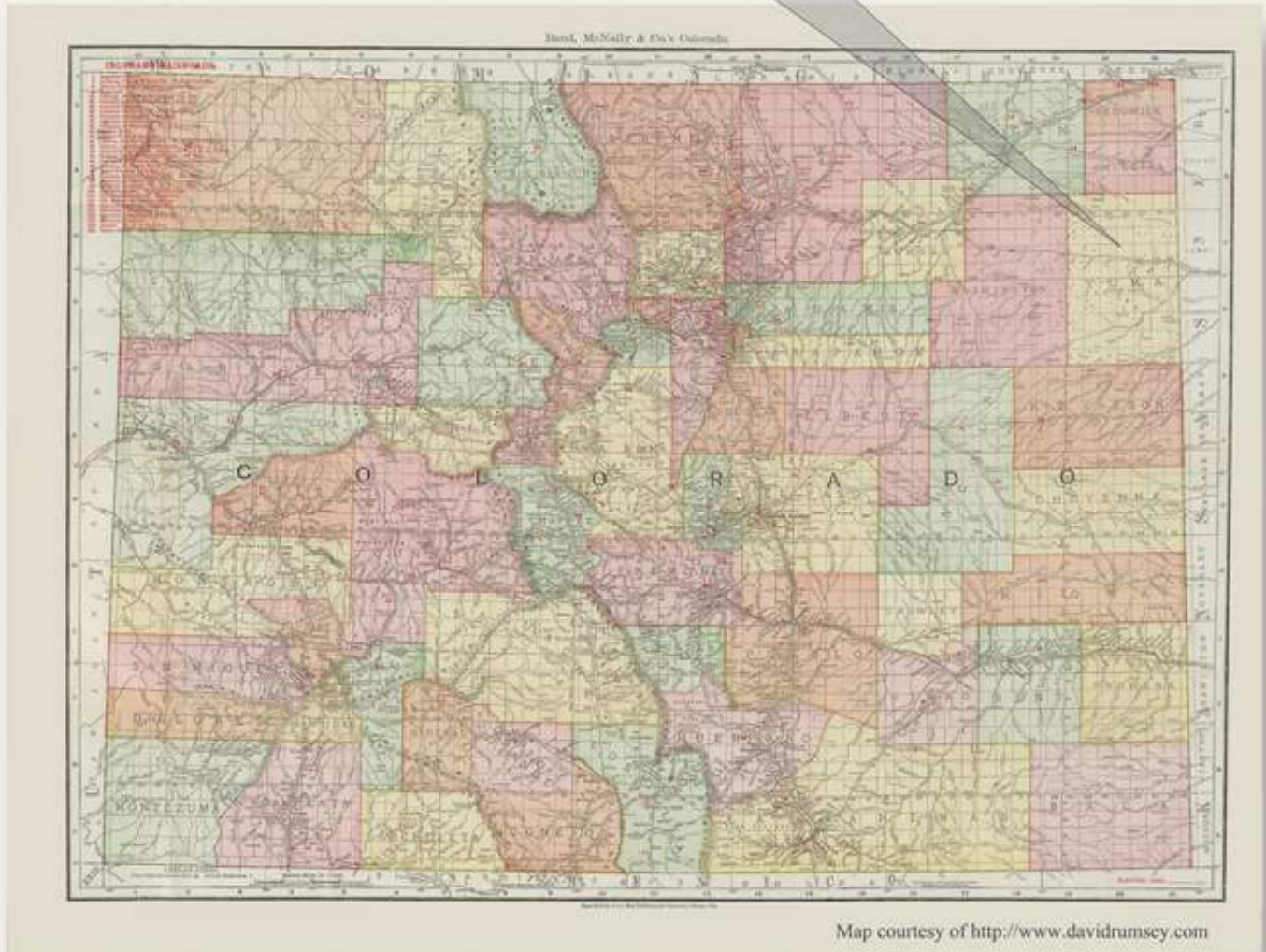


Yuma County



Established: March 15, 1889

County Seat: Wray

YUMA COUNTY

By William H. Bauer

Before 1887, the area that is now Yuma County was divided between the original Weld and Arapahoe Counties, both of which reached eastward to the border with Kansas and Nebraska. In 1887 the eastern portion of Weld County was trimmed off to create Logan and Washington Counties. On March 15, 1889 the Colorado Legislature divided Washington County and created Yuma County. The next change took place in 1901 when the eastern portion of Arapahoe County was removed and added to Washington and Yuma Counties giving those counties their present configurations.

Yuma County is at the eastern edge of Colorado. The county is a north-south oriented rectangle, sixty miles from north to south and 40 miles from east to west. The eastern boundary of the county is also the state line, shared with Dundy and Chase Counties in Nebraska and Cheyenne County in Kansas. The southern boundary is with Kit Carson County and the western boundary with Washington County. A short section of the northern boundary is with Logan County and the remainder with Phillips County.

The topography is mixed; some areas are level prairie while others are rolling hills, large sections of which are sand hills. The sand hills areas are poorly drained. The Republican River is the main stream with Landsman Creek and the Arickaree River as major tributaries to the Republican.

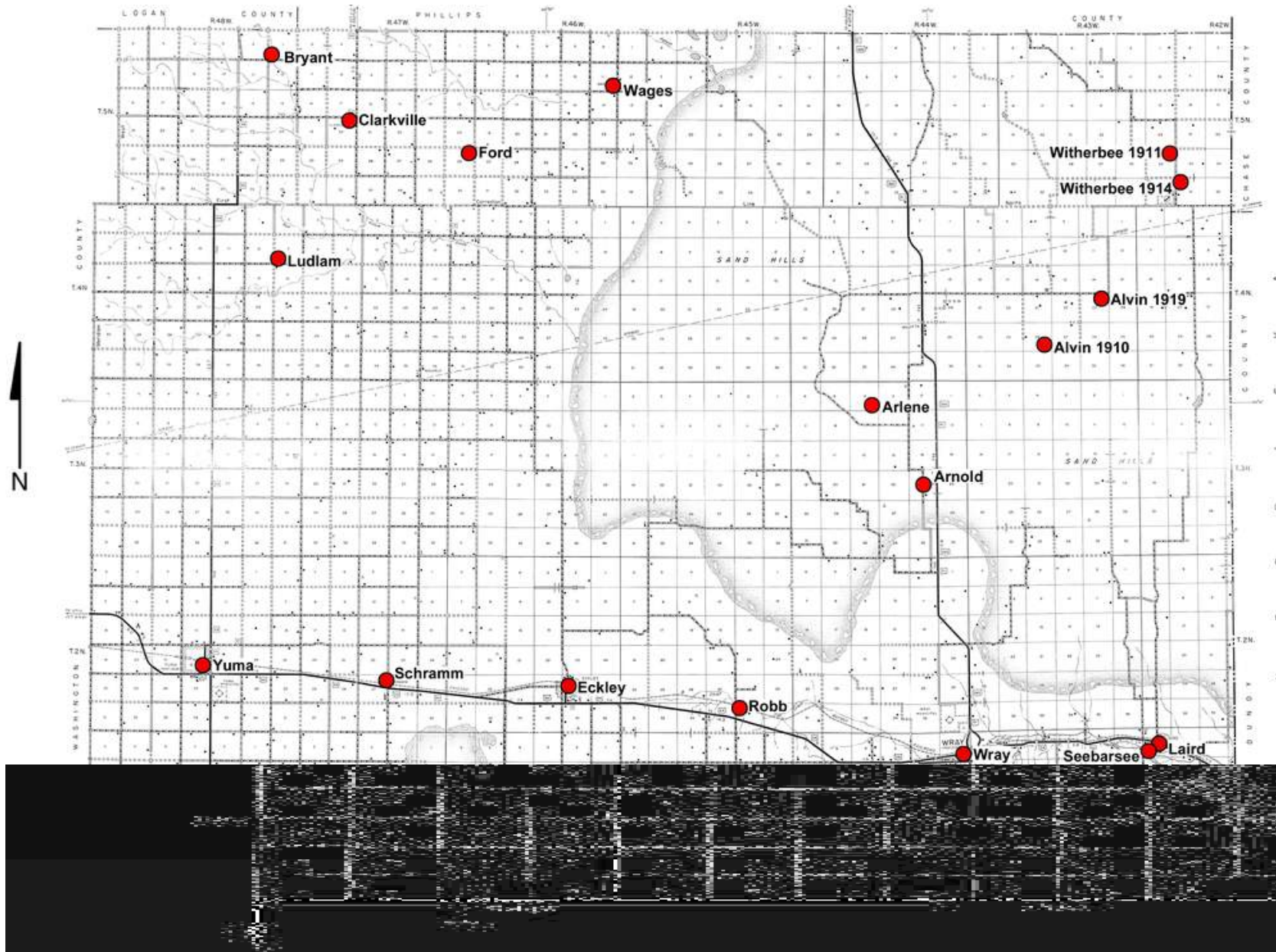
The initial settlement of what is now Yuma County was in the form of large cattle ranches that claimed the available water and then took advantage of the open range for grazing. In the 1880's and into the early 1890's the area enjoyed a wetter than normal weather cycle. That encouraged homesteading and the development of agriculture. It also forced the large ranches to shrink in size. Unfortunately, in the late 1890's the rainfall returned to normal levels and much of the agricultural development failed for lack of proper farming techniques and a reliable water supply.

In the twentieth century the development of dry farming practices and the ability, with deep wells, to tap the Ogallala Aquifer permitted a resurgence of farming. Today the county has developed a mix of farming and ranching. Recently – taking advantage of large, thinly populated areas – a number of large hog farms have been established in Yuma County.

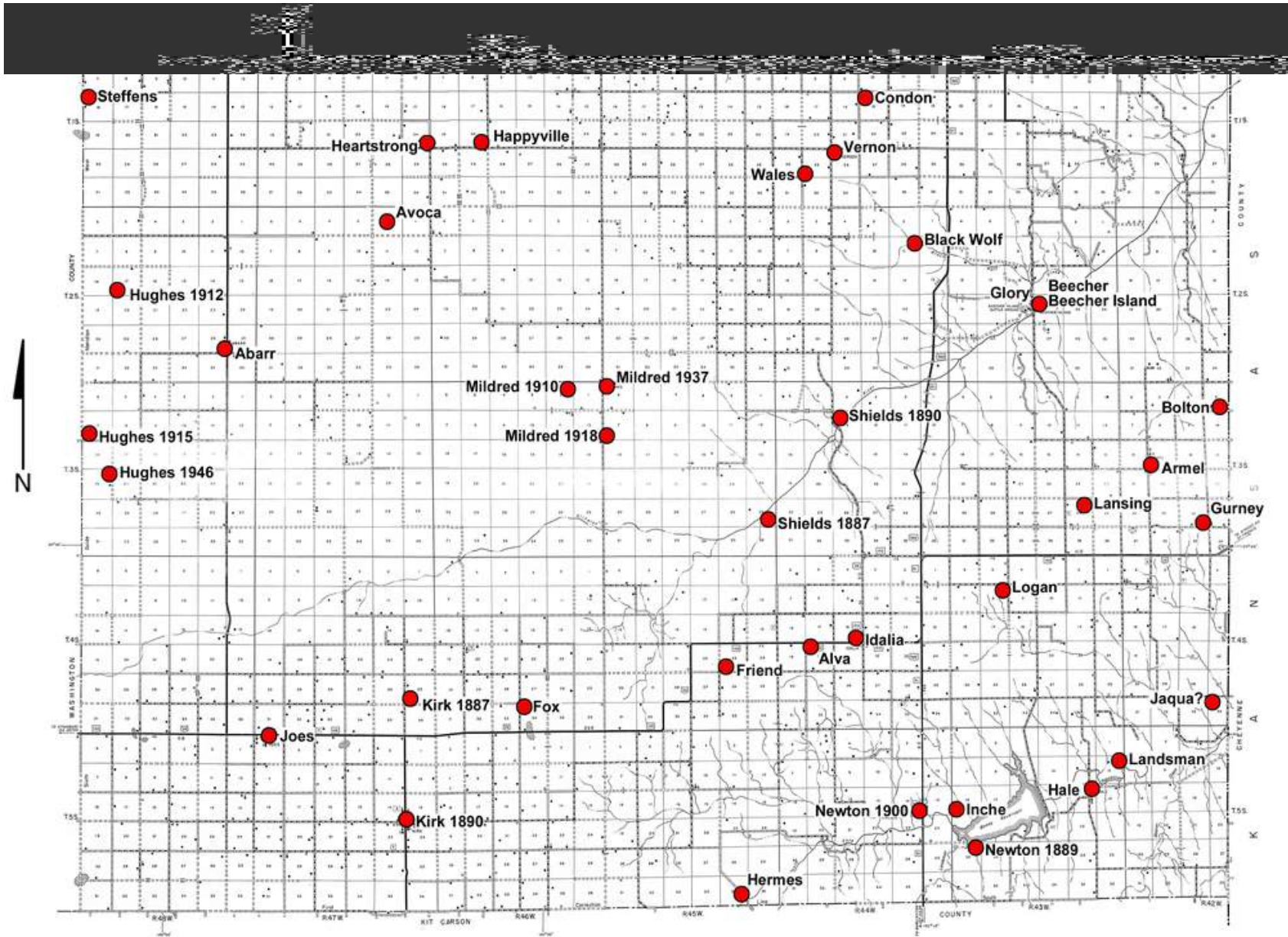
It is typical of Eastern Colorado that the small farms and ranches are disappearing. The quarter-section homesteads have been or are being amalgamated into large farms and ranches. This situation is decried by many but it is in fact dictated by economics. The small farm, producing common grains, cannot generate sufficient income to afford the necessary equipment required to operate. As the land is consolidated, fences disappear, abandoned buildings are torn down and the small towns shrink. I suspect that before long the only farm-country towns that remain will be either county seats or those at the intersections of major highways – a sad but perhaps inevitable event.

The gentle topography permitted travel to develop as needed and to not be restricted to river valleys or by mountain passes. In 1881 the Burlington and Colorado Railroad Company laid track from the Nebraska line through Yuma County with its first train reaching Akron in Washington County on May 1, 1882. The arrival of the railroad with its promise of enhanced transportation, improved the agricultural prospects of Yuma County. The Burlington crossed the northern half of the county. It was anticipated that the Chicago, Kansas and Nebraska Railway Company would build through the southern portion of the county. However, that railroad laid track further south, through Kit Carson County.

Anticipation of a railroad led to the establishment of several towns along the projected routes. Many of these were little more than paper constructs and when the railroad failed to materialize, those “towns” quickly disappeared. Some of them did retain a post office but they were ranch or farm post offices that often moved from one ranch to another.



Post Office Location - Yuma County – Northern Portion



Post Office Location - Yuma County – Southern Portion

Two main east-west roads developed. Both routes eventually became federal highways. US Highway 34 parallels the Burlington Railroad and passes through the larger towns of Yuma County. To the south, US Highway 36 is important but the towns along its route are of lesser size than those along US 34.

US Highway 385, in the eastern portion of the county, is the principal north-south highway, from Burlington, through Wray and on to Julesburg. In the western portion, Colorado Highway 59 carries traffic from north to south through Yuma County.

Those areas of the county that lie outside the sand hills are well served by a network of county roads, most of which are unpaved but are well maintained. However, there is a slow trend to abandon portions of county roads that now serve sparsely populated sections.

Visiting the post office sites in Yuma County requires considerable wandering around the back roads of the county. The directions to the more remote sites are scattered through the text and hence are not in the sequence that you might follow to visit them. Therefore, here are some sequential routes that I followed in touring Yuma County. You can use these listings to plan any circuit that you might make.

1. Witherbee, Alvin, Arnold, Arlene, Wages, Ford, Clarkville, Bryant, Ludlum
2. Steffens, Hughes, Abarr, Avoca, Heartstrong, Happyville, Mildred, Wales, Vernon, Condon, Black Wolf
3. Gurney, Rogers, Armel, Bolton, Lansing, Logan, Birmingham, Shields
4. Inche, Newton, Hale, Landsman



Overview of the Happyville, Colorado site
Photograph by William H. Bauer September 30, 1996

ABARR

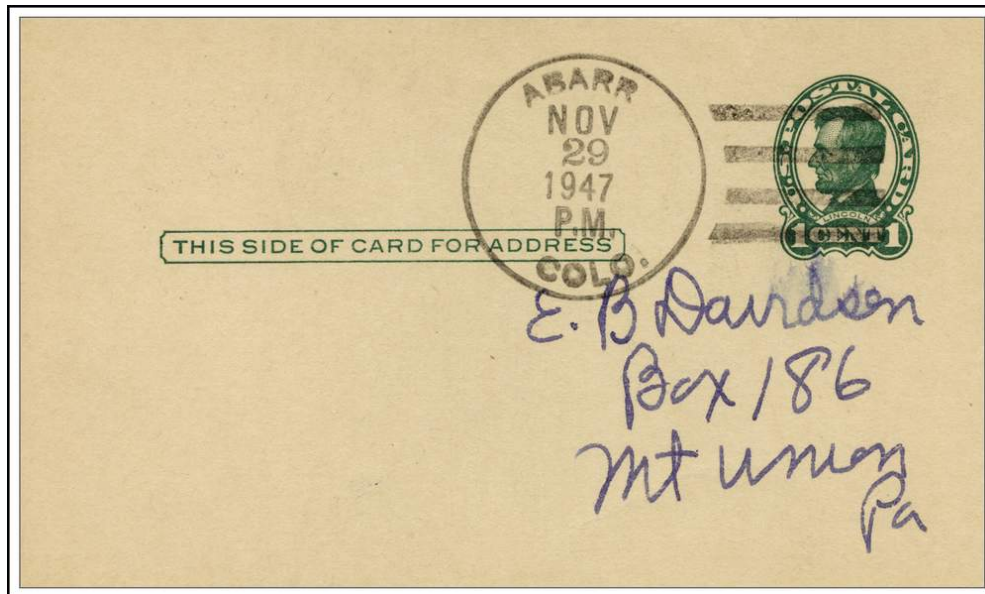
There is little controversy that Donald C. Brown established this community in 1921. A town plat for Brownsville was filed May 17, 1922 by Silas E. Hoffman. Mr. Hoffman operated a store in the community.

In 1923 Mr. Brown applied for a post office to be named Brownsville. Historians have claimed that this was rejected because there was another Colorado town named Brownsville. That is only partially correct. The area that adjoined Silver Plume on the west was known as Brownsville but there had not been a post office there since 1875. It is more likely the name was rejected because of potential confusion with Brownsville, California, in Yuba County.

The question then is from where came the name Abarr? Again historians state that the post office was called Brownsville until Silas Hoffman became postmaster at which time the name was changed to Abarr; Abarr being the maiden name of Hoffman's wife Ethel Abarr Hoffman. There never was a Brownsville Post Office in Yuma County. From its establishment it was always Abarr. To me it seems more of a possibility that Abarr was a phonetic translation of a local ranch: "A-."

Abarr continued as a small but active community for many years. It is still shown as a place name on more detailed maps of the area.

Abarr is north of the intersection of Colorado Highway 59 with Yuma County Road 19, nineteen miles south of Yuma. It is claimed that Abarr was on the west side and Brownsville on the east side of the highway, but the Abarr Post Office was on the east side of Colorado Highway 59. In 1996 there was still a tiny community at Abarr.



ABARR, COLO.

November 29, 1947

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 31 1922	---	SW/4 Sec 25 T2S R48W	
		Applicant for postmaster - Donald C. Brown	
Feb 26 1923		Established	
Feb 26 1923		Brown, Donald C.	
Jan 3 1925		Hoffman, Silas E.	Acting
Feb 19 1925		Hoffman, Silas E.	Appointed
Sep 22 1928		Hoffman, Ethel R.	Confirmed
Oct 19 1928		Hoffman, Ethel R.	Commissioned

ABARR – Continued

Oct 23 1928	Hoffman, Ethel R.	Assumed charge
Oct 17 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 26 T2S R48W	
Jun 1 1947	Fletcher, Robert N.	Assumed charge
Nov 17 1947	Ordered closed	
Nov 30 1947	Discontinued Mail to Joes	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ABARR. / COLO. CI 10P 33.5	4bars S-24x20mm	Aug 22 1930 May 12 1939
2	ABARR / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jan 21 1941 Nov 30 1947

**ALVA**

Alva was a short-lived, early post office located less than two miles west of present day Idalia. The records state that after little more than a year the name was changed from Alva to Idalia but there was also a change of location.

Alva was named for Alva Adams, who was governor of Colorado at the time of the community's founding.

Because of the close relationship with Idalia, the history is discussed in more detail under Idalia.

According to the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, Alva was located in the southeast quadrant of the intersection of US Highway 36 and Yuma County Road BB.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 30 1887 ---	NW/4 Sec 20 T4S R44W	Proposed postmaster - Allen Russell Ames
Aug 6 1887	Established	
Aug 6 1887	Ames, Allen R.	
Sep 18 1888	Name changed to Idalia	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ALVA

ALVIN

Alvin was a rural post office in the farm and ranch country of northeastern Yuma County. It had a somewhat longer life than many such rural post offices. The book *Action on the Plains* by Seedorf, *et al.* provides a detailed history of the origin and the movement of the Alvin Post Office during its nineteen years of operation. This is the story:

ALVIN – Continued

Alvin which was never more than a store, post office, and residence, sometimes all three under the same roof was started by A. A. Currence in 1911 or 1912 in the NE/2 Sec 33 T-4-N R-43-W. He had traded a store in Cornell, Nebraska for the Alvin D. Davis homestead. When Davis left, he gave Mr. Currence a saddle with the understanding that the new store be called ALVIN after him.

Mr. Currence sold his store to Jim Coast who moved it and the post office to his homestead in the NE/4 of Sec 27. Jim sold to a Mr. Dick who moved everything to his place in the center of Sec 26. Later he sold out to Pat Dempsey and H. D. Sigler and they carried on the business at the Sigler place, which was also in Sec 26. Mr. Dempsey bought out Sigler and moved the business to his own ranch in Sec 23 where he continued the business. For a short while Dempsey ran the store in partnership with W. C. Richards in Sec 15, and then returned to his own place where he built a new store building in 1918. Around 1929 he discontinued the post office. (218-186)

It should be noted that the survey locations given above do not agree with those reported to the Post Office Department.

To visit the sites reported to the Post Office Department, if you have just been to Witherbee, from County Road QQ drive one-half mile east on Road 54 to Road RR and turn south three miles to County Road 51 and turn west three miles to the intersection with Road NN. The reported 1919 location of Alvin was in the southwest quadrant of the intersection. It is open countryside with no visible remnants. The 1910 site is a bit more difficult to reach. Continue west another three miles on Road 51 and turn south on Road KK. Road KK ends at a farm complex a mile and a half south of Road 51. The 1910 location was well to the east of this point, but nothing is visible in the distance. This farm complex could well be one of the unreported locations, previously noted.

There are a couple of other places that warrant consideration with regards to Alvin. The first is at the intersection of County Roads RR and 51. On some maps that intersection is shown as Alvin but it does not match any reported location. There are some old derelict buildings and it is not unreasonable that at a later time, after closure of the Alvin Post Office, that the Alvin store was there.

Another possibility is to go west from Road NN one mile and turn south on Road MM. One mile south there are buildings and this could well have been another location of Alvin as it wandered around the countryside.

From Alvin, return to US Highway 385 and go south to Arnold and Arlene.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 13 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 28 T4N R43W
		Proposed postmaster - Albert Allen Currence
Sep 12 1910		Established
Sep 12 1910		Currence, Albert A.
Sep 3 1912		Coast, James H.
Mar 5 1915		Dick, George L.
Feb 11 1916		Sigler, Eulaa E.
Aug 1 1918		Roberts, Charles W.
Mar 17 1919	---	NE/4 Sec 23 T4N R43W A move to a new site 3/4 mile southeast of previous location
May 15 1919		Dempsey, Patrick E.
Feb 19 1929		Ordered closed
Feb 28 1929		Discontinued Mail to Wray

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 ALVIN, / COLO.
CI 10p 32.0

Mar 8 1913 Apr 16 1924

4bars S-23x19mm

ALVIN – Continued**ARLENE**

Arlene, like its neighbor Arnold to the southeast, has escaped mention in the historical literature of Colorado. Its location in the sand hills of Yuma County, which are not the most fertile land, gives reason for the short period of operation. It was undoubtedly a ranch post office that for two years provided some postal service for the surrounding area.

The northeastern corner of Yuma County is sparsely settled. The topography is rolling hills, very similar to the more famous Sand Hills of Nebraska. The topographic relief here is less than in Nebraska. The countryside is best suited to ranching but there is some farming using well water. Recently a new industry has moved into the area – hog farming. The remoteness and sparse population make it attractive for these rather unpopular neighbors.

From Wray, drive north nine and one-half miles to Yuma County Road 44.5. Turn west one-half mile (see Arnold), north one half mile, west another half-mile and then north a mile and a half to County Road 46 and turn west; Arlene was about a half-mile north of Road 46 and a mile and a half west of Road FF. There is no direct access to the site. A clump of trees is all that can be seen from the road.

At this point you will need to make a decision. There were five more post offices located in the northwest corner of Yuma County: Bryant, Clarkville, Ford, Ludlum and Wages. You can continue north on Road 46 that curves around becoming Road CC. Follow it through the sand hills to Road 54. Go west on Road 54 to Road BB, which also wanders north through the sand hills eventually intersecting Road 58. Thence go west to Road Y and north to Road 59. At that point you will be one mile south of the Yuma-Phillips County line and can begin visiting the aforementioned post office sites, starting with Wages.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 20 1916	---	SE/4 Sec 4 T3N R44W	
		Document annotated: "1st Appt date of order Oct 31, 1916 / Sept 15, 1917 /	
		When new appointee assumes charge."	
		Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Ada Minerva Light	
Oct 30 1916		Established	
Oct 30 1916		Light, Ada M.	Declined
Sep 15 1917		Walthall, Eugene W.	
Aug 31 1918		Discontinued	Mail to Wray

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ARLENE

ARMEL

Armel was a rural post office in eastern Yuma County. In 1889, Armel Breninger came to the Lansing Valley. In 1902 he opened a store and in 1903 was granted a post office that took his first name – Armel. When the post office application was filed, in addition to Armel, three other names were offered as possible choices: Milton, Waite or Viola.

When Armel Breninger died in 1932, his son Charles took over and ran the store until 1935 when he sold it to Herman Lingren whom also served as postmaster. In 1944 Matt Morris became the owner of the store and the postmaster. The post office closed in 1948 but Mr. Morris continued to operate the store for many years thereafter.

By 1996 the store had closed but the building was still standing. There are other buildings in the vicinity, some occupied, and the Armel Cemetery is at the intersection of County Roads PP and 15. Armel is on Yuma County Road PP three miles north of US Highway 36 and one mile north of the site of Rogers.

Chronology of the Post Office

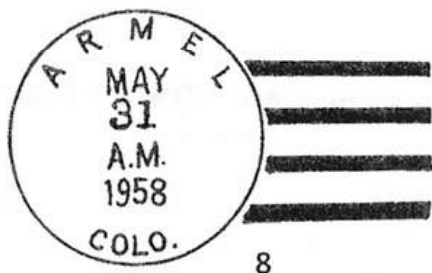
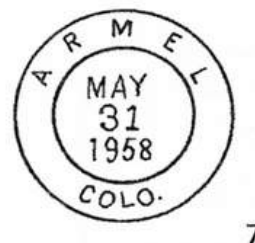
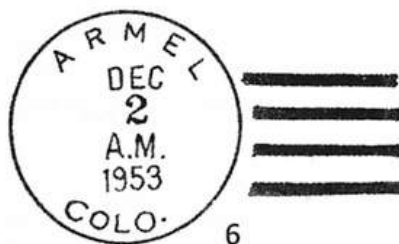
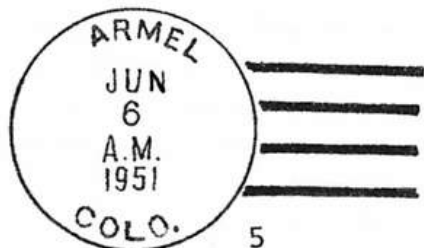
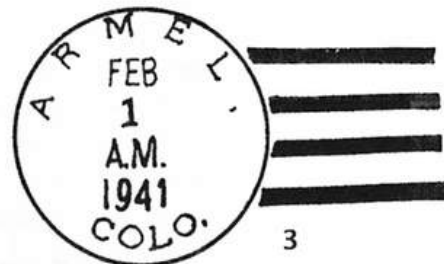
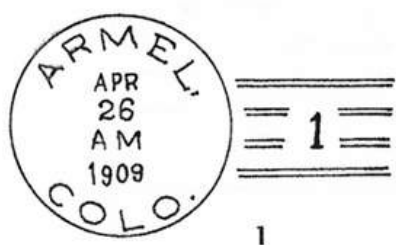
Apr 25 1903	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T3S R42W	
		Proposed postmaster - Armel S. Breninger	
Oct 17 1903		Established	
Oct 17 1903		Breninger, Armel S.	
May 4 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T3S R42W 30 rods from the northwest corner, on the west side of the quarter section	
Jan 1 1933		Breninger, Charles R.	Assumed charge
Jan 20 1933		Breninger, Charles R.	Acting
Jan 25 1933		Breninger, Charles R.	Confirmed
Feb 18 1933		Breninger, Charles R.	Commissioned
Aug 14 1934		Breninger, Charles R.	Acting <i>ad. int.</i>
Oct 12 1935		Lindgren, Herman E.	Assumed charge
Oct 17 1935		Lindgren, Herman E.	Acting
Feb 1 1936		Lindgren, Herman E.	Commissioned
Feb 13 1936		Lindgren, Herman E.	Confirmed
Mar 2 1936		Lindgren, Herman E.	Commissioned
Mar 6 1936		Lindgren, Herman E.	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T3S R42W	
Jan 1 1945		Morris, Gertrude	Assumed charge
Jan 13 1945		Morris, Gertrude	Acting
Jan 16 1945		Morris, Gertrude	Confirmed
Feb 1 1945		Morris, Gertrude	Commissioned
May 31 1958		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ARMEL, / COLO. CI 10P 28.5	Doane Type 2, with 1; S-23x14mm	Jan 19 1905 Jan 6 1914
2	ARMEL / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-??x19mm	May 5 1913 Jul -- 1922
3	ARMEL, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Feb 1 1935 Jul 27 1944
3.1	ARMEL / COLO. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Sep 13 1943
		[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	
4	ARMEL. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 21 1945 Aug 19 1948
		[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	
5	ARMEL / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 6 1951

ARMEL – Continued

6	ARMEL / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x18m	Dec 2 1953
7	ARMEL / COLO. CI 10P 30.0/20.0	Hstp No killer	May 31 1958
8	ARMEL / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	May 31 1958 May 31 1958



ARNOLD

I have found no historical reference to Arnold in any of the Colorado literature that I have reviewed. Its short period of operation and location in the sand hills of Yuma County are evidence that it was a ranch post office that was not really needed. Two years after the Arnold Post Office closed a new post office named Arlene was opened some three miles to the north-northwest. It too had only a short period of operation.

Access to the site of Arnold is from US Highway 385. Drive north from Wray about nine and one-half miles to Yuma County Road 44.5. Turn west one-half mile to County Road FF. The location of Arnold was in the southeast quadrant of this intersection. The area is open rangeland with no visible evidence of previous habitation.

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 20 1913	---	Center Sec 23 T3N R44W
		Applicant for postmaster - Emma Arnold
Nov 17 1913		Established

ARNOLD – Continued

Nov 17 1913 Arnold, Emma L.
Sep 15 1914 Discontinued Mail to Wray

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ARNOLD

AVOCA

Avoca was another isolated rural post office of the early 1890's. It seems likely that it came into existence during the homesteading era of the late 1880's and disappeared when a return of the climate to the normal dry conditions discouraged many of the homesteaders.

One report places it six miles west of Vernon but according to the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report it is more than fifteen miles west-southwest of Vernon.

By way of Colorado Highway 59 drive to the intersection with Yuma County Road 23 four miles north of Abarr or fifteen miles south of Yuma. Turn east on Road 23 and go five miles to County Road L. The site of Avoca was in the section north of Road 23 and east of Road L. That section is active farmland and there are no visible remains of any settlement.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 25 1889 --- Sec 2 T2S R47W Sketch map places it in the center of the S/2 Sec 2.
 Proposed postmaster - John C. LaGrange
Jun 10 1889 Established
Jun 10 1889 LaGrange, John C.
Jul 10 1890 James, Mrs. Hattie C.
Oct 27 1891 Discontinued Mail to Yuma

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Avoca Colo Aug 17 1889
 MS Mscp Pen Cancel



BEECHER

Beecher was the first post office to be established at this location. The intention was to name the post office Beecher Island but the Post office Department dropped the Island. Beecher Island is little more than a sand bar in the Arickaree River.

In September 1868 a large band of Cheyenne Indians, led by Roman Nose, attacked a detachment of military scouts on the banks of the Arickaree. The whites took refuge on an island in the river and withstood the attack until relieved by other troops. During the battle, Lieutenant Fred Beecher was killed on September 17. The battle and the island adopted Lieutenant Beecher's name.

BEECHER – Continued

Sylvia Seedorf *et al.* in *Action on the Plains* gives the following history of Beecher (and Beecher Island):

The first post office was in the O. E. Ekberg home (a dugout) with Mrs. Bessie L. Ekberg as the postmistress 1902 to 1904. From December 1904 to 1906 Garrett Van Wyke was postmaster. He shot and killed his sister-in-law, so was jailed for life. In 1925 Mr. and Mrs. Nels Miles opened a store with Mrs. Miles as postmistress. Five names were submitted to the USPOD: Bonny, Glory, and BEECHER ISLAND. The name Glory was selected by the government. Later the community petitioned the Department to have the name BEECHER ISLAND made authentic. This was granted and the name was used until May 31, 1958 when it was closed for not having enough patrons.

Unfortunately the sequence of postmasters and dates in this description do not match the entries in the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments. That leaves a question about the reported murder. The information for the 1925 reopening of the post office, first as Glory, then as Beecher Island does match the records.

Take US Highway 385 to Yuma County Road 24. Turn east on Road 24 and go three miles to County Road LL. Turn south and go three miles to the bridge over the Arickaree River. Beecher/Glory/Beecher Island were on the north side of the river. In 1996 there were still some occupied buildings at the location, including a church.

Please go to the listings for Beecher Island and Glory for a little more information.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 15 1902	---	N/2 NW/4 Sec 22 T2S R43W 1/4 mile north of the Arickaree 1/2 mile south of Black Wolf Creek Proposed postmaster - Mrs. Wouertje van Wyk
Aug 12 1902		Established
Aug 12 1902		Van Wyck, Woutertje [sic]
Dec 2 1903		Ekberg, Bessie L.
Jan 17 1904	---	NW/4 Sec 22 T2S R43W 20 rods north of the Arickaree River 3/4 mile south of Black Wolf Creek
Jan 31 1905		Ordered closed
Feb 28 1905		Discontinued
Aug 31 1905		Re-established
Aug 3 1905		Baleman, Mabel E. Declined
Nov 3 1905		Appointment rescinded
Nov 3 1905		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BEECHER

BEECHER ISLAND

From 1902 to 1905 there was a post office at this location with the simple name of Beecher. When a post office reopened in 1925, the Post Office Department chose Glory over the alternatives of Beecher or Beecher Island.

The residents did not favor this choice and petitioned the department for a change. The Post Office Department reconsidered the matter and, because of the historical significance of the name, allowed the name to be changed to Beecher Island.

The Beecher Island Museum was started in 1956 in a small building near the Beecher Island store and post office. It was discontinued in the fall of 1966.

Refer to the discussion of Beecher for more on the history of this location, for directions to Beecher Island and a description of what remains there.

BEECHER ISLAND – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

May 27 1924 ---	NW/4 Sec 22 T2S R43W 20 rods north of the Arickaree River 1 mile south of Black Wolf Creek [This information was for Glory.] Applicant for postmaster - Ida Manuwa Miles	
Nov 13 1924	Miles, Mrs. Ida M.	Appointed for Glory Post Office
Feb 1 1925	Name changed from Glory	
Oct 30 1925	Miles, Mrs. Mabel L.	
Sep 20 1927	Lindgren, Herman E.	Acting
Oct 10 1927	Lindgren, Herman E.	Appointed
Jul 2 1931	Maag, Claude C.	Confirmed
Jul 13 1931	Maag, Claude C.	Commissioned
Jul 23 1931	Maag, Claude C.	Assumed charge
Aug 31 1940	Oberg, George L.	Confirmed
Oct 11 1940	Oberg, George L.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 22 T2S R43W Arickaree River is 300 yards south of post office	
Oct 20 1941	Oberg, George L.	Assumed charge
May 31 1958	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BEECHER ISLAND, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	May 13 1934 Oct 10 1942
2	BEECHER ISLAND / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Oct 21 1936 May 31 1958
3	BEECHER ISLAND, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 10P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	May 31 1958



BLACK WOLF

Black Wolf is shown on an 1885 map as a place on the headwaters of Coyote Creek southeast of present day Vernon. The creek was soon renamed Black Wolf Creek and passed that name on to the settlement.

From the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report the proposed postmaster was Thomas Benningham, and the post office was intended to bear his name. For some reason that choice was denied and the office became Black Wolf.

Black Wolf was certainly a rural post office but it was in a remote area that did not warrant a post office, thus it closed six months after it opened.

There is no direct access to the location specified in the Site Location Report. In 1996 I was able to get within about a half-mile of the location. From Vernon I drove three miles east on County Road 26 to County Road FF and then turned south. I went to the end of that road, two and a half miles, and beyond that another quarter-mile on a farm/field road. From there I could look down into the shallow valley of Black Wolf Creek and saw no evidence of any structural remains. On the way back to civilization, I talked with a farmer who was working on some machinery. He pretty well confirmed that

BLACK WOLF – Continued

Black Wolf was where I thought it to be. He did not think I could have gotten closer, without walking, and advised that there wasn't anything left anyhow.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 2 1885	---	NE/4 Sec 11 T2S R44W At head of Black Wolf Creek Proposed postmaster - Thomas C. Benningham
May 9 1885		Established
Mar 9 1885		Benningham, Thomas C.
Oct 30 1885		Discontinued Mail to Wray

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BLACK WOLF

BOLTON

Bolton was a very short-lived rural post office in eastern Yuma County less than a half-mile from the Colorado-Kansas State line. The post office was in operation for less than a year before it was closed and moved to Clugh in Cheyenne County, Kansas where as Clugh it operated for another year. For a name of the post office, Giles and Bolton were offered as choices. The Post Office Department chose Bolton.

Starting at US Highway 36, drive north four miles on Yuma County Road PP to County Road 16. Turn east two miles to County Road RR and then north one mile to the intersection with Road 17. The location of Bolton was to the east, between Road RR and the state line. Anything that might have once been there has been wiped out by subsequent farming activity.

This route will take you by the sites of Rogers and Armel.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 24 1900	---	SE/4 Sec 3 T3S R42W
May 1 1900		Established
May 1 1900		Jones, Moses N.
Sep 9 1901		Post office moved to Clugh, Cheyenne County, Kansas

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM BOLTON

BRYANT

Bryant began as a townsite on the projected route of the Burlington Northern Railroad from Nebraska to Akron, Colorado. The railroad was built further north and Bryant could not develop without the railroad. James Bryant, who built a store in 1897, and was postmaster from 1899 to 1902 has been connected to the name of the community.

In 1904 the store and post office were moved to the Turner homestead in Yuma County. Like other small communities in this area of Colorado, activity at Bryant depended on agriculture. As agricultural patterns changed and transportation improved, these small communities lost viability and were no longer necessary.

From Clarkville, drive north on Colorado Highway 59 to Yuma County Road 59. Turn west and go three miles to County Road H. Bryant was located in the northeast quadrant of the intersection. There are no occupied buildings but in 1996 there was some scattered trash and a couple of collapsing sheds.

Although for half of its existence the Bryant Post Office was in Washington County the listings below includes the postmasters and postmarks from the establishment in 1888 to the closing in 1916.

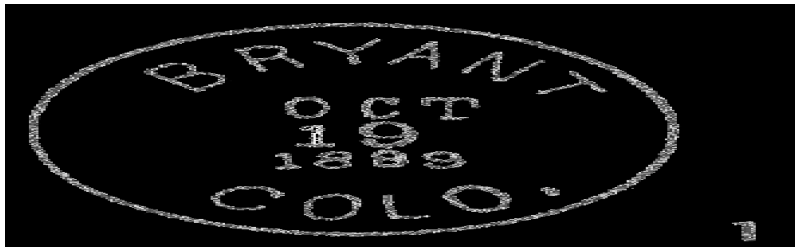
BRYANT – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 27 1888	Established	
Mar 27 1888	Golter, Christian	
Aug 8 1889	Baker, A. J.	
Dec 3 1889	Bryant, James	
Dec 6 1894	Anderson, Manuel	
Apr 7 1899	Bryant, Joseph	Error in name
Apr 26 1899	Bryant, James	
Aug 18 1902	Coates, Elbert	
Jun 13 1903	Coates, Hiram	
Aug 8 1904	Turner, Mattie B.	
Sep 12 1904	---	SW/4 Sec 1 T5N R48W 2 rods on west side of Dry Sand Creek The sketch map shows "Old Bryant" in the SW/4 SE/4 Sec 19 T6N R47W
Jul 11 1910	Nordholm, Peter	
May 2 1913	Allen, Minnie N.	
Mar 31 1916	Discontinued	Mail to Burdett

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	BRYANT / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Oct 19 1889 Jul 8 1896
2	BRYANT, / COLO. CI 10P 30.5	4bars S-??x13mm	Mar 11 1907 Feb 11 1913



CLARKVILLE

The post office at Clarkville was a latecomer having not been established until 1938. In the early 1930's Louis Nielsen leased five acres of land and built a home and a service station. A year later Mr. Nielsen sold out to Ted Clark. When the post office opened in 1938, Ted Clark was the first postmaster and the office was named for him. This is somewhat surprising as from the early twentieth century the Post Office Department was increasingly reluctant to name a post office after the postmaster. As the following statement suggests, in this case that might not have been all that objectionable. Clarkville was a logical name for a town in this community, for as Fred Rigby said, "If you meet anyone on the road you need not ask his name for it would be Clark and he would have come from Smith County Kansas."

Reportedly Louis Nielsen filed a plat for the town. Clarkville continued to survive providing services to the surrounding ranches and farms and to travelers on Colorado Highway 59 between Haxtun and Yuma. In 1961 the Chamblins sold their store and home at auction and Clarkville came to an end as a community.

Clarkville is located on Colorado Highway 59, three miles south of the Yuma-Phillips County line. In 1996 there were still a few buildings at Clarkville including the Church of the Nazarene and the Clarkville Community Hall. The later was still being used but was in need of a fresh coat of paint.

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

Jan 27 1938	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T5N R47W 3-1/2 miles north of Willow Creek	
		Applicant for postmaster - Theodore W. Clark	
Oct 21 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 20 T5N R47S (59 Main St.)	
May 18 1938		Established	
May 18 1938		Clark, Theodore W.	Confirmed
May 28 1938		Clark, Theodore W.	Commissioned
Jun 13 1938		Clark, Theodore W.	Assumed charge
Jul 31 1946		Williams, Mrs. Opal A.	Assumed charge
Jan 27 1947		Williams, Mrs. Opal A.	Confirmed
Feb 18 1947		Williams, Mrs. Opal A.	Commissioned
Oct 16 1947		Chambliss, Mrs. Ethel L.	Assumed charge
Dec 23 1947		Chamblin, Mrs. Ethel L.	Confirmed
Mar 31 1948		Chambliss, Mrs. Ethel L.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1954		Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1954		Discontinued Mail to Haxtun	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 CLARKVILLE, / COLO. Jun 13 1938 Apr 30 1954
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm

**CONDON**

In 1880 Barney Condon homesteaded the site. Located at the junction of two wagon roads the place became known as Condon Corners. When the Wales Post Office closed in September 1888, the Condon Post Office assumed responsibility for postal service in this portion of Yuma County.

Mr. Condon operated a small store and apparently a small community began to develop. In 1892 the post office was moved to Vernon.

To visit the site of Condon drive north on Yuma County Road CC two miles to the intersection with County Road 28 and then go east one mile to Road DD. The location of Condon was in the southeast quadrant of that intersection. That corner is an open field. On the northeast corner of the intersection is a new house and some distance to the south there is a good-sized feed lot.

Now, please refer to the discussion of Vernon for the subsequent history.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 30 1887	---	NW/4 Sec 15 T1S R44W	
		Proposed postmaster - George B. Vaughn	
Jun 7 1888		Established	
Jun 7 1888		Vaughn, George B.	
May 23 1892		Post office moved to Vernon	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM CONDON

ECKLEY

Eckley began as a small station on the Burlington Northern near the head of Chief Creek. It did not progress to the status of a town until 1889 when the town was laid out. The Lincoln Land Company platted Eckley in 1890 and it was finally incorporated in 1920.

The name Eckley is an adaptation of the name Adam Eckles, who was at one time the foreman for the nearby Bar 11 Ranch owned by J. W. Bowles.

Located in rich agricultural land Eckley has served as a supply center and shipping point for the surrounding ranches and farms. Eckley is a small community of residences and business that continue to provide those functions.

Eckley is twelve miles east of Yuma and a short distance north of US Highway 34.



Eckley, Colorado Post Office

Photograph by James L. Ozmert

September 6, 1999

Chronology of the Post Office

- Jun 7 1883** --- **NW/4 Sec 26 T2N R46W 16 feet south of Burlington & Missouri River RR**
Proposed postmaster - Albert L. Jaynes
- Nov 15 1883** **Established**
- Nov 15 1883** **Jaynes, Albert L.**
- Jun 16 1884** **Discontinued Mail to Wray**
- Aug 14 1885** **Re-established**
- Aug 14 1885** **Wolf, Robert S.**
- Aug 27 1885** **McGee, Willey**
- Nov 20 1885** **Kearman, Frank M.**
- Jun 9 1886** **Voorhees, Alfred W.**
- May 19 1887** **Clark, D. A.**
- Mar 7 1888** **Harmon, Miss Mary O.**
- Sep 27 1892** **Clark, Darwin A.**

ECKLEY – Continued

May 18 1895	Griffin, John A.	
Apr 29 1897	Hughes, George A.	
May 27 1901	Griffin, Frank F.	
Aug 22 1904	Bailey, Elias H.	
Jun 20 1906	Shahan, Walter W.	
Apr 20 1907	Rohr, Samuel L.	
Dec 3 1907	Elliott, William R.	
Oct 12 1909	McCarthy, Charles A.	
Oct 10 1910	Catchpole, Mark M.	
Oct 12 1912	Murphy, Clyde D.	
May 8 1914 ---	S/2 NW/4 Sec 26 T2N R46W 360 feet south of the CB&Q Railroad	
Jan 1 1918		Office made Presidential
Apr 2 1918	Edman, Minor	
Oct 28 1918	Haver, George	Acting
May 21 1920	Haver, George	P&S [Apptd. by President & confirmed by Senate]
May 19 1924	Haver, George	P&S
May 12 1928	Haver, George	P&S
Apr 1 1932	Haver, George	Nominated
Apr 27 1932	Haver, George	Confirmed
Apr 28 1932	Haver, George	Commissioned
Dec 13 1933	Riffle, Harold W.	Acting
Dec 26 1933	Riffle, Harold W.	Assumed charge
Jun 16 1934	Riffle, Harold W.	Nominated
Jun 18 1934	Riffle, Harold W.	Confirmed
Aug 7 1934	Riffle, Harold W.	Commissioned
Jun 7 1938	Riffle, Harold W.	Nominated
Jun 8 1938	Riffle, Harold W.	Confirmed
Jun 23 1938	Riffle, Harold W.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 16 1938	Riffle, Harold W.	Commissioned
Nov 1 1941 ---	T2N R46W State highway 54 is 1/2 mile south of post office	
Oct 15 1942	Riffle, Harold W.	Nominated
Dec 4 1942	Riffle, Harold W.	Confirmed
Dec 7 1942	Riffle, Harold W.	Appointed Presidential
Dec 26 1942	Riffle, Harold W.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1942	Riffle, Harold W.	Assumed charge
Sep 15 1943 ---	Sec 26 T2N R46W A move 175 feet south of the previous location U.S. 34 is 1/2 mile south of post office Burlington Railroad is 600 feet north of post office	
Jan 31 1945	Cain, William Fred	Acting
Feb 1 1945	Cain, William Fred	Assumed charge
Feb 7 1947	May, Robert L.	Nominated
Jul 11 1947	May, Robert L.	Confirmed
Jul 14 1947	May, Robert L.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Aug 31 1947	May, Robert L.	Assumed charge
Oct 12 1973	Stroup, Mrs. Clestine E.	Officer in charge
Jan 5 1974	Stroup, Mrs. Clestine E.	Appointed
Nov 13 1978	Jay, Ms LaRue L.	Officer in charge
Mar 9 1979	Valenzuela, Ricardo	Officer in charge
Aug 17 1979	McCasland, Mrs. Karen R.	Officer in charge
Dec 15 1979	McCasland, Mrs. Karen R.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ECKLEY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded	Dec 16 1891 Aug 13 1902
2	ECKLEY, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 9 1914 Jan 22 1915

ECKLEY – Continued

- | | | | |
|-----|---|--|---|
| 2.1 | ECKLEY, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 28.0x18.5? | 4bars S-25x20mm | Mar 20 1918 |
| 3 | ECKLEY, COLO. / M.O.B.
CI 11P 28.0/18.0 | Hstp Grid, black | May 7 1928 |
| 4 | ECKLEY, COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars P-24x20mm | Feb 10 1931 Nov 14 1936 |
| 5 | ECKLEY / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Dplx Grid, oval with 1 | Dec 16 1938 Apr 4 196- |
| 6 | ECKLEY, / COLO.
RC 10P 38.0x18.0 | Hstp No killer Parcel Post Box style | --- 195- |
| 7 | ECKLEY / COLO.
CI 10P 22.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines Letters of town appear altered/repaird | Feb 22 1956 Jul 11 1959 |
| 7.1 | Eckley / COLO.
RC 10P 40.0x20.0 | Hstp No killer Parcel Post Box style | 1950s
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 8 | ECKLEY, CO / 80727
CI 10P 23.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Nov 18 1972 Sep 4 1973 |
| 9 | ECKLEY, CO / 80727
CI 10P 32.5 | 4bars S-24x20mm | Oct 20 1970 Jun 23 1977 |
| 10 | ECKLEY, CO / 80727
CI 10P 23.0 | Mach 7 wavy lines | Feb 9 1976 Mar 31 198- |



FORD

Ford was a rural post office in northern Yuma County. There is no evidence that there was an organized community. Initially the post office was in the home of Postmaster Ford. The post office was named for the family of the first postmaster – Candace Ford. When the post office application was submitted three other choices – Speltz, Graham and Hampton – were suggested to the Post Office Department.

Later, Lewis Carle erected a small store and the post office was in the store. It is also claimed that the post office was in the Boyd home when John Boyd was postmaster of Ford. The post office at Ford was closed in 1917 and moved five and one-half miles east to become Wages.

From Wages, continue south on County Road V to County Road 57. Turn west and go five miles to County Road Q. Go south one mile to County Road 56. The location of Ford was in the southwestern quadrant of the intersection. There are no remaining structures but there are some scattered trees that may have sheltered a ranch or farm. The surrounding area is farm and ranch land.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 20 1909	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T5N R47W Horse Creek is 2 miles south of location
Jun 4 1909		Established
Jun 4 1909		Ford, Candace J.
Dec 10 1913		Boyd John E.
Jan 21 1915		Carle, Lewis W.
Mar 11 1916		Hedrick, John W.
Mar 31 1917		Post office moved to and name changed to Wages

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	FORD, / COLO.	Nov 19 1909	Apr 4 1914
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x13mm	



FOX

Fox was a rural post office on the wagon road between Friend and Kirk. The post office lasted until 1912 and the name was shown on maps as late as 1923. It is reported that the post office was in the cellar of the home belonging to the first postmaster, Perry D. Hadsall. Reportedly the post office was named for a Thomas Fox.

The surrounding countryside is ranchland and farmland, other than that nothing more is known.

From the intersection of Colorado Highway 57 (Yuma County Road M) and US Highway 36, go four miles east on US 36 to County Road R. Turn north one mile to the intersection with County Road 7. The location of Fox was in the southeast quadrant of the intersection. In 1991 there was an active ranch at that location, however the buildings are modern.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 1 1890	---	NW/4 Sec 34 T4S R46W
		Proposed postmaster - Perry D. Hadsall
May 17 1890		Established

FOX – Continued

May 17 1890	Hadsall, Perry D.
Dec 23 1895	Furneaux, Frederick H.
Jun 20 1898	Manley, David S.
Apr 17 1899	McClurg, Frank B.
May 28 1900	Furneaux, Frederick H.
Jun 19 1907	Colpitts, Julius G.
Dec 15 1912	Discontinued Mail to Kirk



FOX, / COLO.

January 23, 1909

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | |
|---|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | FOX, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Doane Type 2, with 1; S-23x13mm | Jul 11 1905 Dec 20 1911 |
| 2 | FOX / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | 4bars S-25x19mm | May 27 1912 |



FRIEND

Friend was a Quaker colony first known as Frontier Legion. In 1886 Reed Decker, James Dudgeon, Sylvester Andrews and Frank Elliot took up homesteads. A small community developed where their four homesteads met. Quite likely they placed their separate homes in the corners of their respective homesteads and thus created a community.

FRIEND – Continued

The settlement took the name Friend after Friend, Nebraska, the hometown of the group and a place name that is reflective of the Quaker faith. Friend became a trading center for a wide surrounding area. There is one report that it was incorporated in 1887 but that seems unlikely.

The residents expected that the Rock Island Railroad would build through their community but the railroad went well to the south and Friend began a quick decline. Although the post office is listed as operating until 1901, one report has the site totally abandoned by 1897; the buildings having been removed for use elsewhere and only cellar pits marking the location. In 1991 the area was plowed farmland with no trace of any former habitation.

From Idalia, drive four miles west on US Highway 36 to Yuma County Road Y. Turn south one mile to County Road 8. The location of Friend was in the southeast quadrant of the intersection. Although the immediate area is open farmland, there is a farmhouse a half-mile or so to the east on the south side of Road 8.



View of the former site of Friend, Colorado

Photograph by James L. Ozment

March 1991

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 19 1887	---	SW/4 Sec 23 T4S R45W Proposed postmaster - Read R. Decker
Jun 27 1887		Established
Jun 21 1887		Decker, Read R.
Jul 23 1890		Bales, James W.
Apr 28 1891		Madden, Mrs. Leah
Feb 28 1896		Rogse, Alvan O.
Mar 27 1898		Riedsel, Kate
Jun 24 1898		Lucas, William E.

FRIEND – Continued

Feb 3 1900 Ingalls, Charles E.
Jul 23 1901 Ordered closed
Jul 31 1901 Discontinued Papers to Idalia

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------------|--|
| 1 | FRIEND / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5 | Aug 27 1888 Mar 17 1891
Hstp Target, smudged |
| 2 | FRIEND / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Jan 4 1893 Sep 19 1894
Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm |



GLORY

From 1902 to 1905 there was a post office at this location with the name Beecher. In 1924, when the application was made to open a new post office at this place, the Post Office Department selected Glory over the alternatives of Beecher or Beecher Island.

The residents did not favor the name and successfully petitioned the Post Office Department to have the name changed to Beecher Island.

The history and directions to this place are covered in the discussion of Beecher and Beecher Island.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 27 1924 --- NW/4 Sec 22 T2S R43W 20 rods north of the Arickaree River
 1 mile south of Black Wolf Creek
 Applicant for postmaster - Ida Manuwa Miles
Nov 13 1924 Established
Nov 13 1924 Miles, Mrs. Ida M.
Feb 1 1925 Name changed to Beecher Island

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM GLORY

GURNEY

Gurney was a rural post office on the border between Kansas and Colorado. The post office opened August 25, 1887 in Cheyenne County, Kansas. Gurney Blake was the postmaster and the office was named for him.

In 1907 the Gurney Post Office moved a mile and a half northwest and into Yuma County, Colorado, where it operated until 1923. The land survey descriptions given below are confusing as both of the locations in the 1907 Geographical Site Location Report are within the state of Colorado. It is possible that the Gurney Post Office moved to Colorado prior to 1907.

GURNEY – Continued

Enter Colorado from Kansas on US Highway 36. Less than a mile west of the border, after the highway has straightened to an east-west alignment, turn north on Yuma County Road RR. Go north one mile to the intersection with Road 13. The location for Gurney was in the northeast quadrant of the intersection. There is nothing at the intersection but a half-mile east on the north side of Road RR is the State Line Ranch. The ranch includes a number of older buildings and I suspect this was the location of the Gurney Post Office. The surrounding countryside is agricultural with farming and grazing for livestock.

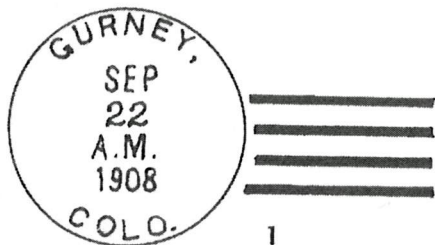
A second location for Gurney was two miles west in the northeast corner of the intersection of Road 13 with Road PP. Nothing visible remains at that location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 12 1907 ---	From: SE/4 Sec 28 T3S R42W To: SW/4 Sec 29 T3S R42W A move 1-1/2 mile northwest of the previous location The sections involved are confusing, as given in the document.
Sep 17 1907	Established Formerly in Cheyenne Co., Kansas Dates are for the period in Colorado.
Sep 17 1907	Klie, George F.
May 5 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 27 T3S R42W One mile south of Cherry Creek
Aug 25 1923	Ordered closed
Sep 15 1923	Discontinued Mail to St. Francis, Kansas

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	GURNEY, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	Apr 28 1908 Apr 26 1910
		4bars S-23x13mm

**HALE**

Several historians attribute the establishment of Hale to Richard Taylor, a Civil War veteran, and claim that he named it for the Revolutionary War hero – Nathan Hale. The claim is also made that Richard Taylor was the first postmaster.

The Hale Post Office first opened in 1889 and was closed in 1894. During that time the postmaster was Alonzo P. Rockwell. When the Hale Post Office reopened in 1900 the postmaster was Samuel F. Taylor. The name Richard Taylor does not appear in the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments. My supposition is that Richard Taylor did indeed establish and name Hale, and although he ran a store, he was not the postmaster.

Hale was on the wagon road from Jacqua, Kansas to various settlements in southern Yuma County and northern Kit Carson County.

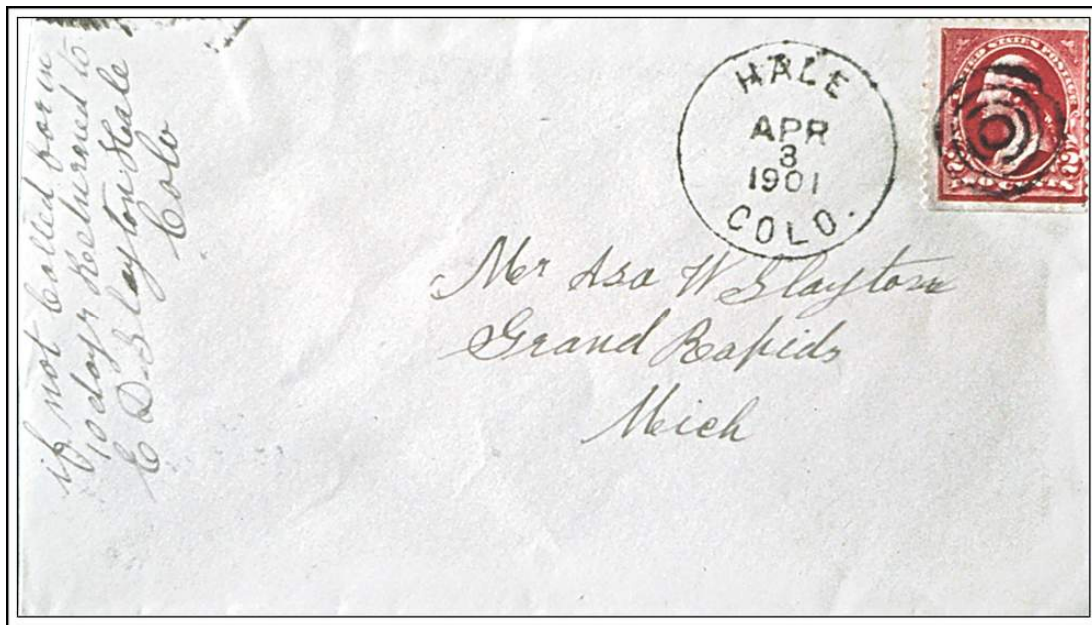
There are no reports that there was ever an organized community. Observing what does remain; it seems that there was a small community consisting of the store and a few residences. Hale would have enjoyed its peak period during the time that the nearby Bonny Dam was under construction.

HALE – Continued

From the Yuma-Kit Carson County line, drive north on US Highway 385 seven miles to Yuma County Road 7. Turn east and go 5 and one-half miles to County Road LL.5. Turn south and it is three miles to the 1900 and later sites of Hale on the south side of the Republican River. Very little remains at Hale. I first visited Hale in 1975 and the store and post office were still open. The post office closed in 1983 and reportedly, on September 9, 1989 the building was destroyed by fire. In 1996 there were a few buildings along Road LL.5.

The original location of Hale was less than a mile south of the later location and it was on the east side of County Road LL.5. There are no structures in that general location.

What little activity there is at Hale, a small store and a couple of trailers, is related to fishing and recreational activities at Bonny Reservoir, to the west of Hale.



HALE / COLO.

April 3, 1901

Chronology of the Post Office

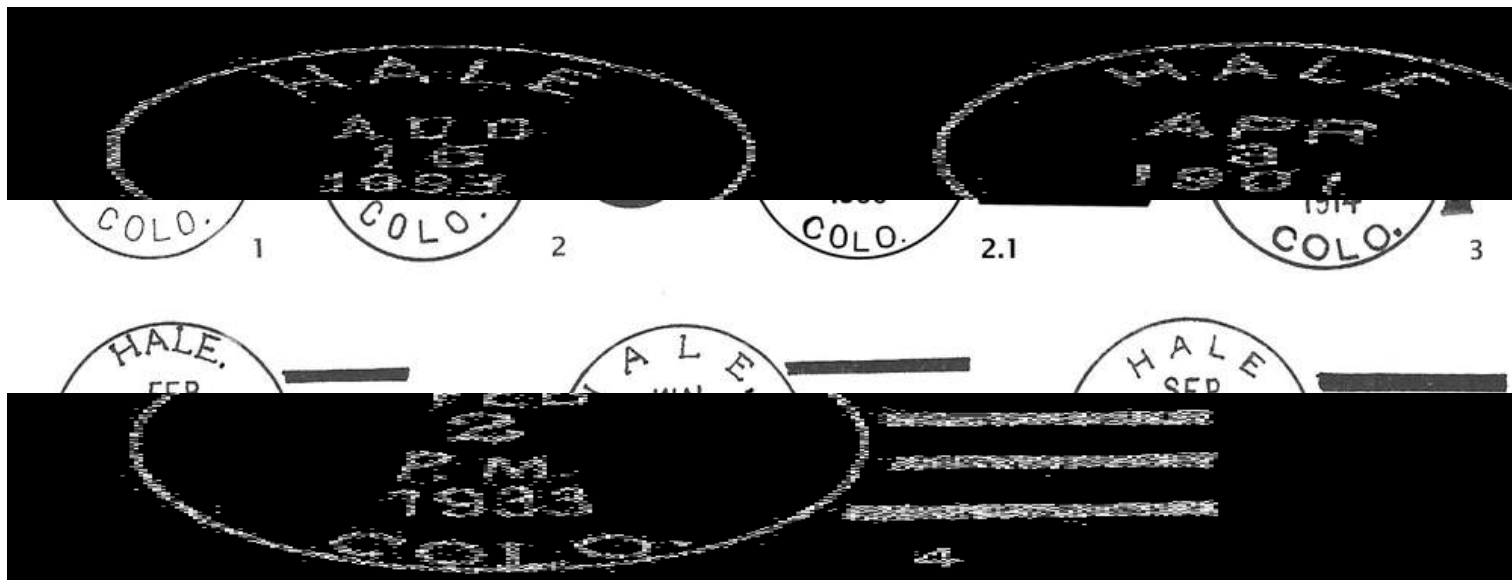
Dec 23 1889	---	SW/4 Sec 13 T5S R43W	
		Proposed postmaster - Alonzo P. Rockwell	
May 17 1890		Established	
May 17 1890		Rockwell, Alonzo P.	
Feb 16 1894		Discontinued Papers to Newton, Kansas	
Jul 30 1900	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T5S R43W 3/4 mile south of the Republican River	
		Proposed postmaster - Hannah F. Taylor	
Oct 30 1900		Re-established	
Oct 30 1900		Taylor, Samuel F.	
Apr 21 1909		Roe, Lula	
Nov 18 1909		Westfall, George D.	
Mar 29 1912		Baker, Almond H.	
Jul 25 1913		Worley, Glenn E.	
May 7 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T5S R43W 1/2 mile south of the Republican River	
Jan 1 1939		Johnson, Robert Thayne	Assumed charge
Jan 7 1939		Johnson, Robert Thayne	Acting
Apr 26 1939		Johnson, Robert Thayne	Confirmed
May 11 1939		Johnson, Robert Thayne	Commissioned

HALE – Continued

Oct 20 1941	---	NE/4 Sec 14 T5S R43W 3/4 mile north to the Republican River	
Mar 23 1943		Smith, Mrs. Martha J.	Assumed charge
Mar 27 1943		Smith, Mrs. Martha J.	Acting
May 17 1943		Smith, Mrs. Martha J.	Confirmed
Jun 18 1943		Smith, Mrs. Martha J.	Commissioned
Feb 20 1946		Nash, Archie B.	Possession, Acting
Mar 8 1946		Nash, Archie B.	Acting
Jan 6 1947		Nash, Archie B.	Appointed
Feb 14 1947		Nash, Archie B.	Commissioned
Feb 14 1947		Nash, Archie B.	Possession
Apr 30 1947		Stewart, Calvin W.	Possession, Acting
May 21 1947		Stewart, Calvin W.	Acting
Dec 9 1947		Stewart, Calvin W.	Appointed
Feb 12 1948		Stewart, Calvin W.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1948		Stewart, Calvin W.	Possession
Jul 30 1948		Kreoger, Mrs. Helen C.	Possession, Acting
Sep 14 1948		Kreoger, Mrs. Helen C.	Acting
Nov 29 1948		Rolow, Arthur C.	Appointed
Dec 17 1948		Rolow, Arthur C.	Commissioned
Jan 13 1949		Rolow, Arthur C.	Possession
Jun 1 1984		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Aug 15 1893 Hstp Target, smudged
2	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Apr 3 1901 Hstp Target, 4 ring 17mm
2.1	HALE, / COLO. CI 10P 30.0 ?	Sep 27 1909 4bars S-23x20mm ? From an Ebay image
3	HALE. / COLO CI 10P 32.0	May 18 1914 Aug 10 1914 4bars S-??x20mm
4	HALE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Feb 22 1931 Feb 2 1933 4bars S-??x19mm
5	HALE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jun 26 1935 4bars S-24x19mm
6	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Sep 13 1939 Dec 26 1942 4bars S-23x19mm



HALE – Continued

7	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Oct 31 1946
8	HALE. / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x20mm	May 4 1948 Sep 10 1948
9	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 39.0	4bars S-27x21mm,	Apr 1 1949 [or April 15 ?] distorted or damaged device
10	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 36.0	4bars S-20x19mm	Nov 4 194- Aug 16 1951
11	HALE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 7 1959 Dec 27 1962
12	HALE, CO / 80730 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Apr 5 1965 Jul 7 1977
13	HALE / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 9 1968



13

HAPPYVILLE

In 1909 Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gilmore filed a homestead in south central Yuma County. They were attracted to the area by the available land, water and suitable grazing for livestock. Mr. Gilmore decided there was a need for a post office and in 1910 the Happyville Post Office was authorized.

Cleve Mason was also involved in the origins of Happyville. For several years he owned a good portion of the community and operated a store. In 1920 Mason became the Happyville Postmaster but about that time he fell into disagreement with others in the community. He picked up his store along with some of his other buildings and moved to a location two miles to the west where he established a new community, Heartstrong. The remaining residents of Happyville often referred to the new town as Headstrong.

HAPPYVILLE – Continued

After Cleve Mason's departure from Happyville the community declined and the post office closed in early 1922.

The location of Happyville is two miles east of the site of Heartstrong, on Yuma County Road 23 (nine miles east of Colorado Highway 59) at the intersection with County Road Q. The site was in the northwest quadrant of the intersection.

Nothing remains in the proper location. There is a small, old house about a quarter mile east of the intersection and a farm and grain storage complex in the southeast corner.

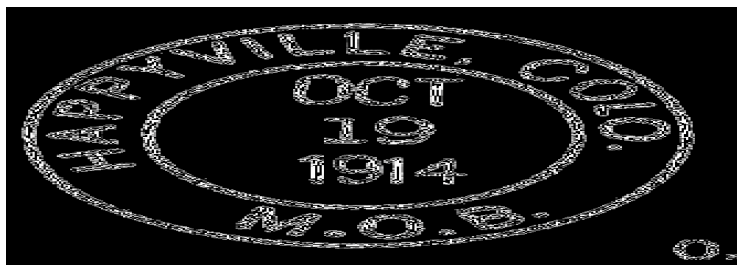
From Happyville you can continue due east twelve miles to Vernon, or swing south to check the sites of the Mildred Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 7 1910	---	SE/4 Sec 20 T1S R46W	
		Proposed postmaster - Richard J. Gilmore	
Jul 26 1910		Established	
Jul 26 1910		Gilmore, Richard J.	
Dec 20 1917		Andrews, Harry A.	Declined
Mar 14 1918		Gilmore, Clarence A.	
Jun 26 1919		Zion, Frank E.	
Feb 26 1920		Mason, Cleave L.	
May 10 1921		Taylor, Mattie	
Feb 28 1922		Discontinued Mail to Eckley	

Confirmed types of postal markings

0.1	HAPPYVILLE, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Oct 19 1914
1	HAPPYVILLE, / COLO CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jan 24 1910 May 12 1916

**HEARTSTRONG**

In 1908 Cleve Mason founded Happyville. After several years of owning Happyville and operating a store, Mason sold out to a cooperative. He built another store, garage and filling station but friction soon developed between Mason and the cooperative.

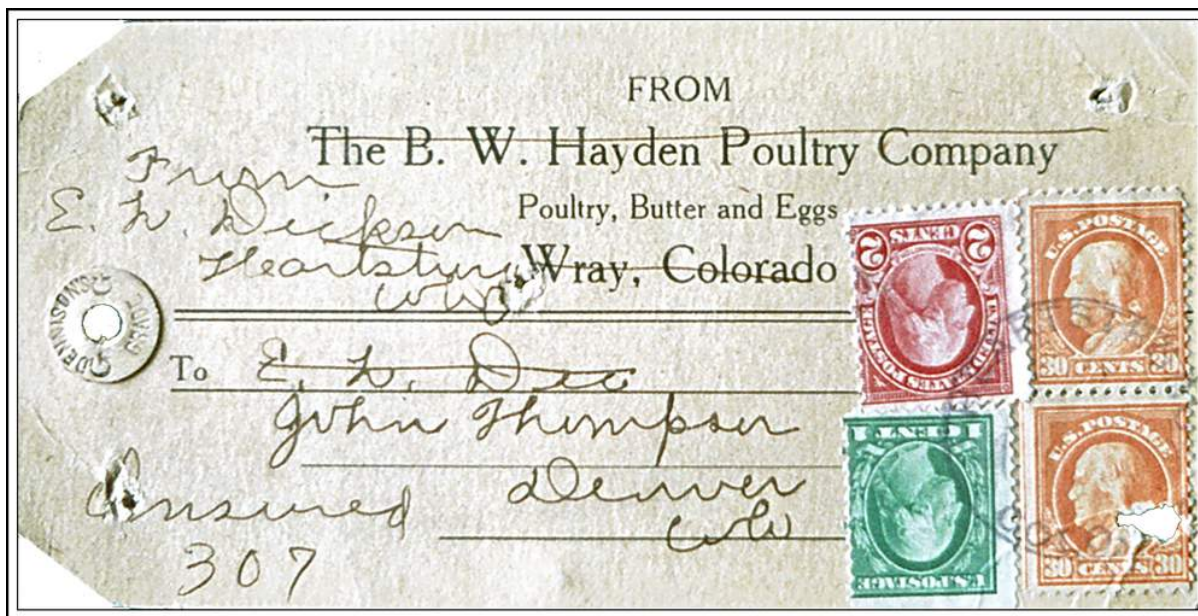
Mason packed up and moved two miles west to start a new community, which he named Heartstrong. The selection of that name is unexplained. It has been suggested that it means "strong of heart" and was a personal comment on Mason's determination to remain in business.

The Happyville Post Office lasted until 1922 but when it closed, mail was directed to Eckley, twelve miles to the north rather than to Heartstrong two miles to the west.

Heartstrong appears to have been a small community, providing minimal services and supplies to the nearby farmers and ranchers.

HEARTSTRONG – Continued

By way of Colorado Highway 59 drive to the intersection with Yuma County Road 26; seven miles north of Abarr or twelve miles south of Yuma. Go east seven miles to the intersection with County Road N. Or, from the site of Avoca, continue east two miles on County Road 23 to Road N and then three miles north to Road 26. Heartstrong was in the northwest quadrant of the intersection. In 1996 there was an active farm or ranch at that location.



HEARTSTRONG, / COLO.

Undated

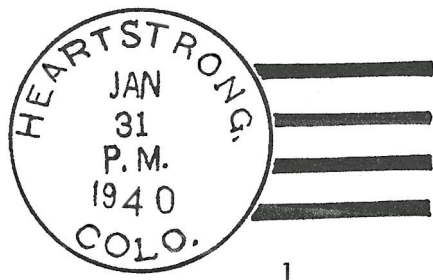
It seems likely that this Insured Parcel tag was attached to produce being shipped to Denver from Heartstrong. One of the original stated purposes for developing the Rural Free Delivery System was to facilitate farmers shipping small amounts of produce to their customers.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 26 1921	---	SE/4 Sec 24 T1S R47W	
May 31 1921		Established	
May 31 1921		Tucker, Mabelle A.	
May 9 1922		Barker, Lorinne	Acting
Jun 5 1922		Barker, Lorinne	Appointed
Aug 11 1922		Dickinson, Bertha M.	Acting
Aug 14 1922		Dickinson, Bertha M.	Appointed
Mar 2 1926		Jones, Samuel A.	
Mar 31 1931		Gilmore, Richard J.	Possession, Acting
Apr 10 1931		Gilmore, Richard J.	Acting
Aug 19 1931		Gilmore, Richard J.	Confirmed
Sep 2 1931		Gilmore, Richard J.	Commissioned
Sep 8 1931		Gilmore, Richard J.	Assumed charge
Jan 18 1940		Ordered closed	
Jan 31 1940		Discontinued Mail to Eckley	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 HEARTSTRONG, / COLO. Feb 25 1933 Jan 31 1940
 CI 10P 33.5 4bars S-24x20mm

HEARTSTRONG – Continued**HERMES**

Hermes was a rural post office on the border between Yuma and Kit Carson Counties. In 1908 the post office was established in Yuma County but by March 1916 it had moved a short distance south into Kit Carson County.

This portion of Eastern Colorado is primarily grazing land with some farmland. There is no indication that there was any attempt to organize a community at Hermes, either in Yuma County or in Kit Carson County.

The Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report indicates that the desired name was Edna. That was the surname of the proposed and eventual postmaster. That name was rejected, most likely because there was an Edna Post Office in San Luis Obispo County California. The selection of the name Hermes remains a mystery.

To visit Hermes, begin on US Highway 385 at the intersection with Yuma County Road 2, two miles north of the Kit Carson-Yuma County line. Drive west on Road 2 to Road CC and then a short distance north to Road 2.5. Continue west on Road 2.5 to Road Y. Turn south on Road Y, which curves to the southeast to cross the South Fork of the Republican River. I believe Hermes was located on the north side of the river where there are two groups of ranch buildings – several barns, but only one house. A mile south, in Kit Carson County, there is another group of ranch buildings. These would be the two locations of the Hermes Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

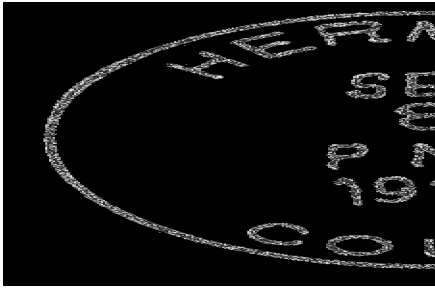
Feb 10 1907	---	SE/4 Sec 35 T5S R45W Proposed postmaster - Edna M. Andrews
Sep 11 1908		Established
Sep 11 1908		Andrews, Edna M.
Dec 28 1912		Richards, William A.
Mar 22 1915		Scherrer, Annetta M.
Mar 13 1916	---	Sec 36 T5-1/2S R45W 1/2 mile south of the Republican River 1/4 mile south of the county boundary Listed under Kit Carson County in 1916 and 1917 Postal Guides
Nov 15 1919		Discontinued

See Kit Carson county for the complete listing of Postmasters and postmarks.

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HERMES, / COLO.	Jul 16 1909 Oct 10 1913
	CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x13mm

HERMES – Continued



HUGHES

Hughes was a rural post office southwest of Yuma near the Yuma-Washington County line. As an example of a rural post office, Hughes experienced a longer than usual period of operation. During that time, as the postmaster changed, it was frequently moved.

Sylvia Seedorf, *et al.* in *Action on the Plains* provides a good review of the wanderings of the Hughes Post Office and the people who ran the post office and an associated store.

There were many "Hughes" during the period from 1910 to 1935. None of them ever aspired to be cities: they were community centers. They were like the hub of a large wheel where everyone in the surrounding county came to get their mail, buy groceries, and swap news. There was usually only one building which served as post office, store, and home. Hughes was first established in the homestead of H. D. Hughes, about 18 miles southwest of Yuma, in 1913. Martha Jackson, later Mrs. Hughes was the first postmaster. After two years the site was moved 5 miles south to the Shelter's Homestead. In 1919 Alta [sic] Otta father and brothers Charlie and Elmer Otta bought the store from the Shelters.

The Ottas sold the store to Charles McClanahan in 1921 and he ran it continuously for 24 years.

In 1945 Frank Stoops bought the Hughes store building and moved it one mile east and two miles south, having only a post office. Mrs. Fritz Benedict took the post office in 1950. It was closed under her administration in 1954.

The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports contain three separate locations for the Hughes Post Office. To begin, follow the directions below for a visit to Steffens. From Steffens, return to Road 30 and go back east two miles to County Road C. Turn south three miles to County Road 27. From there drive two miles west to County Road A and turn south. From that turn it is possible to look north and view the ranch at the site of Steffens.

From the intersection of Roads A and 23, the 1912 site of Hughes was two miles south and one mile east. There is no access to that location and nothing is visible from Road A.

From County Road 23, drive seven miles south to County Road 16. This stretch of road is problematic. In 1996 I had no difficulty but there is the possibility that it is no longer useable. If such is the case, I would skip an exploration of the 1912 site. Go back east to Colorado Highway 59 then go south to County Road 16, and then west to County Road A.

The 1915 location of Hughes was in the northeast quadrant of this intersection. There is a small clump of trees and some concrete, that may be the remains of a dugout, to show that there was once something here.

The third, 1946 site of Hughes, presents a challenge to visit. Go back east one mile on Road 16 to Road B. Only in your wildest imagination can this be claimed to be a road. It is a weed overgrown track south between two fence lines and through a couple of wire gates. The "road" surface is sand, so a four-wheel drive vehicle is essential and I would not be surprised that since my visit in 1996 the road is no longer open or useable. The 1946 site of Hughes is one mile south of County Road 16. There is an old, abandoned house and some sheds and scattered junk to mark the location.

HUGHES – Continued

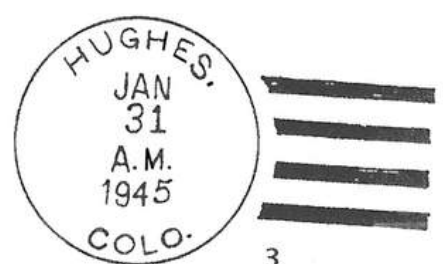
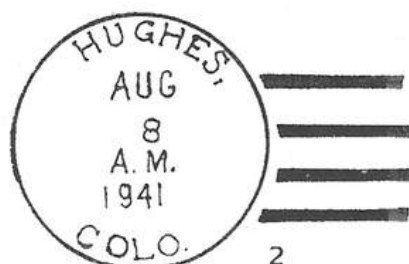
From Hughes, return to Colorado Highway 59 and go back north to the site of Abarr.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 25 1912	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T2S R48W	
Apr 11 1913		Established	
Apr 11 1913		Jackson, Martha J.	
May 3 1914	---	SW/4 Sec 17 T2S R48W	
May 17 1915	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T3S R48W	
		Applicant for postmaster - Fred L. Shelters	
May 26 1915		Shelters, Fred L.	
Dec 10 1919		Otta, Elmer L.	
Apr 21 1921		Otta, Alva D.	
Jul 28 1921		McClanahan, Charles	Acting
Aug 18 1921		McClanahan, Charles	Appointed
Aug 21 1921		McClanahan, Charles	Confirmed
Oct 31 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T3S R48W	
Jan 29 1945		Closing order (Jan 31 1945) rescinded	
Jan 31 1945		Stoops, Mrs. Violet Alberta	Assumed charge
Feb 12 1945		Stoops, Mrs. Violet Alberta	Acting
May 12 1945		Stoops, Mrs. Violet Alberta	Confirmed
Jun 26 1945		Stoops, Mrs. Violet Alberta	Commissioned
Mar 16 1946	---	NE/4 Sec 19 T3S R48W A move 2-1/2 miles southeast of a previous location	
Apr 29 1950		Benedict, Mrs. Florence	Assumed charge
Jun 2 1950		Benedict, Mrs. Florence	Confirmed
Jun 16 1950		Benedict, Mrs. Florence	Commissioned
Sep 15 1954		Ordered closed	
Oct 31 1954		Discontinued Mail to Yuma	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	HUGHES, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-24x19mm	Nov 25 1916 Mar 23 1917
2	HUGHES, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Aug 30 1937 Aug 8 1941
3	HUGHES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jun 23 1943 Jul 27 1949
4	HUGHES / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jun 21 1951 Oct 31 1954



IDALIA

The history of Idalia is directly connected to that of Alva. In 1887 George W. Means, Rice McDonald, Ben Bird and John Helmrick platted a townsite, a half-mile west of the present site of Idalia. I believe that the distance was a bit more than a half-mile and that the community they platted acquired a post office that was named Alva.

In late June 1888 a Site Location Report was filed for a post office to be known as Idalia. The Alva Post Office was still in operation at that time but it seems likely that a move eastward of the Alva Post Office was already under consideration. The move took place in September. At the same time the post office name was changed to Idalia. Idalia was a simplification of the spelling of John Helmrick's wife's name Edaliah. George W. Means, one of the founders, was the first postmaster for Idalia.

The presence of another post office in the area, about five miles to the west has created considerable confusion. That post office was Friend and many historians have claimed it to be the immediate predecessor to Idalia and at virtually the same location. Those claims are not correct. The Post Office Department Records reveal the truth with the following facts.

1. The Alva Post Office existed from August 6, 1887 to September 18, 1888 when the name was changed to Idalia, which has been in continuous operation since then.
2. The Friend Post Office was in operation from June 27, 1887 until Jul 31, 1901, a considerable overlap with Idalia if they were in the claimed proximity.
3. Alva was located in NW/4 Section 20, Township 4 South, Range 44 West and when the name was changed the post office moved to the SW/4 of Section 16, Township 4 South, Range 44 West.
4. The Friend Post Office was in SW/4 Section 23, Township 4 South, Range 45 West. That is three miles west-southwest of the Alva location and five miles from present day Idalia. Hopefully this will clarify the relationship between these three communities.

Throughout its history the economy of Idalia has been centered on agriculture. It lacked the advantage of a location on a railroad, being about midway between the Burlington Railroad to the north and the Rock Island Railroad to the south. In spite of that, Idalia became a significant supply center for a large surrounding area of farms and ranches.

In the mid-twentieth century it drew from traffic on US Highway 36 but the construction of the Interstate Highway System diverted much of the through traffic away from US 36. Idalia still survives with a few small businesses and a modest residential district. It also has a large grain elevator and storage facility.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 22 1888	---	SW/4 Sec 16 T4S R44W A move 1-1/2 miles northwest of a previous location This was both a change of site and name (From Alva). Proposed postmaster - Allen R. Ames
Sep 18 1888		Name changed from Alva
Sep 18 1888		Means, George W.
May 9 1889		Harris, J. C.
Jun 12 1889		Mitchell, J. C.
Aug 13 1891		Hill, Charles O.
Dec 6 1893		Shore, Robert I.
Sep 27 1894		Cooper, William H.
Sep 11 1895		Stutheit, Herman H.
Dec 8 1897		Scott, Minnie K.
Jul 8 1905		Payne, Norton J.
May 23 1907		Lucas, William E.
Dec 26 1907		Whisnant, Charles S.
May 5 1909		Conrad, George F.

IDALIA – Continued

Mar 2 1911	Lidke, Herman W.	
Jun 15 1912	Conrad, George F.	
Jun 11 1919	Finch, Edith M.	
Jan 5 1942	---	SE/4 Sec 16 T4S R44W US-36 is 2 blocks east and south of post office
Dec 31 1944	Moellenberg, Miss Anna	Possession, Acting
Jan 10 1945	Moellenberg, Miss Anna	Acting
Aug 1 1945	Moellenberg, Miss Anna	Appointed
Sep 21 1945	Moellenberg, Miss Anna	Commissioned
Sep 30 1945	Moellenberg, Miss Anna	Possession
Sep 30 1948	Ramseier, Miss Rose	Possession, Acting
Nov 10 1948	Ramseier, Miss Rose	Acting
Dec 28 1949	Ramseier, Miss Rose	Appointed
Jan 11 1950	Ramseier, Miss Rose	Commissioned
Mar 31 1950	Ramseier, Miss Rose	Possession
Jul 1 1959		Office advanced
Sep 30 1963	Boden, Mrs. Minnie E.	Possession, Acting
Jul 1 1964	Wicoxen, Wayne F.	Possession & Acting
Apr 13 1965	Wicoxen, Wayne F.	Confirmed
Apr 15 1965	Wicoxen, Wayne F.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 27 1965	Wicoxen, Wayne F.	Commissioned
May 7 1965	Wicoxen, Wayne F.	Possession



Post Office – Idalia, Colorado

Photograph by James L. Ozment

April 7, 2000

IDALIA - Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring	Jan 4 1888 Jun 4 1894
2	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm	Jun -- 1893 Nov 22 1893
2.1	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target Letters closer together	Mar 28 1899
3	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 29.9	Doane Type 2 with 2, S-23x13	Jun 5 1907 Nov 3 1910
4	IDALIA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??X18mm	Feb 7 1914 May 1 1917
4.1	IDALIA. / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-25X19mm	Jul 9 1934
5	IDALIA. / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25X20mm	Apr 5 1935 Apr 7 1941



IDALIA – Continued



6	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Sep 17 1941 Jun 7 1949
7	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Sep 24 1951
7.1	IDALIA / COLO. CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Aug 15 1953
7.2	IDALIA / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Apr 28 1960
8	IDALIA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Apr 7 1959 Jan 28 1963
9	IDALIA, CO / 80735 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Sep 9 1969 Apr 27 1976
9.1	IDALIA, CO / 80735 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-25x21mm	Sep 21 1988 Nov 17 1989
10	IDALIA, CO / 80735 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 10 1991 Jun 1 1993

CENTENNIAL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 31 1987 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 IDALIA, CO / 80735 :: CENTENNIAL / STATION Aug 31 1987 Nov 21 1987
CI 10P 33.0 Pict Text only At right 2 heavy bars with text:
IDALIA, CO / CENTENNIAL / STATION / 1887-1987
Postmark was in use for several months



INCHE

I have been unable to find any information about this post office other than what appears in the Post Office Department Records.

The very brief period of existence leads me to question whether or not the office was ever in actual operation. I suspect that it was not. Further support for that conclusion is that the Newton Post Office was active during the same time period and it was little more than a mile from the stated location of Inche.

Enter Yuma County from the south on US Highway 385 and go three miles north to Yuma County Road 3, one of the entrances to the Bonny State Recreation Area. The supposed location of Inche was one mile east of US 385.

There is one fairly new house on the hill north of the road and the area around the park toll booth is reasonably level and may at some time have been the location of a farm or ranch. There is nothing that can be identified as relating to a former settlement. Perhaps anything that did remain was removed during construction of the Bonny Reservoir and the park.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 18 1891	---	SW/4 Sec 18 T5S R43W 1-1/2 mile north of the South Fork of the Republican River
		Proposed postmaster - Phillip J. Armknecht
Sep 14 1891		Established
Sep 14 1891		Armknecht, Phillip
Dec 10 1891		Discontinued Mail to Newton, Kansas

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM INCHE

JAQUA

A Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report is the only evidence that a post office by this name might have existed in Yuma County, Colorado. The report indicates that the Jaqua Post Office was to be moved from Cheyenne County, Kansas to Colorado. However, there is no record of a postmaster appointment for Jaqua, Colorado. The Site Location Report is dated a little more than two months before the Jaqua, Cheyenne County, Kansas office closed on July 31, 1919.

My conclusion is that a move may have been planned but for some reason did not proceed.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 13 1919	---	NW/4 Sec 34 T4S R42W The document describes this office as being in Cheyenne County, Kansas; not Yuma County, Colorado.
		The sketch map shows it being moved from NW/4 Sec 1 T5S R42W (Kansas) to the new location in Colorado. 1-1/2 miles northwest of the Republican River

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM JAQUA

JOES

C. N. White and Joseph White established Joes in 1912. Most people accept the story that among the early settlers were three men, including Joseph White, with the same first name – Joe. Thus the settlement came to be known as Three Joes. When a post office was authorized the name was shortened to Joes. Another version attributes the name to an early cream station that was known as Joes Place.

JOES – Continued

Located on US Highway 36, Joes had the advantage of serving travelers on that busy highway. A small community developed and continues to exist with a number of residences and some small businesses that provide services to the surrounding ranches and farms.

During the 1920's Joes attained lasting fame when its high school basketball team attained unexpected success in state and national competition against much larger schools.

Joes is six miles east of the Yuma-Washington County line.

Chronology of the Post Office

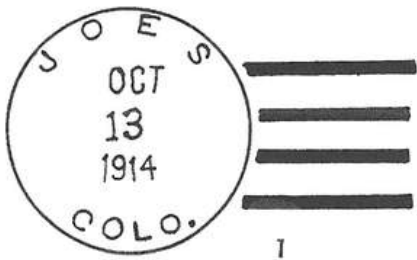
Oct 22 1912	Established	
Oct 22 1912	White, Charles A.	
Jan 8 1913	---	Some reason for report, but no indication of what it was.
Nov 7 1913	Nikkel, Henry R.	
Jul 7 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T5S R47W On south side of present highway US-36
Feb 14 1916	Stager, Rosa B.	
Dec 14 1916	Nikkel, Henry R.	
May 7 1919	Snyder, Ruth E.	
Feb 12 1920	Dickinson, Hazel H.	
Nov 2 1920	Snyder, Ruth E.	Confirmed
Nov 15 1920	Snyder, Ruth E.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941	---	SW/4 Sec 31 T4S R47W On north side of US-36
Jul 1 1952		Office made Presidential
Aug 31 1955	Scofield, Clifford M.	Assumed charge
Nov 25 1955	Scofield, Clifford M.	Acting
Jul 1 1956		Office relegated to 4th class
Aug 24 1956	Martin, Mary Ann	Assumed charge
Sep 20 1956	Martin, Mary Ann	Appointed
Jul 1 1957		Office made Presidential
Jan 11 1965	Blodgett, Mrs. Mary A.	Name changed by marriage
Oct 10 1975	Wise, Mrs. Betty D.	Officer in charge
Sep 24 1976	Henry, Mrs. Doris M.	Officer in charge
Jan 21 1977	Hindman, Rose A.	Officer in charge
May 19 1977	Henry, Mrs. Doris M.	Officer in charge
Mar 10 1979	Henry, Mrs. Doris M.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	JOES / COLO. CI 10P ?	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 17 1913 Apr 3 1917
2	JOES, COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x18mm	Jul 24 1931 Oct 17 1938
2.1	JOES, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Feb 12 1941 Nov 27 1947
3	JOES / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 15 1941 Nov 9 1941
4	JOES / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Feb 1 1943 Sep 10 1945
5	JOES, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 15 1946 May 2 195-
6	JOES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Mar 26 1953 Dec 13 1956
7	JOES / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Nov 21 1953
8	JOES / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Nov 13 1957 Dec 26 1962

JOES – Continued

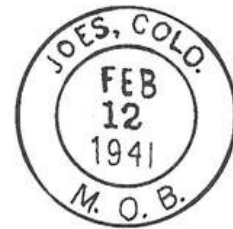
9	JOES, / CO 80822 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Oct 5 1965 Dec 4 1969
10	JOES, CO / 80822 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Apr 6 1967 Aug 18 1975
11	JOES, CO / 80822 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Nov 21 1975 Nov 8 1989
12	JOES, CO / 80822 CI 10P 22.5	Mach 7 wavy lines	Feb 26 1977 Dec 10 1991
13	JOES, CO / 80822 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 10 1991



1



2



2.1

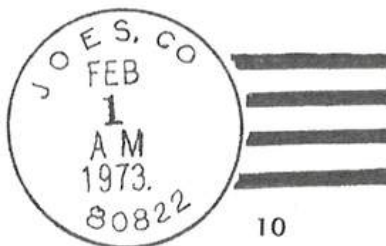


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6



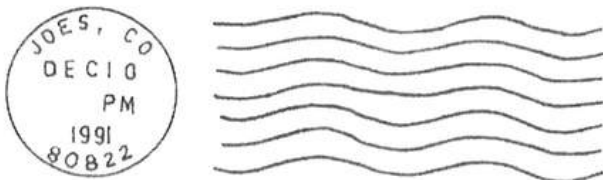
9



10



11



12



13

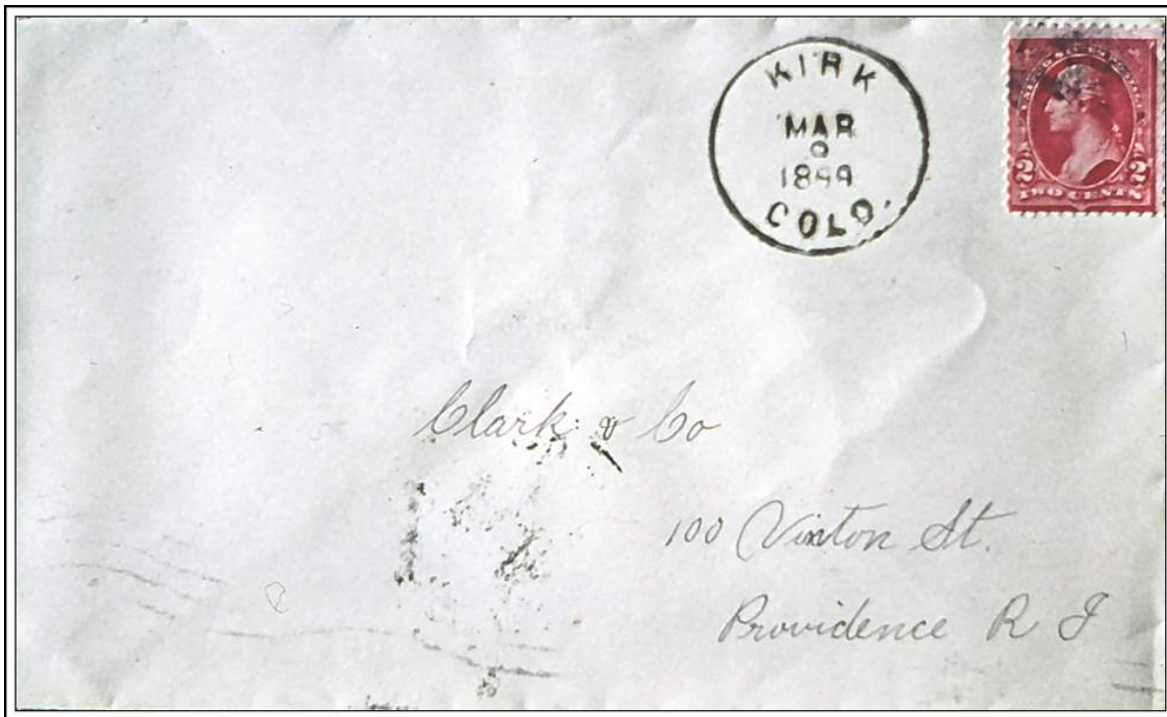
KIRK

The settlement of Kirk was begun in 1883 by one A. Neikirk. When a post office was acquired in 1887 the postmaster was George Neikirk and the post office name was a shortened version of his name. The initial location of Kirk was four miles north of the present location. Two years later when Reuben Kline became postmaster, he moved the post office four miles south to his homestead, the present location of Kirk.

Kirk developed into a small community providing agricultural services and supplies to the surrounding ranchers and farmers. Kirk still provides some of those needs but on a reduced scale from earlier times.

The original location was one mile north of US Highway 36, at the intersection of Yuma County Roads M and 7. Road M intersects US 36 five miles east of Joes, Colorado, and continues south of US 36 where it is also designated as Colorado Highway 57.

The present location of Kirk is three miles south of US 36 on Colorado 57 (Yuma County Road M). Today Kirk consists of several residences, a grain elevator, a few small businesses and the post office.



KIRK / COLO.

March 9, 1899

Chronology of the Post Office

Oct 18 1887	---	SW/4 Sec 25 T4S R47W 3-1/2 miles south of the Arickaree River Proposed postmaster - George M. Neikirk
Nov 18 1887		Established
Nov 18 1887		Neikirk, George M.
Apr 11 1890		Kline, Reuben K.
Jul 7 1890	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 24 T5S R47W
Apr 30 1895		Friesthofer, Wilhelmina
Oct 28 1908		Pratt, James A.
Dec 10 1912		Brinkerhoff, Charles W.

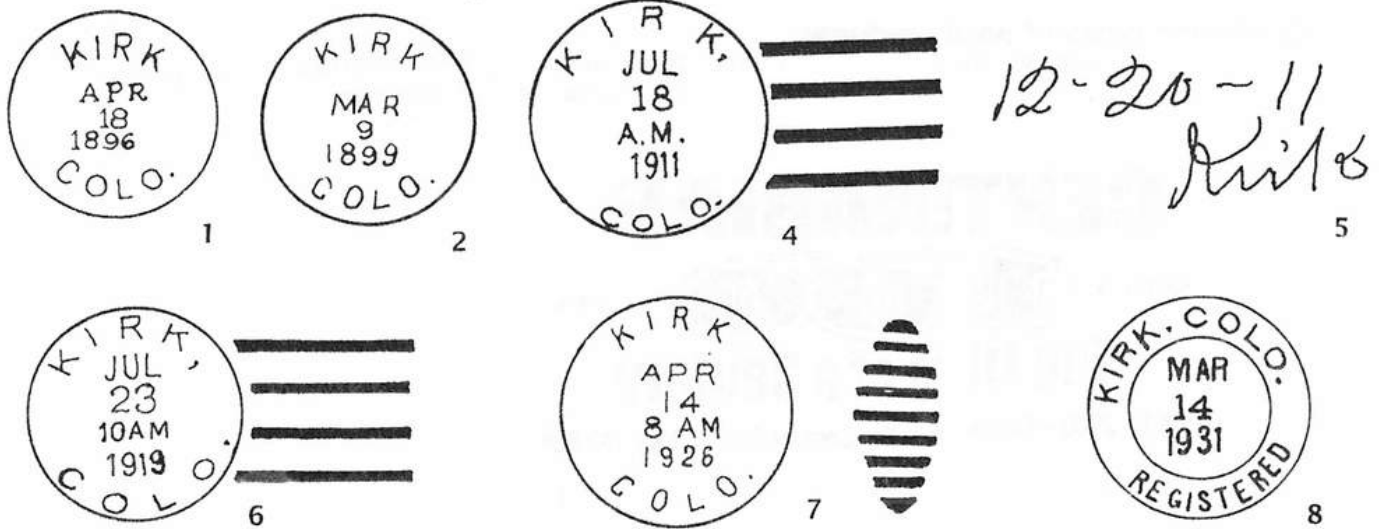
KIRK – Continued

Sep 12 1913	Neitzel, William	
Apr 29 1914	Wright, Andrew J.	
May 1 1914 ---	NW/4 Sec 24 T5S R47W	
Apr 20 1915	Duncanson, James E.	
Oct 13 1916	Duncanson, Seth T.	
Jul 11 1918	Darling, Marian L.	
Nov 24 1920	Colette, Marian L.	
May 10 1921	Amy, Elizabeth	
Jul 1 1923		Office made Presidential
Dec 18 1923	Amy, Elizabeth	
Jul 1 1926		Office relegated
Oct 11 1927	Amy, Elizabeth	
Feb 1 1940	Meade, Gilbert	Assumed charge
Feb 19 1940	Meade, Gilbert	Acting
Mar 14 1940 ---	NW/4 Sec 24 T5S R47W A move 405 feet south across street From sketch map: old site 205 feet north of road, new site 200 feet south of road	
Jul 27 1940	Preuss, Raymond J.	Confirmed
Aug 16 1940	Preuss, Raymond J.	Commissioned
Sep 1 1940	Preuss, Raymond J.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1941		Office made Presidential
Oct 21 1941 ---	NE/4 Sec 23 T5S R47W State highway 57 on east side of post office	
Oct 29 1941	Preuss, Raymond J.	Nominated
Nov 6 1941	Preuss, Raymond J.	Confirmed
Nov 7 1941	Preuss, Raymond J.	Appointed Presidential
Nov 28 1941	Preuss, Raymond J.	Commissioned
May 31 1942	McNair, Mrs. Velma M.	Acting
Jun 1 1942	McNair, Mrs. Velma M.	Assumed charge
Feb 18 1943	McNair, Mrs. Velma M.	Nominated
Mar 13 1943	McNair, Raymond J.	Confirmed
Mar 18 1943	McNair, Mrs. Velma M.	Appointed Presidential
Jun 4 1943	McNair, Mrs. Velma M.	Commissioned
Feb 23 1968	Liming, Mrs. Fern L.	Acting
Mar 20 1971	Liming, Mrs. Fern L.	Appointed & Commissioned
Jul 20 1979	Troyer, Geraldine L.	Officer in charge
Oct 9 1979	Edmunds, Colleen R.	Officer in charge
Jan 4 1980	Blamey, Duane C.	Officer in charge
Apr 25 1980	Kyzer, Arlie G.	Officer in charge
Sep 5 1980	Romero, Albert W.	Officer in charge
Dec 5 1980	McLaughlin, Kenneth E.	Officer in charge

Confirmed types of postal markings

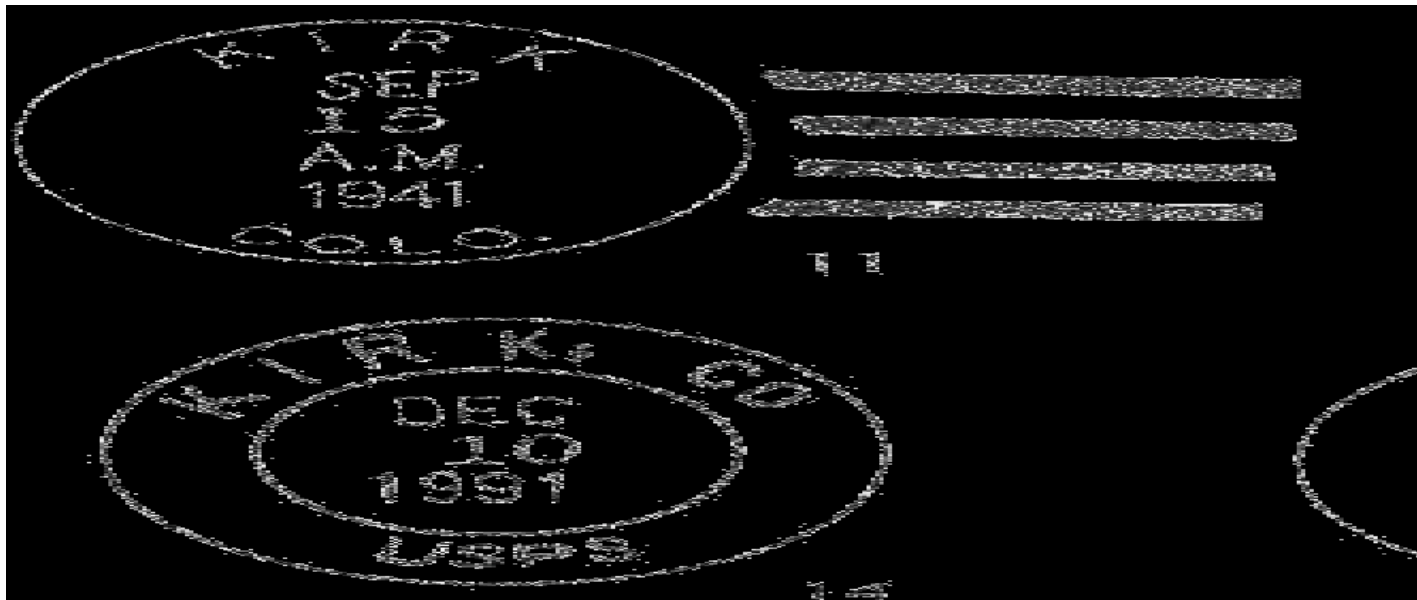
1	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Hstp Not present	Feb 23 1889 Apr 18 1896
2	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Cork, smudge	Mar 9 1899 Mar 28 1899
3	KIRK, / COLO. CI 10P ???	Doane Type 2 with 2 [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]	Feb 19 1908 Jul 20 1920
4	KIRK, / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Feb 4 1911 Oct 13 1915
5	Kirk MS	Mscp In pencil, manuscript RFD postmark	Dec 20 1911 Aug 28 1911
6	KIRK, / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	4bars S-25x19mm	Dec 24 1917 Jul 23 1919

KIRK – Continued



7	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval	Apr 14 1926 Aug 1 1926
8	KIRK, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 14 1931
9	KIRK, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 11 1935 Sep 14 1940
10	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x19mm	Jun 7 1940 Dec 11 1940
11	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Jul 12 1941 Jun 24 1947
12	KIRK / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dplx Grid, diamond with 1	Jul 31 1959 Nov 14 1961
13	KIRK, CO / 80824 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Dec 31 1966 May 4 1976
14	KIRK, CO / USPS CI 11P 34.0/22.	Hstp No killer	Dec 10 1991
15	KIRK, CO / 80824 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Sep 26 1969 Dec 10 1991
15.1	KIRK, CO / 80824 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Apr 12 1993 May 29 1993
16	KIRK CO / 80824 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-14x25mm	Jun 22 2000
17	KIRK CO 80824 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Jul 10 2000 Jul 31 2000

KIRK – Continued



KIRK STATIONS

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 Kirk, CO 80824 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 15 2000
SL00R 90.0x3.0 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /
The Life of a Century



KIRK STATIONS – Continued

CELEBRATE 2000 STATION**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jan 1 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

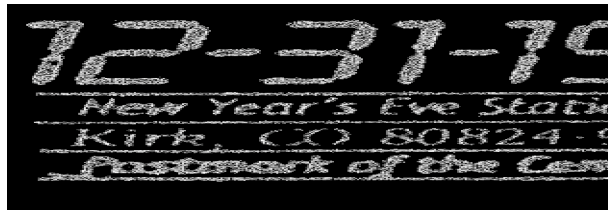
- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| 1 | Kirk, CO 80824-9998 / Celebrate 2000 Station
SL 00R 70.0x21.0 | Jan 1 2000
Pict Scene - Large LCD style date; Text -
Postmark of the Century |
|---|--|--|

**NEW YEAR'S EVE STATION****Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 31 1999 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | Kirk, CO 80824-9998 / New Year's Eve Station
SL 00R 69.0x21.0 | Dec 31 1999
Pict Scene - Large LCD style date; Text -
Postmark of the Century |
|---|--|---|

**LAIRD**

The town plat for Laird was filed by the See Bar See (C–C) Land and Cattle Company on October 7, 1887. The impetus for Laird came from the presence of the Burlington Railroad, which had built through the area in 1881. The See Bar See C–C) was one of the most prominent early cattle ranches in this portion of Yuma County and Eastern Colorado. Laird was named for Congressman James Laird of Nebraska.

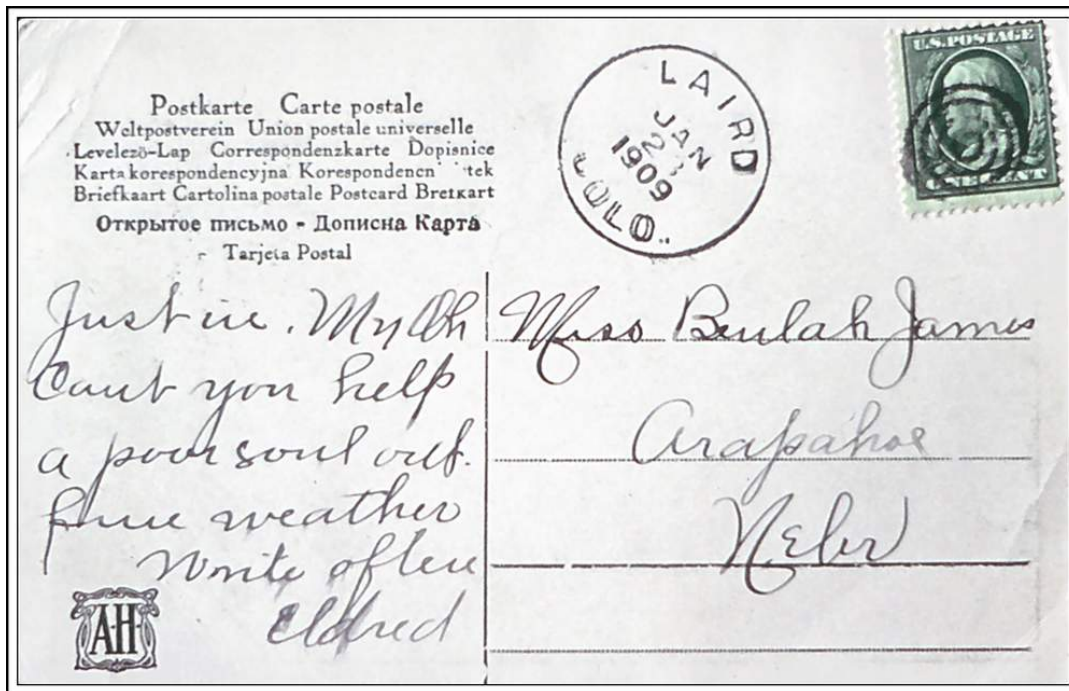
The Ashlin 4A and the C–C Ranches were largely responsible for the growth of Laird as a trading and shipping center. In the late 1880's homesteading spread in Eastern Colorado and the large ranches that depended on free grazing of the open range began to disappear. Farming grew slowly, suffering a setback in a drought during the 1890's. Agriculture would make a comeback after the turn of the century based on new dry farming techniques and irrigation from deep wells.

In February 1892 the name of the post office was changed to Seebarsee. It operated under that name until June 1899 when the name reverted to Laird. At the same time the post office moved a mile to the northwest from its original location. I have found no reason for either of these changes.

Laird still exists as a small community on US Highway 34, only three miles west of the Colorado-Kansas State line.

LAIRD – Continued

In 1972 the post office was in a small brick building on a street corner. The post office closed but the brick building was still there as late as 1999. Over time, Laird has slowly declined in size. There are still a few small businesses and a number of modest homes but the outlook is that Laird will eventually share the fate of so many small towns on the plains of Eastern Colorado.



LAIRD / COLO.

January 23, 1909

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 29 1887 --- SE/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W 40 rods north of the Republican River
Proposed postmaster - Hanley C. Emmons
- Jul 12 1887 Established
- Jul 12 1887 Hambleton, Mary T.
- Oct 30 1889 Wright, L. T.
- Jan 25 1889 Cary, Frederick S.
- Feb 17 1892 Post office moved and name changed to Seebarsee
- Mar 23 1892 --- NW/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W On north side of the Republican River
One mile west of Rush Creek
- Jan 25 1895 Wright, Louis T. [Was the postmaster at Seebarsee]
- Jun 15 1899 Name reverted from Seebarsee
- Nov 28 1900 Hays, Alfaretta L. Declined
- Jan 5 1901 Wallace, Bruce H.
- Mar 20 1903 Allen, Sarah E.
- May 4 1907 McGinnis, Susan M.
- Jul 25 1911 Dowlin, Edwin J.
- May 4 1914 --- NW/4 SE/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W 400 feet north of the Republican River
700 feet south of the Chicago Burlington & Quincy RR
- Jun 6 1922 Dowlin, Ross E. Appointed
- Jun 19 1922 Dowlin, Ross E. Commissioned
- Dec 26 1922 --- Not reported A move 350 feet south of a previous location
500 feet north of the Republican River
- Jan 13 1939 Orndorf, Paris L. Designated acting postmaster

LAIRD – Continued

Jan 22 1939	Orndorf, Paris L.	Possession & Acting
Jan 23 1939	Orndorf, Paris L.	Assumed charge
Sep 9 1939	Orndorf, Paris L.	Appointed
Sep 19 1939	Orndorf, Paris L.	Commissioned
Sep 30 1939	Orndorf, Paris L.	Possession
Apr 20 1940 --	SE/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W 200 feet east of the Republican River 445 feet south of the CB&Q RR	
Oct 21 1941 --	SE/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W Campbell Ave and Chartier St. Republican River is 200 feet west of post office (SW corner by the sketch map, one block south of US 34)	
Jan 29 1946	Smith, Mrs. Fannie E.	Possession, Acting
Nov 13 1946	Smith, Mrs. Fannie E.	Acting
Oct 26 1948	Smith, Mrs. Fannie E.	Appointed
Nov 29 1948	Smith, Mrs. Fannie E.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1948	Smith, Mrs. Fannie E.	Possession
Jun 30 1977	Noffsinger, Ms Evelyn F.	Officer in charge
Apr 5 1980	Noffsinger, Ms Evelyn F.	Appointed
Oct 15 1988	Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	LAIRD / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4 ring 16mm	Mar 7 1900 Sep 29 1911
2	LAIRD, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jul 25 1913 Dec 15 1915
3	LAIRD / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval	Jun 25 1934
4	LAIRD / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 26 1937 Feb 24 1943
5	LAIRD / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 2 1943 Feb 18 1954
6	LAIRD / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Apr 15 1958 Feb 18 1960
7	LAIRD. CO / 80739 CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Jul 30 1966



LAIRD – Continued

7.1	LAIRD, CO / 80739 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Dec 1 1969 Nov 16 1973
8	LAIRD, CO / 80739 CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-??x18mm	Jun 2 1975 Oct 31 1977
9	LAIRD, CO / 80739 CI 10P 30.5	4bars S-24x18mm	Apr 7 1978 May 10 1985
10	LAIRD, CO / 80739 CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-23x16mm	Dec 2 1987 May 2 1988



LANDSMAN

The literature of Colorado history mentions a location of Landsman within what is now Yuma County, however, I have found no discussion of who first settled there or why it was soon moved several miles southwest to a location in northern Kit Carson County.

The brief references to Landsman indicate that it was settled in 1890 by a group of Bessarabian Germans. Residents of Burlington have often referred to that community (in Kit Carson County) as the "Settlement." I am guessing that the name Landsman is perhaps another reference to the German origin of the Bessarabian settlers.

The location for Landsman in Yuma County, provided by the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report, is about one mile northeast of the location of Hale on Yuma County Road LL.5. There is no direct access to that Landsman location and nothing is visible from the closest approaches, either on the north or the south. From the north at the end of the extension of Yuma County Road MM there is an old ranch house but that building is more than a half-mile north of the Landsman site.

Chronology of the Post Office

- Mar 13 1883 --- NE/4 Sec 12 T5S R43W
Proposed postmaster - Edward E. McCrellis
- Mar 27 1883 Established
- Mar 27 1883 McCrellis, Edwin E.
- Jun 6 1883 McCrellis, Edwin E.
- Nov 20 1885 --- SW/4 Sec 12 T6S R44W 50 feet east of Landsman Creek
This location is in Kit Carson County.
- May 31 1918 Discontinued

See Kit Carson County for the complete listing of Postmasters and postmarks.

LANDSMAN – Continued



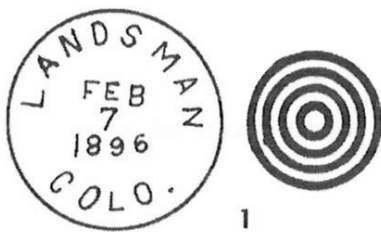
LANDSMAN / COLO.

February 7, 1896

Confirmed types of postal markings

The postmarks described below were in use after the Landsman Post Office moved to Kit Carson County.

- | | | | |
|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | LANDSMAN / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Hstp Target, 4 ring 17mm | Feb 7 1896 Sep 9 1908 |
| 2 | LANDSMAN, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.0 | 4bars S-24x13mm | Nov 7 1914 |



LANSING

The Lansing Post Office had an exciting history. Settlement of this area began with the agricultural and homestead boom of the 1880's. The initial settlement was named Kingsley. Soon the name was altered to Kingston which in 1886 was the suggested name for the post office. However, at the time there was a Kingston Post office in Fresno County, California so the alternate name of Lansing was authorized.

On May 30, 1896 a tornado swept through the community and the only structure left standing was the sod schoolhouse. Very little was rebuilt but the post office continued to operate until 1910.

LANSING – Continued

Another reported incident in the history of Lansing states that sometime prior to the tornado disaster the post office was robbed and postmaster Asa Beam was murdered. If this did happen, it was likely in late 1893.

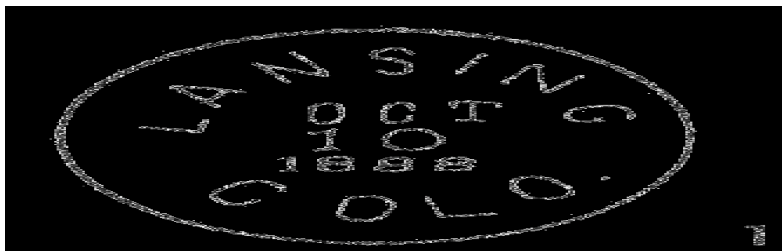
To visit the site of Lansing, begin at the intersection of US Highway 36 with Yuma County Road LL. Drive north two miles. At a mile and a half from US 36 you pass the small Kingston Cemetery. A short distance north of the cemetery there is a well kept active ranch complex on the east side of Road LL.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 7 1886	---	NE/4 Sec 26 T3S R43W	
		Proposed postmaster - Mattie J. Jester	
Sep 17 1886		Established	
Sep 17 1886		D. Hulett, Lewis	
Sep 28 1886		Jester, Mattie J.	
Aug 30 1889		Greetsinger, Francis A.	
Sep 30 1892		Bean, Asa B.	
Nov 3 1892		Beam, Asa P.	Correction of name
Dec 6 1893		Beck, William	
Jul 6 1897		Jenkins, Desdemona	
Aug 18 1905		Kester, Lillian	
Jan 25 1908		Shockley, Will	
Sep 9 1908		Shockley, Espy	
Feb 28 1910		Discontinued	

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------------------|------------|------------|
| 1 | LANSING / COLO. | | Oct 1 1888 | Oct 1 1891 |
| | CI 10P 27.0 | Hstp Target, 4-ring | 17mm | |
| 2 | LANSING / COLO. | | Sep 4 1905 | Sep 9 1909 |
| | CI 10P 28.0 | Doane Type 2 with 1; | S-23x13mm | |



LOGAN

Logan was a rural post office in southeastern Yuma County. When authorized it was in Arapahoe County and did not become a part of Yuma County until early 1901 when Arapahoe County was reduced to its present boundaries.

Reportedly this settlement was named for General John A. Logan (1826-1886) who died shortly before the Colorado Legislature authorized the establishment of Logan County and the Post Office Department approved the Logan Post Office.

From the intersection of US Highway 36 and Yuma County Road JJ, drive south one mile to County Road 11. Logan was located in the southwest quadrant of this intersection. This is farming and ranching country and anything that might remain from Logan has been removed to facilitate farming.

Chronology of the Post Office

Apr 21 1887	---	NE/4 Sec 8 T4S R43W	
		Proposed postmaster - William E. Vandeman	

LOGAN – Continued

May 14 1887	Established
May 14 1887	Vandeman, William E.
Jun 11 1887	Vandeman, William E.
Jan 20 1888	Rawalt, Benjamin F.
Oct 11 1888	Foster, Isaac N.
May 9 1889	Crabb, Charles D.
Jan 17 1895	Kester, Alfred S.
May 19 1895	Kelly, John
Jan 31 1900	Loffel, Fred
Jul 13 1901	Ordered closed
Jul 31 1901	Discontinued Papers to Lansing

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 LOGAN / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

Dec 14 1893 --- 10 1897

Hstp Target

**LUDLUM**

Ludlum was a rural post office just south of the wagon road from Rockland in Logan County to Yuma. It was shown on an 1896 Rand-McNally map and claimed to have a population of twenty in 1891-1892.

Farming and ranching would have been the only economic activities at Ludlum. The community appears to have been named for the one and only postmaster – Alexander Ludlum.

From Yuma, drive fourteen miles north on Colorado Highway 59 to Yuma County Road 52. Turn east and go two miles. The site of Ludlum was on the north side of Road 52. There is nothing at that point but there are some buildings a half-mile further east.

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 6 1889	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T4N R47S
		Proposed postmaster - Alexander Ludlum
Sep 16 1889		Established
Sep 16 1889		Ludlum, Alexander
Dec 24 1890		Discontinued Papers to Yuma
		Continuous listing through the 1893 Postal Guides

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 LUDLUM / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0

Apr 28 1890 Aug 23 1890

Hstp Target



MILDRED

Mildred was a rural post office located twenty miles south of Eckley. The rural nature of the office is confirmed by its having four different locations during its forty-four year period of operation. There have been suggestions that for the first few years there was a small community centered on the Mildred Post Office. The Mildred Post Office was established in 1911 and reportedly was named for the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Nick Easter.

Geographically the location is in an area of Yuma County that is considered the southern portion of the sand hills of northeastern Colorado. Today the area is sparsely settled and lacks the extensive county road system of other portions of Yuma County. The countryside appears best suited for livestock.

From Happyville, drive east on Yuma County Road 26 four miles to County Road U. Turn south and go nine miles to County Road 17. Turn west on Road 2 and one mile will bring you to the end of the road. The initial site was a mile to the north but there is no direct access and nothing is visible.

Return to County Road U and go one mile south. The 1918 site of Mildred was on the east side of Road U. There is one small, abandoned building a short distance east of the road.

Next, go back north two miles, one mile north of Road 17. This was the final location for the Mildred Post Office and is shown as Mildred on the 1975 General Highway Map of Yuma County. There is a well-maintained active ranch complex at this location.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 25 1910	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T3S R46W	
May 21 1910		Established	
May 21 1910		Stanbrough, Nelson	
Jan 23 1914		Kortz, Herman L.	
Jul 31 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T3S R46W	
Mar 4 1916		Stanbrough, Nelson	
Oct 13 1916		Kindred, Archie	
May 16 1918	---	SW/4 Sec 7 T3S R45W	A move 2 miles southeast for a previous location
Jun 10 1918		Moore, Walter L.	
May 2 1928		Duff, Claude C.	Acting
Jul 6 1928		Duff, Ertie A.	Confirmed
Aug 10 1928		Duff, Mrs. Ertie A.	Commissioned
Aug 16 1928		Duff, Mrs. Ertie A.	Assumed charge
Feb 12 1937	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T3S R45W	A move one mile north and 1/6 mile east of a previous location
		"Farm sold and have to give possession March 1, 1937."	
Nov 8 1941	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T3S R45W	
Jun 30 1952		Wingfield, Mrs. Lotus M.	Assumed charge
Jul 15 1952		Wingfield, Mrs. Lotus M.	Acting
Aug 18 1952		Wingfield, Mrs. Lotus M.	Confirmed
Nov 14 1952		Wingfield, Mrs. Lotus M.	Commissioned
Mar 30 1954		Ordered closed	
Apr 30 1954		Discontinued Mail to Eckley	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	MILDRED, / COLO.		Jul 24 1915
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-26x13mm	
1.1	MILDRED / COLO.		Jun 20 1933
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	
2	MILDRED / COLO.		Sep 28 1939 Aug 22 1953
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	
3	MILDRED / COLO.		Apr 29 1954
	CI 10P 35.0	4bars S-25x20mm	
4	MILDRED, COLO. / M.O.B.		Apr 29 1954 Apr 29 1954
	CI 11P 29.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	

MILDRED – Continued



NEWTON

The only mentions of Newton in the Colorado historical literature state that it was a rural post office on the road from Hale to Landsman. That would be a reference to the location of Landsman in Kit Carson County not its original location in Yuma County.

When first established Newton was on the south side of the South Fork of the Republican River near what is now the western end of Bonny Reservoir. Sometime during the next ten years, it apparently moved a short distance to the northeast. In 1900, as a result of the construction of the Bonny Reservoir, it moved to a location north of the river and on the west side of present day US Highway 385.

Enter Yuma County on US Highway 385 and drive north three miles to the intersection with Yuma County Road 3. To the east Road 3 is one of the entrances to the Bonny State Recreation Area (and the site of Inche).

The 1900 location of Newton was in the northwest quadrant of the intersection of County Road 3 and US 385. At that location there is complex of buildings and a trailer park that exist to serve visitors to the Bonny Reservoir.

To observe the earlier sites of Newton, go back south one mile to County Road 2 and turn east. It is possible to follow this road east to the sites of Hale. The 1889 location of Newton was about two miles east of US 285 in the area where Road 2 makes a horseshoe bend to the south and back. Nothing is visible and it is almost certain that any remaining structures were removed when the reservoir was constructed.

A warning: It is possible that during times of high reservoir levels, portions of this road, and the portion on to Hale, may be under water.

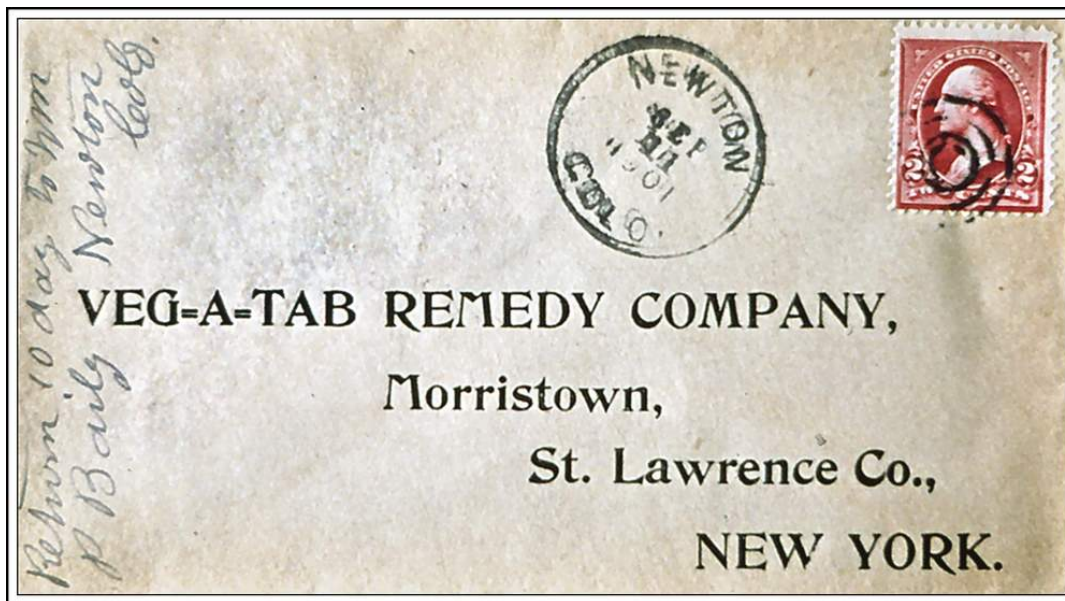
Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 5 1889	---	NE/4 Sec 30 T5S R43W 1/2 mile south of the South Fork of the Republican River and 200 yards east of Landsman Creek
Aug 6 1889		Established
Aug 6 1889		Stanley, James B.
Feb 12 1890		Burt, Daniel W.

NEWTON – Continued

Jun 8 1900 --- From: S/2 Sec 30 T5S R43W To: SE/4 Sec 14 T5S R44W
 A move 2-1/2 miles northwest of the previous location
 Proposed postmaster - William P. Bailey
 The location in Section 20 is now in Bonney Reservoir.

Jul 16 1890 Cook, Robert E.
 May 1 1900 Bailey, William P.
 Apr 15 1918 Discontinued Mail to Hale



NEWTON / COLO.

September 11, 1901

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | NEWTON / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Oct 24 1890 Jul 14 1902
Hstp Target, 4 ring 17mm |
| 2 | NEWTON, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0 | Nov 2 1904 Dec 4 1911
Doane Type 2 with 1, S-23x13mm |
| 3 | NEWTON, / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Jul 16 1915 Sep 29 1915
4bars S-24x19mm |



ROBB

Robb, located on the Burlington Northern Railroad, is shown on maps as early as 1884. However, it was not until February 7, 1890 that G. M. Boss and C. G. Smythe filed a town plat for Robb. Historically, Robb has been described as having been one of the most important livestock shipping points in Eastern Colorado but it no longer enjoys that status.

ROBB – Continued

The Robb Post Office had two brief periods of operation and it seems unlikely that a community of any significance ever developed at the location. In 1923, the second period of operation, the post office was in a small store; thus it appears that Robb provided some supplies to the surrounding countryside in addition to being a shipping center. The economic life of Robb would have depended on agriculture.

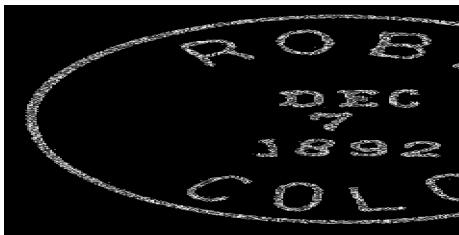
The site of Robb is six miles east of Eckley. Robb was on Yuma County Road Z where it crosses the Burlington Railroad, a short distance north of US Highway 34. Very little remains at the site of Robb. There are some old trees and a refurbished home near the railroad crossing and a few other older buildings in the vicinity.

Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 2 1889	---	NW/4 Sec 35 T2N R45W About 60 rods from the Burlington & Missouri River RR Station Annotated - Dis Oct '93 Proposed postmaster - Charles W. Zepp
Dec 21 1889		Established
Dec 21 1889		Zepp, Charles W.
Oct 27 1893		Discontinued Mail to Wray
Feb 12 1920	---	SW/4 Sec 26 T2N R45W 1/4 mile north of Chief Creek
Apr 13 1920		Re-established
Apr 13 1920		Lieber, Ernest
Nov 15 1920		Discontinued

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	ROBB / COLO. CI 10P 27.5	Dec 7 1892 Hstp Target, 4 ring
---	-----------------------------	-----------------------------------

**ROGERS**

Rogers was an early rural post office in the extreme eastern portion of Yuma County, three miles from the Colorado-Kansas State line. I have found no other information. The surrounding area is farm and ranch land. The location is two miles north of US Highway 36 on Yuma County Road PP at the intersection with County Road 14. The stated site was in the southwest quadrant of the intersection. There is nothing at the intersection but there is an active ranch complex less than a half-mile to the south, so that could have been the location of the Rogers Post Office in 1886.

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 19 1886	---	SW/4 Sec 2 T4S R42W NOTE: Something may be wrong here. This is not my plotted location and this one would be in Kansas. Document signed by G. W. Rogers, asst. Haigler, Nebr. Proposed postmaster - Christian C. Shumaker
May 24 1886		Established
May 24 1886		Shumaker, Christian C.
Sep 21 1888		Discontinued Papers to Lansing

ROGERS – Continued

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM ROGERS

SCHRAMM

One of the few things that seem certain about this community is that it was the creation of a highly educated German, of noble descent, who quite likely was the black sheep of the family and was booted out of Germany. Historians have given his name as Dr. Raimond von Herron Schramm, Raimond von Harrom Schramm, Raimon von Horum Schramm, and R. von Horman Schramm. Perhaps that is why others simply refer to him as Mr. Schramm.

Reportedly Mr. Schramm came to Yuma from New York via Texas. He is said to have acquired considerable property in Yuma and began construction of a block of buildings. He told people that unless they elected him mayor, he would move his buildings to other property he owned, six miles east of Yuma, and begin his own town. The success of this ultimatum is uncertain. But, Mr. Schramm did own property, did convince the Burlington Railroad to put a siding on the property and did organize the town of Schramm. The new community did not grow to any size and although it possessed a post office for two short periods in the early twentieth century it soon withered away.

Today all that marks the site is a large complex of grain elevators, storage bins and a feed lot on the north side of US Highway 34, six miles east of Yuma.



Grain storage complex at the site of Schramm, Colorado

Photograph by William H. Bauer

September 4, 2000

Chronology of the Post Office

Feb 24 1913	---	SW/4 NW/4 Sec 26 T2N R47W 150 yards south of CB&Q Railroad
Apr 11 1913		Established
Apr 11 1913		Hamilton, James
May 16 1914		Discontinued Mail to Yuma

SCHRAMM – Continued

Mar 30 1922	---	NE/4 Sec 27 T2N R48W 240 feet south of the Burlington RR Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Lillie M. York
Jul 13 1922		Re-established
Jul 13 1922		York, Lillie M.
Jun 16 1924		Bengston, Hilaing W.
Oct 30 1924		Ireland, Pearl E.
Dec 8 1925		Ordered closed
Dec 31 1925		Discontinued Mail to Yuma

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM SCHRAMM

SEEBARSEE

In 1892 the name of the Laird Post Office was changed to Seebarsee. The post office operated under that name until 1899 when the name reverted to Laird. At the same time the post office moved about a mile northwest of the location of the Laird Post Office.

Seebarsee is the phonetic pronunciation of C–C, one of the large early cattle ranches that dominated this area of Eastern Colorado. I have found no reason for the change in name and location. Perhaps it reflects a move to one of the C–C Ranch quarters or a ranch facility along the railroad. The main headquarters of the C–C were about three miles east of the Laird/Seebarsee site.

The location for Seebarsee, provided by the 1892 Post Office Department Geographical Site Location Report, plots on the east side of Yuma County Road PP, a half-mile north of US Highway 34 and on the north side of the Burlington Railroad. In 1996 there was a working farm or ranch at that location.

Road PP is a mile west from the center of Laird.

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 29 1887	---	SE/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W 40 rods north of the Republican River Proposed postmaster - Hanley C. Emmons
Feb 17 1892		Name changed from Laird
Feb 17 1892		Cary, Frederick S.
Mar 23 1892	---	NW/4 Sec 6 T1N R42W On north side of the Republican River One mile west of Rush Creek
May 7 1894		Porter, Isaac S.
Nov 3 1894		Porter, William H.
Aug 27 1897		Wright, Louis T.
Jan 25 1899		Renamed Laird

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 SEEBARSEE / COLO.
CI 10P 28.0

Jul 8 1898

Hstp Not present



SHIELDS

Shields was a rural post office initially located on the Wine Glass Ranch, belonging to Daniel Shields for whom the post office was named. The 1886 Geographic Site Location Report requested the name of the post office to be Birmingham. That was rejected, as there was already a Birmingham Post Office in Huerfano County. The ranch site is on the Arickaree River and was on the wagon road, which paralleled the river.

The Shields Post Office operated at this location for three and half years and was then discontinued. Within a month after discontinuance the Shields Post Office was reopened, but at a new location about four miles to the northeast but still on the Arickaree River. The term “ranch post office” is appropriate for both of these locations as they are in sparsely settled country that is best suited for livestock. There is some farming but it requires irrigation from deep wells.

The original site of Shields is best reached by driving three miles west on US 36 from Idalia on US Highway 36 to County Road AA. Turn north and go about five miles to the bridge over the Arickaree River. The river bottom is irrigated and there is a ranch house and associated buildings on the north side of the river and the west side of the road. In 1996 this was the Mullen Ranch and is at the stated location for the Shields Post Office in 1887.

Two miles east of Idalia, US Highway 36 intersects US 385 and turns north for three miles where US 36 again turns east and departs from US 385. At that turn Yuma County Road 12 goes to the west. Drive west two miles to County Road DD and turn north. It is five and a half miles north on Road DD to the bridge over the Arickaree River. The second version of Shields was located south of the river and east of the road. There are no visible remains and the country is rather lonesome ranch land.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 24 1887	---	SW/4 Sec 25 T3S R45W Near the Arickaree River, on the north side [SRM: Filed in Arapahoe County Site Location Reports] Proposed postmaster - Daniel Shields
Aug 6 1887		Established
Aug 6 1887		Shields, Daniel
Aug 24 1889		Discontinued Mail to Idalia
Jul 1 1890	---	NW/4 Sec 9 T3S R44W 3/8 mile south of the Arickaree River Proposed postmaster - Minnie K. Scott
Jul 28 1890		Re-established
Jul 28 1890		Scott, Minnie K.
Oct 1 1891		Cox, William Declined
Sep 27 1894		Miller, Joseph A.
Sep 22 1894		Discontinued Papers to Vernon

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	SHIELDS / COLO.	Mar 16 1893
	CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Not recorded



STEFFENS

Steffens was a rural post office southwest of Yuma and on the east side of the Yuma-Washington County line. John and Marion Steffens claimed a homestead there in 1911. They added a lean-to to their home to accommodate a store and in 1915 a post office. Later the store was acquired by John White who moved it to his place, nearby. The need for rural post offices, such as Steffens, declined as the Rural Free Delivery system expanded in eastern Colorado.

To begin a tour of the several rural post offices south of Yuma, begin in Yuma at the intersection of US Highway 34 and Colorado Highway 59. Drive south eight miles on Colorado 59 to Yuma County Road 30 and turn west. Go west four and one-half miles to County Road A. Two miles south, Road A dead ends at a small, well-kept, active ranch. This fits the described location for Steffens. I was also able to view the area from the south. The above described ranch is the only one in the immediate area of the Steffens location.

From Steffens, return to Road 30 and begin a more difficult journey to the multiple sites of the Hughes Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

May 15 1915 ---	NW/4 Sec 18 T1S R48W 80 rods east of the county boundary Applicant for postmaster - John Steffens
Aug 25 1915	Established
Aug 25 1915	Steffens, John
Jan 18 1917	Kelso, Furness C.
Aug 9 1917	White, Laura E.
Nov 15 1919	Discontinued Mail to Yuma

Confirmed types of postal markings

1 STEFFENS, / COLO. Feb 17 1917
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-24x19mm

**VERNON**

In 1880 Barney Condon homesteaded a site two miles north of present day Vernon. Located at the junction of two wagon roads the place became known as Condon Corners. Mr. Condon operated a small store and apparently a small community began to develop. In 1892 the Condon Post Office was moved to the present site of Vernon.

It is generally accepted that the town was named for a Free Methodist preacher who was a resident before the town was laid out. An elaboration of this story claims that as the townspeople debated a name for their town, John J. Vernon, a Methodist circuit rider stepped into the discussion with a prayer for divine guidance. Inspired by his eloquence, those assembled chose to name the place Vernon.

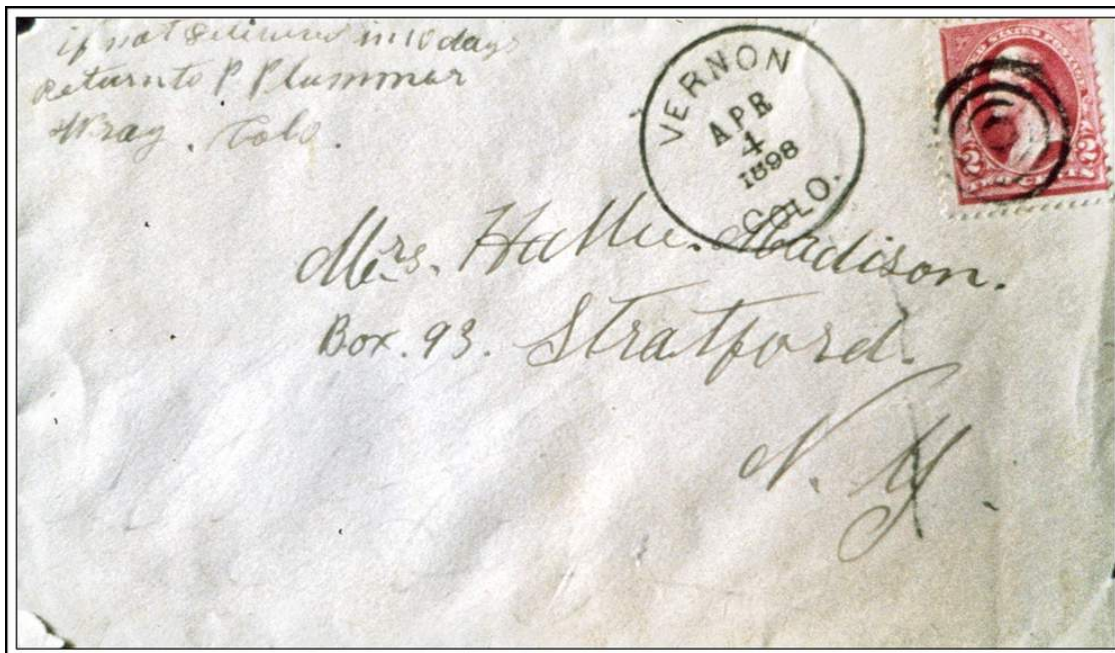
The Vernon townsite was the homestead of Charles Southwell who sold it to Francis Boatman, the first postmaster of Vernon.

VERNON – Continued

I should mention that several historians equate Condon and Vernon as being at the same location. The Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports make it clear that this was not the case. Vernon is some two miles south of the location of Condon.

Vernon grew to be the trading center for a considerable area of central Yuma County between Idalia and Wray. There is still a very active community that includes perhaps two dozen homes, and a combination store and post office.

From Wray, drive south on US Highway 385 to Yuma County Road 26. Turn west on Road 26 and it is four miles to Vernon.



VERNON / COLO.

April 4, 1898

Chronology of the Post Office

May 23 1892	Post office moved from Condon	
May 23 1892	Boatman, Francis M.	
Jul 6 1892	---	NW/4 Sec 28 T1S R 44W 1 mile north of Black Wolf Creek
Aug 17 1895	Miller, Joseph A.	
Jul 28 1898	Gunn, John R.	Rescinded ?
Jun 16 1906	Adaline Bennett	
Nov 7 1906	Wakefield, Andrew J.	
Jan 26 1911	Musselman, Henry W.	
Nov 6 1913	Allison, Harry S.	
Sep 21 1922	Roberts, Ola	
Dec 2 1925	Chapman, Mrs. Mae	Acting
Jun 9 1926	Chapman, William L.	Acting
Jun 24 1926	Chapman, William L.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1926	Chapman, William L.	Assumed charge
May 2 1935	Chapman, Miss Vera L.	Assumed charge
May 28 1935	Chapman, Miss Vera L.	Acting
Dec 4 1935	Chapman, Miss Vera L.	Confirmed
Jan 3 1936	Chapman, Miss Vera L.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941	---	NW/4 NW/4 Sec 28 T1S R44W

VERNON – Continued

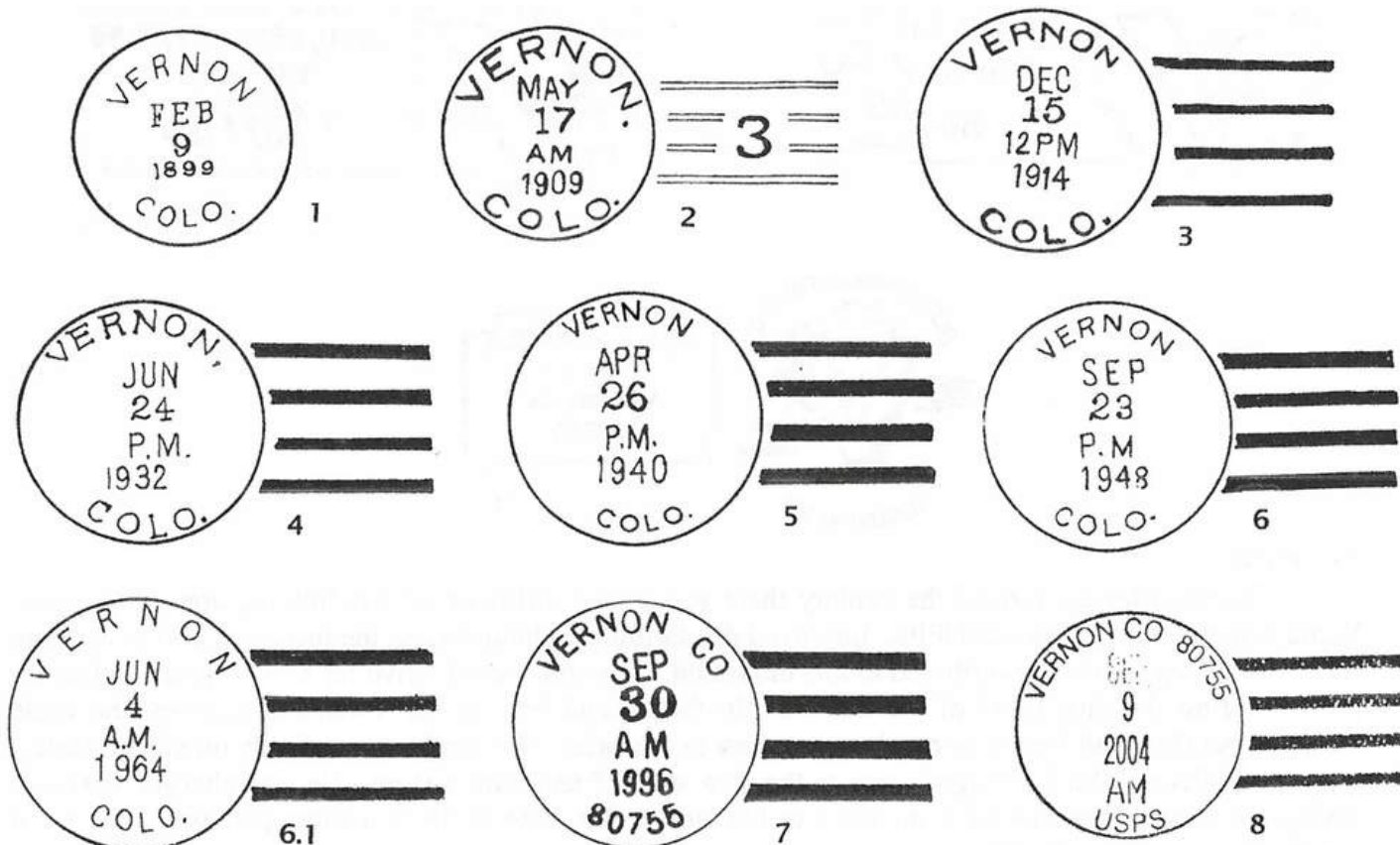
Sep 23 1943	---	NW/4 Sec 28 T1S R44W	A move 150 feet east of a previous location
Sep 1 1944		Wheatley, Fern L.	Assumed charge
Sep 22 1944		Wheatley, Fern L.	Acting
May 18 1945		Wheatley, Fern L.	Confirmed
Jun 25 1945		Wheatley, Fern L.	Commissioned
Aug 17 1945	---	Sec 28 T1S R44W	A move west of a previous location
May 10 1952		DeVore, Mrs. Blanche I.	Assumed charge
May 22 1952		DeVore, Mrs. Blanche I.	Acting
Jun 12 1952		DeVore, Mrs. Blanche I.	Appointed
Jun 25 1952		DeVore, Mrs. Blanche I.	Commissioned
Jun 30 1952		DeVore, Mrs. Blanche I.	Possession

Confirmed types of postal markings

- | | | |
|---|--------------------------------|---|
| 1 | VERNON / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5 | Apr 4 1898 Feb 9 1899
Hstp Target, 4 ring 18mm |
| 2 | VERNON, / COLO.
CI 10P 28.5 | Sep 19 1905 Feb 23 1910
Doane Type 2 with 3, S-25x13mm |
| 3 | VERNON / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Jan 3 1913 Dec 15 1914
4bars S-24x19mm |
| 4 | VERNON. / COLO.
CI 10P 32.0 | Mar 3 1931 Aug 26 1936
4bars S-25x20mm |
| 5 | VERNON / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | Apr 9 1935 Aug 25 1944
4bars S-23x19mm |
| 6 | VERNON / COLO.
CI 10P 33.0 | Jun 16 1947 Feb 18 1960
4bars S-23x19mm |

6.0.1 **VERNON, / COLO.**
RC 10P 35.0x17.5 Hstp

1950s
No killer, Parcel Post Box style
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]



VERNON – Continued

6.1	VERNON / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Jun 4 1964
7	VERNON, CO / 80755 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-24x20mm	May 15 1968 Sep 30 1996
8	VERNON CO 80755 / USPS CI 10P 30.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Jul 31 2001 Sep 9 2004

PONY EXPRESS MAIL STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Aug 16 2003	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Aug 21 2004	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
Aug 20 2005	Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Vernon, CO / 80755 // Pony Express / Mail Station IR 00R 75.0x33.0	Aug 16 2003 Pict Scene - Pony Express rider in large "V" with text surround; Text - OLDE TYME SATURDAY / Making Do on the Home Front
2	VERNON, CO / 80755 // PONY EXPRESS / MAIL RELAY STATION IR 00R 75.0x34.0	Aug 21 2004 Pict Scene - Cabin and "V" encircled by text; Text - OLDE TYME SATURDAY / Making Do on the Home Front
3	Vernon, CO / 80755 // PONY EXPRESS / Mail Station IR 00R 68.0x34.0	Aug 20 2005 Pict Scene - Pony Arrowhead in large "V", feathers; Text - OLDE TYME SATURDAY / NATURE / MOVES / ACROSS / THE PLAINS // VERNON, / COLORADO



WAGES

Shortly after the turn of the century there was a new influx of settlers into the area of northern Yuma County, west of the sand hills. Improved dry farming techniques and the increased ability to pump water from deep aquifers contributed to this migration. The area would thrive for several years but suffer greatly during the dust bowl of the 1930's. In the second half of the twentieth century the cycle repeated but the small farmer or rancher gave way to operations that could succeed only on a large scale.

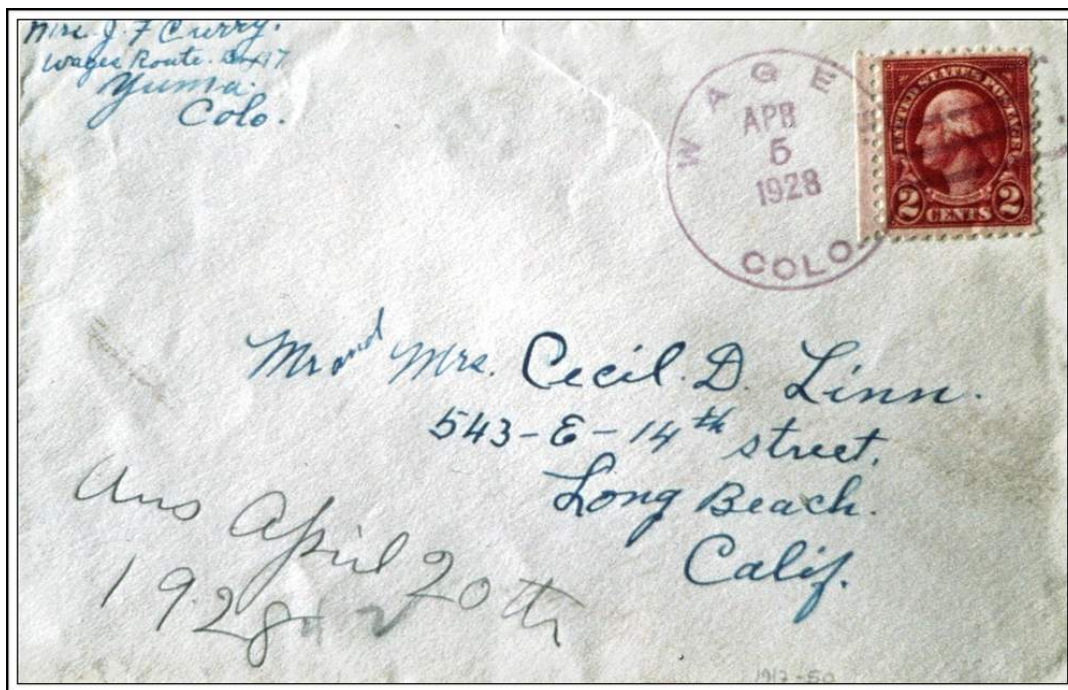
Middleton (Mid) Wages came to the area in 1917 and built a store. He was also successful in having the post office moved from Ford to his store. On June 5, 1920 a town plat was filed for a community to be name Wages.

Wages progressed as a small community that was capable of providing some services to the surrounding farms and ranches. The town survived beyond 1950 but the post office closed in 1954 and the town has disappeared from the map.

There are two ways to reach the site of Wages. The first, and more complex, has been partially detailed in the discussion of Arlene. To complete those directions, from the intersection of Yuma County Roads Y and 59, drive west on Road 59 three miles to Road V and turn south one mile to the site of Wages.

The second route is initially via Colorado Highway 59. From the north, and one mile south of the Yuma-Phillips County line, turn east on County Road 59 and go east nine miles to Road V and then south one mile to Wages. From the south, drive north to County Road 59. The only building left at Wages (1996) was the Wages United Methodist Church. The building was in good repair and appeared to be still in use.

Ford was the next stop on my itinerary in this portion of Yuma County.



WAGES, / COLO.

April 5, 1928

WAGES – Continued

Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 23 1917 ---	SE/4 Sec 11 T5N R46W A move 4-3/4 Miles from a previous location The old site, Ford, Colo, 1 mile south and 5 miles west Signed by Middleton Wages, Appointee	
Mar 31 1917	Post office moved from Ford	
Mar 31 1917	Wages, Middleton	
Feb 21 1918	Robinson, Harry E.	
May 1 1920	Mills, Horace G.	
Oct 29 1923	Parsons, Milton C.	
Jan 28 1925	Williams, Sarah E.	Acting
May 2 1925	Williams, Sarah E.	Confirmed
May 20 1925	Williams, Sarah E.	Commissioned
Nov 4 1936	Larsen, Mrs. Nell	Assumed charge
Nov 30 1936	Larsen, Mrs. Nell	Acting
Dec 16 1936	Larsen, Mrs. Nell	Confirmed
Feb 1 1937	Larsen, Mrs. Nell	Commissioned
Oct 31 1941 ---	SE/4 Sec 11 T5N R46W	
Dec 18 1946	Woolery, Wayne R.	Assumed charge
Feb 11 1947	Woolery, Wayne R.	Confirmed
Mar 31 1947	Woolery, Wayne R.	Commissioned
Jan 16 1949	Schmidt, Mrs. Grandthys A.	Assumed charge
Feb 15 1949	Schmidt, Mrs. Grandthys A.	Acting
Mar 17 1949	Schmidt, Mrs. Grandthys A.	Confirmed
Apr 6 1949	Schmidt, Mrs. Grandthys A.	Commissioned
Apr 28 1950	Ordered closed	
May 31 1950	Discontinued Mail to Holyoke	

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	WAGES, / COLO. CI 10P 31.5	4bars S-22x14mm	Oct 16 1917 Jan 27 1931
2	WAGES, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Apr 2 1931 Sep 7 1942
3	WAGES, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Jan 7 1936 Jan 7 1942
4	WAGES / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Dec 3 1945 May 31 1950



WALES

Very little has been reported about the settlement and rural post office named Wales. The establishment is attributed to John F. Wales who was the one and only postmaster and for whom the post office was named. Today the area is nearly level farmland.

From the site of Mildred, drive north on County Road U to County Road 20 and then east seven miles to County Road BB. Go north five miles on Road BB. This will place you one mile south of Road 26 on which the Happyville and Heartstrong sites are located and the road which also goes east into Vernon.

The area is developed farmland and there are developed farm complexes both north and south of what was the site of Wales. The only structure at the stated location, on the east side of Road BB, is a small electrical substation.

From the site of Wales go north one mile to Road 26, then one mile east to the town of Vernon.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jan 15 1887	---	SW/4 Sec 29 T1S R44W	
		Proposed postmaster - John F. Wales	
Aug 6 1887		Established	
Aug 6 1887		Wales, John F.	
Sep 21 1888		Discontinued Mail to Condon	

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WALES

WITHERBEE

Witherbee was a rural post office in the extreme northeastern corner of Yuma County, only two miles west of the Colorado-Nebraska State line. Farming and ranching are the activities in this area of Eastern Colorado.

One source claims that the post office was named after, "John Witherbee who obtained and ran the post office." However, John Witherbee's name does not appear in the Post Office Department Records of Postmaster Appointments.

The Site Location Reports provide two locations for the Witherbee Post Office. To reach these sites, drive south on US 385 from the Yuma-Phillips County line to Yuma County Road 54, a little more than six miles. Turn east and go nine and one-half miles to County Road QQ. Turn north one mile to the 1914 site of Witherbee. The location was in the quarter section east of Road QQ. That area is grazing land but there is a ranch or farm some distance east of the road.

Continue north another mile to the intersection with County Road 56. The 1911 site of Witherbee was in the southwest quadrant of this intersection. This too is open grazing land with only a windmill and a shed in the distance.

A 1916 location for Witherbee has been reported in the SE/4 section 16, Township 43 West, Range 5 North. This location is about four miles west-northwest of the 1911 location but it does not appear in the Site Location Reports, and there is no direct access to the location.

From Witherbee, return to Road 54 and go to the locations of the Alvin Post Office.

Chronology of the Post Office

Nov 1 1911	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T5N R43W	
		Proposed postmaster - Olive Elliott	
May 28 1912		Established	
May 28 1912		Elliott, Olive	Declined
Oct 1 1912		Williams, John	

WITHERBEE – Continued

Jun 1 1914 --- NW/4 Sec 31 T5N R42W
Aug 31 1918 Discontinued Mail to Alvin

Confirmed types of postal markings

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM WITHERBEE

WRAY

A post office was first established at Wray in 1882. This was soon after construction of the Burlington Railroad and reflects the importance of a railroad station at that location. The station would have provided a shipping point for cattle from the large ranches in the area.

Wycliffe Newell and Laffey Gilmore first planned the town of Wray in 1886. On July 31, 1886 the C-C (See-Bar-See) Land and Cattle Company filed a plat for the town. Another plat of the town was surveyed by Anselm B. Smith and was filed October 7, 1886 on behalf of the Lincoln Land Company, a subsidiary of the Burlington Railroad. I observe that in the Records of Postmaster Appointments Mr. Newell's name is spelled Wickliff.

Most historians ascribe the name of Wray to John Wray, a foreman for the I. P. "Print" Olive ranching interests. However, a 1961 biography of cattleman I. P. Olive traces the name to John Wray's older brother James Thomas Wray who worked for the ranch in the mid-1870's.

Wray was at first a small station on the Burlington Railroad and almost entirely dependent on the surrounding cattle ranches for its existence. As farming came into more prominence in the area and the large cattle ranches were broken up, Wray expanded, becoming the more significant community in what is now northern Yuma County. By 1902 the original county seat of Yuma was in a period of decline and Wray was able to wrest the county seat from Yuma, and has held that position to the present day.

Wray continues to be an active community, one of the largest in Northeastern Colorado. However, like many of the plains towns it has suffered from the diversion of highway traffic to the Interstate System – I 76 to the north and I 70 to the south. Wray remains a supply and shipping center for the agricultural interests in the northern portion of Yuma County and much of the surrounding territory. The presence of the county seat also helps to keep it going.

Wray is on US Highway 34 at the intersection with US 385, nine miles west of the Colorado-Kansas border. The main portion of the town lies south of US 34.

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 7 1882 --- NE/4 Sec 6 T1N R43W On north side of RR, 30 yards, Wray Station
Proposed postmaster - Joseph Masters [SRM: Signature is clearly Masters]
Jun 26 1882 Established
Jun 26 1882 Master, Joseph [SRM: Online version of *Appts.* lists Master]
Apr 9 1883 Discontinued Papers to Denver (why so far ??)
May 2 1883 Re-established
May 2 1883 Griffen, John A.
Apr 3 1886 --- SW/4 Sec 6 T1N R43W A move about 100 yds from the depot where
the office is at present, 200 ft north of Wray Station B&MR RR
Proposed postmaster - Wickliff Newell
May 1 1886 Newell, Wickliff
Feb 19 1887 Hendrie, James S.
Nov 7 1889 Sampson, Julius S.
Jan 31 1890 Hayes, William R.
Dec 7 1893 Boyd, James M.
Sep 14 1897 Robinson, Mary E.
Aug 22 1901 Pickett, Charlie D.
Apr 19 1904 Pickett, Charlie D.

WRAY – Continued

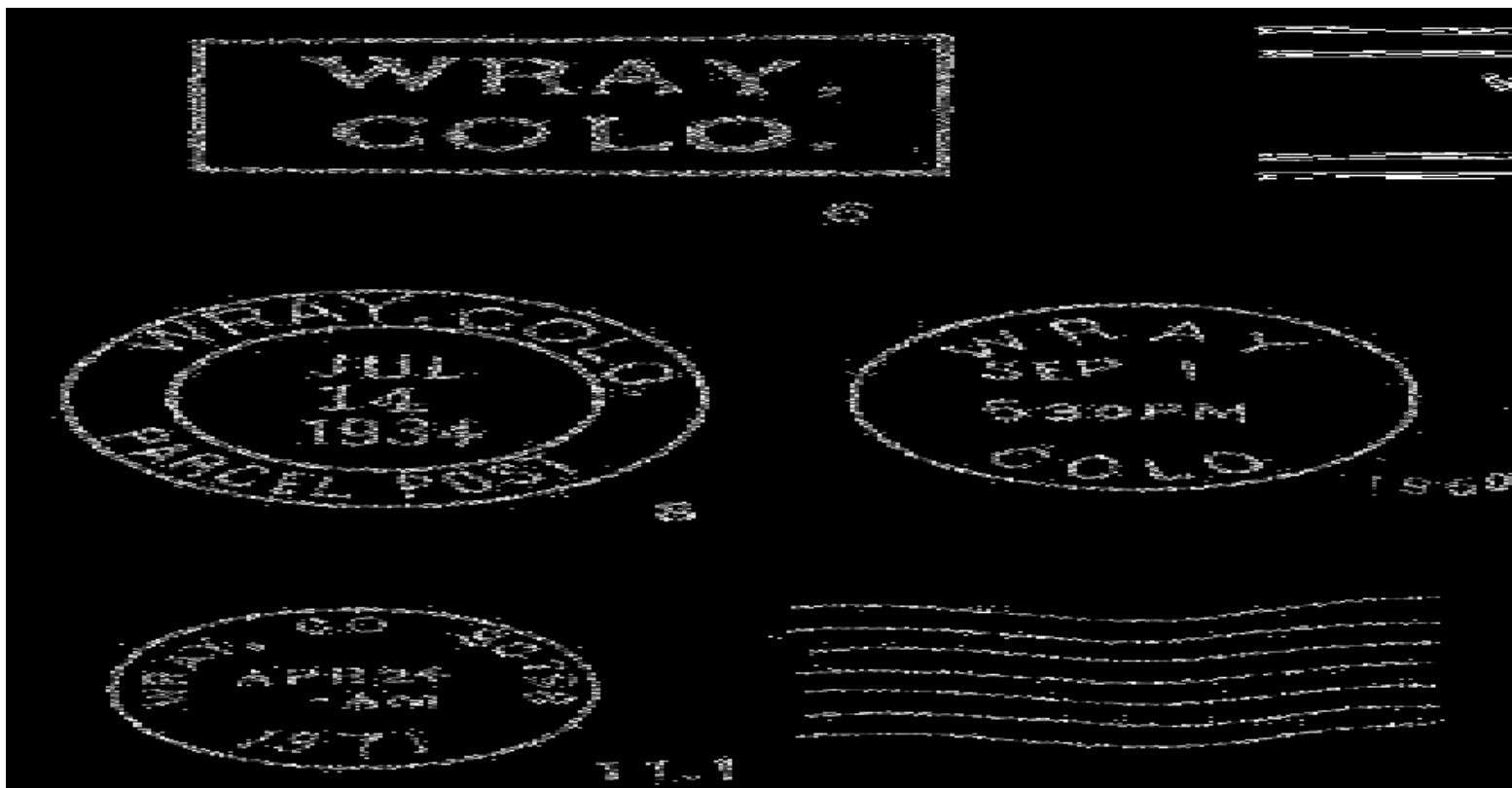
Mar 31 1908	Pickett, Charlie D.	P&S
Feb 20 1912	Pickett, Charlie D.	P&S
Oct 4 1913	Hawks, Lillian A.	P&S
May 18 1914 ---	SW/4 Sec 6 T1N R43W 750 feet south of the Burlington Missouri Railroad	
Jan 27 1919	Robinson, Edward M.	P&S
Jul 13 1920	Jennings, Alfred B.	P
Mar 8 1922	Hultquist, John W.	P&S
Mar 17 1926	Hultquist, John W.	P&S
Nov 17 1927	Miller, Arch J.	Acting
May 25 1928	Miller, Arch J.	Appointed
Sep 30 1928	Vining, Balsie B.	Acting
Jan 9 1929	Vining, Balsie B.	Appointed
Jan 23 1934	Evans, James G.	Nominated
Feb 1 1934	Evans, James G.	Confirmed
Feb 20 1934	Evans, James G.	Commissioned
Apr 5 1938	Evans, James G.	Nominated
Apr 12 1938	Evans, James G.	Appointed & Confirmed
May 11 1938	Evans, James G.	Commissioned
Oct 21 1941 ---	SW/4 Sec 6 T1N R43W (405 Main Street) 590 feet north of the North Fork Republican River	
Jul 13 1942	Evans, James G.	Nominated
Jul 30 1942	Evans, James G.	Confirmed
Jul 31 1942	Evans, James G.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 18 1942	Evans, James G.	Commissioned
Mar 31 1947	Morgan, Ray F.	Acting
Apr 1 1947	Morgan, Ray F.	Assumed charge
Aug 6 1947	Devlin, Timothy C.	Acting
Aug 7 1947	Devlin, Timothy C.	Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949	Devlin, Timothy C.	Nominated
Jun 1 1949	Devlin, Timothy C.	Confirmed
Jun 2 1949	Devlin, Timothy C.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1949	Devlin, Timothy C.	Assumed charge
Jul 31 1952	Tomlinson, Ward A.	Acting
May 31 1953	Williams, Carl F.	Assumed charge
Jun 11 1953	Williams, Carl F.	Acting
May 3 1954	Williams, Carl F.	Nominated
May 24 1954	Williams, Carl F.	Confirmed, Apptd. Presid. & Commissioned
Jun 30 1954	Williams, Carl F.	Assumed charge
Jul 9 1971	Wilson, Robert E.	Officer in charge
Nov 27 1971	Wilson, Robert E.	Appointed & Assumed charge
Feb 3 1978	Wilson, Roland E.	Officer in charge
Nov 4 1978	Rhone, Donald L.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	WRAY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 28 1886 Hstp Target, 3-ring 17mm
2	WRAY / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	May 20 1887 Jun 8 1891 Hstp No killer
3	WRAY / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Dec 6 1894 Apr 12 1899 Hstp Cork, smudge
4	WRAY, COLO. / REC'D CI 10P 28.0	Feb 8 1899 Hstp No killer; [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
5	WRAY / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Aug 28 1907 Dplx Grid, 9 bar oval

WRAY – Continued

- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 6 | WRAY, / COLO.
RC 10P 32.0x18.0 | Jul 14 1934
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box cancel |
| 6.1 | WRAY / COLO.
SL 00R 16.0x8.0 | Jun 17 1928
Rolr 2 straight lines above and below |
| 6.2 | WRAY, / COLO.
RC 10P 39.0x18.5 | 1930s
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 7 | WRAY, / COLO.
CI 10P 21.0 | Jul 5 1929 Dec 19 1962
Mach 7 wavy lines |
| 8 | WRAY, / COLO. / PARCEL POST
CI 11P 29.0/19.0 | Jul 14 1934
Hstp No killer |
| 9 | WRAY / COLO.
CI 10P 25.0 | Jun 17 1928 Apr -- 1959
Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle |
| 10 | Wray / COLO.
RC 10P 36.0x18.0 | --- -- 195-
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post box style cancel |
| 11 | WRAY, CO / 80758
CI 11P 31.0/23.0 | Apr 15 1967
Rolr 6 (?) wavy lines |



WRAY – Continued



11.1	WRAY, CO 80758 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	May 29 1969 Apr 24 1971
12	WRAY, CO / 80758 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Oct 19 1967 Sep 25 1975
12.1	WRAY, CO / 80758 CI 10P 20.0	Mach 6 wavy lines	Mar 5 1976 Jun 22 1990
13	WRAY, CO / 80758 CI 10P 20.5	Mach Slogan in box with bars; WRAY, COLORADO'S / CENTURY OF PROGRESS / 1886 -- 1986	Jul 1 1986
14	WRAY CO / 80758 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x17mm	Apr 20 1993 Sep 17 1993

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 14 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Wray, CO 80758 // Celebrate the Century Station SL 00R 91.0x3.0	Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- / The Life of a Century	Jun 14 2000
---	--	---	-------------



YUMA

On March 19, 1882 the Burlington & Colorado Railroad was completed from the state line to Akron, Colorado. Construction reached the eventual site of Yuma in January or February of that year.

Legend has it that a number of the construction workers were from the Yuma Indian Tribe and that one of them died and was summarily buried near the railroad at what became known as Yuma Switch. Another possibility is that Yuma was the name of one of the teamsters working for the railroad.

There was a water tank and a station at the switch. Fred Weld and Ida P. Aldrich homesteaded quarter sections on opposite sides of the railroad. They combined their properties to form the Yuma Townsite and reportedly they also joined in matrimony. His surname seems to be in doubt. I have read accounts of the history of Yuma that spell it as Weld, Weed or Welch. I also have seen one reference that gives her name as Ida Albert. Early historical records can be confusing and conflicting.

YUMA – Continued

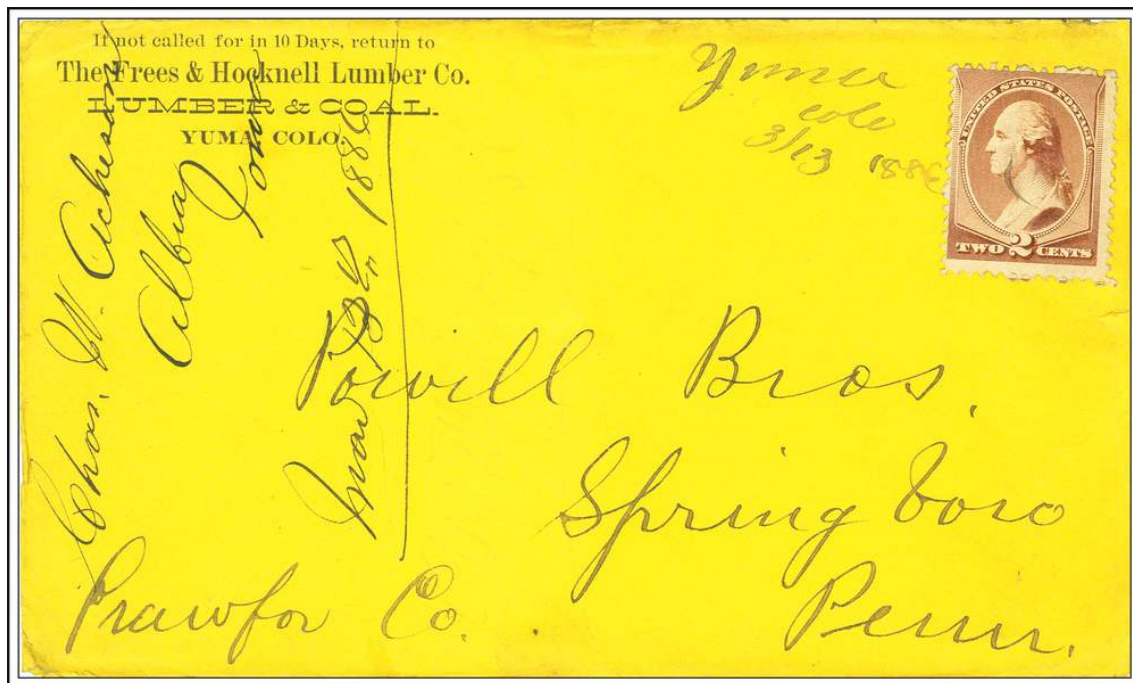
By 1885 homesteading was in full throttle in this portion of Eastern Colorado. A. B. Smith surveyed the townsite for Yuma in December of that year. On February 19, 1887 an election was held on the proposition to incorporate the new town. The measure passed with twenty-two votes for and no opposition. Incorporation was made formal on March 24, 1887.

In 1887 Yuma was nearly destroyed by a fire but it rebuilt and when, on March 15, 1889 the Colorado Legislature authorized the formation of Yuma County, Yuma was designated the county seat.

Yuma is located near the headwaters of the Republican River in a fertile agricultural area suitable for grazing and the growing of wheat, rye and oats. More recently corn, sorghum and sunflower have been added to the agricultural mix. In addition to livestock grazing, Yuma County has become home to several large hog farms.

By 1902 the realities of dry farming had become obvious. The area population was in decline and the town of Yuma was approaching deserted status. At that time the county seat was moved to Wray.

By 1905 agricultural techniques had changed and new methods of dry farming and irrigation from deep wells was again making Eastern Colorado an attractive area for farming. Yuma revitalized, becoming a significant center of supplies for the surrounding farms and ranches and for shipment of produce to market. In the twenty-first century, Yuma still serves well those purposes and is an active community on US Highway 34, four miles due east of the Washington-Yuma County line.



Yuma / Colo

March 13, 1886

Chronology of the Post Office

- Sep 14 1885 --- SE/4 Sec 22 T2N R48W Not to exceed 400 feet south of the Burlington & Missouri River Railroad
Proposed postmaster - Isaac N. Foster
- Nov 24 1885 Established
- Nov 24 1885 Foster, Isaac N.
- Feb 25 1886 --- SE/4 Sec 22 T2N R48W A move 60 rods southwest from the previous location
- Jul 22 1886 Probst, Frederick C.
- Feb 8 1887 Morton, Joseph B.

YUMA – Continued

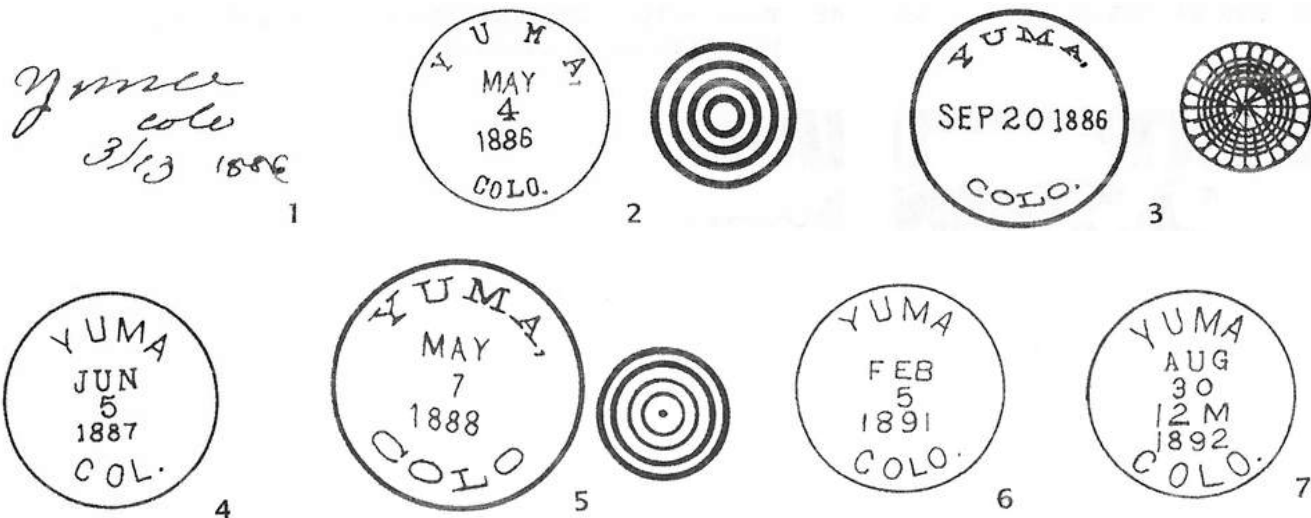
Nov 19 1888	Morton, Joseph B.	P
May 14 1889	Dobler, George W.	P
Dec 19 1889	Dobler, George W.	P&S
Aug 22 1892	Dobler, George W.	P&S
Apr 8 1898	Campbell, William H.	
Jan 27 1909	Frantz, Katherine B.	P&S
Oct 1 1909		Office made Presidential
Jun 17 1913	Russell, Bruce	P&S
May 4 1914 ---	SE/4 Sec 22 T2N R48W 45 rods south of the Burlington Railroad	
Dec 20 1916	McKinney, Harry M.	P&S
Aug 1 1919	Lett, Joynt G.	Acting
Aug 5 1919	Lett, Joynt G.	Appointed
Sep 12 1923	Weekley, Ralph W.	Acting
Dec 18 1923	Weekley, Ralph W.	Appointed
Dec 8 1928	Weekley, Ralph W.	Appointed
Jan 27 1934	Stallings, Oren E.	Nominated
Feb 10 1934	Stallings, Oren E.	Confirmed
Mar 12 1934	Stallings, Oren E.	Commissioned
Mar 21 1938	Stallings, Oren E.	Nominated
Mar 28 1938	Stallings, Oren E.	Confirmed
Apr 1 1938	Stallings, Oren E.	Appointed Presidential
Apr 14 1938	Stallings, Oren E.	Commissioned
Oct 20 1941 ---	E/2 Sec 22 T2N R48W Railroad Station is 633 feet north of post office	
Jul 23 1942	Stallings, Oren E.	Nominated
Aug 25 1942	Stallings, Oren E.	Confirmed
Aug 26 1942	Stallings, Oren E.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 18 1942	Stallings, Oren E.	Commissioned
May 31 1947	Kohlmeier, Paul L.	Acting & Assumed charge
Apr 28 1949	Kohlmeier, Paul L.	Nominated
Jun 1 1949	Kohlmeier, Paul L.	Confirmed
Jun 2 1949	Kohlmeier, Paul L.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jan 6 1961	Wilson, Robert E.	Assumed charge
Jan 10 1961	Wilson, Robert E.	Acting
Feb 24 1961	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Assumed charge
Feb 28 1961	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Acting
Jun 22 1962	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Nominated
Oct 5 1962	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Confirmed
Oct 8 1962	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Appointed Presidential
Oct 15 1962	Grauerholz, Hugh L.	Commissioned
Sep 4 1963	Lambert, Beryl E.	Acting
May 8 1967	Lambert, Beryl E.	Confirmed
May 19 1967	Lambert, Beryl E.	Commissioend
Jan 3 1975	Hartwig, Lowell H.	Officer in charge
Jun 7 1975	VonLoh, Faye W.	Appointed

Confirmed types of postal markings

1	Yuma Colo MS	Jan 31 1886 Mar 13 1886
2	YUMA, / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Mscp Pen cancel Apr 20 1886 Aug 16 1886
3	YUMA, / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Hstp Target, 4 ring 18mm Aug 31 1886 Dec 18 1886
4	YUMA / COL. CI 10P 27.5	Hstp Fancy, wheel of fortune Dec 27 1886 Aug 1 1888
		Hstp Cork, smudge; Target 4-ring 18mm; Fancy, wheel-of-fortune

YUMA – Continued

- | | | |
|-----|------------------------------|---|
| 5 | YUMA, / COLO.
CI 10P 31.5 | May 7 1888 Sep 8 1888
Hstp Target, 4 ring 18mm |
| 6 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Jan 20 1889 May 4 1895
Hstp Cork, smudge, circle of 8 wedges; Target,
4-ring 16mm |
| 7 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 27.0 | Aug 12 1892 May 4 1895
Hstp Cork, irregular double grid, smudge, negative X-roads |
| 7.1 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 27.5 | M-- 29 1899
Hstp Cork, circle of wedges Letters smaller |
| 8 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 29.0 | Oct 20 1900 Jun 8 1912
Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval |



- | | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 9 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 26.0 | Jun 1 1927 Sep 26 1939
Dplx Grid, oval with 1 and circle |
| 9.1 | YUMA, COLO. / REGISTERED
CI 11P 29.0.9.0 | Oct 16 1930
Hstp No killer
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] |
| 10 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 20.5 | Nov 21 1931 Nov 21 1962
Mach 6 wavy lines |
| 11 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 10P 30.0 | Aug 5 1944 May 28 1948
Dplx Grid, diamond with 1 |
| 12 | YUMA / COLO.
RC 10P 37.0x18.0 | --- 194-
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style |
| 13 | Yuma / COLO.
RC 10P 37.0x18.0 | --- 195-
Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box style |
| 14 | YUMA / COLO.
CI 11P 30.0/18.0 | Apr 2 1955
Hstp No killer |

YUMA – Continued

14.1 YUMA / COLO.
RC 10P 37.0x17.0

1950s
Hstp No killer Parcel Post Box style
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]

15 YUMA CO / 80759
CI 10P 31.5

4bars S-23x18mm
May 8 1968

15.1 YUMA, CO / 80759
CI 10P 20.0

Mach 6 wavy lines
May 21 1969 Jul 3 1990

16 YUMA, CO / 80759
CI 10P 32.5

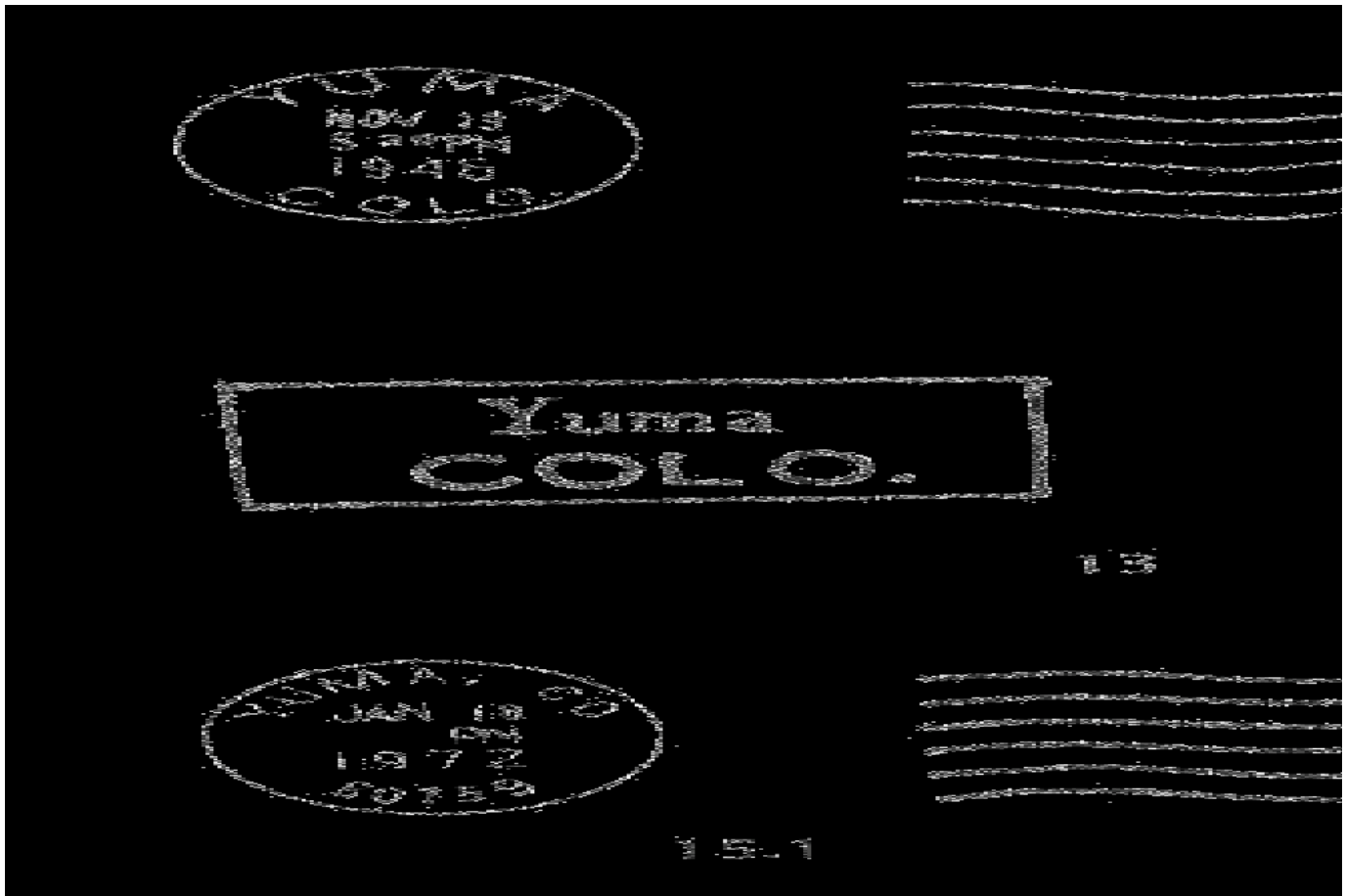
4bars S-24x20mm
Jan 12 1972 Jul 13 1978

17 YUMA, CO / 80759
CI 10P 32.0

4bars S-24x19mm
Apr 14 1993

18 YUMA, CO / USPS 80759
CI 10P 36.0

Hstp No killer
Mar 9 1995 Mar 13 2001



17



18

YUMA STATIONS

CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 6 2000 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 Yuma, CO 80759 // Celebrate the Century Station Jun 6 2000**
SL 00R 88.0x3.0 Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /
The Life of a Century



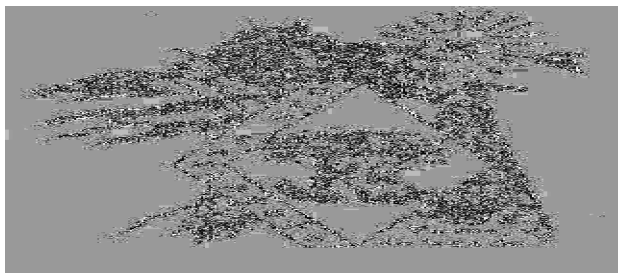
OLD THRESHER DAYS STATION

Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 10 2005 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

Confirmed types of postal markings

- 1 YUMA CO 80759 / OLD THRESHER DAYS / STATION Sep 10 2005**
IR 00R 74.0x31.0 Pict Scene - Agricultural symbols and very small
"OLD THRESHER /Yuma, Colorado;
Text - 25TH ANNIVERSARY



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- CROFUTT, George A. *Crofutt's Gripsack Guide of Colorado*, 1885; Overland Publishing Co.; Omaha, Nebraska; Reprint: Cubar Associates; 1966; Golden, Colorado; 266pp; illus.; maps
- DAWSON, J. Frank *Place Names in Colorado*; 1954; J. Frank Dawson Publishing Co.; Denver, Colorado; 52pp
- EBERHART, Perry *Ghosts of the Colorado Plains*; 1986; Swallow Press; Athens, Ohio; 253pp; illus.; maps
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- NESTOR, Sandy *Indian Place Names in America (Volume 1: Cities, Towns and Villages)*; 2003; McFarland & Company, Inc.; Jefferson, North Carolina; 240pp
- SEEDORF, Sylvia, MEKELBURG, Loretta and STALLINGS, Fern *Action on the Plains*; 1981; Pioneer Printing; Yuma, Colorado; 194pp; illus.; maps
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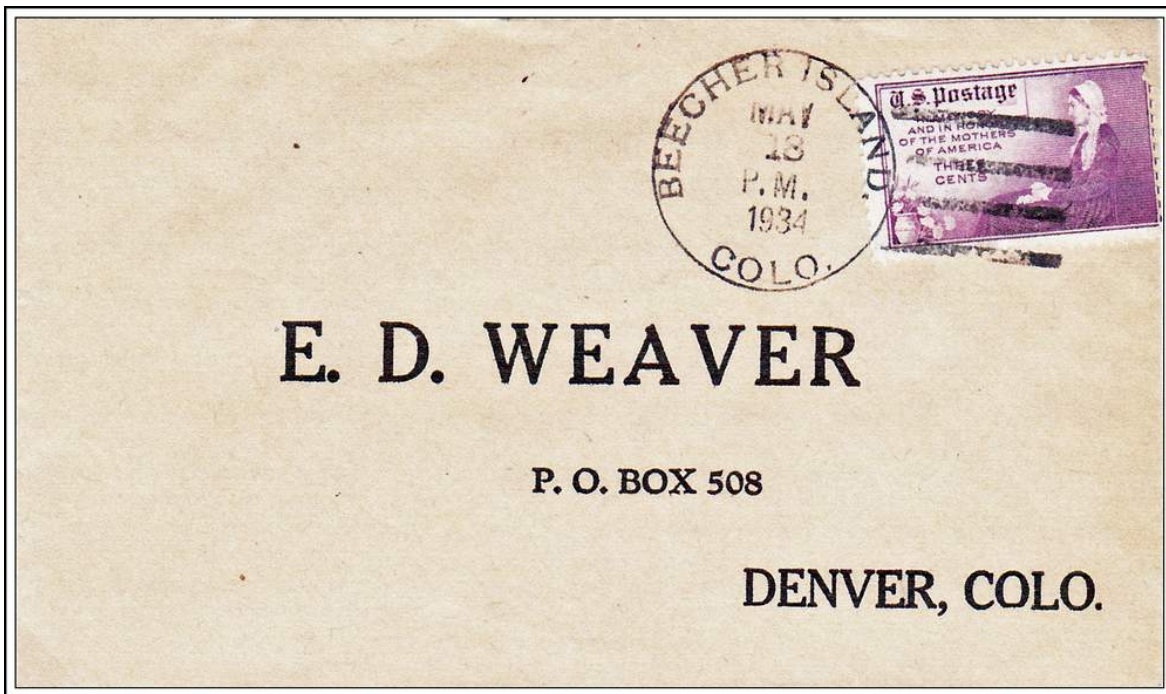
REFERENCES – COLORADO MAGAZINE

- HAFEN, LeRoy R. *Colorado Cities - Their Founding and the Origin of Their Names*; September 1932, Vol. 9, No. 5, pp170-183
- ROCK, Kenneth W. "*Unsere Leute*": *The Germans from Russia in Colorado*; Spring 1977, Vol. 54, No. 2, pp155-183, illus.
- SLATER, Helen *Yuma*; April 1928, Vol. 5, No. 2, pp60-63
Place Names in Colorado [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]
Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20

GEOGRAPHIC SITE LOCATION REPORTS OF THE POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT

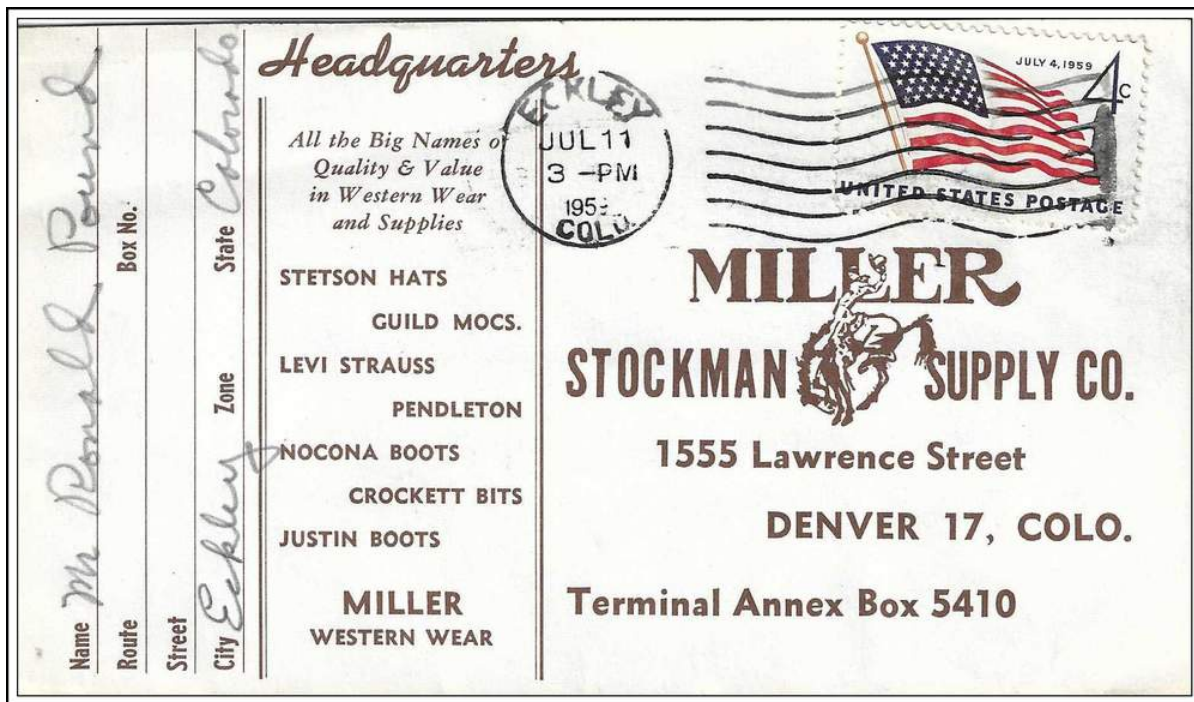
These are documents filed with applications for the approval of a new post office, at the time of a move of a post office and upon periodic requests of the Post Office Department. The documents may include a detailed location using the Federal Land Survey System, references of distance to local streams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

A GALLERY OF YUMA COUNTY COVERS



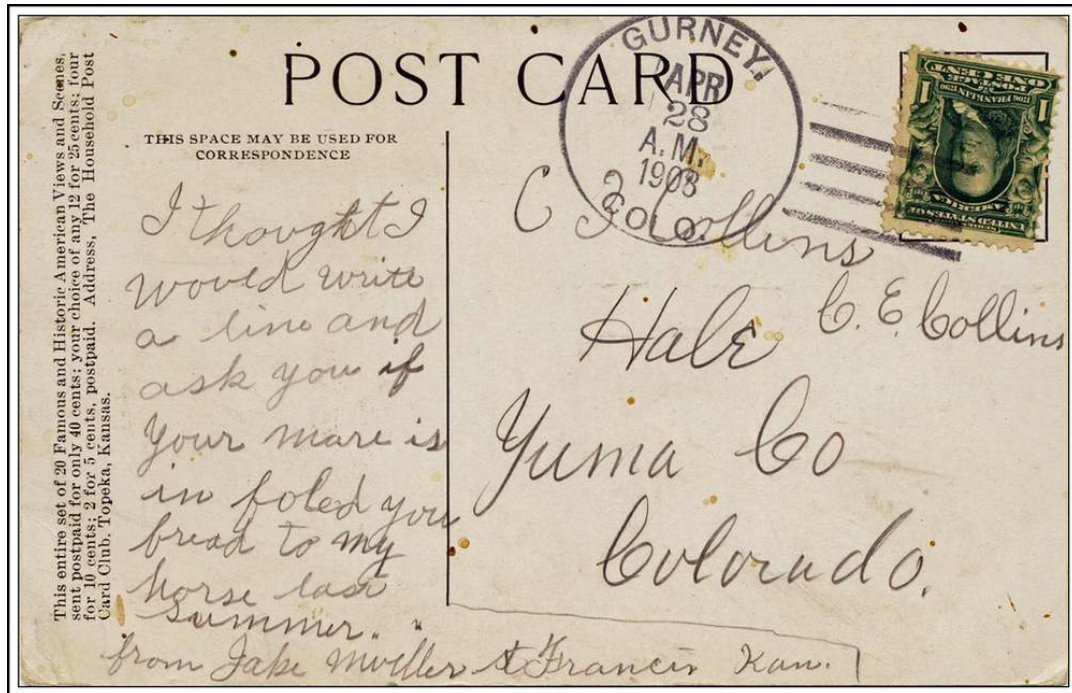
BEECHER ISLAND, / COLO.

May 18, 1934



ECKLEY / COLO.

July 11, 1959



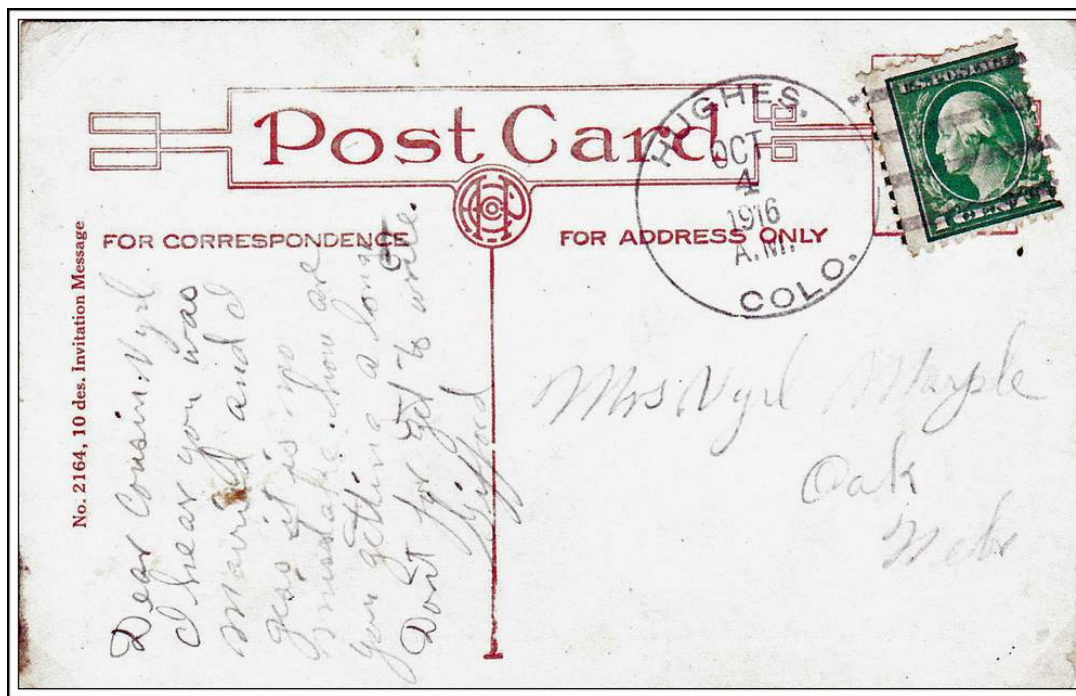
GURNEY, / COLO.

April 28, 1908



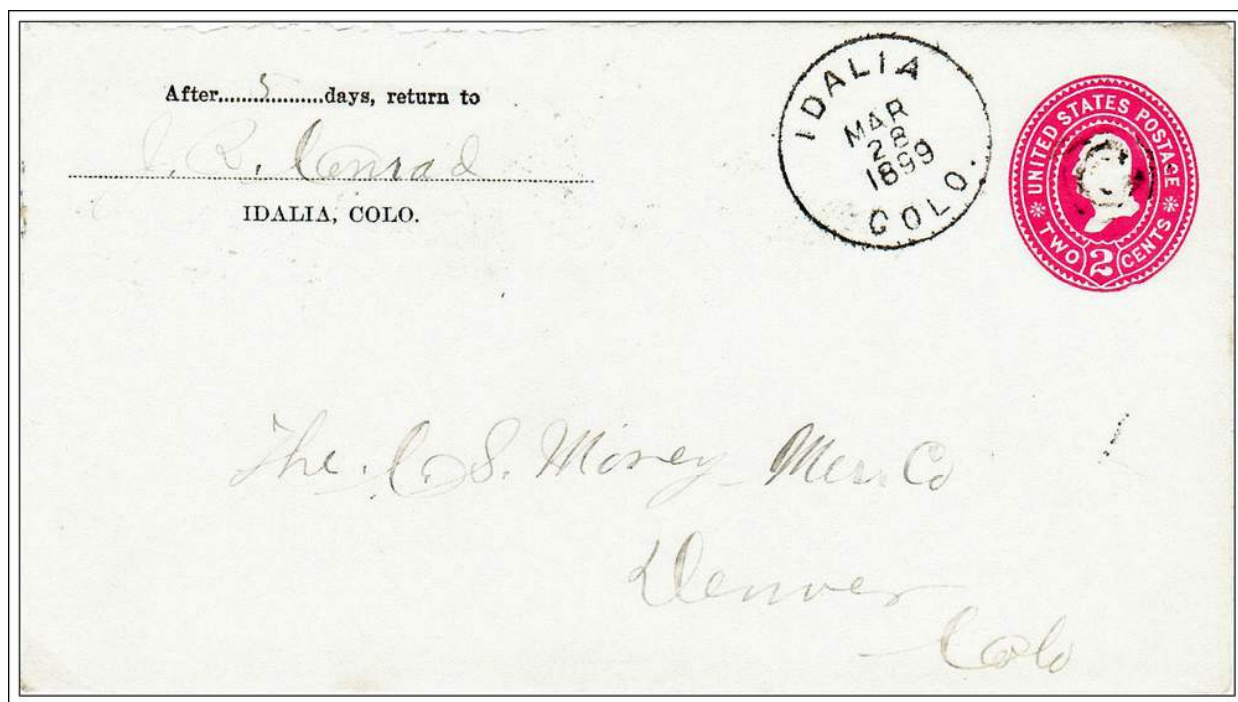
HAPPYVILLE, / COLO.

Mar 29, 1911



HUGHES, / COLO.

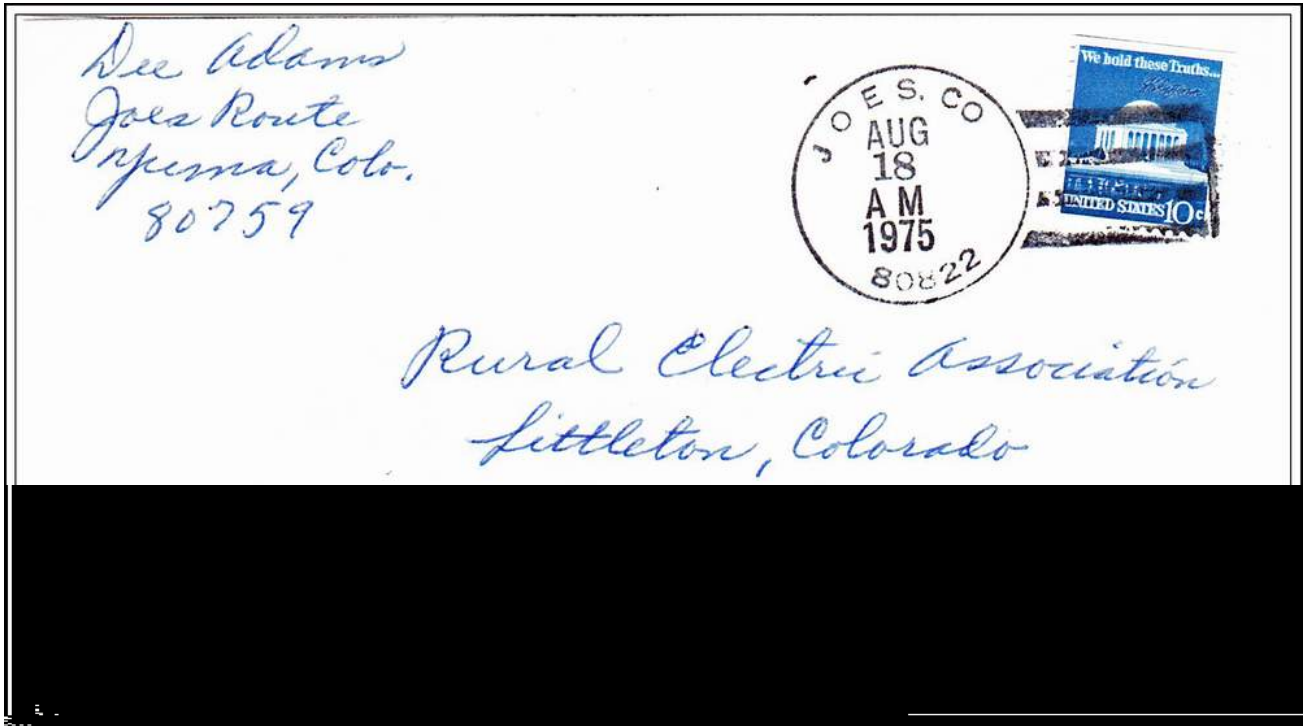
October 4, 1916



IDALIA / COLO.

March 28, 1899

Front Only



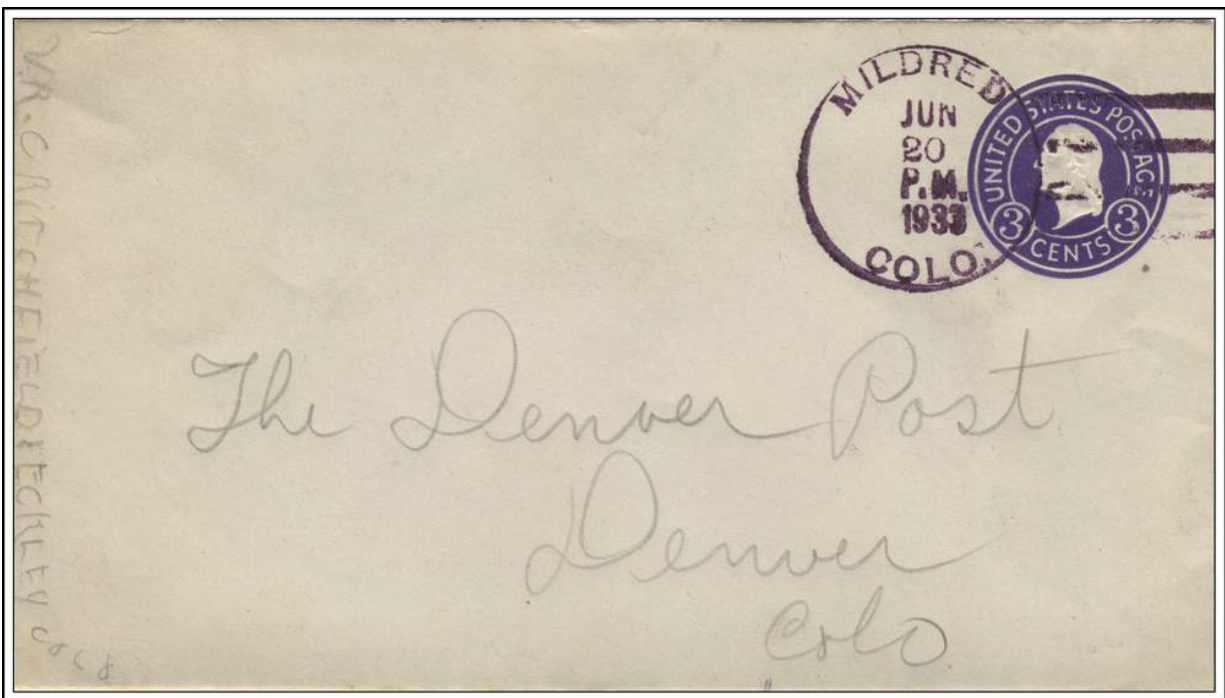
JOES, CO / 80822

August 18, 1975



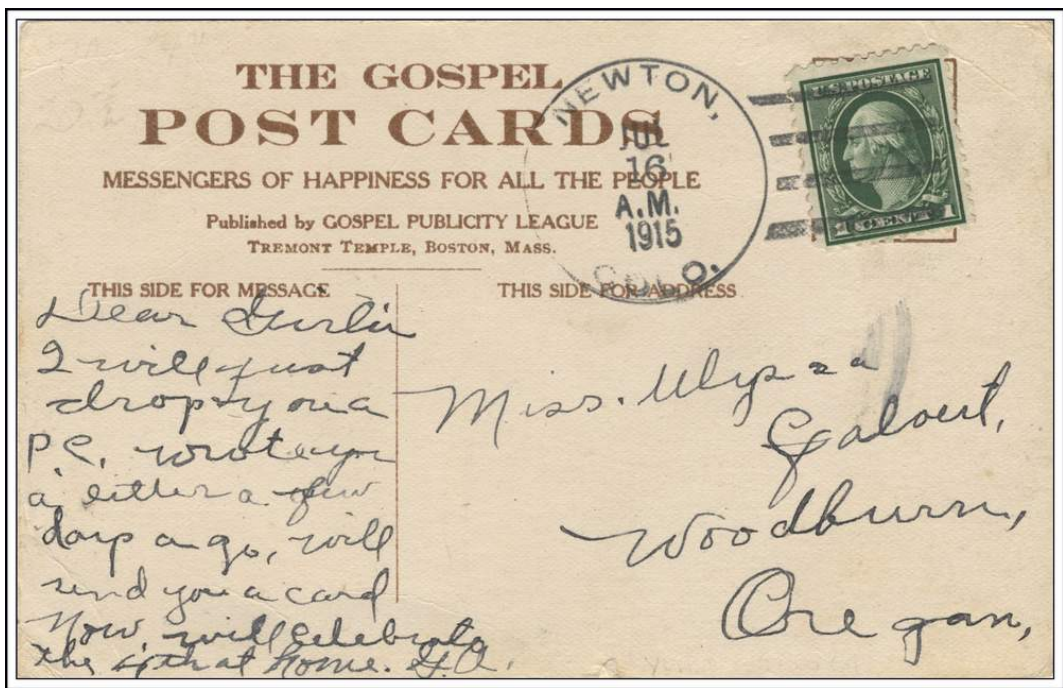
LUDLUM / COLO.

August 23, 1890



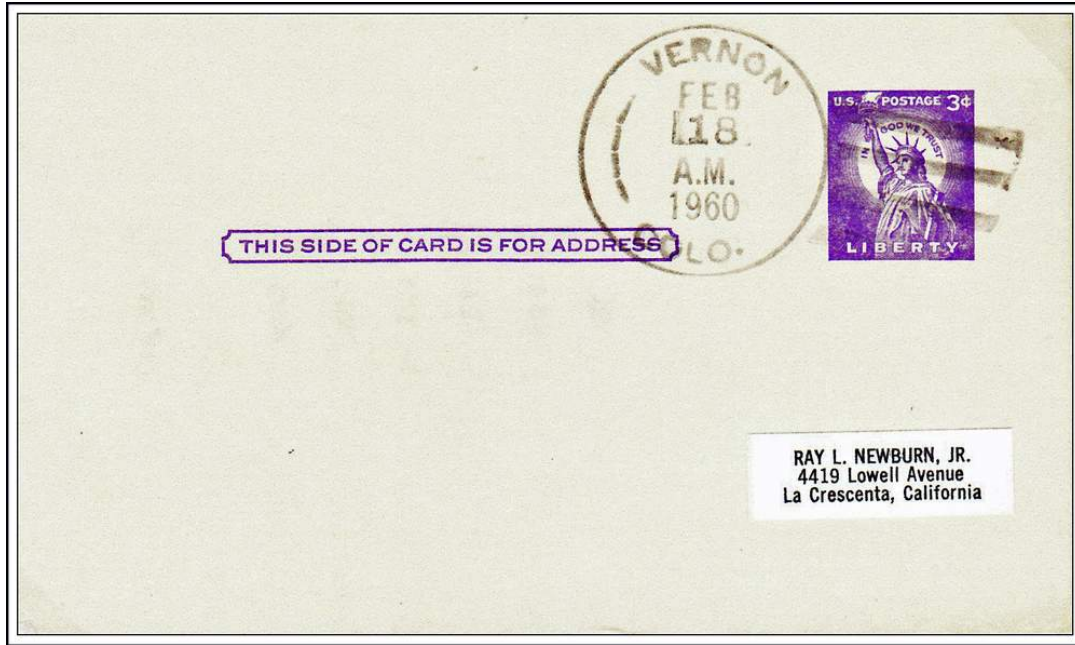
MILDRED / COLO.

June 20, 1933



NEWTON, / COLO.

July 16, 1915



VERNON / COLO.

February 18, 1960



YUMA, / COLO.

December 18, 1886