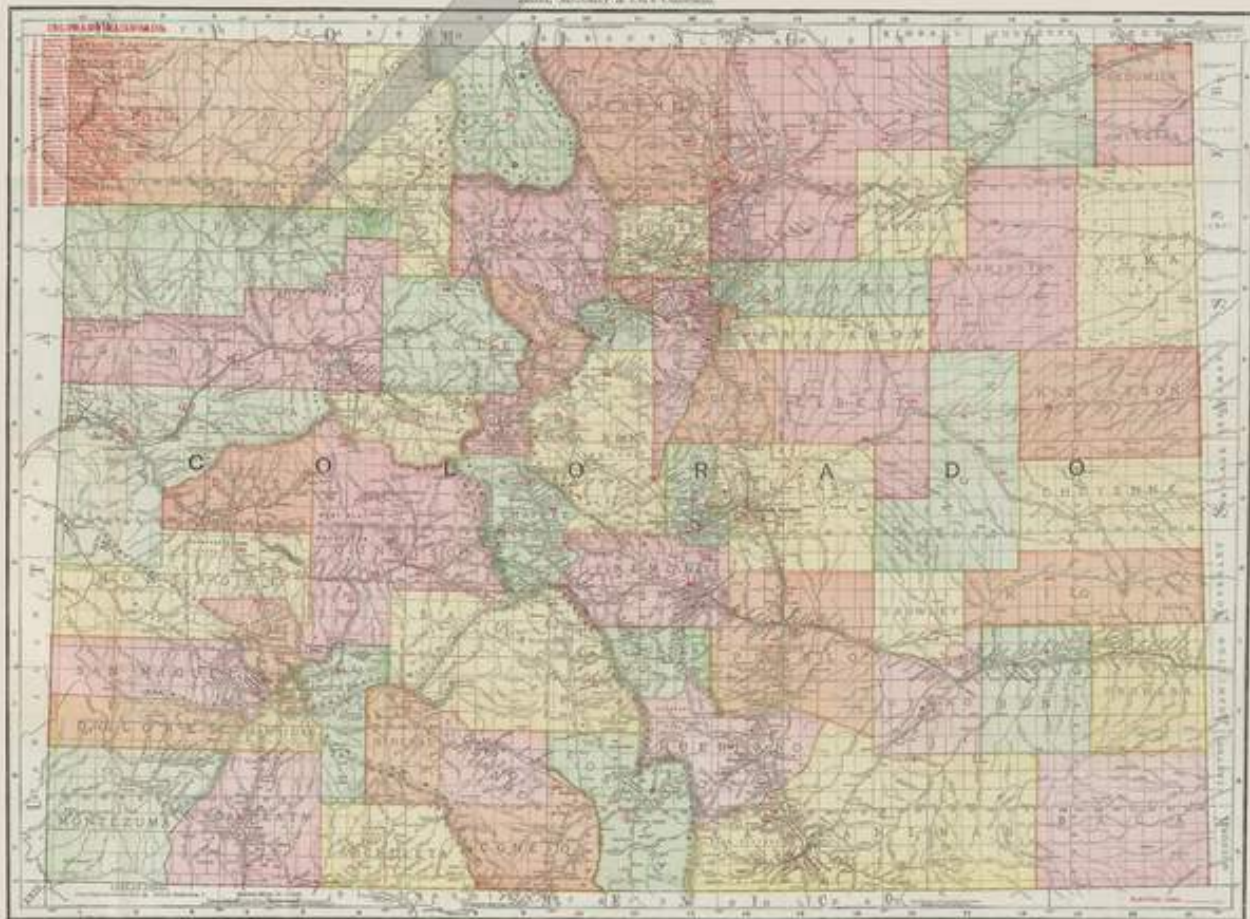


# Rio Blanco County



*Established: March 25, 1889*

*County Seat: Meeker*



## **RIO BLANCO COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Rio Blanco County lies in the northwest quarter of the state and was one of the later areas to be opened to settlement by the whites. It remained as largely Indian Territory until after the Meeker Massacre of 1870. Following that event, the Utes were moved out of the state to reservations in Utah and the area was opened to settlement.

The county was never a goal for the precious metal miners as its geology is almost entirely sedimentary rocks. However, that distinction enriched Rio Blanco in fossil fuels – coal, oil and natural gas. Coal mines were an important contributor to the economy in the northeast and northern portions of the county. Oil and gas have been found at a number of locations, from east to west, and one of the largest oil fields in Colorado is in the area surrounding Rangely. However, for most of the county, ranching is the primary occupation.

In recent years, tourism and outdoor recreation has become an important activity in Rio Blanco County. To the south lie the high mesas of western Colorado and the Flat Tops Wilderness area. To the north, between the White River and the Yampa River, the country is more rolling, still mountainous, with a mixture of rangeland and forest – ideal for hunting.

Rio Blanco County is roughly a long, narrow, east-west, rectangle, approximately 106 miles east-west by 36 miles north-south. The western boundary is Utah; the northern boundary is mostly with Moffat County with Routt County at the eastern end and wrapping around the easternmost tip of Rio Blanco County. The eastern and southern boundary stair-steps to the south and is a common boundary with Garfield County.

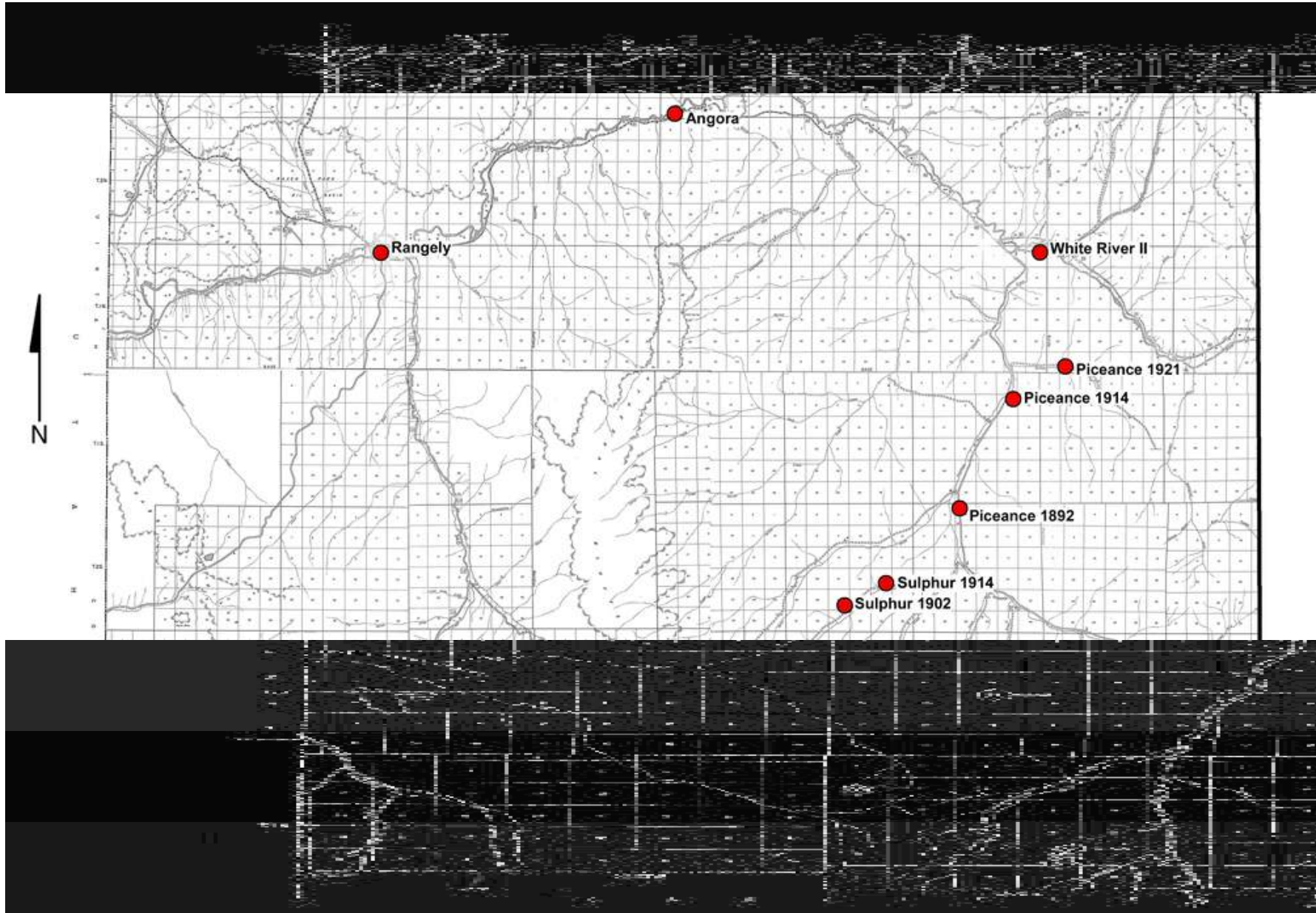
The county is almost entirely within the drainage of the White River whence comes the name “Rio Blanco” and its tributaries. A small portion of the northeast corner of the county drains northward to the Yampa River. From the west, Douglas, Piceance, and Sheep Creeks are the principal tributaries to the White River and have provided the routes for travel south to the Grand Valley. The valleys of Water Creek, Strawberry Creek and Curtis Creek are the main arteries to the north and the Yampa Valley.

Nearly all of the communities that developed in Rio Blanco County were in the White River Valley. A few communities were along Piceance Creek and at the northeastern edge of the county. The first organized settlement was White River, established at the early Ute Indian Agency, initially about ten miles east of present day Meeker and later five miles west of that town. The massacre at the agency ended that settlement and following the occupation by the U.S. Cavalry a new community was established to the east, which took the name of Meeker for the agent slain by the Indians.

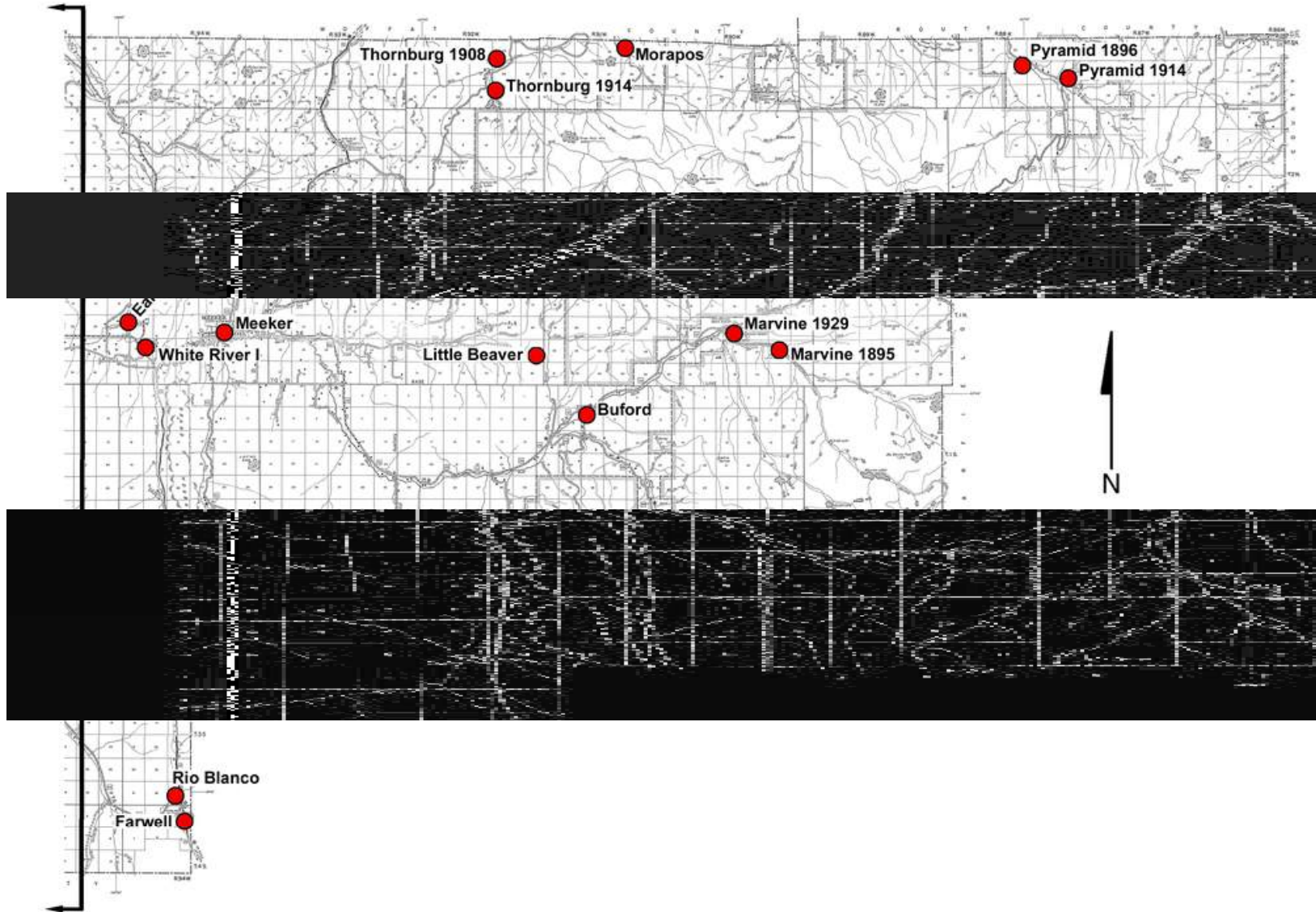
Present day Rio Blanco County was first a part of Summit County and remained so until February 10, 1883 when Garfield County was created from the western portion of Summit County. On March 25, 1889 Garfield County was reduced to create Rio Blanco County. Since the time the county was formed, Meeker has been the county seat, which has contributed to its success and continued prominence as the principal town and supply center for much of the county and a portion of southern Routt County.

The western end of the county has been served by Rangely since its establishment in 1885. A small community, Rangely did not experience real growth until the discovery of the Rangely Oil Field in 1947 but since then has been a primary commercial center for much of northwestern Colorado.

The main roads of Rio Blanco County are good. The north-south highway is Colorado 13, from Craig through Meeker and then to Rifle. Colorado Highway 64 begins at Dinosaur on US 40, runs south to Rangely and then follows the White River east to Meeker. From Rangely, Colorado 139 takes the lonely route over the mesas to Loma on Interstate 70. Scenery and recreational opportunities abound and there are many guest ranches, particularly in the southeastern portion of the county.



Post Office Location Map – Western Rio Blanco County



Post Office Location Map – Eastern Rio Blanco County



**Rio Blanco and Farwell, Colo. – Overview from west Later and modern sites**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 6, 1998

**ANGORA**

Angora is on Colorado 64. Beginning at the traffic light in Rangely, the site is 17.5 miles east. At that point, on the north side of the highway there is a cluster of old, log construction ranch buildings that are still in use.

The name can be traced back to a city of that name in Turkey but more immediately, it was likely derived from the Angora goats which were introduced to the region by a local stockman.



**Buildings at the site of Angora, Colorado on Colorado Highway 64**  
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 2, 1998

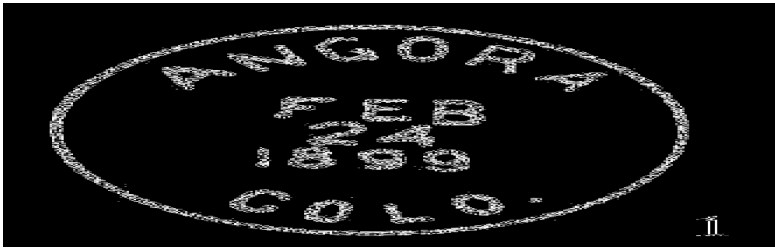
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 16 1896	---	W/2 SE/4 Sec 31 T3N R99W 1/4 mile south of White Rive 8 miles west of Yellow Creek Proposed postmaster - John D. Lewis
Oct 24 1896		Established
Oct 24 1896		Lewis, John D.
Oct 30 1900		Ordered closed Mail to Rangely
---	---	Closing order rescinded
Nov 9 1911		Mobly, Lottie V.
Sep 30 1912		Discontinued Mail to Rangely

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	ANGORA / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp ??	Feb 24 1899
2	ANGORA. / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3 with 3, S-23x14mm	Apr 24 1906 Apr 25 1911

## ANGODRA – Continued

**BUFORD**

The modern site of Buford is approximately 17 miles east of Meeker and a mile beyond Lake Avery on Colorado Highway 132, the road to Trappers Lake. Although it no longer has a post office, it is still an active community with a store, resort, cabins and a few houses. Buford is on the White River and is a base for hunters and fishermen and provides access to the White River National Forest and the Flat Tops Wilderness.

The Geographic Site Location Reports describe an initial location about 4 miles to the southeast. The stated location seems questionable and is no longer on any road. However, it is possible that the location is in error and it could have been at a ranch along the nearby South Fork of the White River.

There are at least three opinions as to the source of the name Buford. The most frequently repeated one is that it was named for a Colonel Buford who served as a guide for Theodore Roosevelt on an early hunting trip in the area. A second theory claims that Mrs. Cloherity, a local schoolteacher, chose the name of a Confederate General from a book her class was studying at the time. Note that two of the early Buford postmasters were named Cloherity. The third option is similar. In 1941 the Buford postmaster stated that an early rancher had named the town for, "a Civil War General." And yet another possibility is that it was named after Napoleon Bonaparte Buford (1807-1888). Buford spent a short time in Colorado as superintendent of the Federal Union Mining Company before settling in Chicago. I suspect that the truth lies in a combination of the last three of these four claims.

Latitude = 40:10:36-North Longitude = 108:34:30-West

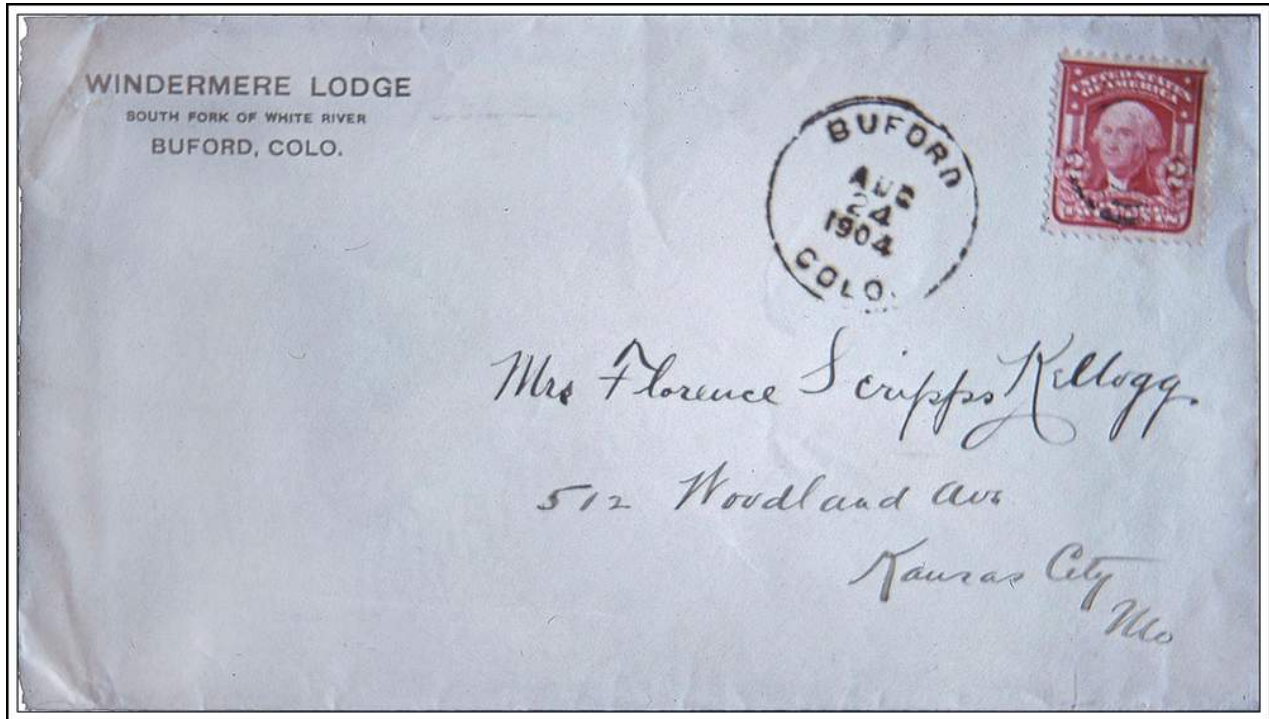
Latitude = 39:59:14-North Longitude = 107:36:58-West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 27 1889	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T1S R91W The accompanying sketch map seems to indicate that the original name requested may have been MILFORD.
		Proposed postmaster - Laura Steele
Mar 19 1890		Established
Mar 19 1890		Steele, Laura
Jun 4 1896		Cloherty, Ellen B.
Aug 27 1897		Cloherty, John B.
Jan 25 1900		Bartlett, Alice
May 12 1914	---	NE/4 NW/4 Sec 9 T1S R91W 25 yards east of the North Fork of the White River
Jun 30 1919		Discontinued Mail to Meeker
May 9 1921	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T1S R91W 100 feet north of White River 1-3/4 miles east of Big Beaver Creek
		Applicant for postmaster - L. L. Offerle
Dec 6 1921		Re-established
Dec 6 1921		Offerle, Laurence F. [SRM: Multiple Offerles listed in Appts applicant clearly L.L.]
Jan 17 1928		Offerle, Thomas W. Acting
Mar 26 1928		Offerle, Thomas W. Appointed
Mar 4 1930		Offerle, Laurence F. Possession & Acting

**BUFORD – Continued**

May 6 1930	Offerle, Laurence F.	Acting
Oct 22 1930	Offerle, Laurence F.	Appointed & Confirmed
Nov 11 1930	Offerle, Laurence F.	Commissioned
Feb 27 1934	Offerle, Norman J.	Assumed charge
Mar 7 1934	Offerle, Norman J.	Acting
Mar 16 1934	Offerle, Norman J.	Confirmed
Mar 29 1934	Offerle, Norman J.	Commissioned
Nov 28 1934	Offerle, Mrs. Bertha M.	Assumed charge
Dec 6 1934	Offerle, Mrs. Bertha M.	Acting
Dec 24 1934	Offerle, Mrs. Bertha M.	Confirmed
Jan 10 1935	Offerle, Mrs. Bertha M.	Commissioned
Jan 1 1936	Grove, Charles W.	Assumed charge
Jan 14 1936	Grove, Charles W.	Acting
Jan 16 1936	Grove, Charles W.	Confirmed
Mar 24 1936	Grove, Charles W.	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 9 T1S R91W State 132 100 feet west of office 300 feet north of White River	
Feb 13 1946	Grove, Mrs. Florence R.	Assumed charge
Dec 26 1946	Grove, Mrs. Florence R.	Confirmed
Feb 7 1947	Grove, Mrs. Florence R.	Commissioned
Oct 23 1958	Tucker, Mrs. Ethel E.	Assumed charge
Oct 27 1958	Tucker, Mrs. Ethel E.	Acting
Mar 4 1959	Tucker, Harry A.	Appointed
Dec 15 1961	Discontinued Mail to Meeker	



**BUFORD / COLO.**

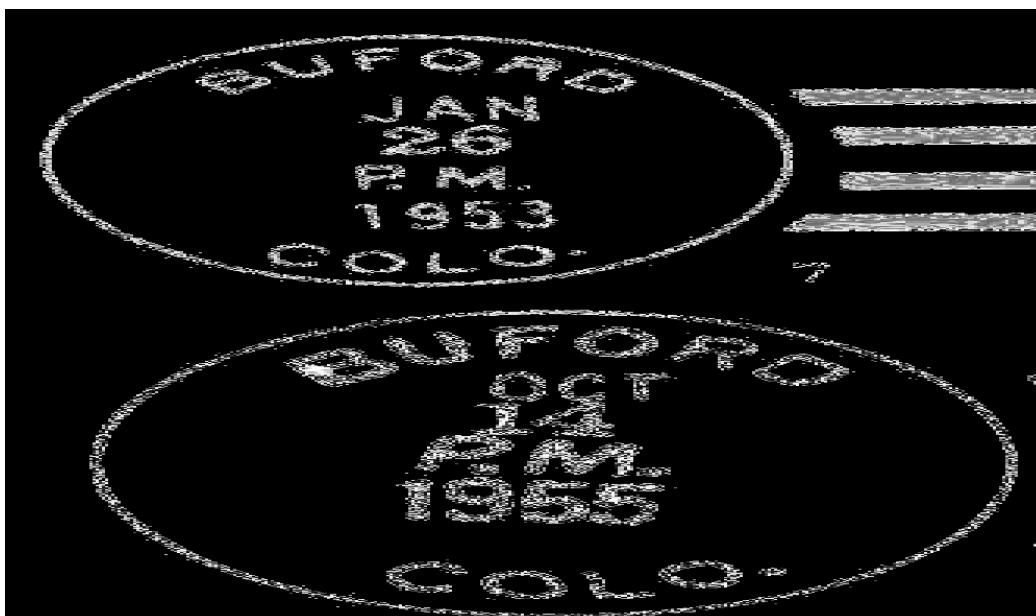
**August 24, 1904**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Dec 10 1892 Aug 7 1899
2	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Aug 20 1900 Nov 19 1908

**BUFORD – Continued**

3	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Aug 24 1912 Dec 30 1918
4	BUFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 13 1922
5	BUFORD, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Sep 7 1933 Nov 30 1934
6	BUFORD, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 19 1937 Jul 16 1943
7	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 12 1947 Sep 14 1953
8	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 37.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 20 1954
9	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 40.0	4bars S-??x23mm	Oct 14 1955 Jul 28 1956
9.1	<b>BUFORD / COLO.</b> <b>CI 10P 45.0</b>	<b>4bars S-??x??mm (bars partially struck)</b> <b>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</b>	<b>Jul 26 1957</b>
10	BUFORD / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 24 1961 Feb 23 1960



### **EARLY SPRINGS**

I have not found any reference to this office in the historical literature. Following the description given in the Geographic Site Location Reports I drove west from Meeker on Colorado 13 to the junction with Colorado 64. About two miles further west, Rio Blanco County Road 32 turns to the north. This is a short road that passes through a ranch yard. About two hundred yards beyond the ranch buildings there is evidence of several springs on the east side of the road. This location fits that given in the Site Location Report and I consider it to be the probable location for the Early Springs Post Office.

Early Springs appears to have been a ranch post office and it is doubtful that there was an organized community here.



**Ranch buildings at the site of Early Springs, Rio Blanco County, Colorado  
North side of Colorado Highway 64**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 5, 1998

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

- |             |     |  |
|-------------|-----|--|
| Apr 5 1883  | --- | Unsurveyed 1 mile north of the White River 1/4 mile east of Strawberry Creek Meeker 4-1/2 miles easterly (Document is filed under Garfield County)<br>Proposed postmaster - Newton Major |
| Apr 20 1883 |     | Established  |
| Apr 20 1883 |     | Major, Newton  |
| Jul 20 1883 |     | Discontinued Mail to Meeker  |

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

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM EARLY SPRINGS**

## **FARWELL**

Farwell is another location which is not mentioned in any of the historical literature that I have read. According to the Geographic Site Location Report it was located a half-mile south of the intersection of Colorado Highway 13 and Rio Blanco County Road 5, the Piceance Creek Road.

At this location there are a few older log buildings a hundred yards or so to the east of Highway 13. This is a little more than a mile north of the Garfield County line. The Site Location Report describes it as on the Government Road where it crosses Piceance Creek and 20 rods south of the creek. That location matches these buildings. I have no information as to the origin of the name.

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

Apr 4 1888	---	SE/4 Sec 4 T4S R94W 20 rods south of Piceance Creek Sketch map shows it where the "Government Road" crosses Piceance Creek. MORGAN crossed out Proposed postmaster - Frank Morgan
Feb 5 1892		Established [Not listed in Postal Guides]
Feb 5 1892		Morgan, Frank
May 10 1894		Discontinued No papers

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

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

## **LITTLE BEAVER**

Little Beaver was not named for Red Ryder's Indian sidekick but rather for the stream on which it is located – Little Beaver Creek. There are a number of ranch buildings at the location, so the supposition is that this was a rural post office serving scattered ranches along the creek.

To reach the site, drive east from Meeker on Colorado 13 to Colorado 132 and east on that road to Rio Blanco County Road 6 (about 4 miles). Continue east on County Road 6 keeping right at the first fork, and left at the second fork which puts you on County Road 40. The distance from Colorado 132 to the Little Beaver site is 9.5 miles.

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

Apr 30 1919	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 25 T1N R92W 3 miles north of the White River 1-3/4 miles west of Big Beaver Creek Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Helen Jacqueline Brandt
Sep 13 1919		Established
Sep 13 1919		Bewley, Anna C.
Jun 22 1925		Ordered closed
Jul 15 1925		Discontinued Mail to Meeker

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

1	LITTLE BEAVER, / COLO.	Dec 23 1919
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm



**MARVINE**

The Marvine Post Office was at more than one location. The initial location was on Marvine Creek, approximately 3 miles southeast of the present day community. The Marvine Ranch is at that point and appears to be both an active ranch and a guest ranch.

The name is derived from Marvine Peak, the Marvine Lakes and Marvine Creek, all of which were named for A. R. Marvine, a geologist with the Hayden Geological Survey of the 1870's.

Another site of Marvine was on the south side of the White River and about a half-mile west of the present community. This site is now the Campbell Creek Ranch, which appears to be an up-scale guest ranch.

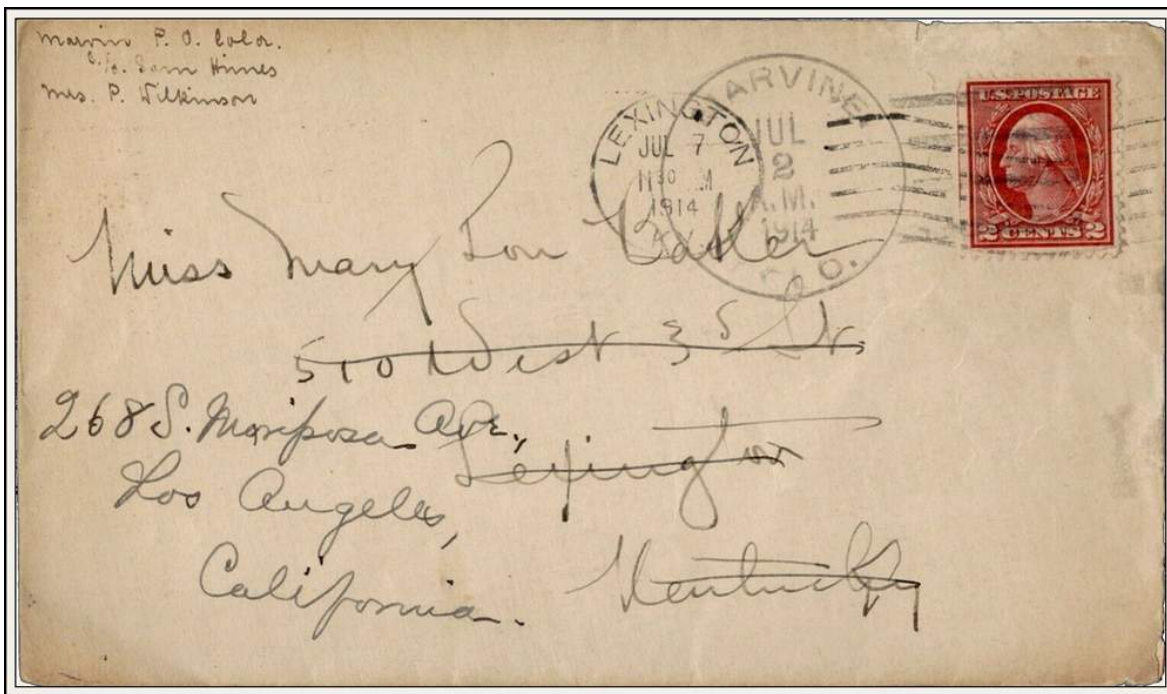
The first period of the Marvine Post Office was only four years in length. After a 13-year hiatus, it reopened at the site of the present community, which had been settled by William E. Simpson. The present day site of Marvine is at the junction of Marvine Creek with the White River, on the south side of Colorado Highway 132. The post office was at this point when it was finally discontinued.

Like Buford, Marvine is a small community with a store, a few houses and some rental cabins. It provides services to those who make use of the recreational attractions of the White River National Forest and the Flat Tops Wilderness Area. This is a little more than 25 miles east of Meeker on the road to Trappers Lake.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Apr 10 1895</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Not given Sketch map shows it at "Marvine Lodge" on Marvine Creek 3 miles south of the White River, 50 feet west of Marvine Creek.</b>	
		<b>Proposed postmaster - William Wells</b>	
<b>May 14 1895</b>		<b>Established</b>	
<b>May 14 1895</b>		<b>Wells, William</b>	
<b>Nov 5 1897</b>		<b>Wells, Frank S.</b>	
<b>Jun 22 1899</b>		<b>Discontinued Papers to Buford</b>	
<b>Aug 19 1913</b>		<b>Re-established</b>	
<b>Aug 19 1913</b>		<b>Simpson, William E.</b>	
<b>May 9 1914</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 21 T1N R90W 200 yards north of the North Fork of the White River 40 yards west of McKillip Creek (SW/4 Sec 26?) T1N R90W</b>	
<b>Nov 20 1922</b>		<b>Dunn, Paul C.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Nov 29 1922</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>S/2 SW/4 Sec 20 T1N R90W 100 feet south of the White River 1/4 mile east of Fawn Creek</b>	
<b>Jan 6 1923</b>		<b>Dunn, Paul C.</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>Jun 25 1928</b>		<b>Sizemore, Lulu</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Jul 14 1928</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Sec 21 T1N R90W A move two miles east of previous location 1/10 mile north of the White river 1/4 mile northwest of Marvine Creek</b>	
<b>Jul 14 1928</b>		<b>Sizemore, Lulu</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>Dec 16 1929</b>		<b>Wilson, John A.</b>	<b>Acting</b>
<b>Dec 26 1929</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 21 T1N R90W 100 yards south of the White River 1/2 mile west of Marvine Creek</b>	
<b>Jan 14 1930</b>		<b>Wilson, John A.</b>	<b>Appointed</b>
<b>Dec 19 1933</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>	
<b>Jan 15 1934</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Buford</b>	

MARVINE – Continued



MARVINE, / COLO.

July 2, 1914

Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |                                 |                 |                         |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | MARVINE, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-24x19mm | Jul 2 1914 Sep 10 1925  |
| 2 | MARVINE / COLO.<br>CI 10P 33.0  | 4bars S-24x19mm | Oct 17 1928 Jun 15 1934 |



MEEKER

In 1878 Nathan C. Meeker, former agricultural editor of *The New York Tribune* and a founder of Greeley, Colorado, was named agent to the White River Utes. Meeker was visionary but unrealistic in his ideas for the “domestication” of the Indians. By late 1879 the Indians were most unhappy with Meeker and when he banned their favorite sport of pony racing and plowed up the racetrack, they rebelled. Meeker and several agency employees were killed. The uprising resulted in a military campaign to restore order. Following an extended battle on Milk Creek in northeastern Rio Blanco County the Indians were subdued and eventually removed from Colorado to a reservation in Utah.

**MEEKER – Continued**

Under the command of General Wesley Merritt, a permanent fort, first called “Camp on White River,” was established October 11, 1879. The location selected was about four miles east of the former agency. The fort had a short life and the troops were withdrawn on July 12, 1883. The buildings were sold to the residents of the valley and thus began the town of Meeker, named for the murdered agent.

By 1885 Meeker had a population of around 300 and was becoming the center of a large stock-raising area. In 1889 when Rio Blanco County was taken from Garfield County, Meeker was designated the county seat. The town quickly became the most important community for the eastern portion of the county and continues to enjoy that position. Meeker was incorporated on November 10, 1885.

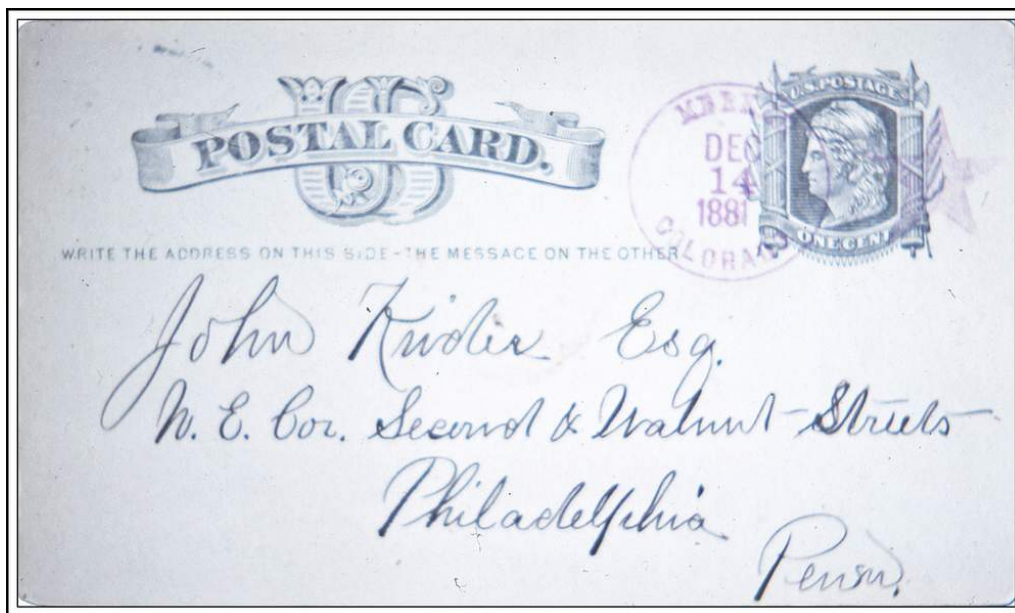
Latitude = 40:02:15-North Longitude = 107:54:45-West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 20 1879 ---	Not reported (Actually this refers to White River (I) On northerly side of the White River	
Aug 23 1880	Moved from White River (Agency)	
Aug 23 1880	Gray, Henry W.	
Oct 4 1880	Hazen, George S.	
May 4 1886	Houston, John V.	
Jan 20 1890	Attix, Charles S.	
May 21 1889 ---	SW/4 Sec 23 T1N R94W On north side of White River 1/2 mile west of Flag Creek	
Nov 27 1893	Hantgen, Frank N.	
Oct 30 1897	Craig, Minnie	
Feb 22 1901	Sheridan, Frank E.	P&S [Apptd. by President & confirmed by Senate]
Feb 23 1905	Sheridan, Frank E.	P&S
Sep 14 1907	Frodham, Ernest E.	P
Dec 11 1907	Frodham, Ernest E.	P&S
Jan 28 1909	Moulton, A. C.	P&S
Jan 10 1911	Fisk, William S.	P&S
May 13 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 23 T1N R94W 1200 feet north of the White River 1600 feet west of Sulphur Creek	
Jan 12 1915	Shepherd, J. W. C.	P&S
Feb 18 1920	Cunningham, Nellie M.	P&S
Mar 5 1924	Scott, Thomas B.	
Mar 8 1928	Scott, Thomas B.	Confirmed
Mar 4 1932	Scott, Thomas B.	Nominated
Mar 18 1932	Scott, Thomas B.	Confirmed
Apr 23 1932	Scott, Thomas B.	Commissioned
Apr 17 1936	Ball, Wright O.	Nominated
Apr 22 1936	Ball, Wright O.	Confirmed
Apr 25 1936	Ball, Wright O.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 1 1936	Ball, Wright O.	Commissioned
Apr 15 1940	Ball, Wright O.	Nominated
Apr 24 1940	Ball, Wright O.	Confirmed
Apr 29 1940	Ball, Wright O.	Appointed Presidential
May 14 1940	Ball, Wright O.	Commissioned
Oct 31 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 23 T1N R94W Between Main & Market on Sixth Street White River 2-1/2 blocks south of office	
Nov 30 1945	Woolley, Raymond D.	Acting
Dec 1 1945	Woolley, Raymond D.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1947	Woolley, Raymond D.	Nominated
Jul 14 1947	Woolley, Raymond D.	Confirmed & Appointed Presidential
Sep 30 1947	Woolley, Raymond D.	Assumed charge
Dec 30 1965	Dickman, Gerald F.	Acting
May 25 1966	Dickman, Gerald F.	Nominated & Confirmed

## MEEKER – Continued

May 26 1966	Dickman, Gerald F.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 7 1966	Dickman, Gerald F.	Commissioned
Jun 17 1966	Dickman, Gerald F.	Assumed charge
Aug 23 1980	Carrico, Ted J.	Officer in charge
Mar 5 1981	Henderson, Maryilyn	Officer in charge



MEEKER / COLORADO

December 14, 1881

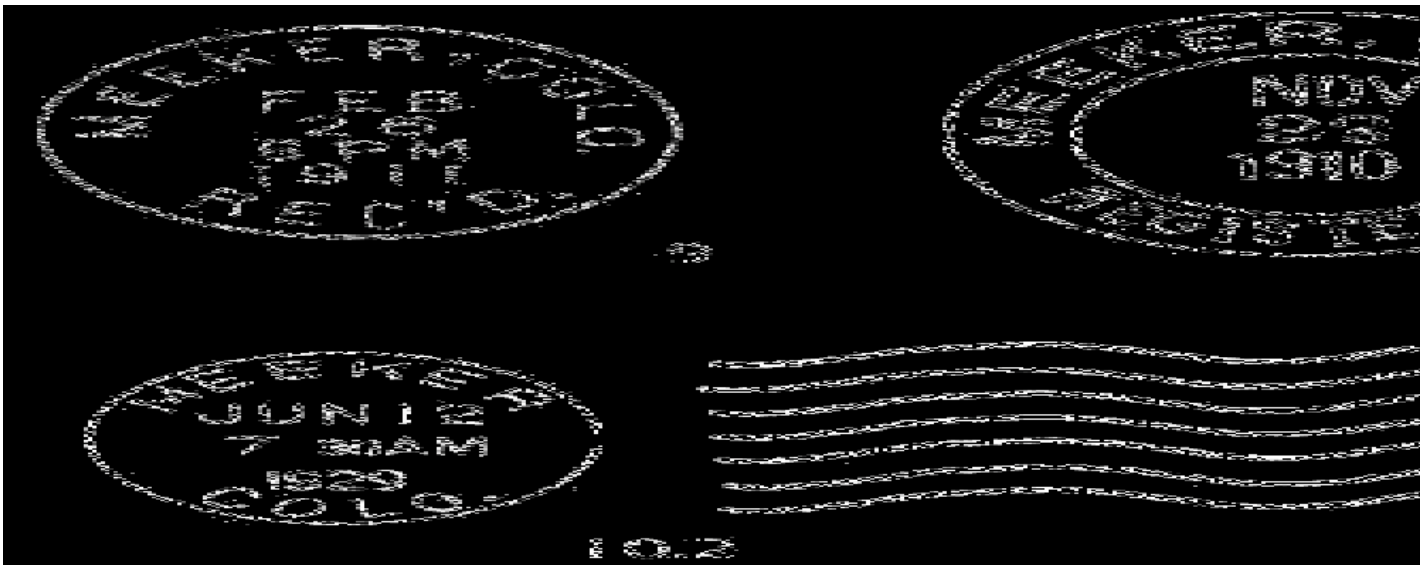
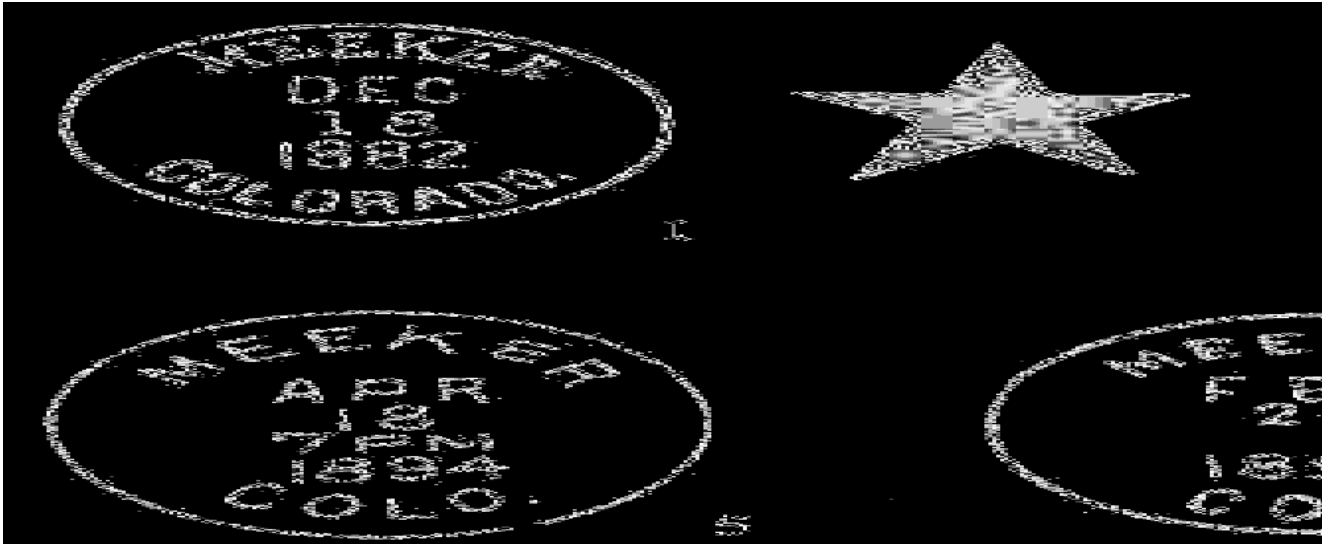
The reverse of this postal card is datelined Camp on White River and the sender was a member of Company B, 14<sup>th</sup> Infantry. Therefore, this represents the period when a military garrison was stationed at Meeker and the civilian town was yet to be established.

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MEEKER / COLORADO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Fancy, Positive star	Sep 3 1881 Apr 18 1883
2	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not recorded	May 14 1883 Jan 2 1888
3	MEEKER, COLO. / REGISTERED. CI 20P 31.5/29.5	Hstp Not recorded, on piece	Apr 25 1888
4	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Oct 8 1888 Feb 29 1892
5	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp Not recorded	Apr 18 1894
6	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Feb 24 1895 Feb 25 1895
7	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Double grid	Mar 19 1899 Sep 21 1902
8	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Jan 11 1904 Jun 14 1915
9	MEEKER, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 28 1907 Nov 15 1911
9.1	MEEKER, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 32.0/21.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 23 1910
10	MEEKER / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Mar 22 1917 Jun 11 1919

**MEEKER – Continued**

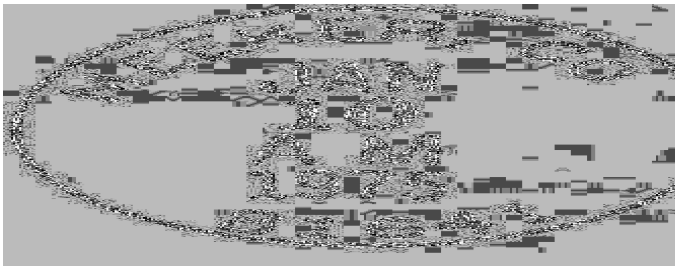
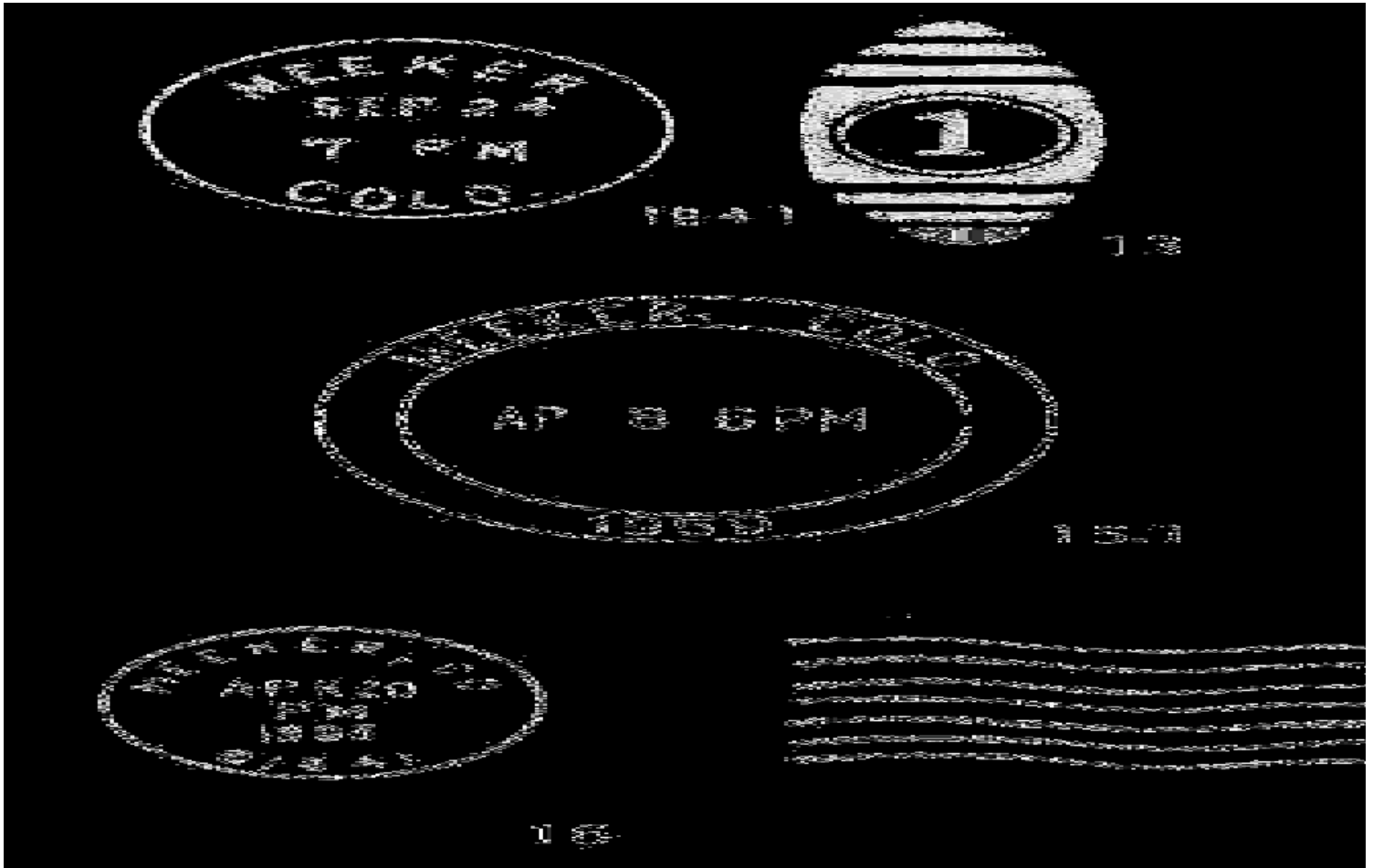
- |      |  |                                       |                        |
|------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 10.1 | MEEKER, / COLO.<br>RC 10P 36.0x19.0            | Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style | 1920s                  |
| 10.2 | MEEKER / COLO.<br>CI 10P 22.5                  | Mach 7 wavy lines                     | Jul 1 192- Jun 12 1929 |
| 11   | MEEKER, COLO. / REGISTERED<br>CI 11P 29.0/20.0 | Hstp No killer                        | Oct 15 1934            |



- |      |                                      |                                 |                         |
|------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12   | MEEKER, COLO.<br>CI 10P 20.5         | Mach 7 wavy lines               | Feb 12 1933 Jun 12 1962 |
| 13   | MEEKER / COLO.<br>CI 10P 25.0        | Dplx Grid, Oval with 1 & circle | Sep 24 1941 Mar 7 1949  |
| 14   | MEEKER, COLO. (2)<br>SL 00R 53.0x4.0 | Rolr 2 wavy lines above & below | --- --- 1940s           |
| 15   | MEEKER / COLO.<br>CI 11P 31.0/19.5   | Hstp No killer                  | Mar 24 1954             |
| 15.1 | MEEKER, / COLO.<br>CI 11P 35.0/27.0  | Hstp No killer                  | Apr 8 1959              |

MEEKER – Continued

15.2	MEEKER, / COLO. CI 10P 21.50	Mach 7 wavy lines	Apr 12 1966
16	MEEKER, CO / 81641 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jun 15 1968 May 29 1993
16.1	MEEKER, CO 81614 CI 11P 32.5/23.5	Rolr 7 wavy lines	Oct 20 1973
17	MEEKER, CO / 81641 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Jan 10 1975
18	MEEKER, CO 81641 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 3 1991 May 3 1997





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

1	MORAPOS, CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	/ COLO.	Apr 27 1914
2	MORAPOS./ COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm		Sep 30 1931

**PICEANCE**

This name derives from a Ute word or words said to mean, “tall grass.” Originally it was spelled as two words, Pice Ance but has evolved into a single word.

There was no organized community with this name; however, the rural post office that served the ranches along the middle reach of Piceance Creek took its name from the creek. The post office moved often, from one ranch to another.

Three locations are given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports. I would be surprised if there were not other sites that were not reported to Washington.

To reach these sites, go west from Meeker to Rio Blanco County Road 5 – the Piceance Creek Road. From the junction go south 7 miles to County Road 22. Turn east along the Dry Fork of Piceance Creek. Two miles brings you to the Little Hills Campground. This was the approximate location for the Piceance Post Office in 1921 and its final reported location. Return to County Road 5 and turn south. Two miles further south will place you opposite a ranch complex on the east side of the road. This was the 1914 location of Piceance. From this location, continue south another six miles to the original (1892) location of Piceance. No buildings remain at this location; however, there were some old cinder blocks, timbers and farm equipment in a field. When I visited the site in September 1998 it was occupied by a construction yard for a gas pipeline. From this location you continue south on the way to Sulphur and eventually back to Rio Blanco on Colorado 13.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 18 1892	---	NW/4 Sec 4 T2S R97W 1/3 mile east of Piceance Creek Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Nettie Dudley
Jun 25 1892		Established
Jun 25 1892		Dudley, Nettie
Jun 14 1910		Reigan, Minnie
Dec 15 1914	---	W/2 NE/4 Sec 11 T1S R97W 8 miles south of the White River 1/4 mile east of Piceance Creek
Dec 29 1914		Burke, Anna
Oct 22 1921	---	SW/4 Sec 31 T1N R96W 10 miles south of the White River 500 feet north of Dry Fork or Thurman Creek Names suggested: DRY FORK or THURMAN Sketch map shows both of the above locations. NOTE: Reestablished Nov 5 1924 at same location.
Nov 17 1921		Lampton, Henry C.
Nov 9 1922		Burke, Anna
Jul 16 1923		Ordered closed

Acting

**PICEANCE – Continued**

Aug 15 1923	Discontinued Mail to Sulphur	
Jan 10 1924	Re-established	
Jan 10 1924	Lampton, Mrs. Lucy	
Oct 15 1924	Coney, Roy F.	
Feb 2 1926	Snyder, Clarence R.	Acting
Mar 26 1926	Ordered closed	
Apr 15 1926	Discontinued Mail to Rio Blanco	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	PICEANCE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Nov 4 1895 Jan 2 1907
2	PICEANCE, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-23x14mm	May 13 1907 Jun 12 1914



**PYRAMID**

Pyramid was a small community along the East Fork of the Williams River. One reference states that there was coal mining here. I have some question about that and if there was I doubt it was very successful given the lengthy and difficult haul to get any mined coal to a railroad or to a larger settlement. It is more likely that Pyramid served as a supply center for ranches in the area and in later years for hunters and fishermen. The name derives from Pyramid Peak, which is clearly visible on the southern horizon.

This settlement is a short distance south of the Routt County line. It can be reached from either the north or south. From Meeker, go east on Colorado 132, through Buford and Marvine and on east. At the junction with the road to Trappers Lake, keep left and climb over the divide from the White River to the East Fork of the Williams River. When you reach the bottom of the grade, you will be at Pyramid. From the north, the easiest choice is to start at Hamilton on Colorado Highway 13. Drive east on Colorado 317, along the Williams River, and through the site of Pagoda. Colorado 317 ends at the Moffat-Routt County line. You are now on Routt County Road 29. Continue east to the junction with Routt County Road 55, to the south. This junction point, 22.5 miles from Hamilton, was the location for the Willow Creek Post Office. The Pyramid community is another 8 miles to the south. There are still a number of buildings scattered along the main road through the Pyramid location. Two of the reported sites were along the river. A third site was at the end of a short road to the east at a ranch, the Renfro Ranch. The entrance to the ranch is gated. Do not become confused in getting to this site. Within a distance of a few hundred feet, there are two side roads to the east. The correct one is the southern of the two (the first when you come from the south, the second when you come from the north). Either of these approaches to Pyramid provides a scenic loop through a portion of Colorado that is not on the usual tourist routes. In 1998 much of the route was still unpaved but was a well-maintained gravel road.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

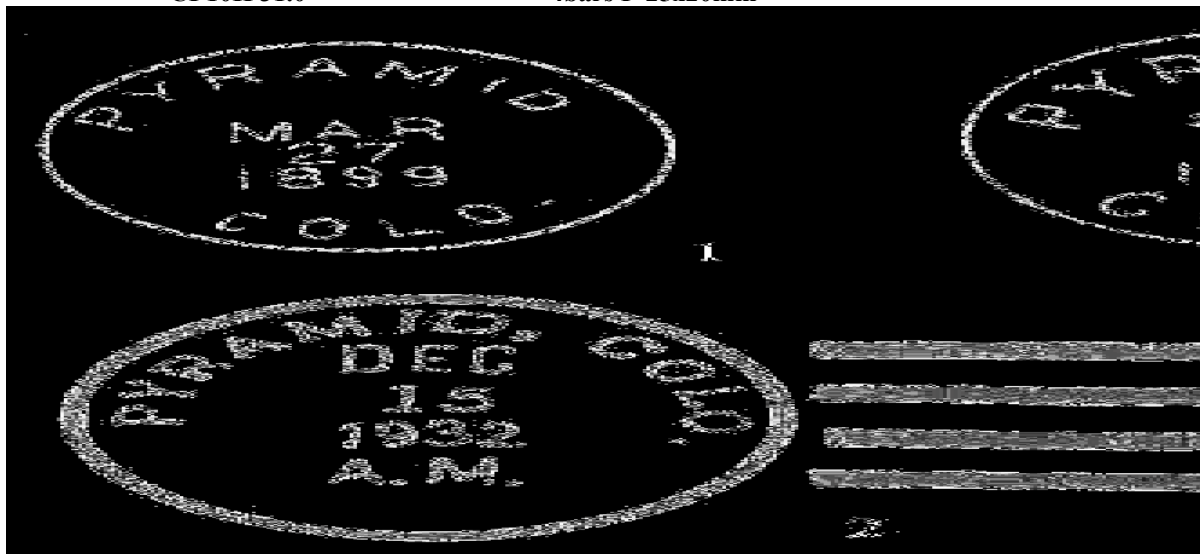
Apr 24 1896	Established
Apr 24 1896	Monroe, W. H.

## PYRAMID – Continued

Sep 8 1896	---	NE/4 Sec 27 T3N R88W 300 yards south of the Williams River Proposed postmaster - Charles F. Egry
Oct 10 1896		Original order rescinded
Nov 21 1896		Re-established
Nov 21 1896		Egry, Charles F.
Aug 16 1913		Schoopmire, Lenna J.
Mar 7 1914	---	NW/4 SW/4 Sec 25 T3N R88W A move 1-1/4 miles East of previous site 1/4 mile north of the Williams River
Apr 28 1914		Renfro, Lydia J.
Jul 14 1915		Turner, Martin E.
Jan 17 1918	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 31 T3N R87W 1/8 mile east of the Williams River 100 yards north of Bunker Creek A move 1/4 mile south by west
Feb 5 1918		Haley, Peter D.
Nov 19 1932		Ordered closed
Dec 15 1932		Discontinued Mail to Pagoda

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PYRAMID / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Mar 27 1899 Aug 3 1901
1.1	PYRAMID / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, oval 9 bar	Aug 6 1904 Jan 12 1910
1.2	PYRAMID, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars s-??x19mm	Nov 4 1926
2	PYRAMID, COLO. CI 10H 31.0	4bars P-25x20mm	Dec 15 1932



## RANGELY/RANGLEY

An examination of the postal records leads to a conclusion that the spelling “Rangley” was an error. On the first page of the initial Geographic Site Location Report the spelling appears to be “Rangley”, however on the second page it is clearly “Rangely.” For this listing, I have chosen to combine these for what they are – a single place.

The source of the name raises another question. One source attributes it to Charles Hill, an early settler and first postmaster, who named it for his hometown in Maine. Another source claims that it was D. B. Case, an associate of Hill’s, who named it for his hometown in Massachusetts. There is a Rangeley,

**RANGELY/RANGLEY – Continued**

Maine but I have not found a reference to any such place in Massachusetts, so I will accept the first version as the valid source of the name.

There seems to be no controversy that Rangely was first settled in 1882 by Charles and Frank Hill and D. B. Case as a trading post. This settlement may have replaced an older one in the vicinity named Golden City. By 1904 Rangely had a boarding house, post office, a little store, a schoolhouse and a few residences. It was strictly cattle country until the mid-1920's when sheep were introduced to the area.

The presence of oil in the Rangely area had been identified as early as the 1890's but it was not until 1946 that Standard Oil discovered the Rangely Oil Field that would become one of the largest oil discoveries in Colorado. From that time, Rangely grew rapidly as a supply center for the Rangely and other oil fields in northwestern Colorado. At the end of the twentieth century production from the Rangely field has declined and exploration for additional production is minimal. A new economic factor to the area is the presence of large open pit coal mines in Moffat County, about twenty miles north of Rangely. However, the growth of Rangely has slowed and it once again depends more and more on the livestock industry of the surrounding country. Rangely was incorporated in 1946.

Latitude = 40:05:16-North Longitude = 108:48:11-West

**RANGLEY**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

This is an apparent error in spelling. On the front page of the Site Location Report it appears to be Ranglely, however on the next page it is clearly Rangely.

- Jul 28 1884 --- SW/4 Sec 31 T2N R101W 10 rods south of the White River 1/2 mile east of Douglas Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Charles P. Hill
- Aug 26 1884 Established
- Aug 26 1884 Hill, Charles P.
- Sep 10 1885 Spelling changed to Rangely

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED WITH THIS SPELLING**

**RANGELY**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Sep 10 1885 Formerly spelled Ranglely
- Sep 10 1885 Hill, Charles P.
- Sep 23 1895 Post, Amos F.
- Dec 17 1895 Coltharp, James H.
- Dec 8 1895 Simms, John H.
- Jan 22 1896 --- NE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T1N R102W About 300 feet south of the White River  
1 mile west of Douglas Creek
- Jun 17 1909 Boutwell, Lewis W.
- Jul 13 1911 McGuire, James H.
- Jun 9 1914 --- NE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T1N R102W 300 yards south of the White River
- Nov 23 1916 Coltharp, Mabel C.
- Sep 3 1920 Nichols, Fred A.
- Jun 30 1931 Nichols, Reginald H. Acting
- Jul 24 1931 Nichols, Reginald H. Acting
- Oct 17 1931 Nichols, Reginald H. Appointed
- Nov 23 1931 Nichols, Reginald H. Commissioned
- May 1 1937 Allison, Mrs. Edna Assumed charge
- May 5 1937 Allison, Mrs. Edna Acting
- Sep 14 1937 Allison, Mrs. Edna Confirmed
- Nov 17 1937 Allison, Mrs. Edna Commissioned

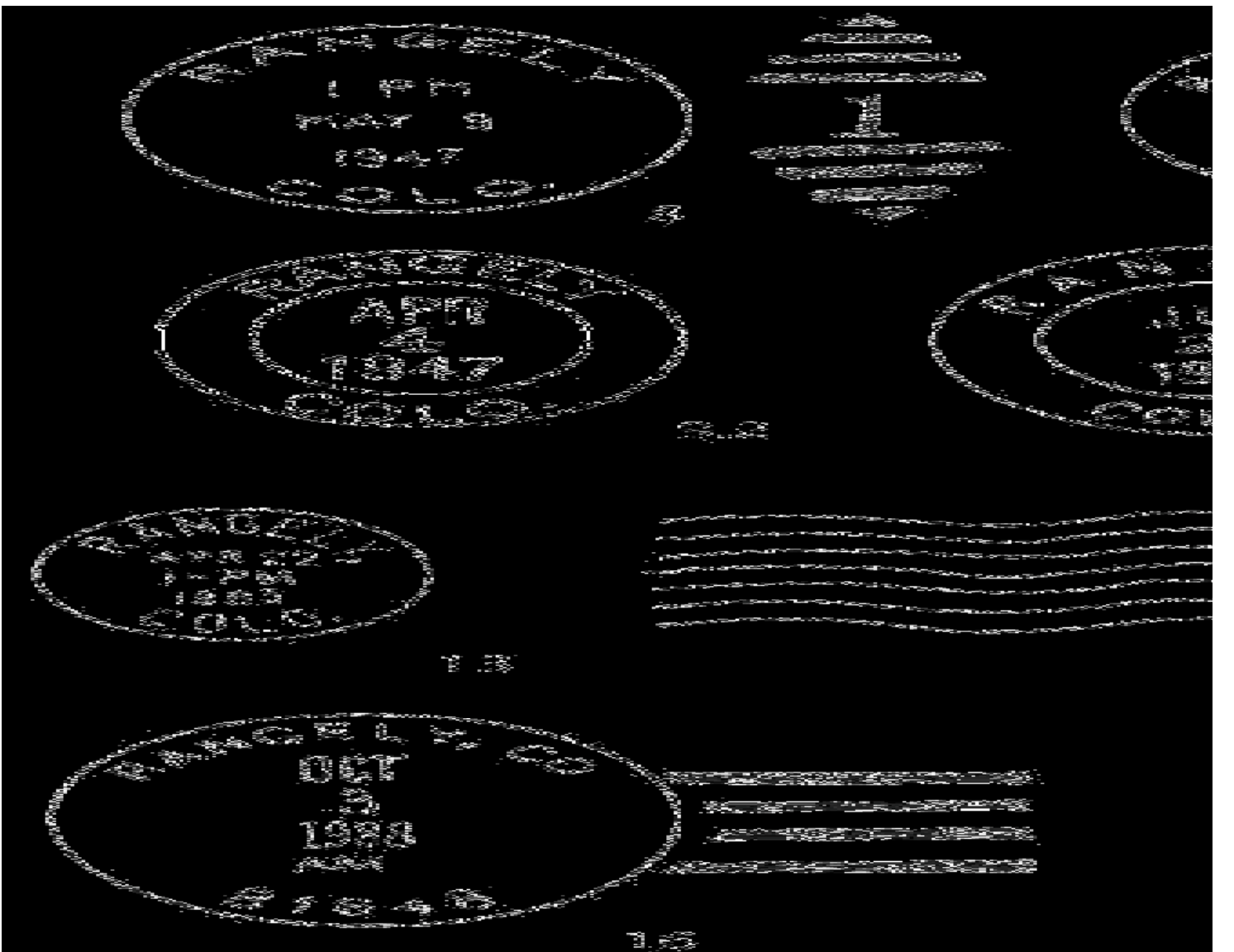
## RANGELY/RANGLEY – Continued

Jul 1 1938	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Assumed charge
Jul 28 1938	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Acting
Jul 17 1938	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Confirmed
Nov 3 1938	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941 ---	Sec 36 T2N R102W On Highway 64	
May 12 1942	Nichols, Frederick A.	Assumed charge
May 18 1942	Nichols, Frederick A.	Acting
Jan 26 1943	Nichols, Frederick A.	Confirmed
Feb 16 1943	Nichols, Frederick A.	Commissioned
Feb 24 1945	Nichols, Susie P.	Assumed charge
Mar 16 1945	Nichols, Susie P.	Acting
Aug 8 1945	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Acting
Aug 9 1945	Kuhlman, Mrs. Velma	Assumed charge
Oct 1 1945		Office made Presidential
Nov 25 1945	Weston, Mrs. Florence M.	Acting
Nov 26 1945	Weston, Mrs. Florence M.	Assumed charge
Jun 3 1946	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Acting
Jun 4 1946	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Assumed charge
Mar 26 1947	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Nominated
Jul 11 1947	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Confirmed
Jul 14 1947	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1947	White, Mrs. Mabel Clark	Assumed charge
Jan 20 1948 ---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T1N R102W Move 40 feet east of old site 1/4 mile south of the White River	
Nov 30 1955	Gerry, Mrs. Minta E.	Acting & Assumed charge
Dec 22 1955	Gerry, Mrs. Minta E.	Acting
Jun 4 1956	Gerry, Mrs. Minta E.	Nominated
Jun 27 1956	Gerry, Mrs. Minta E.	Confirmed, Apptd Presid., & Commissioned
Jul 13 1956	Gerry, Mrs. Minta E.	Assumed charge
Nov 30 1967	Koerner, Philip Fredrick	Acting
Oct 2 1968	Koerner, Philip Fredrick	Nominated
Oct 3 1968	Koerner, Philip Fredrick	Confirmed
Oct 4 1968	Koerner, Philip Fredrick	Appointed Presidential
Oct 18 1968	Koerner, Philip Fredrick	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Jun 30 1972	Mott, Mrs. Jennie J.	Officer in charge
Nov 10 1973	Colcord, Elbert L.	Appointed
Mar 24 1978	Mott, Mrs. Jennie J.	Officer in charge
Aug 25 1979	Westby, Ted E.	Appointed

## Confirmed types of postal markings

1	RANGELY, / COLO. CI 21P 34.0/32.0/22.0	Mar 25 1890 Hstp Fancy, positive star in 18mm circle
2	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Mar 17 1894 Jul 19 1897 Hstp Target, 4-ring 14mm
3	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Mar 7 1898 Hstp ??; closer spaced letters in "COLO."
4	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jan 9 1903 Dplx Grid, 8-bar oval
5	RANGELY, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Sep 5 1911 Dec 28 1915 4bars S-24x13mm
6	RANGELY, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Feb 22 1933 Aug 4 1937 4bars P-25x18mm
7	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jun 5 1939 Oct 4 1946 4bars S-23x19mm
8	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Feb 14 1947 May 9 1966 Dplx Grid, diamond with 1

RANGELY/RANGLEY – Continued



**RANGELY/RANGLEY – Continued**

9	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Aug 6 1949 Jan 3 1953
9.1	Rangely / COLO. RC 10P 37.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style	1940s
9.2	RANGELY / COLO. CI 11P 28/18.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 4 1947
10	RANGELY / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 21 1953
11	RANGELY / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 19 1954 Mar 28 1959
12	RANGELY / COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jul 5 1957 Aug 5 1959
13	RANGELY, / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 14 1961 Apr 22 1963
14	RANGELY, CO / 81648 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Aug 21 1961 Aug 16 1976
15	RANGELY, CO / 81648 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 1 1967 May 22 1993
16	RANGELY, CO / 81648 CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-20x16mm	Oct 3 1988
16.1	RANGELY, CO / 81648 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 29 1991
17	RANGELY CO 81648 / USPS CI 10P 35.5	5bars S-17x27mm	Oct 5 1994

**AUXILLARY MARKING**

A1	rangely, colo. SL 00R 46.0x7.0	Aux Returned for Postage	Apr 4 1947
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**RANGELY – C.O.D. STATION****Chronology of the Post Office**

--- 1949	Established
--- 1951	Discontinued

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FOR THIS STATION**

**RIO BLANCO/RIOBLANCO**

Rio Blanco, Spanish for, “White River” was the name given in 1889 to the new county and was subsequently taken by this settlement on Piceance Creek near the southern boundary of the county. The spelling of the town name has varied from one word to two words, the latter being the more common usage.

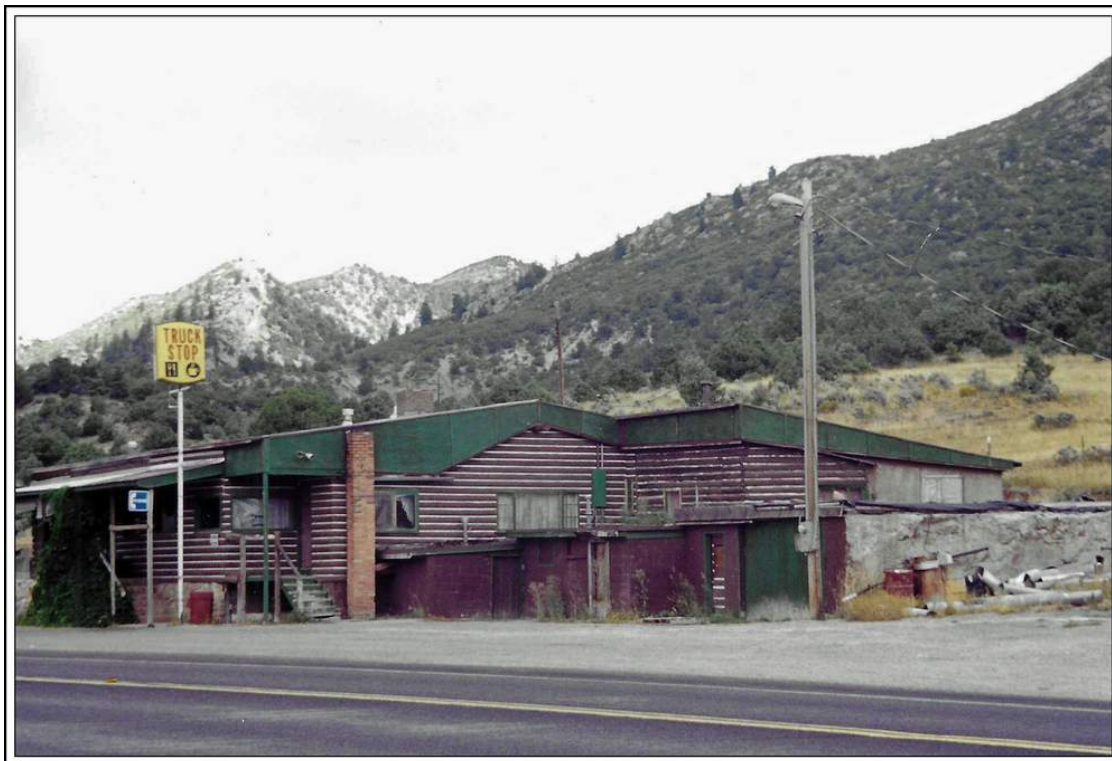
As with other rural post offices in Rio Blanco County, this post office has been at several locations; all were within a three-mile stretch along present day Colorado Highway 13. Nothing remains at the locations other than the final one at the intersection of Highway 13 and Rio Blanco County Road 5 where there is a small truck stop and store. This is stock-raising country and Rio Blanco served as a supply point for the ranches and for travelers on the road from Rifle north to Meeker.

**RIO BLANCO/RIOBLANCO – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 1 1899	---	SW/4 Sec 33 T3S R94W 1 mile north of Piceance Creek Proposed postmaster - Irving W. Kellogg	
May 6 1899		Established	
May 6 1899		Kellogg, Irving M.	
Feb 24 1902		Schermerhorn, John P.	
May 28 1910	---	From: SW/4 Sec 33 T3S R94W To: Sec 29 T3S R94W A move one mile south of previous location	
Jun 4 1910		Alley, James A.	
Feb 6 1913	---	E/2 SW/4 Sec 16 & E/2 NW/4 Sec 21 T3S R94W 3-1/2 miles north of Piceance Creek	
Apr 10 1913		Johnson, Walter K.	
May 5 1914		Ottens, Paul	
Jul 11 1914	---	Not available (Sec 4 T4S R94W? W.H.B.) Opposite "T" intersection of Piceance Road and South Government Road, south of Piceance Creek (??)	
Jul 16 1914	---	None reported (Section 33 ?) A move 3-1/2 miles south of previous location 1/2 mile north of Piceance Creek	
May 11 1915		Smith, Elvena F.	
Dec 9 1916		Kellogg, Lillie F.	
Jul 30 1919		Lindstrom, Carl J.	
Oct 28 1920		Alley, Andrew A.	
Apr 20 1922	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 4 T4S R94W 1/4 mile north of Piceance Creek	
Aug 5 1925		Alley, Joseph A.	Acting
Oct 26 1925		Alley, Joseph A.	Appointed
Jul 7 1927		Snyder, Parker L.	Acting
Nov 7 1927		Snyder, Miss Grace	Acting
Oct 10 1931		McKay, Donald	Confirmed
Oct 26 1931		McKay, Donald	Commissioned
Oct 31 1931		McKay, Donald	Assumed charge
Aug 9 1932	---	SE/4 Sec 33 T3S R94W A move 3/10 mile south of previous location (across creek) 100 feet south of Piceance Creek	
Oct 20 1941	---	Sec 33 T3S R94W 100 feet south of Piceance Creek	
May 1 1943		Johnson, Mrs. Lillian Mae	Confirmed
May 29 1943		Johnson, Mrs. Lillian Mae	Commissioned
May 30 1943		Johnson, Mrs. Lillian Mae	Assumed charge
Apr 8 1943	---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 4 T4S R94W Move 3/10 mile north of previous location 3/10 mile north of Piceance Creek "Have a small store in which we have the post office. Former post office location was in a private home."	
Mar 14 1946		Roberts, Owen George	Assumed charge
Apr 10 1946		Roberts, Owen George	Acting
Apr 7 1948		Roberts, Owen George	Appointed & Confirmed
May 20 1948		Roberts, Owen George	Commissioned
Jun 30 1948		Roberts, Owen George	Possession
May 31 1950		Pickard, Mrs. Gracie H.	Assumed charge
Jun 15 1950		Pickard, Mrs. Gracie H.	Acting
Jul 1 1950		Spelling changed to Rio Blanco	
Aug 22 1950		Pickard, Mrs. Gracie H.	Appointed & Confirmed
Sep 12 1950		Pickard, Mrs. Gracie H.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1950		Pickard, Mrs. Gracie H.	Possession
Mar 1 1963		Withrow, Mrs. Dorothy M.	Possession & Acting
Oct 9 1964		Converted to a Rural Branch of Rifle	
May 23 1975		Discontinued	

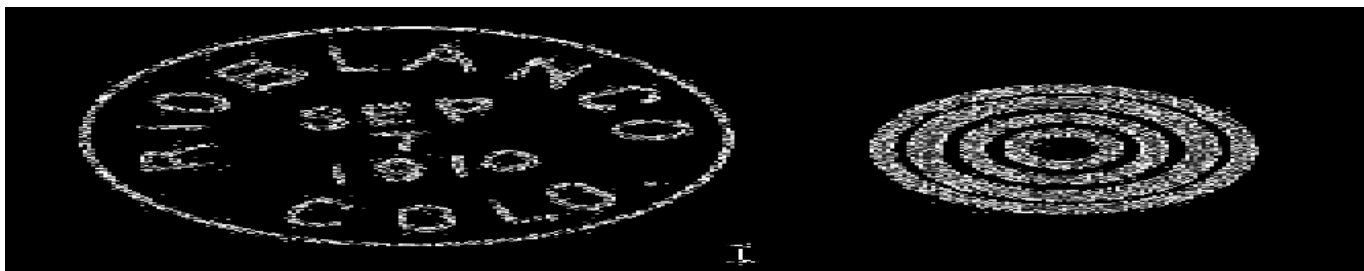
RIO BLANCO/RIOBLANCO – Continued



The final location of the Rio Blanco Post Office, on the east side of Colorado Highway 13

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	RIO BLANCO / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 16mm	Feb 7 1903 Sep 7 1910
2	RIOBLANCO, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 9 1912 Jan 7 1920
3	RIOBLANCO / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 1 1931 Jan 3 1941
4	RIOBLANCO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Nov 24 1941 Jun 30 1950
5	RIO BLANCO / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 1 1950 5 1957
6	RIO BLANCO / COLO CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	[SRM; Types 5&6 are identical in overlays] Jan 2 1962 Jul 30 1964
7	RIO BLANCO / COLO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	4bars S-24x19mm	[SRM; Types 5&6 are identical in overlays] Jul -- 1964
8	RIO BLANCO / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 9 1964 Mar 8 1965
9	RIO BLANCO, CO / 81651 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Aug 14 1969 Oct 9 1974
		4bars S-23x18mm	



**RIO BLANCO/RIOBLANCO – Continued**

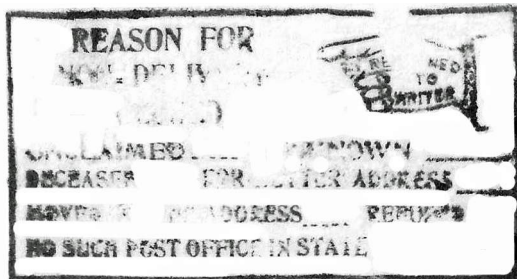


**AUXILLARY MARKING**

A1 rio blanco, colo.  
RC 10P 68x35

May 26 1950

Aux REASON FOR / NON DELIVERY /  
CHECKED with Returned to Writer in Pointing hand



A-1

**SULPHUR**

The only reference to this place is that it was, “ a small settlement on Black Sulphur Creek.”

There were two sites about two miles apart. To reach these sites, refer to the instructions for Piceance. From the 1892 site of Piceance, continue south on Rio Blanco County Road 5 to County Road 26. Go west four and a half miles to the second location for Sulphur. There is nothing there to be seen. Continue west another two miles to the junction with County Road 85 (to the north). Here there is a small group of buildings, mostly trailers, which I would guess are housing for workers in the surrounding oil and gas fields.

Based on the period of its existence, I believe that Sulphur was another rural or ranch post office providing mail to ranchers in the surrounding area.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- May 17 1902 --- SE/4 Sec 28 T2S R98W On Black Sulphur Creek  
Proposed postmaster - Albert F. Parkes
- Jul 2 1902 Established

**SULPHUR – Continued**

Jul 2 1902	Parkes, Albert F.
Apr 30 1912	Mikkelson, James
Dec 30 1914 ---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 23 T2S R98W A move 1-1/2 miles west [SRM: east] of previous location 20 miles south of the White River 100 feet south of Sulphur Creek
Feb 23 1915	Bainbrich, James W. Jr.
Dec 24 1925	Ordered closed
Jan 15 1926	Discontinued Mail to Rioblanco

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	SULPHUR, / COLO.	Nov 7 1910 Apr 2 1915
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm

**THORNBURG**

Thornburg was a stock-raising settlement on Milk Creek near the northern boundary of Rio Blanco County. Although the settlement was named for Major T. T. Thornburgh, the final h of his name was never used for the post office name.

When word of the growing troubles at the White River Indian Agency reached Rawlins, Wyoming, Major T. T. Thornburgh was sent to aid agent Nathan C. Meeker. While the troops were still en route, the massacre occurred at the agency. The Indians met Major Thornburgh and his troops at a point on Milk Creek and a battle ensued. Major Thornburgh and several troopers were killed and the unit was besieged until relieved when additional troops arrived from Wyoming.

A monument to Major Thornburgh and the cavalry troopers killed in the battle marks the site. When I visited the site in 1998, the cavalry monument had been damaged, and another, larger monument added to the site in memory of the Indians killed in the battle. The monuments are a few feet off the north side of the road. This is on a low bluff overlooking Milk Creek and a small cluster of semi-abandoned ranch buildings. Again I make the assumption that Thornburg was only a rural ranch post office.

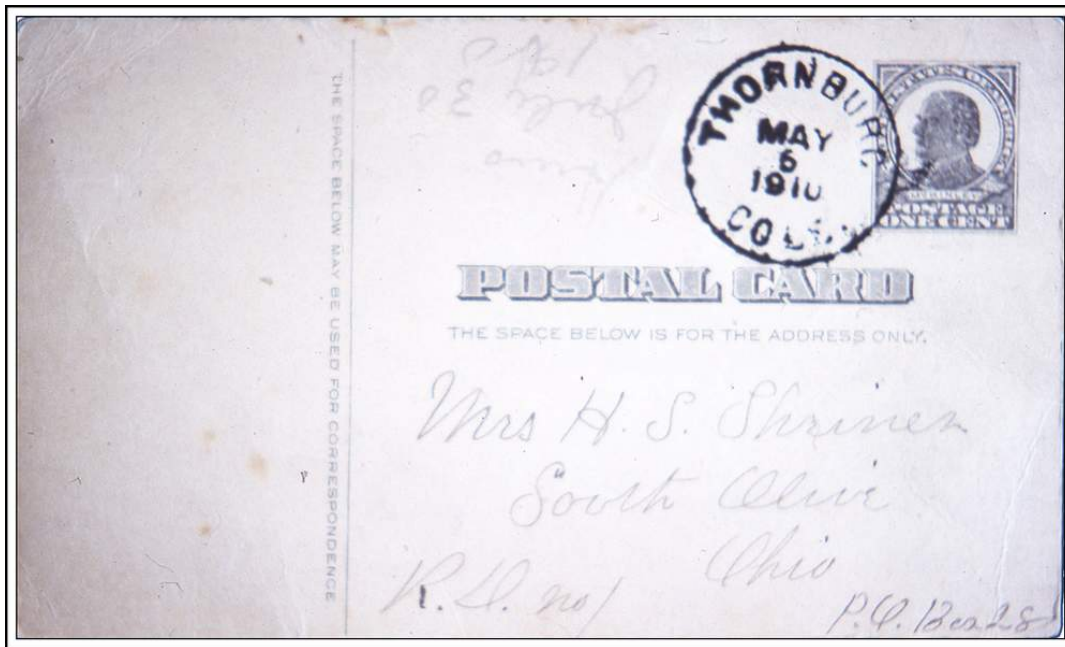
Thornburg can be reached either by driving north from Meeker over Yellow Jacket Pass or by driving south from Moffat County. In order to visit other sites along the way, I chose to go from Meeker north on Colorado Highway 13 into Moffat County. From Colorado 13, turn south on Moffat County Road 45. It is nine miles south to the county line. A mile beyond the county line the road (now Rio Blanco 15) crosses Milk Creek and intersects with another road. Turn right and continue another mile to the previously mentioned monuments. There was an early location of Thornburg at the crossing of the Milk Creek, however nothing remains at that site. If you chose to come direct from Meeker, you would go on to Colorado 13 by reversing these directions.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 10 1900	Established
Oct 10 1900	Aldrich, Owen J.
Sep 12 1902 ---	SE/4 Sec 25 T3N R92W 100 yards east of Milk Creek Proposed postmaster - Owen J. Aldrich
Apr 27 1907	Aldrich, Ralph R.

**THORNBURG – Continued**

- Nov 7 1908 --- From: NW/4 Sec 25 T3N R91W To: SW/4 Sec 23 T3N R92W  
A move 1-1/2 miles northwest of previous location The sketch map does not show a change of township (R92W for both).
- Dec 10 1908 Graham, Nina R.
- Jun 22 1912 Willman, Harrison W.
- Apr 10 1914 Berg, Herman H.
- May 21 1914 --- NW/4 Sec 35 T3N R92W 20 miles north of the White River  
location 1 mile south of Milk Creek
- Oct 4 1937 Ordered closed
- Oct 30 1937 Discontinued Mail to Meeker



**THORNBURG / COLO.**

**May 6, 1910**

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 THORNBURG / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 28.0</li> <li>2 THORNBURG, / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 32.0</li> <li>3 THORNBURG / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 32.0</li> <li>4 THORNSBURG, / COLO.<br/>CI 10P 33.0</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hstp No killer</li> <li>4bars S-24x19mm</li> <li>4bars S-??x??mm [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]</li> <li>4bars S-23x19mm, Spelling error</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May 6 1910 Jun 23 1910</li> <li>Oct 10 1910 Jul 21 1922</li> <li>Aug 20 1934</li> <li>Oct 30 1937</li> </ul> |
|---|--|---|



**WHITE RIVER (I)**

A White River Post Office has existed at three widely separated locations along a twenty five mile or more stretch of the White River. Two of these locations were at the White River Ute Agency. The third, much later location was a rural post office.

The White River Ute Agency was first located in a narrow portion of the White River Valley about 10 miles east of present day Meeker. The site is now open fields along the river and Colorado Highway 132, with nothing to recall the original agency. In 1878 when Nathan Meeker assumed the post of Indian Agent, he moved the agency to an area that was known as Powell's Bottom, four miles west of present day Meeker. He chose this site as one that was more appropriate for the agricultural lifestyle that he intended to teach to the Indians.

That Meeker failed miserably in this endeavor is well known. The Indians refused to cooperate to any extent. As Meeker imposed more and more demands and restrictions on their traditional lifestyles they became increasingly restless. Finally, on September 29, 1879 the Indians struck, killing Meeker and the other agency employees. Meeker's wife and daughter and another woman were taken captive and spent several weeks with the Utes before being returned to safety.

At the time of the massacre, U. S. Army troops, under the command of Major T. T. Thornburgh were only a few miles from the agency and it is believed that it was their approach that triggered the uprising. In turn the troops were attacked at a place on Milk Creek (see Thornburg above). Following the rescue of the Thornburgh detachment, a military post, known as The Camp on White River, was established at the present site of Meeker. This was garrisoned until 1883 when it was abandoned and the buildings sold to local residents.

The White River Post Office when first established in 1871, was at the Agency location east of Meeker. In 1878 it moved to the new Agency site some four miles west of Meeker. There is an historical marker on the south side of Colorado Highway 64 almost opposite the location previously described for Early Springs. The actual site of the agency was a mile or so south of the marker in the open flats and near the river. This version of the White River Post Office did reopen for a brief time following the massacre. In August 1880 it was moved to the Camp on White River and became Meeker in honor of the slain agent.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 9 1871	---	None reported	On north side of White River	2 miles south of Painted Rock Creek
Sep 29 1871		Established		
Aug 29 1871		Reynolds, Frank W.		
Nov 24 1871	---	Local name - White River Agency	On the east side of the White River	2 miles south of Painted Rock Creek
Dec 12 1872		Littlefield, Joseph D.		
Nov 21 1873		Edwards, John		
Jul 20 1874		Danforth, Mrs. Ellen C.		
May 27 1878		Post, William H.		
Feb 20 1879	---	Not reported	On northerly side of the White River	
Nov 12 1879		Duff, T. J.		
Nov 25 1879		Hugus, W. B.		
Aug 3 1880		Gray, Henry W.		
Aug 23 1880		Moved to Meeker from the White River Indian Agency		

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 White River Colo  
MS

Jan 1 1878 Dec 18 1879

Mscp Pen cancel



**WHITE RIVER (II)**

White River City was surveyed on White River Mesa where Piceance Creek empties into the White River. It was a speculative development based on the rumors that a railroad would soon build through the area. The settlement prospered for a time. A Mr. Ambrose Oldland, from England, built a fair-sized country store and established a post office. D-Bar Charley built a restaurant, Bob Hunter a saloon, Bob Grant a brick yard and a Mr. Wright opened a law office. Several cabins from earlier days were soon reoccupied. When it became obvious that the railroad would not be built, White River City began to decline and soon became a ghost town. In 1998, there were still a few buildings a short distance south of the White River along County Road 5.

The site of this twentieth century White River Post Office is reached by driving west from Meeker on Colorado Highway 13 to the intersection with Colorado 64. Then west on that road to where Rio Blanco County Road 5 goes south (to Piceance and eventually to Rio Blanco).

Latitude = 39:58:38-North Longitude = 107:37:20-West (WHITE RIVER COMMUNITY HOUSE)  
Latitude = 40:05:27-North Longitude = 108:13:25-West (WHITE RIVER CITY)

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Aug 5 1896 --- NW/4 NE/4 Sec 1 T1N R97W 250 feet south of the White River  
1 mile east of Piceance Creek Sketch map shows this site as "west of Meeker"
- Aug 15 1888 Established
- Aug 15 1888 Oldland, Ambrose
- Jul 31 1895 Witter, George S.
- Jan 10 1901 Wilson, Edgar J.
- Mar 24 1914 Shephard, Eliza J.
- Feb 17 1908 Ordered closed
- Mar 15 1908 Discontinued Mail to Meeker

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |     |                                     |                   |                       |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 0.1 | WHITE RIVER / COLO.<br>CI 10P 27.5  | Hstp Not present  | Aug 7 1889            |
| 1   | WHITE RIVER / COLO.<br>CI 10P 28.0  | Hstp Cork, Smudge | Jan -- 1890           |
| 2   | WHITE RIVER, / COLO.<br>CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-23x14mm   | Aug 1 1907 Sep 2 1907 |



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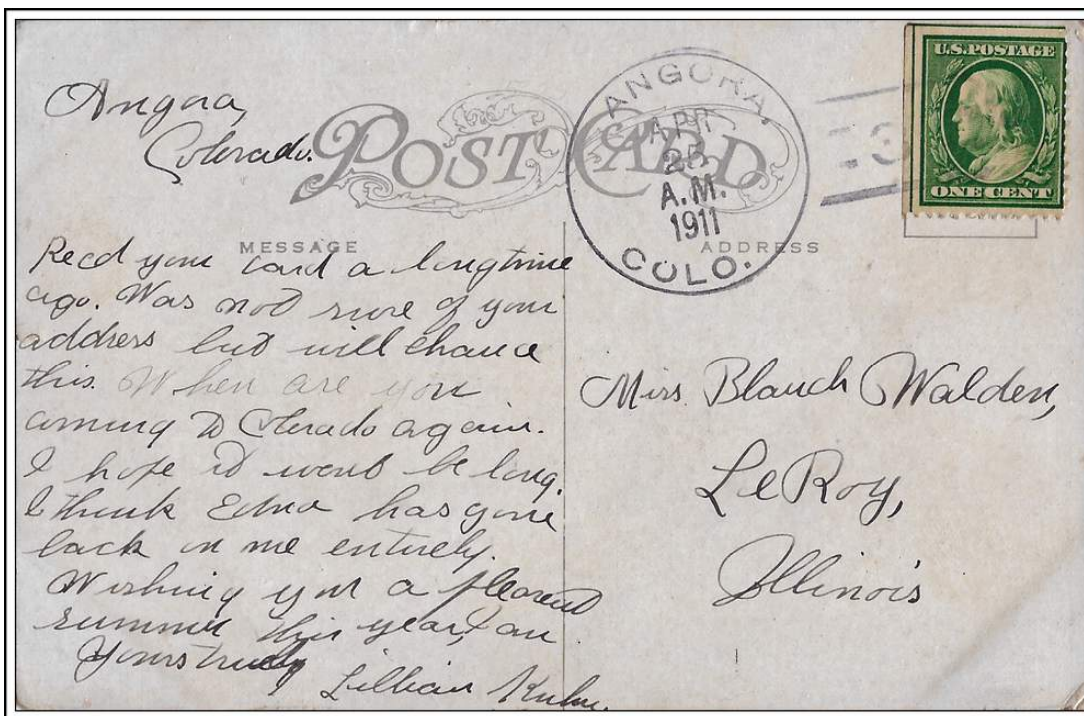
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Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

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

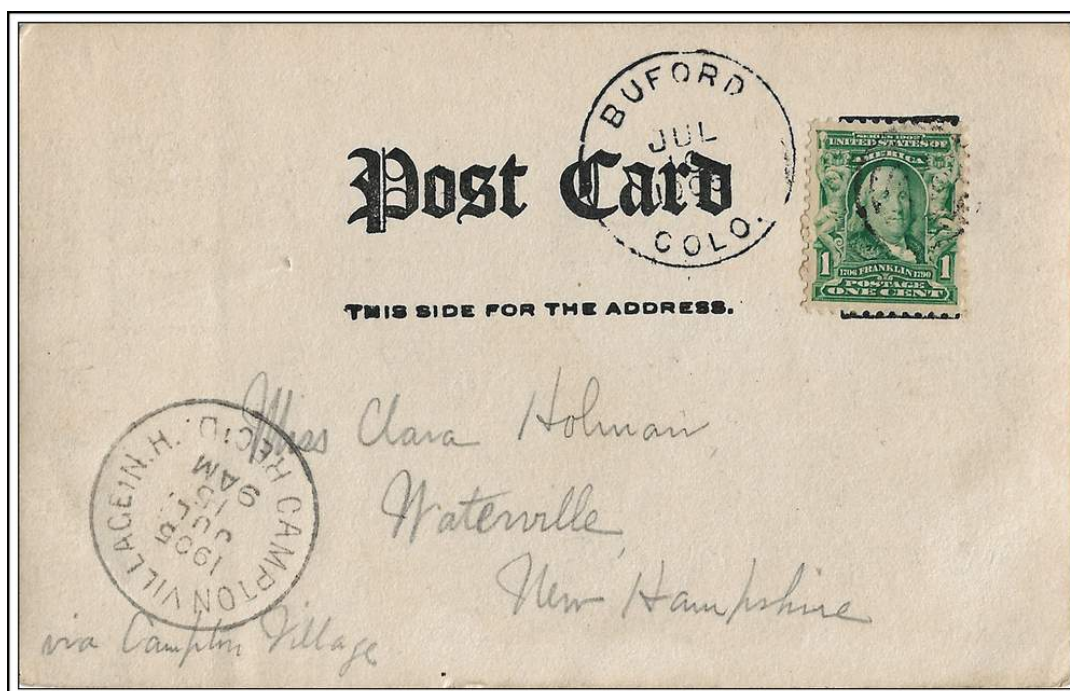
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF RIO BLANCO COUNTY COVERS



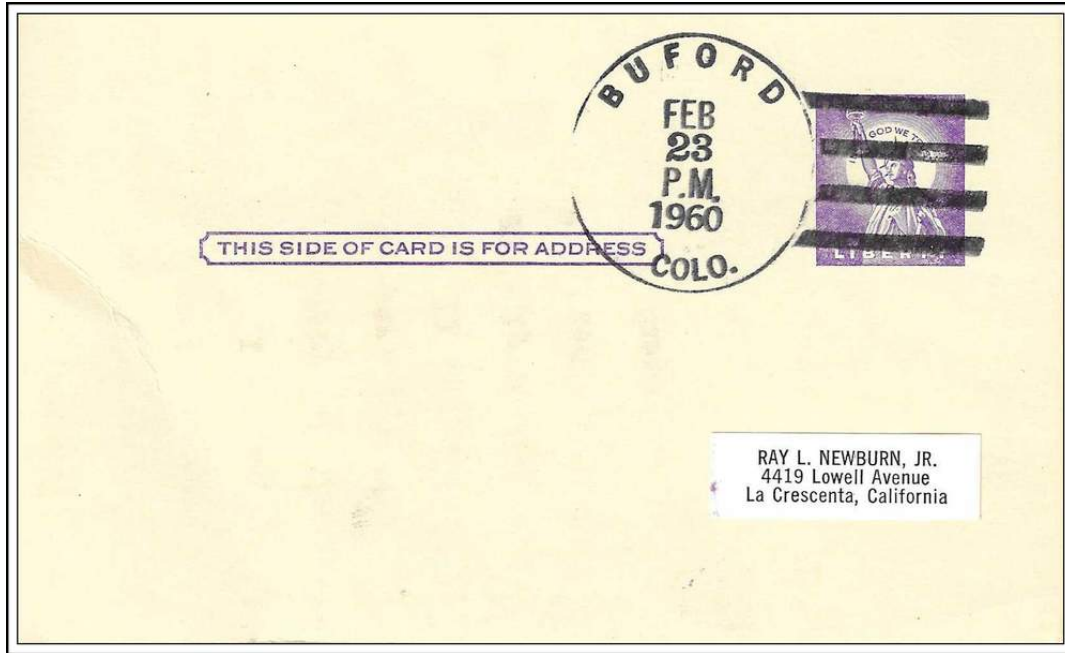
ANGORA, / COLO.

April 25, 1911



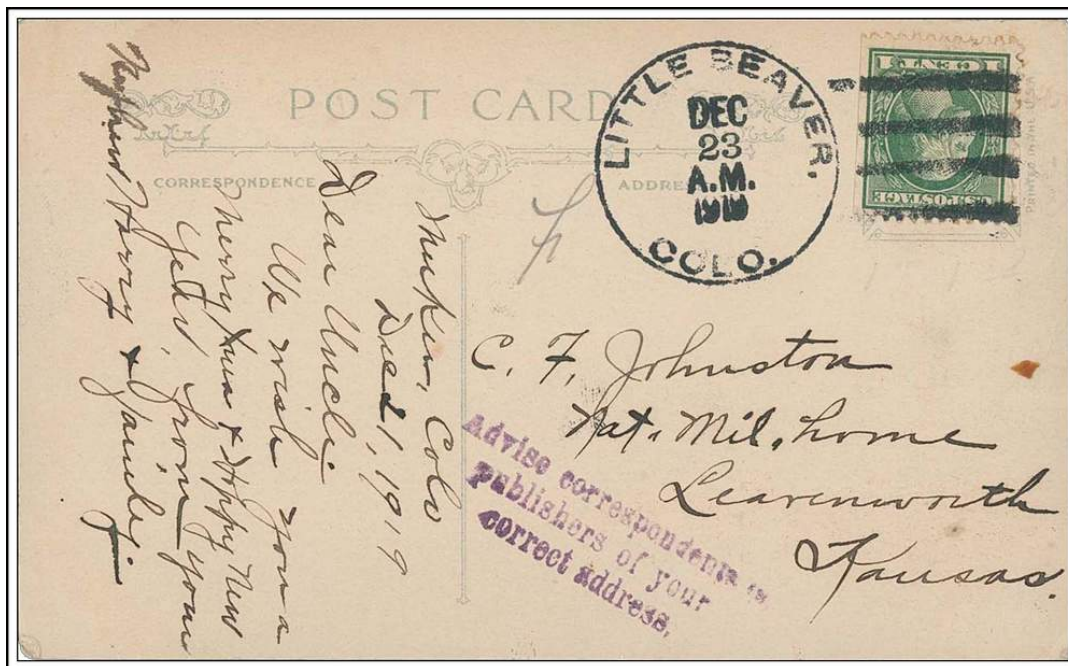
BUFORD / COLO.

July 10, 1905



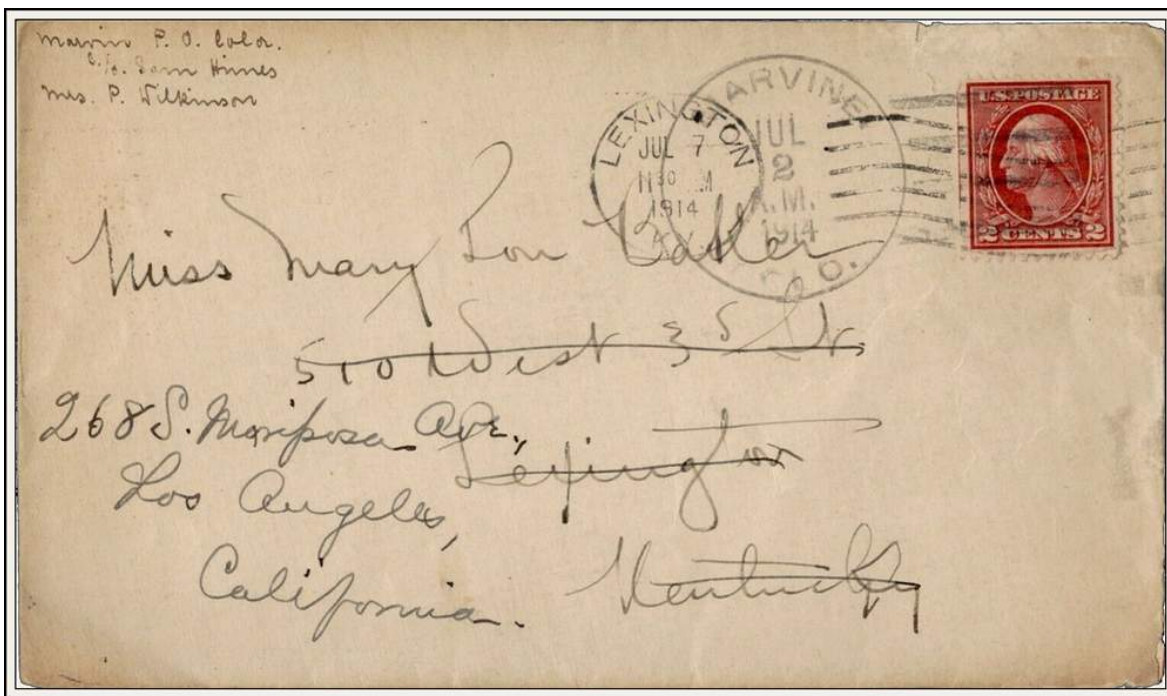
BUFORD / COLO.

February 23, 1960



LITTLE BEAVER, / COLO.

December 23, 1919



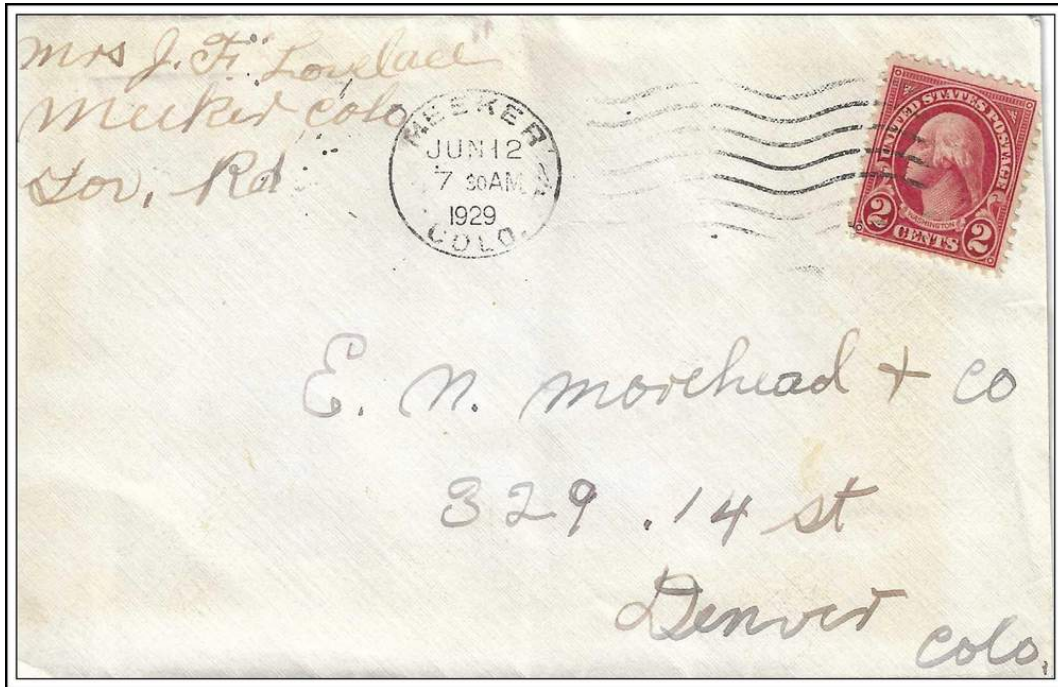
MARVINE, / COLO.

July 2, 1914



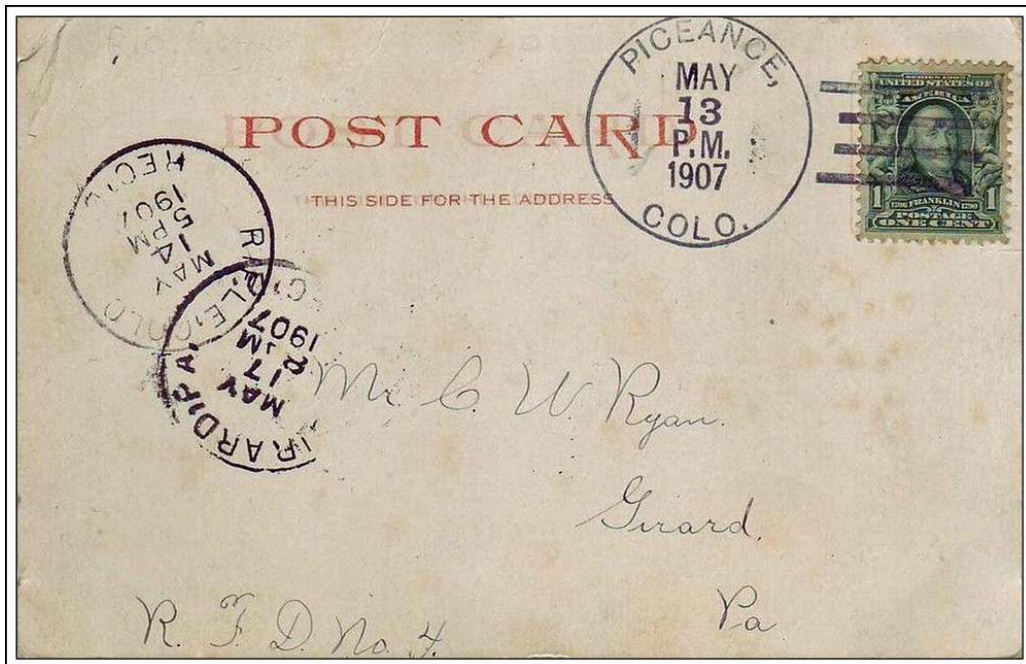
MEEKER / COLO.

July 20, 1910



MEEKER / COLO.

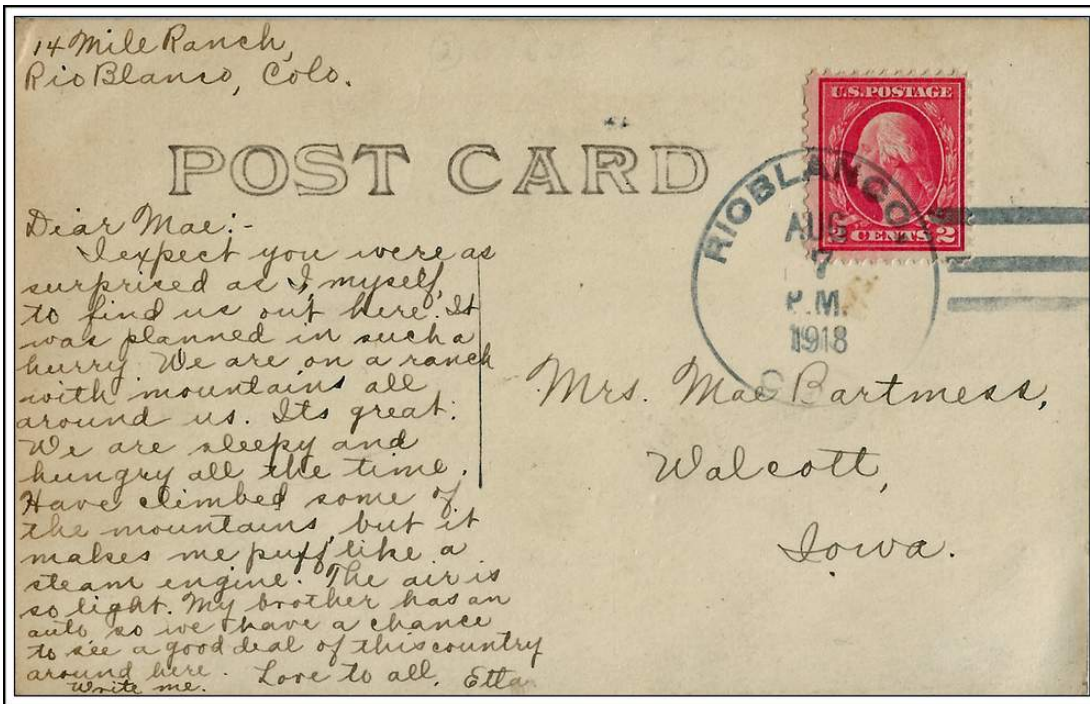
June 12, 1929



PICEANCE, / COLO.

May 13, 1907





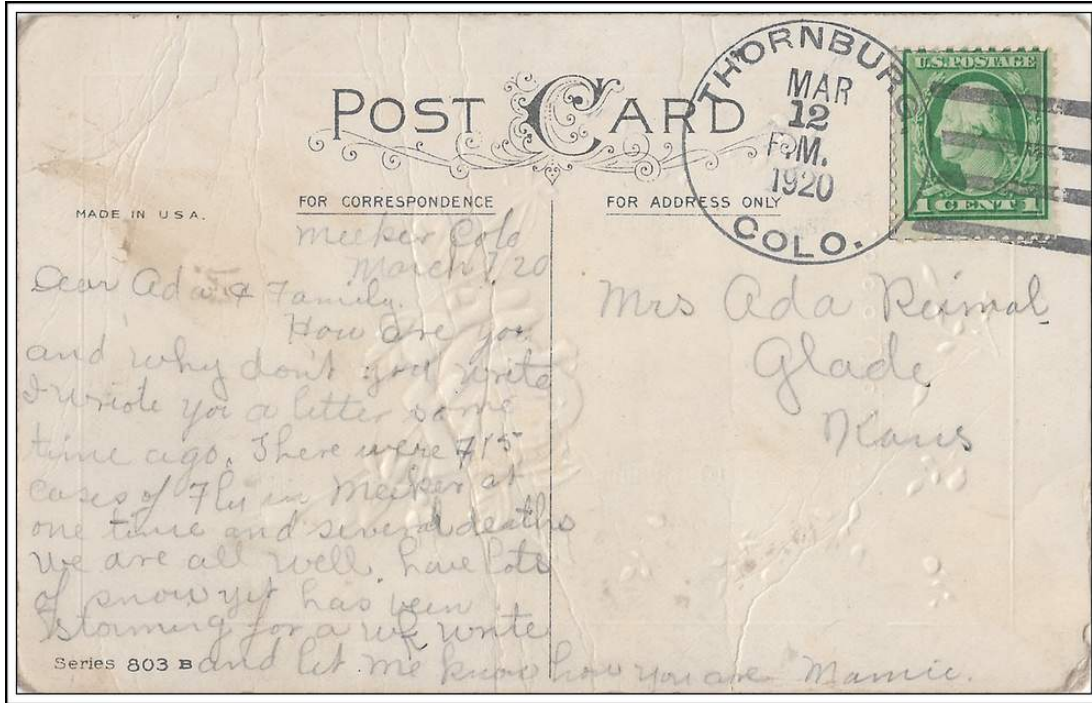
RIOBLANCO, / COLO.

August 7, 1918



SULPHUR, / COLO.

April 2, 1915



THORNBURG, / COLO.

March 12, 1920

