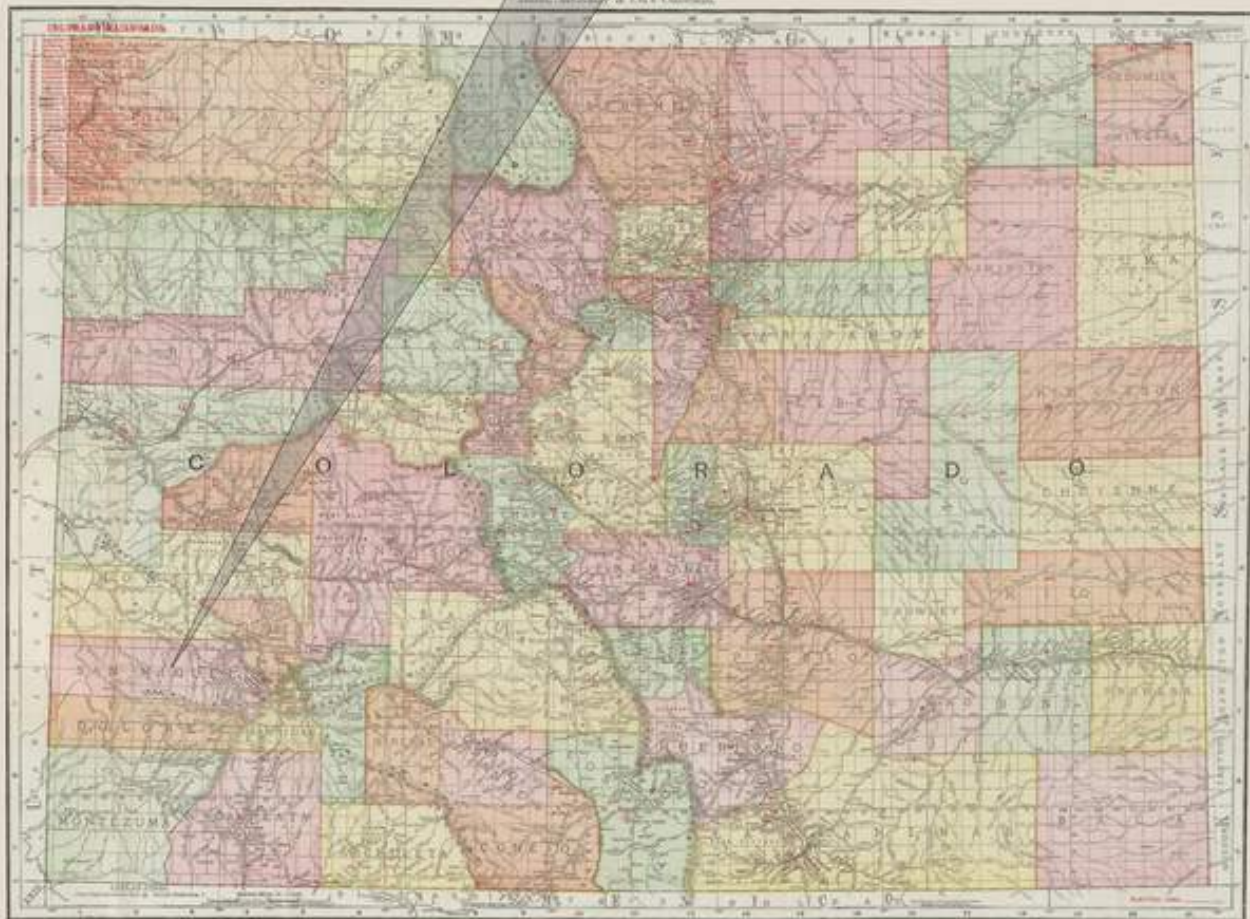


San Miguel County



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

Established: March 2 1883

County Seat: Telluride



SAN MIGUEL COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

San Miguel County is in the southwestern corner of Colorado and for much of its history it was not an easy area to visit. Even today it is not crossed by any of the Federal designated highways.

Prior to the creation of Colorado Territory the area that would become San Miguel County was included in Utah Territory and was the province of the Ute Indians.

When Colorado Territory was created in 1861 the area was placed within the boundaries of Lake County, which then included the majority of the southwestern Colorado Territory. By the early 1870's prospectors had begun to make serious inroads into the Ute territory of the San Juan Mountains and following the Brunot Treaty of 1873 much of the area was officially opened to the miners and to settlement. On January 31, 1876 San Juan County was authorized with boundaries that included the present San Juan, San Miguel, Dolores, Ouray and a portion of Montrose Counties.

On January 18, 1877 Ouray County came into existence by reducing San Juan County to its present size and on March 9, 1877 a small portion of the new Ouray County was added to the new Gunnison County. The next reduction to Ouray County was on February 19, 1881 when as a product of the mining activity in the Rico District Dolores County was authorized.

Finally, on February 27, 1883 San Miguel County was authorized with Telluride as the county seat. The growth of mining activity on the headwaters of the San Miguel River and the difficulty of travel to the county seat at Ouray were the basis for the new county.

Today San Miguel County is a long, narrow political unit with a maximum dimension of approximately seventy miles east to west and twenty-two miles north to south. It is bounded on the north by Montrose County, on the east by Ouray and San Juan Counties, on the south by Dolores County and on the west by San Juan County, Utah.

Topographically San Miguel County can be separated into two distinct regions. The eastern third lies within the San Juan Mountain complex with several mountain peaks exceeding 13,000 feet in height. The highest, at 14,017 feet altitude, is Wilson Peak, near the southern boundary. The western two-thirds of the county is a transition to the canyonlands of Utah and consists of irregularly surfaced mesas cut by moderately deep canyons.

The principal drainage is the San Miguel River. The Dolores River also crosses the far western end of San Miguel County on the way to joining with the San Miguel west of Uravan in Montrose County. All of this eventually drains into the Colorado River in Utah. There are numerous, snow-fed tributary streams in the eastern portion of the county but in the more arid west the streams are intermittent in nature and often dry. Disappointment Creek is the largest and best known of such streams.

The impetus for white incursions into the San Miguel River Valley was gold and silver. At first it was placer mining along the tributary streams but soon lode mining assumed dominance. For several years silver was the important metal extracted but with the silver panic of 1893 it was gold production that permitted mining to continue as an economic factor for San Miguel County.

In addition to gold and silver, lead and copper were important adjuncts to the precious metal production. During the first half of the twentieth century the production of uranium and vanadium from deposits along the San Miguel River and in the western portion of the county were significant to the economy.

Agriculture has played a part in the San Miguel County economy but successful farming and ranching face a rough road. Farming, even the growing of hay, depends on irrigation, and much of the land by its rugged nature is unsuited to farming. Ranching requires large tracts of range and unfortunately is a largely marginal operation in the best of times.

By the middle of the twentieth century mining was a declining industry in San Miguel County. Most of the mines around Telluride had been combined into the greater Idarado Mining Company but even that operation had ceased by the early 1970's. The uranium and vanadium boom also ended about the same time. It appeared that San Miguel County would slide into a continued existence as an area where ranching was nearly the only economic contributor.

However, there was a sudden change in fortunes, at least for the eastern portion of the county. The mountains and the San Miguel River Valley had always attracted hunters, fishermen and campers. The late twentieth century featured a boom in skiing as a recreational activity and the San Juan Mountains had snow in abundance and slopes to challenge the best skiers. Telluride, at least for a few years, had another attraction—property was inexpensive compared to other areas of the state.

Now the dominant economic factor of San Miguel County is recreation. Telluride has become a major ski center and numerous resorts have developed to cater to the skiers and those participating in other outdoor activities. Condominiums and housing developments have sprung up all along the San Miguel River. However, while the eastern portion booms, the western portion of the county remains dry and sparsely settled with a slowly declining population.

Travel into San Miguel County was never simple. The early routes were faced with difficult mountain passes, primarily Ophir Pass or were lengthy routes by way of Dallas Divide or from Durango, the long trip around through Dolores and Rico and over Lizard Head Pass. Even once travelers were in the county the roads along the rivers were steep, rough and subject to flash floods.

Today the principal road into San Miguel County is Colorado Highway 145. That highway begins at Ridgway in Ouray County, climbs over Dallas Divide, down Leopard Creek to the San Miguel River, then upstream to Telluride. A few miles west of Telluride it branches, continuing south over Lizard Head Pass to Rico and Dolores.

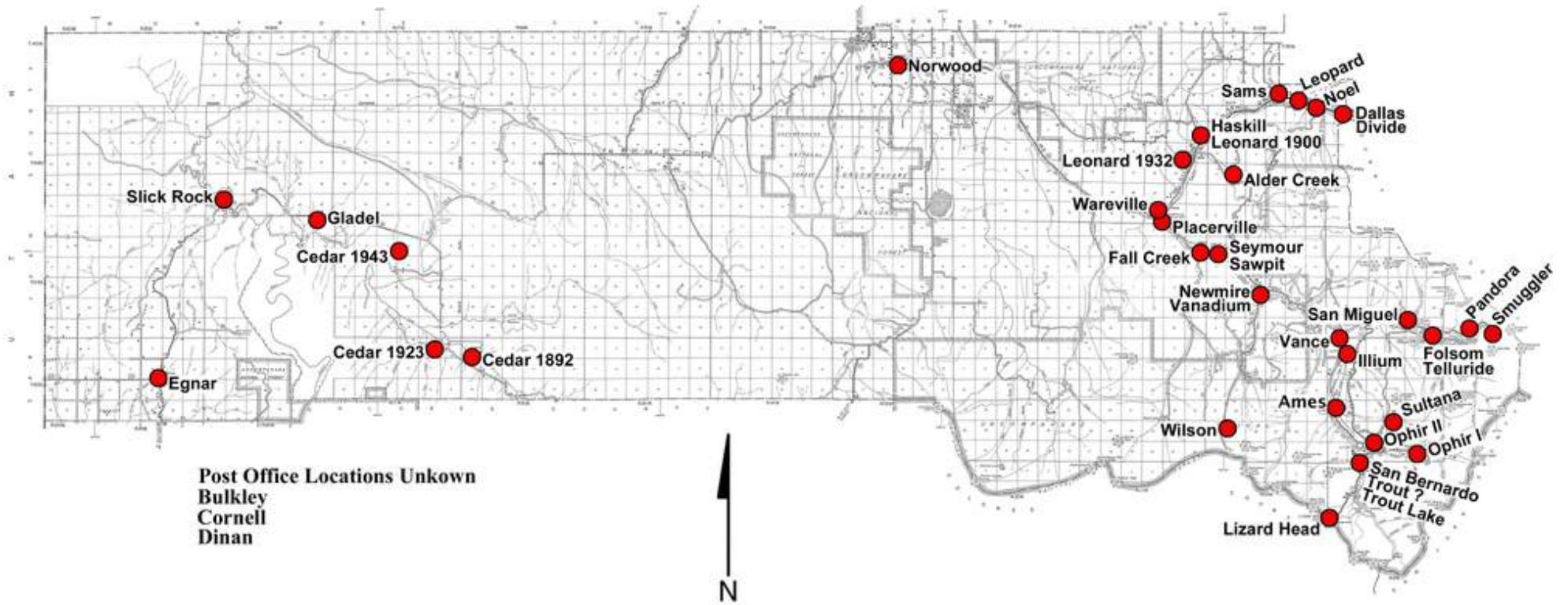
Another road, Colorado Highway 141, departs from US Highway 491 west of Dove Creek in Dolores County. Highway 141 enters San Miguel County near Egnar and turns east before again turning north into Montrose County and intersecting Highway 145 near Naturita. County roads exist but with only a few exceptions they end at mountain lakes or a remote ranch.

One railroad did serve San Miguel County. In 1891 Otto Mears' Rio Grande Southern Railroad built through San Miguel County on the way to Durango. This was Mears' means of circumventing the extremely difficult canyon between Ouray and Red Mountain. The railroad enjoyed only a few, if any profitable years. Its most famous operation was the series of gasoline powered, converted cars that became known as The Galloping Geese. They carried mail, passengers and some freight but by the early 1950's even that innovation failed to keep the railroad operating.

However, the Geese survive. One can be seen at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden, Colorado and another in Dolores. A reproduction is also at the Railroad Museum in Ridgway, Colorado. From time to time, the Geese make appearances at Narrow Gauge Railway history fairs and, for a price, will carry passengers.



Black Bear Road Switchbacks and Bridal Veil Falls
The infamous Jeep trail just east of Telluride
Photograph from: <https://peakvisor.com/adm/san-miguel-county-colorado.html>



Post Office Location Map – San Miguel County

ALDER CREEK

Alder Creek was an early, placer gold mining camp located on the creek of the same name. Apparently the placer deposits were small and quickly exhausted as the post office existed for less than two years.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report does not provide a definitive answer to the location of Alder Creek. As best can be determined it was some distance upstream from the confluence of Alder Creek with Leopard Creek. In September 1994, on the first of our many excursions, Jim Ozment and I took the side road from Colorado Highway 62 up Alder Creek. The road begins opposite the original site of Leonard/Haskill. One mile from Highway 62 there is a fork in the road. Keep to the left and cross Alder Creek. Seven-tenths miles from the fork there is an access road, unimproved, to the right. That trail brings you on to a small bench and the ruins of three small cabins. To us this seemed a likely location for Alder Creek. I would welcome better information if anyone can provide some.

A word of caution to those who search the territory along Leopard Creek: modern development is taking place and there are new roads being constructed. After passing the above-mentioned fork in the road along Alder Creek, we saw a telephone company truck go up the other road in the direction of an obviously new house on the side of Hastings Mesa. It reminds me of a bumper sticker I recently saw on a car in Montana: "Save Montana / Shoot a Developer!"

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 3 1878	---	No survey location On north side of Alder Creek Document is filed under Ouray County Proposed postmaster - George Edward Hastings
Dec 31 1878		Established
Dec 31 1878		Hastings, George E.
May 12 1880		Smith, Alfred
Sep 6 1880		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ALDER CREEK

AMES

Ames began as a small mining camp in a deep gorge near the junction of the Lake Fork and Howard's Fork of the San Miguel River. For a time there was a small smelter at Ames that processed ore from the Gold King Mine near the Alta Lakes above Ophir.

It has been variously reported that Ames was on a sixty-mile toll road from Sargents or on a toll road from Ouray to Telluride, both possibilities operated by Otto Mears. Neither of these claims holds up. Ames is much more than sixty miles from Sargents and is nowhere near the Ouray to Telluride road.

Apparently Mears did begin to construct a toll road up the Lake Fork bound for Rico but it never extended beyond the site of Ames. However, Ames was very likely on the early mail route from Silverton to Telluride by way of Ophir Pass.

The initial Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report offered the name of La Fayette for the new post office. That name was not accepted even though the Lafayette Post Office in Boulder County would not be authorized until 1889. I have no information as to the source of the name Ames.

On June 20, 1891 Ames secured a place in industrial history. Lucien L. Nunn constructed a hydroelectric plant at Ames and from there alternating current was transmitted to the Gold King Mine. This is claimed to be the first long distance transmission of alternating current for industrial purposes.

AMES – Continued

There is a report that a thirteen-mile transmission line at Portland, Oregon preceded the one from Ames but initially that one may not have been built for industrial purposes.

The amazing thing is that the power plant at Ames is still in use, owned and operated by Colorado-Ute Electric. A marker at the site states that this was the first of its kind in the world.

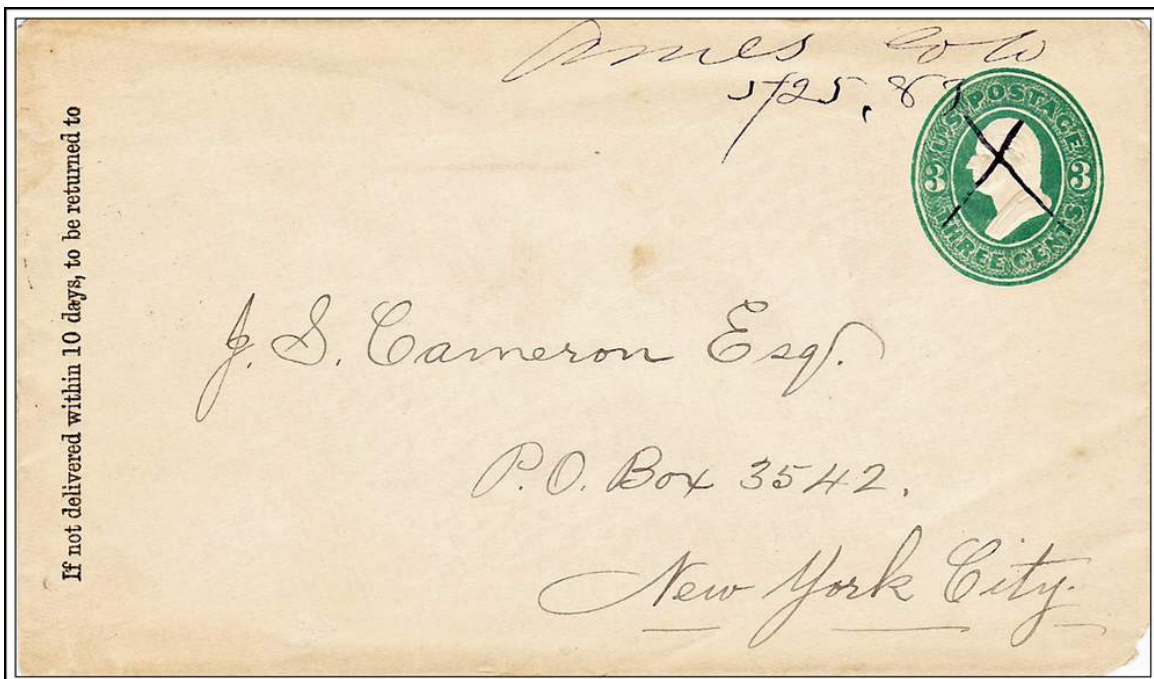
Located in the narrow confines of the canyon there was little room for development of any sizeable community. In 1891 the Rio Grande Southern Railroad built through the area, but in order to climb out of the gorge they had to create a loop and thus spiraled up the canyon walls high above Ames.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, filed in 1892, indicates that the Ames Post Office was moved from the town of Ames and located near the Ophir Station of the Rio Grande Southern – a move of approximately 3.5 miles south. There was a brief period of closure in 1900, ostensibly because of confusion and misunderstanding between the railroad and the Post Office Department as to responsibilities and accounting procedures should the post office be located within the railroad station building. Apparently the problems were resolved and in 1922 when the post office name was changed from Ames to Ophir the post office was either in or very close to the station. By 1941 the post office was definitely in the railroad station.

As mentioned, the Ames Power Plant is still in operation. Also there are a few other buildings near the plant along the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River.

Driving south on Colorado Highway 145 from the direction of Telluride, the road down to Ames begins about 500 feet north of the intersection with the road to Ophir. The turn off is on the right side of the highway and it is one mile down to Ames. Although the road is steep, and some places narrow, it is well traveled and should present no problem if you intend to visit Ames. If my maps are correct, it should also be possible to continue south to Ames on the road that passes Vance and Illium. That might be an interesting choice.

Latitude = 37:51:53 North Longitude = 107:52:54 West AMES



Ames Colo

May 25, 1883

AMES – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 29 1880 --- Unsurveyed On the east bank of the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River
There is an indication that there was an intention to name this place La Fayette.
Both names appear on the sketch map.
Proposed postmaster - Hector Weir.

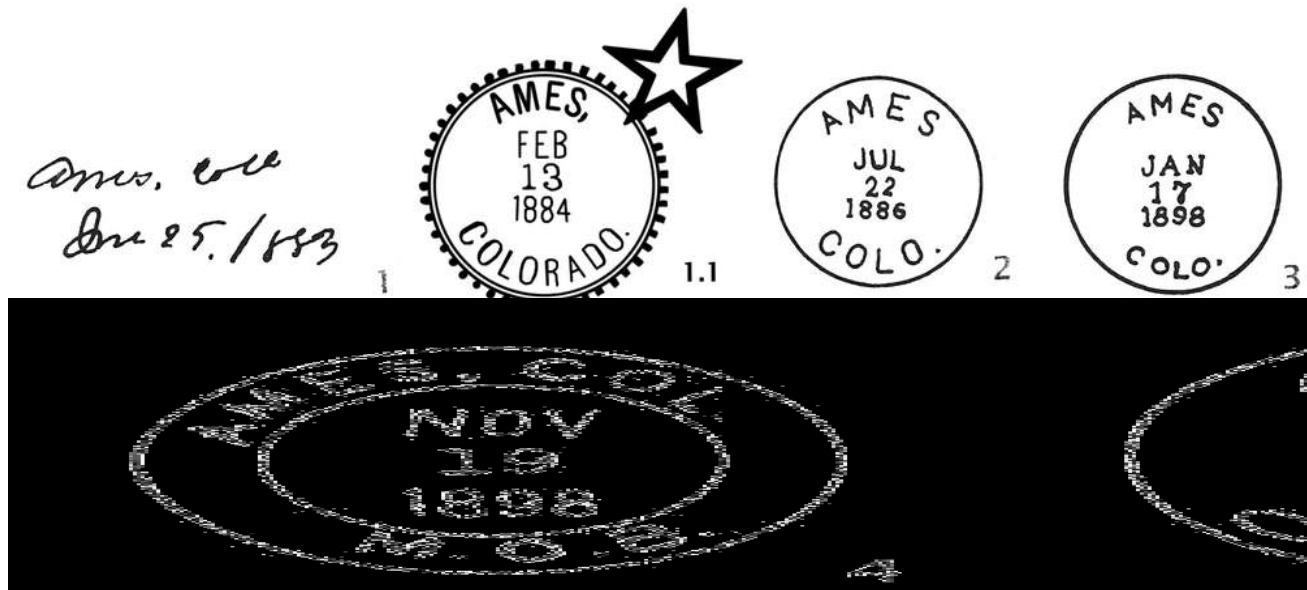
Dec 20 1880 Established
Dec 20 1880 Weir, Hector
Apr 15 1881 Discontinued
Oct 24 1881 Re-established
Oct 24 1881 Epland, Sarah E.
Nov 21 1881 Epland, Sarah E.
Dec 21 1881 Epland, Sarah E.
May 26 1884 Evans, Walter
May 6 1886 Hoisington, Joseph
Jul 17 1886 Bowman, Newton T.
Mar 19 1887 Evans, Milton
Feb 15 1892 --- W/2 Sec 27 T42N R9W 100 feet north of the Howard Fork of the San Miguel River
600 feet north from the Rio Grande Southern Station

Sep 9 1889 Shilling, Alvin
Nov 21 1899 Fitton, Gertrude A.
Mar 6 1900 Lindon, R. R.
Aug 6 1900 Discontinued Mail to Telluride
Oct 6 1900 Re-established
Oct 6 1900 Hetrick, Effie D.
Aug 2 1904 Driver, Melissa
Apr 21 1905 Franklin, Irving S.
Nov 20 1906 Hickman, Richard
Sep 8 1908 Fletcher, Ralph J.
May 15 1909 Hall, Harriet
Nov 16 1909 Washburn, James Blaine
Apr 18 1910 Heath, Frank F.
Dec 20 1915 LeValley, Charles L.
Sep 23 1919 Hutton, Leonie
Jun 3 1922 Moved to Ophir (New Ophir)

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Ames Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Jan 15 1883 Jun 26 1883
1.1	AMES, / COLORADO. CI 20C 30.5/29.0	Hstp Fancy 5-pt star outline	Feb 13 1884
2	AMES / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 22 1886 Feb 27 1891
3	AMES / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jan 17 1898
4	AMES, COL. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer; On Advice of Money Order form	Nov 19 1898
5	AMES, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3, with 4	Aug 13 1906 Dec 23 1914
6	AMES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 17 1919 Mar -- 1922

AMES – Continued

**BULKLEY**

I have found no information relative to this proposed post office. There is no Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report on file, thus I have no idea for where in the county it might have been intended.

Any information that can resolve the questions would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

No documents found in the San Miguel County Geographic Site Location Reports.

Mar 7 1895	Established
Mar 7 1895	Colp, Lucy H.
Mar 29 1895	Order rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BULKLEY

CEDAR

Cedar was never more than a ranch post office that through most of its existence served a large, sparsely populated area of western San Miguel County. Like many other ranch post offices it moved several times. Most of the locations were within the area around the junction of Dawson Draw with Disappointment Creek; however, the final location was about six miles to the northwest of the earlier sites. The name is believed to be derived from the abundant red cedar trees in the area.

It is not simple to describe how to find the sites of Cedar. You can make the loop from Norwood to Willow Creek and Lavender in Dolores County and then continue west on Disappointment Creek Road. The first of the sites is four and two-tenths miles beyond the Dolores-San Miguel County line. At that point there is a collection of ranch buildings on the north side of the road in the corner where the road turns due north. However, the buildings are on the wrong side of the road for the post office site. The 1919 site of Cedar was in the southwest angle of Disappointment Creek Road as it goes due north for a quarter-mile then turns due west for a mile before again turning due north. Nothing is evident in the sagebrush-covered location at that point.

CEDAR – Continued

At the second turn north, the 1923 location of Cedar was in the field to the west side of the road, again nothing visible remains. Continue north and cross the “Daddy Williams Bridge” over Disappointment Creek. About a tenth of a mile north of the bridge a dirt road (Road K20) to the east leads to the original site (1892) and the 1936 and 1941 reported locations for Cedar. The location is about a mile from the main road. In 2003, when Jim Ozment and I visited the area, it was the day after a heavy rain and about three-quarters of a mile from the main road we encountered a low, water-covered, muddy stretch of road. Better judgment told me not to continue. In the distance we could see a clump of trees that was likely a location of the post office but from where we stopped we could not determine if any buildings remained.

Back on Disappointment Creek Road (Road 190), which from Road K20 runs essentially due north to Colorado Highway 141, continue north three and three-tenths miles to Road P20 to the west. Drive west one and one-half miles. There is a small abandoned building a couple hundred yards north of Road P20. This was likely the 1943 and final location of the Cedar Post Office. From here you can continue west and north intersecting Highway 141 about a half-mile east of the site of Gladel.

If you come from the direction of Naturita, begin the trek to Cedar at the western foot of Gypsum Gap where you would turn south on Road 190. Road P20, to the west, is about two miles from that intersection.

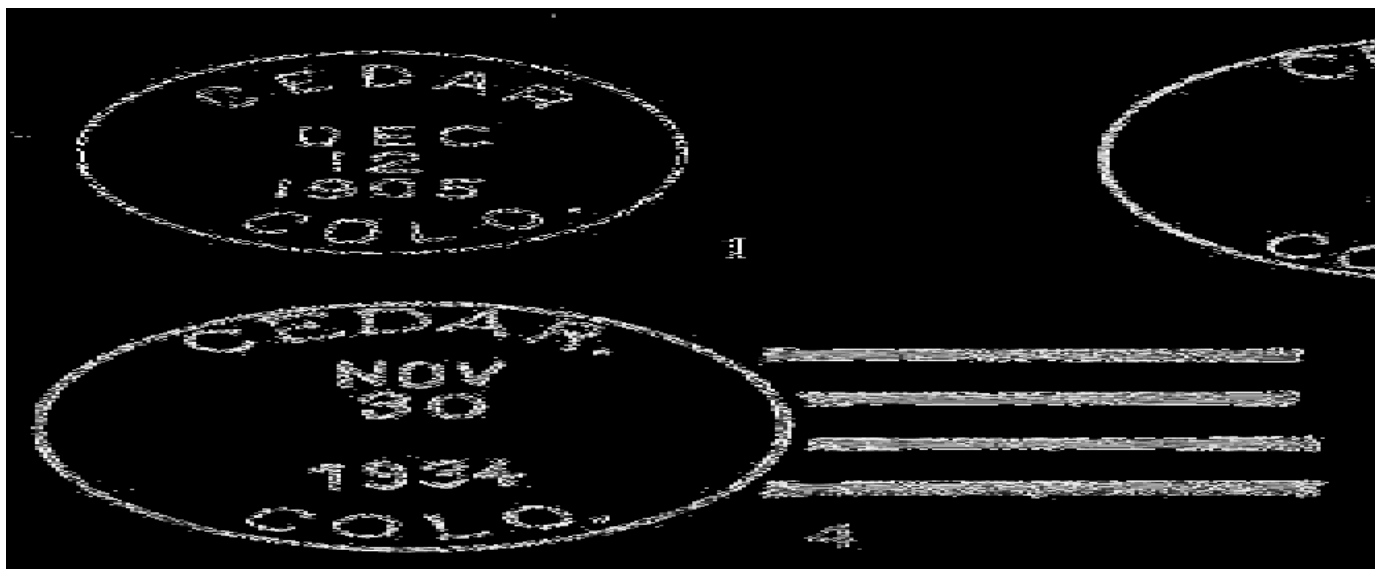
Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 16 1892	---	SW/4 Sec 6 T42N R16W 100 yards south of Disappointment Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - John W. Westcott	
Apr 7 1892		Established	
Apr 7 1892		Westcott, John W.	
May 9 1903		Rhinehart, Owey E.	
Mar 23 1911		Rhinehart, Susie	
Jan 2 1913		Westcott, Emma	
Mar 6 1919		Seymour, Mae R.	Declined
Jun 16 1919	---	NE/4 Sec 12 T42N R17W 1/8 mile south of Disappointment Creek	
		A move 7/8 mile southwest of a previous location	
Jun 30 1919		Small, Donley V.	
Dec 31 1919		Ordered closed	
Jan 15 1921		Discontinued Mail to Redvale	
Nov 2 1923		Re-established	
Nov 2 1923		William, Andrew L.	
Nov 5 1923	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T42N R17W 1 mile south of Disappointment Creek	
		A move 3/4 mile west of a previous location	
Dec 21 1923		William, Andrew L.	Commissioned
Jul 31 1936	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T42N R16W 1/4 mile north of Disappointment Creek	
		A move 2-1/2 miles northeast of a previous location New postmaster and her home	
		Moved on June 22 1936	
Aug 4 1936		Mair, Mrs. Lila	Confirmed
Aug 15 1936		Mair, Mrs. Lila	Acting
Sep 2 1936		Mair, Mrs. Lila	Commisioned
Sep 14 1936		Mair, Mrs. Lila	Assumed charge
Oct 24 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T42N R16W Disappointment Creek is 1/4 mile south	
Feb 17 1943		Robertson, Mrs. Catherine M.	Assumed charge
Mar 9 1943		Robertson, Mrs. Catherine M.	Appointed
Mar 19 1943	---	SW/4 Sec 10 T43N R17W A move about 7 miles north and west of the previous location	
		1-1/2 miles north of Disappointment Creek	
Nov 9 1943		Ordered closed	
Nov 15 1943		Discontinued Mail to Redvale	

CEDAR – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	CEDAR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 22 1905 Dec 12 1905
2	CEDAR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Feb 7 1912 Mar 26 1912
3	CEDAR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 28 1916 Feb 4 1919
4	CEDAR. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Nov 30 1934
5	CEDAR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	--- 31 1940 Sep 15 1942



CORNELL

As with Bulkley and Dinan, I have no information relative to this proposed post office. There is no Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report on file, thus I have no idea for where in the county it might have been intended. For some reason it took five months to rescind the establishment.

Any information that might resolve the questions would be appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

No documents found in the San Miguel County Geographic Site Location Reports.

Mar 11 1903	Established
Mar 11 1903	Fisk, Almer
Jul 10 1903	Establishment rescinded

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CORNELL

DALLAS DIVIDE

Dallas Divide was probably in Ouray County, not in San Miguel County. However, the summit of Dallas Divide is the county line between Ouray and San Miguel Counties so a few feet difference in placement of the post office could change the county of location. Therefore I will include Dallas Divide here and I will likely repeat the discussion when I prepare the text for Ouray County.

DALLAS DIVIDE – Continued

Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, describes Dallas Divide thusly: “Dallas Divide was simply a station on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad located exactly on the divide between the watersheds of the Uncompaghre and San Miguel Rivers. It had two passing tracks, a wye, stockyards, and a section house, and it served as a shipping point for stock sent to and from its summer range in the mountains. Located at an elevation of 8,960 feet (Sams Quadrangle, 1967) Dallas Divide was in an area offering a significant snow removal problem to railroad.” In 1909 the post office was moved about a mile down Leopard Creek from the summit and renamed Noel.

The location is on Colorado Highway 62 from Ridgway to Placerville. There is a parking lot at the summit and the view from Dallas Divide of the San Juan Mountains is one of the most spectacular mountain views in Colorado. It is certainly my favorite.

The railroad grade is still partially visible. On several trips over Dallas Divide I did not see any sign of remaining buildings. I assumed that highway construction had destroyed anything that might have remained. In May 2004, Jim Ozment and I returned to Denver by way of Dallas Divide. With snow still on the high peaks the scenery was outstanding. At that time, the aspen trees had not yet leafed out and we could see a two-story building, well hidden in a grove of aspens south of the highway. Later Jim was able to determine that it was a ranch building and was not specifically associated with the Rio Grande Southern Railroad.

Latitude = 38:05:40 North Longitude = 107:53:16 West DALLAS DIVIDE



**Overview of the site of Dallas Divide with the San Juan Mountains in the background
Note the building in the grove of trees at right of center.**

Photograph by James L. Ozment

May 23, 2003

DALLAS DIVIDE – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 27 1893	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T44N R9W 2 miles east of Leopard Creek 40 feet south of the Rio Grande Southern Track Proposed postmaster - Charles Patrick Gallagher
Mar 24 1894		Established
Mar 24 1894		Gallagher, Charles P.
Jul 23 1909		Moved to Noel

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	DALLAS DIVIDE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm	Feb 9 1898 Mar 21 1900
2	DALLAS DIVIDE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x13mm	May 4 1907 Jul 31 1908

**DINAN**

The Records of Postmaster Appointments include an initial appointment for a post office to be named Dinan. The appointment of a postmaster and the establishment were rescinded. There is no Geographic Site Location Report on file and I have found no mention of Dinan in any of the Colorado historical literature that I have read.

If anyone can provide some information about Dinan, it would be greatly appreciated.

Chronology of the Post Office

	No documents found in the San Miguel County Geographic Site Location Reports.	
Oct 9 1929	Established	
Oct 9 1929	Chaplin, Mrs. Virginia M.	Order rescinded (No date given)
--- --	Establishment rescinded	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM DINAN

EGNAR

Egnar was established in 1917 shortly after the surrounding area was opened for homesteading. The countryside is primarily rangeland, however the development of irrigation projects in southwestern Colorado introduced farming to the area and there is now a mix of ranching and farming in the vicinity of Egnar.

The name Egnar is an example of reverse spelling. According to some, the desired name was Range but apparently that was not acceptable, so the spelling was reversed resulting in Egnar.

EGNAR – Continued

The present day Egnar is located on Colorado Highway 141, two and one-half miles north of the San Miguel-Dolores County line. Scattered along Highway 141 there is a small community with several residences and a few agricultural related businesses.

During its history the post office has been at several locations. The original location was a short distance north of the county line. For a brief time in 1917-1918 the office was moved two miles south into Dolores County to a site on the highway and Wilson Creek. By October 1919 the post office was back in San Miguel County approximately a mile south of the present day location. In 1920 it was moved another half-mile north and by 1922 was at or near its present location. There are buildings at those early locations but for most part the sites are abandoned.

Latitude = 37:54:59 North Longitude = 108:56:22 West EGNAR

Chronology of the Post Office

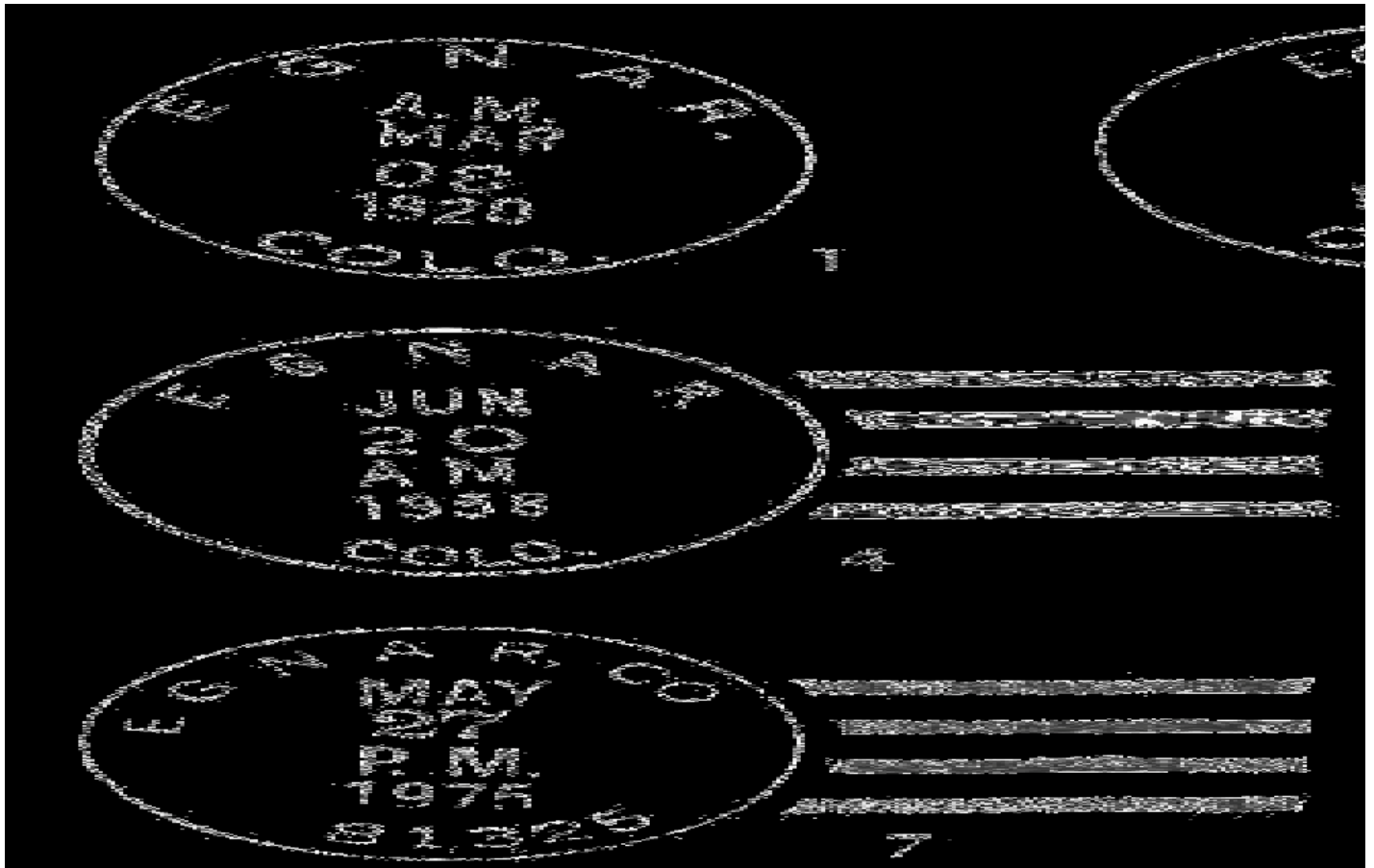
May 28 1917	Established	
May 28 1917	Westcott, Ruth E.	
--- -- ---	Briefly moved to a location in Dolores County, then moved back to a location in San Miguel County	
Jun 28 1918	Culver, Ernest W.	
Oct 3 1919	NW/4 Sec 15 T42N R19W	A move 3-1/2 miles north of a previous location
Oct 16 1919	Posey, Mack H.	
Jul 29 1920	SE/4 Sec 10 T42N R19W	1-3/4 miles north of Chico Creek A move 1/2 mile north of a previous location
Aug 30 1920	Osborn, Alice	
May 26 1922	Westfall, Isaac M.	Acting
Aug 14 1922	Osborn, Isaac C.	
Jul 31 1922	NW/4 Sec 11 T42N R19W	2 miles north of Chico Creek A move 1/2 mile north of a previous location
Aug 14 1922	Osborn, Isaac Clay	Appointed
Sep 1 1922	Osborn, Isaac Clay	Commissioned
Sep 13 1922	Osborn, Isaac Clay	Possession
Apr 5 1924	Krabbe, Mrs. Clara Inez	Possession, Acting
Apr 19 1924	Krabbe, Mrs. Clara Inez	Acting
Jun 6 1924	Krabbe, Mrs. Clara Inez	Appointed
Jul 19 1924	Krabbe, Mrs. Clara Inez	Commissioned
Sep 30 1924	Krabbe, Mrs. Clara Inez	Possession
Oct 21 1941	NW/4 Sec 11 T42N R19W	On Highway 80
Apr 20 1960	Hankins, Mrs. Nellie	Assumed charge
Apr 25 1960	Hankins, Mrs. Nellie	Acting
Dec 14 1960	Hankins, Mrs. Nellie	Confirmed
Dec 23 1960	Hankins, Mrs. Nellie	Commissioned
Jul 21 1961	Krabbe, Mrs. Nellie K.	Name changed by marriage
Dec 11 1962	Hammar, Mrs. Nellie K	Name changed by marriage (correction ?)
Apr 23 1968	Dillon, Mrs. Ann N.	Possession, Acting
Sep 27 1968	Dillon, Mrs. Ann N.	Commissioned
Oct 4 1968	Dillon, Mrs. Ann N.	Possession

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	EGNAR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars Not present	Mar 30 1920
2	EGNAR / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 30 1938 Nov 4 1941

EGNAR – Continued

3	EGNAR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 14 1948 Oct 6 1958
4	EGNAR / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jun 20 1958 Apr 8 1959
5	EGNAR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 5 1962
6	EGNAR, CO / 81325 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Dec 13 1967 Sep 22 1970
7	EGNAR, CO / 81325 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 4 1973 Mar 10 1992
8	EGNAR, CO / 81325 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 4 1989 Dec 12 2001



FALL CREEK

The common published history relative to Fall Creek includes several mis-statements. It is often claimed that the Seymour Post Office was at a thriving placer camp on Fall Creek and that the post office was moved to the Silver Pick Mine and took that name. Another claim is that the post office moved again from the Silver Pick Mine to the Sawpit Mines and adopted the name of Sawpit. The final claim is that about 1922, after the Sawpit mines closed, the community took the name of Fall Creek. The descriptions that exist in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports tell a much different story.

FALL CREEK – Continued

First, there was no Fall Creek Post Office prior to 1933. Second, there never was a Silver Pick Post Office in the State of Colorado. Third, Seymour, and the Seymour Post Office, were not on Fall Creek. They were one mile east of Fall Creek at what is Sawpit today. Fourth, in 1896 the Seymour Post Office did change its name but to Sawpit not to Silver Pick. And lastly, when the Fall Creek Post Office opened in 1933 it was only 200 feet northeast of Fall Creek, approximately a mile from the site of Seymour/Sawpit.

With all of this, undoubtedly there was a Fall Creek placer mining community either on Fall Creek or at its confluence with the San Miguel River. It is possible that the name of the early community was changed to Silver Pick to honor its most productive mine.

Also, there was a Fall Creek Station on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad but it was located at Seymour. The Fall Creek Station was the shipping point for ore from the Silver Pick Mine. This last fact is likely the source of much of the confusion in names.

The name Fall Creek is a reference to the stream and a picturesque waterfall on that stream.

The site of Fall Creek is on Colorado Highway 145 approximately two miles east of Placerville. Appropriately, this is where Fall Creek Road from the south crosses the San Miguel River to Highway 145. There are a few buildings in the vicinity but they do not date from the early mining history of Fall Creek. One or two may relate to the 1933-1943 period.

Fall Creek Road climbs steadily south to Woods Lake. This is a scenic drive and well worth the eleven-mile trip to the lake.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 1 1933	---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 12 T43N R11W 150 feet north of the San Miguel River 200 feet northeast of Fall Creek South side of the Rio Grande Southern 50 feet from the track Applicant for postmaster -- Wilma Hart Smith	
Jun 22 1933		Established	
Jun 22 1933		Smith, Mrs. Wilma Hart	Confirmed
Jul 8 1933		Smith, Mrs. Wilma Hart	Commissioned & Assumed charge
Oct 27 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 12 T43N R11W 190 feet north of the San Miguel River Fall Creek 500 feet from the post office Sketch map places it on the north side of the highway and river, about opposite the mouth of Fall Creek.	
Mar 6 1942		Bess, Mrs. Josephine I.	Confirmed
Mar 16 1942		Bess, Mrs. Josephine I.	Commissioned
Apr 1 1942		Bess, Mrs. Josephine I.	Assumed charge
Nov 11 1943		Ordered closed	
Nov 13 1943		Discontinued Mail to Placerville	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FALL CREEK, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 1 1934 Nov 27 1942
2	FALL CREEK / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Oct 26 1943



FOLSOM

There were post offices at three locations in the upper reaches of the San Miguel River. From west to east they were San Miguel, Telluride and Pandora. Distances of one to one and a half miles separated the three. From August 1881 to November 1885 all three offices were in simultaneous operation. Folsom was a fourth name involved in this complex. From August 17, 1880 to December 13, 1880 it replaced the Telluride Post Office.

Early maps of the area show Folsom at more than one location to the east of the site of San Miguel. The early Geographic Site Location Report for Telluride places it two miles due east of San Miguel and 20 rods southwest of Cornet Creek. The second part of that reference is a bit difficult to interpret as once Cornet Creek reaches the valley floor it meanders westward for about one mile before merging with the San Miguel River.

The July 1880 Site Location Report also refers to Cornet Creek and this is the same report that was applied to Folsom. Later reports for Telluride continue to describe it as east of Cornet Creek, however each time a bit further east.

From all of this, and contrary to the conclusions of others, I believe that when the name of the Telluride Post Office was changed to Folsom, and four months later back to Telluride, there was no move to a different location. Therefore the location of Folsom would be within what is now the business district of Telluride. The fact that many of the small streams today have different names than in the nineteenth century is a complicating factor to resolving the problem.

The name Folsom appears to derive from the Folsome and Company Mine.

Refer to the discussions of Pandora, San Miguel and Telluride for more information about this group of post offices.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 19 1880	---	Not reported On both sides of the San Miguel River and of Cornett Creek The sketch map shows it as COLUMBIA. Proposed postmaster - James P. Redick
Aug 17 1880		Moved from Telluride
Aug 17 1880		Redick, James P.
Dec 13 1880		Discontinued Returned to Telluride

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM FOLSOM

GLADEL

Almost nothing is known about Gladel. The Gladel Post Office had a brief existence during the 1920's. Most likely Gladel was at a ranch and provided limited mail service for other ranchers in the area north of the Dolores River near where Disappointment Creek joins the river. In the 1970's, the name Gladel was often applied to the physical location of the Slick Rock Post Office.

I have no information as to the source of the name.

The first site of the Gladel Post Office was on the south side of Colorado Highway 141. When Jim Ozment and I visited the site in 1994 we could find only a few boards and a small depression that might have been a building location. The land is covered with sagebrush. The second location was a mile to the southwest but there is no direct access to that site. I doubt if anything remains there.

From the "store" at Slick Rock drive east five and seven-tenths miles on Colorado Highway 141. Pass a dirt road to the north and cross a small wash. Gladel was on the south side of the highway.

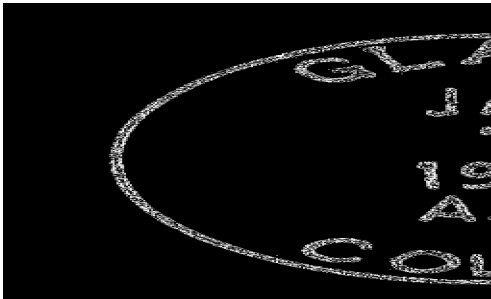
GLADEL – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 14 1922	---	NW/4 Sec 1 T43N R18W 1-1/2 miles east of the Dolores River 1 mile north of Disappointment Creek Original name request was Disappointment Valley. Applicant for postmaster - Mae R. Seymour
Dec 14 1922		Established
Dec 14 1922		Seymour, Mrs. Mae R.
Mar 26 1926		Holybee, Susanah J.
Mar 21 1928		Reed, Mrs. Louise M. Acting
Mar 26 1928	---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 2 T43N R18W A move 1000 feet southwest of a previous location 1-1/2 miles east of the Dolores River 400 feet north of Disappointment Creek
Apr 3 1928		Reed, Mrs. Louise M. Appointed
May 4 1929		Ordered closed
May 31 1929		Discontinued Mail to Cedar

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 GLADEL / COLO. Jan 7 1926
 CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm



HASKILL

Haskill was established as a tollgate on the Otto Mears Toll Road to the San Miguel River and Telluride. Later, with the arrival of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad, Haskill developed into a small village with sawmills and a siding for the loading of timber.

Haskill was most likely named for its first postmaster - Allen C. Haskill.

The Post Office Geographic Site Location Report clearly places Haskill on Leopard Creek. This presents some unresolved problems.

First, Ray Newburn in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, places the site of Haskill some four miles north of the later settlement of Leonard and associates it with the settlement of Horsefly in Montrose County, however not at the same place.

Second, the Site Location Reports for Leonard place it in the same township, range and section as Haskill and the dates of the two post offices overlap for seven years. A possible explanation of the overlap can be guessed from the Records of Postmaster Appointments. In June 1902 A. N. Hayes was appointed postmaster for Haskill but two months later the appointment was rescinded and supposedly the position reverted to Annie Smith who had been appointed in 1888. Ostensibly she continued to be postmaster until the office closed in 1907. I think that there is a possibility that sometime around 1900 the Haskill Post Office ceased to function. At about same time, March 23, 1900 the Leonard Post Office was established at or very near the same location. With the Leonard Post Office in operation there would be no need for the Haskill office, so it likely went dormant and remained so even after the failed appointment of A. N. Hayes in 1902. In 1907 the records were finally brought up to date and the Haskill Post Office was officially closed. Anyone have a better idea to resolve the problem?

HASKILL – Continued

Haskill was located on the north side of Colorado Highway 62 and Leopard Creek at the mouth of Gutschall Gulch. This is eight miles from the summit of Dallas Divide. In September 1994 there was a modern log residence on the east side of the junction of the Carsten's Ranch Road with Highway 62. The grade and remnants of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad trestle across the mouth of Gutschall Gulch are evident on the hill above the building.

On the USGS San Miguel County map, the steep portion of the gulch where it drops to a junction with Leopard Creek is labeled as Haskill Hill. This is further support for the location of Haskill at what eventually became Leonard.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 26 1888	---	Sec 12 T44N R11W On the north side of Leopard Creek	
		Proposed postmaster - Allen C. Haskill	
Feb 10 1888		Established	
Feb 10 1888		Haskill, Allen C.	
Jun 22 1888		Smith, Annie	
Jun 30 1902		Hayes, A. N.	Order rescinded Aug 28 1902
Feb 7 1907		Ordered closed	
Feb 28 1907		Discontinued Mail to Leonard	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HASKILL / COLO.	Aug 15 1889 Oct 8 1897
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring

**ILLIUM**

Illium was another small settlement in the vicinity of the junction of the main line of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad with the branch line to Telluride. Prior to the arrival of the railroad in 1891 there was some ranching along the South Fork of the San Miguel River and there may have been a small settlement named Anderson.

When the railroad reached the site it was given the name Illium. It is claimed that the name Illium comes from the works of Homer and also that the name should be properly spelled with only one "l," that is Ilium.

In 1900 The Telluride Electric Light and Power Co., owned by L. L. Nunn, built its second power plant at Illium. At some point in time the site of Illium passed into the hands of the Episcopal Church. Since the acquisition by the church many of the buildings have been rehabilitated and Illium is now operated as a church camp.

The Illium Post Office operated for two separate periods of time. In between, except for a few days at each end, the post office at Vance was operating and serving the area.

ILLIUM – Continued

To reach the site of Illium, follow the directions to Vance and continue south for another half mile. The entrance to Illium and the church camp is well marked but remember this is all private property. The buildings are well kept. A small, brown, board-and-batten building may have been the post office.

Latitude = 37:55:47 North Longitude = 107:53:50 West

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 10 1891	Established	
Feb 10 1891	Collins, Hattie M.	
Sep 11 1891	Champion Jr., William	Declined
Dec 14 1891	Blaney, Aaron B.	
Jan 3 1894	---	Sec 5 T42N R9W 100 feet west of the South Fork of the San Miguel River 40 feet east of the Rio Grande Southern It is still not clear whether the spelling is Illium or Illium. Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Hattie M. Collins
Jul 20 1894	Discontinued	Papers to San Miguel
Jun 15 1910	---	SE?/4 Sec 6 T42N R9W Rio Grande Southern 250 feet west of post office South Fork of the San Miguel 100 feet west Bill Creek 1 mile north of post office
Aug 1 1910	Re-established	
Aug 1 1910	Meyers, R. Andy	
May 8 1911	Stone, Guy	
Apr 6 1912	Cyns, Jennie	
Nov 3 1913	Goosman, Daniel	
Jan 24 1916	Blaney, William	
May 1 1917	Everitt, Frank	
May 23 1917	Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1917	Discontinued	Mail to Telluride

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | ILLIUM / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Aug 3 1893 Jun 24 1898
Hstp Grid, 17-bar oval |
| 2 | ILLIUM, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Dec 12 1912 May 5 1916
4bar S-24x20mm [1 or 2 "L"s in the name? Cvr scans not available] |



LEONARD

The story is told that four ex-soldiers, veterans of the Civil and Spanish American Wars, founded Leonard in 1900. To choose a name for their settlement they held a drawing. Each of their names was written on a slip of paper, placed in a box, and one was drawn out. The winner was Leonard. This tale does have some substance since William R. Leonard was the third postmaster for the town.

LEONARD – Continued

The interrelationship of the settlements along Leopard Creek is shown by the occurrence of the family name Impson. A Jacob C. Impson was the first postmaster appointed at Leonard (April 2, 1900) and also at Sams (April 18, 1903). His appointment at Sams was rescinded; a Jacob E. Impson took over. Also one Lydia Impson was earlier appointed postmaster at Lizard Head (March 1, 1898), many miles away on Lizard Head Pass. The Impson family did get around.

There were two distinct locations for Leonard. The first was at or very near the site of Haskill. This is at the mouth of Sheep Draw (Carstens Ranch Road). The second location is a mile west of the first site, a short distance west of the mouth of Alder Creek.

Please refer to the discussion of Haskill for comments on the overlap of the Haskill and Leonard Post Offices and a description of the early site of Leonard.

The second location of Leonard is still occupied with a new house on the northwest side of Colorado Highway 62 and some older buildings a few hundred feet further west.

Leonard was the location of the Green Mountain Guest Ranch.

Latitude = 38:03:50 North Longitude = 108:01:35 West LEONARD

Chronology of the Post Office

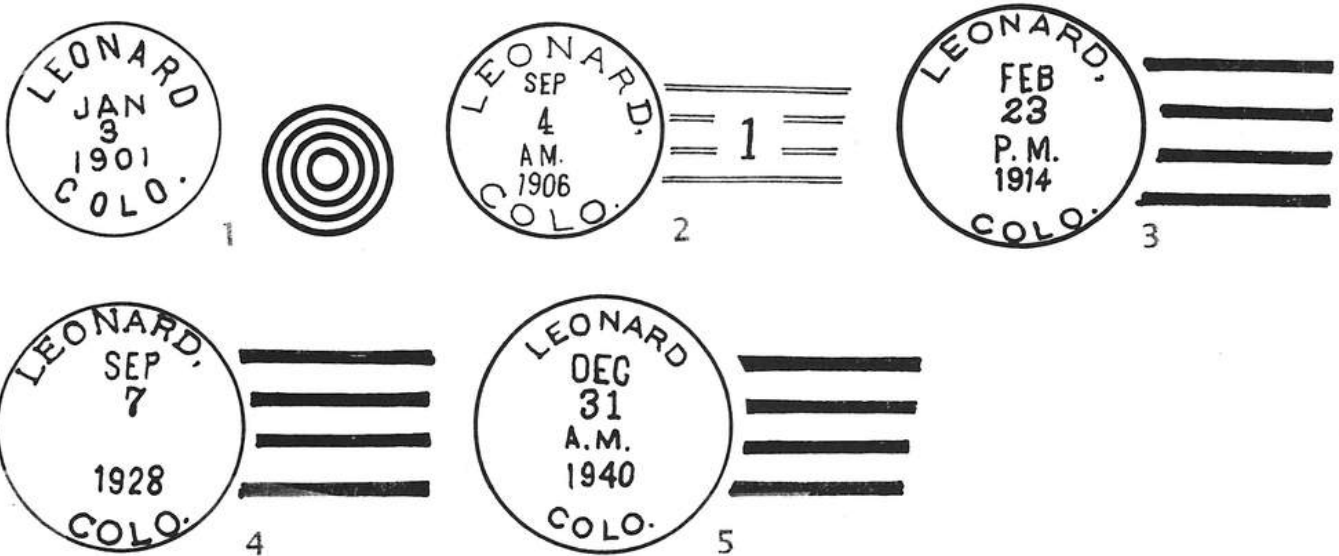
Mar 23 1900	Established	
Apr 2 1900	---	SE/4 Sec 12 T44N R11W 1/8 mile north of Leopard Creek About 100 feet north of Haskill Spur, Rio Grande Southern Proposed postmaster - Jacob C. Impson
May 23 1900		Impson, Jacob C.
Dec 31 1901	---	SW/4 SE/4 Sec 12 T44N R11W 300 feet west of Leopard Creek 80 feet west of the Rio Grande Southern
Mar 27 1903		Burge, Ida
Oct 12 1904		Leonard, William R.
Apr 21 1909		Currier, Mattie
Mar 26 1910		Wolverton, George S.
Feb 3 1912		Granel, Florence
Jan 2 1913		Smith, Josie
May 2 1914	---	SE/4 Sec 12 T44N R11W 100 feet north of Leopard Creek 300 feet south of the Rio Grande Southern
Sep 22 1915		Granel, Florence
May 3 1919		Elliott, Roy D.
Oct 16 1919		Gibson, James E.
Jul 21 1928		Flehr, Anna P.
Jul 12 1930		Nance, Mrs. Elizabeth Possession, Acting
Aug 1 1930	---	SE/4 Sec 12 T44N R11W A move about 1/2 mile northeast of a previous location "A more desirable place for the post office building." 100 feet west of Leopard Creek On the east side of the Denver and Rio Grande Western 300 feet from track
Aug 6 1930		Nance, Mrs. Elizabeth Acting
Aug 12 1930		Nance, Mrs. Elizabeth Appointed
Sep 9 1930		Nance, Mrs. Elizabeth Commissioned
May 25 1932		Cannon, Mrs. Lucy E. Assumed charge
Jun 7 1932		Cannon, Mrs. Lucy E. Acting
Sep 8 1932	---	SW/4 Sec 13 T44N R11W For change of site 160 rods southwest order of June 18, 1932 About 50 feet west of the "Rio Del Coda"
Nov 21 1932		Cannon, Mrs. Lucy E. Confirmed
Dec 8 1932		Cannon, Mrs. Lucy E. Commissioned
Oct 16 1933		Boyer, Mrs. Myrtle L. Assumed charge
Oct 31 1933		Boyer, Mrs. Myrtle L. Acting

LEONARD – Continued

Nov 3 1933	Boyer, Mrs. Myrtle L.	Confirmed
Nov 25 1933	Boyer, Mrs. Myrtle L.	Commissioned
Sep 20 1935	Flohr, Mrs. Anna	Assumed charge
Oct 12 1935	Flohr, Mrs. Anna	Acting
May 16 1936	Granel, Mrs. Florence	Confirmed
Jun 12 1936	Granel, Mrs. Florence	Commissioned
Oct 10 1936	Granel, Mrs. Florence	Order rescinded
Jan 18 1937	Flohr, Mrs. Anna	Confirmed
Feb 10 1937	Flohr, Mrs. Anna	Commissioned
Feb 11 1937	Flohr, Mrs. Anna	Assumed charge
Jan 2 1938	Patton, Mrs. Lillie Mae	Assumed charge
Jan 8 1938	Patton, Mrs. Lillie Mae	Confirmed
Jan 12 1938	Patton, Mrs. Lillie Mae	Acting
Feb 10 1938	Patton, Mrs. Lillie Mae	Commissioned
Apr 11 1939	Campbell, Mrs. Margaret H.	Assumed charge
Apr 17 1939	Campbell, Mrs. Margaret H.	Acting
Apr 29 1939	Campbell, Mrs. Margaret H.	Confirmed
May 11 1939	Campbell, Mrs. Margaret H.	Commissioned
Apr 29 1940	Smith, Calastia	Assumed charge
May 3 1940	Smith, Calastia	Acting
Aug 17 1940	Smith, Hilbert, N.	Confirmed
Oct 30 1940	Smith, Hilbert, N.	Rescinded
Nov 23 1940	Ordered closed	
Dec 31 1940	Discontinued Mail to Placerville	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|
| 1 | LEONARD / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Jan 3 1901
Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm |
| 2 | LEONARD, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Sep 10 1904 Nov 27 1910
Doane Type 2, with 1 |
| 3 | LEONARD, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.5 | Mar 11 1911 Jul 19 1915
4bars S-??x13mm |
| 4 | LEONARD, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.5 | Sep 7 1928 Apr 12 1938
4bars S-25x20mm |
| 5 | LEONARD / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | Dec 11 1939 Dec 31 1940
4bars S-23x18mm |



LEOPARD

In 1882 newspapers reported that a new town, to be called Leopard had come into existence on Leopard Creek and the San Miguel Road. Nothing more was heard of it until the fall of 1890, a few days before trains began running on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. There was a ten-car siding at Leopard that was used for loading hay and other local ranch products.

There was never an organized community and the Leopard Post Office lasted less than two years.

The stream was first known as Rio Del Codo. That is Spanish for, "Elbow River," likely a reference to the 90-degree bend in the creek about a mile below Dallas Divide. Someone reported seeing a leopard in the area and although that report was never proven, the name Leopard was soon applied to the stream, replacing the old Spanish name.

Leopard was located just east of the mouth of Price Canyon and County Road 62X, on the north side of Colorado Highway 62, two miles from the summit of Dallas Divide. At the site in September 1994 there were one small, old building and the remnants of another structure.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1890	---	SE/4 Sec 35 T45N R10W Nearest creek - Rio Del Coda Proposed postmaster - Samuel D. Batchelder
Oct 6 1890		Established
Oct 6 1890		Batchelder, Samuel D.
Apr 6 1892		Discontinued Mail to Placerville

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LEOPARD

LIZARD HEAD

The Lizard Head Station on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad was located at the summit of Lizard Head Pass, 10,222 feet. In 1898 there were two attempts to establish a post office at this location, but both were rescinded.

The summit of the pass is the boundary between San Miguel and Dolores Counties. There is a bit of a question as to whether the post office was in San Miguel County or in Dolores County. It is generally accepted that the post office would have been in the station and that the station was on the north side of the summit, and therefore in San Miguel County. The summit of the pass is relatively level for a fair amount of area, most of which is to the southeast of Colorado Highway 145. There are no remaining structures but portions of the old Rio Grande Southern railroad grade are still visible.

The name of the pass refers to the volcanic peak about four miles to the west of the pass. Originally the peak resembled the upright head of a lizard with a large butte closely flanked by a much smaller one. Unfortunately, the smaller portion has since collapsed so the reptilian resemblance is no more.

Chronology of the Post Office

		No documents found in the San Miguel County Geographic Site Location Reports.
Mar 1 1898		Established
Mar 1 1898		Impson, Lydia
Jun 27 1898		Establishment rescinded
Jul 25 1898		Re-established
Jul 25 1898		Rossemann, Frank W.
Nov 3 1898		Establishment rescinded

LIZARD HEAD – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM LIZARD HEAD

NEWMIRE

Newmire was a small community located where Big Bear Creek from the south enters the San Miguel River. There was a station on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad and it is probable that Newmire was a shipping point for ore from the Silver Pick Mine that was located near the headwaters of Big Bear Creek. This would have been a more logical choice than using the siding at Sawpit/Seymour.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report was apparently filed with a request for the name Wilson. That name was rejected but at almost the same time was granted for a post office at or near the Silver Pick Mine. The same document also includes a note that would seem to indicate that a second choice was Fillmore (the name of the proposed postmaster) but that too was rejected because of the existence of a Fillmore Post Office in Ventura County California. I have no information as to the source of the name Newmire.

Newmire had little activity until 1910 when the Primos Chemical Company built a large mill to process carnotite ore for uranium and vanadium (one report states that the mill was constructed in 1898). In 1913 the name of the community and the post office was changed to Vanadium reflecting the increased demand for that element to be used in steel making. In 1922 the mill was purchased by the Vanadium Corporation of America and continued to operate into the late twentieth century. The mill complex included more than twenty structures on the north side of the river and the residential community was on the south side. There was a combination general store and post office as well as a number of homes.

Newmire or Vanadium as it is shown on modern maps is two and one-half miles east of Sawpit. A road sign “National Park access / Silver Pick Road” marks the site as well as the foundations of the mill on the north side of Colorado Highway 145. No buildings remain at either the mill site or the townsite.

The drive up Silver Pick Road, particularly when there is still some snow on the peaks, is worth the effort as it offers some spectacular views of Wilson Peak.



Newmire / Colo.

January 19, 1902

NEWMIRE – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 23 1895	---	SE/4 Sec 21 T43N R10W 100 feet south of the San Miguel River and 10 feet west of Bear Creek 100 yards south of the Rio Grande Southern
		NOTE: "Fillmore is objectionable. It is the name of an office in California, see circular. Submit several short names."
		Proposed postmaster - Dollie Madison Fillmore
Apr 4 1895		Established
Apr 4 1895		Fillmore, Dollie M.
Oct 14 1897		Henderson, Thomas F.
Jun 13 1899		Kracaw, Phebe J.
Jun 10 1901		Blackwell, Cornelius P.
Nov 29 1911		Sowden, Louisa
Feb 21 1913		Barth, Delpha E.
May 17 1913		Name changed to Vanadium

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	NEWMIRE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, Smudge	Mar -- 1899 Jan 19 1902
2	NEWMIRE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars P-23x13mm	Aug 25 1907 Jan 21 1913

**NOEL**

Noel was on a spur of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad about one mile west of the summit of Dallas Divide. The spur/siding was used to ship hay from the nearby ranches.

In 1909 the Dallas Divide Post Office was moved to this location and took the name of Noel. The site was named for a local rancher, Sim Noel.

Noel was one of the series of post offices that operated along Leopard Creek, from Dallas Divide to the San Miguel River. They were, from east to west: Dallas Divide, Noel, Leopard, Sams, Haskill, Leonard, Wareville and Placerville. Also, Alder Creek was on Alder Creek, a short distance south of Leonard. The post offices in this group were not all in operation at the same time, although there was some occasional overlap.

The site of Noel is on Colorado Highway 62, one and one-tenth miles from the summit of Dallas Divide, on the way to Placerville. In September 1994 most of the area was open field but there were some buildings – mostly recent – on the south side of the highway.

Latitude = 38:05:59 North Longitude = 107:54:44 West NOEL

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 23 1909	Moved from Dallas Divide
Jul 23 1909	Batchelder, Frank P.

NOEL – Continued

- Oct 10 1910 --- Lot 2 Sec 1 T44N R10W 250 feet northeast of Rio Del Code (Leopard Creek).
South side of Rio Grande Southern, 100 feet
Signed by postmaster Frank P. Batchelder
- Apr 30 1919 Discontinued Mail to Sams
- Aug 13 1919 --- NW/4 Sec 6 T44N R9W 150 feet east of Leopard Creek
100 feet south of the Rio Grande Southern
Applicant for postmaster - W. R. Jones
- Oct 30 1919 Re-established
- Oct 30 1919 Jones, William R.
- Jun 30 1923 Discontinued Mail to Leonard

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | NOEL, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-??x13mm | Jun 23 1914 Aug 13 1915 |
| 2 | NOEL, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-??x19mm | Dec 3 1920 May 13 1922 |



NORWOOD

In 1885 cattlemen established a camp on Wrights Mesa. The same year a Mr. Copp built a log cabin and opened a store in the front of the building while he lived in the back portion. Mr. Copp’s name appears in historical literature: as I. M. Copp, L. M. Copp, Harry Copp and even as Harry Capp. In any case, when he obtained a post office he named it for Norwood, Missouri. Norwood, Missouri has been claimed to be Copp’s hometown but the original Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report expressed a desire to name the post office Richfield. That name was rejected and may indicate that Richfield was his hometown and Norwood was a second choice.

A gradual influx of farmers taking up land on the mesa and the construction of Gurley Reservoir to supply water increased the population of Norwood. The reservoir was twice enlarged and later Cone Reservoir was constructed to add to the water supply for irrigation. Both reservoirs are south of Norwood along the county road from Norwood to Dolores.

The original store and post office building still exists, having been preserved by the Ladies Federated Club of Norwood. Norwood is still the active supply center for a large area of western San Miguel County, with several stores and a population around 500-600. It is located on Colorado Highway 145 between Placerville and Redvale. Highway 145 from the east follows the San Miguel River to a point about four miles east of Norwood. The highway then climbs 800 feet from the river up onto Wrights Mesa and then runs due west into Norwood. At the west edge of Norwood the highway turns due north for one mile. The Norwood Post Office has been at several locations along the east-west stretch of Highway 141. The original location was a mile or so east of where the highway turns north and was on the north side of the road.

Latitude = 38:07:50 North Longitude = 108:17:30 West NORWOOD

NORWOOD – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office

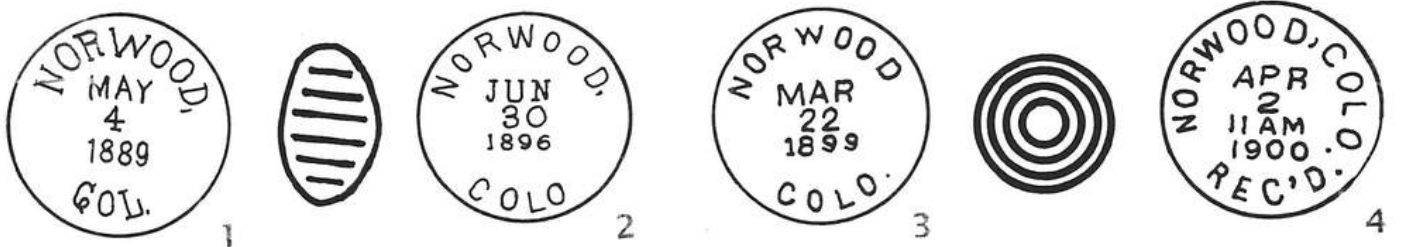
May 5 1887	---	SW/4 Sec 23 T45N R13W Proposed postmaster - Charles L. Pierson	
Dec 22 1887		Established	
Dec 22 1887		Copp, Henry	
Nov 30 1903		Nelson, Wesley H.	
Nov 30 1904		Cross, James W.	
Jul 28 1905		Isaacs, Samuel	
Apr 20 1907		Leech, Laura	
Mar 7 1910		Royer, Cornelia J.	
Dec 7 1911		Stockdale, Laura	
May 4 1914	---	NW/4 NE/4 Sec 27 T45N R13W	
Sep 10 1914		Stockdale, Laura B.	
Apr 24 1916		Spillman, Charles L.	
Apr 1 1917			Office made Presidential
Jan 24 1918		Spillman, Charles L.	P&S [Apptd. by President & confirmed by Senate]
Mar 14 1922		Hurlburt, Mrs. Annie	P&S
Jun 30 1926		Hurlburt, Mrs. Annie	P&S
May 29 1930		Hurlburt, Mrs. Annie	P&S
Jul 24 1934		Hutt, Wilton T.	Acting
Jul 31 1934		Hutt, Wilton T.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1935		Hutt, Wilton T.	Nominated
Jan 21 1935		Hutt, Wilton T.	Confirmed
Mar 7 1935		Hutt, Wilton T.	Commissioned
Jun 12 1939		Hutt, Wilton T.	Nominated
Jun 19 1939		Hutt, Wilton T.	Confirmed
Jun 22 1939		Hutt, Wilton T.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 21 1939		Hutt, Wilton T.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 27 T45N R13W	
Dec 4 1941		French, Louis M.	Acting & Assumed charge
Dec 5 1941		French, Louis M.	Acting
May 3 1943		French, Louis M.	Nominated
May 13 1943		French, Louis M.	Confirmed
May 14 1943		French, Louis M.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 29 1943		French, Louis M.	Commissioned
Jul 5 1943		French, Louis M.	Assumed charge
Jun 11 1945		Saunders, Mrs. Lillian	Acting
Jun 12 1945		Saunders, Mrs. Lillian	Assumed charge
Mar 16 1946		French, Louis M.	Returned to duty from Military Service
May 15 1951		McCall, Glen B.	Assumed charge
Jun 1 1951		McCall, Glen B.	Acting
Apr 21 1952		McCall, Glen B.	Nominated
May 21 1952		McCall, Glen B.	Confirmed
May 22 1952		McCall, Glen B.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 15 1952		McCall, Glen B.	Assumed charge
Jan 27 1956		Campbell, Mrs. J.	Acting
Feb 13 1956		Campbell, Mrs. J.	Assumed charge
Feb 7 1957		Campbell, Mrs. J.	Nominated
Apr 8 1957		Campbell, Mrs. J.	Confirmed, Apptd. Presid. & Commissioned
Apr 19 1957		Campbell, Mrs. J.	Assumed charge
Sep 13 1963		Davis, Lloyd E.	Acting
Aug 26 1965		Davis, Lloyd E.	Nominated & Confirmed
Aug 30 1965		Davis, Lloyd E.	Appointed

NORWOOD – Continued

Sep 10 1965	Davis, Lloyd E.	Commissioned
Jun 12 1967	Davis, Mrs. Violet Rose	Acting
Sep 22 1969	Heldman, Mrs. Violet Rose	Name changed
Mar 20 1971	Heldman, Mrs. Violet Rose	Appointed
Jan 11 1979	Falk, Mrs. Fern	Officer in charge
Sep 22 1979	Falk, Mrs. Margaret F.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

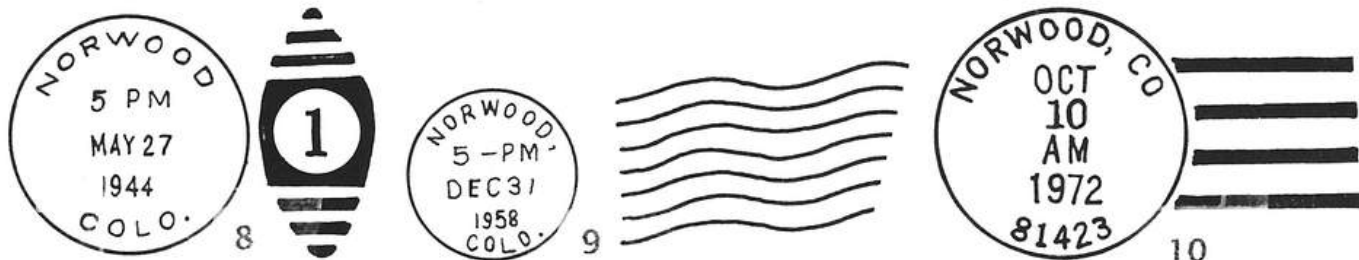
1	NORWOOD, / COL. CI 10P 28.0	May 4 1889 Hstp Fancy, 6 bar scarab grid, cut square
2	NORWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 1- 1890 Jun 30 1896 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
3	NORWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Mar 20 1899 Feb 24 1902 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm
4	NORWOOD, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 2 1900 Hstp No killer
5	NORWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Aug 15 1906 Jul 17 1911 Doane Type 3 with 5
6	NORWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Sep 14 1912 4bars S-??x19mm
6.1	NORWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jan 11 1918 Dplx 9 bar oval [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
7	NORWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	May 13 1935 Jul 25 1945 Mach 7 wavy lines



7.1	NORWOOD, / COLO RC 10P ?? x 17.0	1930s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
8	NORWOOD / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	May 27 1944 Jan 24 1952 Dplx Grid, oval with 1
9	NORWOOD, / COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Dec 31 1958 Oct 18 1961 Mach 7 wavy lines
10	NORWOOD, CO / 81423 CI 10P 32.5	Nov 12 1971 Oct 23 1973 4bars S-25x20mm
11	NORWOOD, CO / 81423 CI 10P 22.0	Oct 29 1969 Aug 6 1976 Mach 7 wavy lines
11.1	NORWOOD, CO / 81423 CI 10P 31.0	Feb 20 1979 4bars S-23x19mm

NORWOOD – Continued

12	NORWOOD, CO / 81423 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 4 1986 Sep 27 1994
13	NORWOOD, CO / 81423 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 15 1993 Jul 25 1994
13.1	NORWOOD, CO / USPS CI 11P 28.5/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 25 1994 Jul 25 1994
14	NORWOOD, CO / 81423-9998 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19m	Sep 27 1994 Apr 17 1995



100TH ANNIVERSARY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 24 2005

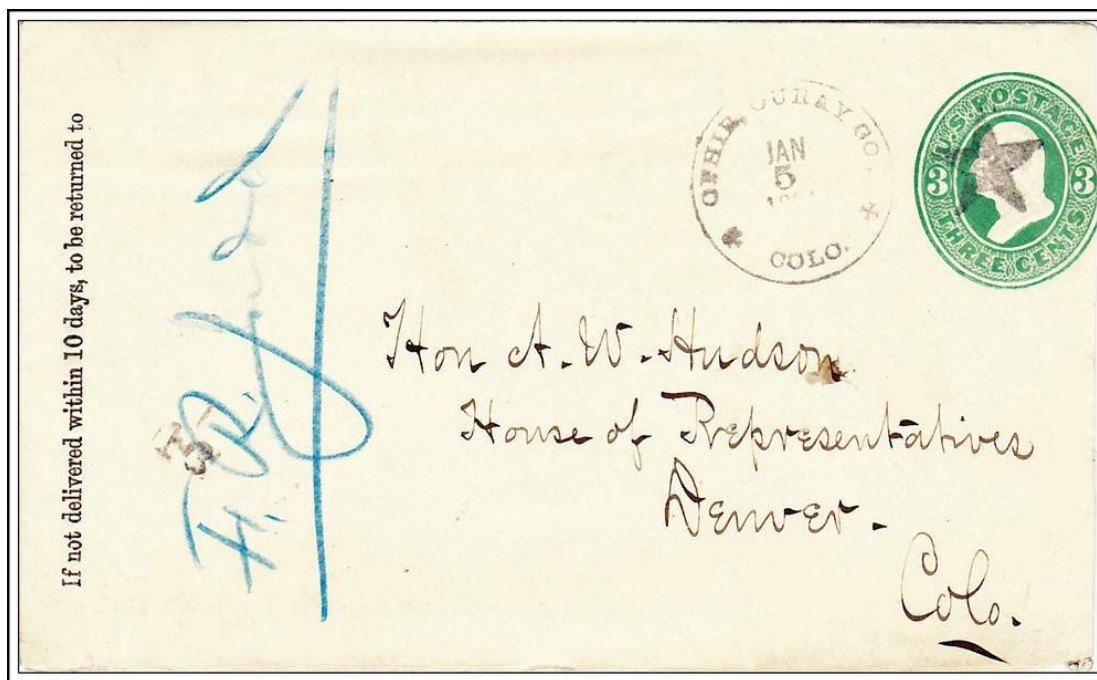
Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

OPHIR (I) – Continued

in search of him as soon as the weather cleared. No trace of him was found and the searching parties gave up the hunt. It was not until July 1882 that his body was stumbled upon at the bottom of a snow bank above Ophir with the mail sacks still strapped to his back.

The “Ophir Loop” on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad was one of the major attractions on Colorado’s narrow gauge railway system. Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan* describes it thusly:

The Rio Grande Southern climbed up the northern approach to Lizard Head Pass on its way to Rico via the most spectacular trackage on the road, and best of all was the famous Ophir Loop. Crossing the Lake Fork on a high trestle, the tracks climbed up the south side of the Canyon of the Howard Fork for over a mile, looped around and came right back to the Lake Fork climbing continuously on a 3 to 3-1/4% grade. Seven additional bridges were required in this short loop. And right on the 180 degrees turn they built a depot for Ophir which lay two miles up the Howard Fork (Old Ophir).



* OPHIR, OURAY CO. * / COLO.

January 5, 1881

Chronology of the Post Office

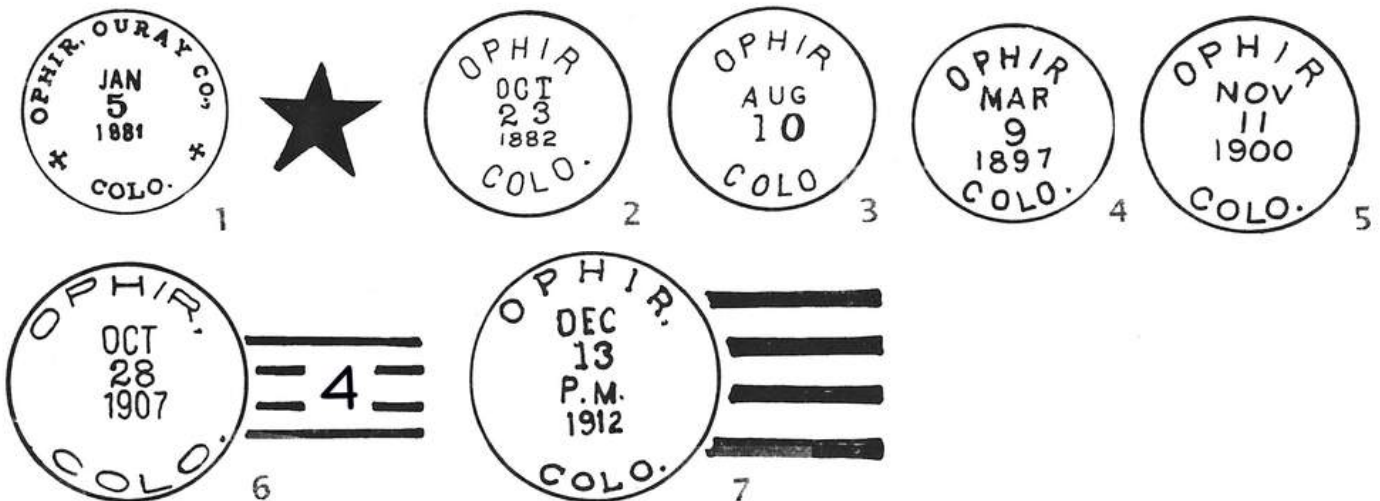
May 6 1878	---	Unsurveyed Town site is on north bank of the Howards Fork of the San Miguel River WHB: This is "Old Ophir".
May 17 1878		Established
May 17 1878		Hendrix, Theopolis S.
Jun 26 1879		Scott, R. E.
Aug 4 1879		Cotton, Mrs. Amanda S.
May 10 1880		Goebel, George W.
Jan 12 1882		Twigg, Samuel N.
Apr 5 1882		Goebel, George W.
Dec 11 1891		Grieg, Alexander
Jul 21 1905		Real, James
Jun 25 1910		Holaday, Elizabeth A.
Sep 19 1911		Yates, Arthur H.

OPHIR (I) – Continued

Sep 11 1914	Campbell, Wellington E.	
Oct 17 1914	Washburn, Chester S.	Declined
Apr 10 1915	Real, Mary E.	
Nov 3 1917	Foster, Anna Maud	
Oct 31 1918	Discontinued Mail to Ames	
Jan 28 1919 ---	SE/4 Sec 35 T42N R9W 150 yards north of Howards Fork	
	Applicant for postmaster - Lillian Strayer	
Jun 12 1920	Re-established	
Jun 12 1920	Baril, Ethil M.	
Jan 31 1921	Discontinued Mail to Ames	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	OPHIR, OURAY CO., / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Oct 3 1878 May 15 1881 Hstp Fancy, Positive star, small Maltese cross at each side of CDS
2	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Feb 6 1882 Oct 23 1882 Hstp Target, 4-ring
3	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Nov 21 1881 May 11 1888 Hstp Cork, smudge, Target, 4-ring 21mm
4	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Mar 9 1897 Jul 14 1898 Hstp Not present
4.1	OPHIR, CO / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Dec 15 1897 Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
5	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Nov 11 1900 Hstp Not present
6	OPHIR, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Mar 1 190- Mar 27 1910 Doane Type 3, with 4, S-24x14mm
7	OPHIR, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Apr 3 1911 Dec 24 1912 4bars S-25x22mm



OPHIR (II)

In 1922 the post office at Ames was moved from near the hydroelectric power plant on the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River to a location on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad and was renamed Ophir (II). The post office was in the railroad station but there was no community as such. There was a large mill near the railroad and many of the buildings still stand. The Ophir community, two miles to the east on the Howard's Fork, continued to exist but the residents now had to travel two miles to the post office.

OPHIR (II) – Continued

Sometime after the railroad ceased operations the post office moved a half-mile east to a site closer to the old town of Ophir, but still not within it. As previously mentioned, during the 1960's and 1970's Ophir became a haven for hippies and others seeking a life remote from the restraints of civilization. To some extent that remains the case.

There is a small population at Ophir and even some recent construction. But the location at nearly 9,800 feet elevation and the long hard winters discourage year-around residents. As road maintenance improves there will be people that find Ophir an economic choice over the high costs at Telluride.

You should have no trouble in finding either of the locations of Ophir. Follow Colorado Highway 145 towards Lizard Head Pass. At the point where the highway makes a sharp horseshoe bend in the vicinity of the old Ophir Loop, there is an unpaved road to the east. This should be marked as the road to Ophir and Ophir Pass. Ophir (II) was at this point. The present day Ophir Post Office is a half-mile to the east and Old Ophir (Ophir I) is two miles from Highway 145.

The Ophir Post Office is in a small – very small – building on the north side of the road. It has often claimed the title of the country's smallest post office and it is open for only a few hours each day.

Latitude = 37:51:25 North Longitude = 107:49:55 West OPHIR



The post office building at Ophir, Colorado is one of the smallest in the United States.

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 20, 2000

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 3 1922	Moved from Ames
Jun 3 1922	Hutton, Leonie

OPHIR (II) – Continued

Jul 7 1922	---	NW/4 Sec 33 T42N R9W About 50 feet north of the East Branch of the San Miguel 25 feet east of Rio Grande Southern	
Jan 9 1924		Kenaree, Herbert W.	Acting
Mar 7 1924		Kenaree, Herbert W.	Appointed
Dec 15 1925		Sexton, Thomas E.	
Feb 18 1926		Richards, Edith	Confirmed
Feb 18 1926		Waterman, Edith	Name changed by marriage
Mar 3 1926		Waterman, Edith	Commissioned
Mar 31 1926		Waterman, Edith	Assumed charge
Feb 14 1935		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Assumed charge
Feb 20 1935		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Acting
Feb 30 1935		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Appointed
Jan 21 1936		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Appointed
Feb 19 1936		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Commissioned
Feb 29 1936		Bishop, Mrs. Lida	Possession
Oct 23 1941	---	SW/4 NE/4 Sec 33 T42N R9W Howard Fork 300 feet north of Post Office In station of Rio Grande Southern. Second page of document gives: Ophir Loop located in SW/4 SE/4 Sec 33 and Ophir located in NW/4 SW/4 Sec 33 T42N R9W.	
Nov 2 1942		Griner, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth	Possession, Acting
Nov 21 1942		Griner, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth	Acting
Jul 5 1943		Griner, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth	Appointed
Dec 16 1943		Griner, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth	Commissioned
Dec 31 1943		Griner, Mrs. Jane Elizabeth	Possession
May 24 1944		Belisle, Mrs. Vera L.	Possession, Acting
Jun 3 1944		Belisle, Mrs. Vera L.	Acting
Jan 27 1945		Belisle, Mrs. Vera L.	Appointed
Mar 19 1945		Belisle, Mrs. Vera L.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1945		Belisle, Mrs. Vera L.	Possession
Jun 4 1976		Harding, Mrs. Nellie	Officer in charge
Sep 17 1976		Whitney, Ms Esther	Officer in charge
Oct 7 1977		Schneider, Gwen E.	Officer in charge
Nov 3 1979		Schneider, Gwen E.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

8	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 19 1937
9	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Apr 26 1939 May 5 1941
10	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 23 1951 Aug 18 1953
11	OPHIR / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 8 1961 Jan 17 1963
12	OPHIR, CO / 81426 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Dec 8 1967 Nov 18 1975
13	OPHIR, CO / 81426 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 18 1987 Sep 20 2000
14	OPHIR, CO / USPO CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 20 2000



PANDORA – Continued

Aug 5 1881	Established
Aug 5 1881	Davis, Owen L. [SRM: Signature on <i>Site Location Report</i> is clearly Davies; but listed as Davis in <i>Appts. of Postmasters</i>]
Nov 12 1885	Discontinued Papers to Telluride
Feb 18 1902 ---	Sec 5 T42N R18W 1/8 mile north of the San Miguel River 1/8 mile east of Royer Creek 80 feet south of the branch track of the Rio Grande Southern Proposed postmaster - Alexander Henry Wood
Mar 28 1902	Wood, Alexander H.
Sep 15 1902	Ordered closed
Oct 15 1902	Discontinued Papers to Telluride

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	PANDORA, / COLO. CI 20P 28.0/27.0	Oct 23 1882 Mar 31 1885 Hstp Cork, Smudge
---	--------------------------------------	--



PLACERVILLE

The first settlement at Placerville was established some time in 1877. It was a placer mining camp extracting gold from the alluvial deposits along Leopard Creek and the San Miguel River. The discovery, in 1876, is attributed to Colonel S. H. Baker and a party of nine men. Obviously the community name is a reference to the type of mining activity. The original site was close to the junction of Leopard Creek with the San Miguel River, which is also the intersection of Colorado Highways 62 and 145. Early references to the camp often refer to it as “Dry Diggings.”

The early history of Placerville is a bit confusing between legend and probable truth. Ray Newburn, in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, places the original site of Placerville on Leopard Creek above its confluence with the San Miguel River. Newburn states that when the Rio Grande Southern Railroad built down Leopard Creek there was insufficient room for their facilities. So the railroad constructed a depot and freight office a mile away on the San Miguel River. The businesses of Placerville soon joined the railroad at the new location.

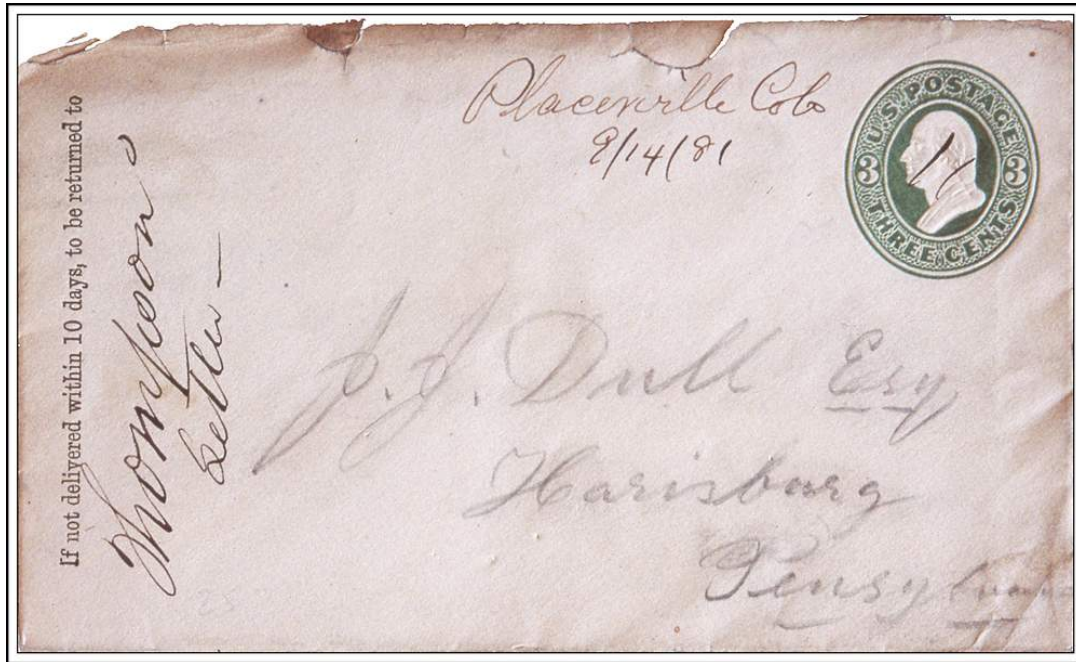
Legend tells a different story. The move of Placerville is attributed to a man named Smith, who was unhappy with the original community and opened a saloon a mile from the town. The miners soon moved their cabins and tents to the area around the saloon in order to be closer to their source of entertainment.

Placerville was not done moving. In 1909 a severe flood destroyed most of the community. The town was rebuilt a half-mile upstream on safer ground above the San Miguel River. That did not totally protect the town, for in 1919 a fire destroyed a great deal of the community.

Once the placer gold was exhausted, Placerville settled back to an existence dependent on ranching in a large area of central San Miguel County. After the arrival of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad Placerville became one of the major livestock shipping points in Southwestern Colorado.

PLACERVILLE – Continued

Today, Placerville continues life as a small community on the northeast side of Colorado Highway 145. A side road loops through the community. The town has experienced some recent growth as a result of the development of Telluride as a major resort and ski center. However, the road from Placerville to Telluride is inadequate for the often heavy traffic and this somewhat restricts the growth at Placerville.



Placerville Colo

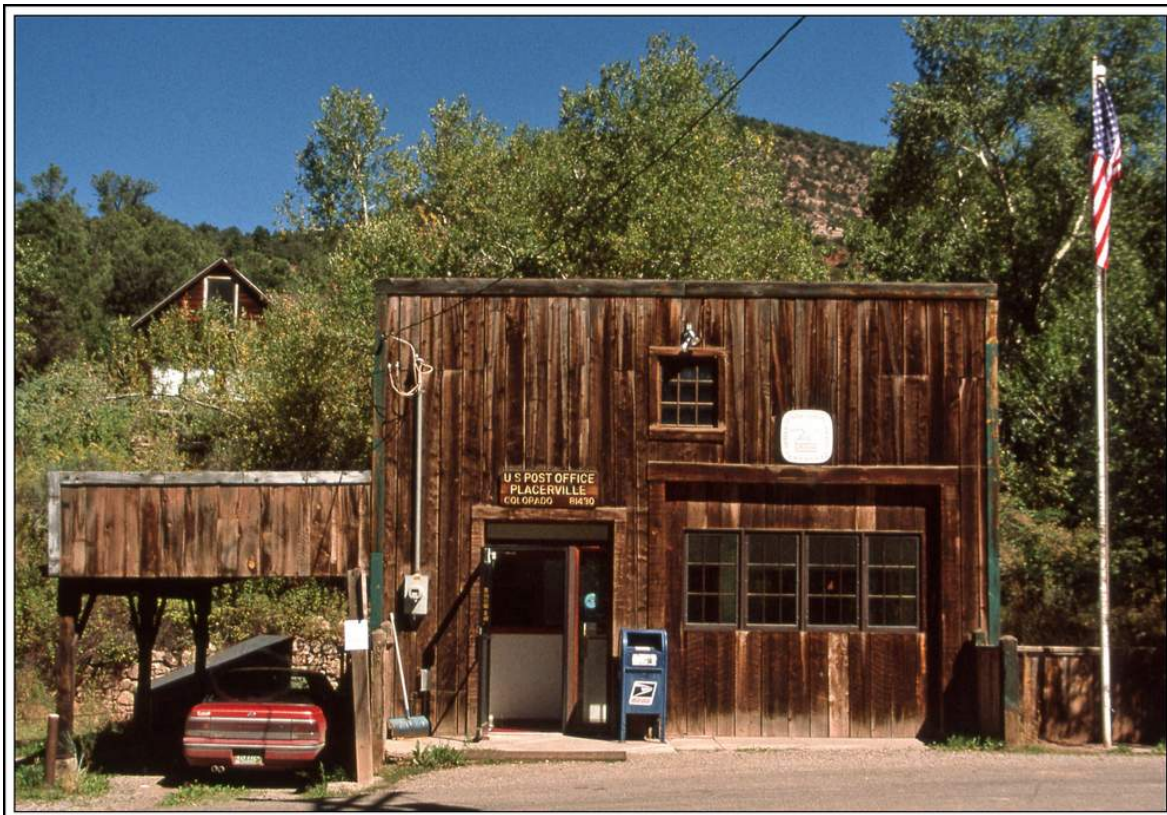
September 14, 1881

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 8 1878 --- Unsurveyed Land 1 mile northeast of the San Miguel River 3 miles west of Fall Creek
- Apr 22 1878 Established
- Apr 22 1878 Benson, Mrs. Elizabeth A.
- Jun 2 1879 Powell, Joseph C.
- Dec 8 1879 Williams, Frank
- Apr 3 1883 Smith, Alfred
- Aug 13 1883 Scott, Mrs. Eliza E.
- Aug 4 1884 Elliott, Mrs. Eliza E.
- Nov 13 1885 Brown, E. L.
- Dec 9 1885 Brown, Floyd A.
- May 14 1887 Evans, Walter
- Jul 24 1891 Matthews, Sanford H.
- Jan 18 1894 Evans, Walter
- Aug 30 1899 Leonard, William R. Declined
- Nov 21 1899 Evans, Milton
- May 23 1900 Davis, John
- Dec 3 1900 Hollingsworth, Frank A.
- Jan 18 1901 Bertie, Robert
- Apr 23 1904 Hollingsworth, Decatur L.
- Sep 4 1906 --- From : SE/4 Sec 34 T44N R11W To: SE/4 Sec 34 T44N R11W
A move southeast 3150 feet by wagon road 2700 feet by railroad
Leopard Creek 2700 feet northwest San Miguel River 100 feet west of Post Office
At the Rio Grande Southern Station

PLACERVILLE – Continued

May 28 1908	Gaines, Lettie E.	
Apr 28 1909	Bradley, Dora	
Jan 21 1914	Tatum, Lorenzo D.	
May 8 1914 ---	SE/4 Sec 34 T44N R11W About 1/2 mile southeast of Leopard Creek 160 feet northeast of the San Miguel River 145 feet northeast of the Rio Grande Southern	
May 5 1915	Hart, Wilma T.	
Sep 1 1917	Smith, Vernon	Declined
Dec 7 1917	Smith, Pearl K.	Declined
Feb 27 1918	Boyd, Will E.	
Sep 3 1920	Boyd, B. Mae	
Jan 13 1926	Yates, Arthur H.	Acting
Apr 3 1926	Yates, Arthur H.	Appointed
Jul 26 1933	Estep, Mrs Grace	Assumed charge
Aug 8 1933	Estep, Mrs Grace	Acting
Nov 22 1933	Estep, Mrs Grace	Confirmed
Dec 21 1933	Estep, Mrs Grace	Commissioned
Oct 22 1941 ---	E/2 SE/4 SE/4 Sec 34 T44N R11W Rio Grande Southern 100 yards south San Miguel River 110 yards south	
Aug 1 1948	Hopkins, Mrs. Vesta L.	Assumed charge
Jun 16 1949	Hopkins, Mrs. Vesta L.	Confirmed
Jun 30 1949	Hopkins, Mrs. Vesta L.	Commissioned
Jun 21 1953	Cornett, Mrs. Jean H.	Possession, Acting & Assumed charge
Mar 11 1954	Cornett, Mrs. Jean H.	Appointed
Apr 29 1954	Cornett, Mrs. Jean H.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1954	Cornett, Mrs. Jean H.	Possession



Placerville, Colorado Post Office

Photograph by William H. Bauer

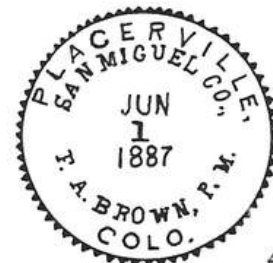
September 20, 2000

PLACERVILLE – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

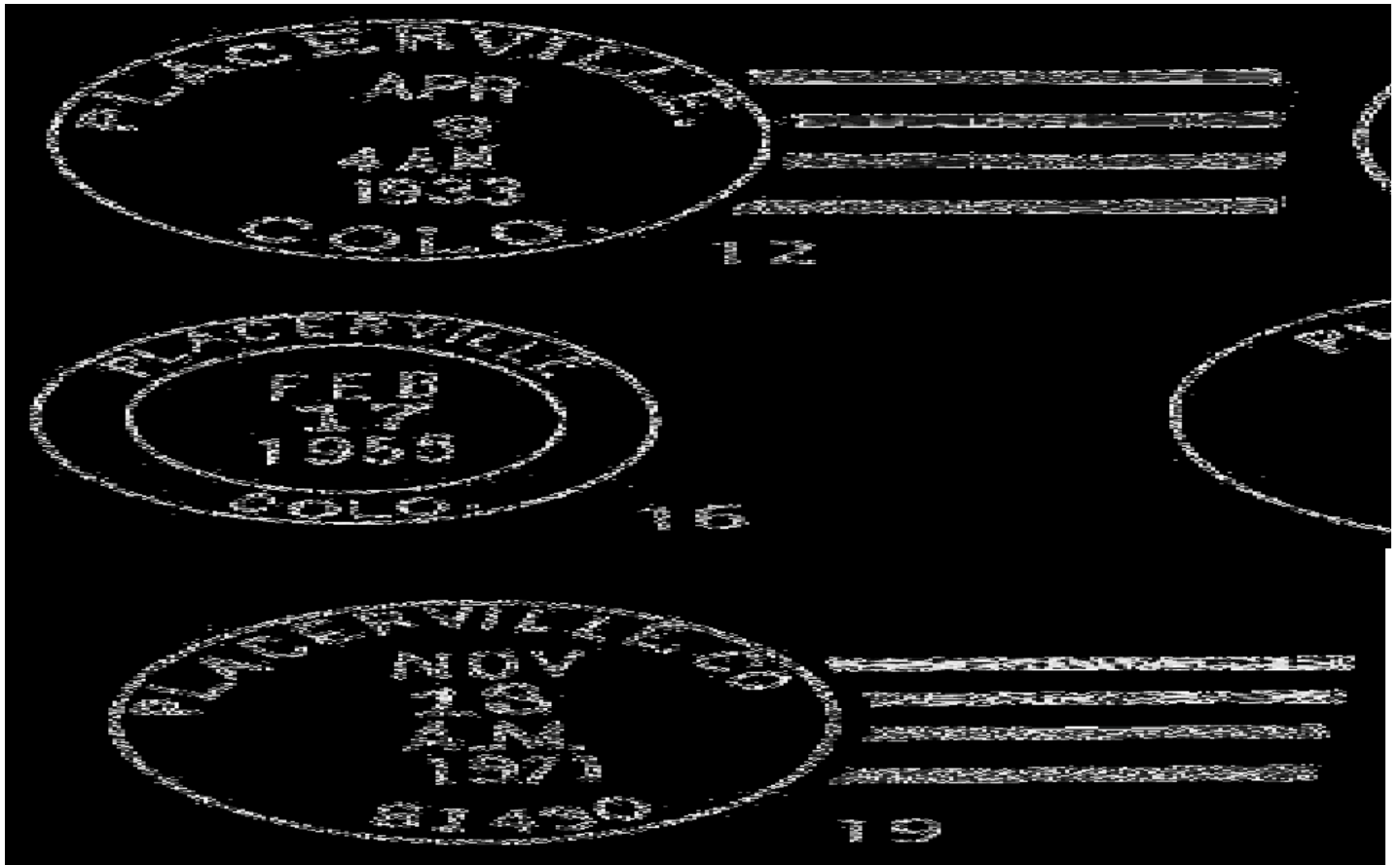
1	Placerville Colo MS	Mscp Pen cancel	Sep 14 1881
2	PLACERVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Aug 25 1880 Jun 13 1883
3	PLACERVILLE / COLORADO CI 21P 30.0/28.0/18.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Nov 5 1883 May 21 1886
4	PLACERVILLE, (SAN MIGUEL CO., / F. A. BROWN, P.M.) COLO. CI 10T 34.0	Hstp No killer, 6 bar rect. grid	Jul 10 1886 Jun 1 1887
5	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Apr 10 1888 Oct 26 1889
6	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 3-ring 16mm	Apr 14 1896 Feb 20 1898
7	PLACERVILLE, COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 20 1900
8	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, oval 9-bars	Oct 2- 1905 Nov 6 1905
9	PLACERVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Doane Type 3, with 3; S-24x14mm	Dec 11 1905 Dec 17 1910
10	PLACERVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x14mm	May 23 1909 Dec 5 1910
11	PLACERVILLE. / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 7 1912 Feb 7 1917
12	PLACERVILLE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 9 1933 Mar 3 1937

Placerville Colo
9/14/81

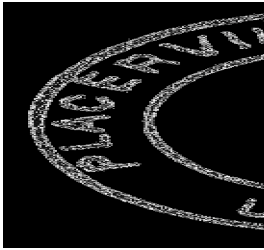
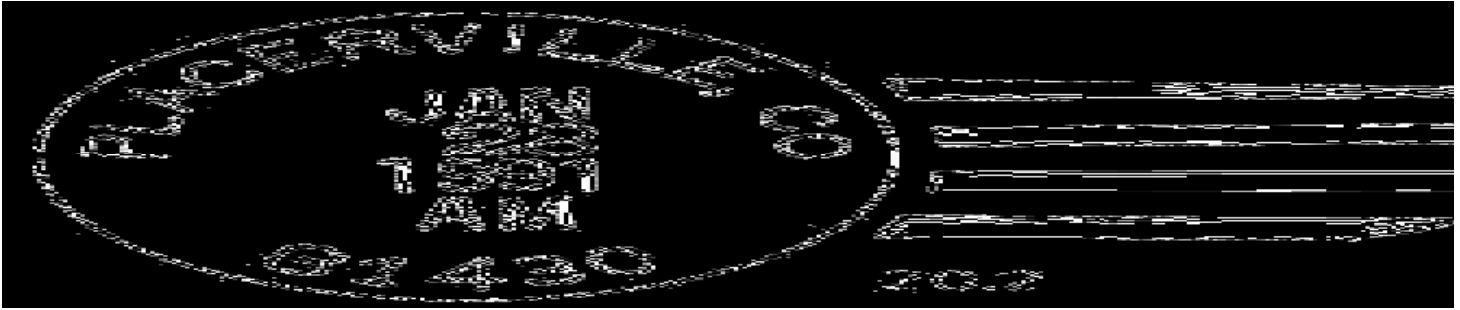


PLACERVILLE – Continued

13	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Mar 1 1940 Apr 13 1950
14	PLACERVILLE, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 20 1948
15	PLACERVILLE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 26 1953
16	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 17 1955 Nov 17 1955
17	PLACERVILLE / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 3 1956 Sep 18 1961
18	PLACERVILLE, CO / 81430 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-25x18mm	Aug 28 1969 May 13 1974
19	PLACERVILLE, CO / 81430 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 30 1967 Dec 14 1977
20	PLACERVILLE, CO / 81430 CI 10P Distorted	4bars S-23x21mm	Feb 20 1987 Nov 20 1989
20.1	PLACERVILLE, CO / USPO CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 17 1987
20.2	PLACERVILLE, CO / 81430 CI 10P 38.0	4bars S-??x22mm	Jan 28 1991
21	PLACERVILLE CO / 81430 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 19 1991
22	PLACERVILLE CO / 81430 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-19x15mm	May 28 1991 Sep 20 2000
23	PLACERVILLE, CO 81430 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.5	Hstp No killer	Sep 23 1994



PLACERVILLE – Continued

**SAMS**

The initial settlement at Sams took place during the construction of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. There was a railroad siding from which timber was shipped and a very small settlement of no more than thirty residents did develop. It is claimed that the name was for an early sawmill operator.

At the time the application for a post office was submitted the preferred name was Barnes. However, at the time that name would conflict with the Barnes Post Office in Montrose County, so another name was chosen. Ironically, nine days after the Sams Post Office opened, the Barnes Post Office closed.

In the early 1960's, there was an attempt to develop a ski resort on the south side of Leopard Creek, however that effort never got far and was soon abandoned.

Sams was at the mouth of Buck Canyon where it joins Leopard Creek. The site is on Colorado Highway 62, three and one-half miles from the summit of Dallas Divide. In September 1994 there was a large log building, with a new roof, on the south side of the highway. There is a residence a short distance to the west and on the north side of the highway.

Latitude = 38:06:14 North Longitude = 107:57:25 West SAMS

Chronology of the Post Office

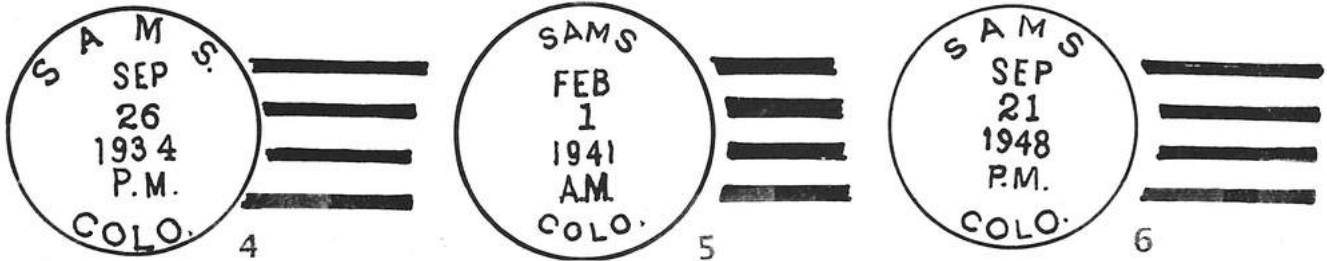
Apr 6 1903	---	SW/4 Sec 34 T45N R10W 100 feet west of Leopard Creek 15 feet east of Rio Grande Southern Proposed postmaster - Jacob C. Impson	
Apr 18 1903		Impson, Jacob C.	Order rescinded May 5 1903
May 7 1903		Established	
May 7 1903		Impson, Jacob E. [SRM: Jacob E. is not listed in <i>Appts. of Postmasters</i>]	
Dec 31 1919		Discontinued Mail to Noel	
Apr 7 1927	---	W/2 SE/4 Sec 34 T45N R10W 250 feet north of Leopard Creek 9-1/2 miles northeast of the San Miguel River 50 feet north of the Rio Grande Southern Applicant for Postmaster - Earl Herman	
Jul 27 1927		Re-established	
Jul 27 1927		Herman, Earl J.	
Dec 19 1929		Haskill, Carl J.	Acting
Jan 10 1930		Haskill, Carl J.	Appointed

SAMS – Continued

Jan 25 1930	Haskill, Carl J.	Commissioned
Feb 3 1930	Haskill, Carl J.	Assumed charge
Apr 1 1936	Lines, Miss Wilma	Assumed charge
Apr 4 1936	Lines, Miss Wilma	Acting
Apr 18 1936	Lines, Miss Wilma	Confirmed
May 1 1936	Lines, Miss Wilma	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	Sec 34 T45N R10W Leopard Creek 10 feet south from post office	On State Highway 62
Jul 24 1948	Lines, Mrs. Donna E.	Assumed charge
Nov 2 1948	Lines, Mrs. Donna E.	Confirmed
Jan 19 1949	Lines, Mrs. Donna E.	Commissioned
Sep 6 1950	Odered closed	
Aug 24 1950	Discontinued Mail to Ridgway	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SAMS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target	Jul 22 1908 Jun 22 1910
2	SAMS, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 25 1914
3	SAMS. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Aug 8 1931 Sep 21 1940
4	SAMS. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Sep 5 1933 Jul 27 1936
5	SAMS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Feb 1 1941 Apr 13 1947
6	SAMS / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 21 1948 Oct 1 1948



SAN BERNARDO

San Bernardo was a small mining settlement located about midway between the Trout Lake and the Ophir Post Office on the Ophir Loop of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. The railroad had a station at the site. The principal mine was the San Bernardo Mine located on San Bernardo Mountain, west of the

SAN BERNARDO – Continued

community. There were several additional mines to the east on the slopes of Yellow Mountain. There are comments in the Colorado historical literature that the name caused confusion with a San Bernardo Post Office in California. Not so, as the San Bernardo, California Post Office was closed five years before the one in Colorado came in to existence. Perhaps there was some confusion with *San Bernardino* and that is possibly why the community was renamed Matterhorn. However, the post office name remained San Bernardo until it was closed in 1907.

There is no controversy about the location of the San Bernardo Post Office. Questions do arise about its relationship to the earlier post offices of Trout and Trout Lake. Post Office Department records show that the name of the Trout Lake Post Office was changed to San Bernardo. And the last location reported for the Trout Lake office is the same as the first one reported for San Bernardo. The earlier locations for Trout and Trout Lake remain an open question but there are reasons to believe they were both in the vicinity of the San Bernardo Mine and not on the Trout Lake. Please refer to the sections on those offices for some additional discussion of their locations and relationship to San Bernardo.

The San Bernardo Mine continued operating well into the twentieth century. An aerial tramway ran up San Bernardo Mountain to the various levels of the mine. I first visited the site on the July 4th weekend in 1958. I went there with a schoolmate who had worked at the mine the previous year, before the mine closed. He was still owed some money for his labor and wanted to see if there was any activity at the mine.

That 1958 trip was memorable. We hiked up to the various levels of the mine and then over a shoulder of San Bernardo Mountain into the meadows on the upper end of Wilson Creek. There, when we came out of the forest we found ourselves in the middle of a large herd of elk: a memorable experience, particularly at that time. We spent two nights in the hotel in Telluride and I recall that as a part of their Fourth of July celebration they had a quarter of beef roasting in the hotel lobby. Those were the days when Telluride was a struggling mining town, not the destination ski resort it is today.

From the condition of the buildings in 1994 and again in 2000, it seems possible that there was some subsequent activity but today the mine is closed and unlikely to reopen.

Beginning at the junction of Colorado Highway 145 with the road to Ophir, continue south for two miles on Highway 145 towards Lizard Head Pass. On the west side of the highway there is a Colorado Highway Department supply and/or maintenance yard. The road into that facility continues a short distance further to some well preserved, but abandoned mine buildings – the San Bernardo Mine. There is also a small building on the east side of the highway. Further to the south there are some residences scattered along the highway, remnants of the community known as Matterhorn. And, like all of the area influenced by Telluride, there is new construction.

Latitude = 37:50:51 North Longitude = 107:53:24 West SAN BERNARDO MINE

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 9 1892	---	NW/4 Sec 5 T41N R9W 200 feet west of the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River 2518 feet west of the San Bernardo Station of the Rio Grande Southern
Jun 29 1892		Formerly named Trout Lake
Jun 29 1892		Mason, John W.
Oct 6 1892		Hallock, Nelson
Jun 7 1895		Lilley, Peter A.
May 1 1896		Lill, Mary
Dec 9 1896		Roden, Charles
Jun 15 1898		Priest, Randel
Jun 30 1904		Lill, John
Nov 20 1905		Discontinued Mail to Ames

SAN MIGUEL – Continued

Jul 16 1877 Weisenborn, Charles
 Sep 24 1877 Jones, William G.
 Aug 27 1878 Brown, Frank P.
 Sep 19 1895 Discontinued

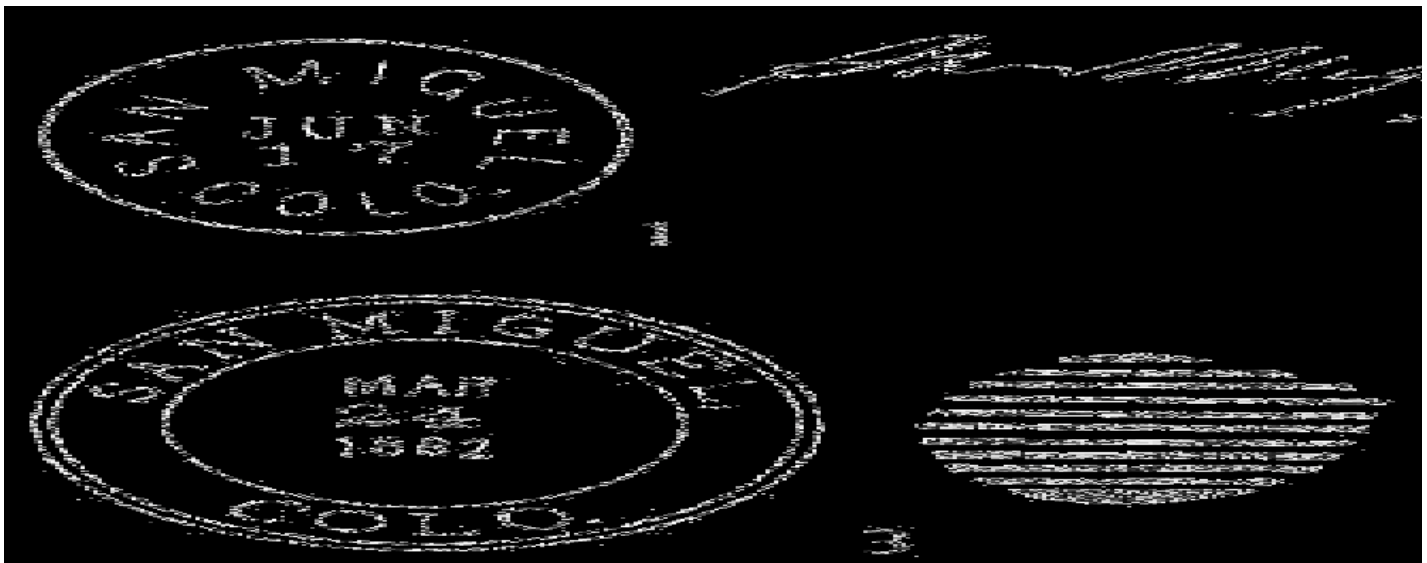


SAN MIGUEL, / COLO

July 23, 1881

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|-----|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | SAN MIGUEL / COLO.
CI 10P 25.0 | Hstp Cork, Smudge | Jun 17 1878 |
| 2.A | San Miguel Col
MS | Mscp Pen cancel | May 29 1878 Sep 10 1878 |
| 2.B | San Miguel Colo
MS | Mscp Pen cancel | Jul 29 1878 |
| 3 | SAN MIGUEL, / COLO.
CI 21P 35.0/32.0/22.0 | Hstp Grid, 11-bar circular | Jul 23 1881 Apr 17 1885 |



SAWPIT

The Sawpit name was first applied to the creek that flows from the north into the San Miguel River at this point. The name originated when John T. Donellan and John H. Mitchell dug a pit and sawed lumber to make sluice boxes for the placer miners along the San Miguel River. A sawpit was a pit in the ground used by a two-man crew. A log was placed over the pit and the two men worked a huge saw, one man above and one man below.

In 1895 James Blake located the Champion Belle Mine. The mineralization was found in an eight-foot thick bed of limestone and the principal values were silver and lead with a small amount of gold. A town was laid out no more than a mile east of the existing settlement of Seymour and in 1896 the Seymour Post Office became the Sawpit Post Office.

The mines at Sawpit produced into the twentieth century but they were not prolific and by the early 1920's mining activity had ceased and the Sawpit Post Office closed in 1926.

In spite of the closing of the mines, Sawpit has remained an active but small community on Colorado Highway 145 and the San Miguel River, three and one-half miles east of Placerville. There are several buildings, of various ages and there has been some recent new home construction. As the influence of development at Telluride is felt westward along the San Miguel River one can expect continued change and unfortunately a loss of many older structures.

For more discussion of the post offices in the area of Fall Creek and Sawpit Creek, refer to the sections for the Seymour and Fall Creek Post Offices.

Latitude = 37:59:43 North Longitude = 108:00:04 West SAWPIT

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 8 1896	---	SE/4 Sec 7 T43N R10W 100 feet north of the San Miguel River About 60 feet north of the Rio Grande Southern Proposed postmaster - Thomas J. Lewis	
Feb 21 1896		Formerly named Seymour Not listed in the 1915 Postal Guide	
Feb 21 1896		Lewis, Thomas J.	
Mar 18 1896	---	W/4 Sec 8 T43N R10W 200 feet north of the San Miguel River 1/2 mile west of Saw Pit Creek 150 feet north of the Rio Grande Southern	
Oct 30 1897		Williams, James P.	
Dec 4 1906		Imes, Beulah M.	
Jun 4 1907		Imes, Charles R.	
Feb 2 1910		Imes, Permelia V.	
Feb 24 1913		Leonard, Frank R.	
Mar 10 1915	---	SE/4 SE/4 Sec 7 T43N R10W 200 feet north of the San Miguel River 500 yards west of Saw Pit Creek 60 feet north of the Denver & Rio Grande Southern Applicant for postmaster - Milton E. Rumburg	
Jun 4 1915		Anderson, Mary O.	
May 6 1916		Short, James F.	
Dec 20 1916		Woods, Loren D.	
Feb 1 1918		Collins, Clara I.	
Mar 19 1924		Rumburg, Milton E.	Acting
Mar 25 1924		Rumburg, Milton E.	Appointed
Mar 12 1926		Ordered closed	
Mar 31 1926		Discontinued Mail to Vanadium	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SAWPIT / COLO.	Mar 13 1898	Mar 7 1899
	CI 10P 27.0	Hstp	Cork, 8-piece pie
1.1	SAWPIT / COLO.	Dec 21 1905	
	CI 10P 28.0	Dplx	9 bar oval

SAWPIT – Continued

2	SAWPIT / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x14mm	Mar 4 1909 May 4 1909
3	SAWPIT. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 23 1913
4	SAWPIT, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 6 1920 Mar 7 1926

**SEYMOUR**

Seymour was the earliest of the post offices to come into existence along the San Miguel River between Placerville and the San Miguel-Telluride complex.

Seymour was definitely a placer mining camp and its post office served miners along the San Miguel River and Fall Creek. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad siding at Seymour was the point from which ore from the Silver Pick Mine was shipped. The Silver Pick Mine was associated with Seymour and not with Fall Creek. The mine is located about twelve miles south of Seymour, near 13,000 feet on the western slopes of Wilson Peak. There was a Wilson Post Office, somewhere near the Silver Pick Mine and its period of operation is within the operational periods of Seymour and Sawpit.

Several historical references spell this name as Seymore, however the Post Office Department Records and postmarks use the spelling Seymour.

In the mid-1890's the mines along Sawpit Creek gained prominence and the name of the Seymour Post Office was changed to Sawpit.

I have not found any information as to the derivation of the name Seymour. The Geographic Site Location Report for Seymour indicates that the desired name for the post office was Rojo. Officials in Washington did not accept that choice.

The site of Seymour is within the boundaries of the marked community of Sawpit on Colorado Highway 145, three and one-half miles east of Placerville. There are several buildings, of various ages and there has been some recent new home construction. It is difficult to determine if any of the buildings date from the 1890's.

Please refer to the discussions of the post offices at Fall River and Sawpit for more information on this location.

SEYMOUR – Continued



SEYMOUR / COLO.

August 5, 1894

Chronology of the Post Office

- Apr 26 1892 --- SE/4 Sec 12 T43N R11W 1/4 mile south of the San Miguel River
1 mile east of Fall Creek 1/4 mile south of Fall Creek Siding, Rio Grande Southern
Proposed postmaster - Mrs. William Hart
- Jul 13 1892 Established
- Jul 13 1892 Hart, Wilmer
- Feb 21 1896 Name changed to Sawpit

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 SEYMOUR / COLO. Feb 18 1894 Aug 5 1894
- CI 10P Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm



SLICK ROCK

As early as 1879 there was a settlement here. It was a “cow camp” known as Snyder’s Camp. The area has always been sparsely populated with little need for a local post office. During the 1920’s the Gladel Post Office was active, some six miles east of Slick Rock.

SLICK ROCK – Continued

During World War II small mining operations, for vanadium ore, increased the activity in the area and a post office was opened. The name Slick Rock is a reference to the smooth, unfractured surfaces of the Jurassic Entrada sandstone that outcrops in the surrounding canyons.

Following World War II mining activity declined and the Slick Rock Post Office was closed for eleven years. By the late 1950's the uranium boom had brought a wave of new mining activity into western San Miguel County and the Slick Rock Post Office was reopened. By 1993 that boom was over and the Slick Rock Post Office was again closed and will likely not be reopened.

Slick Rock was never an organized community. There were a few small residences, mostly mobile homes, and a couple of businesses that provided some supplies to the prospectors and miners in the surrounding canyons.

My first visit to Slick Rock was in 1975. The post office was in a small general store. The next visit was in 1994. The post office had closed. Downtown Slick Rock consisted of a combination store, liquor store, former post office, and service station, plus two trailers. Apparently all were for sale. My most recent visit was in 2003. The post office-store building was still unoccupied and we could not be certain if anyone was living at Slick Rock.

The location is on Colorado Highway 141 on the west (southern) side of the Dolores River, shortly after you reach the valley floor and before you cross the Dolores River northbound toward Naturita.

Latitude = 38:02:34 North Longitude = 108:53:30 West SLICK ROCK

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 18 1940	---	NE/4 Sec 31 T44N R18W 1/4 mile west of the Dolores River 2-1/2 miles west of Disappointment Creek Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Coy Compton	
May 1 1941		Established	
Oct 24 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 15 (?) T44N R18W 1/4 mile west of the Dolores River Section is from sketch map. There is another page and sketch map, which places it in the NE/4 Sec 31 T44N R18W (more likely)	
May 1 1941		Compton, Mrs Margaret E.	Confirmed
Jun 20 1941		Compton, Mrs Margaret E.	Commissioned
Nov 15 1942		Miller, Mrs. Lillie M.	Assumed charge
Nov 21 1942		Miller, Mrs. Lillie M.	Acting
Feb 2 1943		Miller, Mrs. Lillie M.	Confirmed
Apr 2 1943		Miller, Mrs. Lillie M.	Commissioned
Aug 5 1946		Ordered closed	
Jun 30 1946		Discontinued Mail to Egnar	
Aug 10 1957		Re-established	
Aug 10 1957		French, Louis Melvin	Assumed charge
Aug 16 1957		French, Louis Melvin	Acting
Feb 25 1958		Rose, Mrs. Ione Fay	Assumed charge
Feb 28 1958		Rose, Mrs. Ione Fay	Acting & Possession
Nov 26 1958		Rose, Mrs. Ione Fay	Commissioned
Dec 12 1958		Rose, Mrs. Ione Fay	Possession
Jul 1 1959			Office advanced
Jul 1 1963			Office relegated
Jul 1 1965			Office made Presidential
Jul 1 1968			Office relegated
Jul 1 1969			Office made Presidential
Nov 12 1993		Discontinued	

SLICK ROCK – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SLICK ROCK / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Oct 14 1941 Dec 11 1942
2	SLICK ROCK / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm,	Aug 10 1957 Dec 4 1962
3	SLICK ROCK / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 10 1957
4	SLICK ROCK, CO / 81333 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	May 14 1968 Jan 8 1979
5	SLICK ROCK, CO / 81333 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 22 1993 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



SMUGGLER

The Smuggler Post Office was located at the Smuggler-Union complex on the northern side of the San Miguel Valley. At an elevation of nearly 11,000 feet it was 2,000 feet above the valley floor.

The story is that J. B. Ingram observed that the adjoining Union and Sheridan mining claims had each claimed 500 feet more than the allowed 1,500 feet for each claim. Ingram staked out 1,056 feet in the middle and called his claim the Smuggler.

Starting in 1880 the Shanghai Syndicate began to acquire claims along the Sheridan vein. They first purchased the Sheridan, then the Mendota and in 1889 the Smuggler, thus controlling 4,000 feet along the Sheridan vein. By 1888 they had bought the mill at Pandora, enlarged it and constructed a 6,700-foot aerial tramway from the mill to the mines. They soon acquired the Union thus creating the Smuggler-Union property. Between 1882 and 1921 the Sheridan vein produced more than \$17 million in gold, silver, lead and copper. Eventually many other properties would be acquired creating the Idarado Mining Corporation. In the 1970's, before mining ceased, the mining company purchased the complex.

During the period of peak activity boarding houses at the Smuggler-Union mine were home to as many as 300 employees. Such a population warranted a post office that lasted from 1895 to 1928 when the mine closed.

SMUGGLER – Continued

The site of Smuggler and remnants of the mine buildings, are visible from the valley floor. There is a road up the valley side, into Tomboy Basin and over Imogene Pass to Ouray. However, this is a most difficult trip and is best taken as a passenger with an organized Jeep tour. The road is most assuredly a 4-wheel drive road. To drive it with anything else would be foolhardy. As recently as 2004 there have been fatal accidents on this road.

Latitude = 37:47:24 North Longitude = 107:46:36 West SMUGGLER MINE

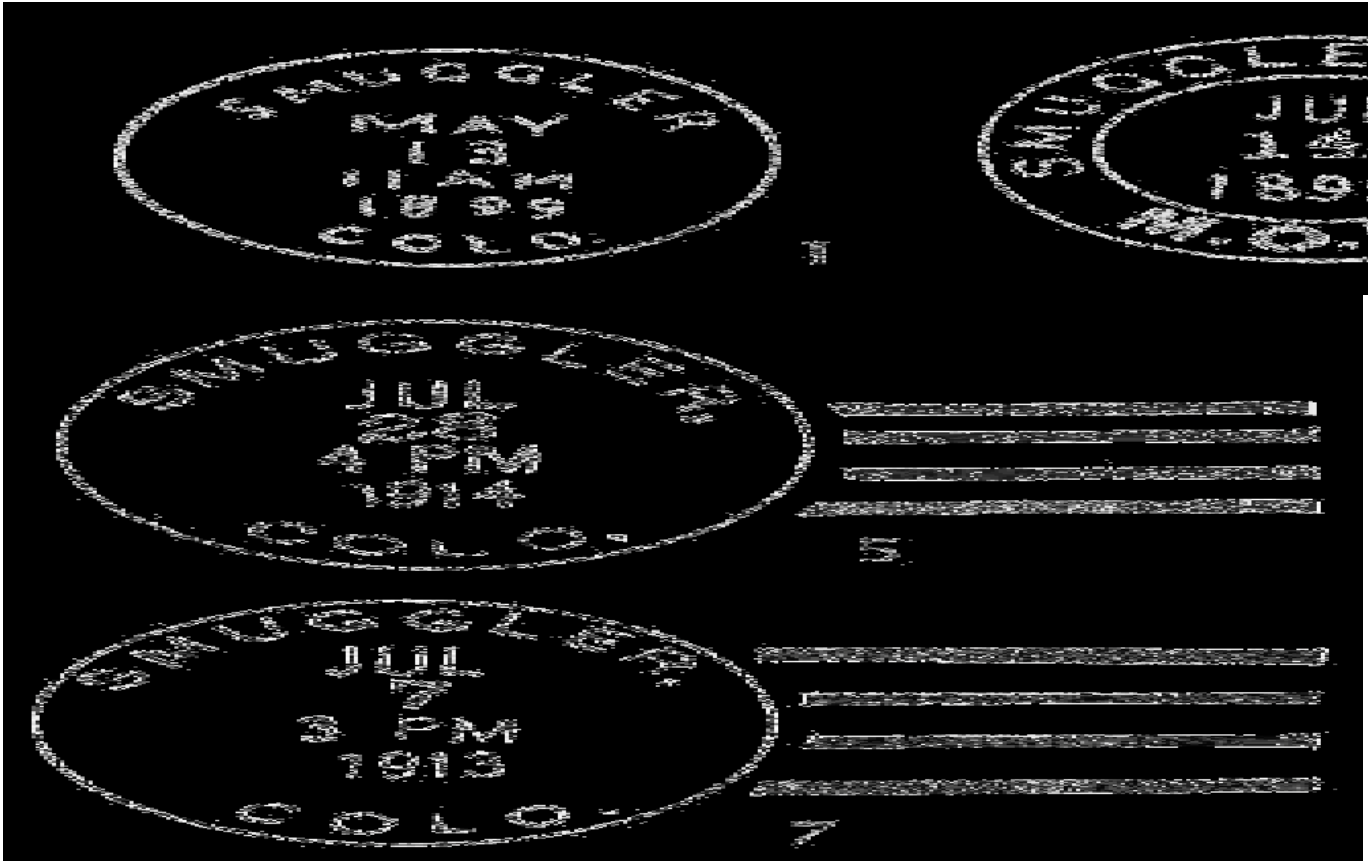
Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 22 1895 ---	SE/4 Sec 32 T43N 8W 2 miles north of the San Miguel River 1000 feet west of Marshall Creek Proposed postmaster - Thomas J. Lynch	
Apr 6 1895	Established	
Apr 6 1895	Lynch, Thomas J.	
Feb 20 1896	Lavender, Edgar N.	
May 15 1902	Smith, William J.	
Mar 30 1905	Cooper, Fred H.	
Nov 18 1905	Partridge, Daniel W.	
Jan 20 1907	Schattinger, George F.	
Apr 20 1907	Scanlon, William J.	
Feb 7 1910	Cross, James W. S.	
Jan 11 1911	Thorne, Bert W.	
Feb 8 1912	Laughlin, Jesse G.	
Aug 21 1912	Kaskey, Nicholas	
Mar 24 1920 ---	Sec 32 T43N R8W 1 mile north of the San Miguel River 700 feet west of Marshall Creek	
Jun 17 1920	Driscoll, Valeria W.	
May 17 1921	Fawcett, Grace M.	
Apr 1 1922		Office made Presidential
May 19 1922	Fawcett, Grace M.	P&S
May 21 1926	Fawcett, Grace M.	P&S
Jul 1 1928		Office relegated
Sep 11 1928	Fawcett, Grace M.	
Dec 3 1928	Ordered closed	
Dec 5 1928	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SMUGGLER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Jul 17 1895 May 13 1899
2	SMUGGLER, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp, No killer	Jul 14 1899
3	SMUGGLER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Grid, oval	Nov 11 1899
4	SMUGGLER / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Apr 13 1901 Mar 30 1903
5	SMUGGLER, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars P-23x13mm	Jul 14 1908 Dec 18 1915
5.1	SMUGGLER COLO. / REC'D. CI 10P 31.0	Hstp No killer	Jun 24 1909
6	Smuggler / Colo MS	Mscp Manuscript postmark used as killer	Nov 1 1909 Jan 4 1910
7	SMUGGLER, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jul 7 1913 Mar 27 1918
8	SMUGGLER / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Dec 21 1927

SMUGGLER – Continued



SULTANA

Without the maps and records of the Post Office Department, Sultana would still be somewhat of a mystery. The 1901 Postal Route maps show that it was located near 11,000 feet on Turkey Creek Mesa and the northern slope of Silver Mountain. The site is close to the Alta Lakes and the community is shown on most maps as Alta. At the time the application was filed for a post office, there was (and still is) an Alta Post Office in California, so a name other than Alta had to be selected.

In 1878 Jack Mann discovered a rich lode of gold ore in Gold King Basin. The remote location and litigation hampered development. Lucien L. Nunn was one of the Gold King Mine owners and using alternating current generated from his hydroelectric power plant at Ames the mine was able to be operated with modest but intermittent success.

In 1908 John Wagner acquired The Alta Mining Co. Other mining properties were added to the operation and an aerial tramway was built from the mines to Ophir on the Rio Grande Southern Railroad. Around 1920 a large mill was built at Sultana but it was inefficient and the company failed in 1924. The mill burned in 1929. In 1936, a new company, Alta Mines Inc. took up a lease and constructed a new mill. In 1948 the second mill burned and mining operations at Sultana ceased. There were some attempts to clean up the site but not much was accomplished by those efforts.

Begin west of Telluride at the junction on Colorado 145 where the main road turns south toward Lizard Head Pass and Rico. Five and three-tenths miles south from the intersection the Alta Lakes Road (Road 64F) begins from a small parking area on the east side of Highway 145. It is four miles to the site of Sultana by way of an often rough and steep road. At the start there is a short section of narrow cliffside

SULTANA – Continued

road, but the rest of the route is reasonable. I would recommend a four-wheel drive vehicle but you might have no real problem in getting to Sultana with a standard vehicle.

The site of Sultana is quite obvious as the road wraps around the remains of the old mill and there are several abandoned cabins nearby. Above the mill site the terrain levels out into the basin that holds the Alta Lakes. Just above the mill site there is an occupied, renovated cabin and a large three-story building that was probably a boarding house for the miners. The site is very photogenic. The remnants of mining and the views of Wilson Peak to the west make the trip well worth the effort.

The Alta Lakes are now a recreational site for camping and fishing. The modern development of the Telluride area is slowly improving the roads and expanding activity at the site. However, I am not certain that the road is open year around, so I would recommend you check in advance or plan your visit for the July-September period.



**Main building of the Sultana Mine at Alta Lakes, near Telluride
Most likely this building served as a boarding house for the miners.**

Photograph by William H. Bauer

August 20, 2003

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 15 1898	---	NW/4 Sec 27 T42N R9W 4 miles north of the Howards Fork of the San Miguel River 1/2 mile south of Turkey Creek On the sketch map, access is shown by a road from west side of Telluride, not the road to Rico. Proposed postmaster - Eldridge Howard Anderson
Jan 25 1899		Established
Jan 25 1899		Anderson, Eldridge H.
Aug 31 1899		Discontinued Papers to Telluride

SULTANA – Continued

Oct 22 1900	Re-established
Oct 22 1900	McGinley, John E.
Jan 22 1902	Tolland, Stella D.
Sep 23 1903	Ordered closed
Oct 14 1903	Discontinued Papers to Telluride

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SULTANA

TELLURIDE

Prospectors came to the headwaters of the San Miguel River in 1875 and soon three small placer mining camps had been formed: San Miguel, Columbia and Newport. Newport would become Pandora and when a post office was secured, Columbia changed its name to Telluride to avoid confusion with Columbia, California.

The name Telluride is a reference to an unusual form of silver ore, sylvanite that contains the rare element tellurium. Sylvanite ore was thought to occur in the area mines but in fact this type of ore was not present.

On January 10, 1878 A. B. Cooper, Henry Lake, Edwin McFarland, John Eden and George Hyde laid out a townsite of 80 acres. An election on July 13, 1878 approved incorporating the town as Columbia.

As activity shifted from placers to underground mining, much of it in the high basins above the San Miguel Valley and even above timberline, Columbia, closer to the important mines than San Miguel, became the commercial center for the surrounding area. By 1883 the town was a substantial community with a business section that promised stability and longevity. Gradually the name Telluride supplanted Columbia. For a few brief months in 1880 the post office was known as Folsom but that name did not last.

Throughout the late nineteenth and early twentieth century Telluride enjoyed a boisterous and sometimes violent history. With the many surrounding mines, the town became the entertainment center for the single miners. Around the turn of the century the labor strife that swept through the Colorado mining camps reached a frenzy at Telluride that was exceeded only by the violence at Cripple Creek.

In 1893 the end to the Federal government's required purchase of silver hit the Colorado mining industry very hard. Many silver mines closed and their associated towns disappeared. Telluride was lucky. Its ores contained a good percentage of gold so the focus shifted from silver to gold and the town continued to thrive, however, with a somewhat reduced level of success.

The best known mines were the Smuggler-Union and the mines in the high Tomboy and Marshall Basins. Eventually most of the producing properties were combined into the Smuggler-Union Corporation, including the large processing mill east of Telluride at Pandora.

By 1928 production from the Smuggler-Union properties was approaching the end. The various properties were acquired by a new company and renamed the Idarado Mining Corporation. In turn this corporation was acquired by the Newmont Mining Corporation. With a new source of funding the underground mining expanded and the interconnected tunnels and shafts linked mines from Telluride in San Miguel County to mines in the Red Mountain district of Ouray and San Juan County.

But, eventually the ores were depleted and by the early 1970's mining came to an end. In the mid-1950's Telluride was already in decline with many businesses closing and a declining population. However, by 1980 that was beginning to change.

TELLURIDE – Continued

The mountains that surround Telluride have potentials that are permanent or are renewed each winter – snow and slopes highly attractive for skiing. Today Telluride has become a year-around resort area with skiing in the winter and outdoor activities and festivals during the summer months. The upper end of the San Miguel River Valley is fast filling with elaborate resorts, condominiums and expensive homes. Many buildings try to imitate the architecture of the nineteenth century but few are truly successful in the effort.

Telluride can be easily reached via Colorado Highway 145 either from Ridgway to the north or Cortez and Dolores to the south. A warning: during the peak of the seasons or during major festivals, the traffic in and out of Telluride can closely resemble rush hour in a major city.

Latitude = 37:56:15 North Longitude = 107:48:42 West TELLURIDE



TELLURIDE, OURAY CO. / COLORADO. October 16, 1882

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 13 1878	--	Unsurveyed Mineral Lands Columbia is two miles due east of San Miguel 1/4 mile north of the San Miguel River 20 rods southwest of Cornett Creek The sketch map shows it more on the southeast side of Cornett Creek.	
Jul 19 1880	--	Not reported On both sides of the San Miguel River and of Cornett Creek The sketch map shows it as "COLUMBIA" Proposed postmaster - James P. Redick	
Jul 26 1880		Established	
Jul 26 1880		Redick, James P.	
Aug 17 1880		Name changed to Folsom	
Dec 13 1880		Re-named Telluride	
Dec 13 1880		Redick, James P.	
Feb 20 1885		Redick, James P.	P&S
May 21 1886		Frasher, John B.	P&S

TELLURIDE – Continued

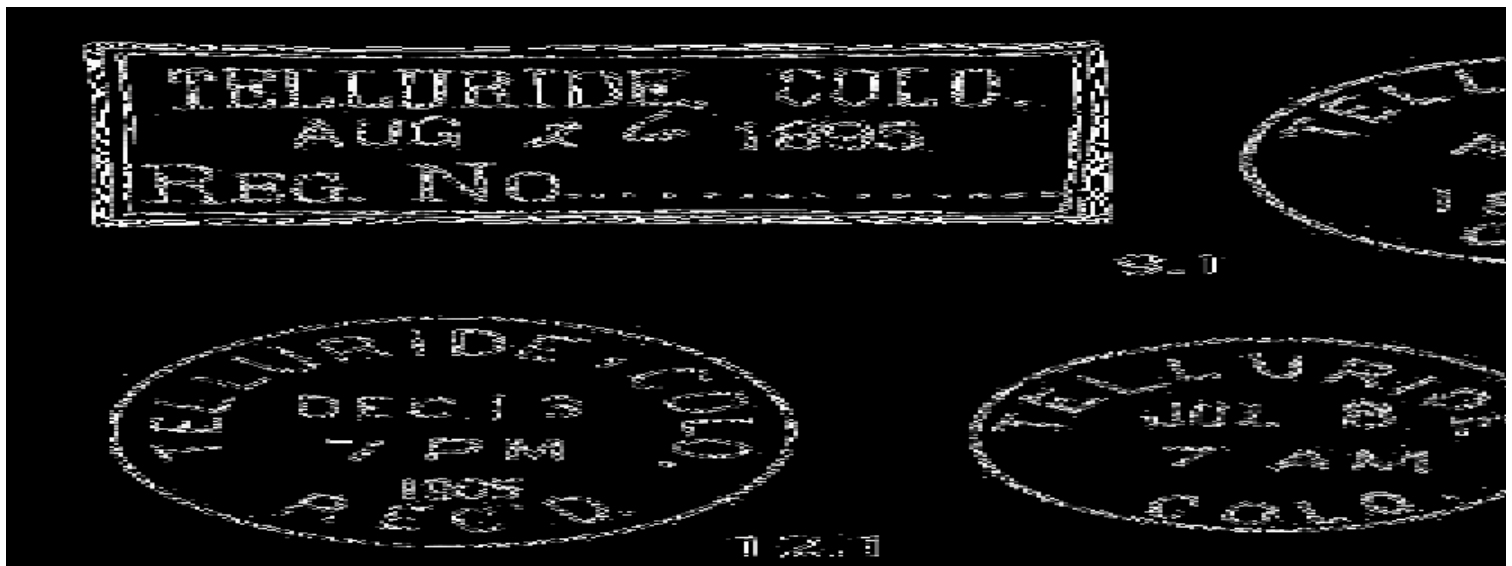
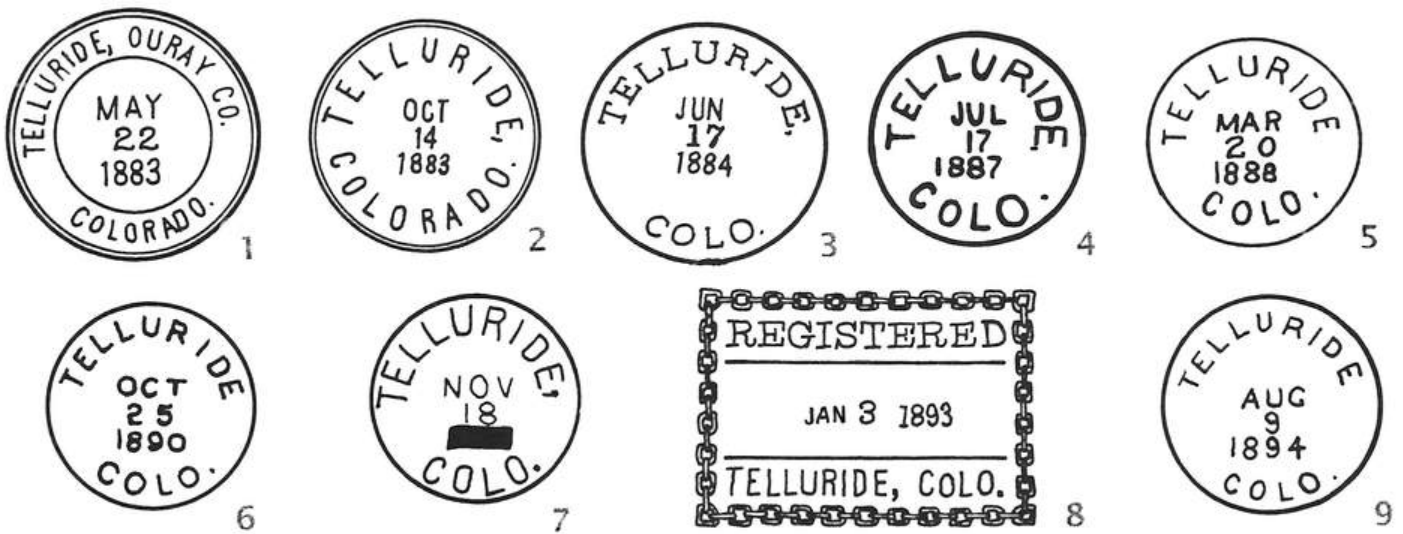
Jan 9 1890	Hilgenhaus, Charles F.	P&S
May 28 1894	McArthur, Everett	P&S
Feb 5 1897 ---	NE/4 Sec 1 T42N R9W 1/8 mile north of the San Miguel River 1/8 mile east of Cornet Creek About 600 feet north of the railroad	
Mar 9 1898	Mott, George S.	P&S
Dec 15 1902	Mott, George S.	P&S
Jan 28 1907	Mott, George S.	P&S
Nov 15 1910	Lomax, Louis C.	P
Jan 10 1911	Lomax, Louis C.	P&S
May 7 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 1 T42N R9W 1000 feet north of the San Miguel River 2500 feet east of Cornet Creek 1000 feet north of the Rio Grande Southern	
Jan 12 1915	Staley, D. Lee	P&S
Jun 27 1916	Painter, George R.	P&S
Jan 18 1922	Denison, Loran G.	P&S
Jan 26 1926	Denison, Loran G.	P&S
Jan 28 1930	Denison, Loran G.	P&S
Jun 9 1934	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Nominated
Jun 14 1934	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Confirmed
Jul 23 1934	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Commissioned
Aug 19 1934	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Assumed charge
Apr 29 1938	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Nominated
May 3 1938	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Confirmed
Jun 14 1938	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 11 1938	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1938	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Assumed charge
Oct 30 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 1 T42N R9W San Miguel River 900 feet south of post office	
Aug 6 1942	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Nominated
Aug 28 1942	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Confirmed
Sep 29 1942	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 30 1942	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Assumed charge
Oct 26 1942	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Commissioned
Mar 20 1950	Lazzorino, Mrs. Alta M.	Name changed by marriage
May 5 1954	Cassietto, Miss Alta M.	Name changed by divorce
Jul 31 1970	Clark, Miss Loree	Officer in charge
Jun 30 1971	Ackerman, Mrs. Minnette	Appointed
Mar 1 1975	Mahoney, Ms. Twylla L.	Officer in charge
Apr 26 1975	Martin, Mrs. Barbara A.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

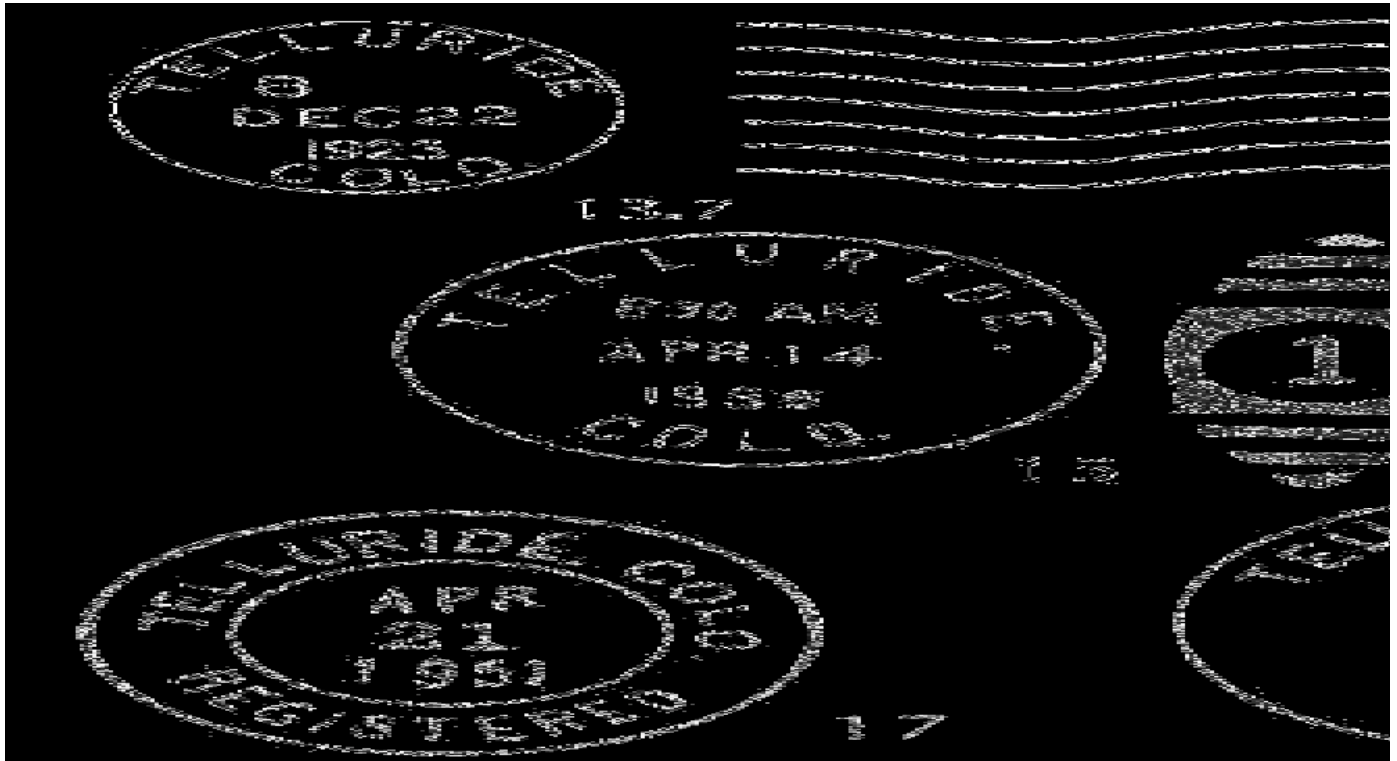
1	TELLURIDE, OURAY CO. / COLORADO. CI 21P 34.0/31.5/19.0	Jun 27 1882 Aug 27 1883 Hstp Pen cancel, Cork, Smudge
2	TELLURIDE, / COLORADO. CI 20P 30.0/29.5	Jun 19 1883 Mar 27 1886 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
3	TELLURIDE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Apr 27 1884 Jun 17 1884 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
4	TELLURIDE, / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Jun 10 1886 Dec 12 1886 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
5	TELLURIDE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 19 1887 Jan 9 1890 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, Smudge; Grid, 7-bar circular
6	TELLURIDE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jun 13 1890 Oct 25 1890 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads
7	TELLURIDE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Aug 10 1891 Nov 18 1893 Hstp Cork, Smudge, Negative X-roads

TELLURIDE - Continued

- 8 TELLURIDE, COLO. // REGISTERED Jan 3 1893
RC 10F 44.0x32.0 Hstp Pen cancel; "Chain Link" frame line
- 9 TELLURIDE / COLO. Aug 9 1894
CI 10P 28.0 Hstp Not recorded
- 9.1 TELLURIDE, COLO. / REG. NO.... Aug 26 1895
RC 20HP 44.0x32mm No killer
- 10 TELLURIDE / COLO. Sep 24 1895 Apr 17 1897
CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Cork, Negative X-roads, Smudge
- 10.1 TELLURIDE, COLO. / M.O.B. Jul 27 1896
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 Hstp No killer
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
- 11 TELLURIDE / COLO. Jan 3 1897 Jul 22 1899
CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 5-ring oval; Grid
- 12 TELLURIDE, COLO. Sep 10 1901 Apr 30 1910
CI 10P 25.0 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle



TELLURIDE – Continued



- | | | | |
|------|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 12.1 | TELLURIDE, COLO. / REC'D.
CI 10P 30.0 | Hstp No killer | Dec 13 1905 |
| 13 | TELLURIDE / COLO.
CI 10P 25.5 | Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle | Feb 1 1911 Apr 3 1919 |
| 13.1 | TELLURIDE, COLO.
RC 10P 36.0x18.0 | Hstp No Killer Parcel Post Box style | May 25 1912 |
| 13.2 | TELLURIDE, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 45.0/24.0 | Hstp No killer | May 25 1912 |
| 13.3 | TELLURIDE, COLO.
CI 10P 23.5 | Doremus Machine | Oct 13 1915 Oct 16 1915 |
| 13.4 | TELLURIDE, COLO. / M.O.B.
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Mar 2- 1917 |
| 13.5 | TELLURIDE, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 28.5/19.0 | Hstp No killer | Jan 2 1920 |
| 13.6 | TELLURIDE, / COLO.
RC 10P 38.0/19.0 | Hstp No Killer Parcel Post Box style | Jan 2 1920 |
| 13.7 | TELLURIDE / COLO.
CI 10P 22.5 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Dec 22 1923 |
| 14 | TELLURIDE / COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Feb 15 1933 |

TELLURIDE – Continued

15	TELLURIDE / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, oval with 1	Apr 14 1935 Oct 30 1950
16	TELLURIDE, / COLO. CI 10P 22.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Jan 9 1937 Nov 9 1965
17	TELLURIDE, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 31.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 21 1951 Feb 16 1957
17.1	TELLURIDE, / COLO. RC 10P 34.0x17.0	Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	1950s
18	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 30 1967
19	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P 23.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Dec 5 1967 Jul 26 1978
20	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-23x18mm	Apr 24 1971 Dec 19 1991
20.1	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Oct 8 1985
21	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P Distorted	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 20 1987
22	TELLURIDE, CO / 81435 CI 10P Distorted	4bars S-25x19mm	Apr 20 1993
23	TELLURIDE CO 81435 / USPS CI 11P 31.0/20.0	Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Jun 4 2003



TELLURIDE STATIONS

TELLURIDE BLUES & BREWS FESTIVAL

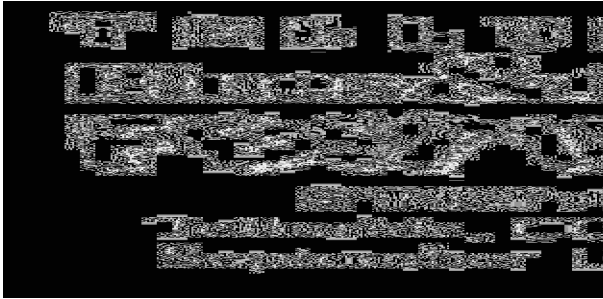
Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 15 2006 Established as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Telluride, CO 81435 // TELLURIDE / Blues&Brews / FESTIVAL / STATION IR 00R 72.0x35.0	Pict Scene - Foaming Beer Mug	Sep 15 2006
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**TELLURIDE STATIONS – Continued
TELLURIDE BLUES & BREWS FESTIVAL – Continued**



TELLURIDE STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 26 2003	Established as a Special Commemorative Station
Jun 29 2003	Service ended

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Telluride, CO 81435 // Telluride Station	Jun 26 2003 Jun 29 2003
	IR 00R 60.0x31.0	Pict Scene - Group of people with wine glasses; Text - Telluride Wine Festival [The date (day) is adjustable]



TROUT

Without a Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report there is no conclusive information as to the location of the Trout Post Office. Trout Lake (the lake with that name) lies on the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River about a mile and a half north and some 500 feet lower than the summit of Lizard Head Pass. The lake was originally of lesser extent than its present size. In 1891 Lucien L. Nunn built a dam to raise the level and storage capacity of the lake. A flume was constructed to feed the hydroelectric plant at Ames. The same was done at Lake Hope further up the river. In 1909 a flood broke the dam on Lake Hope and in turn the dam at Trout Lake. Both dams were reconstructed.

The Trout Post Office existed briefly in 1881-1882. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad did not penetrate the area until 1891 so there was no association between the two. There is some evidence that Trout was a small mining camp. Perhaps that would support a supposition that Trout was not actually on Trout Lake.

Two months after the Trout Post Office was closed, the Trout Lake Post Office opened. The story continues below in the discussion of Trout Lake.

TROUT – Continued**Chronology of the Post Office**

The Geographic Site Location Reports seem to indicate that this place was originally known as Trout Lake.

Jun 9 1881	Established
Jun 9 1881	McCallum, Mary A.
Mar 21 1882	Discontinued Mail to Ophir

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TROUT

TROUT LAKE

While there is uncertainty as to the location of the Trout Post Office (1881-1882), there is less uncertainty about the location of Trout Lake. Although the first two Geographic Site Location Reports do not provide a definitive location it does seem clear that the Trout Lake Post Office was not on the Trout Lake. If it had been, some mention of the lake in the description would seem to have been reasonable.

The third (1890) Site Location Report does provide a Section-Township-Range location which is about two miles north of the lake and coincides with the subsequent location of the San Bernardo Post Office.

In 1885 George Crofutt described Trout Lake as, “A post office with a small lake near it, at the South Fork of the San Miguel River. It is a miner’s camp.” The North Fork Valley, downstream of the Trout Lake is relatively level with a meandering stream and a few small ponds or lakes. Mining activity was confined to the area at north end of this valley with the San Bernardo Mine being the only significant operation.

Another complication is that the Trout Lake Station of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad was on the north side of the Trout Lake and in September 2000 the old water tank was still standing.

Admittedly the evidence is not conclusive. I tend to believe that Trout, Trout Lake and San Bernardo were all in the area approximately a mile and a half north of the Trout Lake.

Beginning at the junction of Colorado Highway 145 with the road to Ophir, continue south on Highway 145 towards Lizard Head Pass for two miles. On the west side of the highway there is a Colorado Highway Department supply or maintenance yard. The road into that facility continues a short distance further to some well preserved but abandoned mine buildings – the San Bernardo Mine. There is also a small building on the east side of the highway.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 12 1881 ---	Unsurveyed Ophir is 4-1/2 miles northeasterly On the west side of the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River 2 miles south of Howards Fork This post office was clearly not located on Trout Lake. Proposed postmaster - Mary A. McCallum
Jun 1 1882 ---	Unsurveyed Land On the west bank of the Lake Fork of the San Miguel River Proposed postmaster - John Berg
Jun 14 1882	Established
Jun 14 1882	Berg, John T.
Jul 10 1882	Berg, John
Nov 23 1882	Roden, Charles
Nov 12 1885	Discontinued Papers to Ames
Mar 20 1890 ---	Sec 5 T41N R9W 300 yards west of the South Fork of the San Miguel River One mile south of Wilson Creek Proposed postmaster - Charles Roden
Apr 8 1890	Established

VANADIUM – Continued

Oct 18 1924	Hughes, James H.	Acting
Dec 16 1924	Hughes, James H.	Appointed
Jan 14 1925	Hughes, James H.	Commissioned
Aug 20 1936	Hughes, Mrs. Hattie M.	Confirmed
Sep 3 1936	Hughes, Mrs. Hattie M.	Commissioned
Oct 1 1936	Hughes, Mrs. Hattie M.	Assumed charge
Jul 18 1942	Ordered closed	
Jul 31 1942	Discontinued Mail to Fall Creek	
Oct 25 1945 ---	SW/4 Sec 21 T43N R10W 250 feet north of the San Miguel River 1/8 mile north of State Highway [Stamped by POD Oct 17, 1941. Signed and dated by Hughes Oct 25, 1845 ??]	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	VANADIUM, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x20mm	Jan 1 1914	Jan 14 1936
2	VANADIUM / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 10 1939	Jul 31 1942

**VANCE**

The popular name for this place is Vance Junction referring to the junction of a branch line to Telluride with the main line of the Rio Grande Southern Railroad on its way towards Lizard Head Pass.

It was named for a Colonel Vance who resided nearby. A small town grew up, mainly on the east side of the river near the railroad facilities. The railroad had two passing tracks, a coal tipple and a two-story section house with living quarters and a restaurant.

The Post Office Department records show that the Vance Post Office existed during a period when the post office at Illium was closed. However, there were short periods on either side of the period of Vance when there was no post office in the area. That does not fit the usual pattern of moving a post office from one location to another, even with a change in name.

Four and one-half miles east of Vanadium, there is a Forest Access Road that branches to the right from Colorado Highway 145. A road sign there indicates that it is three miles to Illium. On that road, you will cross the San Miguel River and turn south along the South Fork. At one and a half miles from Highway 145 you will be opposite the site of Vance which was on the west side of the river. The remains of a large structure are partially visible in the trees on that side of the stream. From the site of Vance you can continue south to the site of Illium.

Latitude = 37:56:08 North Longitude = 107:53:53 West VANCE JUNCTION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 22 1894 ---	Sec 6 T42N R9W 1 mile south of the San Miguel River 1/8 mile west of the South Fork 25 feet west of Rio Grande Southern , Vance Junction Station Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Sarah Robinson
-----------------	---

VANCE – Continued

Oct 26 1894	Established	
Oct 26 1894	Robinson, Sarah	Declined
Feb 13 1895	McDaniels, Samuel S.	
Jun 30 1896	Houk, John	
Nov 1 1900	Sprague, Harry N.	
Oct 30 1901	McDaniels, Charles B.	
Apr 14 1903	Ramsey, Estella E.	
Apr 26 1904	Hyde, Hattie	
Dec 15 1904	Harris, Annie E.	
Jun 5 1906	Cole, Nellie	Declined
Sep 11 1906	McDaniel, Samuel S.	
Jun 12 1907	Smith, Bertha	Declined Order rescinded Oct 2 1907
Aug 20 1907	Wigglesworth, John	Declined Order rescinded Sep 30 1909
Sep 30 1909	McDaniels, Samuel S.	
Sep 30 1909	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| 1 | VANCE / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Aug 18 1895
Hstp Target, 4-ring |
| 2 | VANCE / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Apr 8 1899 Sep 12 1900
Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm |



WAREVILLE

Ray Newburn, when he authored *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, had no information as to the whereabouts of the Wareville Post Office. The *Rogers File* at the History Colorado Library does report that Wareville was shown on a map in an 1874-1878 Kansas Pacific Railroad Circular, and places it on the San Miguel River. At the time the Wareville office was established the area was part of a much larger Ouray County.

I did not find a Geographic Site Location Report for Wareville in either the Ouray or San Miguel County files. However, as a part of one of the reports for Ames there is a sketch map and comments by William A. LeRow. Normally the initial Site Location Reports were reviewed and submitted by the postmaster closest to the proposed site. I do not find Mr. LeRow as a postmaster anywhere in the Southwestern Colorado. Perhaps he was a postal inspector or other official or even someone connected to the mail route contractor.

Considering the comments by Mr. LeRow and the two-month life of Wareville, I suspect that the Wareville Post Office was never in operation.

The sketch map confirms the location of Wareville – see below. The location is on Colorado Highway 145, a short distance to the west of the junction of Highway 62 with Highway 145. There are some buildings there but they appear to be modern. There is also a lot of clutter and junk, most unattractive.

**WAREVILLE – Continued
Chronology of the Post Office**

This office was in existence prior to the creation of San Miguel County. It was considered to be in Ouray County. No documents were found in the Ouray County file of the Geographic Site Location Reports. However, the following was found in the San Miguel County files. After the documents for Ames is a very good sketch map of the area. It shows the locations of Wareville and San Miguel. The site (town) of Wareville is placed on the west side of Leopard Creek, where that creek joins the San Miguel River. The map bears the following note:

Josiah Fogg Postmaster

This sketch is respectfully submitted. The office at Wareville, Josiah Fogg Postmaster, can in no sense supply the needs of the people of San Miguel, as it is accessible only by trail along the river, through a very deep canon - a distance of at least 20 miles. And this trail is impassible from October till May. The wagon road noted has just been completed and will be open the entire year - it being a toll road.

I have the honor to be

Very resp'y your obedient servant

Wm A. LeRow

May 16 1877	Established
May 16 1877	Fogg, Josiah
Jul 17 1877	Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WAREVILLE

WILSON

The Wilson Post Office was closely associated with the Silver Pick Mine. The mine was on the western slope of Wilson Peak (14,100 feet) at nearly 13,000 feet in elevation. A processing mill was built at a lower elevation, 10,950 feet, and was connected to the mine by an aerial tramway. Ray Newburn in *Postal History of the Colorado San Juan*, believes that the post office was at the mill not at the mine.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report does give a Federal Land Survey Location for the Post Office but the geographic description that accompanies that location does not fit the topography. According to the report the post office was on the westerly side of (Big) Bear Creek. However, the described section lies east of Big Bear Creek.

In September 2000 I set out on an attempt to reach the site of Wilson. The point of departure from Colorado Highway 145 was at the site of Vanadium. There, was a road sign indicating that was the way to Silver Pick Basin, on the appropriately named Silver Pick Road. After three and a quarter miles I reached a fork in the road that indicated, "five miles to Silver Pick Basin," to the left. Two miles later as I was about to end in a ranch yard, I decided that I was on the wrong road, albeit with a spectacular view of Wilson Peak. I backtracked two miles and found another, very poorly marked, lesser-traveled road that would also have been a left-hand fork. Two and a half miles later I reached a locked gate and the end of a stretch of steep, rough road. Frankly, I am not sure where I was. At the end of the road was a weathered sign that said something about Navajo Basin but I don't find that on my maps. I headed back towards Highway 145 but did stop to photograph a ranch complex in a shallow valley east of the road. Perhaps that was the site of Wilson. The return distance to Highway 145 was a little more than seven miles.

I suggest that you review the discussions of Fall River, Newmire, Sawpit, Seymour and Vanadium for more information on the post offices and their locations in the section of the San Miguel River east of Placerville.

WILSON – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 5 1894 --- NW/4 Sec 29 T42N R10W 12 miles south of the San Miguel River
Bear Creek and Fall Creek about equally close On a small branch of
Creek 1-1/2 miles from Bear Creek on the westerly side
Proposed postmaster - Fannie Drummond

Feb 7 1895 Established
Feb 7 1895 Drummond, Fannie
Jul 25 1895 Cole, Lucy H.
Jun 20 1898 Alsdorf, Frederick C.
Oct 24 1901 Alsdorf, Frederick C.
Nov 15 1901 Discontinued Papers to Newmire

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 WILSON / COLO. Oct 6 1899
CI 10P 27.0 Hstp Target, 4-ring



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Chapter IV- San Miguel County, Part 1 - October 1977

San Miguel County, Part 2 - January 1978

San Miguel County, Part 2 - April 1978

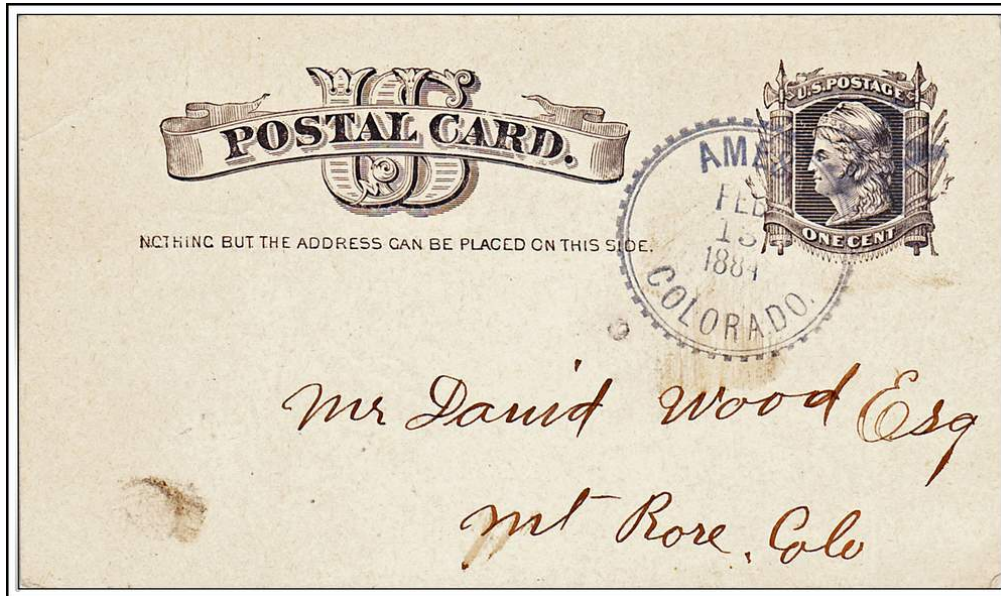
ROGERS FILE

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.

GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

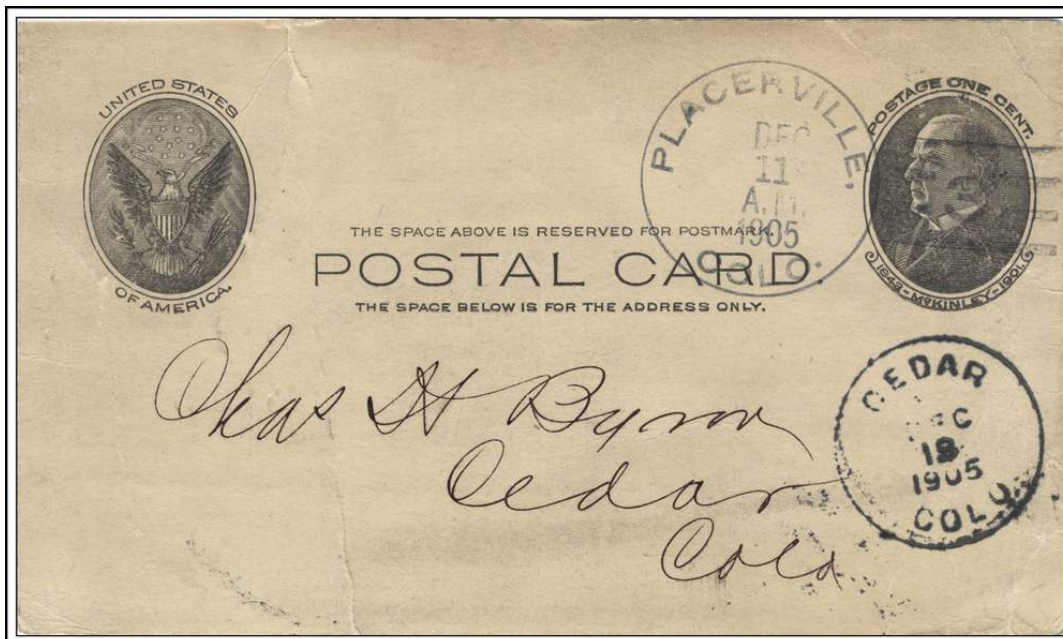
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, reference of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF SAN MIGUEL COUNTY COVERS



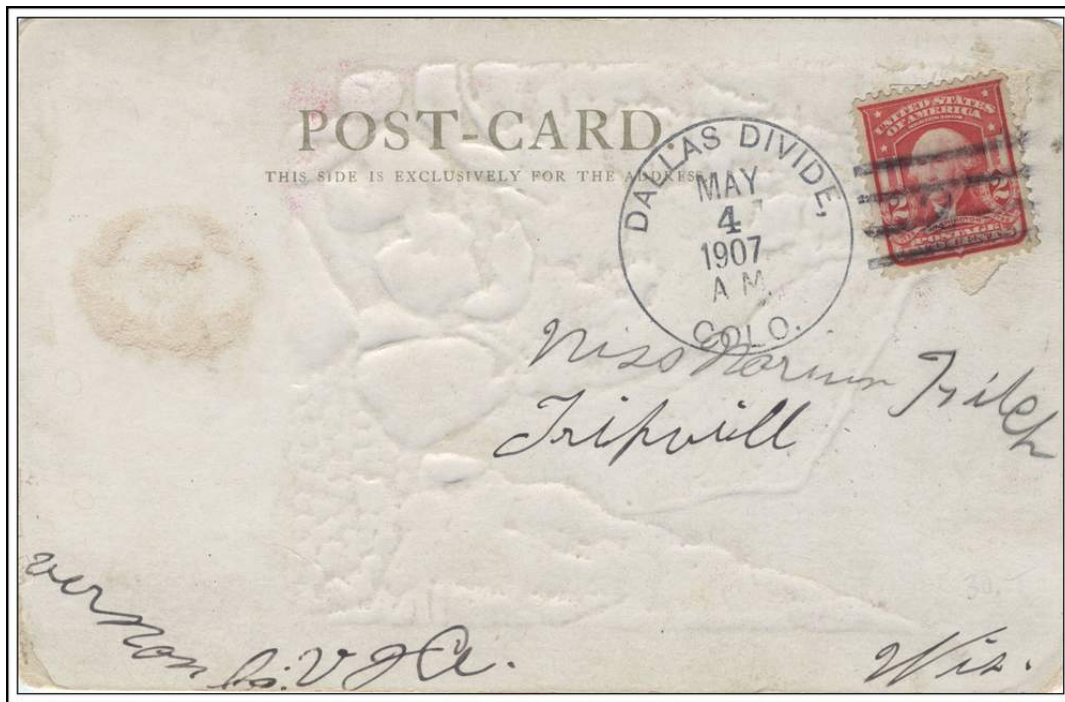
AMES, / COLORADO.

February 13, 1884



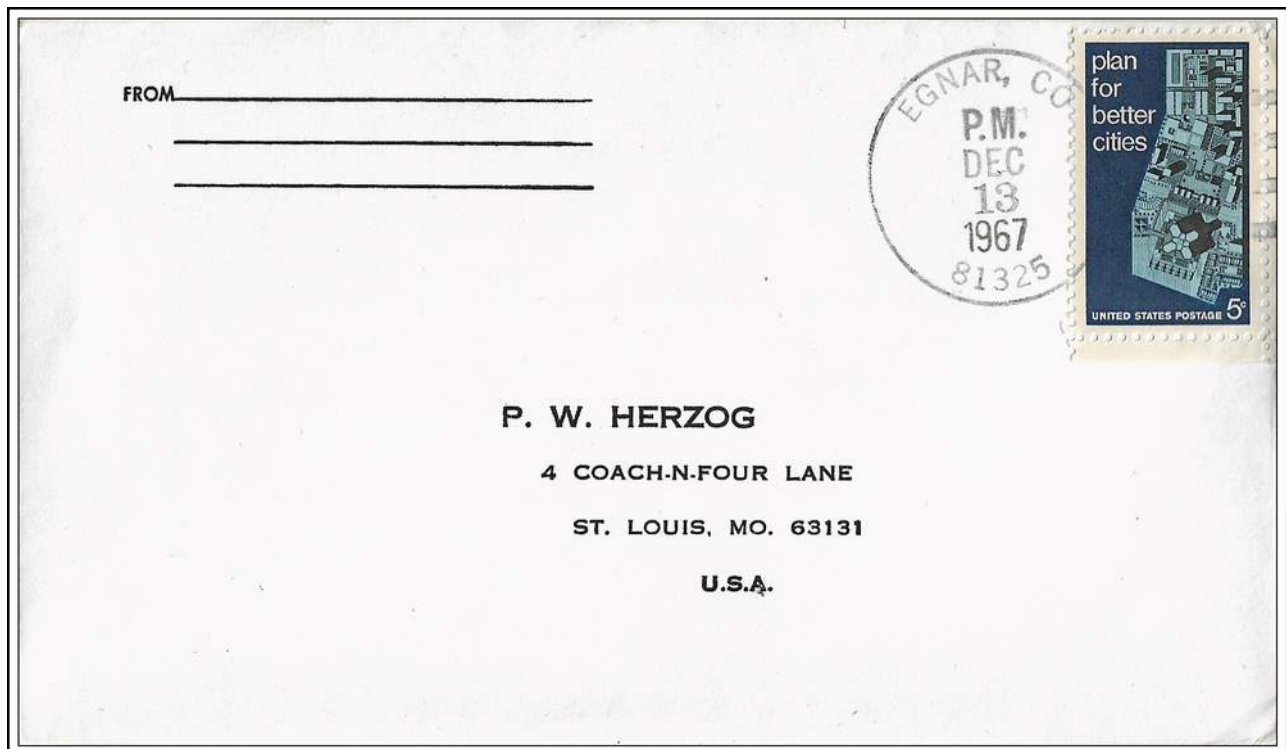
CEDAR / COLO.

December 12, 1905



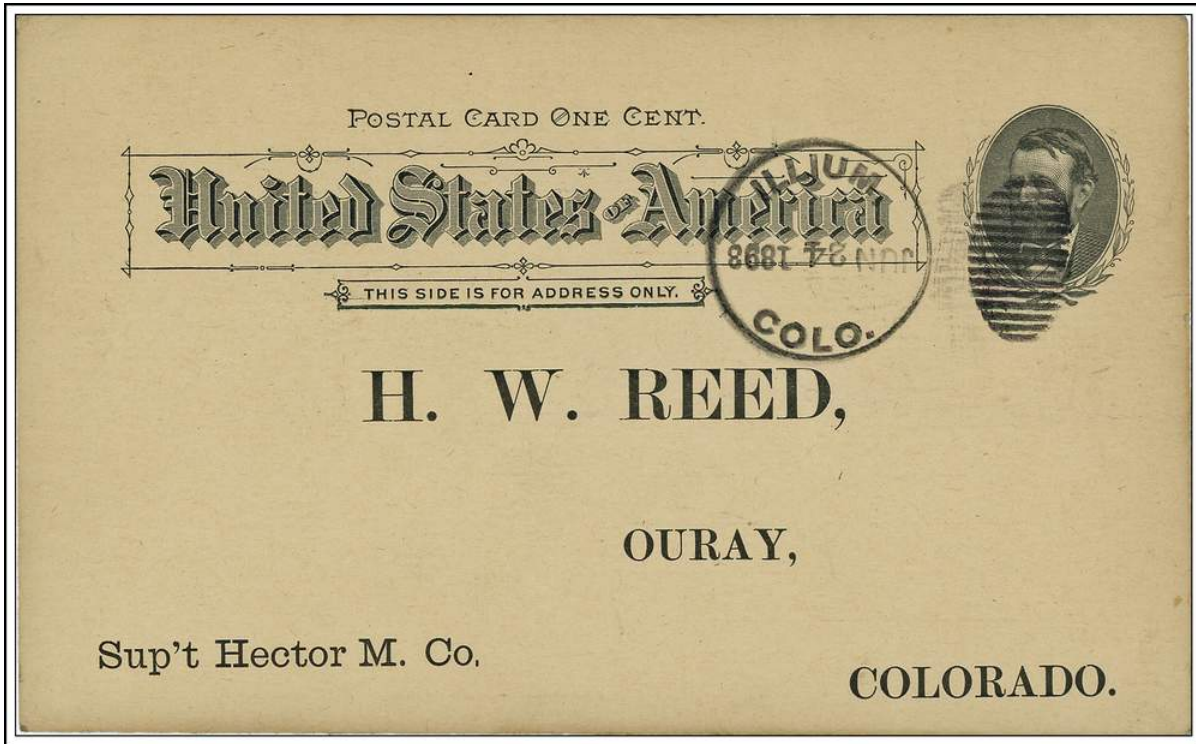
DALLAS DIVIDE, / COLO.

May 4, 1907



EGNAR, CO / 81325

December 13, 1967



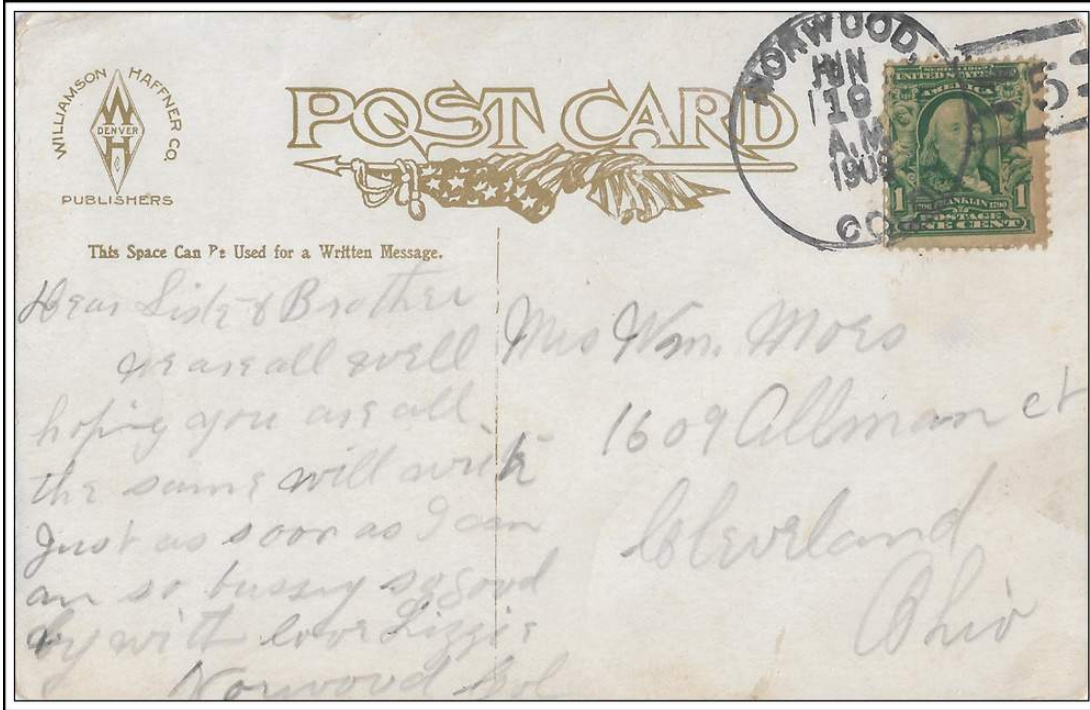
ILLIUM / COLO.

June 24, 1898



LEONARD, / COLO.

March 18, 1909



NORWOOD, / COLO.

June 19, 1909



OPHIR, OURAY CO., / COLO.

July 25, 1879



PANDORA, / COLO.

March 31, 1885



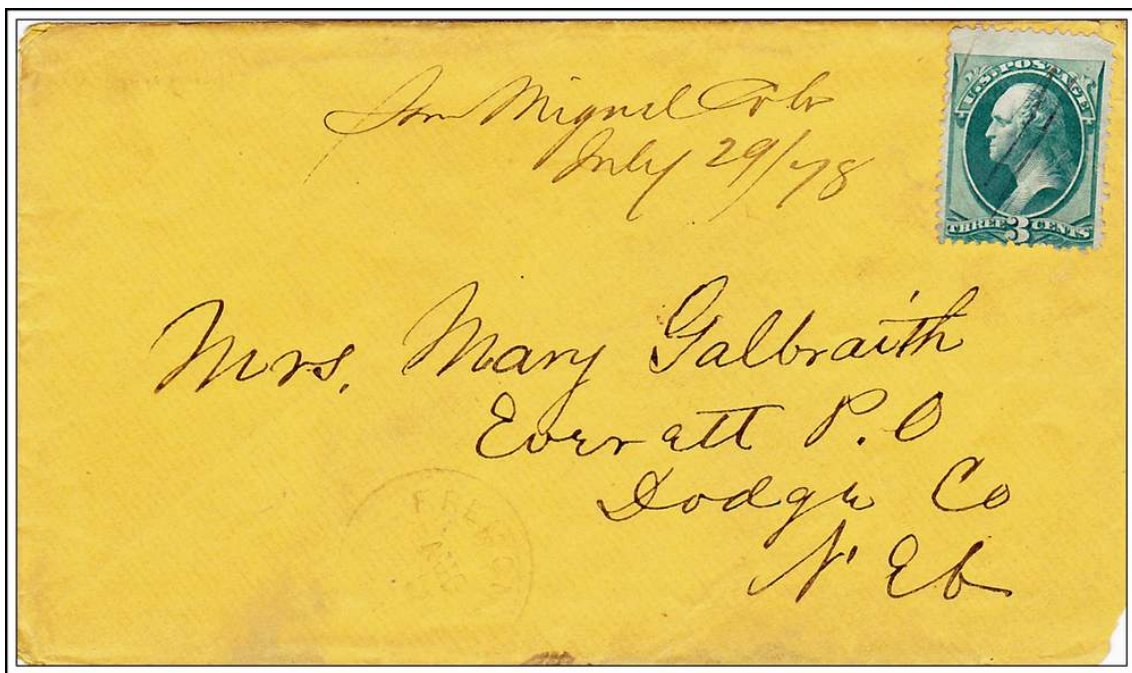
PLACERVILLE, / COLO.

August 25, 1880



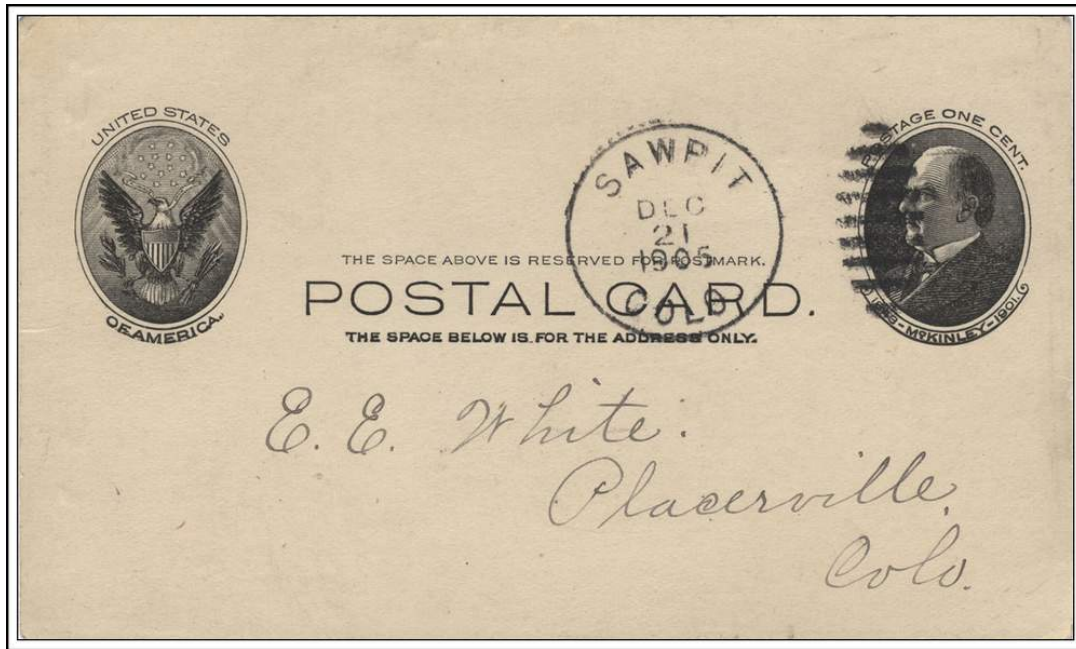
PLACERVILLE, (SAN MIGUEL COL, / F.A. BROWN, P.M.) COLO.

February 28, 1887



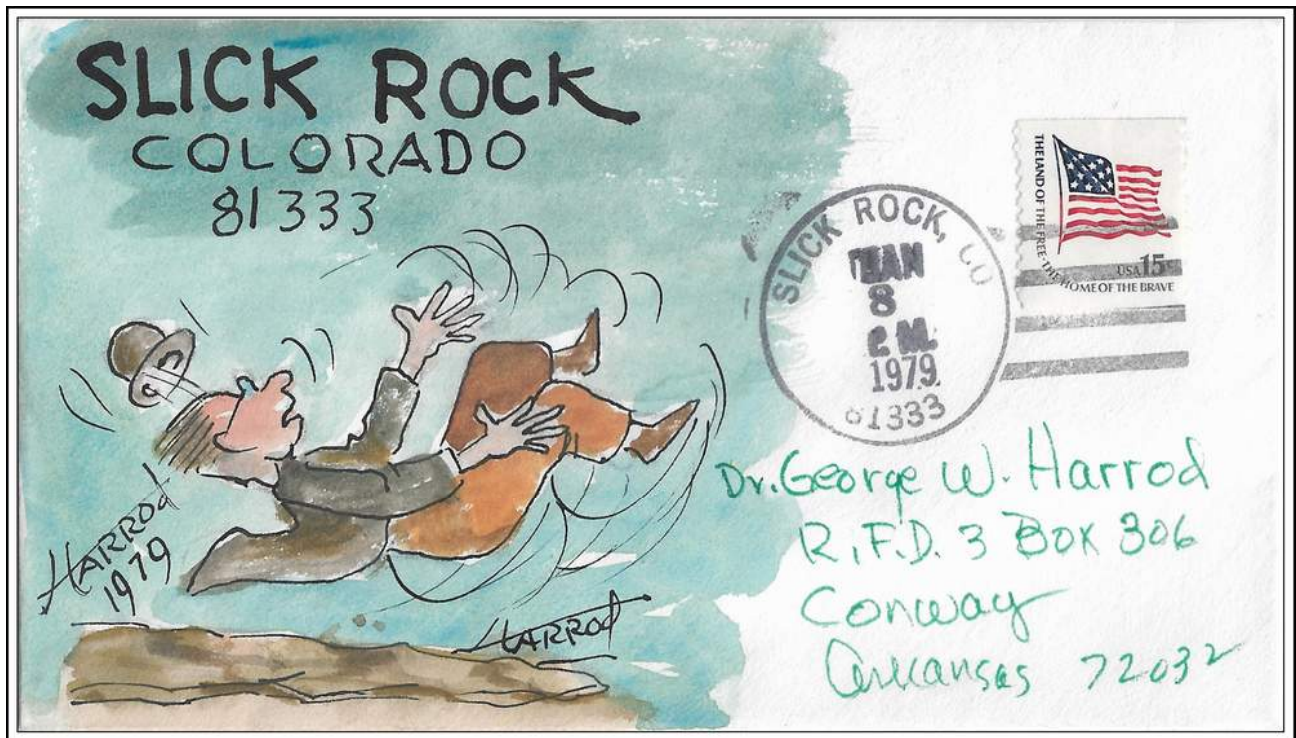
San Miguel Colo

July 29, 1878



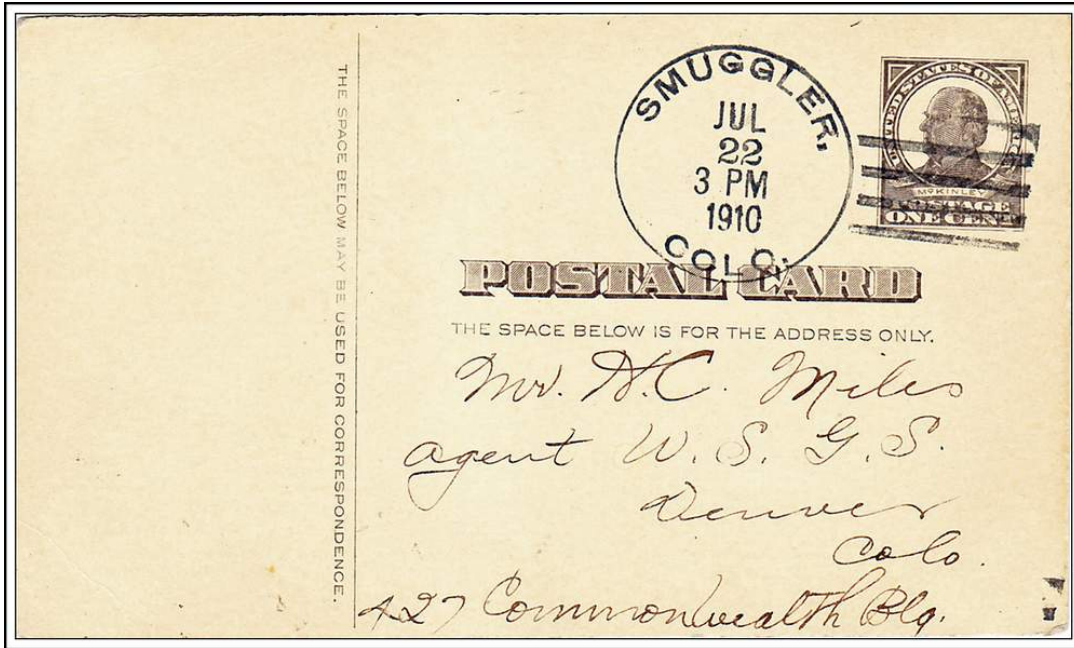
SAWPIT / COLO.

December 21, 1906



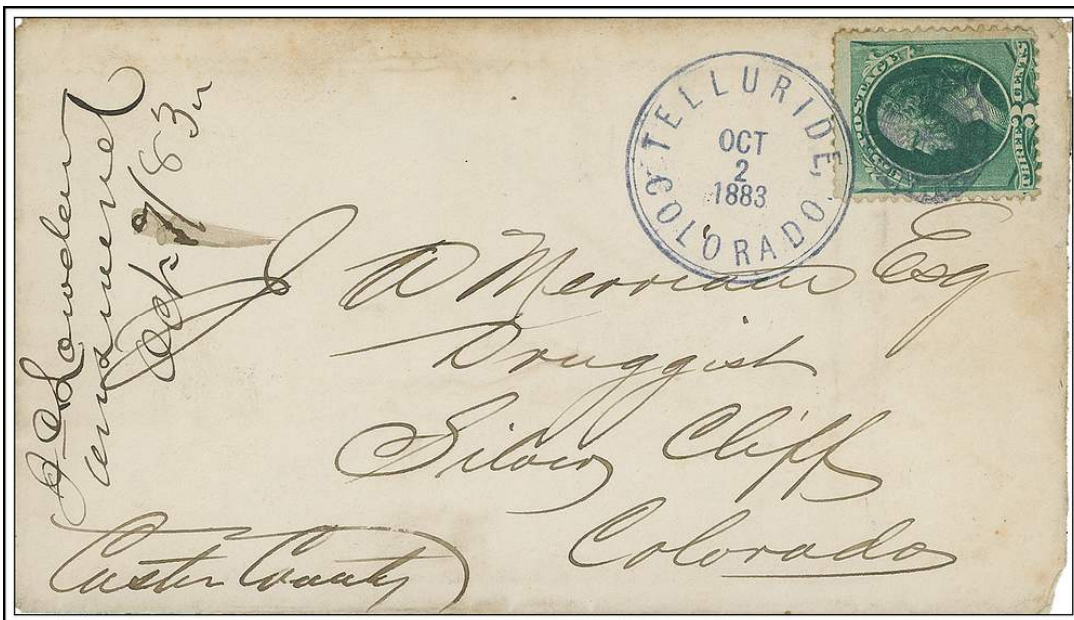
SLICK ROCK, CO / 81333

January 8, 1979



SMUGGLER, / COLO.

July 22, 1910



TELLURIDE, / COLORADO.

October 2, 1883

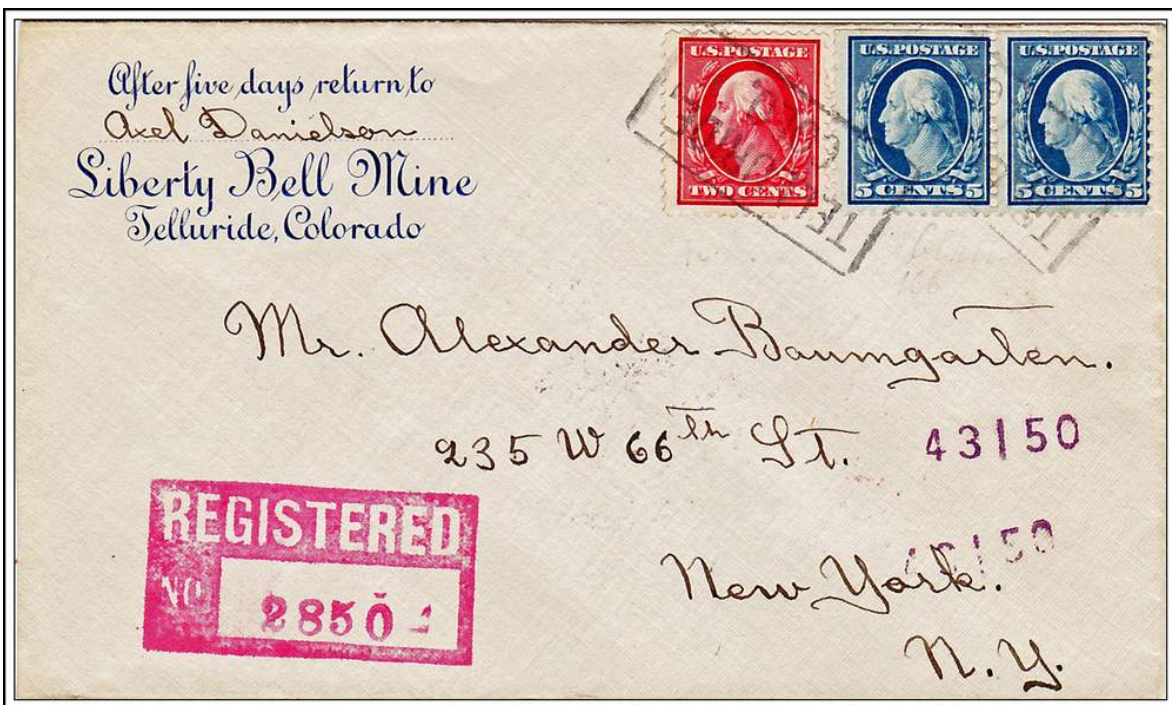
With Wheel of Fortune killer



TELLURIDE / COLO.

February 1, 1911

Note auxiliary marking



TELLURIDE / COLO.

(May 24, 1912)



TROUT LAKE, / COLORADO.

January 19, 1885



VANCE / COLO.

September 12, 1900



WILSON / COLO.

October 6, 1899