 11 1938	Wise, Edward B.	Confirmed
Jun 28 1938	Wise, Edward B.	Commissioned
Sep 28 1938 ---	SE/4 Sec 25 T27S R68W Sketch map shows in NW/4 of SE/4 Sec 25 Formerly Alamo	
Oct 1 1938	Name changed from Alamo	
Oct 20 1940 ---	NW/4 Sec 36 T27S R68W	
Dec 6 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 36 T27S R68W Move 7/10 mile from previous location Four miles north of Tioga Note: Present site (mining village) being evacuated and junked	
May 1 1942	Hayes, Ranson Kennedy	Assumed charge
May 12 1942	Hayes, Ranson Kennedy	Acting
Jun 27 1942	Hayes, Ranson Kennedy	Confirmed
Jul 24 1942	Hayes, Ranson Kennedy	Commissioned
Aug 25 1942	Weber, Mrs. Geneva F.	Assumed charge
Sep 11 1942	Weber, Mrs. Geneva F.	Acting
Feb 3 1942	Weber, Mrs. Geneva F.	Confirmed
Feb 18 1942	Weber, Mrs. Geneva F.	Commissioned
Dec 24 1945	Stevens, Mrs. Geneva F.	Name changed by marriage
Mar 20 1946	Sabec, John Charles	Assumed charge
Dec 26 1946	Sabec, John Charles	Confirmed
Jan 29 1947	Sabec, John Charles	Commissioned
Aug 8 1948	Gardner, Mrs. Ethel M.	Assumed charge
Oct 26 1948	Gardner, Mrs. Ethel M.	Confirmed
Dec 2 1948	Gardner, Mrs. Ethel M.	Appointment rescinded
Feb 23 1949	Helzer, Mrs. Maxine A.	Assumed charge
Mar 17 1949	Helzer, Mrs. Maxine A.	Confirmed
Apr 12 1949	Helzer, Mrs. Maxine A.	Commissioned
Sep 6 1949	Discontinued Mail to Tioga	
Sep 20 1949	Order closed	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	BUTTE VALLEY / COLO.	Oct 1 1938 Apr 6 1949
	CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x18mm

**BUTTE VALLEY (II) – Continued**



**CACHARAS**

When this post office first opened it was with this spelling. In 1872 the spelling was modified to Cucharas. The post office continued to operate until 1921.

Please refer to the discussion of Cucharas for additional information and directions to the site.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Dec 8 1870</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Dec 8 1870</b>	<b>Adams, Joseph</b>
<b>Feb 23 1871</b>	<b>Albert, Peter S.</b>
<b>Jun 14 1871</b>	<b>Logier, Benjamin F.</b>
<b>Jan 4 1872</b>	<b>Read, John F.</b>
<b>Sep 20 1872</b>	<b>Spelling changed to Cucharas</b>

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CACHARAS**

**CAMP SHUMWAY**

Camp Shumway was located only a short distance from the mining camp of Gordon. This mining camp began operations as McGuire but in 1911 the post office name was changed to Camp Shumway.

During the time that this place was known as McGuire, the railroad station serving the mine was called Shumway Station. It is possible that Shumway was the name of a railroad official or employee and that a change in ownership of the mine prompted a change in the post office name.

There is no evidence that there was any organized community at the location or that it was more than a small company town providing residences and limited services to the miners there employed.

Camp Shumway (McGuire) was the fifth in the series of coal camps on the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad branch from Walsenburg.

Follow the directions given below to reach the site of Gordon. Then continue on along Huerfano County Road 525 a few hundred yards to the location. In 1999 there were mine dumps, several foundations and one still standing small building. Road 525 ended at this point.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

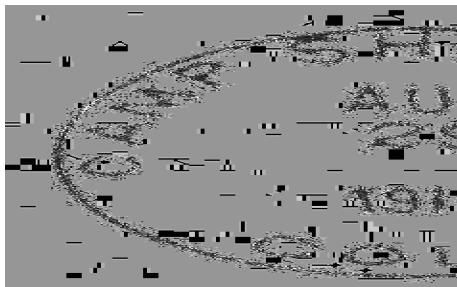
<b>Apr 13 1911</b>	<b>Name changed from McGuire</b> <b>Was still listed as McGuire in the 1911 and 1912 Postal Guides</b>
<b>Apr 13 1911</b>	<b>Boyd, Clyde H.</b>
<b>May 22 1912</b>	<b>Price, Archie G.</b>
<b>Oct 22 1912</b>	<b>Shroads, Charles A.</b>
<b>Sep 19 1913</b>	<b>McPhail, William Y.</b>
<b>Aug 9 1913</b>	<b>Patterson, Joseph H.</b>

**CAMP SHUMWAY – Continued**

May 2 1914 --- NE/2 NW/4 Sec 23 T27S R67W West side of D&RG  
 Loma branch 70 rods from tracks  
 Jun 24 1919 Bann, James W.  
 Jul 1 1924 Moved to Gordon

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 CAMP SHUMWAY, / COLO. Dec 23 1912 Jul 8 1919  
 CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-??x??mm



**CAPPS**

There is no document for Capps in the file of Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports. However, Capps was the new name given to the Scissors Post Office in 1894 and Amelia Capps continued as postmaster after the change in name. Therefore it is safe to assume that they were at the same location.

Please refer to the discussion of Scissors for directions to the site and for additional information about this post office.

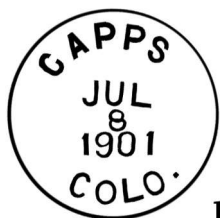
Capps, like its predecessor, was a ranch post office. There is no evidence for coal mining in the vicinity. Obviously the post office took the family name of its postmaster, Amelia Capps.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 26 1894 Name changed from Scissors  
 Sep 26 1894 Capps, Amelia F.  
 Jul 19 1895 Arnold, Walter M.  
 Jan 4 1901 Capps, Amelia F.  
 Aug 3 1901 Ordered closed  
 Aug 15 1901 Discontinued Papers to Walsenburg

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 CAPPS / COLO. Jul 8 1901  
 CI 10P 27.0 Hstp smudge



## **CARSON**

I have found no reference to a place named Carson in Huerfano County. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report gives direction and distance from Carson to Badito and Saint Marys but they do not result in a location on Cucharas Creek. Therefore the location of Carson remains unresolved. Assistance in determining the location of Carson would be appreciated.

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

<b>Aug 15 1868</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed On north side of Las Cucharas Creek Saint Marys 10 miles northerly Trinidad 40 miles southerly Badito 18 miles northwest</b>
<b>Sep 23 1868</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Sep 23 1868</b>		<b>Jones, Henry W.</b>
<b>Oct 10 1868</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>
<b>Jun 15 1869</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jun 15 1869</b>		<b>Albert, John</b>
<b>Dec 7 1870</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

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

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CARSON**

## **CLOVER**

Ned and Matilda Willburn lived in the Turkey Creek area and for many years ran a sawmill. The Wilburns opened a store and made application for a post office to be named Clover. Matilda Willburn was the first postmaster.

The Clover Post Office existed at two locations. In 1999 Jim Ozment and I went to the area to visit the sites. From Farisita we drove north on Huerfano County Road 620 to the Valdez (or Maes) Cemetery. From there we continued to the second fork in the road and there kept to the right. We went another three miles north to where we could look to the east towards the original site of Clover. Nothing was visible from the road and there was no vehicle access in that direction. From that point we continued north a quarter-mile and then turned west on Huerfano County Road 625, going west to Road 627 where we turned south.

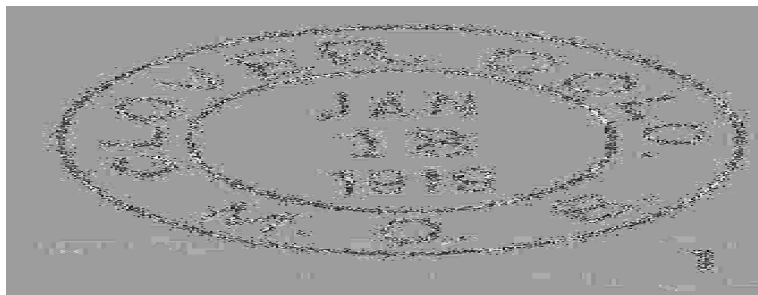
One and two-tenths miles from the turn south we found a church and several buildings on a small ridge. This location is on the east side of the Turkey Creek Valley and is in agreement with the 1920 site of Clover. To return to Highway 69 we continued south rejoining Road 620 near the previously mentioned cemetery.

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

<b>Dec 12 1912</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Dec 12 1912</b>		<b>Mayer, Noah Z. C.</b>
<b>Jan 5 1913</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 SE/4 Sec 26 T25S R69W</b>
<b>Jan 2 1918</b>		<b>Willburn, Matilda P.</b>
<b>Aug 15 1919</b>		<b>Saturnine, Rosario</b>
<b>Dec 1 1920</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 SE/4 Sec 33 T25S R69W 400 yards east of Turkey Creek Proposal to move 300 yards southeast of previous location</b>
<b>Feb 24 1922</b>		<b>Willburn, Nancy A. Acting</b>
<b>Aug 31 1922</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Aug 31 1922</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Durango [WHB: This must be an error, probably mail to Gardner]</b>

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

1	CLOVER, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 18 1919
2	CLOVER / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 15 1922

**CONSOLIDATED**

The only reference to Consolidated that I have found is in the *Rogers File* in the Colorado Historical Association archives. That entry states that Consolidated was, “on a branch of the Colorado & Southern Railroad from Walsenburg northwest (Walsenburg-Alamo branch).” That would be the Loma Branch.

From that brief note I can conclude that Consolidated was at one of the many coal mines along the Loma Branch. But I have no information which one.

The establishment of the Consolidated Post Office was rescinded and there is no Geographical Site Location Report on file. Thus, it is also logical to state that this post office was never in operation.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 1 1905	Established
Sep 1 1905	Kirkpatrick, John
Oct 26 1905	Establishment rescinded

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CONSOLIDATED**

**CUCHARA**

This place was established in 1906 as a summer resort on the Cuchara River. In 1915 a post office was opened there as Cuchara Camps, an obvious reference to the settlement’s purpose and the location on the Cuchara River.

In 1957 the Cuchara Camps Post Office name was changed to Cuchara. The post office continued to operate as a Summer Post Office and a Rural Station of La Veta until it was finally closed because the store/resort owner no longer cared to operate the post office.

The word *cuchara* is Spanish meaning, “spoon” and is a reference to the shape of the river valley.

Cuchara is ten and one-half miles south of La Veta on the east side of Colorado Highway 12, the road to Cucharas Pass. The Cuchara Country Store is still in operation during the tourist season.

Latitude = 37:22:45 North Longitude = 100:55:90 West CUCHARA



**CUCHARA CAMPS – Continued**

Apr 30 1952	Skarmas, Mrs. Irene M.	Assumed charge
Jul 11 1952	Skarmas, Mrs. Irene M.	Acting
Jul 16 1952	Skarmas, Mrs. Irene M.	Confirmed
Sep 30 1952	Skarmas, Mrs. Irene M.	Commissioned
Apr 21 1953	Prator, Mrs. Bessie J.	Confirmed
Apr 30 1953	Prator, Mrs. Bessie J.	Assumed charge
Jun 5 1953	Prator, Mrs. Bessie J.	Acting
Jun 22 1953	Prator, Mrs. Bessie J.	Commissioned
Jun 15 1957	Name changed to Cuchara	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	CUCHARA CAMPS / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 12 1916 Aug 17 1918
2	CUCHARA CAMPS / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Apr 3 1926 Aug 8 1933
3	CUCHARA CAMPS / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	May 30 1942 Aug 23 1951
4	CUCHARA CAMPS, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 10P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 2 1952
5	CUCHARA CAMPS / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	May 12 1956 Jun 13 1957

**CUCHARAS**

This settlement began as early as 1870. Initially it was little more than a way stop on the road from Pueblo to Trinidad. However, in 1874 the anticipated construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad through the area resulted in the platting of a town by the Southern Colorado Improvement Company. Initially the town and post office name was spelled Cacharas. In 1872 the spelling was changed to Cucharas.

The community name was derived from the Cucharas River on which it was located.

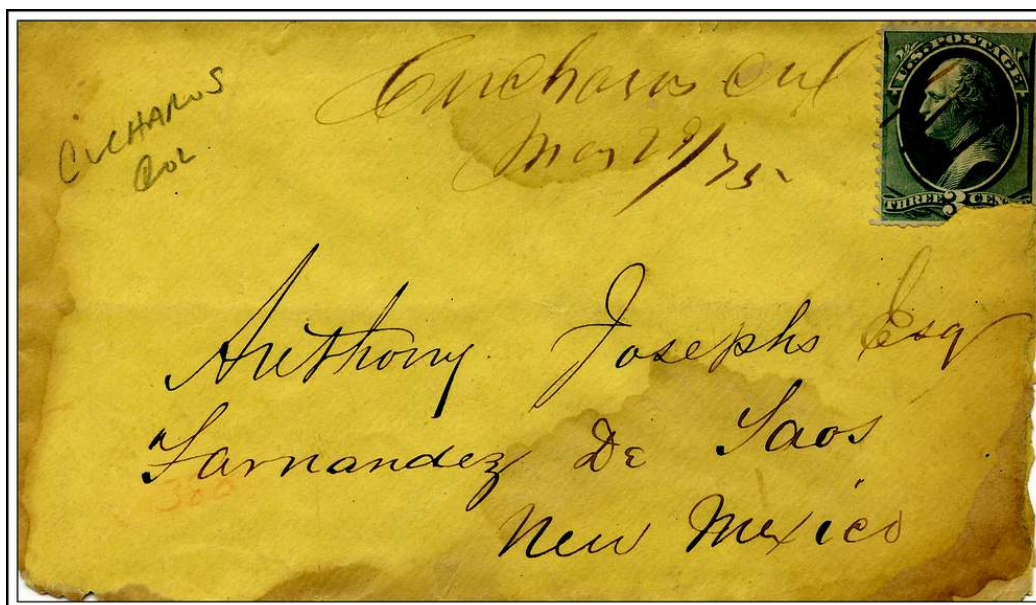
In January 1876 the Denver and Rio Grande began laying track south from Pueblo and reached Cucharas on February 22, 1876. The railroad continued south but when it lost the race to build over Raton Pass into New Mexico southward progress ended. This eventually became known as the El Moro Branch.

**CUCHARAS – Continued**

The railroad switched its focus from New Mexico to the new mining district in the San Juan Mountains and began construction of a rail line westward to cross the Sangre de Cristo Mountains and enter the San Luis Valley. Cucharas became the junction point for the rail lines and for many years challenged Walsenburg to be the rail center for this part of Colorado.

In 1911 a direct line was built from Pueblo to Walsenburg and the line through Cucharas gradually deteriorated. The track was removed in 1936.

From Exit 50 of Interstate 25, drive four and one-half miles east on Colorado Highway 10. There are several old, abandoned buildings in the area and one active ranch. These are visible from Highway 10.



**CUCHARAS COL**

**May 29, 1875**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

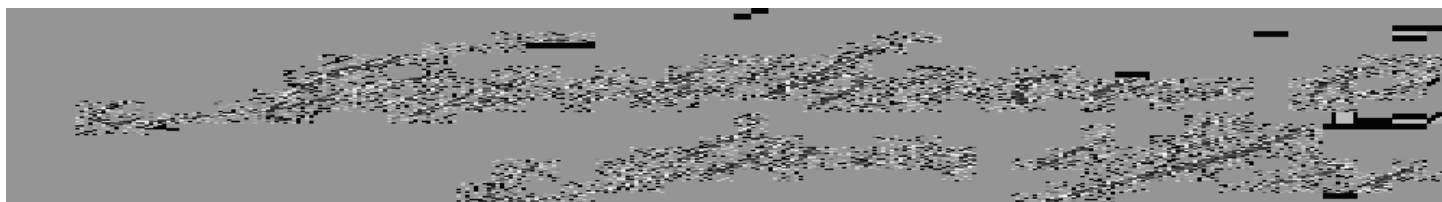
Jan 25 1872	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T27S R65W On south side of Cucharas River
		Sketch map shows E/4 of NE/4 of Sec 31
Sep 20 1872		Spelling changed from Cacharas
Sep 20 1872		Chaves, Nasario
Jun 16 1873		Self, John G.
Dec 8 1874		Work, George H. F.
Mar 12 1875		Stanley, Robert B.
Jul 3 1876		Adams, Mrs. Sarah O.
Jul 12 1877		Discontinued
Jul 26 1877		Re-established
Jul 26 1877		Grady, John
Sep 6 1880		Stevens, Walter V.
Jan 22 1884		Fox, L. A.
Jun 16 1884		Menefee, J. W.
Oct 31 1884		Stevens, Walter V.
Mar 22 1886		Roof, Fred O.
Jan 13 1888		Smails, T. G.
Jun 21 1888		Korte, William F.
Oct 18 1888		Barnett, John
Oct 26 1888		Hanning, David

**CUCHARAS – Continued**

Jan 16 1889	Stevens, Walter V.	
Dec 31 1889	Ames, Robert	
May 4 1891	Valdez, Juan M.	
Oct 18 1892	Stevens, Walter V.	
Aug 23 1894	Parkhurst, Lewellyn A.	
Nov 22 1894	Linn, Richard M.	
Apr 11 1895	Lipton, William	
Aug 24 1898	Tanquary, Nellie	
Sep 21 1899	Stevens, Walter V.	
Apr 7 1904	Aiken, Mary	
Aug 12 1904	Aiken, F. M.	Not commissioned
Dec 15 1904	Jones, Ray Josephine	
Jul 24 1908	Cooney, Katherine	
Jan 16 1909	Chalk, Forest A.	
Feb 4 1910	Stevens, James B.	
Oct 22 1912	Compton, Harry W.	
Mar 4 1914	Miller, John N.	
Mar 30 1916	Guerro, Nestor	
Jan 15 1921	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	Cucharas Col MS	Mscp Pen cancel	May 29 1875
2	CUCHARAS, COLO. // DENVER & RIO GRANDE R'Y CI 11P 31.0/23.0	Hstp No killer	Dec 26 1876
3	Cucharas MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Oct 6 1880 Sep 19 1886
4	CUCHARAS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Oct 1 1890 Nov 30 1891
5	CUCHARAS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Grid, oval 9 bar	Nov 28 1898 Aug 31 1906
5.1	CUCHARAS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Oct 23 1908
6	CUCHARAS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 14 1914 Apr 3 1915



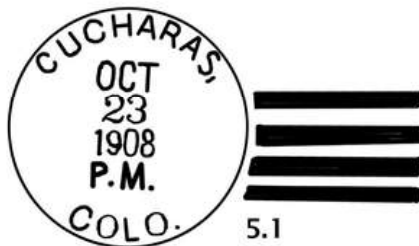
1  2



4



5



5.1



6

**DELCARBON**

Delcarbon was the seventh in the series of coal camp post offices northwest of Walsenburg along what is today a straight line stretch of Colorado Highway 69. This was the route of the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Calumet was the sixth in the series but it did not have a post office.

Turner was the name originally requested in early 1915 for the post office but that was not accepted. The reason is likely that during 1915 the mine, owned by a Mr. Turner, was purchased by the Calumet Fuel Company of Salt Lake City, Utah and the name of the property was changed to Delcarbon – Spanish for “of the coal.”

Delcarbon was a reasonably large operation and company town. Its post office lasted longer than any of the other coal camps in the area.

After visiting the locations of Gordon and Camp Shumway, return to Colorado Highway 69 and continue northwest about a mile and a half.

Delcarbon was on the west side of the highway as the road descends into the Huerfano River Valley. Mine dumps are visible from the road and there are a number of foundations scattered on the hillside.

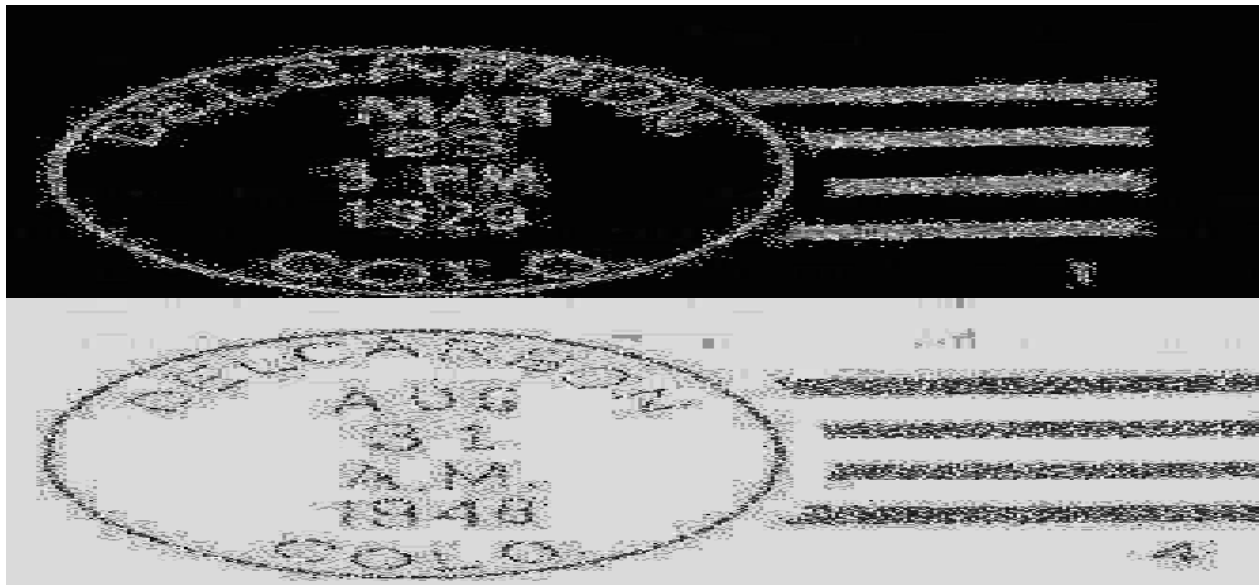
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 28 1915	---	SW/4 Sec 10, T27S R67W Sketch map shows as NE/4 SW/4 Sec 10 Original request for TURNER Not accepted Applicant for Postmaster - John J. Sheeley	
Nov 20 1915		Established	
Nov 20 1915		Sheeley, John J.	
Jan 11 1930		Nesbitt, George W.	Acting
Mar 17 1930		Nesbitt, George W.	Appointed
Apr 14 1930		Nesbitt, George W.	Commissioned
Aug 12 1935		Nallon, John	Assumed charge
Aug 27 1935		Nallon, John	Acting
Sep 11 1935		Nallon, John	Confirmed
Oct 2 1935		Nallon, John	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	Appears to be at intersection of sections 28, 29, 32, 33 T27S R67W [This does not appear to be correct]	
Dec 31 1950		Vallejo, Mrs. Dora	Assumed charge
Jan 11 1951		Vallejo, Mrs. Dora	Acting
Feb 23 1951		Vallejo, Mrs. Dora	Confirmed
Mar 12 1951		Vallejo, Mrs. Dora	Commissioned
Nov 12 1953		Ordered closed	
Dec 31 1953		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	DELCARBON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	--- -- 1922 Mar 23 1929
2	DELCARBON, / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-27x19mm	Mar 26 1934 Apr 2 1936
3	DELCARBON. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 14 1939 Mar 1 1945
4	DELCARBON / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 31 1948 Dec 31 1953

DELCARBON – Continued



**DICKSON**

Dickson was a ranch post office located on Muddy Creek near where Bruff Creek joins the larger stream. It was in an area principally given over to stock raising with some agricultural land along the stream.

The source of the name has not been recorded.

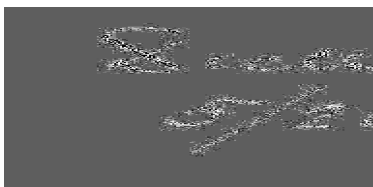
Measuring the distance from the intersection of Colorado Highway 69 and Huerfano County Road 634 west of Gardner, it is seven and two-tenths miles to Forest Service Road 559; the road west towards Medano Pass. Dickson was to the west of Highway 69 and on the east side of Muddy Creek. From the road I was unable to see anything that might be ruins left from Dickson.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 30 1879	Established
Jan 30 1879	Watkins, Zachary
Jan 23 1880	Chermside, Walter F.
May 18 1881 ---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 34 T25S R71W On the east side of Muddy Creek
Jun 12 1884	Lincoln, Richard M.
Jan 7 1885	Discontinued Mail to Gardner

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1 Dickson Colo. MS
- Mscp Pen cancel
- May 26 1884



**FARISITA**

The initial post office at this location, established in 1878, was named Huerfano Canon. In 1890 the post office name was changed to Talpa. That post office closed in 1912. In 1923 a new post office, Farisita, opened at the location on the Huerfano River about six miles southeast of Gardner.



**Abandoned buildings at Farisita, Colorado**

**Photograph by James L. Ozment**

**May 18, 1999**

It has been frequently reported the Talpa Post Office name was changed to Farisita to avoid potential conflicts with Talpa, New Mexico. However, the Farisita Post Office did not open until eleven years after closure of the Talpa Post Office.

Nearly all historical accounts of Farisita refer to the postmaster as A. (Asperidon) S. Faris. However, the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments show that the postmaster from 1923 to 1931 was Mrs. Louise Faris, not A. S. Faris.

The historical accounts do agree that the post office was named for their popular daughter Jeanette, called Farisita (“little Faris Girl”) by the Spanish-speaking residents. In 1931 Jeanette Faris became the postmaster.

Farisita is in an area of cattle and sheep ranches. Other than hay and some grain there is little other agriculture. There was a store and perhaps some other small businesses related to ranching and agriculture but the community was never very large and by 1990 it consisted of only a few homes along Colorado Highway 69. The post office was discontinued, likely because the store closed and no one was interested in assuming the duties of postmaster. Gardner, six miles to the northwest, was still an active community and could take responsibility for postal service for the remaining residents of Farisita.

Latitude = 37:44:41 North Longitude = 105:04:15 West FARISITA

## FARISITA – Continued

## Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 14 1922	---	NE/4 Sec 35 T26S R69W 260 yards north of Huerfano River 250 yards west of Turkey Creek Document indicates change in name from TALPA Applicant for postmaster - Louise S. Faris From the sketch map, it appears that the site was known as either Talpa or Farisita, and that the P.O.D may have chosen the name FARISITA	
Apr 24 1923		Established	
Apr 24 1923		Farris, Mrs. Louise	Confirmed
May 7 1923		Farris, Mrs. Louise	Commissioned
May 22 1923		Farris, Mrs. Louise	Assumed charge
Dec 21 1931		Farris, Jeanette	Confirmed
Oct 18 1932		Farris, Jeanette	Commissioned
Oct 30 1932		Farris, Jeanette	Assumed charge
Apr 30 1934		Marmaduke, Harold V.	Assumed charge
May 9 1934		Marmaduke, Harold V.	Acting
Aug 3 1934		Marmaduke, Harold V.	Confirmed
Jan 5 1935		Marmaduke, Harold V.	Appointment rescinded
Jan 18 1935		Lewis, Charles E.	Assumed charge
Jan 22 1935		Lewis, Charles E.	Acting
Feb 16 1935		Lewis, Charles E.	Confirmed
Mar 27 1935		Lewis, Charles E.	Commissioned
Feb 27 1939	---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 36 T26S R69W 400 feet east of Turkey Creek 100 feet north of Huerfano River	
Jul 1 1939		Lewis, Mrs. Helen Walton	Assumed charge
Jul 24 1939		Lewis, Mrs. Helen Walton	Acting
Aug 23 1939		Ordered closed	
Sep 15 1939		Discontinued Mail to Gardner	
Sep 12 1939		Closing order rescinded	
Oct 18 1939		Lewis, Mrs. Helen Walton	Confirmed
Nov 13 1939		Lewis, Mrs. Helen Walton	Commissioned
Dec 1 1939		Lewis, Mrs. Helen Walton	Assumed charge
Oct 7 1941		Sanders, Guy	Assumed charge
Oct 18 1941		Sanders, Guy	Acting
Oct 22 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 36 T26S R69W 1/4 miles southeast of Turkey Creek 1/2 mile north of Huerfano River	
Feb 7 1941[1942?]		Sanders, Guy	Confirmed
Feb 18 1941[1942?]		Sanders, Guy	Commissioned
Dec 31 1944		Quintana, Herbert	Assumed charge
Jan 15 1945		Quintana, Herbert	Acting
Feb 1 1945	---	Sec 35 T26S R69W 1/4 mile west of previous site 1/8 mile west of Turkey Creek 1/8 mile north of Huerfano River	
Mar 5 1945		Quintana, Herbert	Confirmed
May 7 1945		Quintana, Herbert	Commissioned
Oct 28 1946		Ulibarri, Mrs. Freda S.	Acting
Jan 3 1947		Ulibarri, Mrs. Freda S.	Confirmed
Feb 17 1947		Ulibarri, Mrs. Freda S.	Commissioned
Mar 18 1960		Medina, Santos A.	Assumed charge
Mar 21 1960		Medina, Santos A.	Acting
Sep 28 1960		Medina, Mrs. Ersie M.	Assumed charge
Sep 30 1960		Medina, Mrs. Ersie M.	Confirmed
Apr 7 1990		Discontinued	

**FARISITA – Continued**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	FARISITA, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars P-25x19mm	Oct 31 1934 Sep 15 1939
2	FARISITA / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 4 1948 Aug 28 1954
3	FARISITA / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/20.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jul 9 1956 Jun 10 1960
4	FARISITA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 26 1962
5	FARISITA, CO / 81037 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 23 1968 Mar 18 1987



**FARR**

Farr was a railroad post office on the Denver & Rio Grande Railroad south of Walsenburg. Coal was its reason for existence. It was named for Jeff Farr, a sheriff of Huerfano County who was also active in promoting coal mining in the area. It is doubtful that there was ever more than the mines, a company store and housing for the miners at Farr.

Take the Walsenburg Exit from Interstate 25 into Walsenburg. Drive through the town on US Highway 160 to the western edge. Go to Huerfano County Road 340 and then turn south. This is the road to the Boy Scout Ranch (1999). One and three-tenths mile from US 160 there is a fairly sharp turn to the west. At that point there are a number of foundations and building remains, which stretch for about a half-mile along the road. Beyond this point the road was blocked and it was necessary to return to Walsenburg in order to continue to some of the other coal camps and sites in this portion of the county.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

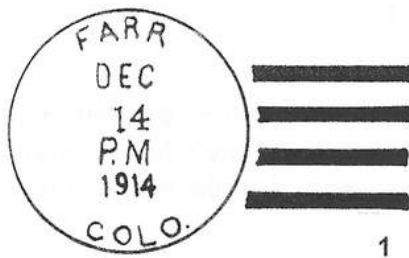
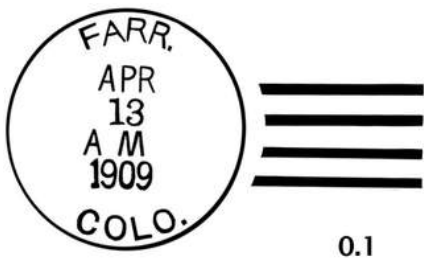
- Nov 20 1907 --- NW/4 Sec 21 T28S R66W Sketch map shows near crossing of Bear Creek by the Colorado Southern RR, north side of creek
- Dec 3 1907 Established
- Dec 3 1907 Marsten, Seward L.
- Sep 27 1909 Chambers, Charles L.
- Oct 31 1910 Skinner, Vernon L.
- Apr 30 1914 --- Sec 21 T28S R66W 1/4 mile west of Bear Creek  
Ravenwood 1 mile south Sketch map places it in center of section 28 (error)

**FARR – Continued**

Mar 14 1919	Donaldson, James	
May 21 1925	Erskine, Ernest	Acting
Oct 25 1928	Reeder, Walter H.	Acting
Nov 22 1930	Riccottone, Paul	Acting
Jun 19 1925	Erskine, Ernest	Appointed
Mar 6 1929	Reeder, Walter H.	Appointed
Oct 22 1930	Riccottone, Paul	Possession
May 5 1931	Riccottone, Paul	Confirmed
May 27 1931	Riccottone, Paul	Commissioned
Apr 1 1932	Mills, William O.	Assumed charge
Apr 2 1932	Mills, William O.	Acting
Jan 9 1933	Mills, William O.	Confirmed
Mar 3 1933	Mills, William O.	Commissioned
Aug 26 1933	Nutz, Frank B.	Assumed charge
Sep 28 1933	Nutz, Frank B.	Acting
Nov 22 1933	Nutz, Frank B.	Confirmed
Jan 11 1934	Nutz, Frank B.	Commissioned
Jan 17 1942	--- NW/4 NW/4 Sec 21, T28S R66W	
Mar 26 1946	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

0.1	FARR, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x13mm	Apr 13 1909
1	FARR / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Dec 14 1914
1.1	FARR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 29 1915
2	FARR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x14mm	Aug 11 1921 Feb 15 1933
3	FARR. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 4 1935 Mar 1 1943



**GARDNER**

The original post office at this location was named Huerfano Canyon, not to be confused with Huerfano Canon, which was at the present day site of Farisita, six miles to the southeast. After only a few months of operation the name of the post office was changed to Gardner.

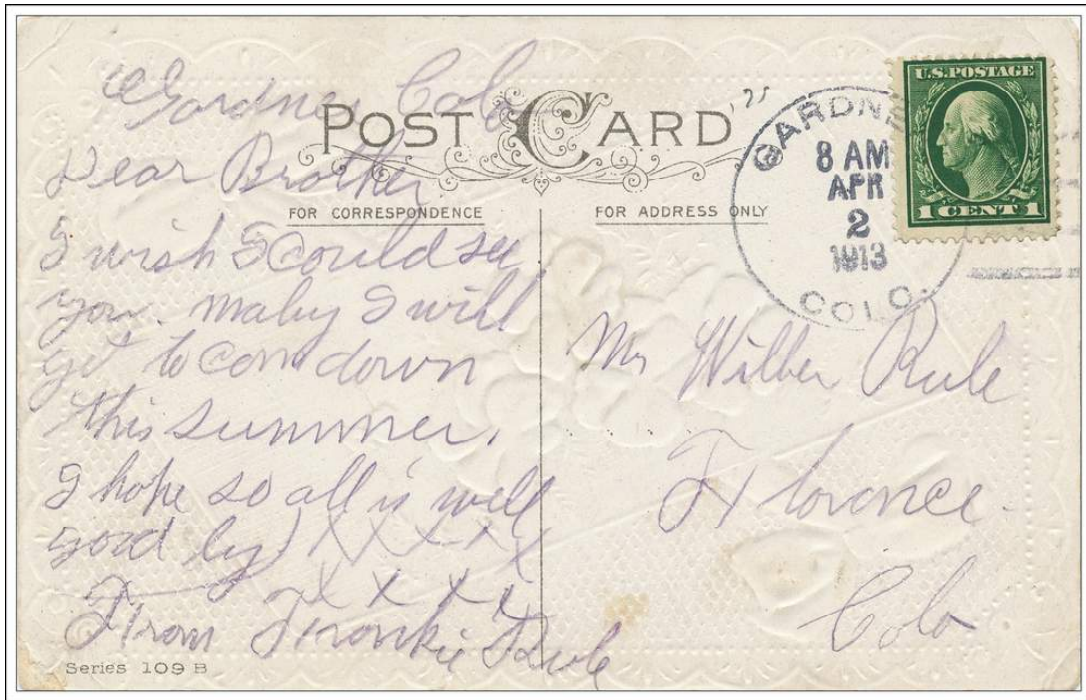
Historical accounts of Gardner agree that the town and post office were named for Herbert Gardner, the son of Henry J. Gardner, former governor of Massachusetts. The reports claim that Herbert began ranching in the Huerfano Valley in 1872. However, since the post office name change took place in December 1871, Mr. Gardner must have been there in 1871 or earlier.

Gardner was a stopping place on the stage line between Pueblo and Santa Fe. This stage line ran south to Walsenburg and then up the Huerfano River to Gardner where it turned west to cross the Sangre de Cristo Mountains via Mosca Pass and on into the San Luis Valley. With the completion of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad over the mountains to Alamosa, traffic on the road through Gardner was greatly diminished.

Gardner did continue, providing services to the residual travelers and becoming a supply center for the surrounding ranches. In recent years the community provides limited services to hunters, fishermen and other visitors to the upper portion of the Huerfano Valley.

Gardner is located on Colorado Highway 69 northwest of Walsenburg, where the road west to Red Wing begins. It is still a modest sized active community.

Latitude = 37:47:00 North Longitude = 105:09:54 West GARDNER



**GARDNER, / COLO.**

**April 2, 1913**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| <b>Dec 15 1871</b> | <b>Name changed from Huerfano Canyon</b> |
| <b>Dec 15 1871</b> | <b>Richards, George J.</b>               |
| <b>Mar 26 1872</b> | <b>Fanshawe, William S.</b>              |
| <b>Jan 23 1874</b> | <b>Moore, James A.</b>                   |

## GARDNER – Continued

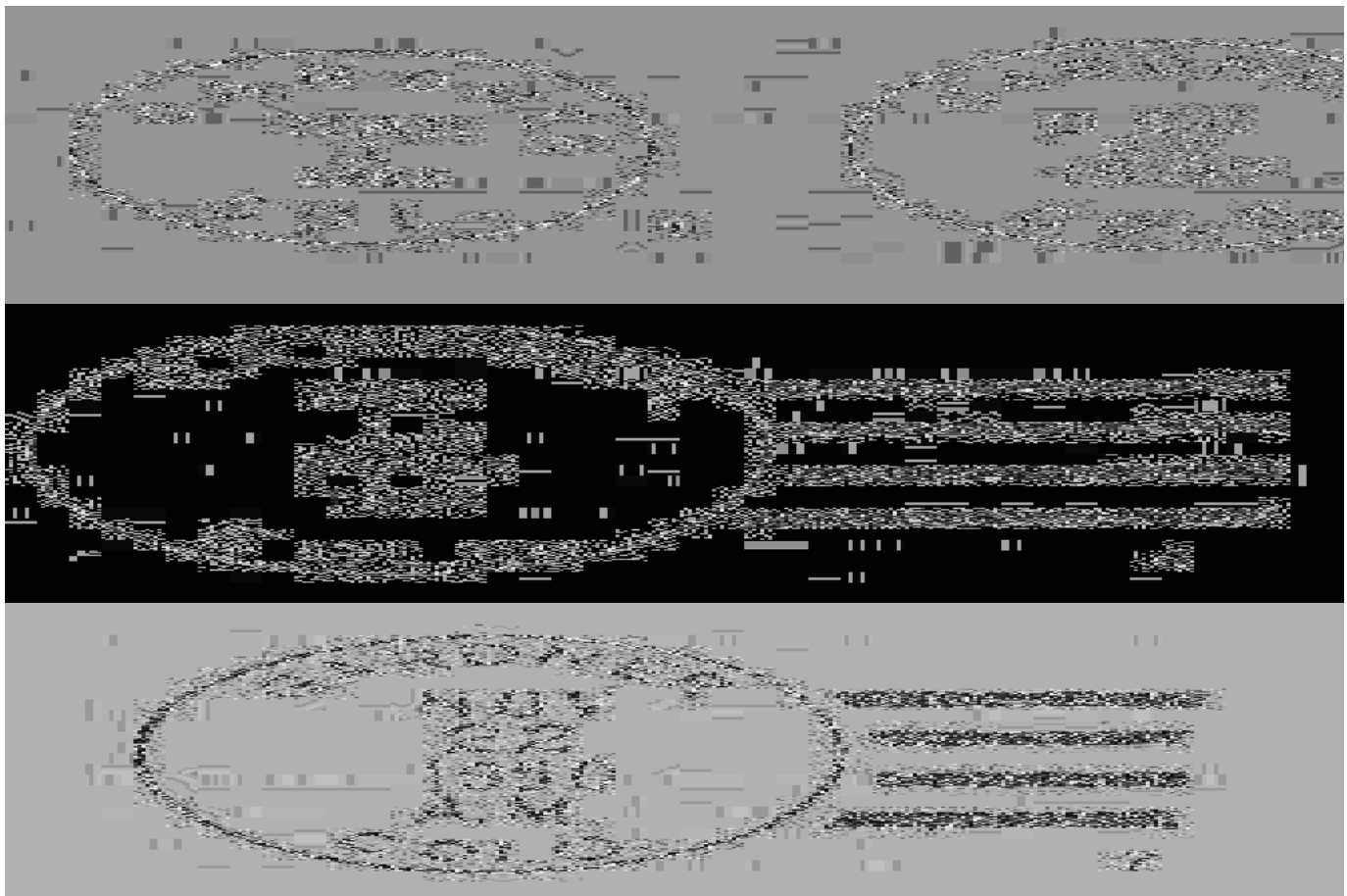
Jan 17 1878	Blake, Charles H.	
Oct 8 1878	Fouch, Titus W.	
Sep 4 1882	Fox, William H.	
Oct 16 1882	DeCamp, Louis C.	
Mar 29 1895	Hudson, Timothy McClure	
Jan 16 1899	Clifford, Hallie A.	
May 15 1899 ---	SE/4 Sec 13 T26S R70W 1/4 mile north of Huerfano River 1/2 mile east of Muddy Creek	
Jun 13 1899	Edie, Mary A.	
Feb 25 1901	Wright, Maud H.	
Dec 30 1905	Millsap, Tina	
Sep 18 1907	Wyatt, Nora B.	
Sep 12 1912	Moore, Floyd L.	
Mar 25 1913	Woodruff, William H.	
Nov 14 1913	Hornbeck, Ross H.	
Apr 23 1914 ---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 13 T26S R70W 20 rods north of Huerfano River	
Dec 7 1916	Sexton, David A.	
Oct 18 1919	Elldery, George W.	
May 4 1926	Martin, Mrs. Katherine	Acting
Jun 4 1926	Shrimsher, Mrs. Lizzie J.	Confirmed
Jun 25 1926	Shrimsher, Mrs. Lizzie J.	Commissioned
Jul 6 1926	Shrimsher, Mrs. Lizzie J.	Assumed charge
Jan 9 1934	Thorne, Mrs. Zoe E.	Assumed charge
Mar 8 1934	Thorne, Mrs. Zoe E.	Acting
Sep 7 1934	Thorne, Mrs. Zoe E.	Confirmed
Oct 1 1934	Thorne, Mrs. Zoe E.	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941 ---	Sec 24 T26S R70W Huerfano River 75 yards to south	
Jul 25 1942	Knoll, Charles W.	Assumed charge
Aug 12 1942	Knoll, Charles W.	Acting
Mar 3 1943	Knoll, Charles W.	Confirmed
Mar 25 1943	Knoll, Charles W.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1945		Office made Presidential
Jul 17 1945	Knoll, Charles W.	Nominated
Jul 28 1945	Knoll, Charles W.	Confirmed
Jul 30 1945	Knoll, Charles W.	Appointed Presidential
Dec 19 1945	Knoll, Charles W.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1948		Office relegated
Jul 6 1948	Knoll, Charles W.	Commissioned
Aug 30 1948	Knoll, Charles W.	Commissioned
Apr 30 1962	Maes, Arthur C.	Assumed charge
May 1 1962	Maes, Arthur C.	Acting
Mar 7 1963	Maes, Arthur C.	Appointed
Dec 11 1971	Sandoval, Mrs. Ethel M.	Appointed
Dec 11 1971	Sandoval, Mrs. Ethel M.	Possession
-----	Discontinued	

## Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1	GARDNER / COL. CI 10P 26.5	Mar 1 1886 Hstp Target, smudged
2	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dec 30 1897 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
3	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 9 1908 Sep 10 1908 Hstp Not present
3.1	GARDNER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Dec 26 1910 4bars S-21x14mm

**GARDNER – Continued**

4	GARDNER, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 2 1913 Nov 16 1914
5	GARDNER, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 16 1932 May 14 1936
6	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Mar 2 1937 Sep 6 1948
7	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Nov 22 1950 Feb 1 1960
7.1	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-14x20mm	Apr 13 1959
8	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-24x20mm	May 28 1955
9	GARDNER / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Feb 13 1965
10	GARDNER, CO / 81040 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Dec 19 1967 Feb 17 1977
11	GARDNER, CO / 81040 CI 10P 33.5	4bars P-24x17mm	Aug 13 1987
12	GARDNER, CO / 81040-9998 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 13 1993 Oct 24 2001
13	GARDNER CO 81040 CI 11P 33.0/22.5	Rolr 7 wavy lines	May 18 1999



GARDNER – Continued



**GORDON**

Gordon was the site of the Gordon Mine Number 19, owned and operated by The Gordon Coal Company. A man named Gordon opened the mine and both the mine and the town adopted his name.

Reportedly, John Jones filed a town plat for Gordon on May 29, 1908; however, it was many years before Gordon gained its own post office. Until 1924 the residents of Gordon utilized the post office at the next door Camp Shumway. In 1924 the Camp Shumway Post Office was moved to Gordon and renamed Gordon.

Gordon is the fourth in the series of coal camp post offices along the west side of Colorado Highway 69. From the site of Maitland, continue north on Colorado 69 to Huerfano County Road 521. Turn west on that road a short distance to Road 525. Turn north and you will be at the site of Gordon and a short distance further at the site of Camp Shumway.

Gordon is marked by mine dumps and a number of foundations and collapsed buildings.

An alternative route is to leave Colorado 69 at Maitland and follow Huerfano 525 through Maitland, on to Gordon, and then to Camp Shumway. Much of the road will be on the grade of the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad that served these coal camps.

Latitude = 37:40:54 North Longitude = 104:51:16 West GORDON

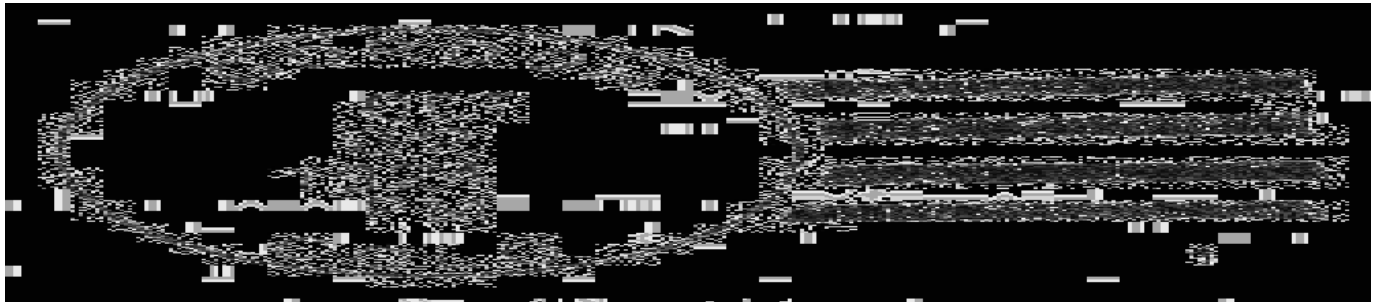
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 24 1919	Bann, James W. (Camp Shumway)	
Jul 1 1924	Moved from Camp Shumway	
Aug 15 1924	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 26 T27S R67W
Oct 27 1936	Condor, Mrs. Elizabeth	Assumed charge
Nov 3 1936	Condor, Mrs. Elizabeth	Acting
Nov 23 1936	Condor, Mrs. Elizabeth	Confirmed
Dec 10 1936	Condor, Mrs. Elizabeth	Commissioned
Aug 19 1937	Root, Mrs. Ada M.	Assumed charge
Sep 14 1937	Root, Mrs. Ada M.	Acting
Nov 29 1937	Ordered closed	
Dec 15 1937	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**GORDON – Continued**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	GORDON / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 22 1924 <a href="#">No Xerox, comma and/or periods not known</a>
2	GORDON, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??X19mm	May 1 1934 Mar 14 1935
3	GORDON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm, close spaced letters	Dec 15 1937



**HEZRON**

Hezron was a coal mining camp about seven miles south of Walsenburg. There was a Hezron Station on the railroad, but the town was located to the west, above the mine and about a mile from the base of the foothills.

For many years this site was not accessible but recent attempts to develop the area have opened some roads into the area, therefore an up-to-date map is highly recommended if you plan to tour this portion of Huerfano County.

Follow the directions that are given below to Ideal and then on to Mayne. Mayne is at the end of Hoofprint Court, which branches from Sunrise Road. From there, continue south to the intersection of Trailsend Drive and Rodeo Drive. From there I am not quite sure where I went. I went two-tenths mile further to Leather Drive and then went four-tenths mile on that road before turning around and going back to the intersection. I then continued east on Leather Drive one mile. That did bring me to a scattered group of mine dumps that I believe were the Hezron Mines.

At this point, not really certain of where I was, I deemed it best to return to Walsenburg and Interstate 25 in order to continue south to Pryor and the post office locations in that area.

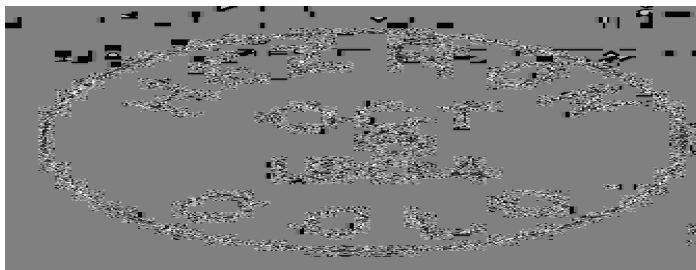
Latitude = 37:31:31 North Longitude = 104:43:53 West HEZRON MINES

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 20 1902	Established
Jan 20 1902	McLaughlin, James E.
Apr 17 1902	--- NW/4 Sec 13 T29S R66W About 2-1/2 miles southwest of Mayne Station
Apr 25 1902	Lamme, Henry G.
Jul 11 1908	Boyd, Clyde H.
Jul 11 1908	Boyd, Clyde H.
Mar 10 1910	Cook, Charles M.
May 25 1911	McGarver, James R.
Feb 14 1912	Discontinued Mail to Pryor

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

- |   |                                |  |                         |
|---|--------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 1 | HEZRON / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | Hstp Not present   | Oct 8 1904              |
| 2 | HEZRON, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.5 | 4bars This is listed as a Doane, but I do not believe it to be | Jan 13 1910 Jun 24 1911 |

**HOUCK**

The operation of the Houck Post Office is questionable. It was less than four months after its establishment that it was closed.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report file for Huerfano County does not contain a report for Houck. However, I did find a report - filed under Jefferson County. That location, like the one for Birmingham, is north of Gardner.

To visit the site, go east from Gardner on Colorado Highway 69 to Huerfano County Road 634 and turn north up Sand Arroyo. Six and a half miles from Highway 69 there is a side road to the west, National Forest Road 440, a half-mile down that road there is a windmill and water tank and signs that there may have been a building of some sort. I believe that was the location for this very short-term post office. If it did operate it was no more than a ranch post office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- |             |     |   |
|-------------|-----|---|
| Jan 31 1883 | --- | SW/4 Sec 9 T25S R70W 10 miles north of the Huerfano River |
|             |     | Proposed postmaster - Franklin W. Smith                   |
| Feb 13 1883 |     | Established   |
| Feb 13 1883 |     | Smith, Franklin W.  |
| May 31 1883 |     | Discontinued Mail to Gardner                              |

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HOUCK**

**HUERFANO**

This name has been applied to more than one location in Huerfano and Pueblo Counties. To be honest, I am not certain that the information below, from 1862 to 1879, relates to the same location as that subsequent to 1882. Assuming that it does, then in 1862 this place began as a settlement on the crossing of the Huerfano River in present day Huerfano County. It was likely a stage station and it is claimed that a small community did develop.

In 1879 the Huerfano Post Office was moved north to Undercliffe in Pueblo County.

Post Office records indicate that the Apache Post Office was established on May 31, 1878 at the same location as the Huerfano Post Office. It supposedly operated there until November 1879 when it moved to a location on Apache Creek. The overlap of operations of these two post offices is difficult to explain.

**HUERFANO – Continued**

In 1882 the Apache Post Office was moved to Huerfano from its location on Apache Creek. The 1883 Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Huerfano at a location in Huerfano County, on the Huerfano River and on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. This would be on the original grade of the railroad, not the present day route. That post office was closed in 1884.

From 1888 to 1900 there was a post office named Ute at the location of Huerfano. In 1900 the Ute Post Office was re-named Huerfano and continued under that name until it was closed in 1929.

Exit from Interstate 25 at Exit 64 and drive east on Huerfano County Road 110 to the railroad. Road 110 turns north along the west side of the railroad, but there is a crossing of the railroad at the turn. Unfortunately in 1999, when Jim Ozment and I visited the location, there was a locked gate and we could not go on to the location. We did drive south along the railroad to where we could see the Huerfano River but could not identify anything that might remain from Huerfano/Apache/Ute/Huerfano.

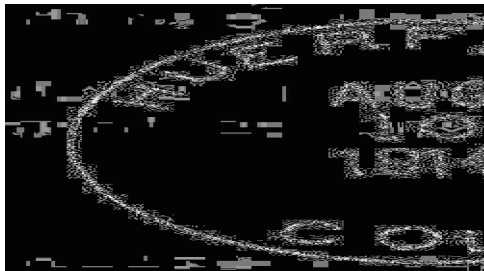
For further analysis of this complicated situation Please refer to the discussions of the Apache (I) and the Ute Post Offices.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 25 1862	Established
Feb 25 1862	Doyle, Joseph B.
Sep 5 1864	Robb, Alexander W.
Oct 9 1865	Suaso, Thomas
Oct 7 1870	Doyle, James
Apr 17 1876	Peterson, Adolph H.
Feb 8 1877	Jacox, Harvey S.
Jun 10 1878	Griffin, Thomas E.
Sep 23 1878	Day, Alexander
Jan 20 1879	Post office moved to Undercliffe, Pueblo County
Nov 10 1882	Post office moved from Apache
Nov 10 1882	Rice, Robert D.
Feb 5 1883	Closed Feb 5 1883 Mail to Cucharas
--- -- ----	Closing order rescinded??
Apr 11 1883 ---	N/2 SE/4 Sec 2 T26S R66W 80 rods west of Huerfano River on D&RG The sketch map shows a location in agreement with this description Note: for some reason, the location has been overwritten - It did read S/2 NE/4 Sec 30 T25S R66W
May 9 1883	Slater, Ephraim S.
Aug 13 1883	Hoffman, J. C.
Aug 24 1883	Hoffman, Curtis J.
Sep 20 1883	Murphy, W. R.
Feb 15 1884	Discontinued Papers to Cucharas
Apr 27 1900	Post office formerly named UTE, at the town of Huerfano
Apr 27 1900	Palmer, John
May 5 1905	Biley, Thaddeus C.
Apr 18 1914 ---	SE/4 Sec 2 T26S R66W About 300 feet west of the Huerfano River and two miles south of Apache Creek 100 feet west of the D&RG Ry track
Sep 14 1918	Boyd, Edwin Y.
Oct 15 1920	Capps, Daniel H.
Nov 19 1926	Johnson, Clyde M.
Mar 20 1929	Ordered closed
Apr 15 1929	Discontinued Mail to Lascar

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

1 HUERFANO, / COLO. Apr 26 1911 Aug 10 1914  
 CI 10P 31.0 4bars S-24x19mm



**HUERFANO CANON**

This was the second of two post offices that had almost the same name. The name of this office was the Spanish spelling – canon. The earlier office used the English spelling – canyon. It was also one of three names applied to post offices that were in virtually the same location.

The name is a reference to the location on the Huerfano River and the small canyon that has been carved by the river. The area surrounding this site is almost exclusively grazing land for cattle and sheep.

The post office was in a store operated by the Harmes family. In 1890 the post office name was changed to Talpa. This may also have included a short move to a new location but William L. Harmes remained the postmaster. The Talpa Post Office closed in 1912 and a new post office, Farisita, opened in 1923.

According to the Site Location Reports the location of Huerfano was on Colorado Highway 69, a short distance west of what remains of Farisita.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 5 1878 Established
- Apr 5 1878 Harmes, William L.
- Jul 21 1887 Discontinued Papers to Badito
- Jan 18 1888 Re-established
- Jan 18 1888 Harmes, William L.
- Mar 2 1888 --- W/2 NE/4 NE/4 SW/4 Sec 35 T26S R69W 150 yards north of Huerfano River  
 Half a mile west of Turkey Creek  
 Annotated: This P.O. had been established 9 years ago and was discontinued las(sic) Sept 1887, was established January 18, 1888
- Oct 16 1890 Moved to Talpa

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 HUERFANO CANON, / COLO. May 6 1881  
 OC 10P 28.0x28.0 Hstp Target

2 HUERFANO CANON / COLO. Jun 21 1889  
 CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Target



## **HUERFANO CANYON**

This is the earlier of two post offices with virtually the same name. The name of this office employed the English spelling of canyon. The other office, using the Spanish spelling - canon, was at the location of present day Farisita about six miles to the southeast.

The Huerfano Canyon Post Office lasted less than a year before the name was changed to Gardner. This office would have served local ranchers and also travelers on the road to Westcliffe to the north and the road west to Mosca Pass and the San Luis Valley.

The location provided by the Post Office Geographical Site Location Report is slightly west of present day Gardner, about where the road to Red Wing and Mosca Pass branches from Colorado Highway 69.

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

<b>Mar 20 1871</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 24 T26S R70W On the north side of the Huerfano River at the point where the Rio Porco Creek joins the Huerfano On the sketch map, the name is shown as Huerfano Canon Document shows Name changed to GARDNER</b>
<b>Apr 13 1871</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Apr 13 1871</b>		<b>Hintiode, John H.</b>
<b>Oct 3 1871</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>
<b>Dec 1 1871</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Dec 1 1871</b>		<b>Richards, S.</b>
<b>Dec 15 1871</b>		<b>Name changed to Gardner</b>

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

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM HUERFANO CANYON**

## **IDEAL**

Ideal was a railroad post office on the Colorado and Southern Railroad, at the terminus of a short spur from Round Oak. For nearly twenty years it served the Ideal Mine and the surrounding area.

From the site of Round Oak continue south on Ideal Road (Huerfano County Road 330) to mile post five and the entrance to the Silver Spurs Ranch development.

There are several mine dumps and a number of foundations and ruined buildings. The quantity of mine dumps and ruins gives the impression that this was a reasonably large operation. My visit to the site was in 1999 and it is possible that further development of the Silver Spurs Ranch has destroyed many or all of those ruins.

After visiting the site of Ideal I continued on to search for the locations of Mayne and Hezron. It is not easy to describe the route to those locations and the roads are fairly recent and were not named.

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

<b>Jan 18 1910</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>E/2 Sec 3 T29S R66W Map shows it in center of E/2 of Section 3 2 miles south of Round Oak and 2-1/2 miles west of Mayne</b>
<b>Feb 24 1910</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Feb 24 1910</b>		<b>Linskey, Edward P.</b>
<b>Aug 24 1910</b>		<b>Stacey, George W. Jr.</b>
<b>Oct 13 1913</b>		<b>Ross, Alexander M.</b>
<b>Aug 28 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 NE/4 Sec 3 T29S R66W Sketch map shows it two miles west of Mayne which is on the Colorado &amp; Southern</b>
<b>Sep 29 1916</b>		<b>Feldhauser, Frederick W. Declined</b>
<b>Jan 30 1917</b>		<b>Erskine, Ernest</b>
<b>Mar 5 1925</b>		<b>Phillips, David J. Acting</b>
<b>Jun 19 1925</b>		<b>Phillips, David J. Appointed</b>
<b>Mar 12 1926</b>		<b>Butler, Howard E.</b>

**IDEAL – Continued**

Aug 21 1926	Keating, John F.	Acting
Aug 24 1926	Keating, John F.	Appointed
Nov 3 1927	Baker, Frank J.	Acting
Apr 30 1928	Baker, Frank J.	Appointed
Oct 26 1929	Ordered closed	
Nov 7 1929	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	



**Ideal, Colorado – The walls of an abandoned building  
and the foundation of another building**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer October 30, 1999

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	IDEAL, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Mar 20 1911 Jul 3 1916
2	IDEAL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-22x15mm	Mar 1 1920 Jun 7 1925



**LA VETA**

Historically the town, today known as La Veta, had its beginnings in 1834 when Colonel John M. Francisco visited the area on a scouting trip. He secured a land grant and with others built an adobe plaza that became variously known as Francisco Plaza, Francisco Ranch and Fort Francisco. The initial post office at the location was called Spanish Peak.

The selected location was at the junction of South Abeyta Creek and the Cucharas River. Title to the land required that the owner occupy, clear, cultivate the land and erect permanent dwellings. The Plaza served as a trading post and refuge for trappers, prospectors and other travelers.

La Veta is Spanish for “the vein.” There is some controversy over the reason for the selection of that name. Most historians agree that it is a reference to the igneous dikes that radiate from the nearby volcanic Spanish Peaks. It has been suggested that the name was for veins of a white mineral, yaso (gypsum) found north of the town. That material was used to whitewash the adobe houses. Another possibility is that it referred to veins of coal that are present in the area.

By the mid-1870’s the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad was building south and west to cross the Sangre de Cristo Mountains. Prior to the arrival of the railroad, President William Palmer bought most of the land adjacent to the Francisco Plaza and with Alexander Hunt formed the La Veta Town Company.

With the arrival of the railroad the new town grew rapidly with stores, saloons, dance halls and residences. La Veta was established on June 18, 1876 and incorporated in 1886.

La Veta quickly became the supply and trade center for the ranches along the Cucharas River. It was also an important location for railroad shops related to the climb to La Veta Pass and later the new route over Veta Pass.

The modern town of La Veta is an active community that still serves the surrounding countryside but it also provides a supply center for hunters, fishermen, hikers and campers who come to the area during the summer months. It is located on Colorado Highway 12, a short distance south of US Highway 160 and west of Walsenburg.

Latitude = 37:30:18 North Longitude = 105:00:26 West LA VETA

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Aug 17 1876</b>	<b>Name changed from Spanish Peak</b>	
<b>Aug 17 1876</b>	<b>Earle, Herbert C.</b>	
<b>Jan 12 1877</b>	<b>Hanley, George J.</b>	
<b>Aug 2 1877</b>	<b>Morton, George W.</b>	
<b>May 28 1879</b>	<b>Colvin, Jeremiah D.</b>	
<b>Dec 4 1882</b>	<b>Colvin, Mrs. Mary S.</b>	
<b>Apr 8 1886</b>	<b>Moore, Francis A.</b>	
<b>Oct 16 1889</b>	<b>Hills, Milton T.</b>	
<b>Mar 21 1894</b>	<b>Francisco, Andrew L.</b>	
<b>Mar 26 1898</b>	<b>Woodruff, William H.</b>	
<b>Oct 1 1910</b>		<b>Office made Presidential</b>
<b>Jan 10 1911</b>	<b>Woodruff, William H.</b>	<b>P&amp;S [Apptd by President &amp; confirmed by Senate]</b>
<b>Jan 16 1912</b>	<b>Cutler, R. V.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Apr 22 1914</b> ---	<b>NE/4 SW/4 Sec 21 T29S R68W 700 feet east of the Cuchara River</b>	
<b>Jan 17 1916</b>	<b>Simpson, Fanny</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Oct 10 1916</b> ---	<b>S/2 NW/4 Sec 21 T29S R68W 1000 feet east of Cuchara River</b>	
<b>Mar 8 1918</b>	<b>Simpson, Cornelia C.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Oct 6 1921</b>	<b>Kincaid, John H.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Dec 21 1925</b>	<b>Kincaid, John H.</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Apr 19 1928</b>	<b>Coleman, Allen R.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Feb 25 1929</b>	<b>Coleman, Cornelia</b>	<b>P&amp;S</b>
<b>Dec 6 1933</b>	<b>Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.</b>	<b>Acting</b>

LA VETA – Continued

Dec 12 1933	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Assumed charge
Jan 23 1934	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Nominated
Feb 1 1934	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Confirmed
Feb 20 1934	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Commissioned
Mar 16 1938	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Nominated
Mar 22 1938	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Confirmed
Mar 25 1938	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 8 1938	Crouse, Mrs. Grace M.	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941 --	NW/4 Sec 21 T29S R68W On State Route 111	
Jul 25 1942	Penne, Mrs. Grace M.	Name changed by marriage
Jun 22 1942	Stansbury, Ershil A.	Nominated
Jul 30 1942	Stansbury, Ershil A.	Confirmed
Jul 31 1942	Stansbury, Ershil A.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 24 1942	Stansbury, Ershil A.	Commissioned
Sep 1 1942	Stansbury, Ershil A.	Assumed charge
Sep 6 1957	Stansbury, Mrs. Gladys L.	Acting
May 29 1958	Arnold, Darrell G.	Nominated
Jul 16 1958	Arnold, Darrell G.	Confirmed, Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
Aug 25 1958	Arnold, Darrell G.	Assumed charge



LA VETA / COLO.

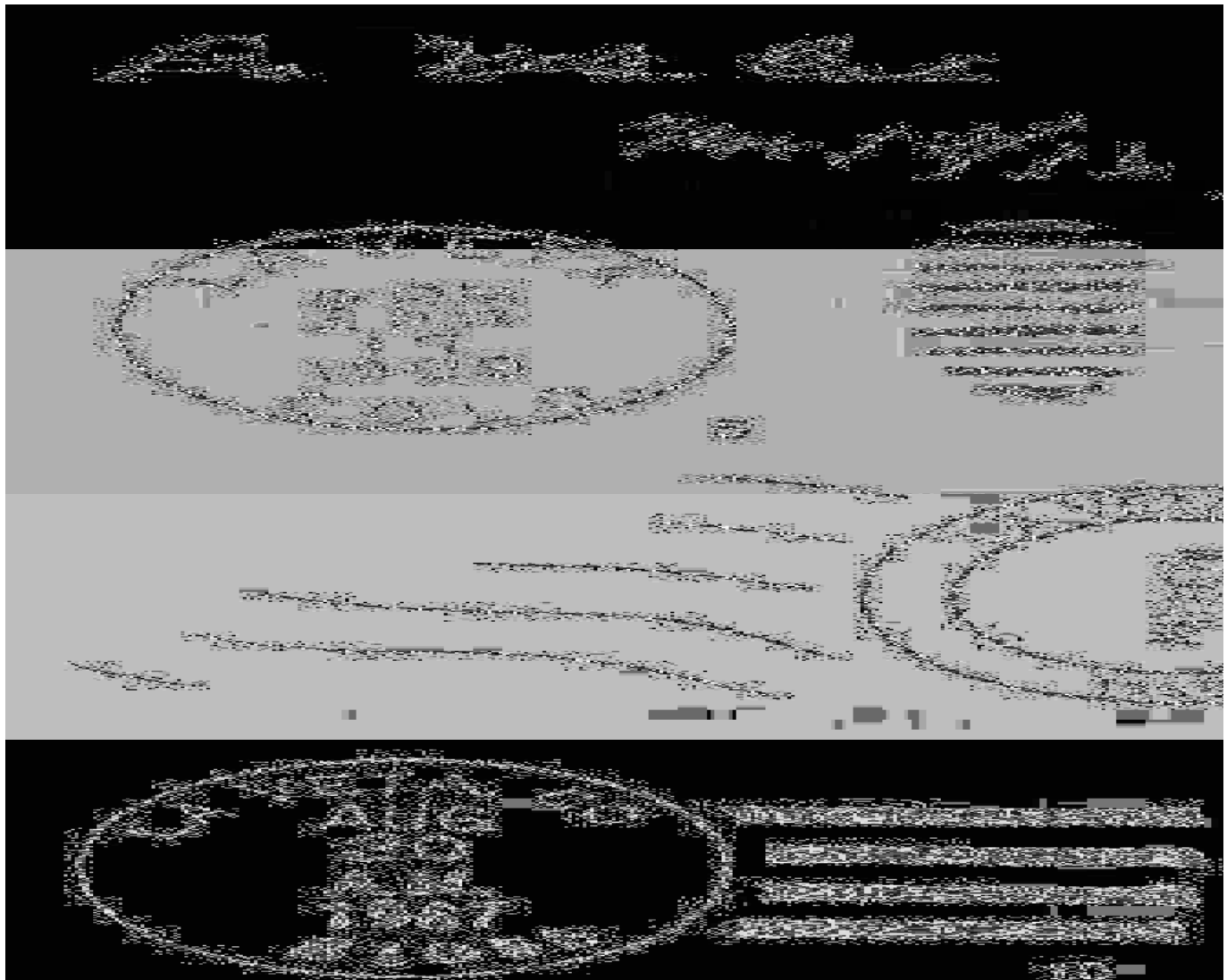
June 16, (1877)

Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

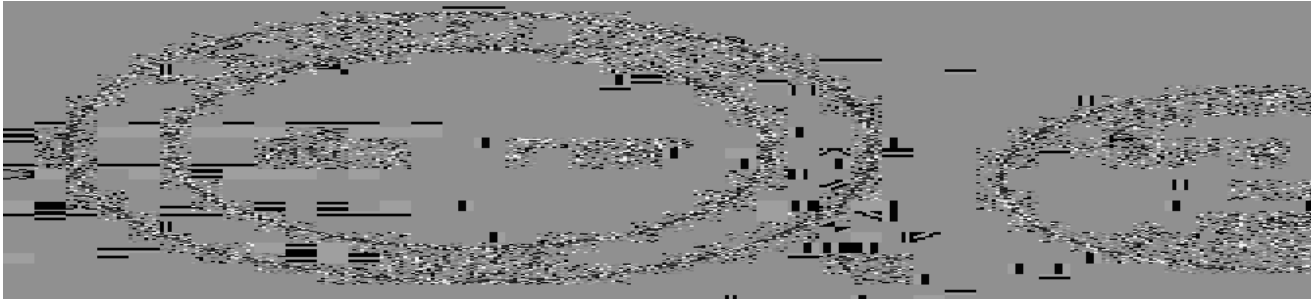
1	La Veta, Colo MS	Nov 14 1876 Oct 23 1876
2	LA VETA / COLO. CI 10P 25.5	Mscp Pen cancel Dec 26 1876 Jul 13 1880
3	LA VETA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target; cork, smudge, circle of 4 wedges Jul 22 1889 Dec 11 1890
4	LA VETA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm Jun 3 1892 Dec 7 1897
5	LA VETA / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Cork, Negative X-roads, 5-bar grid, Smudge Apr 10 1909 Sep 19 1933
		Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval

**LA VETA – Continued**

6	LA VETA, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 24 1907 Mar 2 1907
7	LA VETA, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Jun 15 1938 Feb 3 1949
8	LA VETA, COLO. CI 11P 31.0/22.5	Rolr 7 inclined lines	May 26 1965
9	LA VETA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Sep 21 1965 Apr 26 1971
10	LA VETA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm, ZIP off center to right	Aug 30 1967 Dec 1 1967
11	LA VETA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 2 1969 Oct 18 1972
12	LA VETA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm, ZIP off center to left	Apr 1 1976
13	LA VETA, COLO. CI 11P 35.0/27.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 10 1959 Aug 3 1984
14	LA VETA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 8 1986
15	LA VETA CO 81055 / USPS CI 11P 29.5/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 19 1995 May 19 1999



LA VETA – Continued



**CUCHARA RURAL STATION / BRANCH**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 1 1959	Converted to a Rural Station of La Veta
-----	Re-designated a Rural Branch of La Veta
Jan 2004	Discontinued



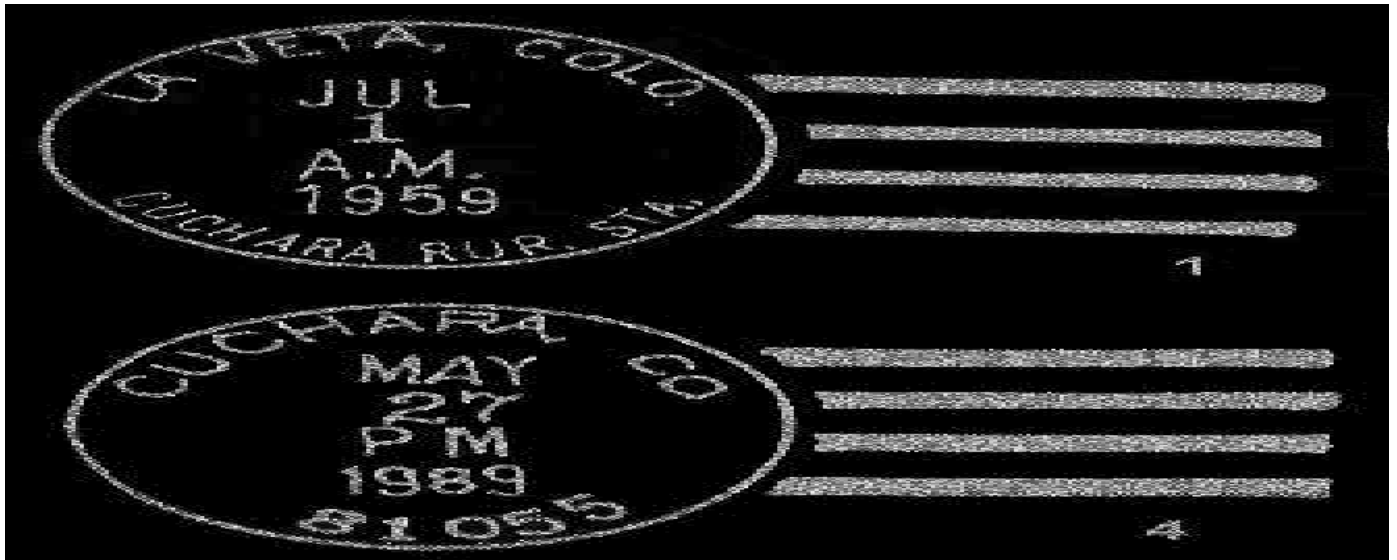
LA VETA, COLO. / CUCHARA RUR. STA. August 18, 1959

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	LA VETA, COLO. / CUCHARA RUR. STA. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jul 1 1959 Aug 18 1961
2	LA VETA, CO 81055 / CUCHARA RUR. BR. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 1 1969
3	CUCHARA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Aug 16 1970 Aug 26 1977
4	CUCHARA, CO / 81055 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	May 27 1989

**LA VETA – Continued**

**CUCHARA RURAL STATION / BRANCH – Continued**



**LARIMER**

On December 21, 1906 C. Valentin filed a plat for the town of Larimer. However, the community had been established in the early 1890's by a group of Swedish settlers. The location was on the original route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to Cucharas. The location was only a short distance from the double-track line to Walsenburg. Larimer failed to develop and within a few years the station, and its associated settlement of Mustang, became the center of activity in the area and the post office was moved from Larimer to Mustang.

The surrounding area is agricultural but a deficiency in water makes it most suitable for grazing land.

The first attempt that Jim Ozment and I made to visit this location was from the south via Lascar. We were able to go only a short distance beyond Apache Creek before the road disappeared. Two days later we tried again, approaching from the north.

Since we were coming from Walsenburg we left Interstate 25 at Exit 71 and went south on the frontage road along the east side of I-25. This becomes Thacker Road (Road 344) and turns away from the interstate to intersect Pickney Road (Road 343). Turn north on Pickney Road, which soon turns east then wanders back north to intersect Cedarwood Road (Road 342). Go east on Cedarwood Road to the intersection with Clay Mine Road (Road 341) south and Wolfenberger Road (Road 339) north. On Clay Mine Road go south to Road 348 and continue south on that road into Huerfano County where it becomes Huerfano County Road 113. Along the way you will observe portions of the old railroad grade.

The site of Larimer was west of Road 113, adjacent to and a short distance south of the Huerfano-Pueblo County line. Nothing other than the railroad grade remains.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 22 1907 -- NE/4 Sec 7 T25S R65W Note: "Name should correspond with that of R. R. Station"  
Note: "Ch MUSTANG"
- Jul 1 1907 Established
- Jul 1 1907 Edson, William
- Jan 7 1908 Eklund, Clarence
- Oct 3 1910 Nelson, Nels

**LARIMER – Continued**

May 13 1911	Petty, Alfred C.
Sep 19 1911	Eklund, Alma C.
Jan 21 1914	Name changed to Mustang

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 LARIMER, / COLO. Aug 17 1906 Apr 28 1913  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x13mm

**LASCAR**

Lascar was located thirteen miles north of Walsenburg on the double-track line of the Colorado and Southern and the Denver and Rio Grande railroads. It is considered to have been a railroad post office and it is likely that there were stock pens for shipping livestock from Lascar.

From the Post Office Department records it appears that Lascar was at or near the site the early Warrantsville Post Office (1876-1877).

The name Lascar has no local significance. The proposed name was Concord Junction but that was rejected because of potential confusion with Concord, California.

One explanation for the name is that the Colorado and Southern agent, H. Burger, had just finished reading a book about Norwegian sailors - "las kars." He suggested the Scandinavian name modified to Lascar. Another explanation is that it is the term for an East Indian sailor or artilleryman, likely also taken from a book someone had read.

Exit from Interstate 25 at Exit 64 and drive east on Huerfano County Road 110 to the railroad and turn north along the railroad. There was a siding at this point and there are two partially collapsed buildings and evidence of other structures along the railroad where the road turns away from the railroad.

From this point "roads" go south to the locations of Huerfano and Ute and north to the locations of Mustang and Larimer. At least that is what the maps say. However, in 1999 the road south was blocked by a locked gate and the road north deteriorated to nothing before we could reach the site of Mustang.

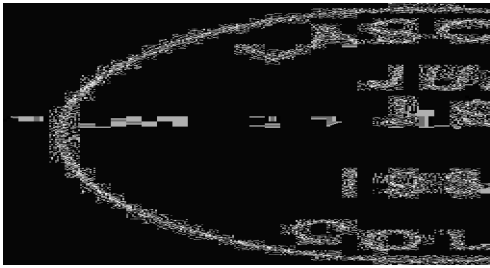
Latitude = 37:49:30 North Longitude = 104:44:53 West LASCAR

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 12 1915	---	NW/4 Sec 35 T25S R66W 2300 feet west of Huerfano River 20000(sic) south of Apache Creek 1300 feet from D&RG Track Name proposed as CONCORD JUNCTION - rejected
Jan 27 1916		Established
Jan 27 1916		McMahan, Theobald W.
Jul 31 1916	---	NE/4 Sec 35 T25S R66W 2500 feet west of Huerfano River 2400 feet south of Apache Creek 40 feet west of RR
Oct 26 1918		Thell, Anna O. Confirmed
Nov 20 1918		Thell, Anna O. Commissioned
Aug 13 1931	---	E/2 NE/4 Sec 34 T25S R66W 100 rods west of the Huerfano River 100 rods south of Apache Creek West side of C&S and D&RG RR
Oct 23 1941	---	?/4 Sec 35 T25S R66W Huerfano River 1,520 feet east Apache Creek 1/4 mile north



## LASCAR – Continued

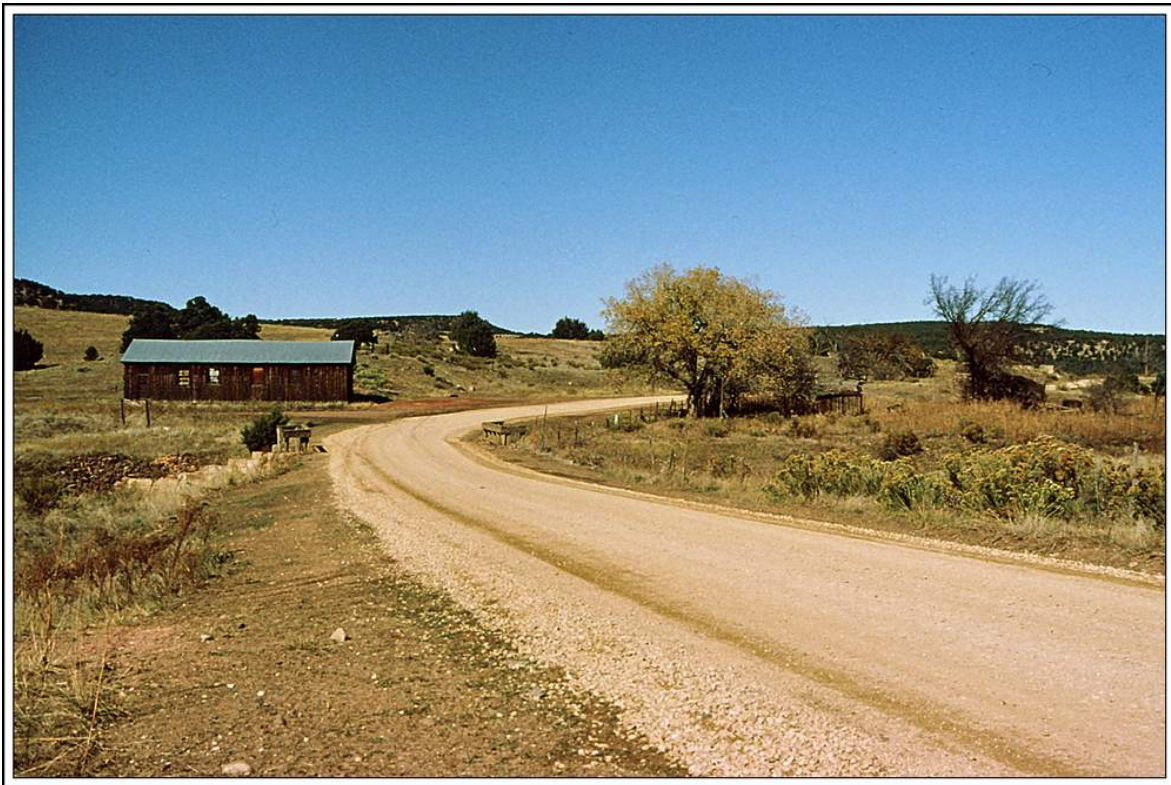
**LESTER**

Lester was another of the small coal camps on Santa Clara Creek in the foothills of the East Spanish Peak. Coal mining was its only reason for existence.

The question remains as to why there was a need for a post office at Lester as it was less than a half-mile from the larger community of Pryor.

From Pryor, drive southwest on Rouse Road (Huerfano County Road 33) to a fork in the road. In 1999 there was a large frame building at the intersection, a few small buildings to the east of the road and several foundations on the hillside.

Latitude = 37:30:06 North Longitude = 104:42:46 West LESTER



**Site view of Lester, Colorado looking north**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer October 30, 1999

**LESTER – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 18 1910	---	SW/4 Sec 19 T29S R65W Santa Clara Creek 600 yards east Name proposed as MIDWAY - rejected
Mar 5 1910		Established
Mar 5 1910		Delano, Bert A.
Dec 5 1913		Bergh, Charles S.
Apr 18 1914	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 19 T29S R65W 1/4 mile south of Santa Clara Creek
Jun 22 1915		Anderson, Robert
May 23 1917		Arnold, Chester W.
Jun 1 1920		Moore, Walter G.
Aug 11 1921		Hendley, Thomas A.
May 1 1929		Ordered closed
May 31 1929		Discontinued Mail to Pryor

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	LESTER, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-??x13mm	Dec 23 1912 Jan 4 1913
2	LESTER. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x21mm	Apr 18 1914 Jun 22 1918
3	LESTER / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	May 21 1923 Mar 16 1925



**LITTLE ORPHAN**

Little Orphan was the first name applied to the settlement that became better known as Badito. The place began as a trading post on the trail to San Luis Valley. The date that Little Orphan began is still open to question. Some sources claim it was in the early 1850's.

The source of this original name is unknown. But, since it is located on the Huerfano River near the junction of Oak Creek it seems likely that it was a translation of Huerfano, which in Spanish means "orphan." The name Little Orphan was in use for only four months before it was changed to Badito.

From Walsenburg, take Colorado Highway 69 northeast and go about 15 miles to the intersection with Huerfano County Road 520, which goes to the west. The site is easy to identify. It is on the east side of Highway 69 and the Huerfano River. In 1999 there was a historical marker that identified a ruined building on the north side of the side road as the location of the post office and store. There was another, larger building on the south side of the road that was originally a ranch house and was later converted to a stable.

A note dated June 5, 1865, attached to the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report seems to say that Little Orphan and Badito may not have been at the same location. If that is true, then the Little Orphan Post Office was moved to Badito and this was not a simple change in post office name.

**LITTLE ORPHAN – Continued****Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 22 1865 --- Unsurveyed Pueblo 45 miles northeast Fort Garland 50 miles southwest, (no other information)

May 1 1865 Established

Jan 5 1865 Boyce, P. R.

Sep 12 1865 Name changed to Badito

The following is included for additional reference:

Jun 5 1865 --- On the bank of Huerfano Creek, south side  
Annotated: "Little Orphan" ten miles below was designated as a post office. Mr. B. R. Boice was appointed post master. On Sunday last he died & it is thought before accepting the office of postmaster, this Badito office will obviate the "Little Orphan" which is out of the mail route five miles & it will be more convenient to the citizens and without any additional travel to the mail carrier.  
Document signed by Samuel D. P. Baxter, July 12 1865  
This was a request for additional information, re: Little Orphan  
Additional note on second page "Chg from Little Orphan"

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LITTLE ORPHAN

**MAITLAND**

Going north from Walsenburg, Maitland was the third in the string of coal mining related post offices along the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande from Walsenburg. The post office opened in late 1897, which is likely an indication of the commencement of mining operations at the location.

I have found almost nothing about this community. I assume that it was another company town providing residences and limited services for the miners. It was only a mile northwest of the larger town and post office at Pictou.

The Maitland Post Office operated for nearly forty years, outlasting the one at the larger Pictou.

From the intersection of Huerfano County Road 590 and Colorado Highway 69, continue north one mile to an unmarked side road to the west. This is actually on the railroad grade of the spur that served Maitland. Mine dumps and a few foundations are the only remaining evidence of Maitland.

Latitude = 37:39:12 North Longitude = 104:50:11 West MAITLAND MINE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 29 1897 --- NW/4 Sec 31 T27S R66W 1/2 mile south of Sand Creek  
40 feet west of tracks

Jan 31 1898 Established

Jan 31 1898 Woodward, Frank P.

Oct 15 1901 Wood, Alonzo P.

Oct 14 1902 Collins, Elvin

Oct 25 1905 Amick, Thomas E.

Aug 6 1908 Nelson, Robert

Mar 2 1911 McGill, Ernest C.

Feb 18 1915 --- NW/4 NW/4 Sec 31 T27S R66W 3/4 Mile north of Coots Creek  
Two blocks west of the freight track

Jul 14 1915 Gregg, Earl W.

Jan 27 1916 Baker, George

Jan 13 1917 Bishop, Roy E.

Jul 22 1918 Edwards, Claude

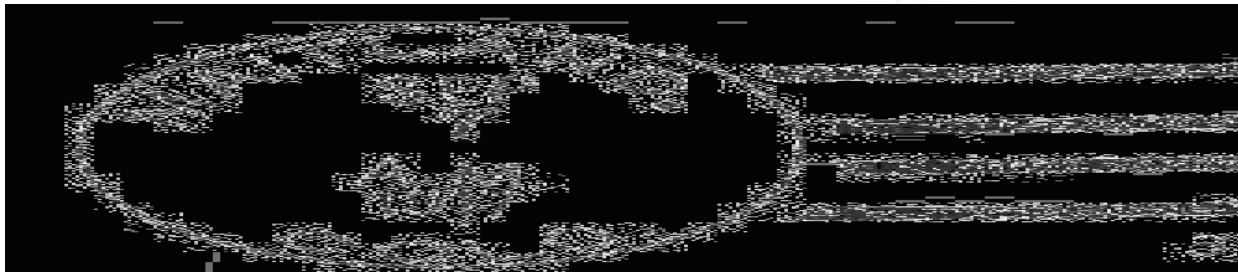
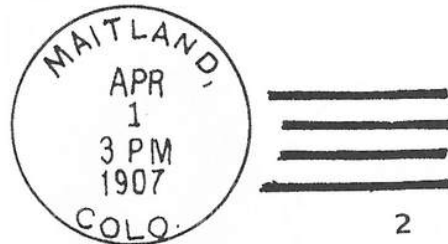
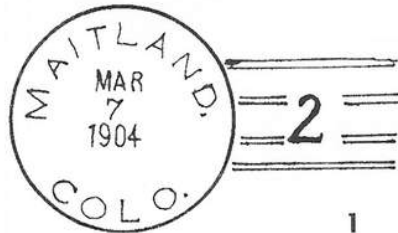
Jan 27 1921 Spurry, William E.

**MAITLAND – Continued**

Mar 27 1922	Baker, Francis M.	
May 18 1923	Jesse, Chester C.	Acting
Dec 15 1923	Baker, Francis M.	
Jan 16 1925	Morgan, W. B.	Acting
Mar 7 1925	Morgan, W. B.	Appointed
Apr 6 1929	Haight, Granville M.	Acting
Apr 24 1929	Haight, Granville M.	Appointed
Nov 22 1929	Keating, John F.	Acting
Dec 11 1929	Keating, John F.	Appointed
Mar 14 1930	Williams, Thomas E.	Acting
Mar 17 1930	Williams, Thomas E.	Appointed
Apr 6 1935	Ordered closed	
Apr 15 1935	Discontinued Mail to Gordon	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

0.1	MAITLAND / COLO. CI 10P 28.0.?	Hstp Target	Apr 3 1903
1	MAITLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Doane Type 2, with 2	Mar 7 1904 Oct 30 1905
2	MAITLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x14mm	Mar 16 1907 Dec 18 1908
3	MAITLAND, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 7 1917 Dec 3 1921
4	MAITLAND, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Feb 9 1933



**MALACHITE**

Tom Sharp is considered to be the father of Malachite. He settled there in 1870 and built a large adobe trading post along the Huerfano River. When I first visited the area in 1971, a large portion of this adobe was still standing near the Huerfano River, on a road along north side of the river that connected Malachite with Red Wing. On later visits I was unable to relocate that building.

In the 1880's chunks of copper ore were found but the vein from which they came was never located. The copper ore, malachite, did lend its name to the community and to the post office when it was established. The Huerfano Mining and Milling Company had interests in the area and there were some attempts at mining as late as 1910 and 1915.

**MALACHITE – Continued**

The mining was never important and cattle and sheep ranching were, and continue to be, the prime occupation of the area residents.

From Gardner drive five and seven-tenths miles west on Huerfano County Road 550 towards Red Wing and Mosca Pass to County Road 570 – Pass Creek Road. Malachite was scattered along Road 570 from Road 550 to, and slightly beyond, the bridge over the Huerfano River. There are a few buildings along the way. The most prominent is a stone school or church building on the west side of the road. Pass Creek Road climbs south from the Huerfano River to intersect US Highway 160 at North La Veta Pass.

Latitude = 37:45:16 North Longitude = 105:15:37 West MALACHITE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 3 1880	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T26S R70W 1/2 mile north of the Huerfano River
Nov 22 1880		Established
Nov 22 1880		Johnson, Walter S.
Aug 29 1882		Heather, William A.
Oct 19 1882		Deus, John Peter
Apr 16 1886		Douaghe, John A.
Nov 19 1900		Smith, Robert L.
Apr 15 1915		Discontinued Mail to Redwing



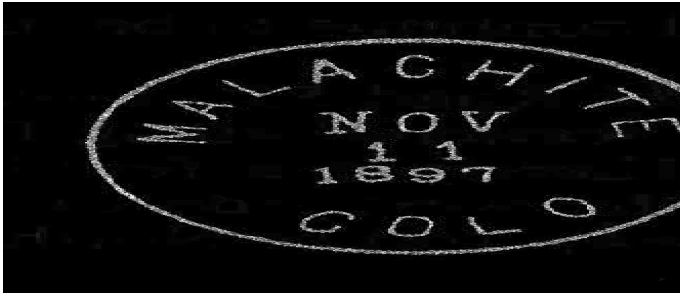
**MALACHITE / COLO.**

**March 16, 1897**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	MALACHITE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 18 1894 Nov 11 1897
2	MALACHITE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jul 7 1910 Apr 10 1913

**MALACHITE – Continued**



**MAYNE**

Mayne was another of the many small coal-mining communities that were accessed by spur lines from the Colorado and Southern Railroad. This was not one of the more successful mines and the post office lasted only two and a half years.

To reach this site, take Huerfano County Road 330 (Ideal Road) south from Walsenburg. Follow the directions that have been given to visit Ideal. Continue a short distance beyond Ideal to Rowell Road to the east. Go to Sunrise Road and on that road for a total of three and one-half miles to a side road called Hoofprint Court. At the end of that short road there is a small mine dump visible in the trees. I believe this was the site for the Mayne Post Office.

The USGS Topographic Map for Huerfano County (Sheet 4) locates a Mayne on the railroad; however, that is a railroad siding and not the location of the Mayne Post Office.

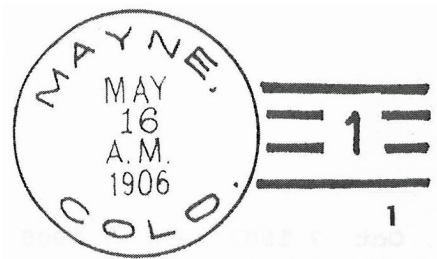
Latitude = 37:33:06 North Longitude = 104:43:07 West MAYNE (Siding on the railroad)

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 9 1905 --- NE/4 Sec 12 T29S R66W 1/2 mile east of Rouse Creek  
West side of tracks About 3/4 miles, Mayne Station
- Jul 27 1905 Established
- Jul 27 1905 Allison, Robert
- Jul 21 1906 McDowell, John
- Aug 8 1907 Hiatt, Lewis U. Rescinded Nov 27 1907
- Dec 5 1907 Ordered closed
- Dec 31 1907 Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

- 1 MAYNE, / COLO. May 16 1906  
CI 10P 31.5 Doane Type 3 with 1; S-24x14mm



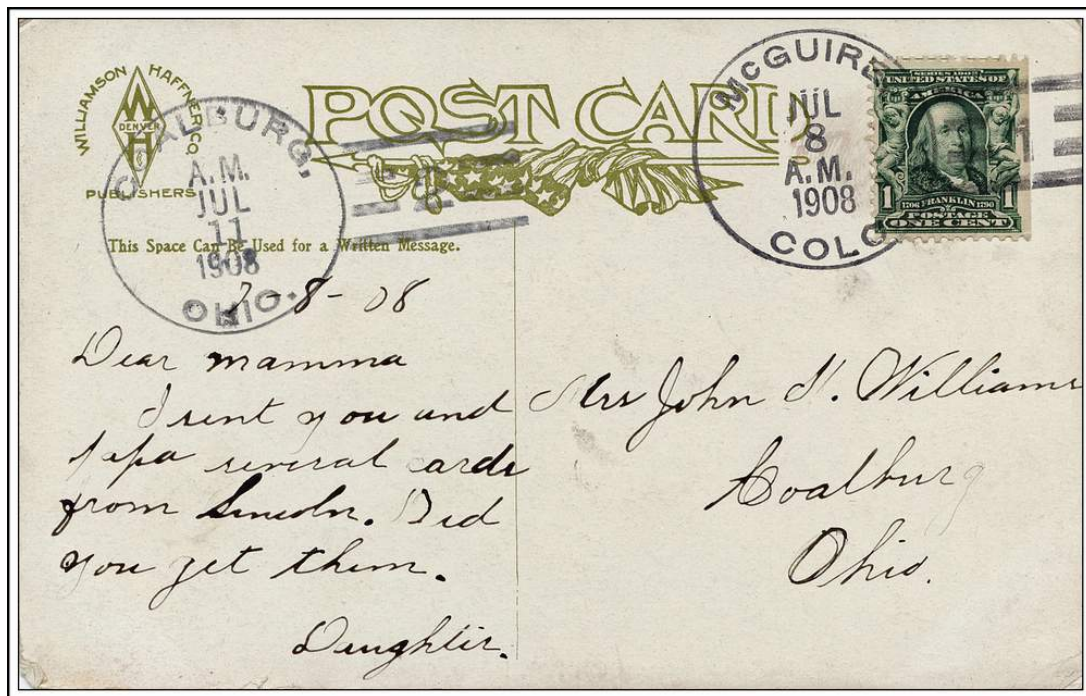
## McGUIRE

McGuire is described as the forerunner to the Camp Shumway Post Office, located on the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Walsenburg to the coal mines in this portion of Huerfano County.

The source of the name is unknown, as is the reason for the change in name to Camp Shumway. I suspect that both names had some relation to the coal mine and to the owners of the mine. The railroad station here was called Shumway Station, so the change in name might be connected to a railroad official and to the station.

There is no evidence for more than a small community of residences for the miners working there.

Since this was at the same location as Camp Shumway, please refer to the discussion of that post office for directions to the site and a description of what remains there.



McGUIRE, / COLO.

July 8, 1908

### Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 9 1905	---	SE/4 NW/4 Sec 23 T27S R67W On Sand Arroya about 1/4 mile from Shumway Station Name proposed as SHUMWAY - rejected
Oct 1 1912		Change name to CAMP SHUMWAY
Nov 4 1905		Established
Nov 4 1905		Kirkpatrick, John
Feb 2 1907		Williams, Ida D.
Jan 29 1909		Moss, Fred
Aug 22 1910		Boyd, Clyde H.
Apr 13 1911		Name changed to Camp Shumway

### Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1	McGUIRE, / COLO.	Aug 23 1907 Mar 15 1910
	CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3, with 1; S-23x14mm

**McGUIRE – Continued**

2 Mc GUIRE, / COLO.  
CI 10P 31.0

Jan 3 1911 Feb 26 1912

4bars S-??x13mm



**McMILLAN**

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report provides a location for this post office and that is almost all I know about it. I do recall having read someplace, or heard, that this was a small mining camp above timberline, high on the slopes of Mount Blanca. That does fit with the Site Location Report [SRM: It was a mining town, Walsenburg contemporary newspapers discuss it].

However, the road from Sharpsdale to Seguro and beyond ends several miles short of the plotted location and the only way to explore for McMillan would be on foot. Given the remote, high altitude location it is possible that some ruins would be found.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 20 1900	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T28S R72W Extension of route from Sharpsdale to Seguro 1/8 mile south of Huerfano River / Creek Sketch map shows location at center of N/2 Sec 25 [SRM: PO Site Report probably in error. More likely was near Lily Lake in section 19.]
Sep 7 1900		Established
Sep 7 1900		Murray, Michael D.
Apr 20 1903		Hopkins, Fredrich H.
Aug 31 1904		Ordered closed
Sep 15 1904		Discontinued Mail to Sharpsdale

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM McMILLAN**

**MOONEY**

This is another of the post offices in Huerfano County that were authorized but for which the authorization was almost immediately rescinded. Usually that was because it was realized that there was no need for the office or that the proposed postmaster could not qualify or post the required bond.

Mooney has also escaped mention in any of the Colorado historical literature that I have read. Any information on this place would be appreciated.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 26 1896		Established
Mar 26 1896		Christie, Carrie E.
Apr 15 1896		Order rescinded
Apr 15 1896		Discontinued

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MOONEY**

**MURIEL**

Muriel was a railroad post office located at Rouse Junction on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad southeast of Walsenburg. In 1920 this was briefly the site of the Spanish Peaks Post Office. And it was also the second location of the Pauley Post Office (1922-1929).

There is no indication that Muriel was anything more than a railroad station and siding with loading pens for livestock. However, it was the junction point for the railroad spur that followed Santa Clara Creek to the coal mines at "New" Rouse (see Rouse below) and the other nearby coal camps, hence the station name of Rouse Junction.

Lonora was the original proposed name. That was rejected in favor of Muriel. I have been unable to find any information as to the source of either of those names.

The location of Muriel is not accessible by vehicle. It is possible to drive to the southern side of Santa Clara Creek but there is no bridge over the creek. The adventurous might be able to ford the stream and hike the mile or so north on the railroad grade to the location. The directions to reach that starting point are contained in the discussion of Santa Clara.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jun 22 1903</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Office will be located on R.P.O route 165,001 p Cucharas &amp; Trinidad RR 8.90 miles south Cucharas 11.18 miles north Apishapa Post Office. On east side of track, about 20 feet from track, Rouse Junction Station. T28S R65W ?? Proposed as LONORA - rejected</b>
<b>Aug 18 1903</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 18 1903</b>		<b>Harrell, Archie W.</b>
<b>Dec 18 1903</b>		<b>Jacobs, Frank W.</b>
<b>Mar 8 1904</b>		<b>Ward, J. Kelly</b>
<b>May 14 1904</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>May 31 1904</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Cucharas</b>
<b>Jul 12 1904</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jul 12 1904</b>		<b>Jones, Howard E.</b>
<b>May 4 1905</b>		<b>Reubendale, Emmet L.</b>
<b>Jul 10 1905</b>		<b>Kenney, Wilmer B.</b>
<b>Sep 1 1905</b>		<b>Mosher, Arthur A.</b>
<b>Dec 23 1905</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Jan 31 1906</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Cucharas</b>

**Declined****Confirmed Types of Postal Markings****NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM MURIEL****MUSTANG**

Like Larimer, Mustang was a small community on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad a mile south of the Pueblo-Huerfano County line. Since Mustang was located on the double-track line to Walsenburg the community was more successful than Larimer on the old narrow gauge line that was being replaced.

The first post office in the area was at Larimer but in 1914 it was moved about one mile to Mustang.

Mustang was a small agricultural community focused on raising livestock. It was served by the Mustang Station, which was the immediate source for the name when the post office was moved from Larimer.

For directions to this site, please refer to the discussion of the Larimer Post Office. Follow those directions and then go to the point where Road 113 turns from south to west. This is close to the present day tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and is at the site of Mustang. There are two standing buildings and several collapsed buildings scattered along the road.

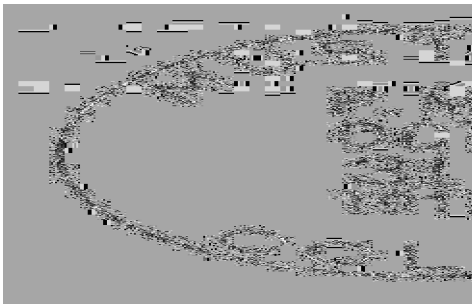
**MUSTANG – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 21 1914	Name changed from Larimer	
Jan 21 1914	Eklund, Alma C.	
Mar 26 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 8 T25S R65W 1/2 mile from Mustang Creek. (side?) 200 feet from C&S-D&RGW	
Mar 11 1939	Eklund, Clarence	Assumed charge
Mar 18 1939	Eklund, Clarence	Acting
Mar 22 1939	Eklund, Clarence	Confirmed
Apr 7 1939	Eklund, Clarence	Commissioned
Feb 2 1940	Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1940	Discontinued Mail to Lascar	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1 MUSTANG, / COLO. Oct 9 1914 Jun 14 1939  
CI 10P 33.0 4bars S-25x20mm



**NIGGERHEAD**

This is perhaps the most politically incorrect post office name that once existed in Colorado. But this is the way it is recorded, so this is the way I shall report it.

The term was a coal mining term and was applied to occasional, extremely hard and dense chunks of coal that were encountered during the mining process.

It appears that this post office was never in operation. A Geographical Site Location Report was filed and a postmaster was appointed, but his appointment was rescinded and that was the end of Niggerhead. The date of the rescinding is not given in the Records of Postmaster Appointments and I can only assume that it occurred very soon after the date of the appointment.

Follow the directions to Solar, given below. The stated location for Niggerhead was a half-mile further west on Huerfano County Road 346. There is a small mine dump and some remnant foundations at that location.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 29 1912 ---	SE/4 Sec 24 T28S R67W 1000 feet north of Cucharas River 2 miles north of Bear Creek 1 mile SW of WALSEN 300 feet north of D&RG tracks Sketch map shows it closer to 2 miles SW of Walsen, but document was altered
Sep 2 1913	Established
Sep 27 1913	Foley, John R
--- ----	Establishment rescinded [No date given]

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NIGGERHEAD**

**NORTH VETA**

I have found no information relative to the purpose of this community. It was established in 1919, and was near the tracks of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. Perhaps it served as a station or loading point for livestock. There is no evidence for an organized community.

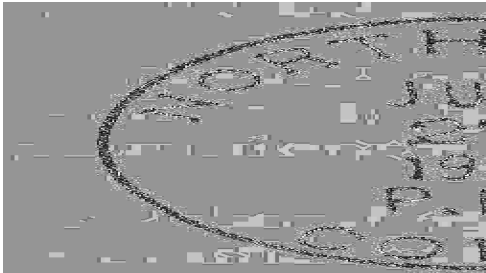
To visit the site, drive a few miles west from Walsenburg on US Highway 160 to the intersection with Huerfano County Road 510 on the north side of the highway. There are a few residences in the area and one building that in 1999 appeared to be the office for a real estate development.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 2 1919	---	W/2 SE/4 Sec 29 T28S R67W 1-1/4 miles NE of North Veta Creek (sometimes called Abeyta Creek) 1/4 mile north of D&RG track Sketch map shows it at the junction of the state highway and a county road to the west	
Jan 13 1920		Established	
Jan 13 1920		Garcia, Jose C.	
Feb 28 1923		Discontinued	
Nov 4 1926	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T28S R67W 1/2 mile north of Cucharas River 1/2 mile west of North Veta Creek 3/4 mile north of D&RG tracks on state highway	
Feb 18 1927		Re-established	
Feb 18 1927		George, Catherine F.	Confirmed
May 24 1934		Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1934		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	NORTH VETA. / COLO.	Jan 11 1932 Jun 27 1934
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm

**NUNDA**

Very little is known about Nunda. The location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Nunda in the same quarter section as the later post offices of Cuchara Camps (1916-1957) and Cuchara (1957-2004)

At the time the Nunda Post Office was in operation the surrounding population was mostly engaged in stock raising. In the early twentieth century the area became a favorite for fishermen and the resort of Cuchara Camps came into existence.

From La Veta, drive south ten and one-half miles on Colorado Highway 12. In the half-mile north of the Cuchara settlement there are some older buildings that could date from the period of Nunda.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 23 1883	---	NW/4 Sec 3 T31S R69W 100 yards west of Cucharas Creek 50 feet east of Willow Creek	
May 7 1883		Established	

**NUNDA – Continued**

May 7 1883	Bonnett, Edward H.
Nov 28 1884	Hills, H. E.
Dec 18 1884	Hills, M. T.
Feb 16 1885	Willis, Willet R.
Oct 24 1888	Discontinued Papers to La Veta

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NUNDA**

**OAKVIEW**

The only reference that I have found to Oakview describes it as a, “railroad stop and end of a short spur line, about 1 mile north of the Francisco stop, going up to Veta Pass.”

To visit the site of Oakview, follow the directions to the location of Ojo (1913) on Huerfano County Road 441. Continue south on Road 441 and at a fork in the road, keep to the left around the hill. That will bring you to a large mine dump and the foundations and ruins of several buildings.

From what exists at the site and the reference to a railroad spur, it is certain that Oakview was a coal mine with associated residences. You can continue on to Road 440, turn east and go to La Veta.



**Site overview and building remnants at Oakview, Colorado**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer  
May 18, 1999

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 30 1907	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T29S R69W 1/2 mile south of Middle Creek
Dec 3 1907		Established
Dec 3 1907		Hartsuck, George W.
Sep 5 1908		Fruth, George

**OAKVIEW – Continued**

Nov 11 1910	Moss, Fred P.	
May 23 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 10 T29S R69W 1 mile south of Oak Creek 1 mile north of D&RG tracks	
Dec 18 1914	Shroads, Charles A.	
Jul 22 1918	Wise, Edward B.	
Apr 14 1926	Tombly, Edmund J.	Acting
Sep 18 1926	Tombly, Edmund J.	Appointed
May 22 1922	Moser, Edwin D.	
Apr 28 1928	Hayes, Ransome K.	Acting
May 5 1928	Hayes, Ransome K.	Appointed
May 14 1930	Ordered closed	
May 31 1930	Discontinued Mail to La Veta	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	OAKVIEW, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Oct 20 1909 Jan 17 1910
2	OAKVIEW, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jan 1 1913 May 3 1915

**OJO**

Ojo was a small station on the original route of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad over La Veta Pass. It was located on what is today called Abeyta Creek but was first called Veta Creek.

When the Rio Grande abandoned the northern route and moved their line south to Veta Pass the original Ojo faded away for several years. In 1915 it reappeared but instead of a farm center and station on the railroad it was now a coal camp. As such it lasted beyond 1950.

Only one Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report is on file – submitted in 1880. That location is on a side road, south of present day US Highway 160 and about a two miles west of where Huerfano County Road 441 joins US 160.

For a short distance County Road 441 parallels US 160 then crosses Abeyta Creek. The 1991 DeLorme *Colorado Atlas & Gazetteer* locates the Ojo Mines just west of the creek crossing. Considering the description of the later Ojo having been a coal camp, I believe that this was the 1913 and subsequent location of Ojo. The mine dumps are visible from Road 441 and there is an area on the north side of the creek that may have been the location for the residences.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 27 1880 ---	NE/4 Sec 6 T29S R69W On north side of Veta Creek About 300 yards north of Ojo Station on D&RG
Jun 14 1880	Established
Jun 14 1880	Rowley, Charles H. E.
Jul 27 1881	Graham, Alfred E.
Aug 10 1881	Discontinued
Apr 15 1913	Re-established

**OJO – Continued**

Apr 5 1913	McDowell, James G.	
May 11 1917	Lewis, Glenn F.	
Dec 6 1919	Patterson, Joseph H. Jr.	
Dec 19 1924	Cameron, Peter G.	Acting
Feb 12 1925	Cameron, Peter G.	Appointed
Jan 16 1926	Summers, Lawrence F.	Acting
Jan 29 1926	Summers, Lawrence F.	Appointed
Sep 1 1926	Rogers, Clarabelle	
Sep 1 1926	Mccune, Clarabelle	Name changed by marriage
Aug 6 1928	Ordered closed	
Aug 15 1928	Discontinued Mail to Oakview	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	OJO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Dec 22 1913 Feb 27 1915
2	OJO / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 18 1928



**PAULEY**

The only references that I have found for Pauley describe it as a rural post office about thirteen miles southeast of Walsenburg. That description, which fits with the initial Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report confirms that there was no organized community at Pauley.

The Pauley Post Office was at that initial location until 1922 when it was moved west to a location on the El Moro Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad where it remained until closing in 1929.

I made an attempt to reach the 1919 site by driving northeast from Walsenburg on Colorado Highway 10 to Huerfano County Road 210. Road 210 goes to the east and then turns southeast as Road 211. I was able to follow that road several miles to the point where my map indicated that it became Road 212. However, that put me on what was more likely a ranch road and was rapidly becoming more of a trail than a road, so I turned back.

Access to the second site, at Rouse Junction, has been described in the discussions of the Muriel and Spanish Peaks Post Offices. That site is not accessible by vehicle.

The 1919 Site Location Report that notified Washington of the planned move suggested the name of Rouse Junction for the new location but the Post Office Department retained the name of Pauley.

Accompanying the 1919 Site Location Report is a portion of a document requesting a post office to be named Schooler with Nellie Schooler as the proposed postmaster. I have no other information about Schooler, nor what connection it might have had to the Pauley Post Office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 15 1919 --- SE/4 Sec 29 T28S R64W 5 miles east of Cucharas River  
4 miles east of Santa Clara Creek 7 miles east of D&RG RR, Rouse Junction Station  
Sketch map clearly shows this relation of features  
Proposed as MESA - rejected

**PAULEY – Continued**

Jan 6 1920	Established
Jan 6 1920	Schroeder, Jennie
Dec 16 1922	Morris, Charles H.
Dec 18 1922	--- NW/4 Sec 34 T28S R65W 50 feet east of the D&RGW Annotated: "Pauley, Colo. to be moved 4-1/2 miles east(sic) to Rouse Junction, retaining name of Pauley, Colo. W.H.B - From the 1919 description, the move must have been west Proposed as ROUSE JUNCTION - rejected, retain previous name
Dec 15 1923	McCowan, Wallace O.
Jun 16 1925	Dawson, William Z.
Jun 17 1929	Ordered
Jun 29 1929	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PAULEY

**PICTOU**

The initial settlers along Coots Creek, now Pictou Creek, named their settlement Sulphur Springs for the twenty-one, evil smelling, mineralized springs in the area. The springs were eventually drained by the operations at the Pictou Mine.

Coal mining began in 1887 and Thomas Lawther, an early superintendent of the mine, persuaded the residents to name the community for his hometown, Pictou, Nova Scotia.

Pictou was one of the larger coal mining camps owned and operated by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. It was also where the company had its manufacturing facilities for the two-ton mine cars used in its mines.

In 1888 the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad reached the location of Pictou.

Pictou was a multi-national town, and that often led to rowdiness and gave the place an unsavory reputation as a rough town. However, Pictou had the first advanced kindergarten in the area.

Production from the Pictou Mine reached 1,000 tons daily and continued until 1912. At that time the town and the production facilities were mostly dismantled.

The Pictou Post Office continued to operate another ten years, before it gave way to the post office at nearby Toltec.

Follow the directions given to reach the site of Toltec, the first of the string of mining camps along Colorado Highway 69. Pictou was at the intersection of Colorado 69 with Huerfano County 590. The site is marked by numerous mine dumps and a few small structures of undetermined use. Toltec is about a mile further on County 590.

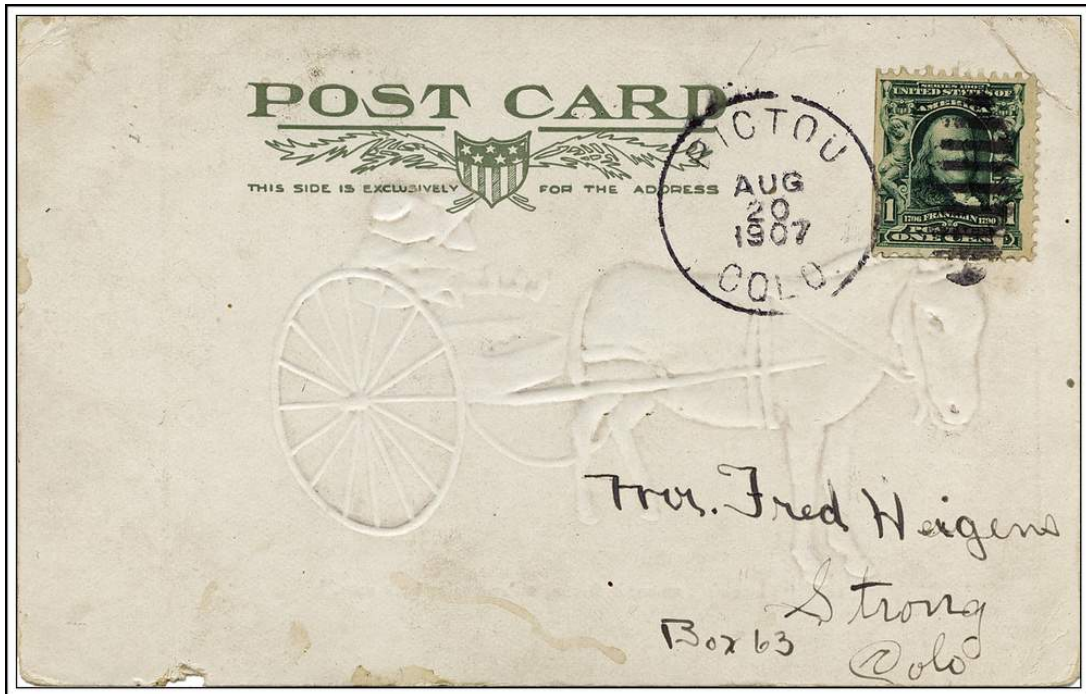
Latitude = 37:38:19 North Longitude = 104:48:47 West PICTOU

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 14 1889	--- NW/4 Sec 6 T28S R66W
Sep 12 1889	Established
Sep 12 1889	Pope, William H.
Mar 7 1890	Vandewart, Samuel
May 16 1892	Bower, George W.
Jan 8 1896	Lamme, Henry G.
Dec 28 1897	Thompson, Thomas A.
Apr 1 1901	Phipps, George
Dec 21 1901	Tombling, George M.
Sep 24 1903	Henderson, Lu

**PICTOU – Continued**

Jul 13 1908	Reider, Walter H.
May 27 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 6 T28S R66W 1 mile SE of Maitland 1/2 mile north of Coots Creek 2-1/2 miles north of the Cuchara River 400 feet east of the D&RG, coal branch not the main line
Sep 29 1916	Ross, Alexander M.
May 17 1918	Chambers, Charles C.
Apr 13 1924	Taylor, Wilbur B.
Dec 17 1929	Young, Felix J.
Oct 21 1932	Ordered closed
Oct 31 1932	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg



**PICTOU / COLO.**

**August 20, 1907**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	PICTOU / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target	Jan 9 1892 Mar 25 1900
2	PICTOU / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jun 23 1904 Aug 20 1907
3	PICTOU, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x13mm	Apr 14 1908 Jan 7 1915
4	PICTOU, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x21mm	Mar 20 1920 Feb 26 1927
5	PICTOU, / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 31 1932



## PICTOU – Continued

**PRYOR**

After the Civil War, Mack and Ike Pryor settled on the Santa Clara River where it emerges from the foothills around East Spanish Peak. They are credited by some with bringing the first herd of longhorn cattle to Huerfano County. Later they added the Scissors Ranch to their holdings.

With the discovery of coal in the vicinity, a town was established and named for the Pryor brothers. In 1888 the Denver and Rio Grande built a spur to Pryor from the branch line to Santa Clara. The branch and the spur were removed in 1941.

Pryor developed into a modest sized community with its economy shared by coal mining and the surrounding ranches. Apparently there was no formal platting of the townsite nor was it ever incorporated.

To visit Pryor take Exit 42 from Interstate 25 – Rouse Road. This is also Huerfano County Road 310. It is eight-tenths miles to Pryor. The site is still inhabited and there are several buildings remaining at the town and others scattered along the road. There is abundant evidence of the previous mining activities.

Rouse Road continues on beyond Pryor and is the route to the sites of Santa Clara (1889), Rouse, Lester, Capps, Scissors and Quebec.

From 1898 to 1929 the Pryor and Rouse Post Offices were in concurrent operation. From 1910 to 1929 the Lester Post Office was also in operation. These three offices were within a two mile section along Santa Clara Creek. Why three post offices were necessary in this area is a question yet to be answered.

Latitude = 37:30:29 North Longitude = 104:42:49 West PRYOR

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 1 1898	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T29S R65W West side of D&RG
Feb 26 1898		Established
Feb 26 1898		Beuchat, Charles
Feb 9 1905		Foster, Lemuel R.
Jan 10 1912		Hill, Charles M.
Dec 8 1913		Shroads, Charles A.
Apr 4 1914		Sperry, William E.
Sep 8 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T29S R65W 1/3 mile west of Santa Clara Creek 1 mile on SW side of Colorado Southern RR
Jan 9 1917		Woodruff, William H.
Jun 21 1917		McPhail, William Y.
Oct 14 1920		Mallon, John P.
May 22 1922		McPhail, William Y.
Sep 1 1926		Conder, Tom G. <span style="float: right;">Confirmed</span>

**PRYOR – Continued**

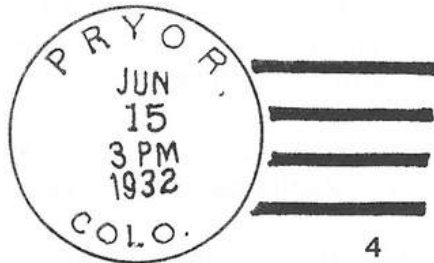
Dec 23 1926	Conder, Tom G.	Commissioned
Jan 3 1927	Conder, Tom G.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 19 T29S R65W 2 miles west of U.S. 85	
Mar 22 1949	Vezzni, Matt.	Acting
Mar 23 1949	Vezzni, Matt.	Assumed charge
Jun 24 1949	Vigna, Matt George	Declined
Oct 10 1949	Appointment rescinded	
Nov 7 1949	Vigna, Mrs. Mary Ann	Appointed
Feb 7 1949	Vigna, Mrs. Mary Ann	Commissioned
Feb 15 1949	Vigna, Mrs. Mary Ann	Assumed charge
>Feb 1987	Discontinued	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

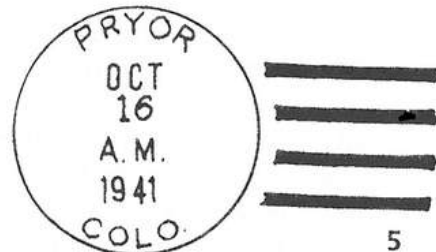
1	PRYOR, / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Jan 2 1900
2	PRYOR, / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Doane Type 2, with 3;	Jul 25 1905 May 14 1910
3	PRYOR, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	Mar 26 1926
3.1	PRYOR COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp not present	Dec 14 1931
4	PRYOR, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 7 1932 Feb 21 1933
5	PRYOR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 16 1941 Mar 25 1943
6	PRYOR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 8 1949 Feb 5 1960
7	PRYOR, CO / 81065 CI 10P 32.0	4bars s-??x19mm	Aug 23 1969
8	PRYOR, CO / 81065 CI 10P 31.0	4bars s-24x18mm	May 7 1971 Jul 14 1977



3.1



4



5



## QUEBEC

I have found no historical reference to the Quebec Post Office. It is shown on 1887 maps, southwest of Pryor and on the northwest side of South Santa Clara Creek.

Following visits to the other sites in this area I attempted to reach the location for Quebec. From 4 Mile Canyon Road, south of Pryor, continue south on Rouse Road, (Huerfano County Road 312), taking the left fork on to County Road 313 which crosses Santa Clara Creek and then immediately turn right on to County Road 314. I was able to go six and a half miles from Pryor before the conditions on Road 314 became such that I chose not to risk getting stuck in the mud at such a remote location. I believe that I was close to the location of Quebec but looking up the valley I did not see any buildings and the heavy brush would obscure any remnants.

The Quebec Post Office lasted only four years before it was moved two miles north and renamed Scissors. I would classify Quebec as a ranch post office.

### Chronology of the Post Office

May 18 1880	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T30S R66W 100 feet north of Santa Clara Creek
Jul 13 1880		Established
Jul 13 1880		Munger, Lydia
Aug 2 1881		Capps, Amelia F.
Feb 18 1884		Moved to Scissors

### Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM QUEBEC**

## RATTLESNAKE BUTTES

Rattlesnake Buttes was a ranch post office in the eastern end of Huerfano County. The ranch nature of this office is well illustrated by its three different locations scattered through the area.

The name Rattlesnake Buttes was a reference to the so-named buttes – North Rattlesnake Butte north of Colorado Highway 10 and South Rattlesnake Butte on the south side of Highway 10, shortly before that road exits into Las Animas County.

From Exit 50 on Interstate 25 drive seventeen miles east on Colorado Highway 10 to the intersection with Huerfano County Roads 123 (north) and 220 (south). The initial location of Rattlesnake Buttes was a short distance beyond this intersection, on the south side of the highway but there is no visible evidence.

Drive two miles north on County Road 123 to where there is a small group of occupied (1999) farm buildings on the west side of the road. This was the 1920 site. The Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office remained at this location until it was discontinued in 1938.

Continue north on Road 123 about two miles. For a year and half the Rattlesnake Buttes Post Office was on the west side of road 123. Nothing is visible at that site.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 3 1917	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T26S R63W No nearby features
Apr 15 1918		Established
Apr 15 1918		Cordova, Jose A.
Jan 20 1918		Black, Edna
Jan 8 1919	---	NW/4 Sec 18 T26S R63W 2-1/2 miles north of Rattlesnake Canyon
Jul 14 1920	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T26S R64W This document represents a move of the office from apparently NW/4 Sec 18 T26S R63E
Jul 27 1920		Schell, Charles F.
Sep 8 1920	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T26S R64W Clanda 8 miles east Cucharas 15 miles SW Patches 9 miles SE, about 6 miles nearest point of Cucharas River

**RATTLESNAKE BUTTES – Continued**

May 19 1931	Shephard, Cecil L.	Possession
May 25 1931	Shephard, Cecil L.	Acting
Jul 30 1931	Shephard, Cecil L.	Appointed Declined appointment
Nov 3 1931	Kenner, James A.	Assumed charge
Nov 9 1931	Kenner, James A.	Acting
Jan 9 1932	Kenner, James A.	Confirmed
Jun 25 1932	Kenner, James A.	Commissioned
Sep 24 1938	Ordered closed	
Oct 31 1938	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	RATTLESNAKE BUTTES / COLORADO CI 10P 30.0	4bars? Killer not on envelope, probably 4bars	Jan 2 1915
2	RATTLESNAKE BUTTES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 7 1921 Sep 6 1930
3	RATTLESNAKE BUTTES, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 1 1934 Oct 31 1938



**RAVENWOOD**

Ravenwood was a coal mining town located on the Colorado and Southern Railroad two miles south of Walsenburg.

The Ravenwood Mine was first opened in 1908. R. C. Hills, a geologist employed by the Victor American Fuel Company, named the mine for the many ravens he saw in the area. The community that developed took its name from the mine.

In Walsenburg, from the intersection of US Highway 160 with US Highways 85 and 87, go south on US 85-87. That road soon turns to the east towards Interstate 25. A short distance after the turn you will find Huerfano County Road 330, to the south. This is also called Ideal Road. Go two miles south. There is a road to the west but after crossing the railroad there is a locked gate that blocks any further progress. From that point it is possible to see a portion of a mine dump about a quarter mile in the distance. That would be the Ravenwood Mine. From Road 330 it is not possible to determine if there are any buildings left at the site. However there is a small foundation on the east side of Road 330 that was likely connected with Ravenwood.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 3 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T28S R66W Cuchara River 1-1/2 miles north Bear Creek 1/2 mile northwest 1/2 mile south of C&S RR
Mar 4 1910		Established
Mar 4 1910		Simpson, Bert A.
Feb 2 1911		Bishop, Allen B.
Aug 24 1914	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 22 T28S R66W 1-1/2 miles south of Bear Creek 3 miles south of Cuchara River 1/2 mile west of C&S RR

**RAVENWOOD – Continued**

Mar 7 1918	Gentry, Charles O.	
Jul 31 1919	Pendleton, Evert L.	
Feb 18 1921	Edwards, Claude	
Oct 27 1922	Sperry, William E.	
Jul 22 1924	Copley, Oscar E.	Acting
Sep 16 1924	Copley, Oscar E.	Appointed
Sep 8 1927	Scavarda, Harry J.	
May 19 1928	Kingsbury, Paul K.	Acting
Jun 2 1928	Kingsbury, Paul K.	Confirmed
Jun 15 1928	Kingsbury, Paul K.	Commissioned
Apr 10 1933	Spurgeon, M. Thompson	Assumed charge
May 3 1933	Spurgeon, M. Thompson	Acting
May 26 1933	Spurgeon, M. Thompson	Confirmed
Jul 8 1933	Spurgeon, M. Thompson	Commissioned
Aug 22 1936	Riccottone, Paul	Confirmed
Sep 18 1936	Riccottone, Paul	Appointment rescinded
Oct 27 1936	Mccludkey, Francis M.	Assumed charge
Nov 9 1936	Mccludkey, Francis M.	Acting
Dec 8 1936	Mccludkey, Francis M.	Confirmed
Jan 29 1937	Mccludkey, Francis M.	Commissioned
Mar 28 1939	Ordered closed	
Mar 31 1939	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	RAVENWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 18 1910 Jan 3 1935
2	RAVENWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 23 1938

**REDWING**

Red Wing was a small agricultural community on the Huerfano River seven miles west-southwest of Gardner.

I have not found a reference as to when or who established the community. In 1914 there was a store there and the residents decided to petition for a post office. They first requested the name of Crestone but that name was in use for a post office on the west side of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, in Saguache County.

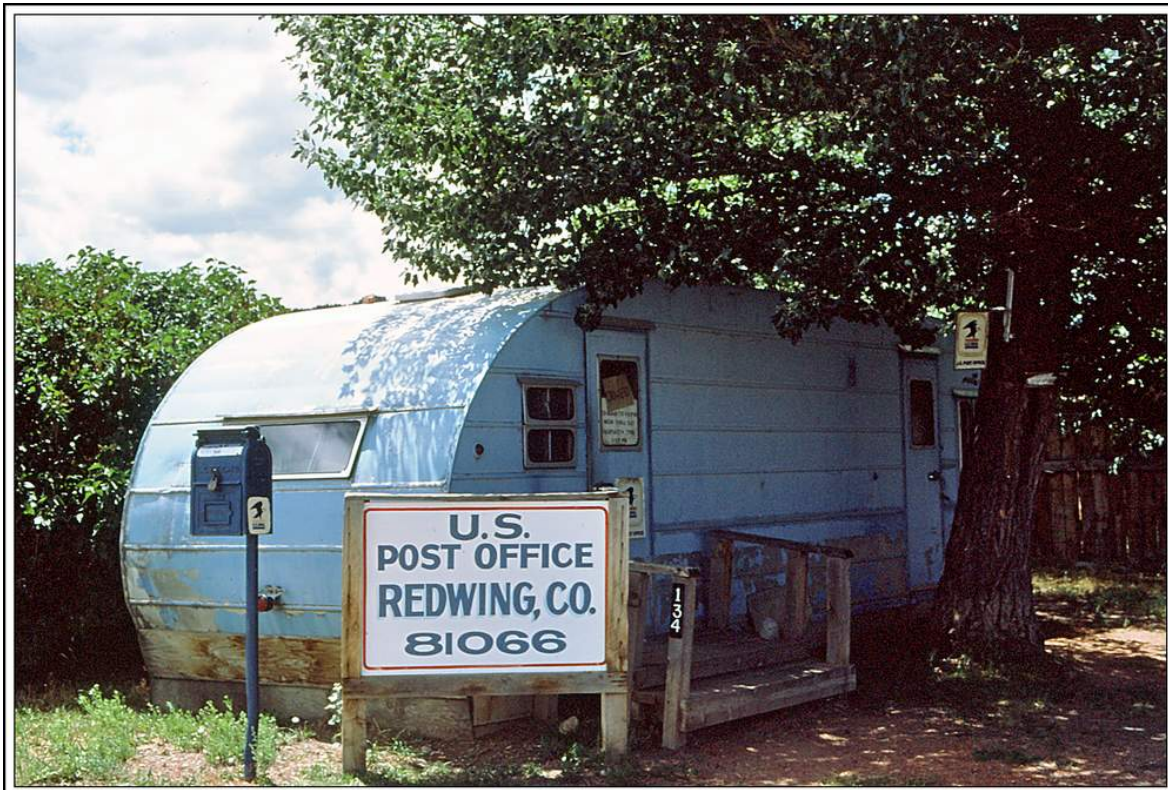
Legend has it that a group of residents were sitting around discussing possible names when a Mexican came wandering by whistling the then popular tune "Red Wing." That name was agreed upon, submitted and accepted.

Red Wing was never a large community and in recent years has slowly shrunk in size. In 1965 the post office was converted to a rural station of Walsenburg.

**RED WING – Continued**

My first visit to Red wing was in 1972. At that time the post office was in the same building as the Red Wing Store. The building was well maintained. In 1987 I returned to Red Wing and the post office was now in a small rather decrepit, blue trailer. In 1999 the post office was still in the same trailer. My next visit was in 2002, the store was closed, the trailer was gone, and the post office had closed. There were still a few residents but not much else had changed.

Latitude = 37:44:10 North Longitude = 105:17:22 West RED WING



**Red Wing, Colorado Community Post Office.**  
 Photograph by James L. Ozment May 18, 1999

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Mar 7 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T27S R71W	
May 22 1914		Established	
May 22 1914		Addington, Charles G.	
Aug 17 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T27S R71W	3/8 miles north of Huerfano River
Mar 30 1921		Martin, Katherine E.	Acting
Aug 3 1921		Martin, Katherine E.	Appointed
Jan 7 1926		Jones, William J.	Possession
Jan 15 1926		Jones, William J.	Acting
Mar 12 1926		James, Esther F.	Appointed
Mar 27 1926		James, Esther F.	Commissioned
Apr 1 1926		James, Esther F.	Possession
Dec 20 1928		Fox, Hattie B.	Appointed
Jan 9 1929		Fox, Hattie B.	Commissioned
Jan 16 1929		Fox, Hattie B.	Possession
Jul 1 1935		Benson, Mrs. Lottie	Possession

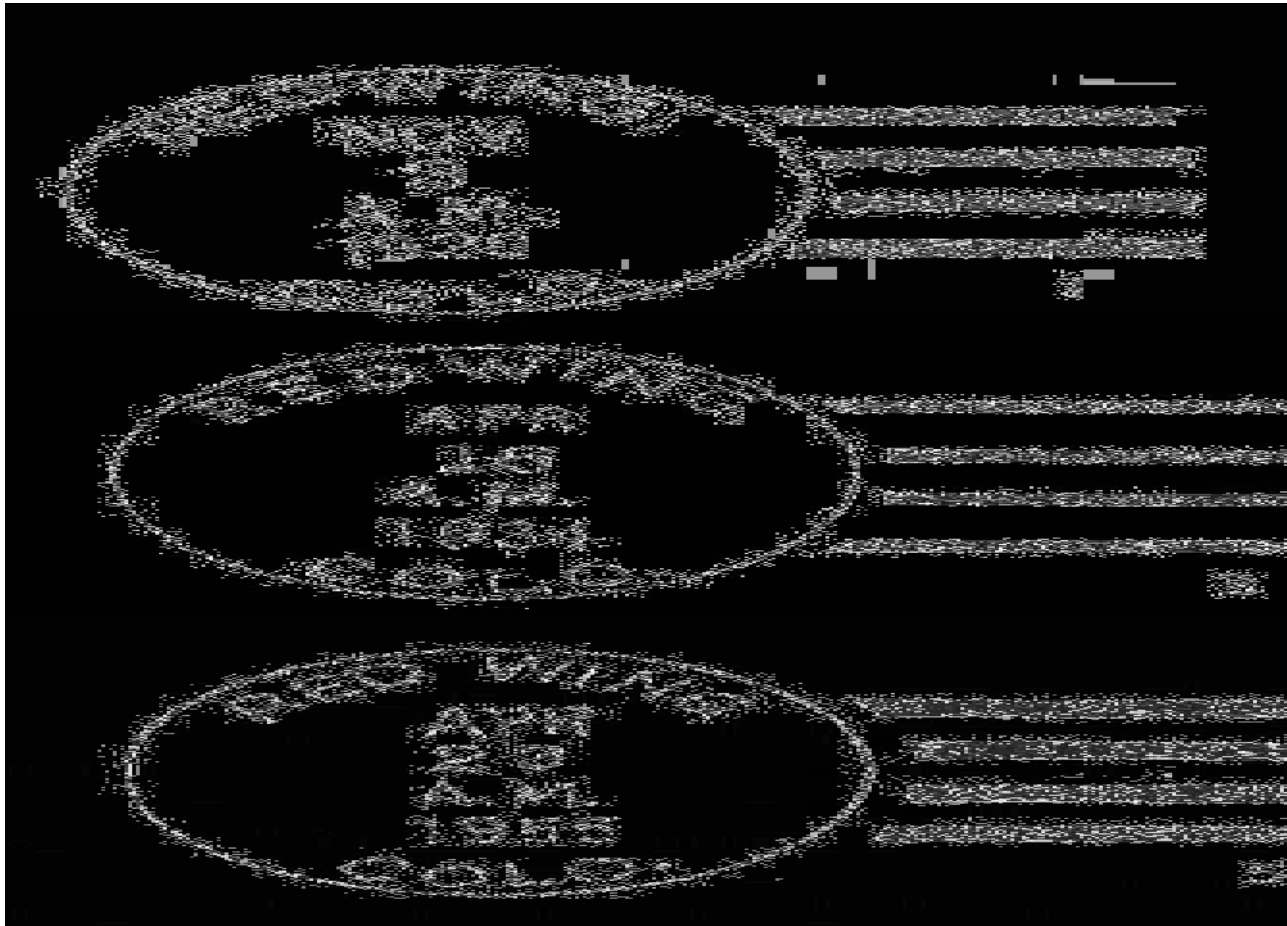
**RED WING – Continued**

Jul 9 1935	Benson, Mrs. Lottie	Acting
Aug 29 1935	Benson, Mrs. Lottie	Appointed
Sep 12 1935	Benson, Mrs. Lottie	Commissioned
Sep 18 1935	Benson, Mrs. Lottie	Possession
Oct 23 1941	--- NE/4 Sec 2 T27S R71W 1/2 mile north of Huerfano River	
Sep 24 1965	Converted to a Rural Station of Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	REDWING, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Aug 10 1914 Feb 13 1933
2	RED WING COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp Mute double oval Fancy in black and red Red Wing Blackbird perched on branch	Oct 20 1933 May 4 1934
3	RED WING, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm; With fancy, magenta "wing" with negative "COL"	Apr 16 1934 Dec 18 1934
4	RED WING, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 20 1937 Sep 21 1948
5	RED WING / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 20 1949 Apr 23 1955
6	RED WING / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 5 1960 Dec 10 1962

For later markings see Walsenburg, Red Wing Rural Branch



## **ROCKLAND**

I have found no reference to this place in the literature I have studied. The post office operated for a short period as Rockland and then the name was changed to Solar.

Please refer to the discussion of Solar for additional information and directions to the location.

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

<b>Dec 19 1914</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Dec 19 1914</b>	<b>Wise, Edward B.</b>
<b>May 20 1915</b>	<b>Name changed to Solar</b>

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

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ROCKLAND**

## **ROUND OAK**

The only description of Round Oak that I have found classes it as a railroad post office. It was located on the Colorado and Southern Railroad, south of Walsenburg.

Follow the directions previously given to Ravenwood and then continue south on Ideal Road (Huerfano County Road 330) for another mile and a half. There is a mine dump and a couple of remnant foundations. From that evidence, I conclude that Round Oak was another of the many coal mining settlements in southern Huerfano County.

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

<b>Jan 21 1908</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SE/4 SW/4 Sec 27 T28S R66W 1 mile west of C&amp;S RR</b>
<b>Mar 16 1908</b>	<b>Established</b>	
<b>Mar 16 1908</b>		<b>Sanchez, Charles H.</b>
<b>Jul 30 1910</b>	<b>Discontinued</b>	<b>Mail to Farr</b>

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

<b>1</b>	<b>ROUND OAK, / COLO.</b>	<b>Feb 6 1909</b>	<b>Mar 5 1909</b>
	<b>CI 10P 32.0</b>		
		<b>4bars S-??x14mm</b>	



## **ROUSE**

The post office of Rouse was at two locations about four miles apart. The first location (1889-1899) was northwest of Pryor and west of Interstate 25. Rouse was a company town established by the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company. The Rouse Mine opened in 1888 at the original post office location. It continued to operate until 1898 when it became uneconomical to pump out the water coming into the mine. Most of the buildings and a school were then moved south to a new location on Santa Clara Creek.

The new mine was on part of the 1871 homestead of A. M. Pryor and was near the Santa Clara Mine. Output from the Rouse Mine grew to 900 tons of coal per day. In 1920 the mine closed, again because of excessive water.

**ROUSE – Continued**

Operation of the post office at New Rouse was, from 1889 to 1894, concurrent with the post office at Santa Clara less than a mile away. From 1898 to 1929 the Rouse Post Office was in operation concurrently with the Lester and Pryor Post Offices. Again, why were all these post offices necessary in this small area?

If I have correctly located “Old” Rouse and properly identified the roads in the area, it was at or near the junction of Rowell Road with Sunrise Road, which can be reached by following the directions to Ideal. That location is in an area of scattered mine dumps, but it is difficult to identify which was actually the Rouse Mine. I did not observe the remnants of any structures.

To visit the site of “New” Rouse, follow the directions previously given to Pryor. From there continue on to the fork in the road at the site of Lester. Turn on to Huerfano County Road 312 and go a short distance to 4-Mile Canyon Road, the road in to the Black Hawk Ranch. There are several foundations along this road. However, it is difficult to separate what was Rouse and what was part of its neighbor, the early location of Santa Clara.

County Road 312 continues on towards Capps, Scissors and Quebec.

Latitude = 37:29:27 North Longitude = 104:42:40 West ROUSE

Latitude = 37:29:37 North Longitude = 104:42:25 West ROUSE MINE

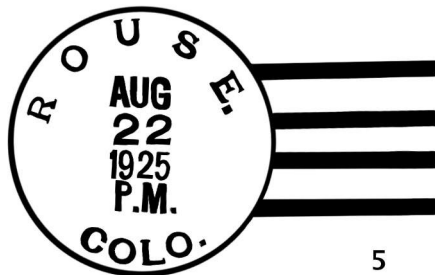
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 10 1888	---	SE/4 Sec 2 T29S R66W 1/8 mile north of Rouse Station on D&RG
Jan 2 1889		Established
Jan 2 1889		Johnson, Andrew E.
May 17 1892		Norton, George S.
Sep 6 1895		Hindman, David R.
Jun 29 1899	---	NE/4 Sec 30 T29S R65W 1/8 mile south of Santa Clara Creek East side of D&RG (does not fit sketch map or was there a branch line?)
Aug 31 1899		Breen, John P.
Dec 18 1899	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T29S R65W 2-1/2 miles west of station named Bunker Hill on Colorado & Southern South side of Santa Clara Creek, 200 feet
Apr 15 1902		Patchen, William L.
Feb 28 1911		Wilson, Joseph H.
Jun 9 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 30 T29S R65W 400 feet east of Santa Clara Creek 200 feet east of D&RG
Apr 12 1916		Rodda, Benjamin G.
Jan 26 1921		Young, Felix J.
Nov 9 1929		Ordered closed
Nov 30 1929		Discontinued Mail to Pryor

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	ROUSE, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Not present	Feb 9 1893
2	ROUSE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Feb 10 1894 Feb 19 1898
3	ROUSE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, oval	Aug 27 1908 Dec 6 1911
4	ROUSE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Dec 20 1912 Oct 1 1915
5	ROUSE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 22 1925 Serif letters, 4bars located differently

ROUSE – Continued



### SAINT MARYS

*Croftt's Gripsack Guide to Colorado* describes Saint Marys as, "On the Huerfano River, consists of a ranch, hotel, post office, and about 100 inhabitants in the near surroundings, who are mostly engaged in raising cattle and sheep. St. Mary's is a point where half a dozen wagon roads centre." That is the only reference to Saint Marys that I have found.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports do provide a description of the location in 1871 and 1876. There is a third location description (1891) that is a half-mile or so to the northeast of the earlier location. This was after a brief period of discontinuance and the name proposed was Pearlton. That name was rejected and the old name of Saint Marys was restored.

After driving by the location of Delcarbon on Colorado Highway 69, and before reaching the site of Strong, where the highway begins to curve to the west, Huerfano County Road 611 goes off to the north. There was (1999) a signboard that pointed to the Kimbrel Ranch, a Colorado Centennial Farm. Drive into the ranch, which is one and three-tenths miles from the highway. This large, well-kept ranch is on the south side of the Huerfano River and near a small cemetery. When Jim Ozment and I visited there we attempted to find someone to talk to but were unable to do so. Nevertheless I believe it was one of the locations for the Saint Marys Post Office.

Latitude = 37:39:34 North Longitude = 104:47:29 West SAINT MARYS CEMETERY

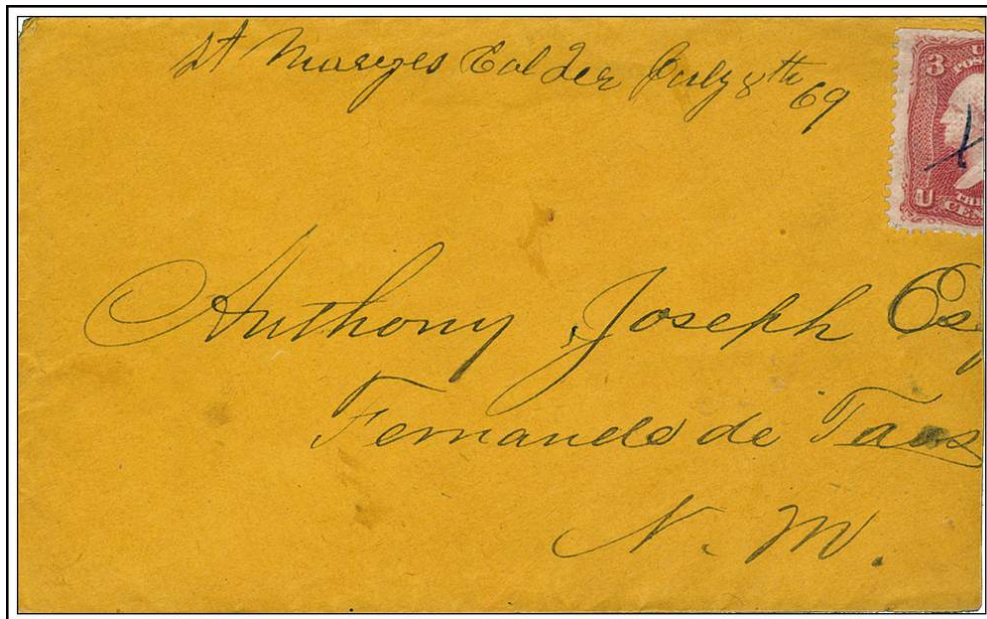
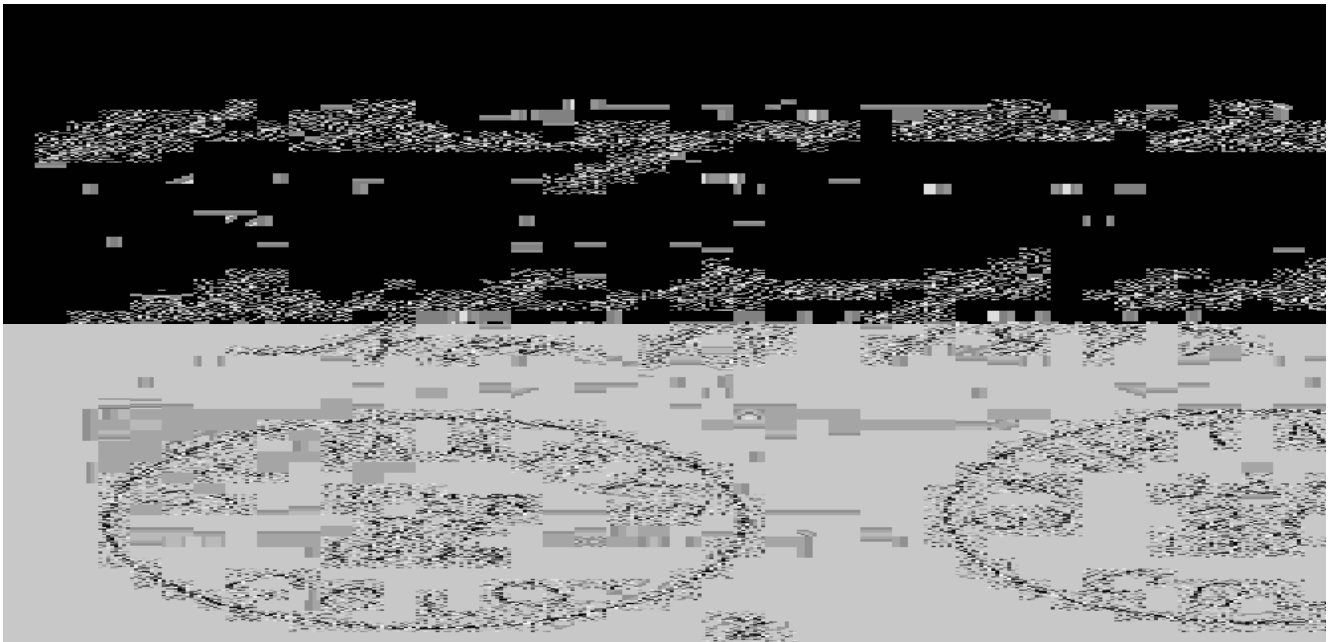
### Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 10 1867	---	No survey made On north side of Huerfano River 6 miles south of Apache Creek
Aug 7 1867		Established
Aug 7 1867		Arnoux, Edmund
May 21 1868		Allen, Zacharia G. Allen
Jan 19 1869		Scott, Henderson
May 4 1869		Pfoutche, Titus
Sep 20 1869		Scott, Henderson
Nov 8 1871	---	NE/4 Sec 32 T26S R67W 1/8 mile north of Huerfano River 6 miles south of Apache Creek



SAINT MARYS – Continued

1.3	Saint Mary's Colo. MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Nov 17 1877
1.4	St Marys Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Sep 17 1881
2	ST MARYS / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Target	Jun 19 1892 Feb 27 1896
3	SAINT MARYS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Jan 27 1904



St Maryes Col Ter

July 8, 1869

## SAINT MARYS – Continued



A portion of the reverse of the above cover.

## SANTA CLARA

Santa Clara is another of the post offices in Huerfano County that was at two widely separated locations. The initial location was a station on the El Moro Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad.

To reach that location exit from Interstate 25 at Exit 41. Go to the east frontage road - Huerfano County Road 240. At first this road runs south then turns east and finally back to the north. You should be able to drive as far as Santa Clara Creek, the last portion being on the old railroad grade. Near the creek there is an old building and some cattle pens (2001). That was the original site of Santa Clara. The location of Muriel, Spanish Peaks and Pauley was another mile plus north along the railroad grade but is inaccessible by vehicle as there is no bridge over Santa Clara Creek.

The original Santa Clara Post Office closed in 1883. In 1889 a new post office opened about six miles to the southwest and was given the name of Santa Clara. It continued to operate until 1894. This second Santa Clara was at a coal mine. In the same year, 1889, the Rouse Post Office was moved to a neighboring location. The Lester and Pryor Post Offices eventually joined both of these in the same area.

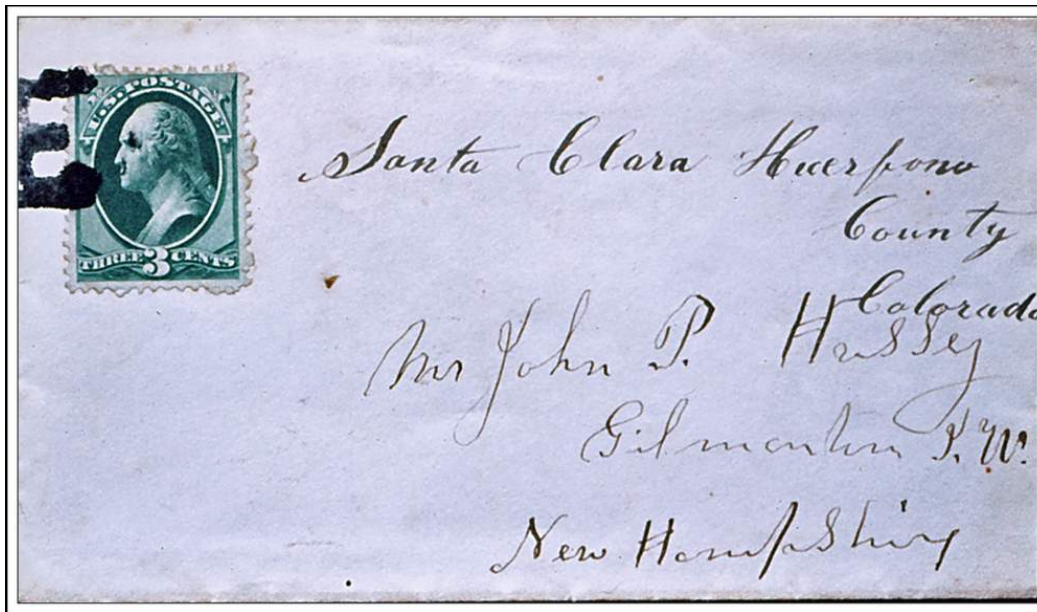
To visit the second site of Santa Clara, follow the directions given to the site of "New" Rouse. Because the two were so close together, it is difficult to tell which was Rouse and which was Santa Clara.

Latitude = 37:26:20 North Longitude = 104:47:14 West SANTA CLARA

## Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 25 1873	---	W/2 Sec 3 & N/2 ??/4 Sec 10 T29S R65W
Dec 17 1873		Established
Dec 17 1873		Bigelow, John
Jun 4 1875		Discontinued
Oct 21 1875		Established
Oct 21 1875		Mooney, Michael
Aug 8 1879	---	W/2 SE/4 Sec 3 T29S R65W, and W/2 NE/4 Sec 10 100 feet south of Santa Clara Creek 50 yards from the Santa Clara Station of the D&RG RR, on the west side of the railroad
May 21 1883		Discontinued Mail to Cucharas
Aug 22 1889	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T29S R65W 75 yards south of Santa Clara Creek 6-1/2 miles from Rouse Junction
Sep 16 1889		Established
Sep 16 1889		Haines, George L.
Jul 18 1894		Discontinued Papers to Rouse

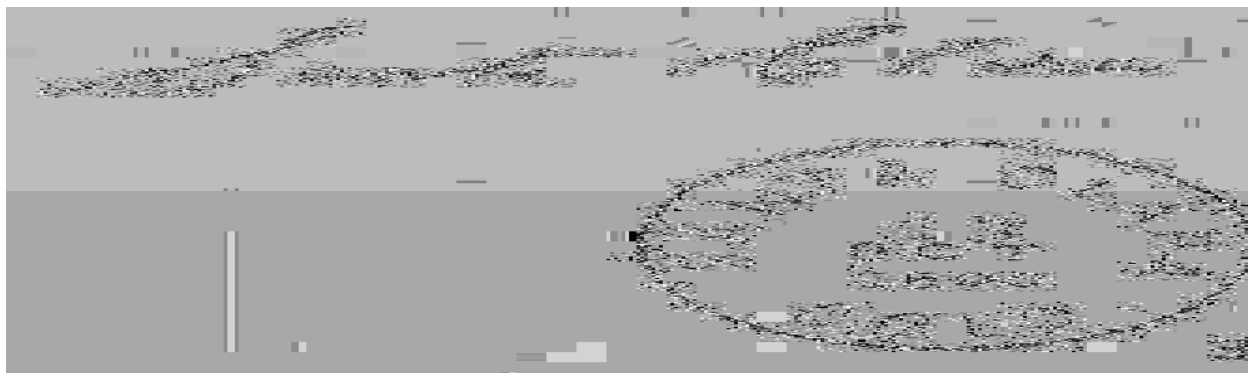
**SANTA CLARA – Continued**



**Santa Clara Huerfano / County / Colorado (December 23, 1878)**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	Santa Clara Huerfano / County / Colorado MS	----- Mscp Pen cancel, undated, probably intended as a return address
2	Santa Clara Colo MS	Aug 19 1878 Dec 23 1878 Mscp Pen cancel
3	SANTA CLARA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Oct 13 1890 May 22 1894 Hstp Not present



**SCHOOLER**

I have not found any information to indicate that there was ever a post office with this name. The only reason I include it with the Huerfano County post offices is that there is a partial document attached to the Geographical Site Location Report for Pauley that provides the information reported below. Most likely this was somehow related to the Pauley Post Office.

I have also noted that one of the Walsenburg postmasters was named Schooler – a possible family connection.

## **SCHOOLER – Continued**

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

Sep 15 1919 --- This is a partial document requesting a Post Office to be named SCHOOLER with Mrs. Nellie Schooler as the proposed postmaster. No descriptive location (was this part of the application for MESA/PAULEY ??)

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

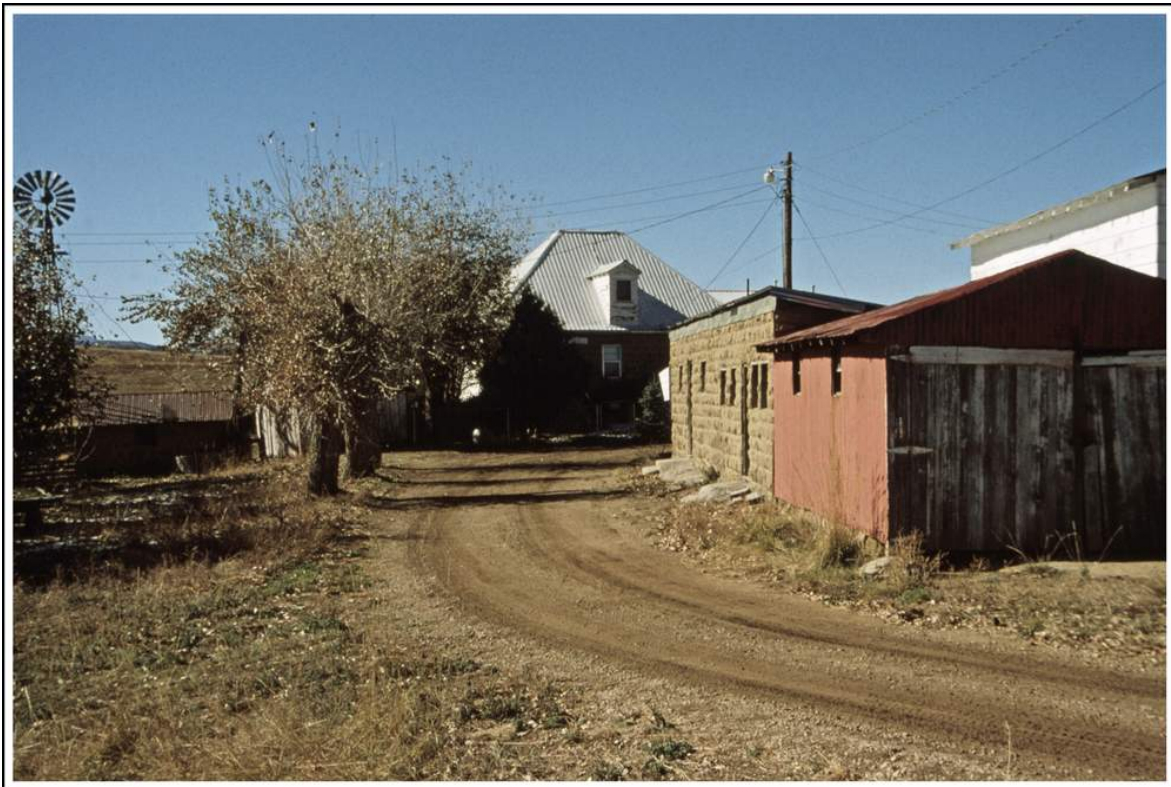
**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SCHOOLER**

## **SCISSORS**

George Crofutt refers to Scissors as “A small ranch post office. Cattle, sheep, goats and babies are the chief productions of the settlers.” Crofutt also states that Scissors was “formerly called Quebec.” That is not correct. In 1884 the Quebec Post Office was moved two miles north and given the name of Scissors.

I have no idea why the name Scissors was chosen for this post office. In 1884 and again in 1894 Amelia Capps was the postmaster, and in 1894 the post office name was changed to Capps.

After visiting the post office sites around Pryor, ending at the locations of Rouse and Santa Clara at 4 Mile Canyon Road, continue south on Huerfano County Road 312 along Santa Clara Creek four and one-half miles to Huerfano County Road 315.1, to the north. Go north a little more than a mile to an unmarked side road to the left. That will take you a small ranch complex, a total of one and eight-tenths miles from County Road 312.



**Ranch buildings at the site of Scissors and Capps**  
 Photograph by William H. Bauer October 30, 1999

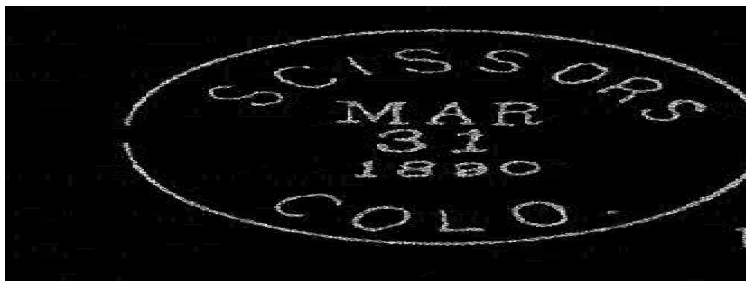
**SCISSORS – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 18 1884	Post Office moved from Quebec
Feb 18 1884	Capps, Amelia F.
Jan 31 1887 ---	NW/4 Sec 8 T30S R66W On NW side of Santa Clara Creek
	Application signed by A. F. Capps
May 31 1889	Blake, Anne
Dec 31 1889	Angell, Matt
Mar 21 1894	Capps, Amelia F.
Sep 26 1894	Name changed to Capps

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	SCISSORS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Mar 31 1890 May 16 1890
2	Scissors Colo. MS	Msep Pen cancel	Aug (Sep?) 1887 Apr 21 1893



**SEGURO**

I have not found any mention of this place in the Colorado history that I have read. This is surprising as the post office appears to have been open for six years. The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report does provide a location.

The location from the report is on the west side of the Huerfano River. From the junction of Huerfano County Roads 550 and 581 continue west on Road 550 three and a half miles. On the north side of Road 550 there is an unmarked side road that roughly parallels Road 550. That road goes only a short distance to a locked gate. But along the way there is a small open area and a small mine dump. It is possible that there was an attempt to mine a small seam of coal at that location and that was the reason for Seguro.

**SEGURO – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 17 1894 ---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 23 T27S R72W 400 feet west of Huerfano River 80 rods east of Deer Creek
Jan 4 1895	Established
Jan 4 1895	Shaddle, George
Aug 24 1901	Ordered closed
Sep 14 1901	Discontinued Papers to Sharpsdale

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SEGURO**

## **SHARPSDALE**

The first location for the Sharpsdale Post Office was near the junction of Sheep Creek with the Huerfano River. Today that is the junction of Huerfano County Roads 550 and 581. The site is still labeled as Sharpsdale on some recent maps.

I can not explain why eight years elapsed between the filing of the Site Location Report in 1875 and the opening of the Sharpsdale Post Office in 1883.

This original location was on the road from Gardner to Mosca Pass, where that road turned away from the Huerfano River. By 1886 the Sharpsdale Post Office had been moved about two miles up the road towards Mosca Pass. The post office remained there until 1906 when it was moved to a location some six miles southwest of the 1875 location and back close to the Huerfano River. In 1924 the post office went back to near the 1886 location on the road to Mosca Pass. Later that year there was one final move to a location two miles west-southwest of the early 1924 location.

The name Sharpsdale is associated with Tom Sharp who came to the Huerfano River in the early 1870's. He settled near Red Wing and Malachite and erected a large adobe trading post. It was from him that the Sharpsdale Post Office took its name. That may indicate that Tom Sharp had interests in the area west of Red Wing.

It is believed that a tollgate was located at Sharpsdale. This would seem to be appropriate for the 1875 and 1886 locations, although by 1886 traffic on the Mosca Pass Road had been greatly reduced by the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad's line over the mountains to the San Luis Valley.

To search out the sites of Sharpsdale, from Red Wing continue west on Road 550 four and seven-tenths miles to just short of the junction with County Road 581. There are some small cabins on the south side of the river. This would be the reported 1875 (first) location for the Sharpsdale Post Office. You can continue on another four miles to the Singing River Ranch. Beyond there the road is on private property and I was unable to visit the 1906 site of Sharpsdale.

Return to the first described location of Sharpsdale and then turn on to County Road 581 and go three miles. That will bring you out into a large open meadow. There is a group of large cottonwoods, which seem out of place unless they were associated with a settlement. That is a logical place for the 1886 and early 1924 location of Sharpsdale. From that point there are no roads that would lead to the late 1924 location of the post office.

Latitude = 37:43:10 North Longitude = 105:21:40 West SHARPSDALE

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

Jan 29 1875	---	W/2 Sec 7 T27S R71W 4 rods north of Huerfano River 10 rods northeast of Sheep Creek
Nov 23 1883		Established
Nov 23 1883		Sharp, Clinton B.
Nov 6 1886	---	NW/4 Sec 1 T27S R72W 4 miles north of Huerfano River 1/4 mile north of May Creek
May 2 1888		Sharp, Spotswood W.
Apr 13 1891		Parker, Nathaniel
Mar 16 1892		Williams, William F.
Oct 19 1894		Discontinued Papers to Malachite
Feb 12 1895		Re-established
Feb 12 1895		McIntire, Alfred P.
Apr 25 1904		Chard, David W.
Mar 23 1906	---	SE/4 Sec 29 T27S R72W Proposal to move 6 miles southwest 1/8 mile north of Huerfano River
Apr 6 1906		Coan, Charles H.
Jun 30 1913		Discontinued Mail to Malachite
Aug 1 1914		Re-established

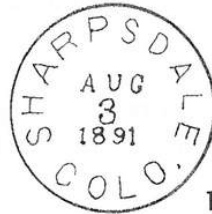
**SHARPSDALE – Continued**

Aug 1 1914	Gale, Jabez W.	Acting
Oct 8 1914	Gale, Jabez W.	Appointed
Mar 12 1923	Gillies, Ethel R.	Acting
May 4 1923	Gillies, Ethel R.	Appointed
May 22 1924 ---	SE/4 Sec 2, T27S R72W 4 miles north of the Huerfano River 200 feet north of Aspen Creek	
Jun 20 1924	Miller, Mabel F.	
Sep 30 1924 ---	NW/4 Sec 10 T27S R72W 3 miles north of Huerfano River 200 feet south of Aspen Creek This is apparently a move because "the people left the place"	
Dec 12 1924	Weiner, Helen R.	Confirmed
May 24 1934	Ordered closed	
Jun 15 1934	Discontinued Mail to Redwing	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

0.1	Sharpsdale / Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Mar 26 1890
1	SHARPSDALE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Aug 3 1891
1.1	SHARPSDALE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork smudge	Sep 3 1909 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
2	SHARPSDALE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars Bars are not visible	Oct 16 1915 ERROR IN SPELLING
3	SHARPSDALE / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars 25.0x18.0	Jun 14 1934

*Sharpsdale  
Jul 2-24-90* 0.1



**SOLAR**

The only reference I have found for Solar describes it as, “a stop on the Denver and Rio Grande a few miles west of Walsenburg.” It was that, but the primary reason for existence was the Solar coal mine at that location. Initially the post office was named Rockland but the name was soon changed to Solar.

Go west from Walsenburg on US Highway 160. West of the town, via an overpass, the highway crosses the railroad. A short distance beyond, there is a side road to the south, Huerfano County Road 346. A half-mile from US 160 you will find a few remnant foundations and mine dumps. This was the site of Solar/Rockland.

**SOLAR – Continued**

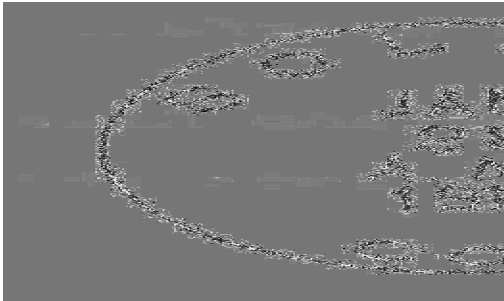
Latitude = 37:35:59 North Longitude = 104:49:35 West SOLAR MINE

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 4 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 19 T28S R66W 400 feet north of Cucharas River 75 feet north of D&RG tracks Proposed as ROCKLAND - rejected (Actually established as ROCKLAND, then name changed to SOLAR)
May 20 1915		Name changed from Rockland
May 20 1915		Wise, Edward B.
Jun 22 1918		Woodruff, William H.
Jan 13 1922		Allen, George A.
Oct 16 1926		Ordered closed
Nov 10 1926		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	SOLAR, / COLO.	Jan 28 1918	Oct 8 1919
	CI 10P 32.0		
		4bars S-25x20mm	

**SPANISH PEAK**

Henry Diagre, Hiram W. Vasquez and Colonel John M. Francisco founded this settlement. They built an adobe plaza that was called Francisco Plaza and served as a fort during the period when the Ute Indians were still raiding in the area.

The plaza served farmers and livestock growers in the area. When a post office was established it took the official name of Spanish Peak, however, the locals added a final “s” in a clearer reference to the two prominent volcanic peaks south of the settlement.

The two peaks are known as The Spanish Peaks or by their Indian name “Huajatolla”- “breasts of the world.”

In August 1876 the name of the post office was renamed La Veta - “The Vein.”

The location given by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is in the southern portion of the town of La Veta, near where Colorado Highway 12 briefly turns west before again turning south.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 25 18-?	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 21 T29S R68W Note: This was known to the Post Office Department simply as Spanish Peak
Jun 15 1871		Established
Jun 15 1871		Hamilton, William
Apr 24 1873		Francisco, Andrew L.
Nov 12 1873		Earle, Jonathan E.
Sep 28 1875		Earle, Herbert C.
Aug 17 1876		Name changed to La Veta



### SPANISH PEAKS – Continued

This group of post offices, – Muriel, Spanish Peaks, Pauley and Santa Clara – are all in the extreme southeast corner of Huerfano County east of Interstate 25. Unfortunately locked gates block off the roads, or trails, that lead to the sites.

To make an attempt, take Exit 41 from Interstate 25 to Huerfano County Road 240 on the east side of I-25. Follow that road as far as you can but you will still be a mile or two south of the Spanish Peaks location. I doubt that any structures remain.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 26 1920	---	NW/4 Sec 34 T28S R65W 1-1/2 miles west of Santa Clara Creek On east side of D&RG, 15 feet from tracks, Rouse Junction Station Proposed as ROUSE JUNCTION - rejected
Apr 21 1920		Established
Apr 21 1920		Gilham, Nora V.
Oct 30 1920		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg

### Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SPANISH PEAKS**

### STRONG

Strong was another in the series of coal mine towns along what is now Colorado Highway 69. This was the eighth in the series of ten camps and ten post offices that were along the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad that began at Walsenburg and ended at Alamo. The railroad was gradually extended, reaching Strong in 1904 and Alamo in 1923.

From the site of Delcarbon, continue north on Colorado 69. At Delcarbon the highway begins a curve from a northwest direction to southwest. Strong was about halfway along the curve before the road again turns to the northwest. There are mine dumps on the south side of the road and some foundations along the side of Alamo Arroyo, which is north of and near the road.

From the number of remnant foundations, it appears that Strong was a moderate sized camp housing the miners that worked at the associated mine.

Latitude = 37:42:45 North Longitude = 104:54:06 West STRONG

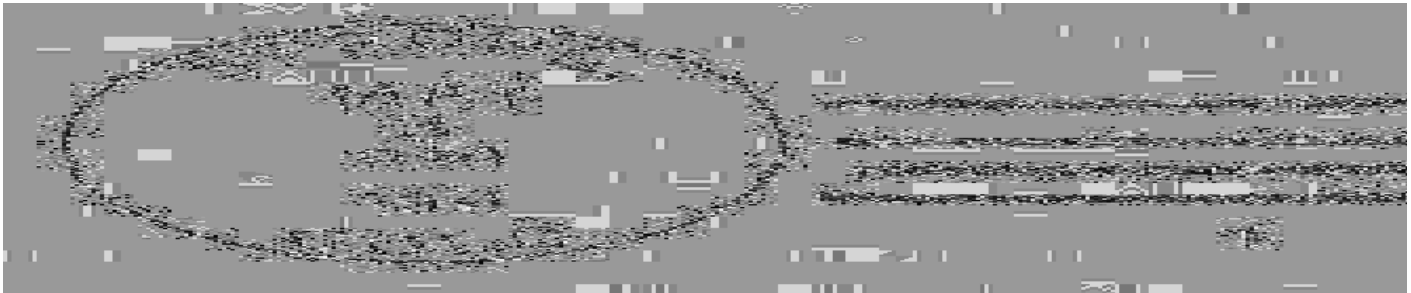
### Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 7 1905	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T27S R67W 100 feet south of D&RG-C&S	
Mar 31 1905		Established	
Mar 31 1905		Pritchard, Gus K.	
Apr 4 1907		Strong, Adelbert E.	
Mar 15 1912		Pritchard, Gus K.	
Sep 25 1912		Griesbach, Albert G.	
Jul 14 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 8 T27S R67W Sunnyside Coal Mining Co. Camp, Tioga 1 mile west	
Dec 18 1914		Hoffman, Sam J.	
Aug 5 1916		Von Fumette, Hans	Appointment rescinded
Sep 14 1918		Shea, Edward H.	
Sep 25 1919		Bell, Richard T.	
Dec 21 1927		Easton, Thomas E.	
Sep 17 1928		Ordered closed, effective Sep 29 1928	
Sep 27 1928		Closing order rescinded	
Dec 20 1928		Caddell, Selma	
May 7 1929		Ordered closed	
May 31 1929		Discontinued Mail to Tioga	

**STRONG – Continued**

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	STRONG / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 2, with 1; S-23x13mm	Jun 25 1906 May 3 1911
2	STRONG / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Doane Type 2, with 1; S-23x13mm	Jan 9 1912 Sep 26 1912
3	STRONG / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 22 1914 Nov 21 1919



**TABEGUACHE**

I have found no information relative to this post office. The name was that of one of the tribes of the Ute Indians that lived in the area that comprises Huerfano and western Las Animas Counties.

According to the Records of Postmaster Appointments, the Tabeguache Post Office was open from February 22 to September 20, 1869. However, there is no Geographical Site Location Report on file. That is the usual situation found for a post office that was never in operation. I believe that was the case for the Tabeguache Post Office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	No entry present in the Geographic Site Location Reports
Feb 22 1869	Established
Feb 22 1869	Chapman, William H.
Sep 20 1869	Discontinued

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TABEGUACHE**

**TALPA**

The history and the location of this post office are at best confusing. It is further complicated by the similarity in name of two other offices - Huerfano Canyon and Huerfano Canon. Then add the Gardner and Farisita Post Offices to the mix and stir in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports, some of which are unclear, and I am not certain that I have interpreted everything correctly.

The 1878 Site Location Report, listed below, is the one that was submitted for the Huerfano Canon Post Office. It makes reference to both Talpa and to Gardner but the description fits with the location of the later Farisita Post Office, not Gardner.

Talpa was a small community with a store and a livery barn and several residences. It was the supply center for the ranchers in the immediate vicinity. The Talpa Post Office closed in 1912. The settlement lacked a post office until 1923 when one was opened with the name of Farisita.

### TALPA – Continued

In 1913, and again in 1914, Geographic Site Location Reports for Talpa were submitted to the Post Office Department. In addition there is mention in the historical literature of Talpa being in existence until 1921. However, after the 1912 edition, Talpa is not listed in the annual Postal Guides. It appears that there may have been one or more unsuccessful attempts to reopen the Talpa Post Office. The 1913 and 1914 Site Location Reports are included in the chronology that follows.

The 1913 report raises an additional question. It points to a location is Section 10, Township 26 South. The Range location is not clear, but I assume that it was Range 69 West. If so, this would have been about four miles west-northwest of the earlier location on Huerfano River.

My best conclusion is that in 1890 the Huerfano Canon Post Office name was changed to Talpa. This may have included a move of about a half-mile to a new site. The Talpa Post Office closed in 1912. When a new post office opened there in 1923 it was given the name of Farisita. In the time between 1912 and 1923 there were attempts to reopen the Talpa Post Office but in 1913, at a different location and in 1914 with the name of Turkey Creek.

The original site of Talpa coincides closely with the location of Farisita on Colorado Highway 69.

To visit that 1913 "site" of Talpa, begin at Farisita on Colorado Highway 69 and drive north on Huerfano County Road 620 four and two-tenths miles. That will bring you to a road junction and the Valdez Cemetery on the east side of the road. There is one old building nearby and a few modern structures in the vicinity. The presence of the cemetery might support the past existence of a small community at that location.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 4 1878	---	Sec 36 T26S R69W 1/8 mile north of Huerfano River one mile west of Turkey Creek Proposed as CANON - rejected. "ch. n. to Talpa" Also shows names Huerfano Canon (twice) and Gardner
Oct 16 1890		Post Office moved from Huerfano Canon
Oct 16 1890		Harmes, William L.
Mar 31 1899		Harmes, Isabel
Oct 14 1904		Ordered closed
Oct 31 1904		Discontinued Mail to Badito
Nov 9 1904		Closing order rescinded
Mar 31 1899		Harmes, Isabel
Feb 24 1910		Faris, Louise S.
Dec 31 1912		Discontinued Mail to Tioga

NOTE: The following two entries are present in the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports

Jan 8 1913	---	Sec 10 T26S R??W (document is filled in poorly. 4 or 5 miles east of Huerfano River, 35 or 40 yards east of Turkey Creek Sketch map shows only a dot in the center of section 10) Proposed as TURKEY CREEK - rejected
Mar 2 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 35 T26S R69W 150 yards north of Huerfano River 250 yards west of Turkey Creek

### Confirmed Types of Postal Markings

1	TALPA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	--- 1909 Oct 28 1912
---	-------------------------------	-----------------	----------------------



**TIOGA**

Tioga is the ninth, and next to last, in the series of post offices that served coal mines and miners along the Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande from Walsenburg to Alamo. The railroad was extended to Tioga in 1907.

Some authors have confused the Tioga Post Office with Tioga Station, supposedly on the Denver and Rio Grande south of Cucharas. The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report clearly places the Tioga Post Office northwest of Walsenburg on the branch line that served the numerous coal mines along its route.

From the location of Strong on Colorado Highway 69 continue a mile west to Huerfano County Road 524 and turn south on that road. Tioga was a half-mile down the road on the west side. No period structures remain but the Kebler Mine dumps are visible as are several foundations. A line of trees is said to delineate the main street of the community.

Latitude = 37:41:56 North Longitude = 104:55:37 West TIOGA

**Chronology of the Post Office**

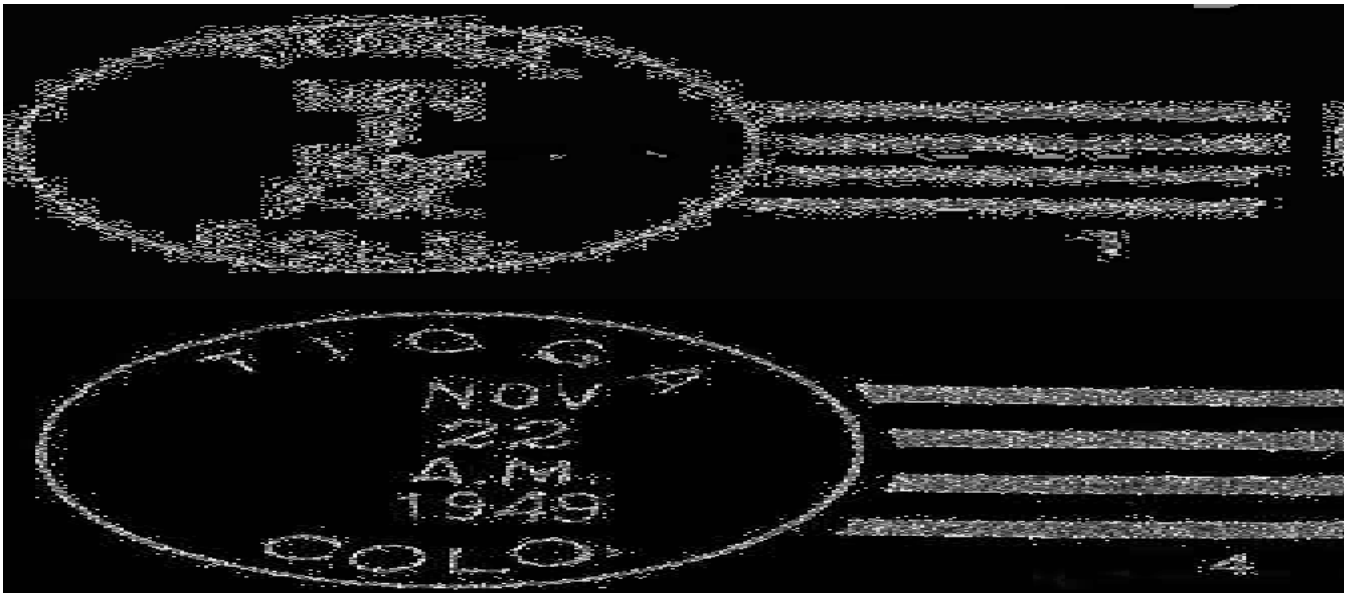
Nov 2 1907	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T27S R67W At Tioga Station	
Nov 21 1907		Established	
Nov 21 1907		Keeler, Walter E.	
Sep 8 1910		McGowan, Edward T.	
Oct 1 1912		O'Neill, Walter A.	
Aug 31 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T27S R67W South side of the D&RG, a few steps from the track	
Sep 1 1914		Lockwood, Walter P.	
Jan 8 1910		Padfield, Myron W.	
Jun 9 1916		Bann, Frances A.	
Feb 25 1919		Nallon, John P.	Declined
Jul 1 1920		Arnold, Chester W.	
Aug 3 1921		Feldhauser, Charles P.	
Aug 3 1922		Young, Foster H.	Acting
Sep 1 1922		Young, Foster H.	Appointed
Jan 5 1926		Evans, John L.	
Jul 27 1929		Henley, Thomas A.	Acting
Aug 29 1929		Henley, Thomas A.	Confirmed
Oct 12 1929		Henley, Thomas A.	Commissioned
Feb 8 1933		Young, Felix J.	Assumed charge
Feb 24 1933		Young, Felix J.	Acting
Jun 26 1933		Young, Felix J.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1933		Young, Felix J.	Commissioned
Feb 16 1941		Barcelona, Carman	Assumed charge
Mar 4 1941		Barcelona, Carman	Acting
Sep 3 1941		Barcelona, Carman	Confirmed
Sep 25 1941		Barcelona, Carman	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 18 T27S R67W 100 yards north of spur track	
Dec 8 1943		Calli, Albert J.	Assumed charge
Jun 29 1944		Calli, Albert J.	Acting
Nov 21 1944		Calli, Albert J.	Confirmed
Dec 28 1944		Calli, Albert J.	Commissioned
Oct 1 1949		Fernandez, Felix	Assumed charge
Oct 18 1949		Fernandez, Felix	Acting
Dec 6 1950		Fernandez, Felix	Confirmed
Dec 21 1950		Fernandez, Felix	Commissioned
Jul 23 1952		Nutz, Frank B.	Assumed charge
Aug 1 1952		Nutz, Frank B.	Acting

**TIOGA – Continued**

Sep 8 1952	Nutz, Frank B.	Confirmed
Oct 23 1953	Nutz, Frank B.	Appointment rescinded
Feb 3 1954	Ordered closed	
Mar 15 1954	Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	TIOGA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x13mm	Nov 9 1908
1.1	TIOGA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Jul 27 1918 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
2	TIOGA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 16 1932 May 10 1935
3	TIOGA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm, small close spaced letters	Jun 24 1938 Dec 17 1947
4	TIOGA / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 22 1949 Nov 22 1949
5	TIOGA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x18mm, large wide spaced letters	May 8 1951 Mar 15 1954

**TOLTEC**

Toltec was a coal mining camp located at the Toltec Mine about two miles west of Walsenburg. In 1894 P. F. Sharp and John McNeil opened the Toltec Mine. McNeil was the first state inspector of coal mines in Colorado. The name, that of an Indian tribe near Mexico City, was first given to the mine and then to the town and the post office.

Toltec did develop into a modest sized community with services and residences for the workers at the mine.

To begin your trip through the coal mining camps northwest of Walsenburg start at Exit 52 from Interstate 25. Drive a short distance on US Highway 85 to Colorado Highway 69 and turn west going a little over a mile to where the highway turns sharply to the northwest. There is a dirt (1999) road to the south. Pictou was located in the area near the intersection and Toltec was a mile further down the road. I believe this is Huerfano County Road 590.

Toltec is still a small community of residences scattered along the road. The Loma Branch of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad served it.

**TOLTEC – Continued**

Latitude = 37:38:22 North Longitude = 104:48:57 West TOLTEC MINE

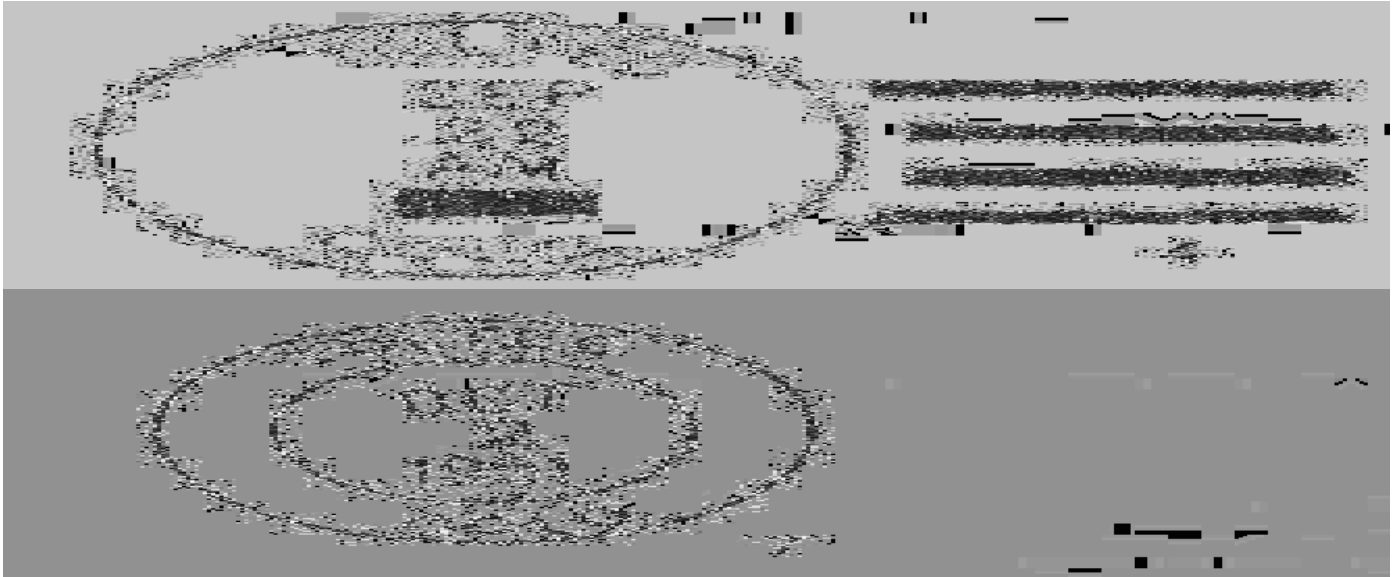
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 15 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 6 T28S R66W 1/4 mile south of Sand Arroya	
Apr 13 1911		Established	
Apr 13 1911		Hill, Charles M.	
Dec 26 1911		Bartlett, Perry F.	
Jul 2 1912		Wallace, James G.	
May 2 1914	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 6 T28S R66W 60 rods north of Sand Arroya 200 feet north of D&RG Loma Branch	
Mar 10 1928		Smith, Samuel B.	
Nov 1 1928		Taylor, Thomas C.	Acting
Mar 6 1929		Taylor, Thomas C.	Confirmed
Apr 5 1929		Taylor, Thomas C.	Commissioned
Mar 12 1940		Spock, Miss Catherine	Assumed charge
Mar 21 1940		Spock, Miss Catherine	Acting
Apr 12 1940		Spock, Miss Catherine	Confirmed
Apr 30 1940		Spock, Miss Catherine	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	Sec 6 T28S R66W State 69, US 85-87 north 1 mile	
Mar 4 1942		Biondi, Louis	Assumed charge
Mar 10 1942		Biondi, Louis	Acting
May 16 1942		Biondi, Louis	Confirmed
Jun 9 1942		Biondi, Louis	Commissioned
Oct 31 1947		Biondi, Miss Mary	Assumed charge
Mar 12 1947		Biondi, Miss Mary	Confirmed
Feb 12 1947		Biondi, Miss Mary	Commissioned
Jan 3 1950		Barbari, Miss Adeline A.	Assumed charge
Apr 3 1950		Barbari, Miss Adeline A.	Confirmed
Jun 6 1950		Barbari, Miss Adeline A.	Commissioned
Nov 12 1953		Ordered closed	
Dec 31 1953		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	TOLTEC, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 25 1912 Apr 9 1917
2	TOLTEC / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 27 1925 Oct 1- 1935
3	TOLTEC, COLO. CI 10H 30.0	4bars P-26x19mm	Feb 16 1933 Nov 23 1934
4	TOLTEC / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 6 193- Oct 26 1943
5	TOLTEC, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 23 1948
6	TOLTEC / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 1 1951 Dec 31 1953
7	TOLTEC / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 2 1951



**TOLTEC – Continued****TOURIST**

In the fall of 1887 an attempt was made to change the name of Walsenburgh to Tourist. This appears to have been connected to a land development scheme but it was opposed by nearly all of the residents.

The scheme did go so far as to have the post office name changed from Walsenburgh to Tourist, but within a month the protests succeeded and the name reverted to Walsenburgh.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 20 1887	Name changed from Walsenburgh
Oct 20 1887	Campbell, Alexander R.
Nov 29 1887	Re-named Walsenburg

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TOURIST**

**UTE**

Huerfano was the initial post office at this location on the Huerfano River and the original grade of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. That post office closed in 1884. Four years later a new post office opened at the same location, but it was named Ute.

It appears that a small community had developed at the location and that it continued for several years. Please refer to the discussion of the Huerfano Post Office for more about this place.

In 1900 the name of the Ute Post Office reverted to Huerfano. This may have been either a choice of the railroad or a preference of the residents.

Exit from Interstate 25 at Exit 64 and drive east on Huerfano County Road 110 to the railroad. Road 110 turns north along the railroad, there is a crossing of the railroad at the turn. Unfortunately when Jim Ozment and I visited the location in 1999 there was a locked gate and we could not go on to the location. We did drive south along the railroad to where we could see the Huerfano River but could not identify anything that might remain from Huerfano/Ute/Huerfano.

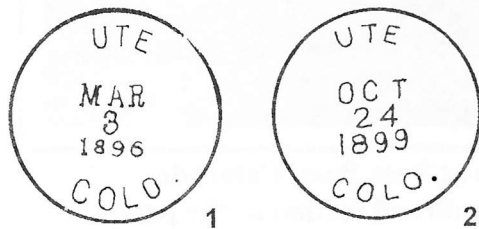
**UTE – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 11 1888	---	SE/4 Sec 2 T26S R 66W North bank of the Huerfano River 1 mile south of Apache Creek, on D&RG Proposed postmaster - Hamilton Pope
Aug 12 1888		Established
Aug 12 1888		Pope, Hamilton
Jun 17 1889		Reynolds, Richard A.
Dec 24 1890		Shotwell, Samuel L.
Nov 24 1891		Parkhurst, Lewellyn A.
Mar 3 1892		Shotwell, Samuel L.
Oct 28 1892		Palmer, John
Jul 12 1895		Pope, Hamilton
Jun 24 1898		Palmer, John
Apr 27 1900		Name changed to Huerfano

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	UTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Feb 29 1896 Mar 9 1896
2	UTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge; small letters	Mar 31 1898 Oct 24 1899



**VETA PASS (I)**

I have not found a Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report for this post office. Based on the dates that it may have been in operation, I believe that it was located at La Veta Pass where the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad first crossed the summit of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains.

If my assumption is correct, it is possible to visit the site. Drive west from Walsenburg on US Highway 160. About two miles east of North La Veta Pass, Huerfano County Road 443 branches to the south from US 160. Follow that road to the summit. An alternate route is from the west side of North La Veta Pass via Costilla County Road SS.

There are several buildings on the Huerfano County side of the pass. One is a small church. Another may have been the depot. There are also two large buildings one of which was a roadhouse the other probably associated with it. Visiting this site is an easy drive and there is something worth seeing. When I was there in 1999, the church was open to visit.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 15 1889		Established
Jun 15 1889		Hamilton, Jennie M.
Oct 16 1890		Discontinued No papers Not listed in postal guides

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM VETA PASS (I)**

## VETA PASS (I) – Continued



**One of the remaining buildings at Veta Pass, Colorado.  
This building may have been the railroad station at the pass.  
Photograph by James L. Ozment May 18, 1999**

**WALSEN**

Walsen was another of the small coal mining towns southwest of Walsenburg. It was on the Denver and Rio Grand Railroad line to La Veta and the San Luis Valley, only a mile or so after the railroad passed through Walsenburg.

The community was named for Fred Walsen who opened the first coal mine at the site. In 1892 the Colorado Fuel and Iron mill at Pueblo began taking coal from the mine at Walsen. By the 1920's the town had a population of 1,200 living in more than 200 company owned, identical residences. There were two general stores, the Levy and Walsen Store and the Unfug Brothers Store. In 1926 a brick schoolhouse replaced the old frame building. The Colorado Fuel and Iron Company put up a YMCA building, which was a much-used community center.

In the 1930's the Colorado Fuel and Iron Company mill changed from coal to natural gas to fuel its furnaces and the community of Walsen quickly disappeared.

In 1910, an electric plant was built at Walsen. Eventually the city of Walsenburg purchased the plant. The power plant still stands, and the mine dumps remain but all other buildings that were once Walsen have been torn down.

Drive west from Walsenburg on US Highway 160. On the west edge of Walsenburg the power plant and mine dumps are easily seen from the highway.

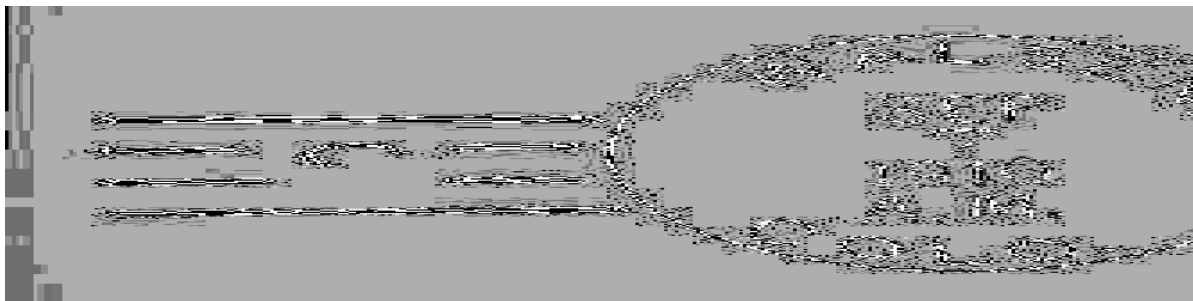
**WALSEN – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jul 1901	---	NE/4 NE/4 Sec 17 T28S R66W 100 yards south and east of D&RG 1/8 mile north of Cuchara River	
Mar 29 1902		Established	
Mar 9 1902		Freder, Allan	
Jul 10 1903		Buckland, Charles C.	
Apr 21 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 8 T28S R66W 1000 feet north of Cuchara River 1/8 mile south of D&RG	
Apr 1 1921			Office made Presidential
Nov 8 1921		Buckland, Charles C.	P&S
Jul 1 1925			Office relegated
Jul 24 1925		Buckland, Charles C.	
Mar 19 1931		Hepplewhite, Robert	Acting
Jul 30 1931		Hepplewhite, Robert	Confirmed
Sep 25 1931		Hepplewhite, Robert	Commissioned
Oct 31 1932		Ordered closed	
Oct 31 1932		Discontinued Mail to Walsenburg	

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1	WALSEN, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3, with 3	Aug 10 1908 Sep 7 1910
2	WALSEN, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Oct 6 1914 Apr 4 1917
3	WALSEN. / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-??x18mm	Dec 24 1930



**WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG**

Perhaps as early as the 1840's Walsenburg began as a Spanish settlement called La Plaza de los Leones for its founder Don Miguel Antonio Leon. In 1870 Fred Walsen opened a general store, acquired a post office, and became the first postmaster of Walsenburgh. The spelling Walsenburgh was retained until 1892 when the final "h" was dropped, as a part of the Post Office Department's efforts to streamline post office names.

In 1887 the name of the town and post office was changed to Tourist. This change in name did not meet with the approval of the residents and it was quickly discarded. On November 30, 1887 the *Trinidad Citizen* made the following comment: "Those few who wished to run away with an established mining town – name and all – and to merge it into a wildcat scheme of their own certainly deserved this rebuke."

Although originally a Spanish settlement, the 1870's saw an influx of German settlers who took land along the Cucharas River and began farming and raising livestock. Coal was discovered in the area and a large number of mines were opened. Some of the mines developed their own communities but Walsenburg, as the county seat, dominated the political and economic life of Huerfano County. Modern Walsenburg is still the major town and commercial center in Huerfano County.

**WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG – Continued**

Walsenburg was incorporated in 1873.

Walsenburg is located on the Cucharas River, the former Denver and Rio Grande Railroad and US Highway 160 just west of Interstate 25 at Exit 50.

Latitude = 37:37:27 North Longitude = 104:46:47 West WALSENBURG



WALSENBURGH / COL.

February 1, (1876)

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 14 1870	Established	
Dec 14 1870	Walsen, Fred	
Jan 24 1871	---	SE/4 Sec 9 T28S R66W On northwest side of Cucharas River
Jan 9 1882	Martin, L.	
Jan 23 1882	Martin, Louie S.	
Feb 20 1884	Greesy, T. L.	
Sep 22 1885	Campbell, Alexander R.	
Oct 20 1887	Name changed to Tourist	
Nov 29 1887	Renamed Walsenburg	
Sep 2 1889	Muir, David E.	P
Jan 9 1890	Muir, David E.	P&S
Dec 22 1892	Spelling changed to Walsenburg	
Jan 4 1893	Mason, George	P&S
Feb 20 1897	Mason, George	P&S
Jul 1 1898	McHarg, Joseph S.	P&S
May 8 1899	McHarg, Frederick G.	P
Dec 13 1899	McHarg, Frederick G.	P&S
Dec 14 1903	Troumstine, Edward L.	P&S
Dec 11 1907	Troumstine, Edward L.	P&S
Jan 30 1912	Troumstine, Edward L.	P&S
Nov 20 1913	Manzanares, A. T.	P&S
Jul 11 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 9 T28S R66W
Aug 1 1918	Stanley, Ralph	Acting
Mar 18 1919	Slater, Edward	Acting
Sep 23 1919	Slater, Edward	P&S

**WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG – Continued**

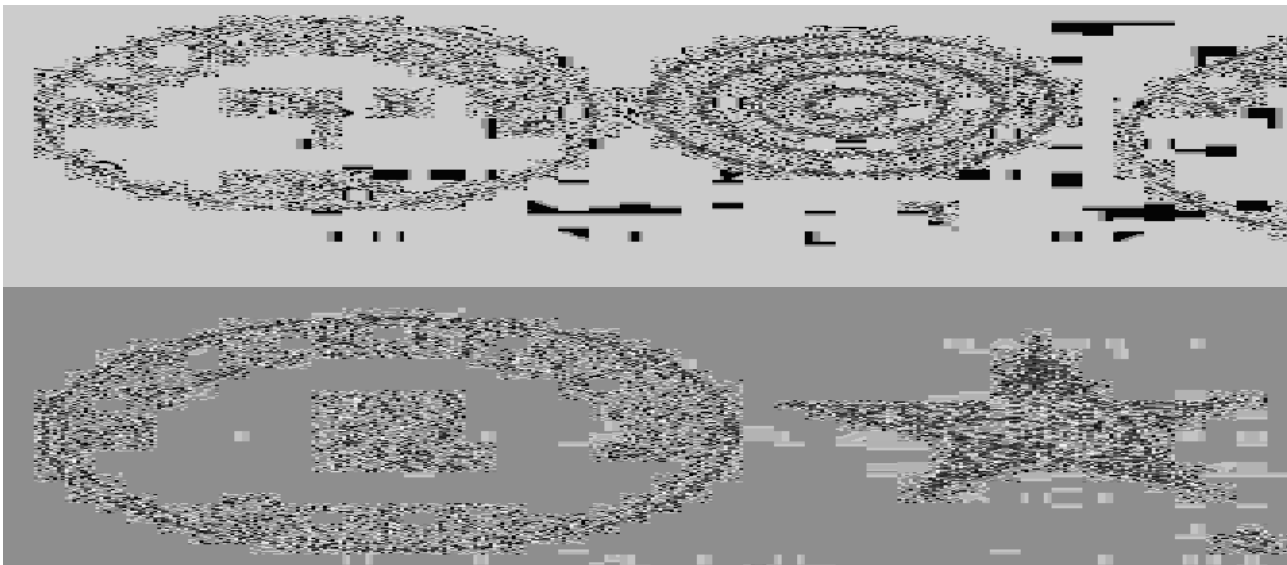
Nov 16 1920	Krier, N. Lucien	Acting
May 25 1921	Atencio, Agapeto R.	Acting
Oct 6 1921	Atencio, Agapeto R.	P&S
Mar 20 1926	Vories, Eugene S.	P&S
Mar 22 1930	Vories, Eugene S.	P&S
Apr 20 1934	Niebuhr, George S.	Acting
May 1 1934	Niebuhr, George S.	Assumed charge
May 4 1934	Niebuhr, George S.	Nominated
May 12 1934	Niebuhr, George S.	Confirmed
Jun 28 1934	Niebuhr, George S.	Commissioned
Apr 29 1938	Niebuhr, George S.	Nominated
May 3 1938	Niebuhr, George S.	Confirmed
May 12 1938	Niebuhr, George S.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 8 1938	Niebuhr, George S.	Commissioned
Oct 25 1941 ---	6th and Russell Sts.	
Feb 18 1943	Niebuhr, George S.	Nominated
Mar 17 1943	Niebuhr, George S.	Confirmed
Mar 18 1943	Niebuhr, George S.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 16 1943	Niebuhr, George S.	Commissioned
Jan 5 1951	Guerrero, Miss Erestine C.	Assumed charge
Jan 24 1951	Guerrero, Miss Erestine C.	Acting
May 1 1952	Tesitor, James J.	Nominated
May 21 1952	Tesitor, James J.	Confirmed
May 22 1952	Tesitor, James J.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jun 30 1952	Tesitor, James J.	Assumed charge
Mar 21 1980	Simpson, Keith	Officer in charge
Jul 12 1980	Reynolds, Robert R.	Appointed

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

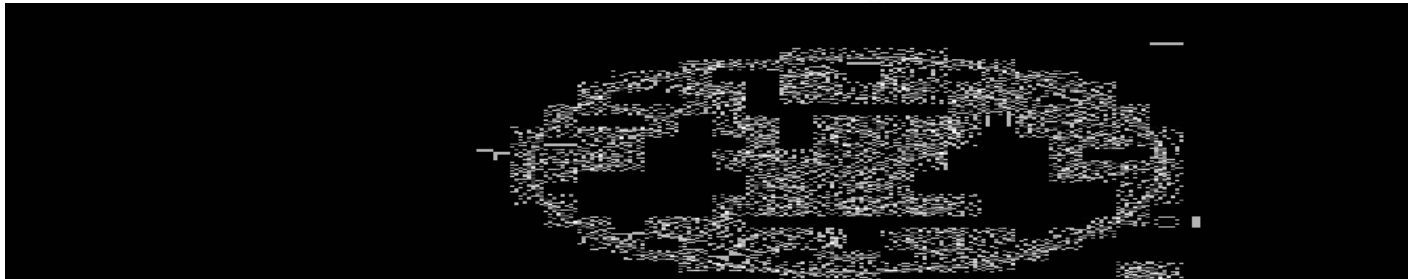
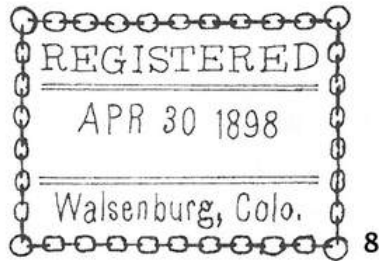
1	WALSENBURGH / COL. CI 10P 24.0	Feb 1 1876 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	WALSENBURG, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Oct 6 1879 May 31 1881 Hstp Target, 3-ring 19mm
3	WALSENBURG, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/26.0	Apr 1 1882 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
4	WALSENBURGH. / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Dec 23 1885 Hstp Not present
5	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 20H 31.0/28.0	Oct 20 1886 Hstp Fancy, Star-in-star
6	WALSENBURGH / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	May 11 1888 Jul 23 1891 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads
7	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Jun 3 1892 Dec 7 1893 Hstp Cork, Smudge
7.1	WALSENBURG, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.5/.18.5	Nov 12 1897 Hstp Not present
8	Walsenburg, Colo. // REGISTERED RC 10F 46.0x33.0	Apr 30 1898 Hstp CDS used as killer, The frame is a linked chain
8.1	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Oct 28 1898 Hstp not present Lettering closer than B9
9	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 20 1899 Aug 18 1899 Dplx Gird, 9 bar oval
10	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	Nov 18 1899 Jan 23 1909 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval
11	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jul 18 1908 Hstp Not present

## WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG – Continued

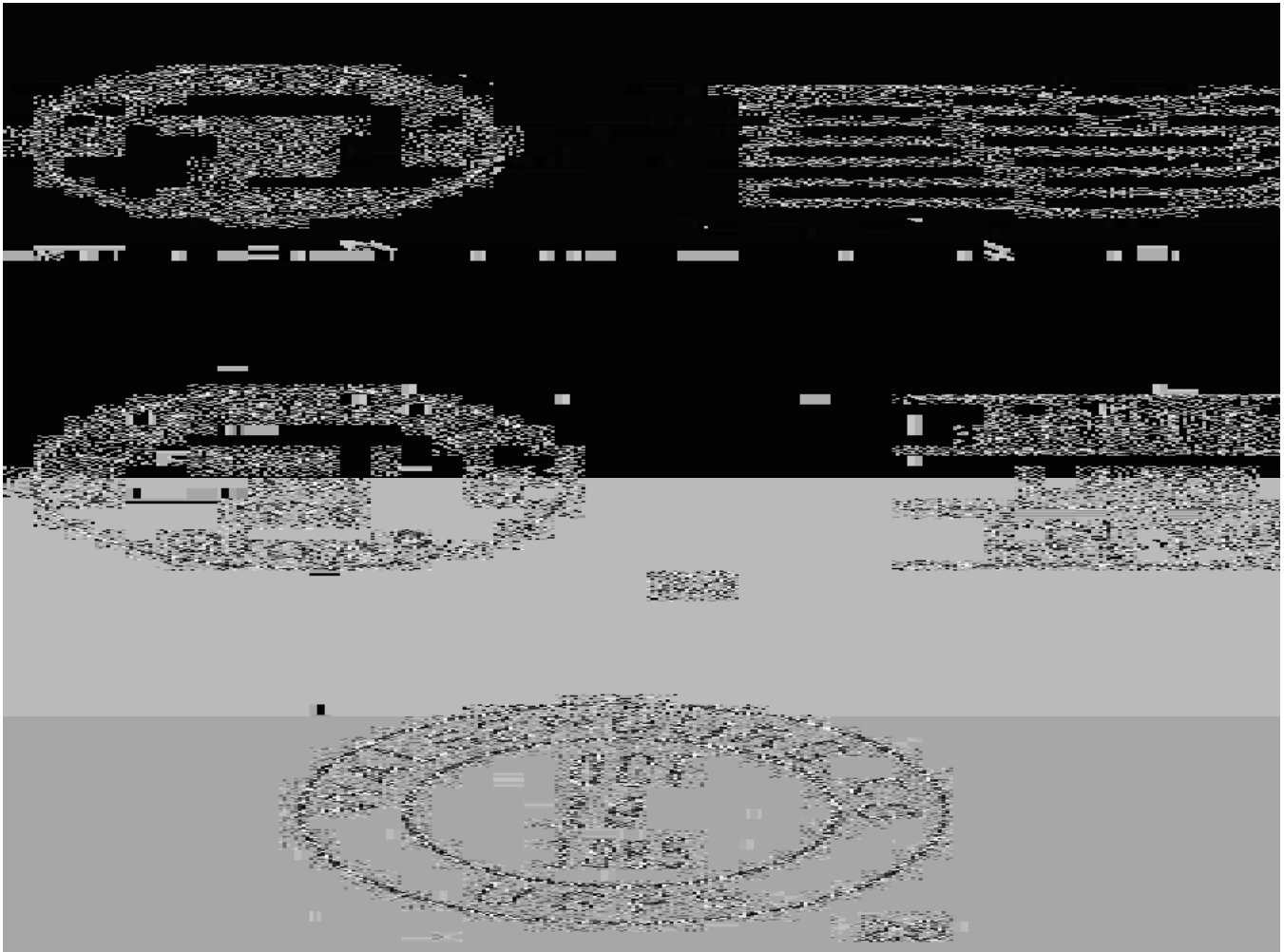
11.1	WALSENBURG, COLO / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not present	Aug 27 1908
12	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Sep 19 1912
13	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Dplx Grid, Oval with 1 and circle	Jul 2 191- Dec 21 1917
14	WALSENBURG, COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Flag 13 star waving flag, small letters	Dec 20 1920 Jul 11 1922
15	WALSENBURG, COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Flag 13 star waving flag, large letters	Mar 15 1924 Dec 16 1925
16	WALSENBURG / COLO. M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Dec 21 1922 Jan 4 1927
17	WALSENBURG, COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 29 1931 Jun 21 1965
18	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle	Feb 19 1912 May 25 1939
18.1	WALSENBURG, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/25.0	Hstp not present	Jul 24 1936
19	WALSENBURG, CO 81089 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Aug 14 1967
20	WALSENBURG / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Jun 15 1960 Dec 1 1967
21	WALSENBURG, CO / 81089 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Dec 12 1968 Sep 24 1976
22	WALSENBURG, CO 81089 CI 11P 32.0/23.0	Rolr 6 wavy lines	Apr 27 1970 Jan 2 1982
23	WALSENBURG, CO / 81089 CI 10P 21.0	Mach Slogan in bars; CENTENNIAL 1873-1973 / LAND OF HUAJATOLLA / CULTURAL CROSSROADS	Mar 1 1973 Jun 10 1973 Mar 26 1987 May 19 1999
24	WALSENBURG, CO / 81089 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 19 1995
25	WALSENBURG, CO / USPS CI 11P 26.0/17.0	Hstp No killer	May 19 1999 Oct 18 2001
26	WALSENBURG CO 81089 / USPS CI 11P 31.0/23.0	Hstp No killer	



WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG – Continued



WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG – Continued



**AUXILIARY MARKINGS**

A-1 Walsenburg -- MISSENT.  
SL 00R 23.0x5.0

Jun 6 1892

Hstp On letter from La Veta to Pueblo



**WALSENBURGH/WALSENBURG STATIONS**

**CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION**

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000      Established as a Special Commemorative Station

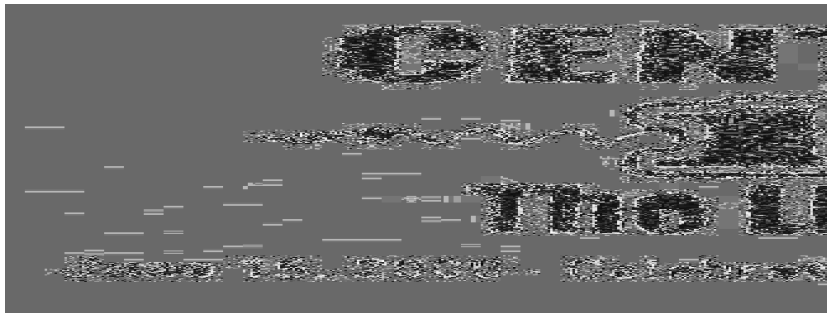
**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

1      Walsenburg, CO 81089 // Celebrate the Century Station      Jun 15 2000

SL 00R 97.0x2.5

Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /  
The Life of a Century

**WALSENBURGH / WALSENBURG STATIONS – Continued  
CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION – Continued**



**RED WING [Rural Station / Community Post Office]**

Red Wing began as an independent post office and its history and directions to the location are reported with the discussion of the independent office.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 24 1965      Established as a Rural Station of Walsenburg  
Dec 31 1999      Discontinued

**Confirmed Types of Postal Markings**

For earlier markings see Red Wing (Independent Office)

1	RED WING, CO / 81066 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 15 1970	Sep 14 1976
2	WALSENBURG, CO RED WING RUR. STA. / USPO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 14 1976	
3	RED WING, CO 81066 / RUR. STA. CI 10P 40.0	4bars S-25x25mm	Oct 22 1979	
4	REDWING CO / 81066 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 1 1986	Oct 19 1995
5	REDWING, CO 81066 / USPS CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 19 1995	
6	REDWING CO / USPS 81066-9998 CI 11P 35.0/23.0	Hstp No killer	May 18 1999	



### **WARRANTSVILLE\***

The location provided by the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report coincides with the location of the much later Lascar Post Office (1916-1949).

Having found no other information I will speculate that this post office was in operation during the construction of the Denver and Rio Grande narrow gauge railroad from Pueblo to Walsenburgh. It was probably at a railroad construction camp.

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

<b>Jun 26 1876</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>SE/4 Sec 35 T25S R66W On north side of Huerfano River 1-1/2 miles south of Apache Creek On the D&amp;RG RR, Huerfano Station</b>
<b>Jul 10 1876</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jul 10 1876</b>		<b>Hoffman, Lorenzo O.</b>
<b>Apr 17 1877</b>		<b>Kennedy, Lee</b>
<b>Sep 13 1877</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

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

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WARRANTSVILLE**

### **YELLOWSTONE CREEK**

I have found no information on this post office. From its rather remote location on the upper portion of Yellowstone Creek I suspect that it was a ranch post office supplying mail service to ranches in the area.

From Walsenburg drive north on Colorado Highway 69 about 15 miles to the location of Badito that has been previously discussed. Opposite the short road across the Huerfano River to Badito, Huerfano County Road 520 goes to the south from Colorado 69. Follow that road two and four-tenths miles to County Road 530 and turn left (west). This road goes cross-country to the Yellowstone Creek Valley and then along Yellowstone Creek to the southwest. At seven and three-tenths miles from Colorado 69 you will pass a small log church above the road. Continue on another two and seven-tenths miles to where you can see a ranch in the valley, south of the road. This ranch is at or near the location reported for the Yellowstone Creek Post Office.

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

<b>Feb 23 1915</b>	<b>--</b>	<b>SE/4 SE/4 Sec 32 T27S R69W 250 yards west of Yellowstone Creek</b>
<b>Aug 5 1915</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 5 1915</b>		<b>Castro, Jose S.</b>
<b>Apr 15 1916</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Tioga Not listed in the postal guides</b>

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

**NO POSTMARKS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM YELLOWSTONE CREEK**

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- Place Names in Colorado* [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]  
Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

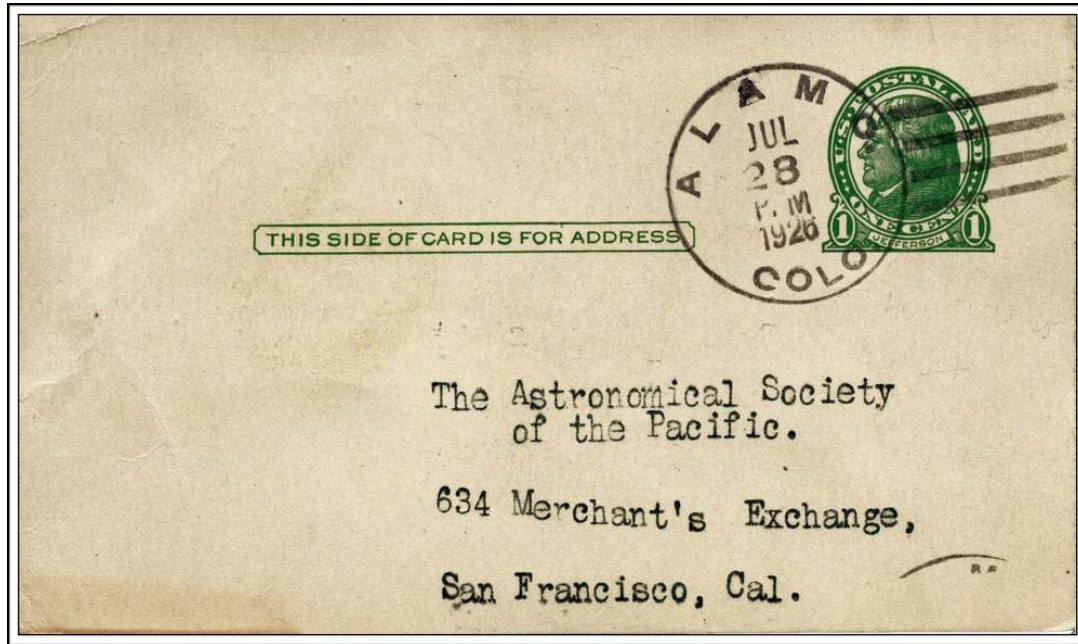
**BIBLIOGRAPHY – HUERFANO COUNTY – Continued****REFERENCES – NEWSPAPERS**

Christofferson, Nancy *McMillan: Another little burg of Huerfano*, January 5, 2012, Huerfano World Journal, Trinidad, Colorado

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

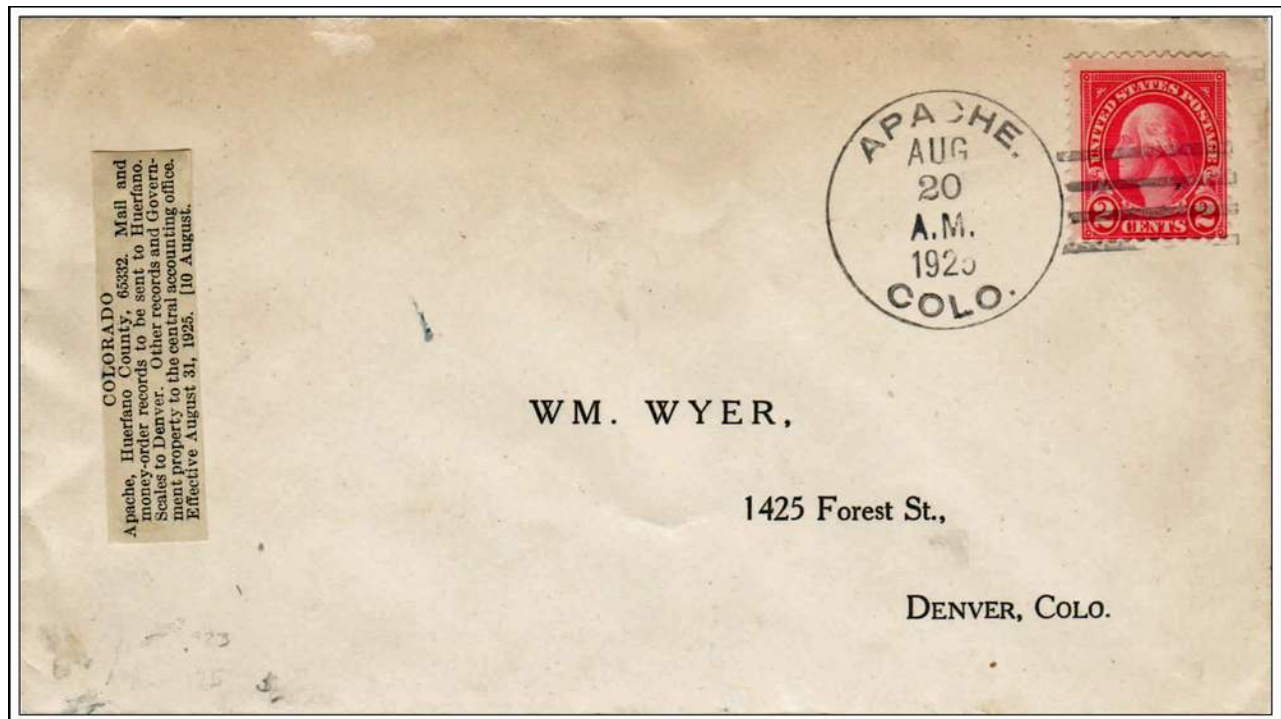
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distances to local streams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

A GALLERY OF HUERFANO COUNTY COVERS



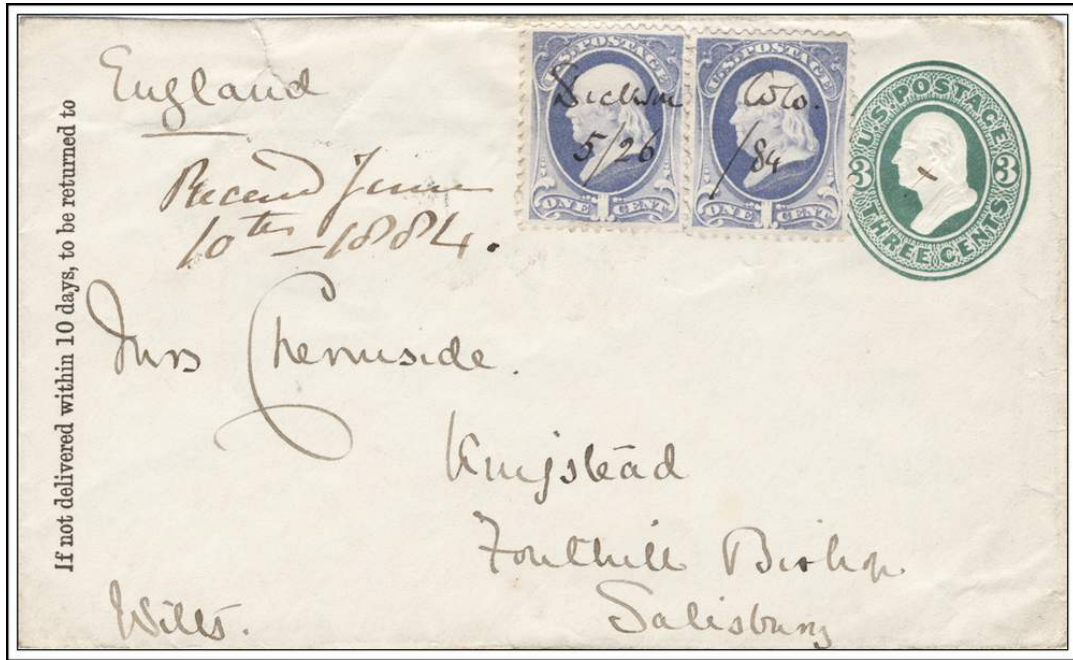
ALAMO, / COLO.

July 28, 1926



APACHE, / COLO.

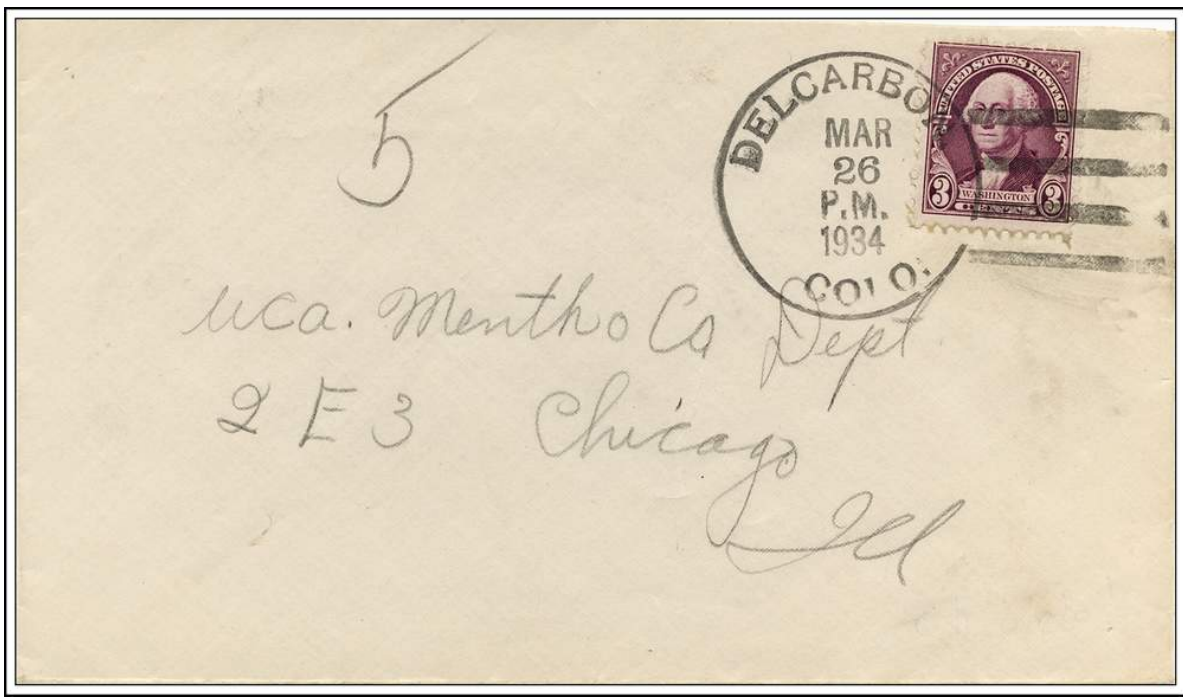
August 20, 1925



If not delivered within 10 days, to be returned to

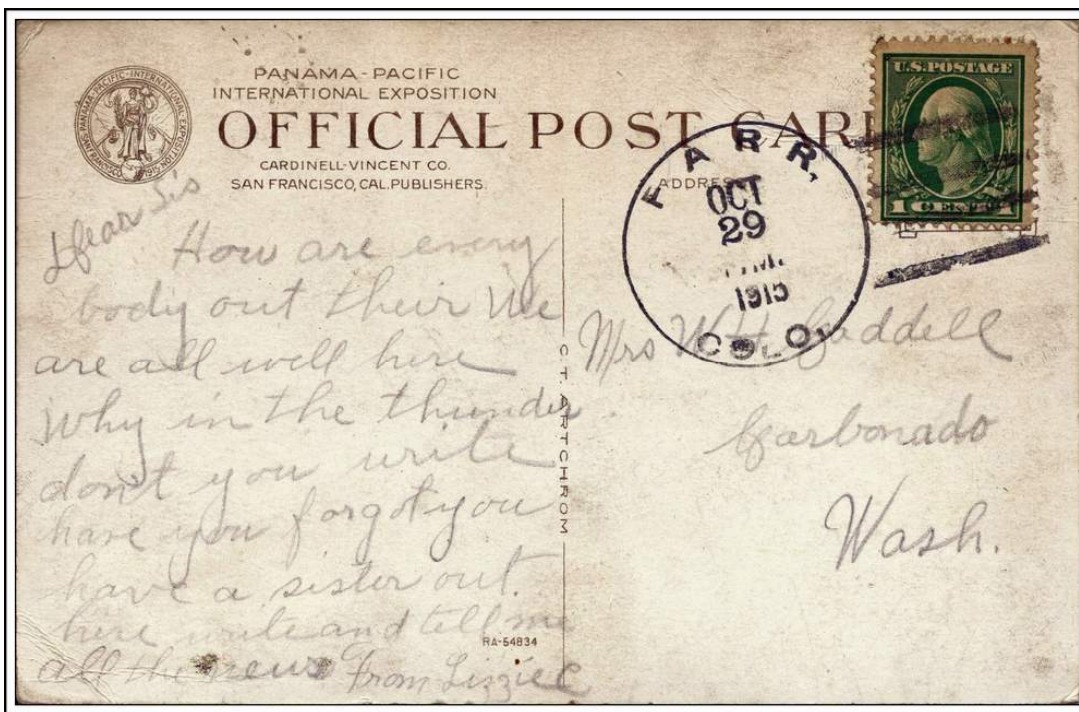
Dickson Colo.

May 26, 1884



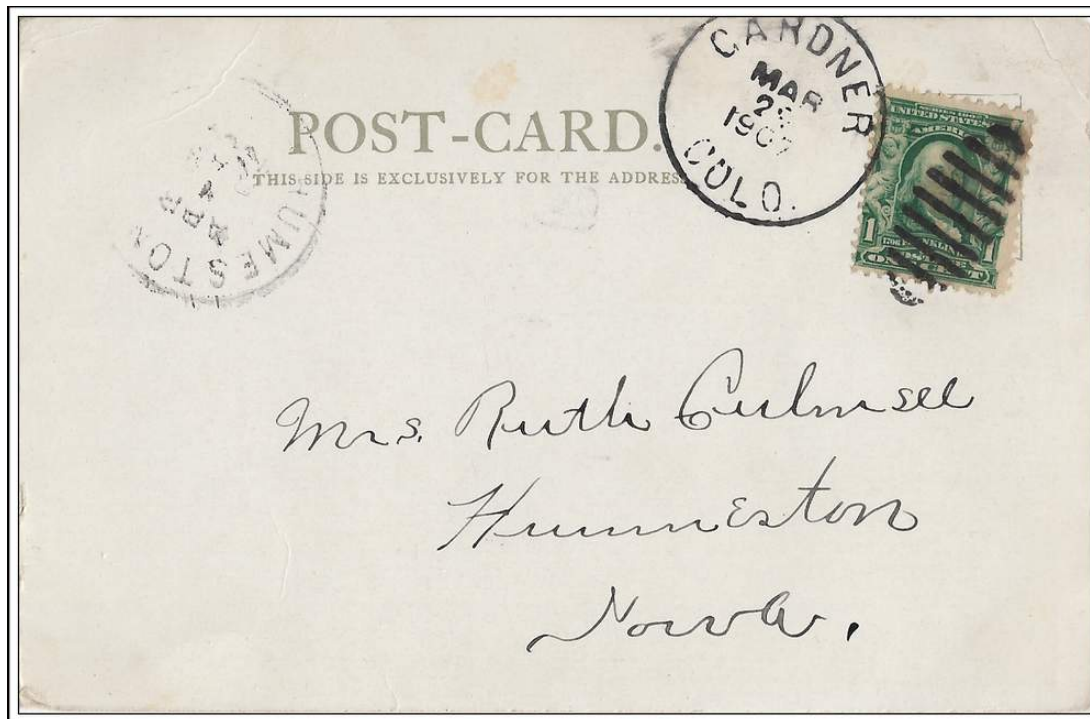
DELCARBON / COLO.

March 26, 1934



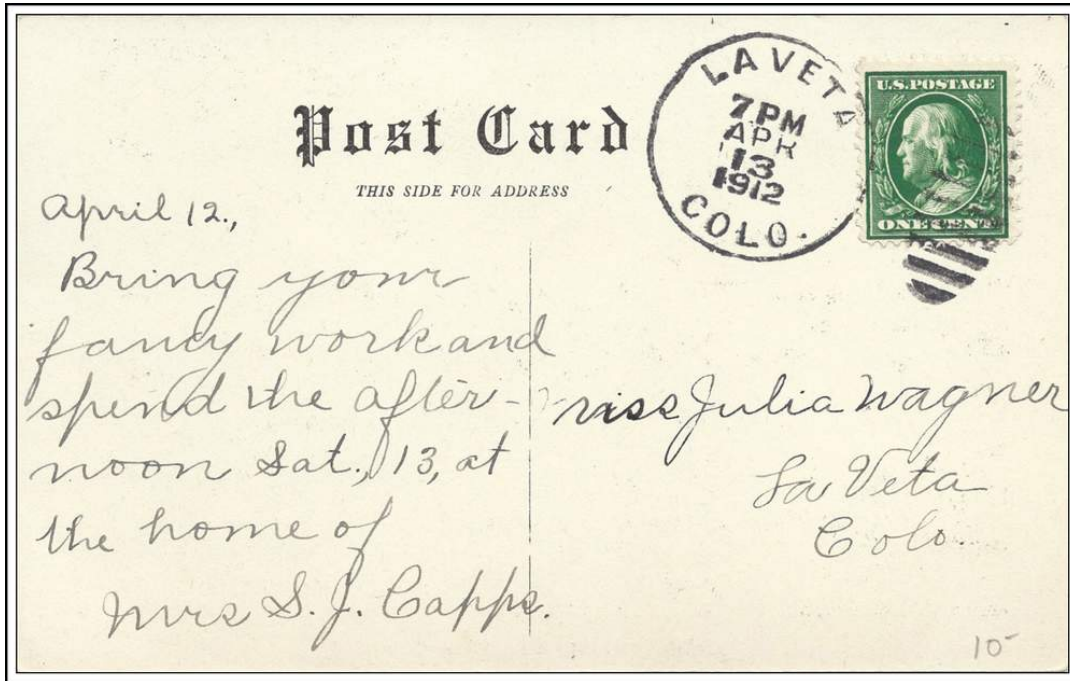
FARR, / COLO.

October 29, 1915



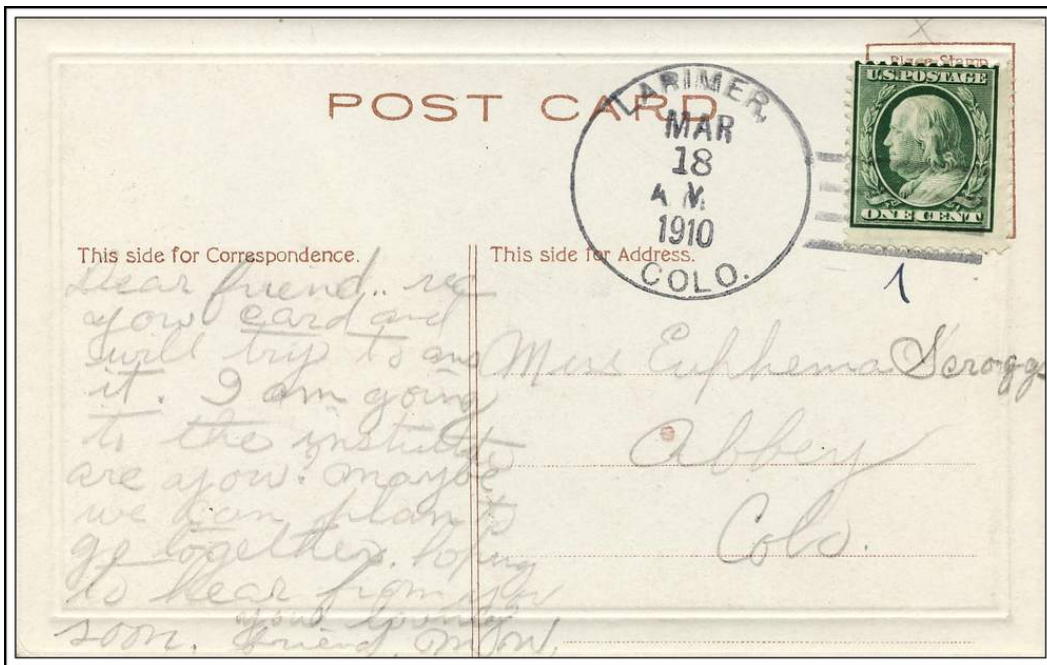
GARDNER / COLO.

March 29, 1907



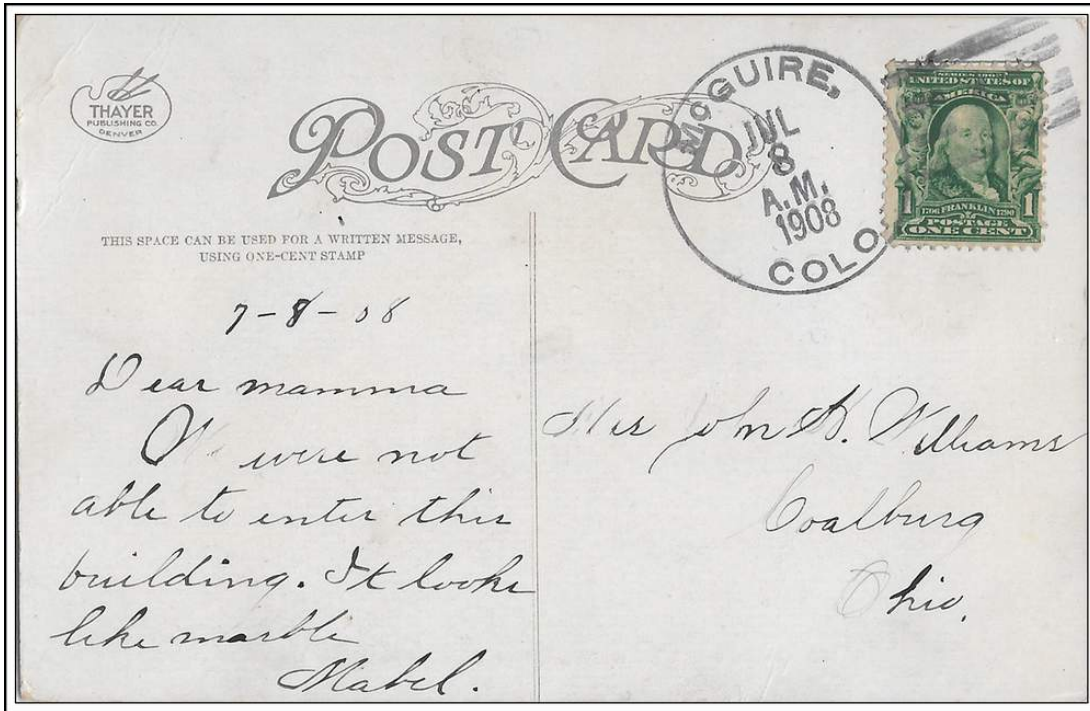
LA VETA / COLO.

April 13, 1912



LARIMER, / COLO.

March 18, 1910



McGUIRE, / COLO.

July 8, 1908



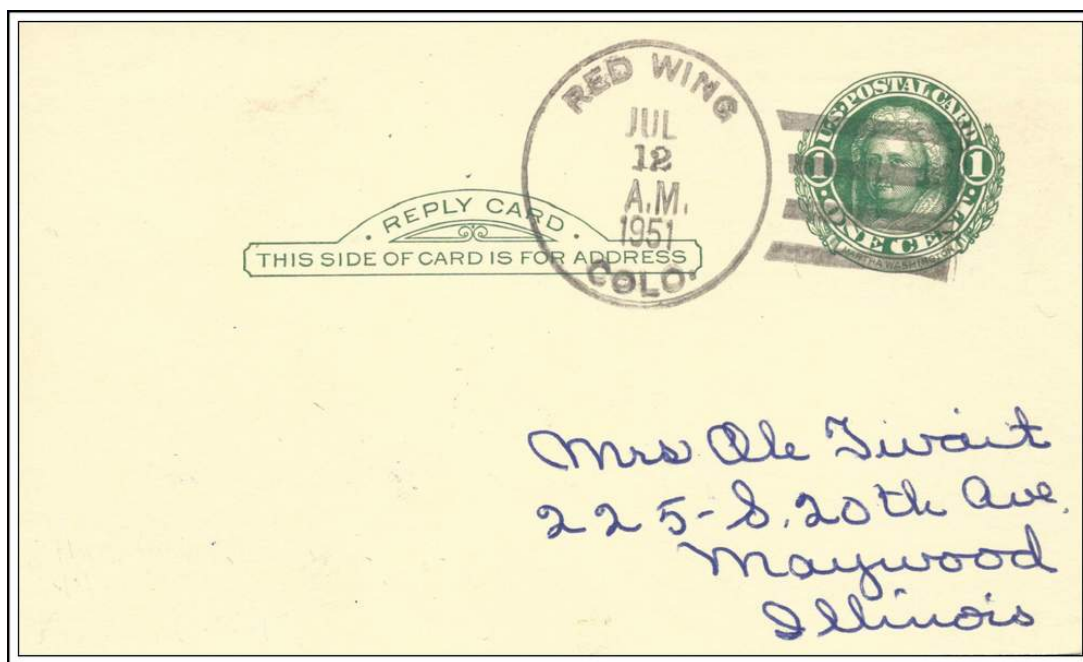
OAKVIEW, / COLO.

November 26, 1909



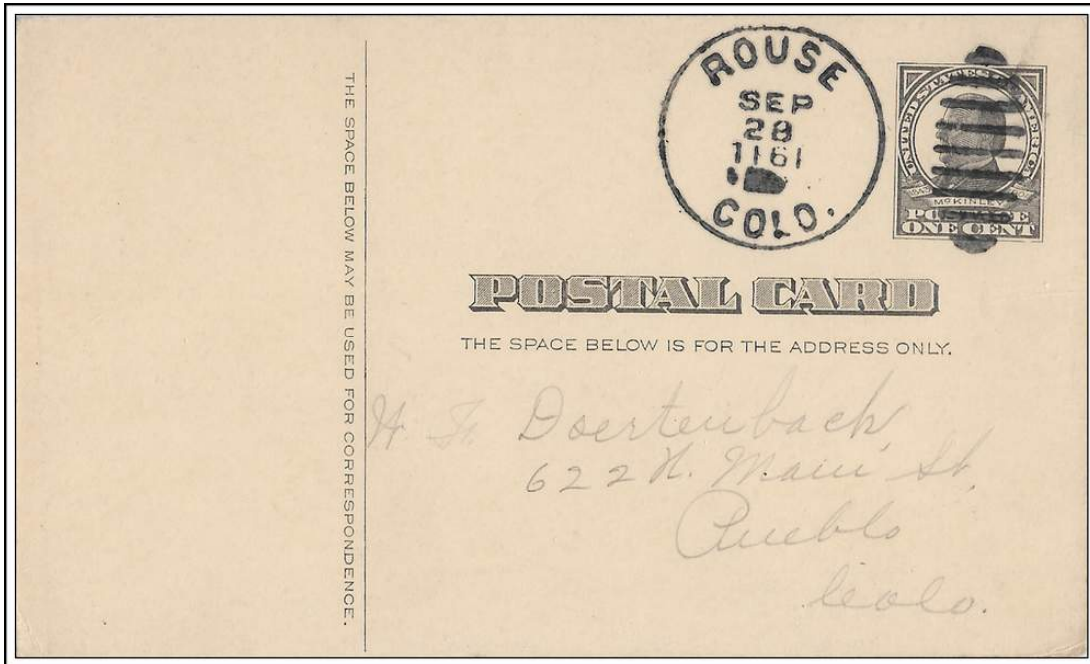
PRYOR, / COLO.

July 15, 1905



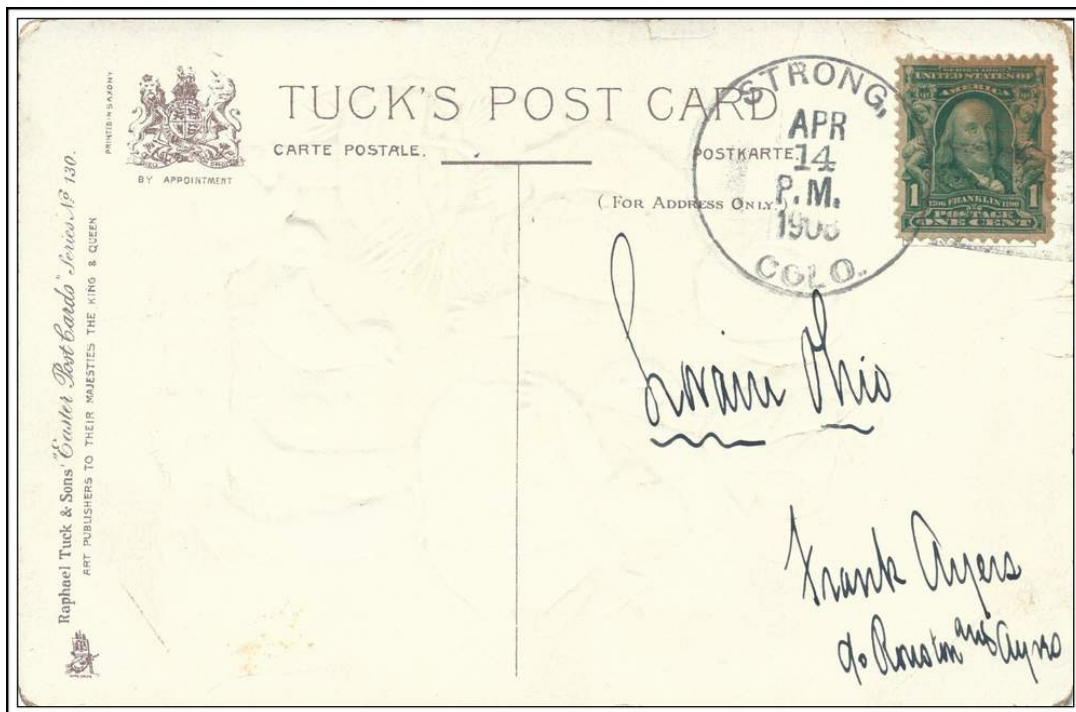
RED WING / COLO.

July 12, 1951



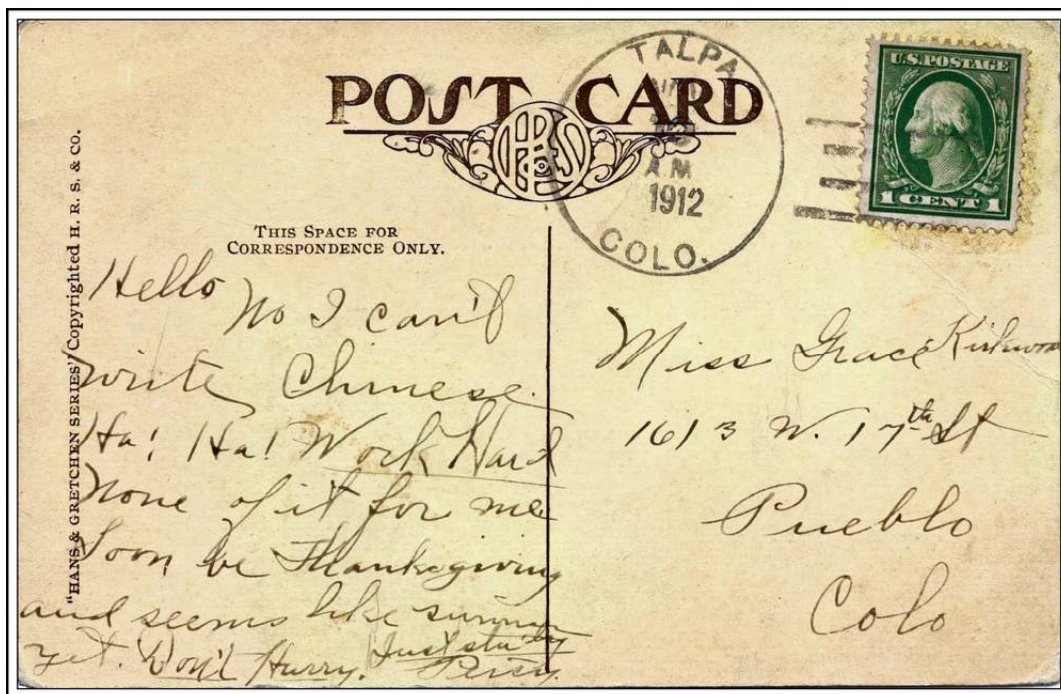
ROUSE / COLO.

September 28, 1911



STRONG, / COLO.

April 14, 1900



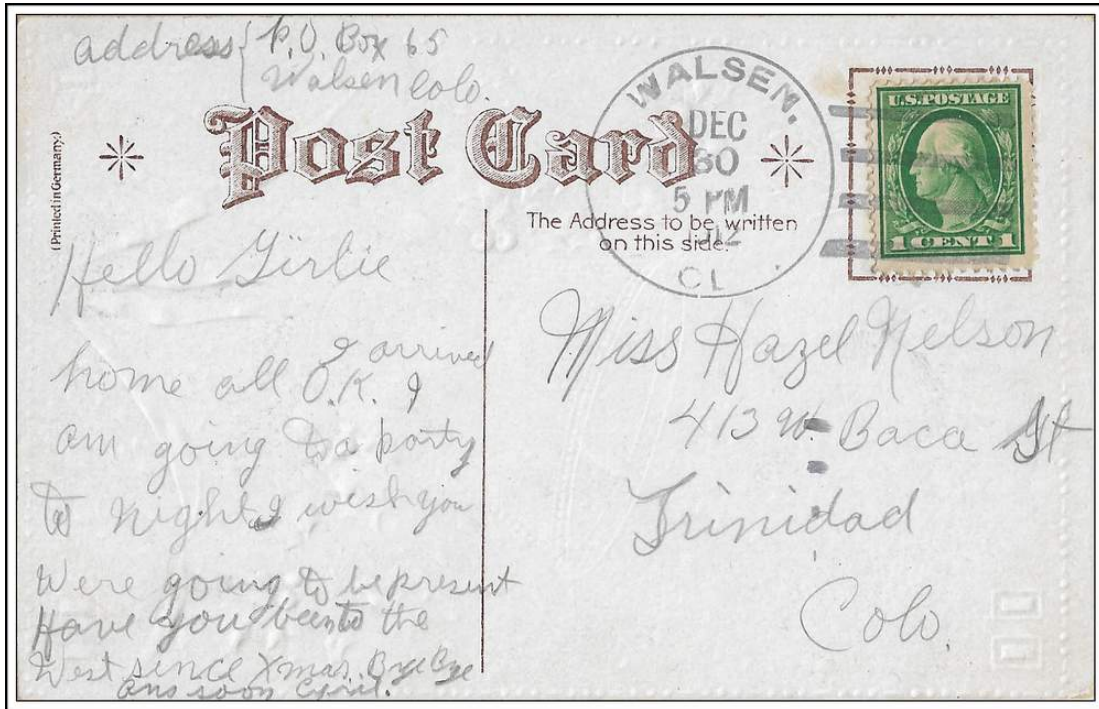
TALPA / COLO.

--- 10, 1912



UTE / COLO.

May 5, 1899



WALSEN, / COLO.

December 30, 1912



REGISTERED / Walsenburg, Colo.

April 30, 1898

