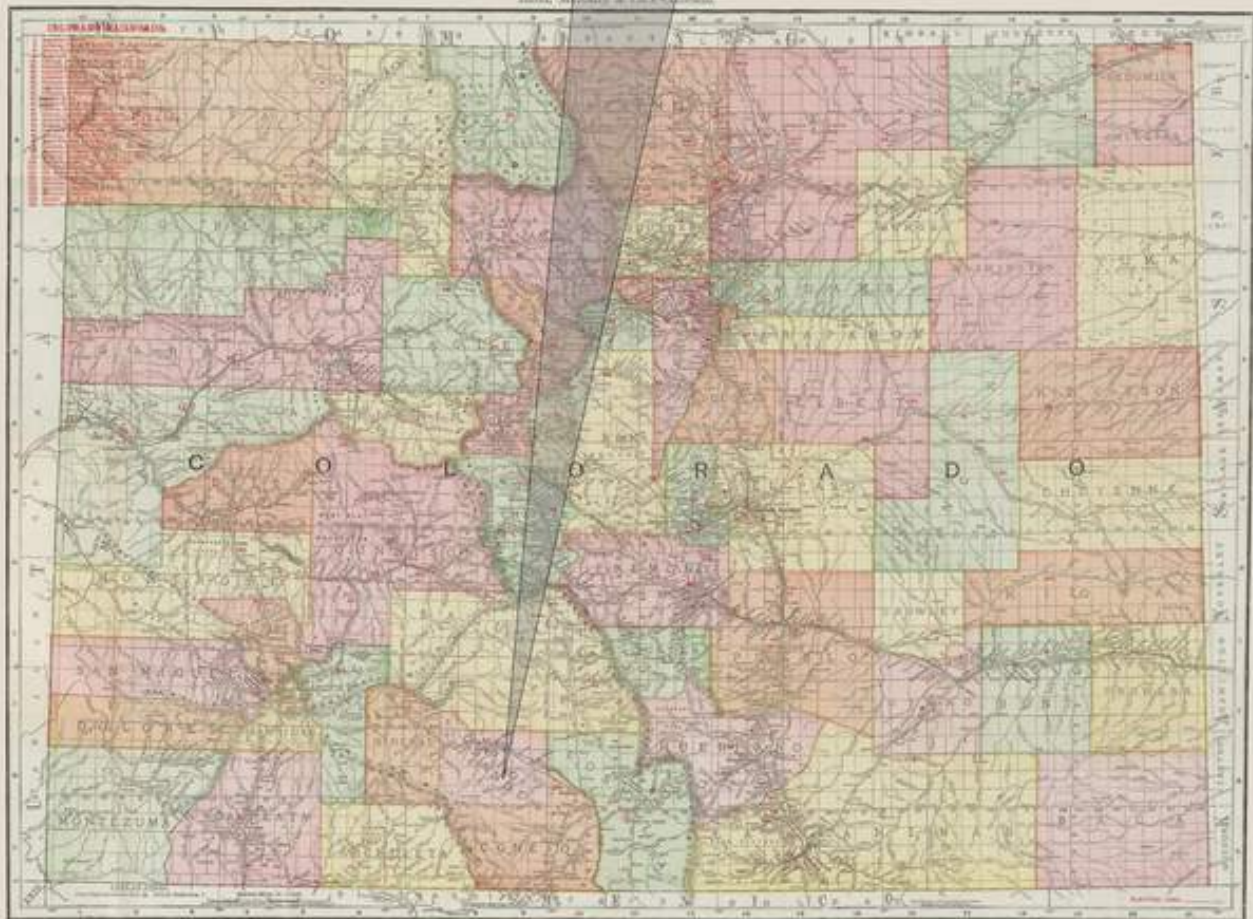


Rio Grande County



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

Established: February 10, 1874

County Seat: Del Norte



RIO GRANDE COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Rio Grande County lies on the eastern edge of the San Juan Mountains of southwestern Colorado. It takes its name from the Rio Grande River, which bisects the county from east to west.

On February 10, 1874 the county was authorized by the Colorado Territorial Legislature. This action was a result of the influx of settlers and prospectors into the area as a result of the 1873 Brunot Treaty that opened the San Juan Mountain region to settlement.

The area that comprises modern Rio Grande County was originally a part of Conejos and Costilla Counties. The county is an east-west oriented rectangle with a small northward projection from the northwest corner. Rio Grande County measures thirty-six miles in the east west direction and twenty-four miles from north to south. The projection measures six miles by six miles.

Rio Grande County is bounded on the north by Saguache County, on the east by Alamosa County, on the south by Conejos County and on the west by Mineral County.

The topography of Rio Grande County is varied. From Del Norte eastward the land is quite level and is a portion of the San Luis Valley. From Del Norte westward, and north of the Rio Grande River, the land rises gradually towards the La Garita Mountains. The portion of the county south of the river becomes increasingly mountainous as it rises towards the Continental Divide that crosses the extreme southwest corner of the county.

The entire county, with the exception of a small portion west of the Continental Divide, lies within the drainage of the Rio Grande River. Most of the tributary streams are seasonal. Along the southern border the Alamosa River passes through the county and a number of intermittent streams drain into it.

Rio Grande County was first the territory of the Ute Indians. By the mid-nineteenth century Hispanic settlers were slowly expanding into the eastern portion of the area and even as far west as Loma (Del Norte). The discovery of silver and gold in the San Juan Mountains brought the usual flood of prospectors. The valley of the Rio Grande River became one of the principal travel routes to the San Juans, resulting in increased settlement along the river.

Throughout its history the economy of Rio Grande County has been based primarily on agriculture. Mining has played some part but the only significant mining activity in the county was at Summitville. That operation ceased in the mid-1990's leaving a major environmental mess to be cleaned up.

The Latin-American settlers practiced a varied agriculture – farming and livestock – at a mostly subsistence level. The second wave, of Anglo homesteaders, at first concentrated on livestock, mostly cattle. As the potential farmland became settled, irrigation projects were developed and farming took on an increased importance. In the later portion of the nineteenth century the growing of potatoes became a significant economic factor. Sugar beets have also been an important crop.

Another economic factor was timber. Extensive lumbering operations existed in the western portion of the county with South Fork the location of several large sawmills.

In the twenty-first century agriculture still plays an important part in the economy of Rio Grande County. Lumbering has decreased and mining has ceased. Tourism has replaced some of these sources of income but the county has not developed any significant industrial base.

The early transportation routes followed the Rio Grande River. Today that is the path for US Highway 160, which makes its way across southern Colorado from Kansas to Utah. Colorado Highway 149 begins at South Fork and goes to Creede and Lake City and eventually connects to US 50 at the Gunnison River. US 285 enters from the north. At Monte Vista it joins US 160, and exits Rio Grande County to the east.

The eastern portion of the county, in the level San Luis Valley, is well dissected by a network of county and state roads. In the mountainous areas the roads are widely spaced and many are not through roads and may not be suitable for standard automobiles.

In 1881 the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built westward through the county, reaching South Fork. In 1883 the tracks were extended from South Fork to Wagon Wheel Gap and later to Creede. There were plans to go on from South Fork to Silverton but although longer, an easier route was chosen to that destination.

In 1913 the San Luis Central Railway was constructed from Sugar Junction, east of Monte Vista, to Center. This railroad's purpose was to provide better transportation of the potatoes and sugar beets being grown in the central portion of the San Luis Valley.

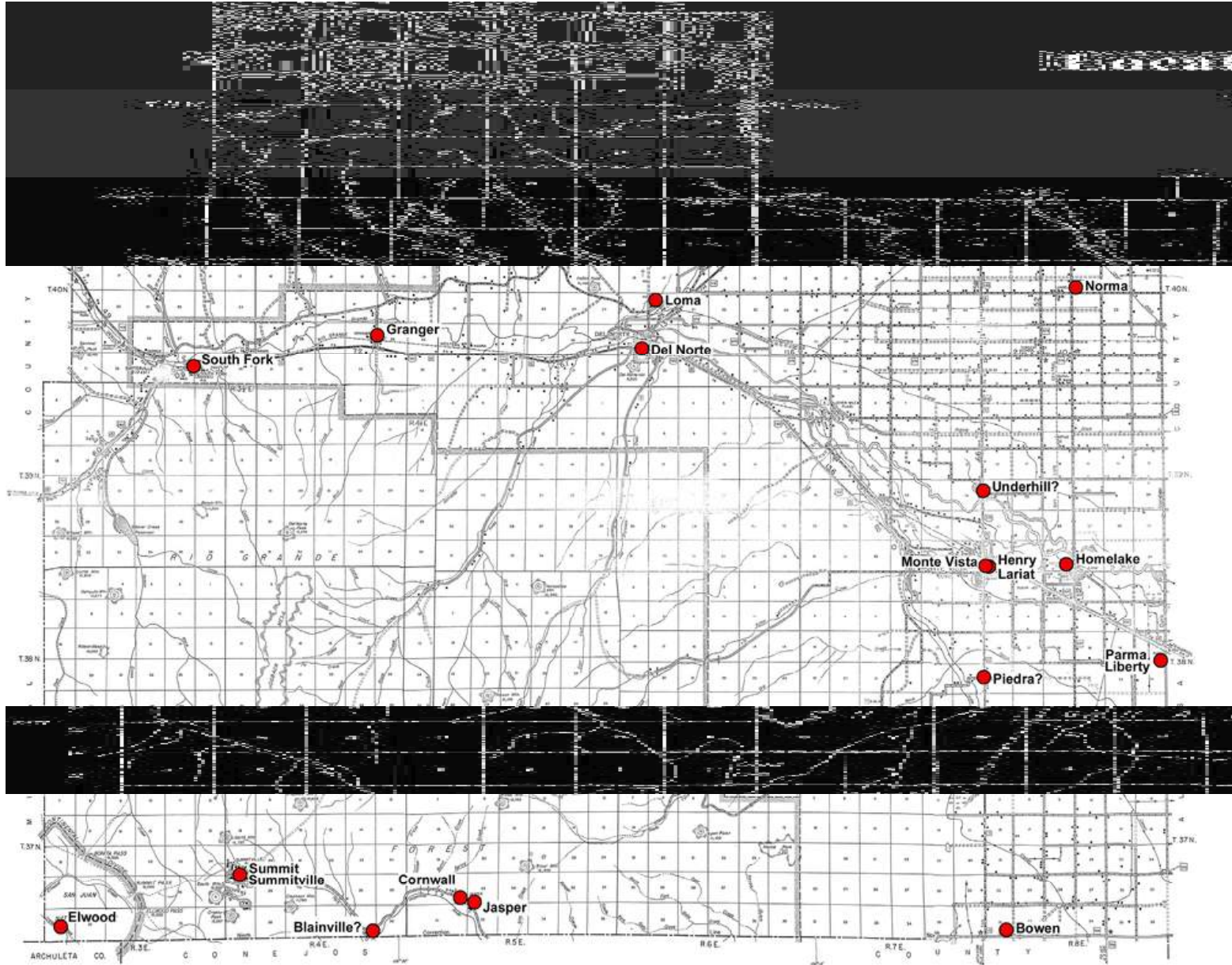
Both of these railroads are still in place but there is no scheduled service. From Monte Vista westward service is occasional and infrequent. The San Luis Central Railway is at its busiest during the harvest season.

Modern Rio Grande County offers a pleasant climate, access to outdoor activities and varied and fascinating scenery.



Sandhill Cranes at Monte Vista National Wildlife Refuge south of Monte Vista

Photograph from: <https://www.uncovercolorado.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/monte-vista-national-wildlife-refuge6-1440x960.jpg>



Post Office Location Map – Rio Grande County

BLAINVALE

Blainvale was a mining camp but no history of it has been reported. Its short history indicates that the mines were not very productive.

When the Blainvale Post Office was closed, it was moved to Loyton, about four miles further up the Alamosa River and near the site of Stunner.

The location of Blainvale is somewhat questionable. Based on the descriptions from the Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Reports it appears to be about three miles west of Jasper-Cornwall, very near where the Alamosa River leaves Rio Grande County and re-enters Conejos County. I have not been to that location.

It should be possible to reach that site by continuing west from Jasper, assuming that the road is passable. An alternate route might be to make the loop through Platoro to Stunner and back through Jasper. [SRM: Although the Site Reports were filed in Rio Grande County, it is not clear from the descriptions whether Blainville was actually in Rio Grande County.]

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 20 1882		Established
Jun 21 1882	---	Unsurveyed 4-1/2 miles north of Cornwall [SRM: Cornwall is north of proposed site] 200 yards north of Alamosa River 1/4 mile south of Wightmans Creek Proposed postmaster - Miles William Blain
Jun 29 1882		Blain, Miles W.
Aug 31 1882		Discontinued Mail to Cornwall
Jan 16 1884	---	Unsurveyed 20 rods north of the Alamosa River 50 yards east of Wightmans Creek (This location is in Mineral County - W.H.B.) [SRM: Conejos?] Proposed postmaster - Almira H. Page (Comment - see Conejos County for this name)
Feb 4 1884		Re-established
Feb 4 1884		Page, Mrs. Almira H.
Sep 10 1884		Moved to Loyton in Conejos County

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BLAINVALE

BOWEN

Other than its location, nothing is known about the Bowen Post Office in Rio Grande County. It was located on the western fringe of the San Luis Valley twelve miles south of Monte Vista. Based on that location, it was most likely a farm or ranch post office and not an organized community. It is also possible that it was a stage stop on the road from Monte Vista to Capulin.

From Monte Vista drive twelve and one-half miles south to Twelvemile Road at the Rio Grande-Conejos County line. Bowen was in the northeast quadrant of this intersection. There are no visible remnants at that location.

Chronology of the Post Office

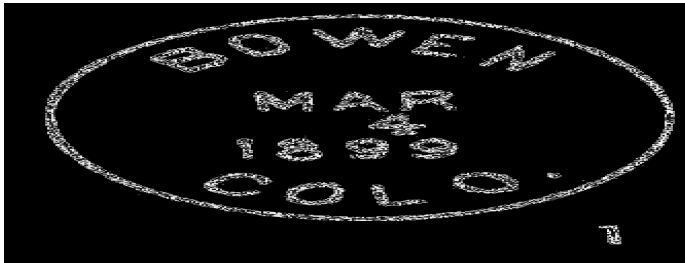
Sep 27 1886	---	SE/4 Sec 31 T37N R8E 14 miles south of the Rio Grande 3 miles south of Cat Creek Name proposed as VALLEY VIEW Bowen substituted Proposed postmaster - Thomas Rosebrough
Feb 9 1887		Rosebrough, Thomas
Dec 23 1889		Faus, S. A.
Mar 1 1890		Rosebrough, James H.
Jul 15 1890		Rosebrough, Elmore
Feb 17 1899		Rosebrough, James H.
Aug 14 1901		Crooks, Austin

BOWEN – Continued

Sep 23 1901 Ordered closed
Sep 30 1901 Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | BOWEN / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Target | Dec 5 1893 Nov 28 1899 |
| 2 | BOWEN / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring | May 10 1901 |



CORNWALL

Cornwall was an early mining camp on the upper reaches of the Alamosa River. The first discoveries were made in 1879. The name of the community has been attributed to an early prospector, John Cornwall who, it has been claimed, was the postmaster. His name does not appear in the Records of Postmaster Appointments. Other sources state that some of the early prospectors were from Cornwall, England and hence the name of the community,

Another small controversy revolves around the location of Cornwall with relation to its successor – Jasper. It seems most likely that they were not the identical location but they were close enough that within three years, Cornwall was absorbed into Jasper and the post office moved to Jasper.

The remnants of the community of Jasper are in the southwest quarter of Section 29. It appears that Cornwall was in the southeast corner of Section 30, less than half mile to the west. To reach this location from Colorado Highway 285 a short distance north of La Jara, drive west on Colorado Highway 15 through Capulin to where it becomes Conejos County Road X. This road follows the Alamosa River into the mountains, passing the Terrace Reservoir and eventually becoming Forest Service Road 250. It is twenty-four miles from Capulin to Jasper.

Several of the old log buildings have been renovated for summer cabins. There are others that are in ruins. Added to the community is a railroad caboose that has been brought in and converted to a summer cabin.

The road continues on beyond Cornwall/Jasper. To Jasper it is a good gravel road. At the western edge of the community it fords a stream and although it continues on towards Stunner I believe it should be driven only with a four-wheel vehicle.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 11 1879 --- Unsurveyed On the north side of the Alamosa River 1 mile east of Bitter Creek
- Oct 31 1879 Established
- Oct 31 1879 Jones, James W.
- Sep 28 1880 Gibson, Andrew P.
- May 26 1881 Moody, Frank E.
- Aug 15 1882 --- Easterly direction of Sec 30 or 32 in T37N R5E of NM PM [New Mexico Principal Meridian]
1/8 mile north of Alamosa River 1/4 mile east of Bitter Creek
Sketch map places in common corner of Sec 30 & 32
- Nov 20 1882 Moved to Jasper

CORNWALL – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**1 **CORNWALL / COLO.**

CI 10P 28.0

Mar 18 1882

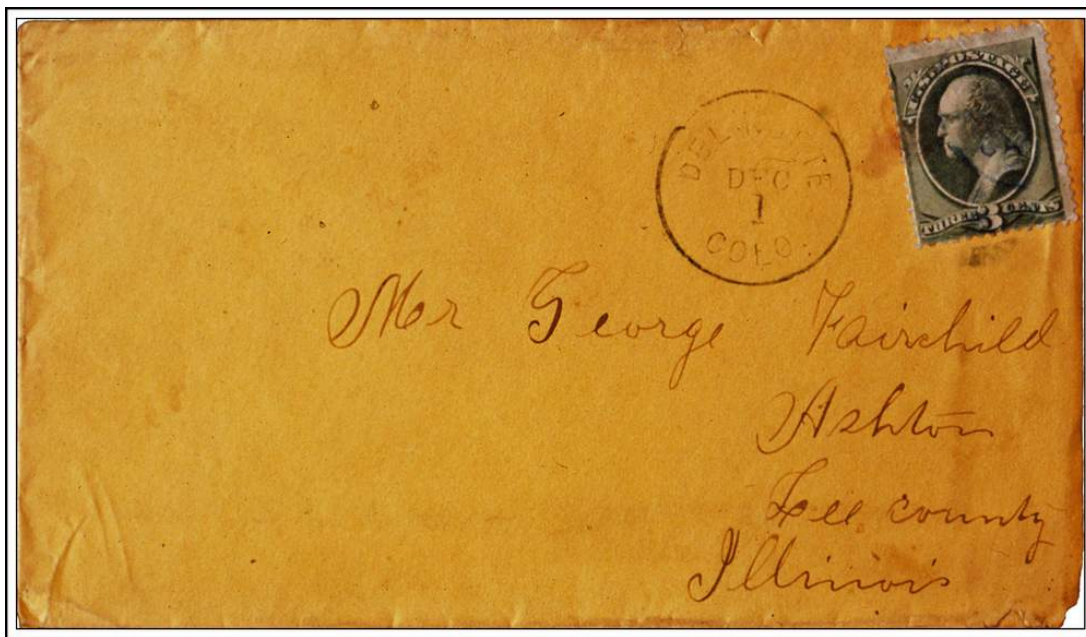
Hstp Target, 4-ring

**DEL NORTE**

Del Norte began in 1870 as a supply point for the surrounding area. In the spring of 1871 a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing a town development company. The Gredig Ranch was chosen as the site and given the name Del Norte. The name Del Norte was taken from the river on which it is located – “El Rio Grande Del Norte”, the great river of the north. By 1874 the town had become the gateway to the newly developing mining districts in the San Juan Mountains.

At first Del Norte consisted of two neighboring settlements – Del Norte and West Del Norte. Del Norte and West Del Norte were situated on the southern side of the Rio Grande River, opposite the earlier settlement of Loma. The two towns soon grew together to become a single community. Following the Brunot Treaty of 1873 that opened the San Juan Mountains to mining, Del Norte rapidly developed as a business, social and financial center and as a major source of supplies. The Barlow and Sanderson Stagecoach and Express Company had a large business and warehouse operation at Del Norte.

By 1873 the newer settlement of Del Norte dominated the area and the post office at Loma was moved to Del Norte, taking the new name. Six months later a post office was reopened at Loma but it lasted only two more years.

**DEL NORTE / COLO.****December 1, 1875**

DEL NORTE – Continued

With the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad, Del Norte assumed importance as a shipping point for ore from the mines and for livestock and produce from the surrounding ranches.

Del Norte was never a mining town. As mining in the San Juans slowly declined, the relationship with and the importance of the surrounding ranches and farms increased. In recent years recreational activities have played an important part in the economy of Del Norte.

On February 10, 1874 the Colorado Territorial Legislature created Rio Grande County and designated Del Norte to be the county seat; a position it has held ever since. That prominent position has helped to support the businesses of Del Norte.

Del Norte is located on US Highway 160 between Monte Vista and South Fork.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 28 1873	Moved from Loma	
Jan 28 1873	Breen, Michael	
Aug 18 1873	Maynard, Spencer	
Apr 20 1874	Newman, Charles	
Feb 1 1876	Newman, Charles	P&S [Apptd. by President & confirmed by Senate]
Apr 9 1879	Corcoran, William C.	P&S
Aug 8 1879	---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 30 T40N R6E NM PM
		400 feet south of the Rio Grande River (Loma)
Apr 5 1883	Corcoran, William C.	P
Dec 20 1883	Corcoran, William C.	P&S
Oct 5 1885	Hathaway, Charles C.	P
Jan 12 1886	Hathaway, Charles C.	P&S
Jul 11 1888	Hathaway, Charles C.	P&S
Dec 18 1888	Thomas, Samuel A.	P&S
Aug 13 1890	Thomas, Samuel A.	P&S
Apr 4 1892	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T40N R6E
Aug 3 1894	Jones, Edward	P&S
Oct 21 1895	Wedon, Edward E.	P
Dec 19 1895	Wedon, Edward E.	P&S
Aug 5 1896	---	T40N R6E
May 28 1898	Wilson, John H.	P&S
Jun 2 1902	Wilson, John H.	P&S
May 7 1906	Thomas, Frank B.	P&S
May 19 1910	Hall, Robert C.	P&S
May 6 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T40N R6N NM PM
May 18 1914	Tandy, Robert W.	P&S
Sep 5 1914	Tandy, Robert W.	P&S
Dec 4 1922	Cochran, William H.	P&S
Dec 14 1925	Cochran, William H.	P&S
Dec 18 1930	Cochran, William H.	Confirmed
May 21 1935	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Nominated
Jun 4 1935	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Confirmed
Jun 7 1935	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 27 1935	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Commissioned
Jun 22 1937	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Nominated
Jun 29 1937	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Confirmed
Jul 27 1937	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Appointed Presidential
Aug 21 1937	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Commissioned
Jun 22 1939	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Nominated
Jun 29 1939	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Confirmed
Aug 1 1939	Weiss, Mrs. Nina M.	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 30 T40N R6E NM PM
Oct 15 1945	Ruark, James Rice	Acting

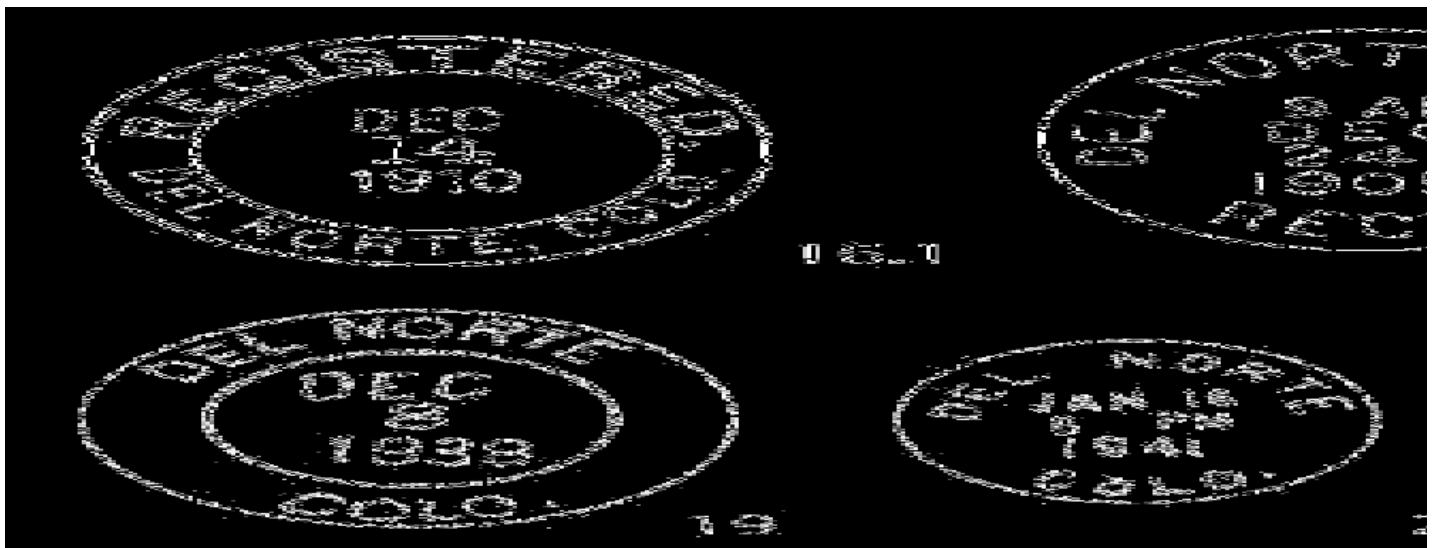
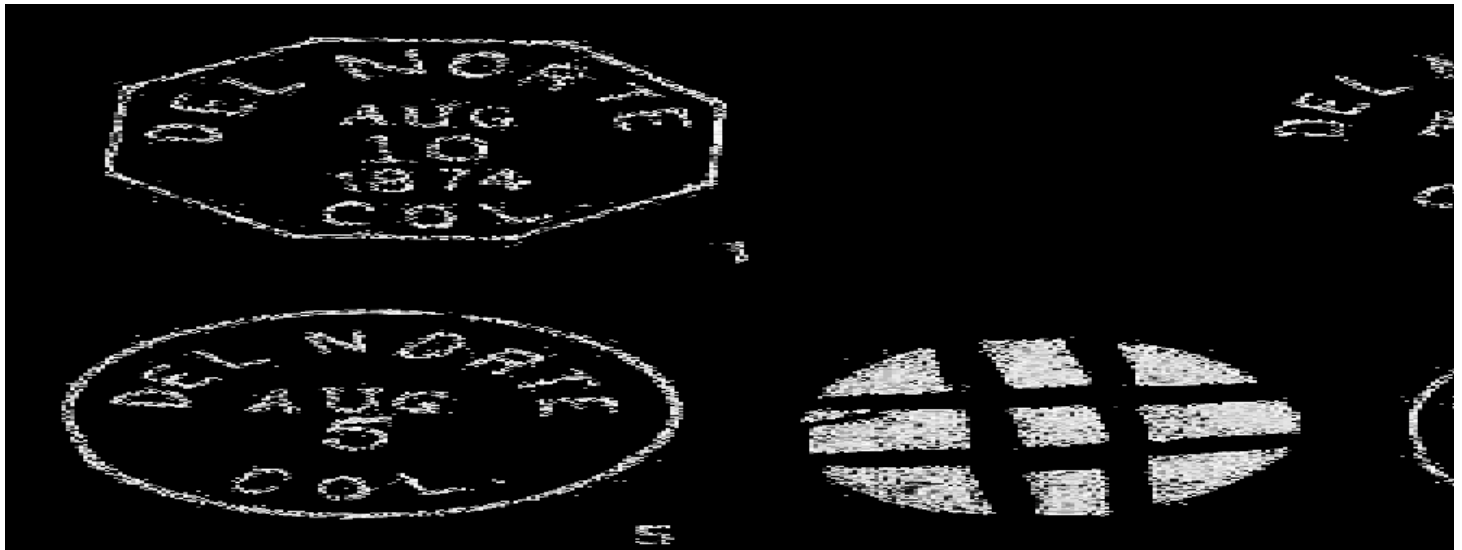
DEL NORTE – Continued

Oct 16 1945	Ruark, James Rice	Assumed charge
Nov 15 1946	Duncan, Floyd R.	Acting
Nov 16 1946	Duncan, Floyd R.	Assumed charge
Apr 7 1947	Duncan, Floyd R.	Nominated
Jul 11 1947	Duncan, Floyd R.	Confirmed
Jul 14 1947	Duncan, Floyd R.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Oct 1 1947	Duncan, Floyd R.	Assumed charge
May 26 1972	Finnigan, Philip K.	Officer in charge
Feb 17 1973	Meehl, Louis W.	Appointed
Jul 3 1975	Martinez, Jose	Officer in charge
Oct 25 1975	Dunn, Kenith W.	Appointed
Nov 30 1979	Degolyer, James	Officer in charge
Apr 5 1980	Haller, Charles R.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	DEL NORTE / COL. OC 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Aug 10 1874
2	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 00R 21.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge; Target 4-ring	Jul 25 1874 Feb 15 1875
3	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, Double grid, Negative X-roads	Mar 23 1874 Aug 21 1877
4	DEL NORTE, Colo. / M.O.B. CI 10P 29.0	Hstp No killer	Jan 20 1877
5	DEL NORTE / COL. CI 10P 25.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 18mm; Cork, smudge, hobnail, negative double bar X-roads	Aug 5 1877 Aug 5 1879 Jan 17 1881 Feb 14 1889
6	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Dec 2 1882 Feb 11 1883
7	DEL NORTE / COLORADO / REGISTERED / W. H. Cochran, P. M. RC 10P 31.0x31.0	Hstp No killer, on registry card	Jul 28 1885 Aug 13 1889
8	DEL NORTE / COL. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge; Fancy, Maltese Cross	Sep 26 1890
9	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not recorded	Dec 24 1891 Oct -- 1892
10	DEL NORTE, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Mar 11 1893 Nov 24 1894
11	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Mar 23 1894 Dec 12 1896
12	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads	May 15 1894
12.1	DEL NORTE, COLO. // REGISTERED SL 00R 48.0x19.00	Hstp No killer	Mar 16 1898 Apr 24 1899
13	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Jul 31 1899
14	DEL NORTE, COLO. // REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jan 22 1901 Aug 1 1908
15	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	May 25 1901 Apr 30 1927
16	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Dec 14 1910
16.1	DEL NORTE, COLO. // REGESTERED. CI 11P 30.0/21.0	Hstp No killer	Dec 24 1905 Feb 7 1912
16.2	DEL NORTE, COLO. / REC'D CI 10P 29.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 4 1935
17	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Dplx Grid, Oval with circle and 1	

DEL NORTE – Continued



DEL NORTE – Continued

18	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond	Oct 15 1937 Aug 22 1966 with 1
19	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Dec 8 1939
20	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Jan 16 1941 Jan 5 1966
20.1	DEL NORTE / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 29 1958
21	DEL NORTE, COLO. / USPO CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 25 1972
22	DEL NORTE, CO / 81132 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 27 1967 Apr 2 1976
23	DEL NORTE, CO / 81132 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Apr 11 1966 May 21 1990
23.1	DEL NORTE, CO / 81132 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 4 1973
24	DEL NORTE CO / 81132 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x17mm	Feb 27 1995
25	DEL NORTE CO 81132 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 10 1999
26	DEL NORTE CO / 81132 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x16mm	May 10 1999



AUXILIARY MARKINGS

A1	ADVERTISED CI 10P 22.0	---	1876
A2	RETURNED / TO / WRITER IR 00R 36.0X18.0	Aux	On 1876 letter from Lake City
		Aux	Pointing Hand On 1876 letter from Lake City



DEL NORTE – Continued

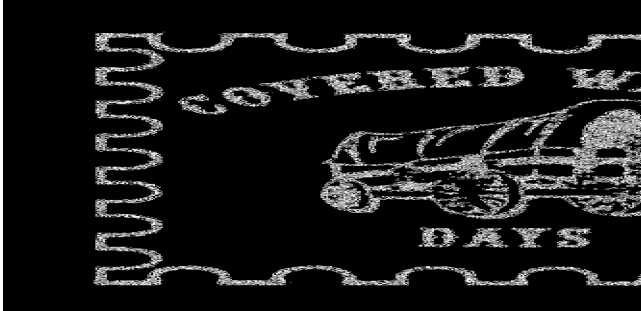
COVERED WAGON DAYS STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 5 2005 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Del Norte, CO 81132 // COVERED WAGON / DAYS / STATION Aug 5 2005
IR 00R 66.0x33.0 Pict Scene - Covered Wagon; Text - FOLLOW THE
DUSTY TRAIL; Date reads Aug 5 7



ELWOOD

Elwood was located west of the Continental Divide near the head of the San Juan River and close to the summit of Elwood Pass (12,000 feet). This was on what at first was a military trail from the Rio Grande into southwestern Colorado. It became a wagon road connecting to Pagosa Springs but was made largely obsolete by the completion of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad to Durango and Silverton.

From some very brief discussions of Elwood, there may have been a small community. It is interesting to note that the only postmaster at Elwood was Robert Young and that he served both during the first period of operation (1882-1883) and again when the office was reopened from 1895 to 1899. Apparently there was enough happening in and around Elwood for him to remain for seventeen years.

Perry Eberhart in *Guide to the Colorado Ghost Towns and Mining Camps* attributes the name to a prospector who in 1879 made the first discoveries in the area. He was named T. L. Woodvale – “L.Wood”. Curious, if it is true.

USGS maps do show a “road” over Elwood Pass and then continuing down Elwood Creek towards Pagosa Springs. I suspect that if there is a road, it is one for the most adventurous and I doubt that anything remains, if the location of Elwood can be determined with any accuracy.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 7 1882 --- Unsurveyed Bowenton five miles southwesterly Summitville 10 miles northeasterly
On the east side of the east fork of the San Juan River
A sketch map shows it in NE/4 Sec 31 T37N R3E.
Proposed postmaster - Robert Young

Sep 18 1882 Established

Sep 18 1882 Young, Robert

Oct 5 1883 Discontinued Papers to Summitville

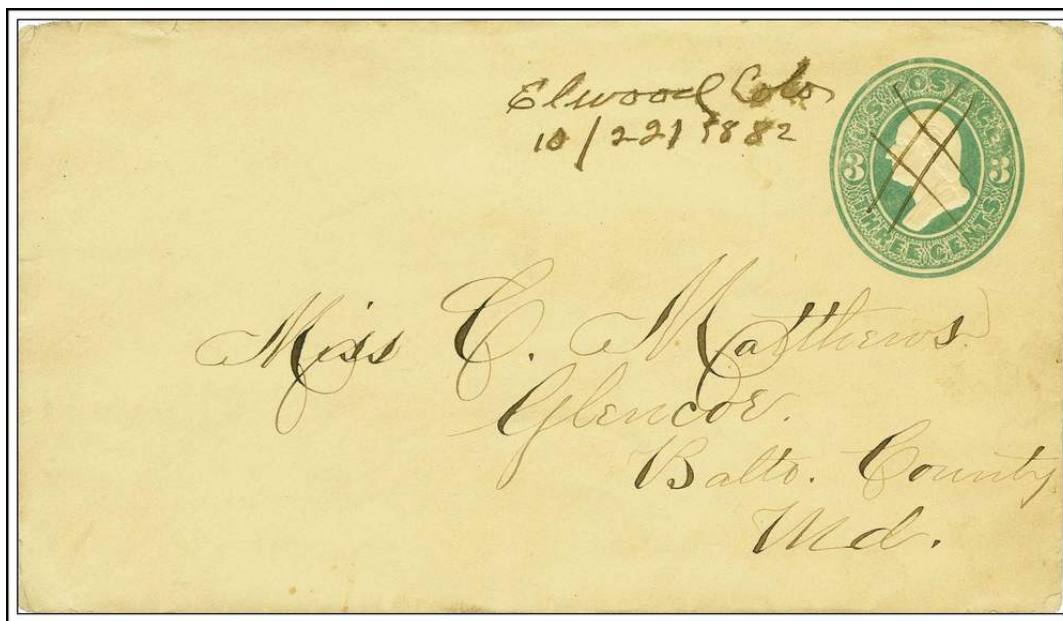
Jun 24 1895 --- SE/4 Sec 31 T37N R3E 1/2 mile east of the San Juan River
Summitville 10 miles northeast Pagosa Springs 6 miles southwest
Sketch map shows it in SW/4 of Sec 31
Proposed postmaster - Davis P. Hatch

Oct 2 1895 Re-established

Oct 2 1895 Young, Robert

Aug 16 1899 Discontinued Papers to Summitville

ELWOOD – Continued



Elwood Colo

October 22, 1882

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Elwood Colo.
MS

Oct 22 1882

Mscp Pen cancel



GRANGER

An entry in the *Rogers File* of the Colorado Historical Society describes Granger as a stop on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in Sections 24 & 25 of Township 40 North, Range 4 East. [SRM: The 1936 Colorado Highway Map of Rio Grande County shows a Granger with multiple buildings in Sections 26-27 next to the railroad tracks.]

This location is eight miles west of Del Norte and six miles east of South Fork by way of US Highway 160. At that point there is a farm road to the north towards the Rio Grande River. There is a large ranch there with mostly modern buildings. There is also a smaller ranch with an older building.

It seems possible that the site of Granger was a railroad siding and livestock shipping point but that there was no real need for a post office and hence after three months, the establishment was rescinded.

More information about Granger would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

No entry was found in the Geographic Site Location Reports for Rio Grande County.

Oct 14 1902	Established
Oct 14 1902	Ewing, John Jr.
Jan 12 1903	Establishment rescinded

GRANGER – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GRANGER



**Overview, looking north from US Highway 160, of the ranch complex at the probable site of
Granger**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

May 10, 1999

HENRY

The first settlement at this location was known as Lariat. It was established in 1881 as a water tank and small shipping point for cattle when the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad built west from Alamosa to Del Norte.

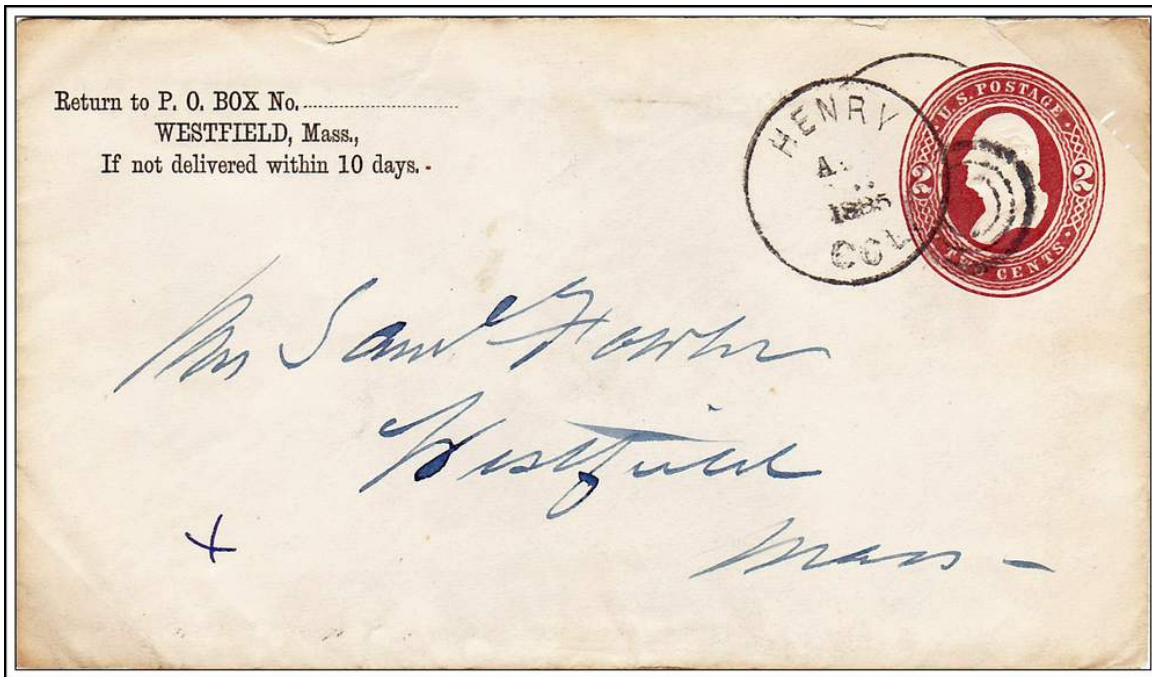
In 1884 the Colorado Loan and Investment Company headed by T. C. Henry of Denver acquired the land and platted a townsite. The townsite may have been first called Lariat but the name was soon changed to Henry in honor of T. C. Henry.

T. C. Henry was an empire builder in both Kansas and Colorado. He did much to develop the San Luis Valley but in 1886 when Mr. Henry could not meet his financial obligations, the company assumed responsibility for many of his properties and the town of Henry was renamed Monte Vista.

Lariat/Henry/Monte Vista is on US Highway 160 between Alamosa and Del Norte. The locations for all three post offices that were reported to the Post Office Department, all fall within the same quarter section in what is now the central portion of Monte Vista.

Please refer to the discussions of Lariat and Monte Vista for the previous and subsequent history of this place.

HENRY – Continued



HENRY / COL.

August 26, 1885

Chronology of the Post Office

No separate entry was found in the Geographic Site Location Reports for Rio Grande County. See Lariat and Monte Vista.

- Apr 16 1884 Formerly named Lariat
- Apr 16 1884 Fassett, Mrs. Lillie L.
- Feb 18 1886 Name changed to Monte Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 HENRY / COL.
CI 10P 27.0

Mar 23 1885 Oct 12 1885
Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm



HOMELAKE

In 1890 the Town of Monte Vista donated land near Stanger Lake to be used for the establishment of the State Soldiers and Sailors Home. The first buildings were opened in November 1891 and dedicated to veterans of the Civil War.

In 1965 the Colorado Legislature passed an act that changed the name to Colorado State Veterans Center. Originally the facility was intended to offer a residence and care for indigent veterans. It has been expanded to provide additional services for all United States military veterans.

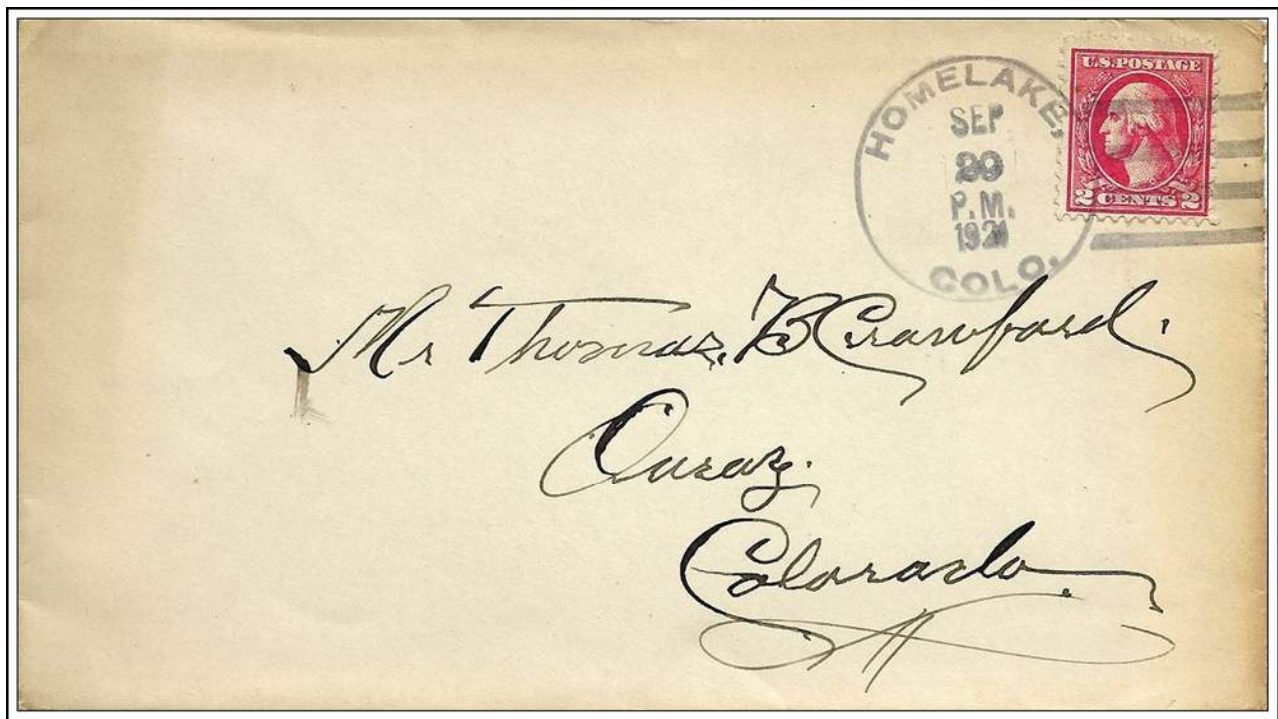
HOMELAKE – Continued

Eventually the Center became popularly known as Homelake, a combination of the facility name with the nearby “lake.” When a post office opened it took the name Homelake. Stanger Lake has also adopted the name of Home Lake. The facility has now been serving United States veterans for more than 100 years.

From US Highway 160 about three miles east of Monte Vista, drive north one mile on Rio Grande County Road 3E. The site and the lake are on the south side of the Rio Grande River. The complex of buildings that make up the Veterans Center are impressive and attractive.

Home Lake was originally an independent post office. In 1965 it became a Rural Branch of Monte Vista and is now classified as a Community Post Office.

Latitude = 37:34:32 North Longitude = 106:05:47 West



HOMELAKE, / COLO.

September 29, 1921

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 7 1918	---	SE/4 Sec 33 T39N R8E	
Feb 11 1919		Established	
Feb 11 1919		Moffitt, John L.	
Nov 20 1920	---	SW/4 Sec 34 T39N R8E	Old Soldiers & Sailors Home
		Applicant for Postmaster - John L. Moffitt	
Jun 2 1921		Bull, Helene G.	
May 15 1922		Rogers, Walter A.	
Aug 8 1922		Moffitt, John L.	
Mar 30 1923		Voris, James G.	Acting
Oct 29 1923		Voris, James G.	Appointed
Jun 10 1925		Dunlap, Albert C.	Acting
Jul 28 1925		Dunlap, Albert C.	Appointed
Oct 2 1928		Dorr, Florence O.	Acting
Nov 12 1928		Dorr, Florence O.	Confirmed

HOMELAKE – Continued

Dec 21 1928	Dorr, Florence O.	Commissioned
Dec 26 1928	Dorr, Florence O.	Assumed charge
Jan 25 1932	Turner, Burl E.	Assumed charge
Feb 1 1932	Turner, Burl E.	Acting
May 4 1932	Turner, Burl E.	Confirmed
May 18 1932	Turner, Burl E.	Commissioned
May 23 1932	Turner, Burl E.	Assumed charge
Oct 22 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 33 T39N R8E	
Jun 30 1945	Baker, Mrs. Margaret W.	Assumed charge
Jul 12 1945	Baker, Mrs. Margaret Wells	Acting
May 5 1946	Baker, Mrs. Margaret W.	Commissioned
May 17 1946	Baker, Mrs. Margaret W.	Confirmed
Jun 8 1946	Baker, Mrs. Margaret W.	Assumed charge
Feb 1 1954	Ordered closed Effective Mar 15 1954 Mail to Monte Vista	
Mar 9 1954	Modified Effective date Apr 15 1954 Mail to Monte Vista	
Mar 30 1954	Discontinuance order rescinded	
Sep 23 1965	Grise, Mrs. Sybil	Acting
Sep 29 1965	Grise, Mrs. Sybil	Assumed charge
Nov 19 1965	Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista	
Dec 3 1965	Modified to become a Rural Station of Monte Vista	
Dec 4 1965	Converted to a Rural Station of Monte Vista Now a Community Post Office	

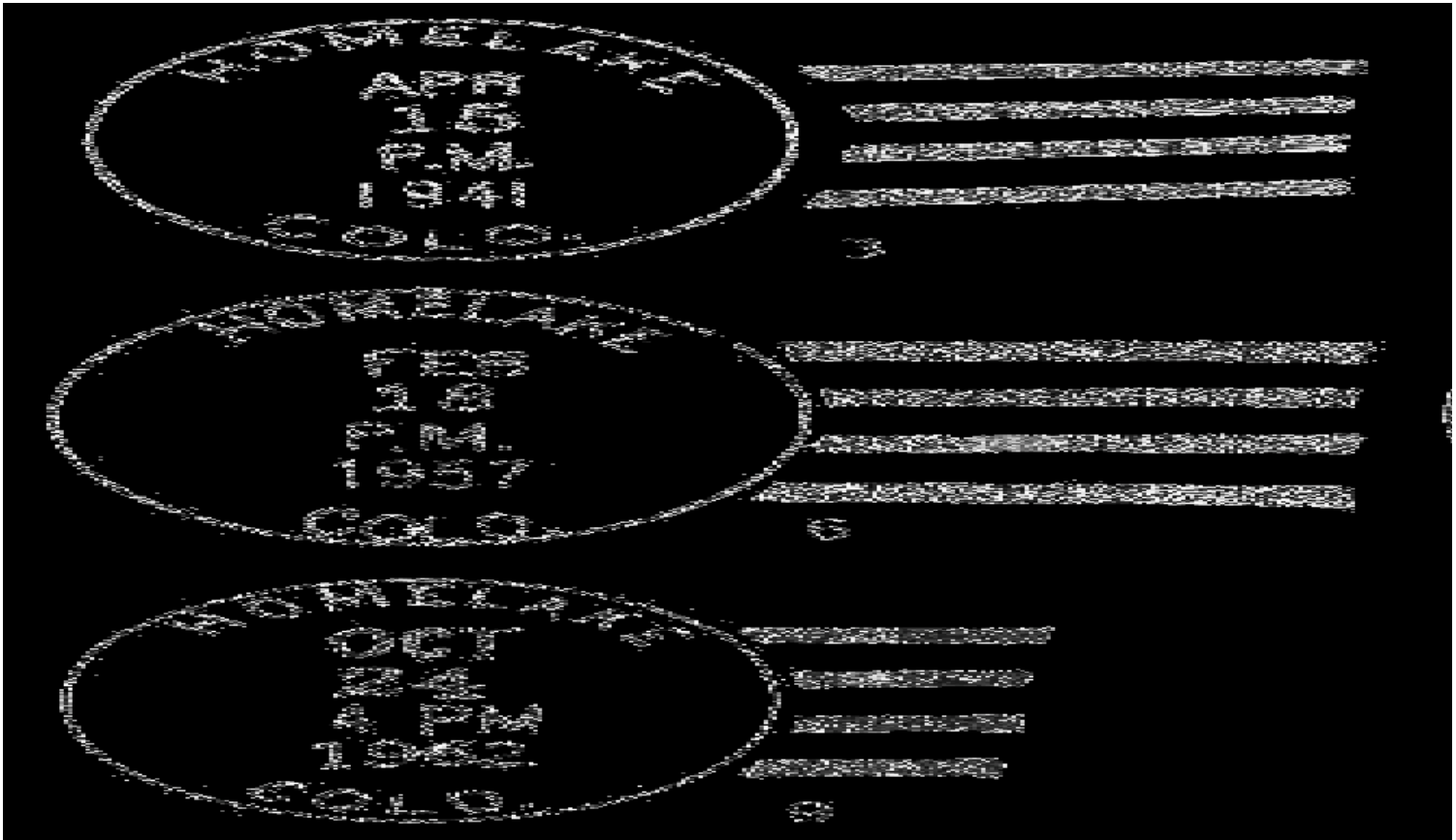
Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HOMELAKE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 29 1921 Jul 26 1922
2	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 5 1931 Mar 8 1937
2.1	HOMELAKE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 8 1939
3	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 15 1941 Jul 10 1943
4	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 1 1941 Mar 1 1951
5	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Sep 10 1948 Mar 15 1954
6	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-27x21mm	Feb 18 1957
7	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 6 1960
8	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 6 1959 Feb 19 1962
9	HOMELAKE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 24 1962
10	HOMELAKE, CO / 81135 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 19 1965 Nov 26 1991

Note: Use of Type 10 Continued after conversion to a rural Branch of Monte Vista



HOMELAKE – Continued



JASPER

Mineral discoveries – gold and silver – were made near the junction of Burnt and Spring Creeks with the Alamosa River. The discoveries may have been as early as 1874 or 1875 but by 1879 there was sufficient activity that a community named Cornwall was in existence and had obtained a post office.

The remote location, and perhaps lower than desirable ore values, slowed the growth of the settlement. However, there was enough activity for a second community to come into existence in close proximity to Cornwall. For some reason this second community, Jasper, was more successful and soon absorbed Cornwall and the post office was moved to Jasper.

Because of the difficult transportation problems, the mines at Jasper were never exploited to their possible potential. As the mining ceased, the area along the Alamosa River became known for excellent fishing and a new economy, based on recreational activities, developed. There was sufficient activity to continue the post office until 1927.

To reach this location, start from Colorado Highway 285 a short distance north of La Jara, drive west on Colorado Highway 15 through Capulin, to where it becomes Conejos County Road X. This road follows the Alamosa River into the mountains, passing the Terrace Reservoir and eventually becoming Forest Service Road 250. It is twenty-four miles from Capulin to Jasper.

Several of the old log buildings have been renovated for summer cabins. There are others that are in ruins. Added to the community is a railroad caboos that has been brought in and converted to a summer home.

JASPER – Continued

The road continues on beyond Cornwall/Jasper. To Jasper it is a good gravel road. At the western edge of the community it fords a stream and although it continues on towards Stunner I suspect it should be driven only with a four-wheel drive vehicle.

Latitude = 37:25:04 North Longitude = 106:27:43 West



JASPER / COLO.

August 6, 1889

Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | |
|--------------|----|--|
| Apr 5 1883 | -- | Unsurveyed 1/5 mile north of Alamosa Creek (River)
Located on the old Government road to Fort Lewis |
| Nov 20 1882 | | Moved from Cornwall |
| Nov 20 1882 | | Moody, Frank E. |
| Aug 6 1887 | | Mills, Marcus A. |
| Oct 12 1894 | | Boggs, George B. |
| Dec 31 1896 | | Wolfe, David E. |
| Oct 28 1899 | | Moody, Clara |
| Dec 9 1901 | | Shaw, Charles P. |
| Dec 22 1903 | | Nichols, E. |
| Apr 4 1904 | | Michener, Clark |
| Dec 10 1908 | | Hook, George W. |
| Jul 30 1910 | | Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista |
| Feb 28 1913 | -- | SW/4 Sec 29 T37N R5E 50 yards north of Alamosa Creek 1/2 mile west of Spring Creek
The sketch map shows Stunner on north side of Alamosa River where road from Platoro crosses river. Jasper is 6-7 miles downstream from Stunner
Applicant for postmaster - Laura Johnson |
| Jun 25 1913 | | Re-established |
| Jun 25 1913 | | Moody, Horace J. |
| Jul 14 1916 | | Moody, Clarence A. |
| Feb 18 1918 | | Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista |
| Mar 29 1920 | -- | SW/4 Sec 29 T37N R5E 1/4 mile north of the Alamosa River
Applicant for postmaster - George W. Hook |
| May 11, 1920 | | Re-established |
| May 11 1920 | | Hook, George W. |

Order rescinded Apr 2, 1904

JASPER – Continued

Jan 22 1927 Ordered closed
Feb 15 1927 Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Jasper | | Aug 16 1887 |
| | MS | Mscp pen cancel | |
| 2 | JASPER / COLO. | | Aug 6 1889 Sep 7 1901 |
| | CI 10P 27.5 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm | |
| 3 | JASPER. / COLO. | | Jun 23 1910 Sep 27 1916 |
| | CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-24x19mm | |



LARIAT

Lariat came into existence with the construction of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad from Alamosa to Del Norte. Lariat is a modification of the Spanish *la reata*, a noosed rope used to catch livestock. At first it was a water tank. The beginnings of a town are attributed to the arrival of Lillian L. Taylor, and subsequently her mother, Mrs. Sillsbee. They built a home and ran a store from the building. Lillian Taylor (later Mrs. Lillian Fassett) was a postmaster for Lariat but not the first; therefore it is probable that the Lariat Post Office was in operation before her arrival.



LARIAT / COLO.

March 31, 1884

LARIAT – Continued

In 1884 the owners of the Empire Farm Company and the Empire Canal Company platted a town that included the site of Lariat. This development took the name of Henry for Denverite T. C. Henry who was the head of the corporation developing the area. The post office name was changed from Lariat to Henry. Subsequently it would be changed again, to Monte Vista.

Lariat/Henry/Monte Vista is on US Highway 160 between Alamosa and Del Norte. The locations for all three post offices, that were reported to the Post Office Department, all fall within the same quarter section in what is now the central portion of Monte Vista.

Please refer to the discussions of Henry and Monte Vista for additional and subsequent history of this place.

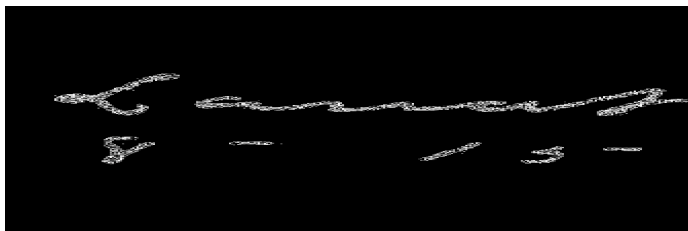
Latitude = 37:35:24 North Longitude = 106:11:59 West LARIAT CEMETERY

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 18 1881	---	SW/4 Sec 31 T39N R8E On north side of RR at Station Lariat
		Proposed postmaster - Henry G. Henderson
Aug 5 1881		Established
Aug 5 1881		Henderson, Henry G.
Jan 24 1882		Taylor, Mrs. Lillie L.
Nov 13 1882		Fassett, Mrs. Lillie L.
Apr 16 1884		Name changed to Henry

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Lariat Colo		Aug 15 1882
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
2	LARIAT / COLO.		Mar 31 1884 Dec 30 1884
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	

**LIBERTY**

In 1887 the name of the Parma Post Office was changed to Liberty. I have not found any reason why the change was made. The Liberty Post Office lasted only until 1898 when it was discontinued. Eight years later, when a new post office opened in the area, a short distance to the north, it took the older name of Parma.

During its brief existence Liberty was a ranch post office at a siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The siding probably served as a shipping point for livestock and produce from the surrounding ranches and farms.

Please refer to the discussion of Parma for more information and directions to the location of Liberty.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 10 1885	---	SE/4 Sec 13 T38N R8E 110 feet north of D&RG Railroad (Parma)
		Proposed postmaster - James Goodlander

LIBERTY – Continued

Mar 20 1886	Goodlander, James
Oct 11 1887	Formerly named Parma
Oct 11 1887	Cyle, William O.
Apr 30 1898	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	LIBERTY / COLO.	Aug 13 1894
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer



LOMA

The earliest settlement in the area of present day Del Norte was known as Loma. It is believed that it was first settled by a group of families from Santa Fe, Ojo Caliente and Conejos who may have come to the site as early as 1859. The original name was “La Loma de San Jose,” La Loma referring to the rise of ground on which it was located.

By the mid-1860’s the settlement had grown sufficiently to warrant a post office. At the time Loma was the westernmost settlement on the Rio Grande and was supplying early exploration and prospecting of the Ute Territory of the San Juan Mountains.

In January 1873 the Loma Post Office closed and was moved across the river to Del Norte. On July 23 a new Loma Post Office opened and a plat for the town of Loma was filed July 29, 1874.

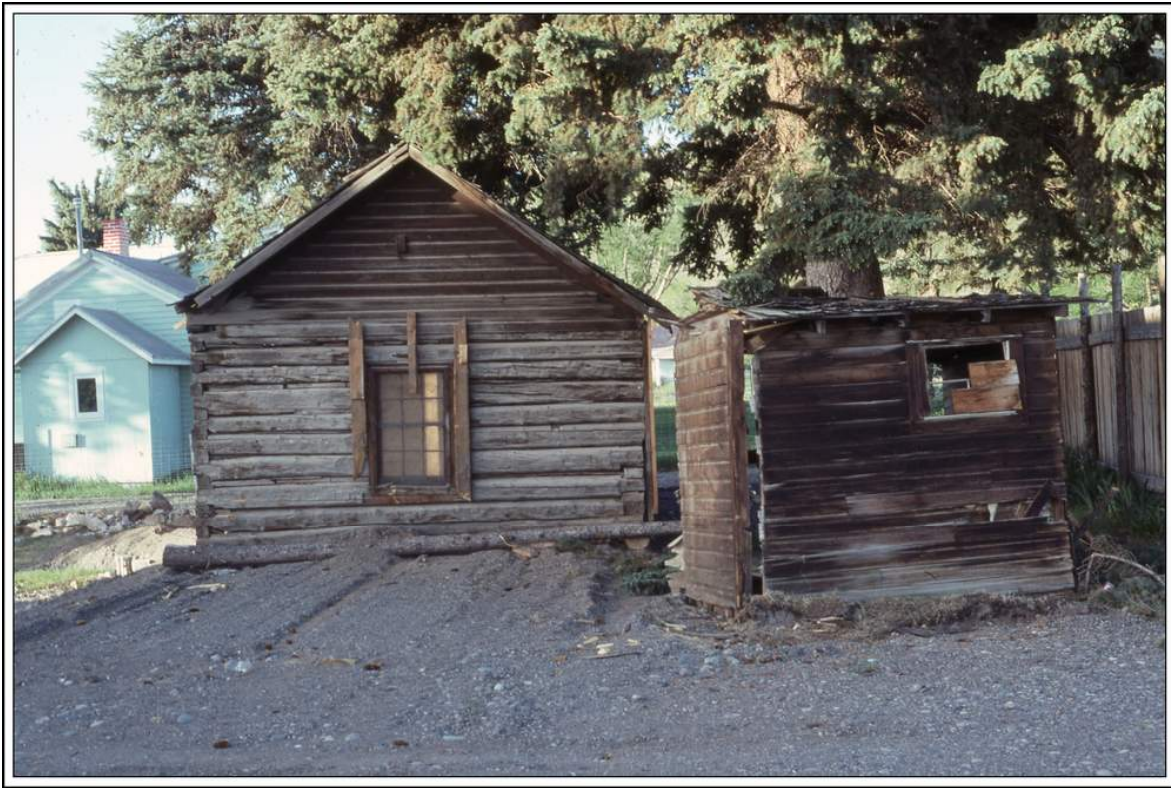
As the interest in the San Juan Mountain mining prospects increased, the influx of Anglo settlers grew. Most of them settled on the south side of the river, across from the site of Loma. By 1875 the new settlement of Del Norte had become dominant and most of the activity moved across the river to Del Norte.

The 1873 Geographic Site Location Report places Loma about a mile north of the Rio Grande and to the northeast of Del Norte. From Del Norte drive north across the river on Colorado Highway 112 and continue to Rio Grande Road 9. Turn west a short distance. Loma was in the area west of Highway 112. In 1999 the area was one of open fields and scattered farmsteads. Most of the buildings were of recent construction but there was one old two-story log building.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 1 1867	Established
Apr 1 1867	Lawrence, John
Aug 5 1867	Gredig, John B.
Jan 21 1868	Alarid, Luis C.
Mar 25 1869 ---	Unsurveyed 1 mile west of the Rio Grande
Jun 10 1871	Ingersoll, George U.
Oct 15 1872	Breen, Michael
Jan 28 1873	Moved to Del Norte
Jul 2 1873 ---	NE/4 Sec 20 T40N R6E 1-1/2 miles north of the Rio Grande del Norte
Jul 23 1873	Reopened as Loma
Jul 23 1873	Pollock, Thomas
Jan 30 1874	Dyers, Albert
Jul 22 1875	Discontinued

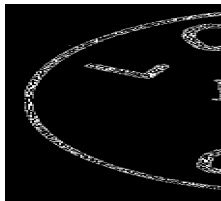
LOMA – Continued



Old Loma Post Office Building – Del Norte, Colorado
Photograph by William H. Bauer May 10, 1999

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	LOMA / COL CI 10P 24.5	Hstp Cork smudge	Dec 3 1872
---	---------------------------	------------------	------------



MONTE VISTA

The initial settlement at this location began in 1881 with the arrival of the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. It was known as Lariat. In 1884 the townsite was platted by the Colorado Loan and Investment Company and renamed Henry for T. C. Henry, the head of that company. In 1886 Mr. Henry could not meet his financial obligations and full ownership of the townsite passed to the company. The town was then renamed Monte Vista.

At first the settlement was a water tank on the railroad and a shipping point for livestock. When the Colorado Loan and Investment Company acquired a good portion of the surrounding countryside and the land for the townsite, the focus shifted from ranching to farming. Irrigation systems were developed and potatoes became the principal crop in this area and in much of the San Luis Valley.

MONTE VISTA – Continued

The name Monte Vista means, “Mountain View.” A more correct version of the Spanish origin would be, “Vista del Monte.”

The town of Monte Vista was incorporated on September 27, 1886 and the Monte Vista Town and Land Company filed a new town plat. Monte Vista developed as a center for farming and it was also the shipping point for livestock and ore from the Conejos Mining District to the south.

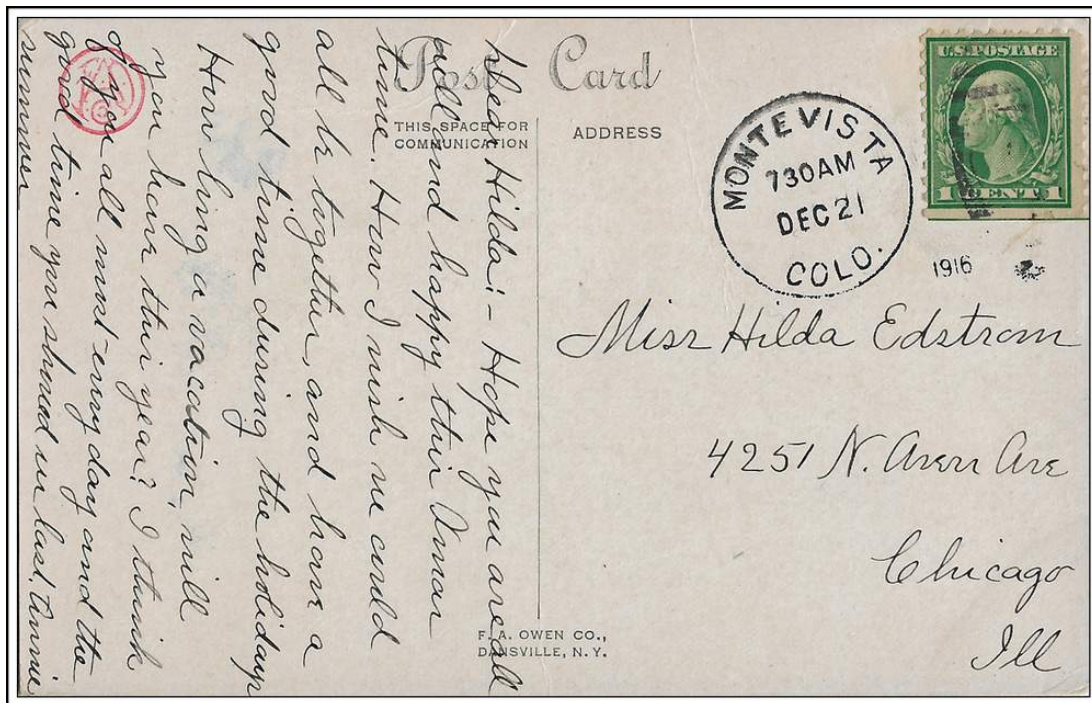
The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad served the town. In addition, the San Luis Central Railroad was constructed from Monte Vista to Center to provide transportation for the farmers in the central portion of the San Luis Valley.

Monte Vista is a significant town on the western edge of the San Luis Valley, serving ranchers and farmers as well as travelers along US Highway 160.

Lariat/Henry/Monte Vista is on US Highway 160 between Alamosa and Del Norte. The locations that were reported to the Post Office Department, for all three post offices, all fall within the same quarter section in what is now the central portion of Monte Vista.

Please refer to the discussions of Henry and Lariat for the previous history of this place.

Latitude = 37:34:45 North Longitude = 106:08:51 West



MONTE VISTA / COLO.

December 21, 1916

Chronology of the Post Office

- | | | | |
|-------------|----|--|----------------------------------|
| Jul 18 1881 | -- | SW/4 Sec 31 T39N R8E On north side of RR at Station Lariat | |
| | | Proposed postmaster - Henry G. Henderson (Lariat) | |
| Feb 18 1886 | | Formerly named Henry | |
| Feb 18 1886 | | Fassett, Mrs. Lillie L. | |
| Jan 6 1887 | | Heilman, John B. | |
| Feb 28 1887 | -- | SW/4 Sec 31 T39N R8E 700 feet west of D&RG (southwest by the sketch map) | |
| Nov 21 1888 | | Jones, Edward B. | Appointment rescinded Dec 6 1888 |
| Feb 1 1889 | | Heilman, John B. | P&S |

MONTE VISTA – Continued

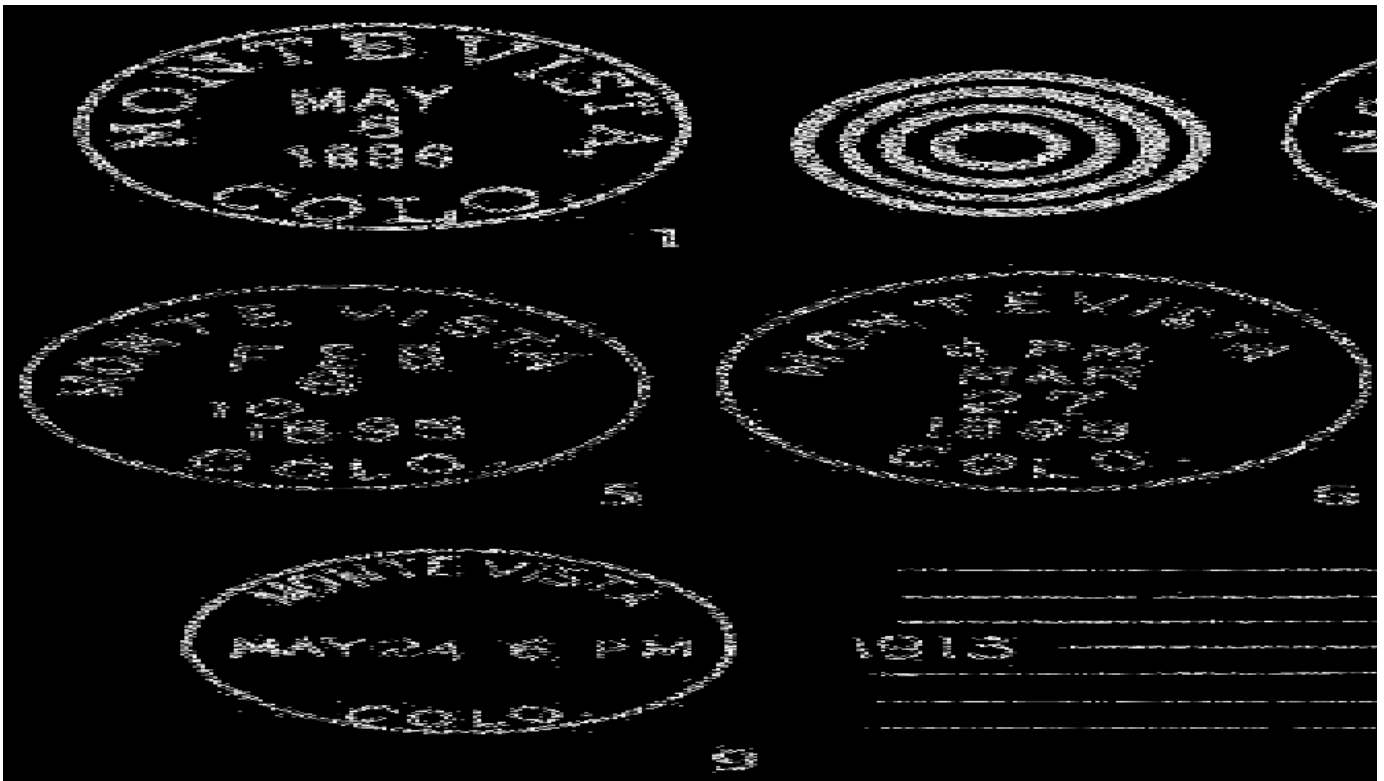
Jan 9 1890	Heilman, Sigel	P&S
Sep 28 1893	Nelson, James W.	P&S
Jan 14 1898	Eversole, Edward E.	P&S
Mar 14 1902	Eversole, Edward E.	P&S
Apr 23 1906	Eversole, Edward E.	P&S
Mar 8 1910	Boutwell, George B.	P&S
Mar 13 1914	Conant, Louis D.	P&S
Apr 27 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 31 T39N R8E 442 feet south of D&RG	
Sep 5 1918	Conant, Louis D.	P&S
Sep 22 1922	Hart, Charles E.	P&S
Dec 14 1926	Hart, Charles E.	P&S
Mar 17 1927	Erickson, Carl A.	Acting
Feb 16 1928	Erickson, Carl A.	Appointed
Feb 4 1931	Conant, James W.	Confirmed
May 2 1935	Cole, George	Acting
May 15 1935	Cole, George	Assumed charge
Jun 4 1935	Cole, George	Nominated
Jun 10 1935	Cole, George	Confirmed
Jun 18 1935	Cole, George	Appointed Presidential
Jul 3 1935	Cole, George	Commissioned
Jan 10 1940	Cole, George	Nominated
Jan 16 1940	Cole, George	Confirmed
Jan 20 1940	Cole, George	Appointed Presidential
Feb 9 1940	Cole, George	Commissioned
Nov 1 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 31 T39N R8E Southwest corner Washington & Broadway	
Apr 30 1943	Wilson, James D.	Acting
May 1 1943	Wilson, James D.	Assumed charge
Jun 6 1944	Wilson, James D.	Nominated
Jun 15 1944	Wilson, James D.	Confirmed, Apptd Presid. & Commissioned
Nov 12 1955	Pearsall, Alvah L.	Assumed charge
Dec 2 1955	Pearsall, Alvah L.	Acting
Jun 27 1956	Pearsall, Alvah L.	Nominated
Jul 19 1956	Pearsall, Alvah L.	Confirmed
Jul 20 1956	Pearsall, Alvah L.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 10 1958	Turner, Homer W.	Acting
Jul 25 1958	Turner, Homer W.	Assumed charge
Aug 31 1958	Turner, Homer W.	Appointed
Jul 10 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Assumed charge
Jun 11 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Nominated
Jul 14 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Acting
Aug 27 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Confirmed
Aug 31 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 22 1959	Nielsen, Richard W.	Commissioned
Sep 27 1978	Juarez, Jacob V.	Officer in charge
Nov 30 1978	McPhaul, Barbara J.	Officer in charge
Mar 24 1979	Rodriguez, Richard A.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	May 8 1886 May 14 1886 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
2	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Jan 9 1888 Mar 28 1888 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
3	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 16 1889 Jul 12 1887 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads; Target 4-ring 17mm

MONTE VISTA – Continued

4	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Oct 9 1891 Jan 10 1894
5	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads	Jul 5 1894 Feb 6 1895
6	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads	Mar 27 1899 Apr 24 1899
7	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Apr 17 1902 Sep 8 1910
8	MONTEVISTA, / COLO. // R.F.D. CI 00R 35.0x16.0	RFD 4 bars with 1	Apr 6 1904 Apr 22 1904
9	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 24.0	Mach 7 straight lines, (Time Marking Co.)	Feb 15 1912 May 24 1913
9.1	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 24 1913 Mar 23 1914



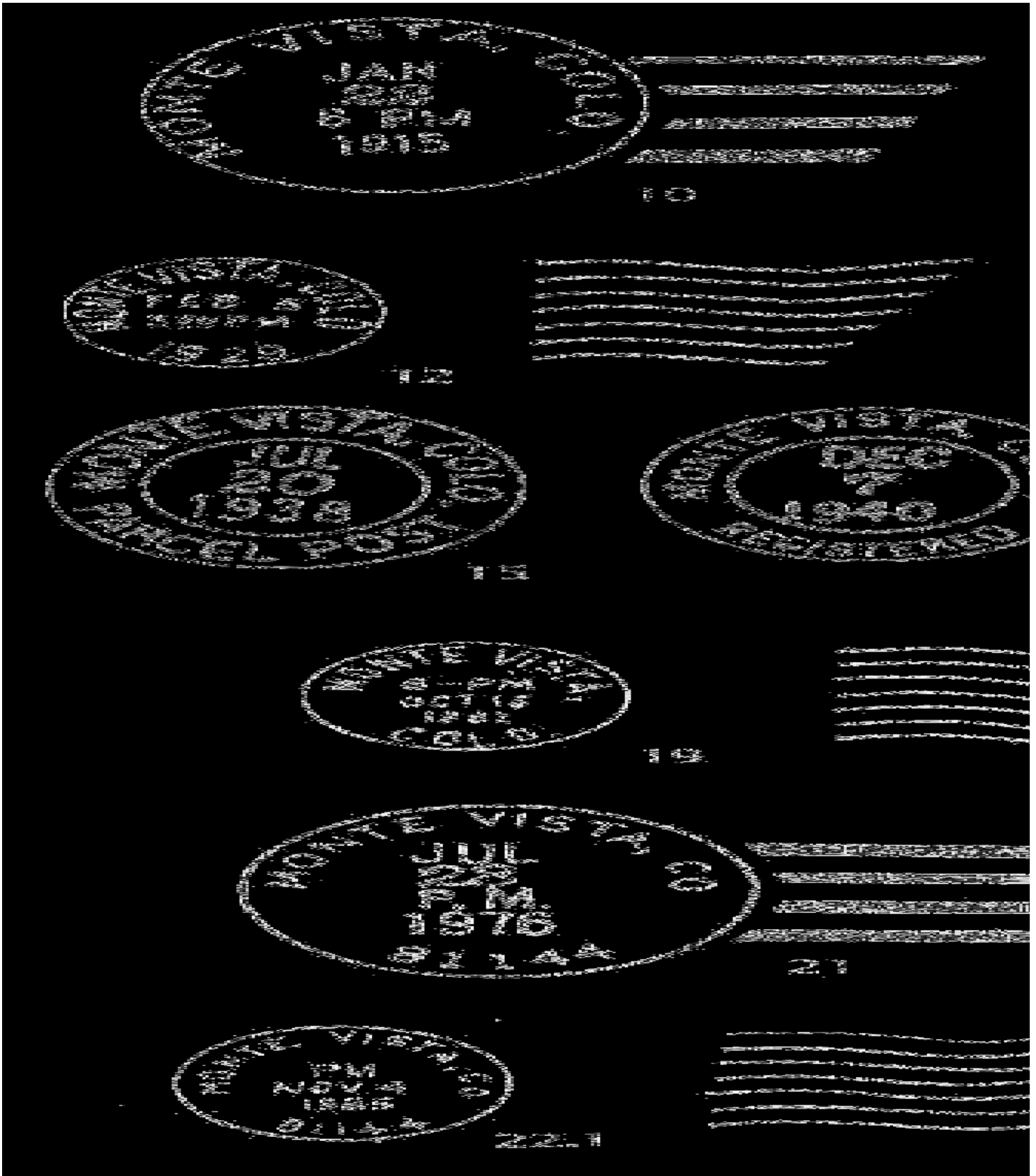
10	MONTE VISTA, COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Jan 3 1914 Feb 8 1915
11.1	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle	Dec 21 1916 Nov 23 1920
11.2	MONTE VISTA / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 2 and circle	Dec 17 192-
12	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 5 1929
13	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 28 1933 May 14 1956
14	MONTE VISTA, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Feb 17 1934 Mar 16 1953

MONTE VISTA – Continued

15 MONTE VISTA, COLO. / PARCEL POST
CI 11P 30.0/19.0

Jul 20 1938

Hstp No killer



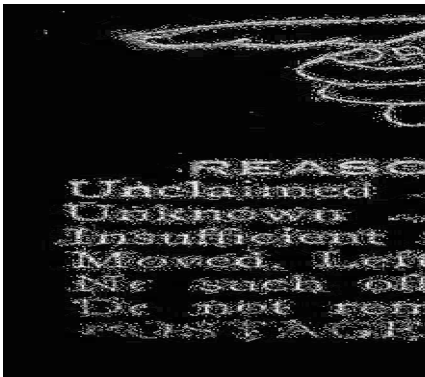
MONTE VISTA – Continued



- | | | | |
|------|--|---|-------------------------|
| 16 | MONTE VISTA, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Hstp No killer | Dec 7 1940 |
| 17 | MONTE VISTA, COLO. / PARCEL POST
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Hstp No killer | Mar 31 1941 |
| 17.1 | Monte Vista, / Colo.
RC 10P 35.0x17.0 | Hstp No killer; Parcel Post Box
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] | 1950s |
| 17.2 | MONTE VISTA, COLO.
CI 11P 35.0/27.0 | Hstp No killer | Apr 10 1959 |
| 18 | MONTE VISTA / COLO.
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Hstp No killer | Dec 20 1960 |
| 19 | MONTE VISTA, / COLO.
CI 10P 20.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Oct 16 1962 Dec 21 1962 |
| 20 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 33.0 | 4bars S-25x20mm | Oct 17 1972 |
| 21 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-23x18mm | Jul 28 1976 |
| 22 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 21.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Jul 18 1968 Jul 29 1976 |
| 22.1 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 21.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Nov 4 1985 Jun 28 1990 |
| 23 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-23x18mm | Jan 29 1986 Jan 31 1989 |
| 24 | MONTE VISTA, CO / 81144
CI 10P 21.0 | Mach Slogan in box with bars: MARCH / + / RED
CROSS / MONTH | Mar 31 1987 |
| 25 | MONTE VISTA, CO 81144 / USPS
CI 11P 28.0/18.5 | Hstp No killer | Jan 19 1989 |

AUXILIARY MARKING

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| A1 | monte vista colo
IR 00R 42.0x43.0 | Aux REASON CHECKED with Pointing Hand
RETURNED / TO / WRITER | Mar 31 1958 |
|----|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|



HOMELAKE RURAL BRANCH / COMMUNITY POST OFFICE – Continued



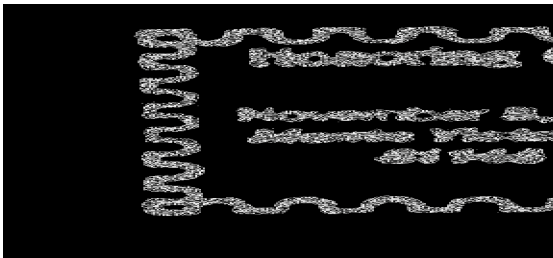
HONORING OUR VETERANS STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 8 2004 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Monte Vista, CO / 81144 // Honoring Our Veterans Station Nov 8 2004
RC 10T 48.0x24.0 Pict Scene - POW/MIA Dog tags



115TH ANNIVERSARY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 23 2002 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Monte Vista CO 81144 // 115th Anniversary Station Jun 23 2002
IR 00R 85.0x41.0 Pict Scene - Church building; Text - First
Christian Church Bldg. / 1887-2002



NICHOLS

I have been unable to find any information as to where this place was located or what purpose it was intended to serve.

The short period between the establishment, the appointment of a postmaster and the rescinding of the establishment may indicate that the appointee did not assume the post. Perhaps he had already moved on or he was unable to post the required bond. In any event the result was a decision that the Nichols Post Office was not needed. Any information about this proposed post office would be greatly appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 22 1903	Established
Dec 22 1903	Johnson, Minerva
Apr 2 1904	Establishment rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NICHOLS

NORMA

In the historical literature of Colorado that I have read, I have found no mention of this place in Rio Grande County. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report places Norma about three miles south-southeast of the town of Center, in the extreme northeastern corner of Rio Grande County. From Center drive south on Rio Grande County Road 2E three miles to Road 9N. Turn east one mile to Road 3E. The location of Norma was in the northeast quadrant of this intersection. There is a large agricultural complex at the railroad, between Roads 2E and 3E. There is a group of older farm buildings at the intersection of Roads 9N and 3E.

From the location I conclude that Norma was a rural post office that was soon surpassed by nearby Centerville (Center). More information about this place would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 1 1896	---	SW/4 Sec 15 T40N R8E 9-1/2 miles north of Rio Grande, no nearby creeks
		Proposed postmaster - Joseph R. Nolen
Dec 16 1896		Established
Dec 16 1896		Nolen, Joseph R.
Oct 26 1899		Sutherland, Joseph R.
Nov 23 1899		Ordered closed
Dec 15 1899		Discontinued Papers to Center

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM NORMA

PARMA

Parma began as a ranch post office and a railroad siding on the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad. The name is attributed to Peter Sommers, a local rancher who had interests in an irrigation project in Parma, Idaho. He named his ranch the Parma Ranch. When a post office was authorized in 1885 it took the name Parma.

The area surrounding the location of Parma is farm and ranch land. The railroad siding would have served as a shipping point for locally produced livestock and produce.

PARMA – Continued

In 1887 the post office name was changed to Liberty. The Liberty Post Office lasted only until early 1898 when it was discontinued. In 1906 a new post office was opened, less than a mile north of the previous location of Parma/Liberty. At that time there was an active Liberty Post Office in Saguache County, so the new office took the old name of Parma.

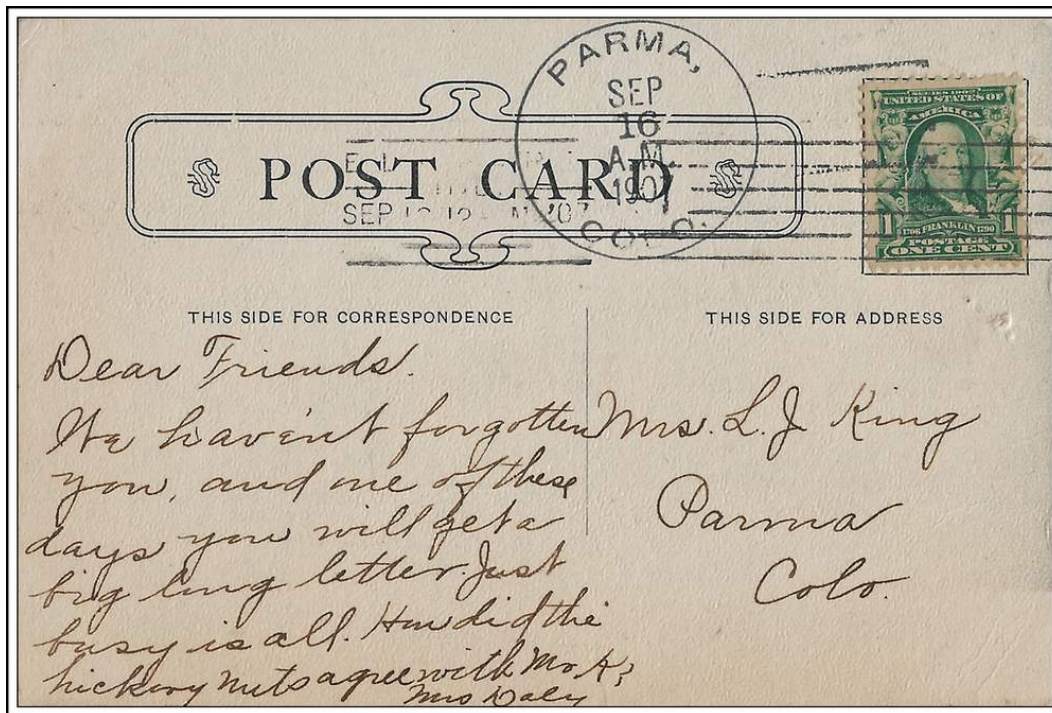
The location of Parma (and Liberty) is on the west side of the Rio Grande-Alamosa County line on US Highway 160. The north-south road on the county line is Rio Grande Road 6E, or Alamosa County Road N-100.

The original site of Parma and Liberty was on the south side of US 160. There is a now a small airport there and no remains of any original buildings. The second site of Parma was north of US 160 and west of Road 6E. At that location there is a group of farm buildings.

Latitude = 37:32:14 North Longitude = 106:02:17 West

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 10 1885 --- SE/4 Sec 13 T38N R8E 110 feet north of D&RG Railroad
Proposed postmaster - James Goodlander**
- Mar 20 1886 Established**
- Mar 20 1886 Goodlander, James**
- Oct 11 1887 Name changed to Liberty**
- Feb 23 1906 --- NE/4 Sec 13 T38N R8E 6 rods north of D&RG Tracks Sketch map shows it at very
east edge of section, SE/4 NE/4. This would place it immediately west of the county line.
Proposed postmaster - Leslie J. King**
- Mar 27 1906 Re-established**
- Mar 27 1906 King, Leslie J.**
- Dec 22 1908 Newman, Anthony J.**
- Jun 15 1910 Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista**



PARMA, / COLO.

September 16, 1907

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

1 PARMA, / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0

Sep 16 1907 May 24 1910

Doane Type 3 with 1, S 24x13mm

**PIEDRA**

Piedra is another of the Rio Grande County Post Offices that has escaped discussion in the literature of Colorado history. Piedra was established near the end of the Territorial Period and lasted a short time into statehood.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report provides only a general, descriptive location. Based on that very indefinite location, I chose a location on Colorado Highway 15, about four miles south of Monte Vista at the intersection with Rio Grande County Road 29 from the west.

At that location there is a complex of older buildings that have been burned or knocked down. Whatever this was it has been there a long time. There is an old stone building and a couple of old sheds that have pretty well collapsed. There is a lot of junk and trash and the ruins of what must have been a pretty fancy home with a lot of cobblestone work around it. If Piedra was in this area this is a likely site, but I offer no guarantee. I have been unable to locate the creek mentioned in the Geographic Site Location Report but that is not unusual, as stream names have often been changed throughout history.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 13 1875	---	Unsurveyed 7 rods south of Piedra Pintado Creek, 8 miles west of Rio Grande River 17 miles south-southeast from Del Norte
Jan 27 1875		Established
Jan 27 1875		Larick, Conrad
Mar 24 1878		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 PIEDRA, / COLO.
CI 10P ???

Mar 20 1908 Dec 24 1910

Doane Type 1, with 1 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

SOUTH FORK

The town of South Fork was located at the confluence of the main stream of the Rio Grande River with the South Fork of the Rio Grande. Most reports attribute its founding to about 1880, however the South Fork Post Office first opened in early 1876. Initially it was a stage stop on the road west towards Lake City and the central San Juan Mountains.

The Denver and Rio Grande Railroad extended its line from Alamosa through Monte Vista and Del Norte to South Fork. With the arrival of the railroad in 1881 South Fork became a trans-shipment point for goods and supplies going westward and for ore coming from mines in the mountains. In 1883 the railroad was extended west to Wagon Wheel Gap. The discovery of rich silver ore at Creede prompted the Denver and Rio Grande to extend the rails to Creede in 1891 and South Fork took on a reduced importance as a supply center.

SOUTH FORK – Continued

In the late nineteenth century and throughout the twentieth century South Fork was a focal point for the timber industry in the eastern San Juan Mountains. Several sawmills were in operation at South Fork with the lumber shipped out via the railroad. The last of those mills has recently closed.

South Fork is on US Highway 160 at the junction with Colorado Highway 149. US 160 continues west over Wolf Creek Pass, while Highway 149 goes north to Creede, Lake City and the Gunnison River. Both roads have become major tourist routes and the town of South Fork provides services for the travelers.

Latitude = 37:40:12 North Longitude = 106:38:21 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 14 1876	---	Unsurveyed Lands 1/4 mile south of the Rio Grande and directly on the east side of the South Fork Of the Rio Grande	
		Note on document: No office has been established or applied for at South Fork.	
Feb 10 1876		Established	
Feb 10 1876		Edwards, Elbert F.	
Jul 26 1879	---	NE/4 SW/4 Sec 34 T40N R3E 1/4 mile south of Rio Grande	
		100 yards east of South Fork of Rio Grande	
Feb 4 1880		Patten, Nathaniel	
May 23 1883		Discontinued Mail to Del Norte	
Apr 6 1892	---	NE/4 Sec 34 T40N R3E 300 feet south of the Rio Grande	
		1/2 mile east of the South Fork of the Rio Grande	
		Proposed postmaster - Henry C. Aydelotte	
May 5,1892		Re-established	
May 5 1892		Aydelotte, Henry C.	
Oct 12 1894		Cleghorn, Willard N.	
Dec 22 1896		Burton, Charles	
Aug 2 1898		Eddowes, Ralph	
Apr 4 1899		Galbreath, Charles A.	
Aug 6 1907		Poage, Arthur R.	
Oct 15 1908		Stroup, Richard R.	
Sep 9 1909		Discontinued Mail to Del Norte	
May 11 1910	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 35 T40N R3E 100 feet south of railroad	
Nov 9 1910		Re-established	
Nov 9 1910		Seely, Robert L.	
May 29 1912		Thomas, Frank B.	
Dec 20 1912		Larsen, George W.	
May 9 1914	---	SE/4 NE/4 Sec 34 T40N R3E 1000 feet south of Rio Grande	
		1/4 mile southeast of Alder Creek 20 feet north of the D&RG Railroad	
Sep 29 1914		Officer, Clarence E.	Declined
May 20 1915		True, Arthur W.	Declined
Sep 10 1915		Galbreath, William H.	
Jun 6 1919		Hutchinson, Samuel A.	
Apr 9 1924		Sheets, Lloyd C.	
Jan 14 1926		Anders, Walter F.	Acting
Apr 10 1926		Anders, Walter F.	Appointed
Dec 1 1926		Hill, Cedric C.	Acting
Apr 28 1927		Garrison, M. Linda	
Dec 3 1929		Adams, Thomas E.	
Mar 18 1930		Adams, Thomas E.	Confirmed
Apr 2 1930		Adams, Thomas E.	Commissioned
Apr 5 1930		Adams, Thomas E.	Assumed charge
Apr 2 1937		Garrison, Mrs. M. Linda	Assumed charge
Apr 20 1937		Garrison, Mrs. M. Linda	Acting

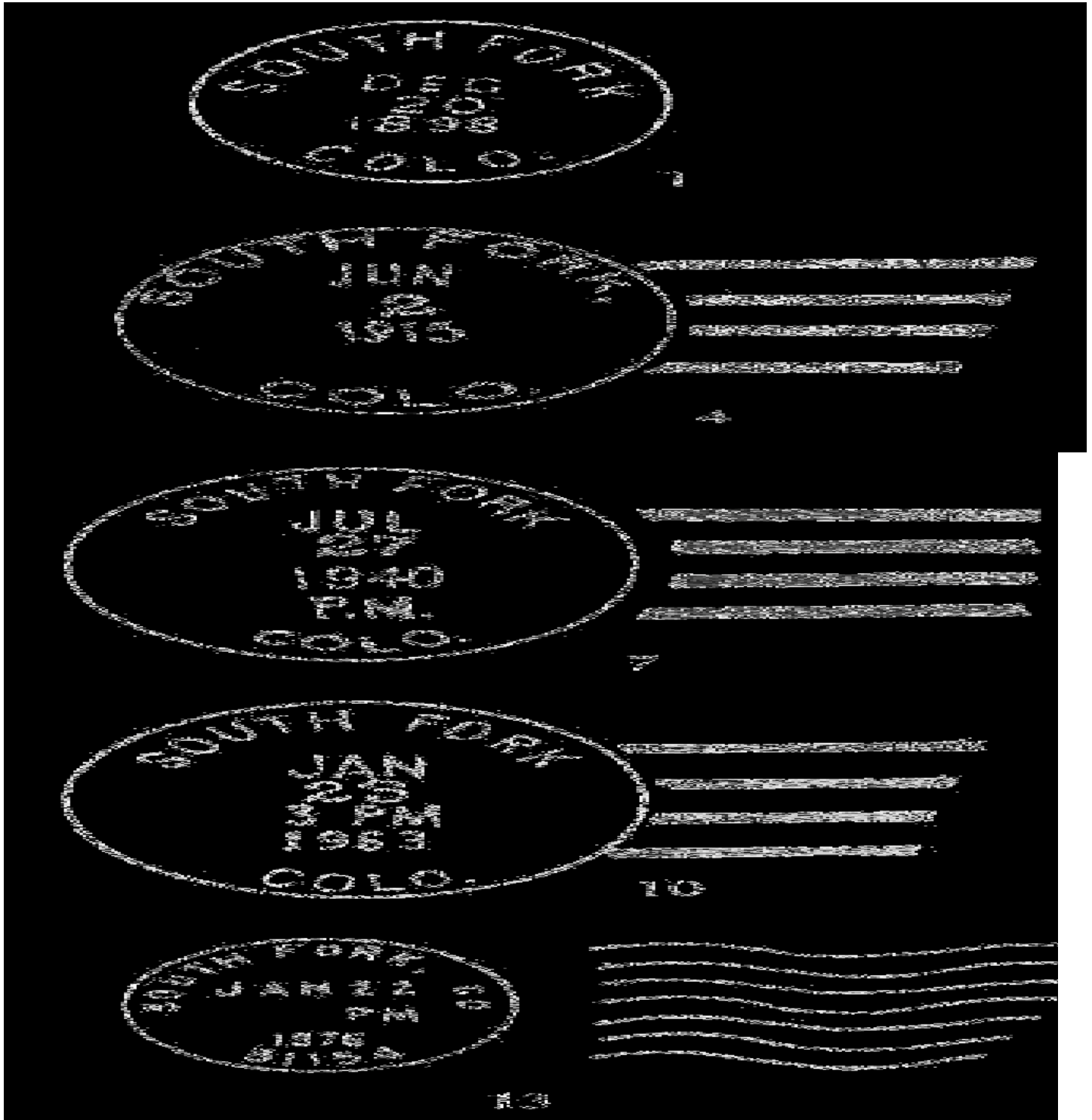
SOUTH FORK – Continued

Aug 24 1937	Garrison, Mrs. M. Linda	Confirmed
Nov 12 1937	Garrison, Mrs. M. Linda	Commissioned
Oct 23 1941	--- SW/4 NW/4 Sec 35 T40N R3E 200 feet south of D&RG Station	
Dec 10 1943	Ellsworth, J. Orville	Assumed charge
Jan 17 1944	Ellsworth, J. Orville	Acting
May 1 1944	Mengers, Mrs. Emma	Assumed charge
May 17 1944	Mengers, Mrs. Emma	Acting
Feb 17 1945	Mengers, Mrs. Emma	Confirmed
Mar 19 1945	Mengers, Mrs. Emma	Commissioned
Mar 31 1945	Mengers, Mrs. Emma	Assumed charge
Apr 30 1946	Ramsey, Mrs. Lavina T.	Assumed charge
Jan 29 1948	Ramsey, Mrs. Lavina T.	Confirmed
Mar 10 1948	Ramsey, Mrs. Lavina T.	Commissioned
Feb 18 1950	Check, Mrs. Dorothy H.	Acting & Assumed charge
Dec 18 1950	Check, Mrs. Dorothy H.	Confirmed & Appointed Presidential
Dec 28 1950	Check, Mrs. Dorothy H.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1953		Office made Presidential
Jun 27 1972	Velasquez, Mrs. Rita R.	Officer in charge
Nov 25 1972	Velasquez, Mrs. Rita R.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SOUTH FORK / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	May 4 1894 Dec 20 1898
2	SOUTH FORK / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Mar 4 1903 Oct 21 1904
3	SOUTH FORK, / COLO. CI 10P ???	Doane Type 3, with 3	Oct 30 1906 Aug 20 1909
4	SOUTH FORK, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 26 1914 Apr 4 1917
5	SOUTH FORK, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Nov 13 1932
6	SOUTH FORK, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 25 1933 Dec 16 1935
7	SOUTH FORK / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 28 1938 Jul 8 1942
8	SOUTH FORK. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 24 1945 Jul 6 1957
8.1	SOUTH FORK, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x18.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	1950s
9	SOUTH FORK / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Mar 12 1958 Apr 11 1959
10	SOUTH FORK, COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Nov 19 1962 Feb 28 1963
11	SOUTH FORK, CO / 81154 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Aug 26 1965 Jul 27 1970
12	SOUTH FORK, CO / 81154 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Oct 7 1971 Nov 11 1977
13	SOUTH FORK, CO / 81154 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jan 22 1976 May 17 1993
14	SOUTH FORK CO / 81154 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-20x15mm	May 10 1999
15	SOUTH FORK, CO / USPO CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 29 2002 Jul 31 2002

SOUTH FORK – Continued



SOUTH FORK STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 20 2002

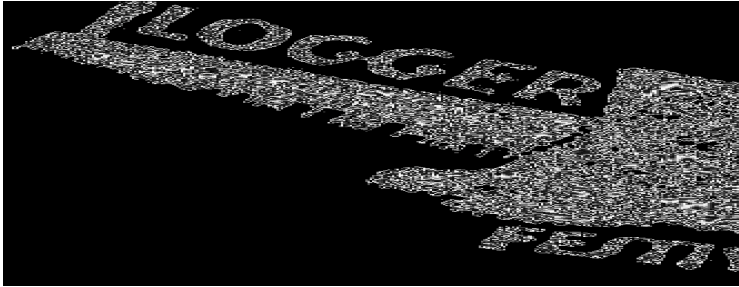
Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

SOUTH FORK – Continued**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 SOUTH FORK, CO 81154 // SOUTH FORK STATION
IR 00R 85.0x38.0

Jul 20 2002

Pict Scene - Cross-cut saw, boots; Text - at left
LOGGER DAYS / FESTIVAL; at right Town of
South Fork / LOGGER DAYS FESTIVAL / POSTMASTER
/ P.O. Box 9998 [Date reads July 20-21, 2002]

**SUMMIT**

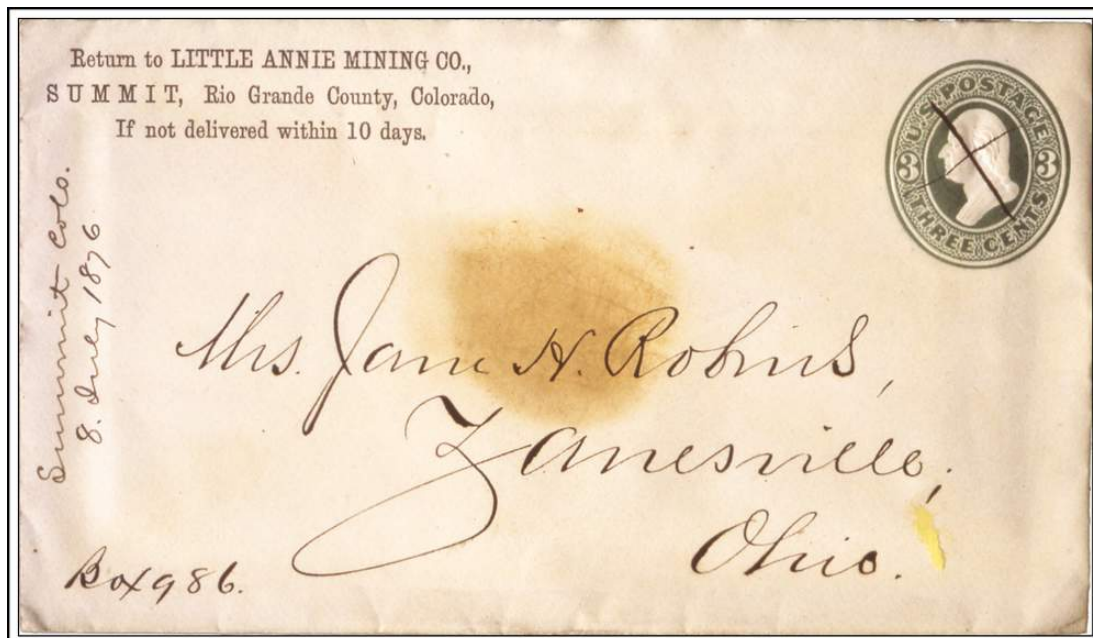
In June 1870 a party of five men: James Wightman, William Wightman, Sylvester Reese, E. Baker and Cary French made the first discovery of gold in what would become the Summit Mining District. The initial discoveries were not rich but in 1873 the Little Annie was discovered and for many years it was a good producer, with ore values from \$80 to as much as \$2,000 per ton.

Other mines were opened and by 1875 a stamp mill was in operation. Another of the good producers was the Summit Mine, developed in 1875 by Dr. Richard F. Adams.

Mining at Summit went through the usual cycles experienced by mining camps. There were good years and lean years, but the ores were rich enough to continue operations for many years and to support a small community and the post office.

The name Summit is related to the location at 11,000 feet and only a short distance below the Continental Divide.

Please refer to the following discussion of Summitville for the later history of Summit.



Summit Colo.

July 8, 1876

SUMMIT – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jan 27 1876 --- **Unsurveyed** On the south side of Wightmans Fork of the Alamosa River and on the north side of South Mountain 2 miles from the head of the South Fork of the Rio Grande
- Feb 10 1876 **Established**
- Feb 10 1876 **Beemer, Lewis J.**
- May 3 1876 **Robbins, Charles E.**
- Aug 7 1879 --- **No official land surveys hereabouts** 400 feet east of North Fork of Alamosa River
- Sep 24 1879 **Discontinued**
- Oct 16 1879 **Re-established**
- Oct 16 1879 **Adams, Richard F.**
- Jul 29 1880 **Kannaday, Erastus P.**
- Nov 17 1880 **Name changed to Summitville**

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Summit Colo.
MS | Mscp Pen cancel | Jun 13 1876 Aug 5 1880 |
| 2 | SUMMIT / COLO.
CI 10P 25.5 | Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm | Feb 6 187- Aug 15 1877 |
| 3 | SUMMIT. / COLO.
CI 20H 33.0/30.0 | Hstp Grid | Oct 28 1880 |



SUMMITVILLE

On November 17, 1880 the name of the Summit Post Office was changed to Summitville. I have no certain explanation for the change. Perhaps it was done to reduce confusion with mail that was intended for post offices in Summit County.

The early history of this place is reported in the previous section that discusses Summit. By 1912 activity at Summitville had declined to the point where the post office was closed. In 1934 the Summitville Consolidated Mines Inc. reopened many of the mines and it quickly became one of the largest mining camps in the state. During World War II the mines at Summitville produced a significant amount of copper in addition to gold. The post office reopened in 1935 but in 1947 closed for the final time.

Mining at Summitville ended in the 1990's after a liner used for heap-leaching leaked toxic potassium cyanide solution into the Alamosa River.

There are or were, three access routes to the Summitville site. One (Forest Road 380) comes from the direction of Platoro to the south and over the Elwood Pass ridge. That is not an all-weather route and is recommended for four-wheel drive vehicles. In June 1988 Jim Ozment and I came to Summitville via that route. Even in June we had to detour around a couple of snowdrifts that blocked the often muddy road.

A second route comes out of Del Norte and up Pinos Creek to Summitville. This road, Rio Grande County Road 14 that becomes Forest Service Road 330, has been described as rough and rocky.

SUMMITVILLE – Continued

The third route begins on US Highway 160, a mile or so into Mineral County from Rio Grande County. This is the continuation of Forest Service Road 380. About two miles from Summitville is the intersection with Forest Service Road 330. Turn onto that road and continue to Summitville. Because of the mining and reclamation activity it will be obvious when you reach Summitville. This would be the best route, if it is still open to the public.

When Jim Ozment and I visited the place in 1988, the mine was in operation and there were several of the old buildings still present above the road. Because of the reclamation activity of recent years it is possible that those buildings are no longer there. It is also possible that access to the site is restricted.

The following article expands on the present situation at Summitville.

FAILED COLORADO MINE A REFORM 'POSTER CHILD'

by Jana Mazanec - USA TODAY [No date given for this article]

DENVER - The Summitville Mine in the pristine Colorado Rockies was supposed to be good for the small rural county of Rio Grande. It meant jobs for the moribund economy and revenue trickling into its coffers.

But almost 10 years after the gold mine opened, Summitville became a different thing – a "giant mess" on the side of a mountain and a national symbol of the nation's mining woes.

Today, the mine sits abandoned by owner Summitville Consolidated Mining Co. and Canadian parent Galactic Resources Ltd. After losing an estimated \$80 million, Summitville's operators declared bankruptcy, shut the doors and walked away.

The EPA now spends as much as \$40,000 a day there on pollution and damage. Total cost up to \$70 million. "There's a lot about Summitville that is worst-case scenario in a lot of ways," says the EPA's national mining expert Rob Walline.

The biggest problem is high concentration of copper that leaked from the mine into the nearby Alamosa River. Already, 17 miles of trout populations have perished.

Farmers and ranchers, who rely on river water, the life-blood for the arid Colorado land, are worried about crops. The water's pH level could be too low and could damage soil.

People are pointing fingers at Summitville's operators – for shoddy mining techniques – and at the state's mine permit agency. Some say the mine never should have opened and that the technology used was wrong for Colorado's wet snowy winters. Officials say a poorly constructed liner and inadequate water treatment facilities are at fault.

Former Galactic president Peter Guest says Summitville was built and run according to state mining regulations. "We did everything we possibly could (to clean up). We ended up running out of money." Many are hoping that Summitville's legacy is more than polluted rivers and scarred landscapes. It could be the catalyst to reforming the USA's 1872 Mining Law. "Summitville is used as a poster child," says the EPA's Jim Hanley. "It's actually thrown in the face of the mining lobby and used as a reason for mining reform."

The national debate over mining reform is hotter this year than ever. At issue now is whether mining law should include stiff federal permitting and environmental regulations.

In Colorado, Summitville prompted the Legislature to tighten controls on metal mining operations. environmental consultant Phil Hocker says that kind of legislation will spread, and Summitville will show congress that it's necessary. "If we inspected plumbing in this country as sloppily as we inspect mining, there wouldn't be a dry basement in the nation."

Rancher John Shawcroft grows 1,000 acres of hay on the Alamosa River system and is watching expensive irrigation gates and sprinklers disintegrate from the water's chemical composition. "The thing we really resent around here is that people from the outside the U.S. come in, bleed the land, make their big pot of money and run." Shawcroft says. "Something needs to be done about that."

Latitude = 37:25:50 North Longitude = 106:35:30 West

SUMMITVILLE – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

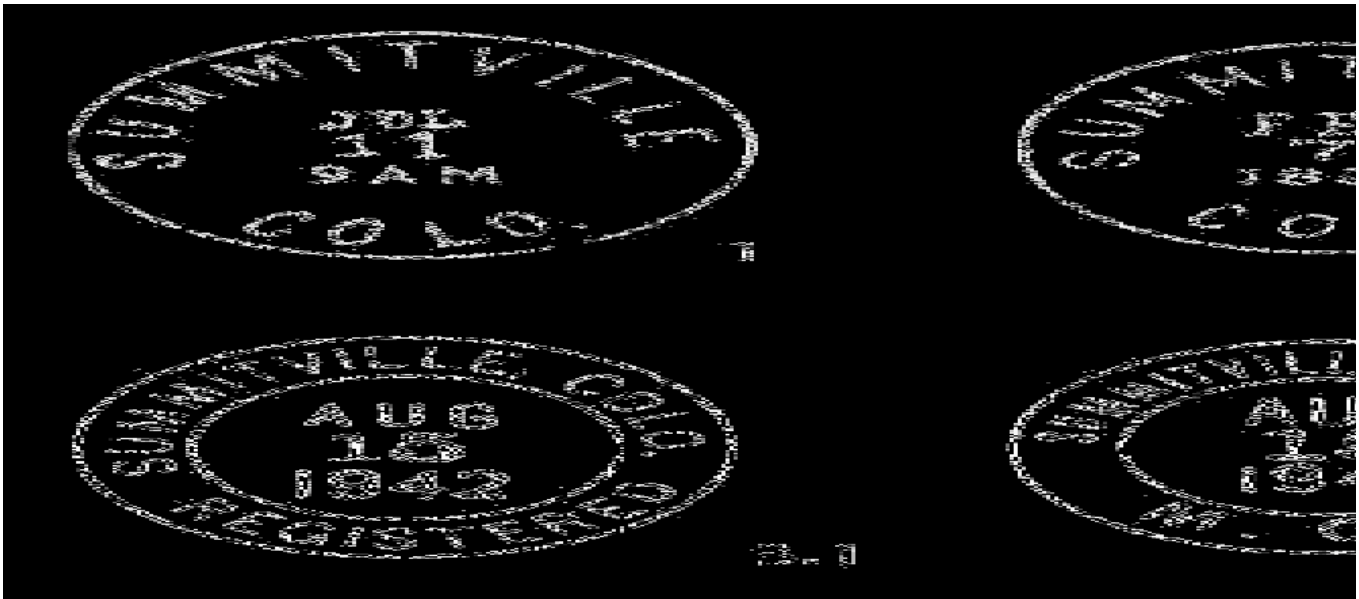
Nov 17 1880	Formerly named Summit	
Nov 17 1880	Kannaday, Erastus P.	
Mar 31 1881	Chandler, Zachary T.	
May 1 1883	Shepard, William H.	
Jun 4 1883	Chapman, Norman H.	
Mar 28 1885 ---	SW/4 SW/4 Sec 19 T37N R4E In town on north side of Weidman's (sic) Creek Loyton (a new P.O.) is 4 miles from Summitville in a southern direction and 7 miles by Pagosa & old government road	
Dec 15 1885	Crossway, Jesse J.	
Dec 20 1888	Turner, Hamilton A.	
Mar 29 1889	Young, Robert	
Aug 6 1889	Riddle, Robert	
Jul 5 1891	Bunch, George N.	
Jul 7 1896	Clark, Mortimer J.	
Aug 17 1900	Palmer, Charles J.	
Jun 24 1903	Colman, John F. A.	
Apr 30 1912	Discontinued Mail to Del Norte	
Jan 3 1935 ---	NE/4 Sec 30 T37N R4E 1125 feet south of Wightman's Fork Applicant for postmaster - Frank M Stanger	
Jul 12 1935	Re-established	
Jul 12 1935	Stanger, Frank M.	Confirmed
Aug 14 1935	Stanger, Frank M.	Commissioned
Oct 16 1935 ---	NE/4 Sec 30 T37N R4E 300 feet north of Wightman's Fork of the Alamosa River New location in the new store bldg. considered more centrally located than in the Mine Office Bldg. as first arranged	
Dec 16 1935	Stanger, Frank M.	Assumed charge
Jul 8 1940	Stanger, Kenneth H.	Acting
Aug 1 1940	Stanger, Kenneth H.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1941	Stanger, Kenneth H.	Nominated
Jan 27 1941	Stanger, Kenneth H.	Confirmed & Appointed
Feb 19 1941	Stanger, Kenneth H.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 30 T37N R4E NM PM 100 feet north of Wightman's Fork of the Alamosa River	
Apr 30 1942	Bond, Mrs. Hazel	Acting
May 1 1942	Bond, Mrs. Hazel	Assumed charge
Jul 30 1942	Ordered closed Effective date Aug 15 1942 Mail to Monte Vista	
Aug 12 1942	Order rescinded	
Aug 31 1942	Potter, Mrs. Nora G.	Acting
Sep 1 1942	Potter, Mrs. Nora G.	Assumed charge
Oct 1 1944	Rogers, Mrs. Mildred W.	Assumed charge
Oct 11 1944	Rogers, Mrs. Mildred W.	Acting
Feb 25 1945	Harpel, Mrs. Dora P.	Assumed charge
Aug 10 1945	Kennedy, Mrs. Eileen L. R.	Assumed charge
Jan 1 1946	Green, Mrs. Glacie E.	Assumed charge
Jun 12 1946	Green, Mrs. Glacie E.	Confirmed
Sep 3 1946	Green, Mrs. Glacie E.	Commissioned
Dec 11 1947	Ordered closed	
Nov 25 1947	Discontinued Mail to Monte Vista	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SUMMITVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Aug 20 1882 Jul 2 1886 Hstp Target, 3-ring 20mm
2	SUMMITVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jan 13 1893 Feb 7 1893 Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm
2.1	SUMMITVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jun 24 1905 Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm

SUMMITVILLE – Continued

3	SUMMITVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Feb 18 1936 Aug 15 1943
3.1	SUMMITVILLE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 18 1937 Aug 15 1942
3.2	SUMMITVILLE, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 15 1942
4	SUMMITVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x18mm	May 17 1946 Mar 15 1947

**UNDERHILL**

What information I have found about Underhill comes from the Post Office Department Records. The Underhill Post Office was in existence for only one year and the one and only postmaster was Oliver S. Underhill. From that it is logical to assume that it was a rural or ranch post office. Another possibility is that it was an early stage stop on the road west along the Rio Grande River.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report is of little help in determining the site of Underhill. I do suspect that it was on the north (east) side of the Rio Grande, near present day Monte Vista.

Without any real evidence, I have assigned it a location on US Highway 285, about three miles north of Monte Vista. There is an old adobe and barn at that location.

Any additional information about Underhill would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 28 1872	Established
Mar 28 1872	Underhill, Oliver S.
May 25 1872 ---	Unsurveyed 15 miles east of Loma 30 miles northwest of Conejos On the east side of the Rio Grande
May 20 1873	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM UNDERHILL

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

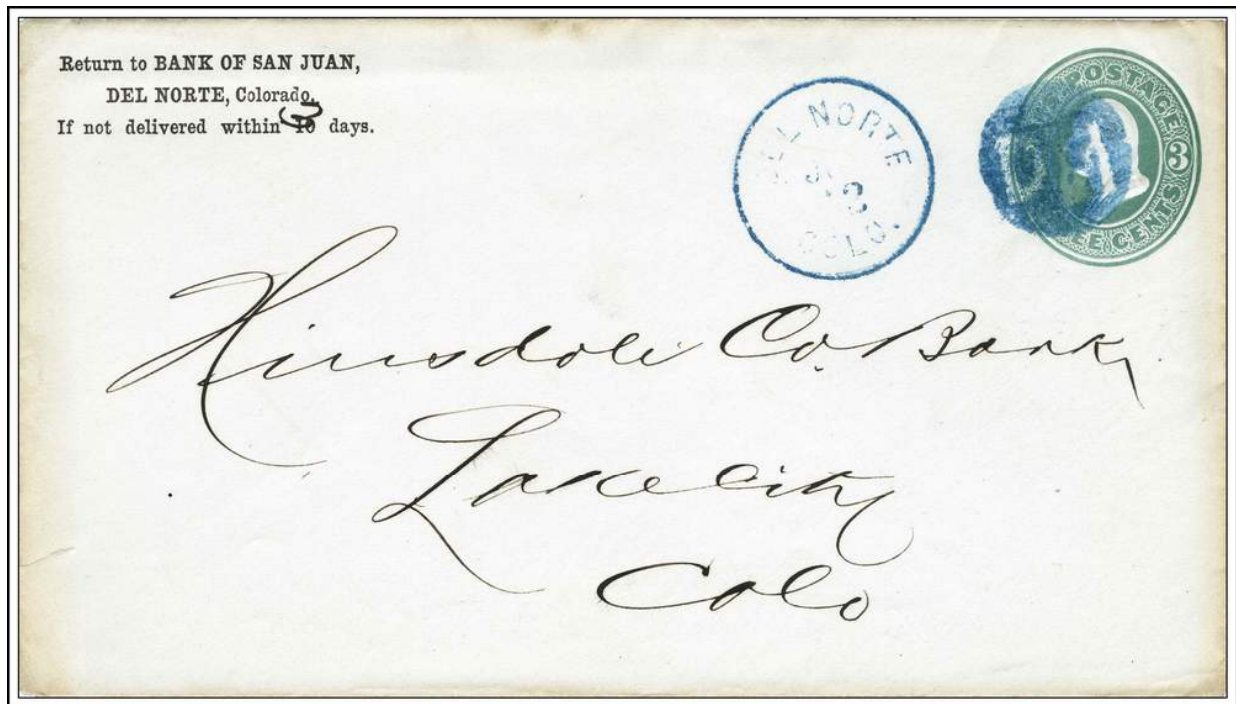
ROGERS FILE

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

RIO GRANDE BIBLIOGRAPHY – Continued**GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT**

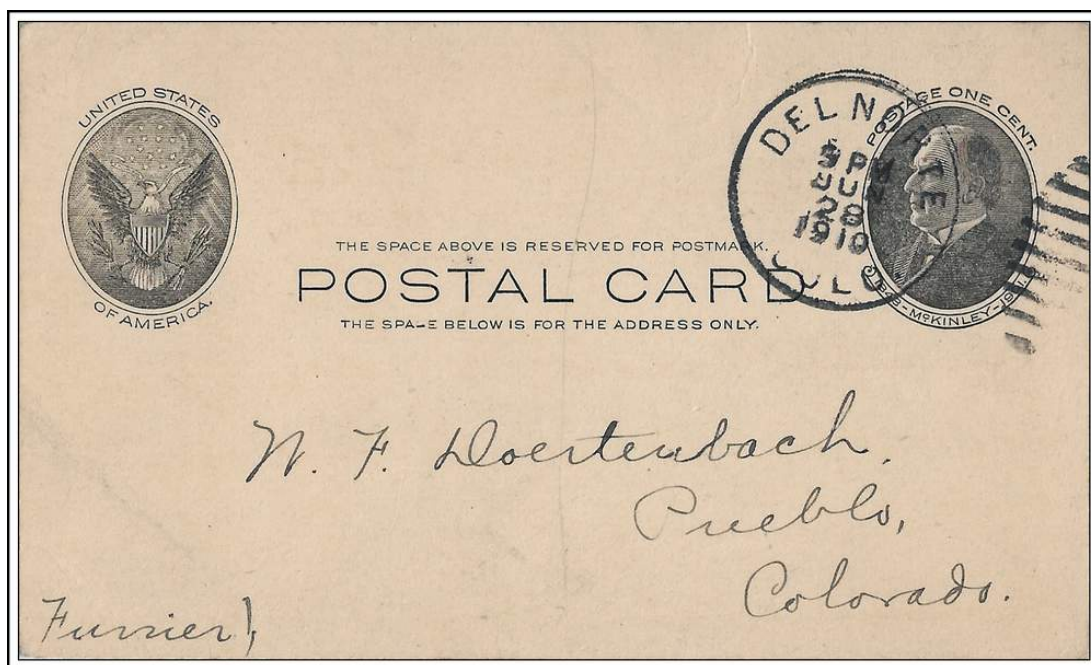
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF RIO GRANDE COUNTY COVERS



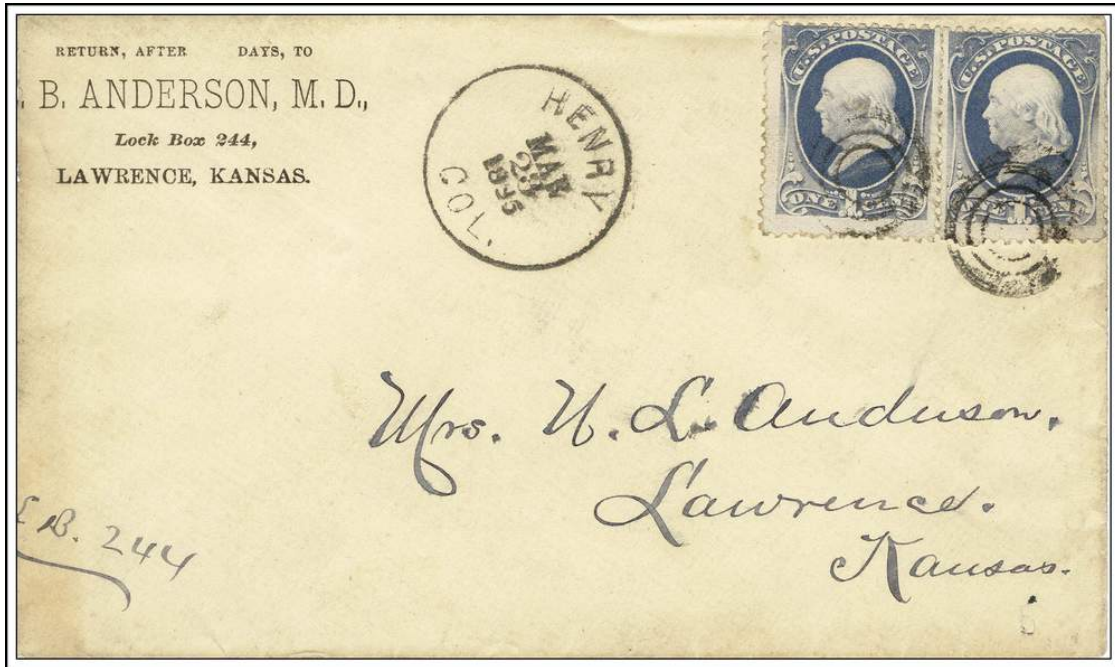
DEL NORTE / COLO.

June 12, 187-



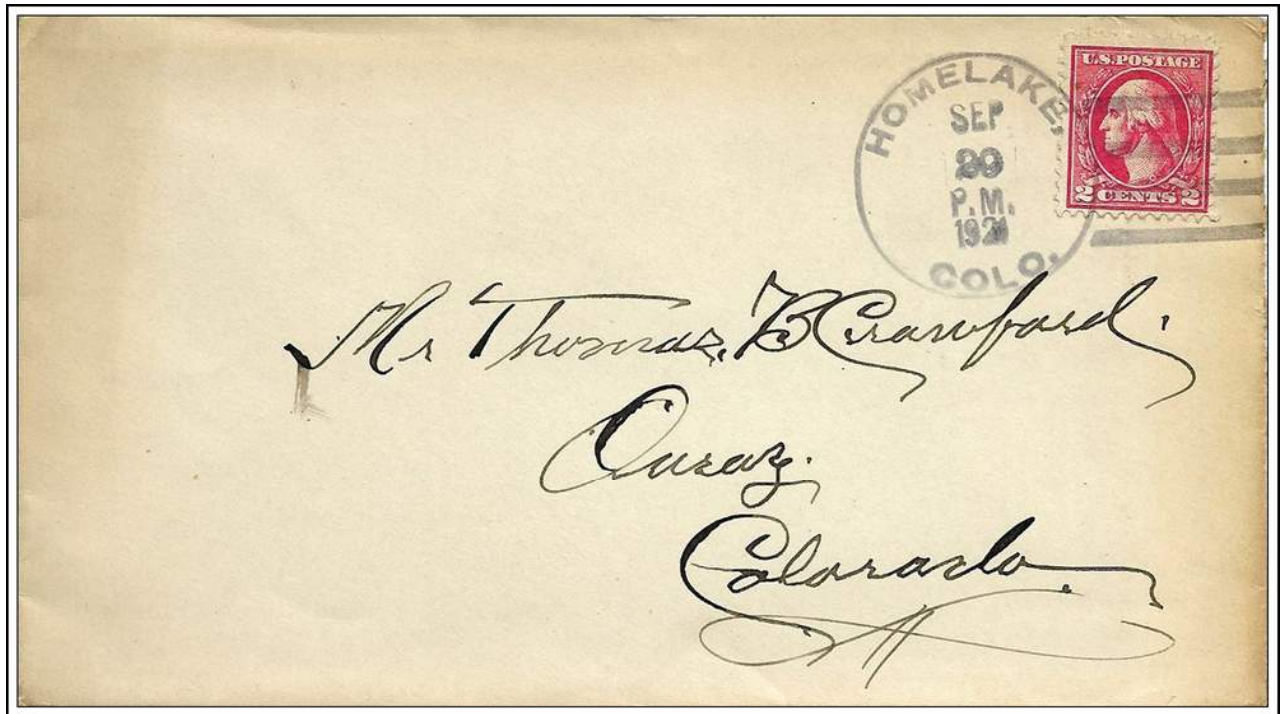
DEL NORTE / COLO.

June 28, 1910



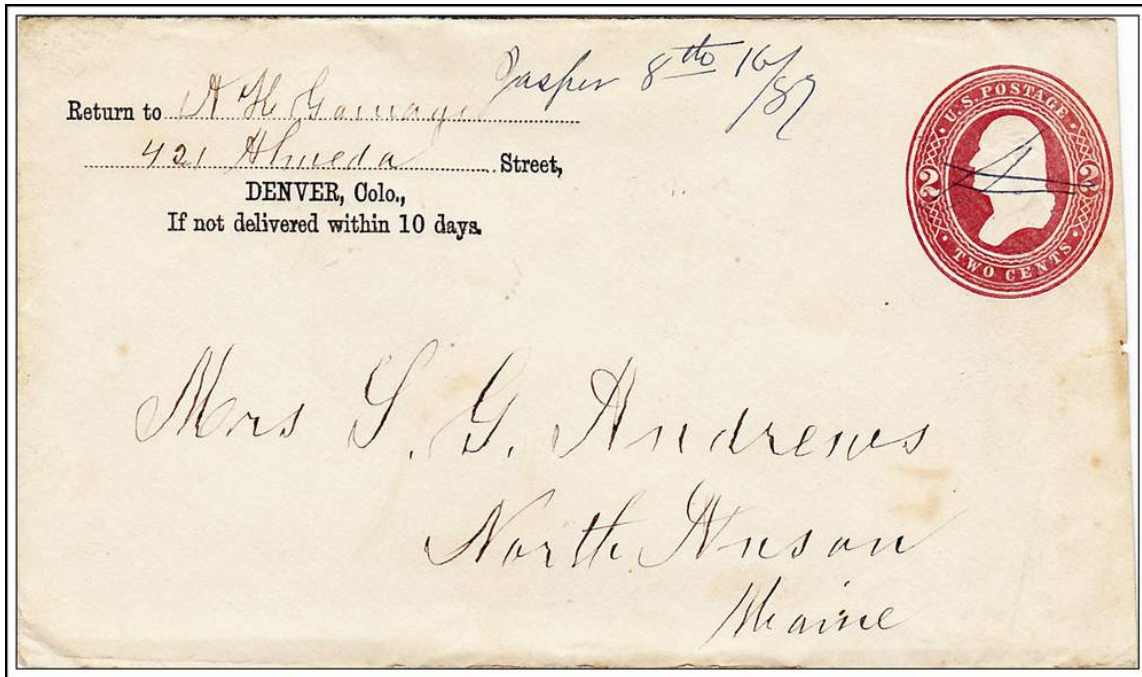
HENRY / COL.

March 23, 1895



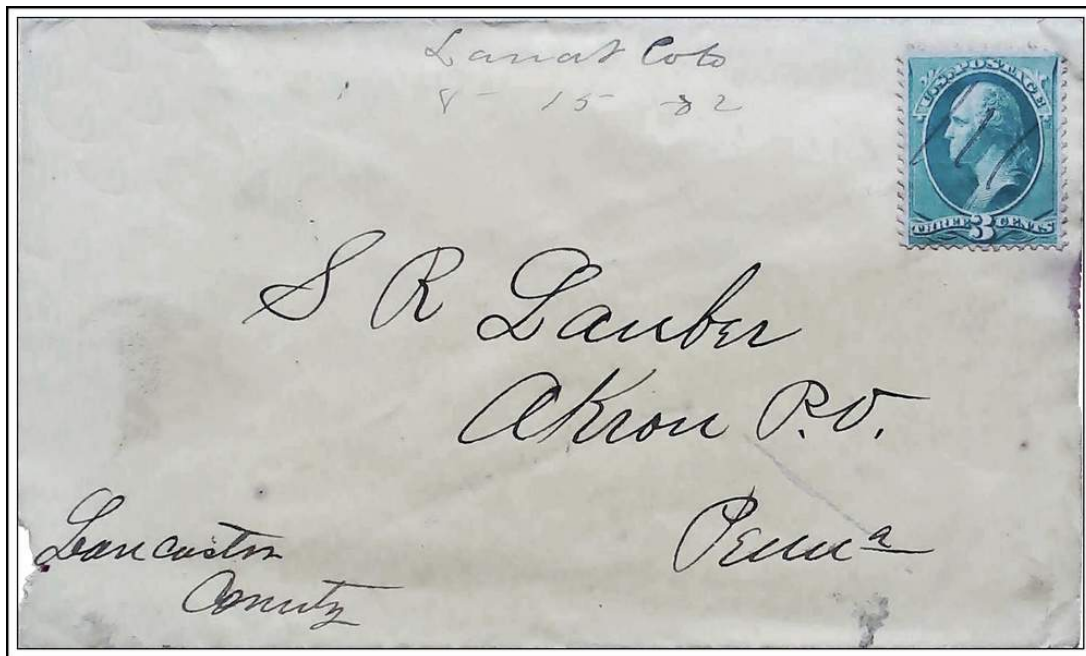
HOMELAKE, / COLO.

September 29, 1921



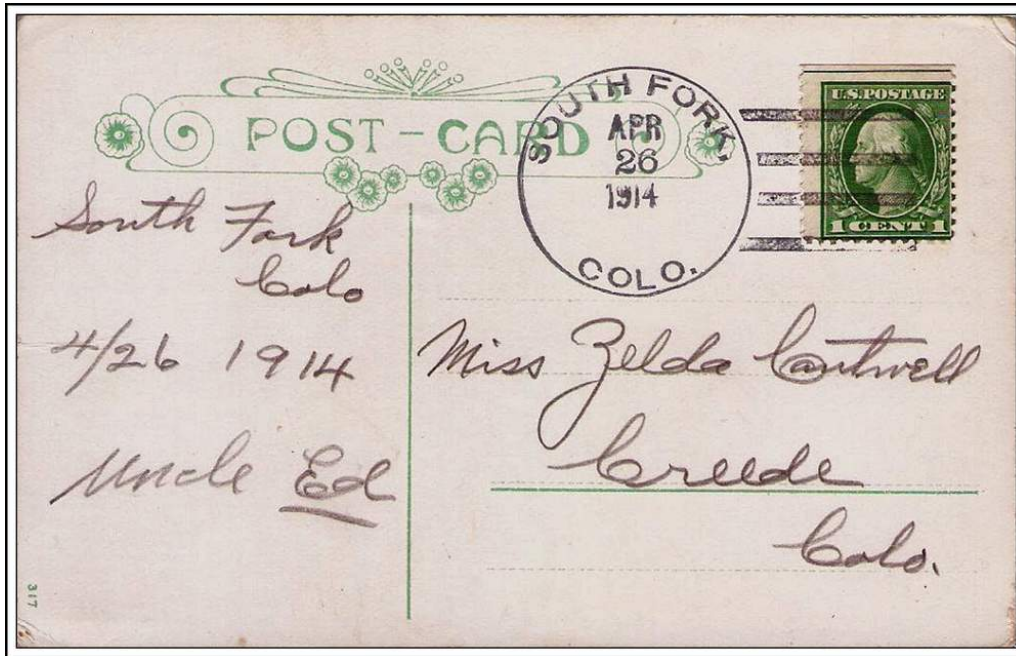
Jasper

August 16, 1887



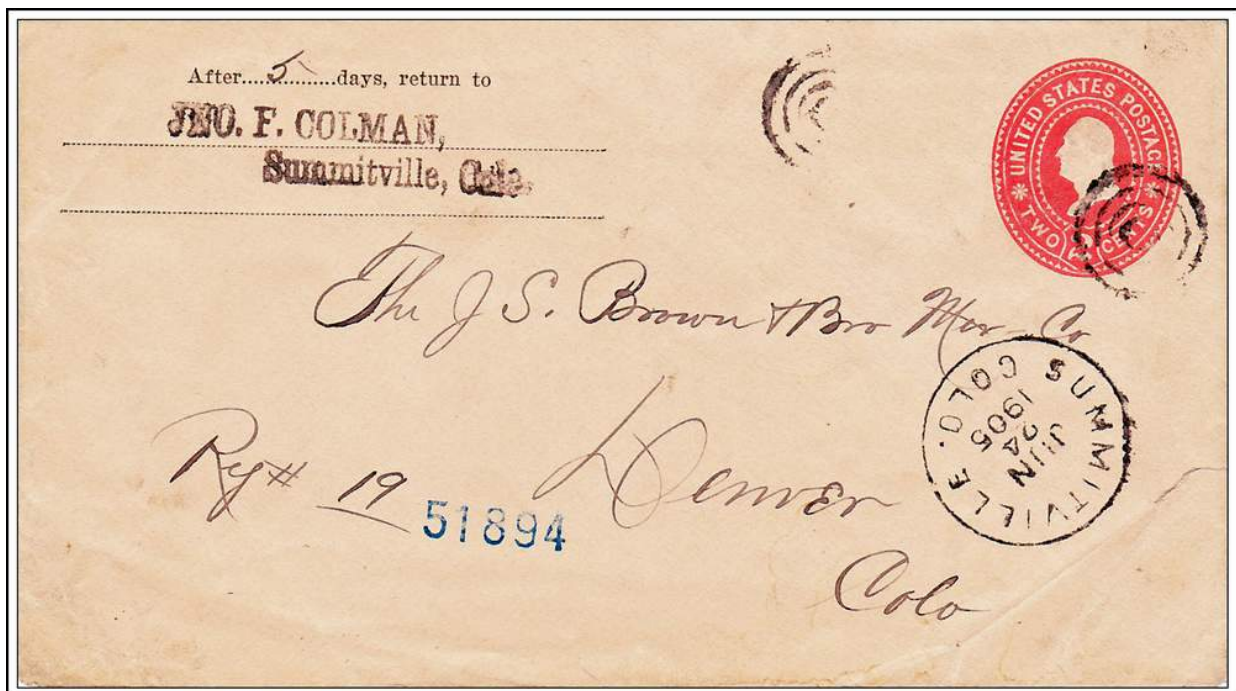
Lariat Colo

August 15, 1882



SOUTH FORK, / COLO.

April 26, 1914



SUMMITVILLE / COLO.

June 24, 1905