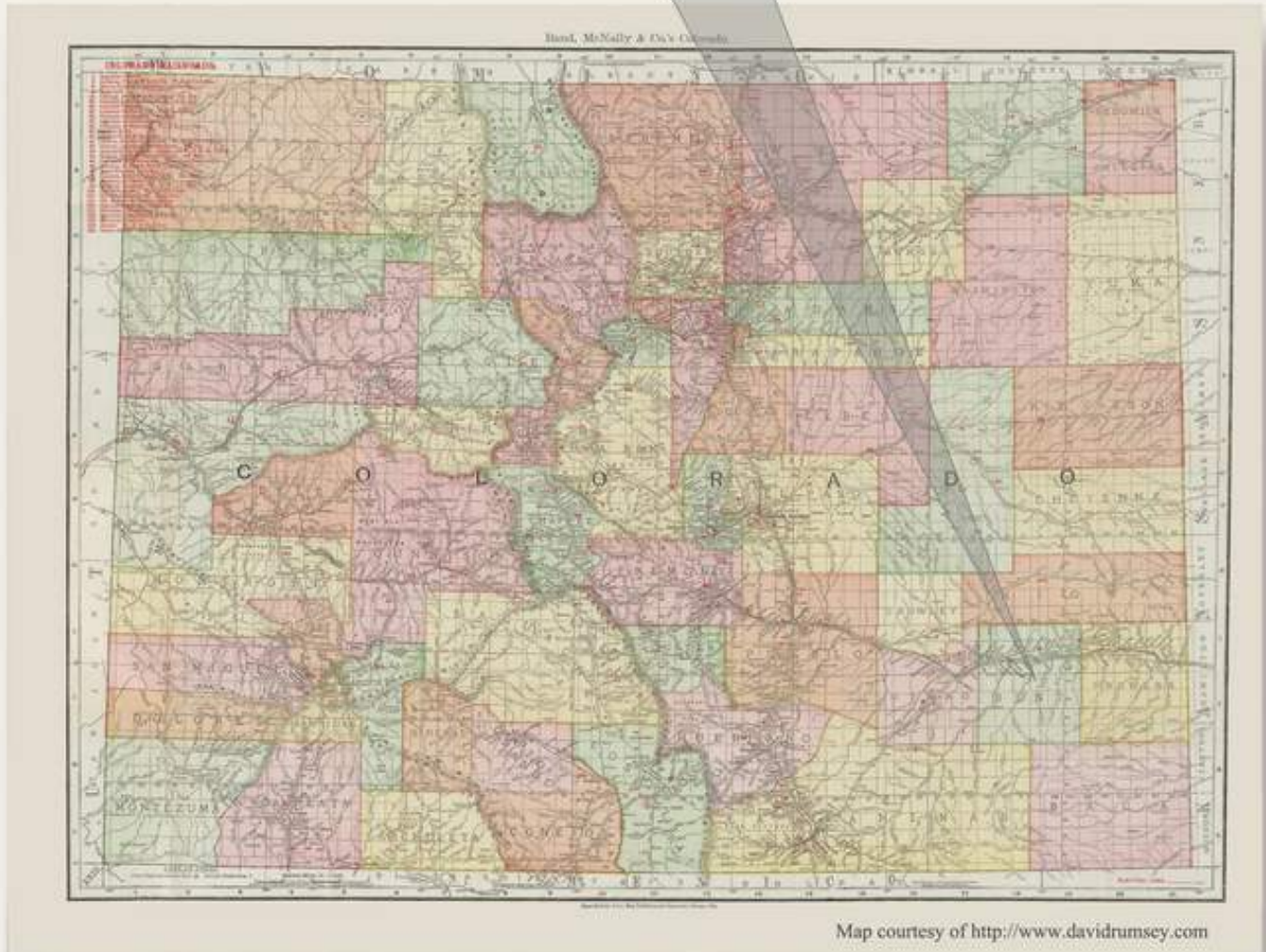


# Bent County



*Established: February 11, 1870*

*County Seat: Las Animas*

## **BENT COUNTY**

By William H. Bauer

Bent County is located in east central Colorado and straddles the Arkansas River. Approximately two-thirds of the county lies south of the river, however the population of the county is concentrated along the river. The area is drained by a number of seasonal streams that flow either north or south to the Arkansas River. At Las Animas, the Arkansas is joined from the southwest by a major tributary, the Purgatoire River whose headwaters are in the Sangre de Cristo Mountains of western Las Animas County.

Present day Bent County is rectangular in shape; 36 miles east to west and 42 miles north to south. The county has been much larger, at one time including a large portion of southeastern Colorado.

Bent County was created February 11, 1870 by an act of the Colorado Territorial Legislature. It was carved from portions of the original Huerfano County and an Indian Reserve that lay to the north of the Arkansas River. At the time Bent County was organized, much of the rest of the Indian Reserve was designated as Greenwood County with Kit Carson as its county seat. On February 2, 1874 the northern portion of Greenwood County was included in the new Elbert County and the remainder was added to Bent County. At that point in time, Bent County stretched from the eastern boundary of Pueblo County to the Kansas border and included portions of modern day Lincoln, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers, Otero and Crowley Counties.

Bent County was reduced to its present boundaries in 1889 with the creation of Lincoln, Cheyenne, Kiowa, Prowers and Otero Counties. Today, Bent County is bounded on the North by Kiowa County, on the east by Prowers County, on the south by Baca and Las Animas Counties and on the west by Otero County.

The Bent County seat has moved several times. Initially it was at Las Animas (Old Las Animas), however that was apparently for a few months at most, likely until an election was held. The county seat was then situated at Fort Lyon on the north side of the Arkansas River until 1874 when it again moved south of the river to Boggsville. It remained at Boggsville for a period, by 1876 it was located at West Las Animas, which in due course became present day Las Animas and at last the county seat had found a permanent home.

The Arkansas River has been the dominant factor in the settlement of Bent County. In the early 1830's William and Charles Bent built their famous fur trading post on the north side of the Arkansas River, a few miles east of present day La Junta (Otero County). The post was in operation by 1835 and perhaps as early as 1833. In the 1840's the Bents grew tired of haggling with the U. S. Army over its acquisition of the post, destroyed their fort and moved down river to the area known as "Big Timbers." They built a new trading post, which eventually was acquired by the army, first named Fort Wise, then Fort Lyon.

In addition to its trading activities, Bent's Fort served as a rest and re-supply point for travelers on the Santa Fe Trail. In 1859 the commencement of the Colorado gold rush greatly increased travel along the Arkansas River. But in spite of its lengthy existence there was no official postal facility at Bent's Fort until 1863. That post office was at the original location where the Barlow and Sanderson Express Company had established a station.

Railroads have been important to Bent County. In 1873, the Arkansas Valley Railroad was built southwest from Kit Carson to West Las Animas. It lasted only four years. By 1875 the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe [AT&SF] had built along the south side of the Arkansas River and chosen West Las Animas as a principal station between Lamar and La Junta. The Santa Fe continues to operate carrying freight and Amtrak passenger service.

During the early twentieth century the AT&SF added two major branch lines, one along the north side of the Arkansas River from Swink east to Holly and the other from Las Animas south to Springfield. The Swink to Holly line is abandoned but there is still occasional traffic on the line to Springfield.

The Arkansas Valley remains the principal route of travel through Bent County. US-50 enters from Prowers County and stays north of the river to where it crosses the river south to Las Animas. From there it continues west to La Junta and beyond. Colorado 109 on its way to Kim in Las Animas County crosses the extreme southwestern tip of the county. Colorado 101 runs south from Las Animas to Pritchett in Baca County north of the river, Colorado 194 and 196 parallel the river and in part merge with US-50. There is also a paved road north from Fort Lyon to Haswell in Kiowa County. Other than those highways, the county roads—mostly unpaved—are the means of travel. Away from the Arkansas Valley they are wide spaced and often end abruptly at a remote ranch.

The Arkansas River dominates the topography of Bent County. The wide valley is irrigated and heavily farmed. As the countryside rises away from the valley it transforms into rolling hills used primarily as grazing land for cattle and sheep. There are scattered farms raising wheat, hay and other crops.

The towns of Bent County have been almost exclusively based on providing supplies and services to the farms and ranches and most were located in the river valley. Today only Las Animas, Hasty and McClave retain their post offices and provide other services to the inhabitants of Bent County.

The construction of the John Martin Dam and Reservoir in the 1930's, created a recreational resource in Bent County and has contributed to the survival of the community of Hasty.

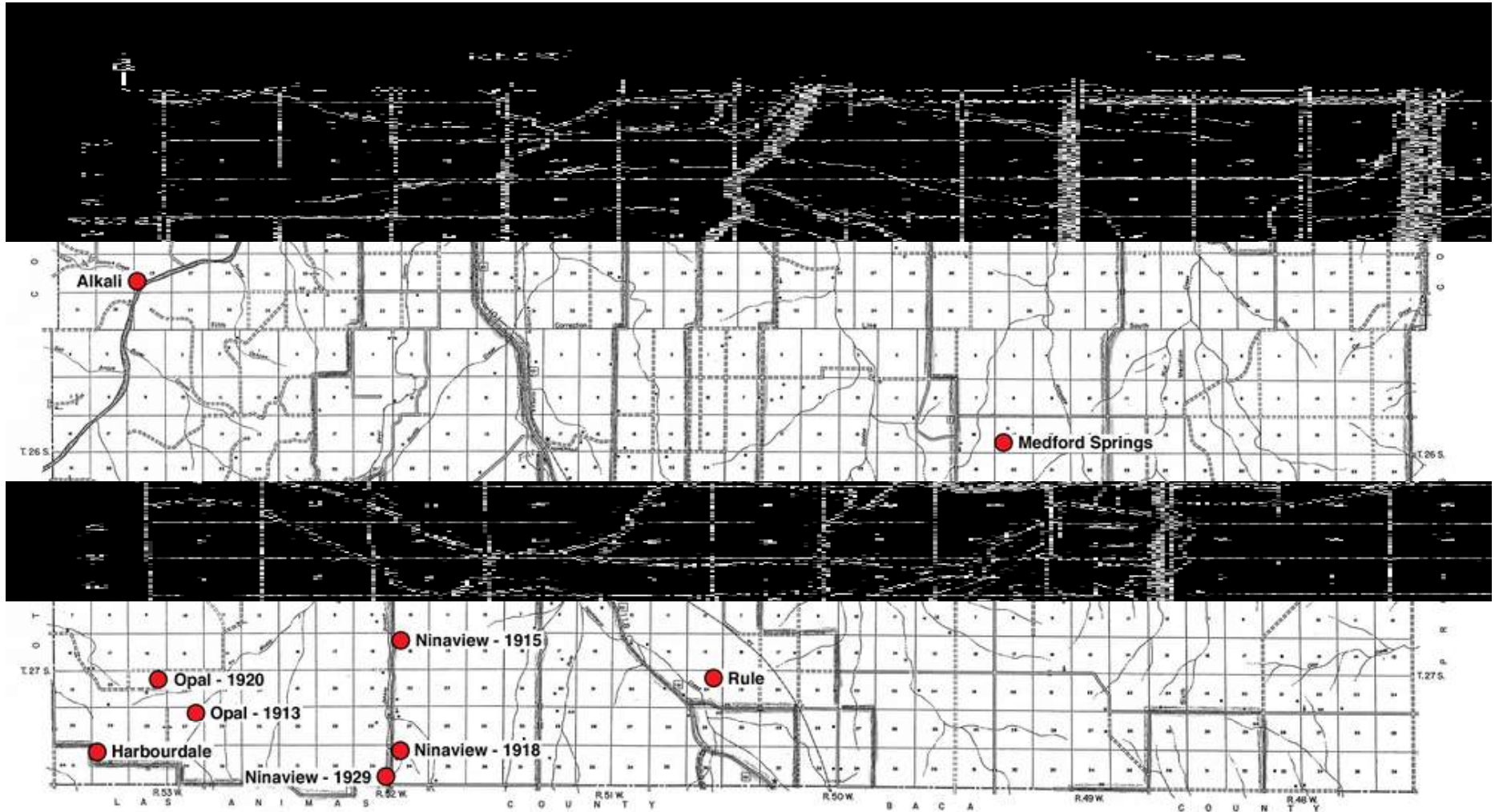


**Fort Wise/Fort Lyon/Bent's Fort site overview**  
Photo by William H. Bauer

May 13, 1997



Post Office Location Map - Northern Bent County



Post Office Location Map - Southern Bent County

## **ALKALI**

Alkali was a stage station on the Purgatoire River Branch of the Santa Fe Trail. There is general agreement that it was 15 or more miles southwest of Las Animas. The Post Office department records (see below) do not provide a specific location. However, three locations have been mapped, or reported. Thayer's map of 1877 places an Alkali in Section 36, T-24-S, R-53-W. Nell's map of 1880 maps Alkali in Section 1, T-26-S, R-53-W. This location would be just west of the county line and in present day Otero County. Margaret Long, in *The Smoky Hill Trail* quotes a Mrs. Taylor as claiming that Alkali was at Alkali Spring in Section 29, T-25-S, R-53-W. The only thing in common for these three sites is their location on the west side of the Purgatoire River and it is more than likely that at one time or another there was an "Alkali" at all three locations. For no particular reasons other than the reference to Alkali Spring and that Alkali Creek joins the Purgatoire in this section, I tend to favor the location in Section 29.

My first attempt to visit the site was in January 1998. That proved to be bad timing. From Las Animas, drive due south on Colorado 101 to where 101 veers sharply to the southeast. Continue straight ahead a quarter mile then turn west. From here the road stairsteps southwestward. It is, or was, paved for about four miles and then becomes a good dirt road. Good that is, if it isn't January and a warm day hasn't turned the top inch or so to mud! I did go about eight miles on a generally level road. But as the road deteriorated and I was about to encounter some steeper grades that might be difficult to navigate on the return, I abandoned the effort. The point at which I gave up would have been just west of the 1877, Section 36 location.

In May of 1999 I made another attempt to reach Alkali, this time coming from the west. Once again mud was a factor, but the road was drying out and I did reach a point about 2 miles northwest of the section 29 location. From that place there was only a rough track leading south towards the river, so I chose not to risk being stuck a long distance from any assistance. I feel that it is unlikely that after 125 years anything would have survived.

The term "Alkali" refers specifically to the soluble minerals sodium carbonate or potassium carbonate. In more general terms, applicable to the naming of a place, alkali is "any bitter-tasting salt found at or near the surface in arid or semiarid regions."

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

<b>Apr 25 1874</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>Unsurveyed; 1/2 mile north of Purgatoire River; 20 miles SW of West Las Animas; 22 miles NE of Bent Canon; 9 mile north of Higbee</b>
<b>Jun 24 1874</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Jun 24 1874</b>		<b>Thompson, Samuel T.</b>
<b>Jun 14 1875</b>		<b>Discontinued</b>

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

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

## **BOGGSVILLE**

There was never a post office at Boggsville, however its prominence in the early history of Bent County warrants a mention. On June 21, 1860 Rumaldo Luna Boggs obtained title to the land. Thomas O. Boggs, Kit Carson and John W. Powers built homes there and although it was never classed as a "town" it did become a popular stopping point on the trail through the Arkansas Valley. Also, Boggsville was designated the county seat when Bent County was created.

The plans for Boggsville fell apart with the development of nearby Las Animas. In 1873 when the Kansas Pacific Railroad built to Las Animas and not to Boggsville, the community was relegated to the status of a ranch headquarters.

The site of Boggsville is on east side of Colorado 101, about three miles south of modern Las Animas. It is marked and there is an ongoing effort to preserve the remaining structures.

## **CADDOA**

During the winter of 1863-1864 the government attempted to settle a group of Caddo (Caddoa) Indians here as a preliminary step in establishing a reservation for the tribe. The Indians rejected the site, but their tribal name was applied to Caddoa Creek. Three stone buildings had been constructed and they were soon taken over by John W. Powers for one of his ranching operations.

In 1873, Fred, Carl and George Trostle organized the Caddoa Land and Town Company. Although they surveyed and platted an elaborate townsite, the company soon went broke. In 1888 a new plat was filed and a small agricultural community developed on the AT&SF.

In the late 1930's the United States Corps of Engineers began construction of a high, earthen dam across the Arkansas River. When completed, the dam flooded the original site of Caddoa. During the winter of 1941-1942 the community was moved about two and a half miles east to a location near the south end of the dam. Although the Caddoa post office ceased operation in 1958, there are still several homes at Caddoa, many of which are used as camps for people participating in recreational activities on the lake.

The Reservoir was first designated Caddo Dam and Reservoir, then was soon renamed John Martin Dam and Reservoir.

The name of the community is obviously a reference to the abortive attempt to settle the Caddoa tribe in this area. "Caddoa" or "caddo" is recorded to be an Indian word describing the sacred "Sun Dance." Another reported meaning in Spanish, is "ferret hole."

At Hasty, drive south from US-50 to the John Martin Dam and cross the dam to the south end. The present community of Caddoa is a very short distance to the east of the dam. The original location of Caddoa is in the reservoir, about two miles west of the dam.

Latitude = 38:02:52 North Longitude = 102:57:56 West

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

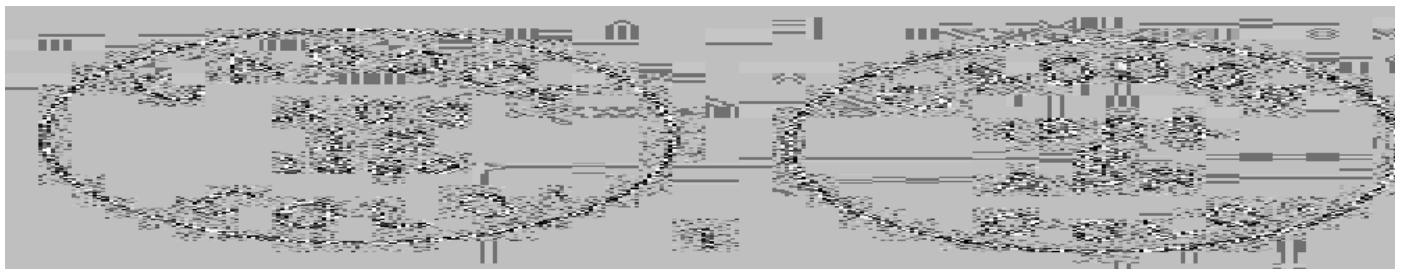
<b>Oct 25 1881</b>	---	<b>SW/4 Sec 12 T23S R50W; on south side of AT&amp;SF about 20 yards from Caddoa Station</b> <b>Proposed postmaster - Maxine Bobenrietty [sic]</b>
<b>Nov 7 1881</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Nov 7 1881</b>		<b>Bobaurieth, Maxime</b>
<b>May 28 1882</b>		<b>Brown, Thomas</b>
<b>Nov 23 1882</b>		<b>Bobaurieth, Charles</b>
<b>Jan 31 1883</b>		<b>York, E.</b>
<b>Aug 7 1883</b>		<b>Corbin, W. T.</b>
<b>Jun 9 1884</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Las Animas</b>
<b>Jun 12 1884</b>		<b>Re-established</b>
<b>Jun 12 1884</b>		<b>York, John E.</b>
<b>Jul 9 1884</b>	---	<b>SE/4 Sec 12 T23S R50W; At depot of AT&amp;SF on north side of tracks</b>
<b>May 24 1889</b>		<b>Tague, Francis M.</b>
<b>Mar 2 1894</b>		<b>Myers, Martyn</b>
<b>Sep 21 1896</b>		<b>Smeltz, Charles G.</b>
<b>Dec 14 1897</b>		<b>Atkins, John T.</b>
<b>Sep 14 1898</b>		<b>Prowers, John W.</b>
<b>Dec 17 1908</b>		<b>Davis, Benjamin J.</b>
<b>Jul 13 1911</b>		<b>Trostel, Carl</b>
<b>Mar 30 1914</b>	---	<b>SE/4 Sec 12 T23S R50W; 3/4 mile south of the Arkansas River, 2 miles west of Caddoa Creek</b>
<b>Jan 18 1921</b>		<b>Geist, Alma</b>
<b>Jul 1 1922</b>		<b>Presidential</b>
<b>Aug 23 1922</b>		<b>P&amp;S [Apptd by President &amp; confirmed by Senate]</b>
<b>Jul 1 1925</b>		<b>Relegated</b>
<b>Jul 24 1925</b>		<b>Geist, Alma</b>
<b>Jun 13 1929</b>		<b>Geist, William E. Acting</b>

**CADDOA – Continued**

Sep 11 1929	Geist, William E.	Appointed
Oct 10 1929	Geist, William E.	Commissioned
Jan 28 1934	Geist, Mrs. Alma	Assumed charge
Feb 23 1934	Geist, Mrs. Alma	Acting
Aug 15 1934	Geist, Mrs. Alma	Confirmed
Sep 13 1934	Geist, Mrs. Alma	Commissioned
Jan 16 1936	Hildebrand, Charles E.	Assumed charge
Jan 26 1936	Hildebrand, Charles E.	Acting
Nov 11 1936	Hildebrand, Charles E.	Confirmed
Jan 6 1937	Hildebrand, Charles E.	Commissioned
Mar 22 1941 ---	T23S R49W being moved 500 feet south	
Dec 11 1941 ---	NE/4 SE/4 Sec 8 T23S R49W NOTE: "The building of the John Martin Reservoir Project has made it necessary to move the old town which is now located in the reservoir."	
Jan 9 1942 ---	Wampur St., SE/4 Sec 8 T23S R49W; 1/2 mile south of Arkansas River, 1/2 mile west of Caddoa Creek	
Nov 25 1946 ---	New site; No sensible description	
Jan 28 1947	Lightcap, Mrs. Sarah J.	Confirmed
Apr 2 1947	Lightcap, Mrs. Sarah J.	Commissioned
Jun 5 1947 ---	Moved northwest 300 feet; sketch map shows on SW corner of intersection, old site was south and on east side of road to Hasty.	
Jun 5 1947	Shannon, Mrs. Dick E.	Assumed charge
Sep 22 1947	Shannon, Mrs. Dick E.	Confirmed
Feb 9 1948	Shannon, Mrs. Dick E.	Commissioned
Jun 15 1953	Elliott, Mrs. Vera M.	Assumed charge
Sep 8 1953	Elliott, Mrs. Vera M.	Acting
Oct 7 1955	Elliott, Mrs. Vera M.	Confirmed
Oct 28 1955	Elliott, Mrs. Vera M.	Commissioned
Mar 7 1958	Discontinued	

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	CADDOA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Nov 19 1889 Jun 6 1899 Hstp Target, 4-ring 16mm
2	CADDOA / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Apr 9 1905 Hstp Target
3	CADDOA, / COLO. CI 10P 31.0	Jul 2 1906 Jun 28 1911 Doane Type 3 with 3, S-23x14mm
4	CADDOA, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Mar 21 1914 Feb 28 1927 4bars S-??x??mm
5	CADDOA / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Apr 20 1930 Nov 17 1941 4bars S-24x20mm
6	CADDOA, COLO. / REGISTERED CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Jun 13 1930 Hstp No killer, backstamp on registered cover
7	CADDOA / COLO. CI 10P 29.5	Apr 25 1931 Aug 16 1935 Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
8	CADDOA / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	Aug 30 1948 Feb 25 1953 4bars S-23x19mm



## CADDOA – Continued

**FORT LYON (I)**

In 1853, William Bent moved his fort down the Arkansas to a site near the eastern boundary of present day Bent County (New Bent's Fort). The government purchased the fort in 1859 and at first it was called "Fort Fauntleroy" in honor of Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy, Commander of the Department of New Mexico.

In 1860 it was officially named "Fort Wise" for Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia. With the outbreak of the Civil War, Governor Wise supported the Confederacy and the Fort was renamed "Fort Lyon" honoring General Nathaniel Lyon, a Union Officer who was killed August 10, 1861 at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri.

Bent's New Fort had been constructed on the bluffs above the river. After purchasing the fort the government used it for storage and constructed new buildings in the river bottoms. In 1866 a major flood on the Arkansas River destroyed much of Fort Lyon. Following the flood, the army sought a new location, settling on a site about 20 miles up the river and about five miles east of present day Las Animas. By early 1868 the second Fort Lyon was taking shape with buildings of stone and adobe. Four companies were stationed at the new fort.

By 1889 Fort Lyon had outlived its usefulness as a military installation. On January 20, 1890 the reservation was surrendered to the Interior Department and the buildings remained vacant until October 25, 1906. The Fort was then reoccupied by the military, first as a United States Naval Hospital and a tuberculosis sanitarium and was referred to as "New Fort Lyon." Following World War I the Fort continued as a hospital but with an emphasis on psychiatric care and treatment. In more recent years it serves as a general purpose Veterans Hospital.

To reach the site of the original Fort Lyon, drive one mile west from the Bent/Prowers County line and turn south one mile. Turn west for one-half mile and then south to the Arkansas River. Fort Lyon was located in the river bottoms to the west of the road. Nothing visible remains at the site. If you continue across the river to the railroad, you will be at the site of Prowers, which may have also been called The Meadows.

**FORT LYON (I) – Continued**



**FORT LYON. C. T.      April 10, 1863**

Latitude = 38:06:02 North    Longitude = 103:07:25 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

	Found no records in The Geographic Site Location Reports relative to the original site
Aug 2 1862	Name changed from Fort Wise
Aug 2 1862	Wynne, Thomas
Oct 24 1862	Gould, Edwin A.
Feb 7 1865	James, Amos D.
Nov 16 1866	Lyman Field
Dec 30 1867	Adams, Charles B.
Mar 6 1871	Bridges, Samuel G.
May 22 1875 ---	Situated on Govt. Mil. Resv., "not sectionized." Fractional T23S R51W 1/2 mile north of the Arkansas River; 5 miles northeast of West Las Animas; Sketch map shows it across the river from old Las Animas
Jan 8 1877	Hunter, George
Nov 19 1878	Brown, George M.
Sep 10 1883	Houghton, Frank B.
Jul 30 1880	Keeling, H. C.
Oct 29 1885	Conger, Arthur W.
Mar 12 1886	Fabian, Werner
Jun 19 1889	Wishart, Thomas
Dec 22 1889	Ordered closed
Dec 26 1889	Discontinued Papers to Las Animas

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

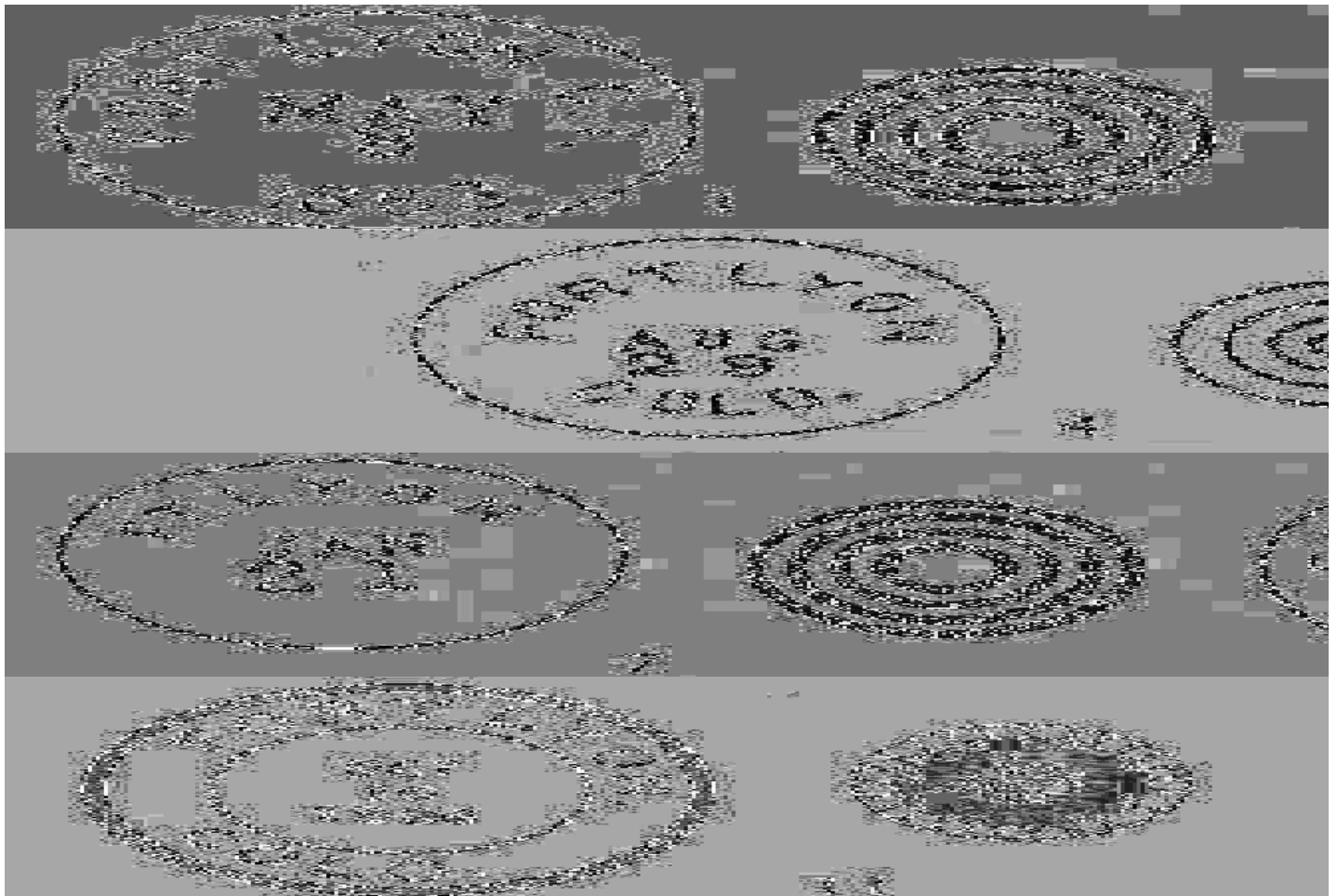
1	FORT LYON C.T. CI 10P 29.5	Apr 10 1863 Jul 31 1863 Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm
2	FORT LYON / COL CI 10P 25.0	Jan 6 186- Dec 5 186- Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm [16 examples recorded]
3	FORT LYON / COL. CI 10P 25.0	Apr 26 1869 Jun 22 1870 Hstp Target, 4-ring 19mm, wide spaced letters

**FORT LYON (I) – Continued**

4	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Apr 6 1870 Apr 1 1875 Hstp Target, 4-ring 17mm; Fancy, negative star in 21mm circle Dec 7 1873
5	FORT LYON / COLORADO OV 11P 30x23/20x13	Hstp Pen cancel
6	FORT LYON / COLO. OC 10P 25.0	Feb 7 1874 ? 31 1876 Hstp Target, 4-ring 20mm
7	FT. LYON CI 10P 26.5	Jan 21 1876 Hstp Target, 4-ring 18mm
8	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 20P 27.0/26.0	Jul 30 1882 Hstp Target, 4-ring
9	Fort Lyon, Colo. MS	Apr 28 1881 Mscp Pen cancel
10	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 20P 27.0/26.0	Jul 30 1882 Feb 12 1883 Hstp Target, 4-ring
11	FORT LYON, / COLO. CI 21P 29.5/27.0/18.0	Sep 22 1884 Oct 12 1888 Hstp Fancy, Wheel of Fortune; Target, 3-ring 20mm

**Auxillary Markings**

A-1	Fort Lyon -- ADVERTISED RC 10P 28.0x6.0	Feb 26 186? Hstp Rounded ends to box, on letter from Lockport New York
-----	--	---



**FORT LYON (II)**

By 1889 Fort Lyon had outlived its usefulness as a military installation. On January 20, 1890 the reservation was surrendered to the Interior Department and the buildings remained vacant until October 25, 1906. The Fort was then reoccupied by the military and used as a United States Naval Hospital until 1922. It was then briefly used as a tuberculosis sanitarium and was referred to as "New Fort Lyon." Since 1922 Fort Lyon has been operated by the Veterans Administration as a general hospital, a tuberculosis sanitarium and a neuropsychiatric hospital. It continues to serve this multifold purpose.

A post office at the revived Fort Lyon did not open until late in 1919 and then it was operated as a Rural Station of Las Animas. The 1921 *Postal Guide* lists it as "New Fort Lyon." In 1924 the post office was again discontinued, then reopened, probably on March 22, 1928 as an independent post office and continues to have that status.

Present day or "New" Fort Lyon is reached by driving a little more than five miles east from Las Animas on US-50. The entrance to the hospital is well marked and it is a mile south to the main entrance to the hospital grounds. The hospital is very active with a number of frame and large brick buildings on attractive and well-maintained grounds.

Latitude = 39:06:00 North Longitude = 103:09:00 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 8 1919	--	SW/4 Sec 4 T23S R51W; Village (Naval Hospital) and railroad station named Fort Lyon. Proposed as RIXEY (Fort Lyon)	
Oct 25 1919		Established	
Oct 25 1919		Baborsky, Florence E.	
Jun 14 1920		Discontinued	
Nov 1 1921		Re-established	
Jun 7 1922		Reynolds, Wiley O.	
Jan 1 1923			Presidential
Mar 3 1923		Reynolds, Wiley O.	
Before 1924		Discontinued	
Mar 22 1928		Re-established as an independent post office (Date may be incorrect as it is based on the appointment of Edwin H. Feistel as postmaster)	
Mar 22 1928		Feistel, Edwin J.	
Nov 28 1930		Feistel, August E.	Acting, Presidential
Jan 4 1931		Sweezy, William B.	Nominated
Jan 15 1931		Simon, Edward M.	Acting, Presidential
Jan 22 1931		Sweezy, William B.	Confirmed
Mar 7 1931		Sweezy, William B.	Commissioned
Jul 12 1931		Sweezy, William B.	Presidential
Apr 7 1937		Sweezy, William B.	Nominated
May 24 1937		Sweezy, William B.	Confirmed
May 28 1937		Sweezy, William B.	Appointed Presidential
Jul 14 1937		Sweezy, William B.	Commissioned
Jul 14 1941		Sweezy, William B.	Nominated
Aug 4 1941		Sweezy, William B.	Confirmed
Aug 7 1941		Sweezy, William B.	Appointed Presidential
Sep 15 1941		Sweezy, William B.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1941	--	NW/4 Sec 4 T23S R51W; Recreation building	
Jun 30 1949		Ham, Alice Surrilda	Acting
Jul 1 1949		Ham, Alice Surrilda	Assumed charge
Feb 21 1951		Pritchard, Julius B.	Nominated
Mar 2 1951		Pritchard, Julius B.	Confirmed
Mar 5 1951		Pritchard, Julius B.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Mar 31 1951		Pritchard, Julius B.	Assumed charge
Nov 10 1972		Baer, Lucille	Officer in charge
Jun 6 1973		Baer, Lucille	Appointed

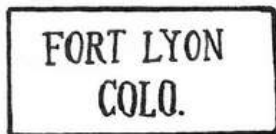
FORT LYON (II) – Continued  
Confirmed types of postal markings

11.1	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Apr 5 1927 Dplx Grid with 1 in circle
11.2	FORT LYON, / COLO. RC 10P 38.0x15.0	1920s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box
12	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Feb 4 1933 Dec 8 1934 Dplx Grid, Grid, 9-bar oval
13	FORT LYON / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Dec 26 1937 Oct 16 1962 Dplx Grid, oval with 1
13.1	FORT LYON, / COLO. CI 10P 32.5	Nov 15 19?? 4bars S-26x20mm
14	FORT LYON, CO / 81038 CI 10P 32.0	Oct 20 1965 May 6 1971 4bars S-??x20mm
15	FORT LYON, CO / 81038 CI 10P 31.0	Jan 2 1974 Feb 1 1978 4bars S-24x18mm
15.1	FORT L YON / COLO. CI 10P 30.0	Jul 3 1985 Dplx Grid, diamond with 1
16	FORT LYON, CO / 81038 CI 10P 31.0	Feb 26 1987 Apr 23 1990 4bars S-??x17mm
17	FORT LYON, CO / 81038 CI 10P 34.0	Mar 5 1990 May 21 1993 4bars S-19x16mm, self-inking
18	FT. LYON CO / 81038 CI 10P 33.0	Jan 31 1996 May 13 1997 4bars S-19x15mm
18.1	FORT LYON, CO 81038 / USPO CI 11P ???	Apr 7 1992 Hstp No killer
19	FT. LYON CO 81038 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	May 13 1997 Hstp No killer



27

11.1



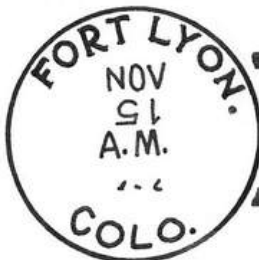
11.2



12



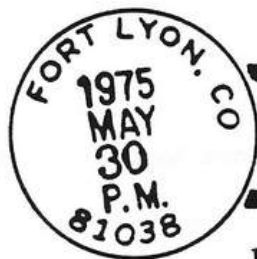
13



13.1



14



15

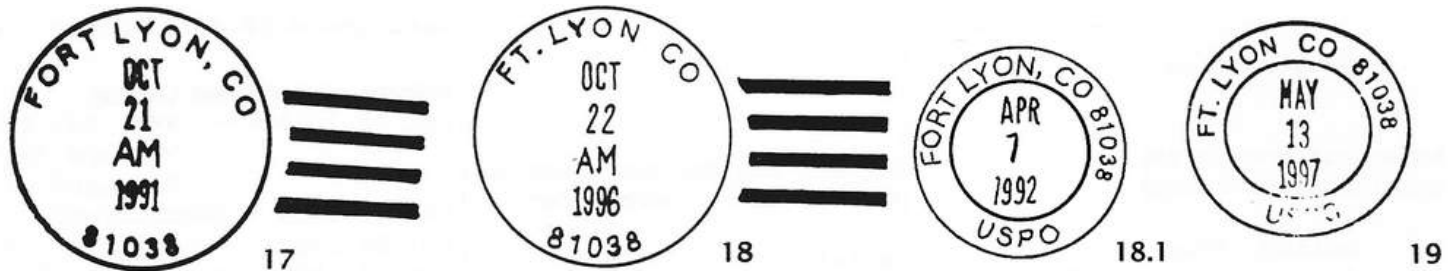


15.1



16

**FORT LYON (II) – Continued**



**FORT LYON (II) STATIONS**

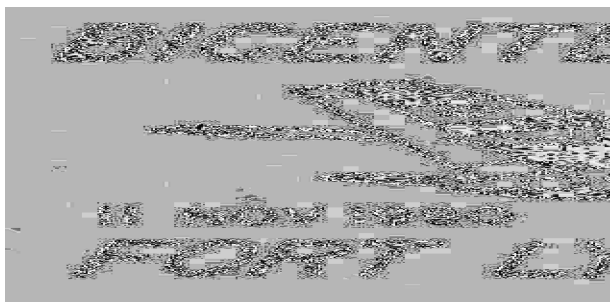
**BICENTENNIAL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 11 1990 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | FORT LYON, CO 81038 // BICENTENNIAL STATION<br>IR 00R 73.0x34.0 | Nov 11 1990 Nov 11 1990<br>Pict Scene - Coast Guard airplane; 1790-1990 |
|---|---|---|



**DECEMBER 7TH STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Dec 7 1991 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 1 | FORT LYON, CO 81038 // DEC 7th Station<br>IR 00R 73.0x31.0 | Dec 7 1991 Dec 7 1991<br>Pict Scene - Japanese Torpedo bomber and map of Oahu |
|---|--|---|

**DOOLITTLE'S RAID STATION**

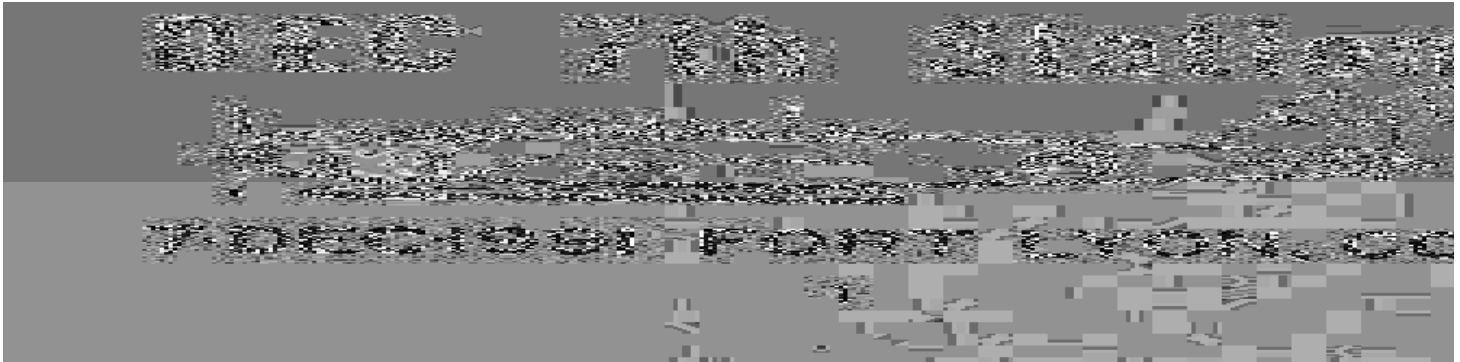
**Chronology of the Post Office**

Oct 9 1992 Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 1 | FORT LYON, CO 81038 // DOOLITTLE'S RAID STATION<br>IR 00R 73.0x33.0 | Oct 9 1992 Oct 9 1992<br>Pict Scene - American B-25 bomber |
|---|---|--|

**FORT LYON (II) STATIONS – Continued**  
**December 7th / Doolittle’s Raid Stations – Continued**



**FLIGHT STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 19 1997      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON, CO 81038 // FLIGHT / STATION      Sep 19 1997    Sep 19 1997  
IR 00R 67.0x27.0      Pict Scene - Early biplane

**LIBERATOR STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 17 1993      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON, CO 81038 // LIBERATOR STATION      Sep 17 1993    Sep 17 1993  
IR 00R 78.0x27.0      Pict Scene - B-24 Liberator Bomber



**MUSTANG STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 16 1994      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON, CO 81038 // MUSTANG STATION      Sep 16 1994    Sep 16 1994  
IR 00R 67.0x23.0      Pict Scene - P-51 Mustang fighter

**FORT LYON (II) STATIONS – Continued**

**NATIONAL GOLDEN AGE GAMES STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Aug 7 1987      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON CO 81038 / NATIONAL GOLDEN AGE GAMES STATION      Aug 7 1987   Aug 7 1987  
IR 00R 45.0x49.0      Pict Scene - Olympic style torch



**SANTA FE TRAIL STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 20 1996      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON, CO 81038 // SANTA FE TRAIL STATION      Sep 20 1996   Sep 20 1996  
SL 00R 56.0x25.0      Pict Scene - Mailbox, wagon wheel, clouds, grass  
Lettering is "typewriter" style)

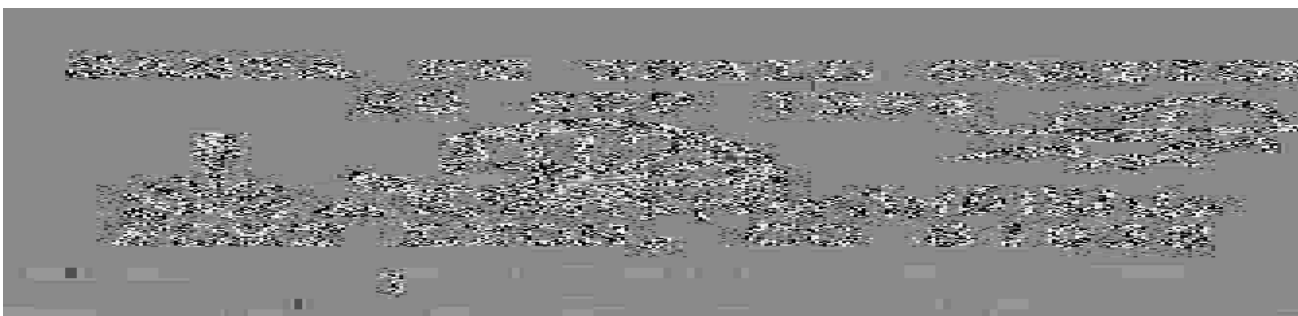
**WINGED VICTORY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Sep 15 1995      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      FORT LYON, CO 81038 // WINGED VICTORY STATION      Sep 15 1995   Sep 15 1995  
SL 00R 56.0x31.0      Pict Scene - Aviator wings with large "V"



**FORT WISE**

Bent's original fort was built on the north bank of the Arkansas River a short distance east of present day La Junta. It served well as a trading post and a way stop on the Santa Fe Trail. It briefly played host to General Kearney on his march to Santa Fe in the early stages of the 1846 war with Mexico.

In 1853 William Bent, angry with the government over the use of his fort, destroyed the original fort and built a new fort down the Arkansas at a site near the eastern boundary of present day Bent County (New Bent's Fort). He failed to escape the government's reach and in 1859 sold Bents New Fort to the government.

General Orders No. 8 were issued from the Headquarters of the Army, New York, June 30, 1860 and by command of Brevet Lieutenant General Winfield Scott, a military post was to be established at the Big Timbers on the Upper Arkansas River.

On August 18, 1860 Major John Sedgwick left Fort Larned with four companies (Companies F, G, H, K, totaling 218 men) of the First Cavalry for the Upper Arkansas. On September 1 he selected a tract of bottomland on the north side of the Arkansas River, a short distance west of Bents New Fort. The proximity to Bents New Fort situated on a nearby knoll undoubtedly influenced the choice of a site. The choice was unfortunate as it was subject to flooding by the Arkansas River and in 1866 a major flood did extensive damage and the decision was made to move to a more secure site twenty miles to the west.

It is accepted that the new fort was briefly called "Fort Fauntleroy" in honor of Colonel Thomas T. Fauntleroy, Commander of the Department of New Mexico. However, the orders of establishment specified that it would be named "Fort Wise," in honor of Governor Henry A. Wise of Virginia.

With the commencement of the Civil War Governor Wise chose to support the Confederacy. General David Hunter, commanding the Department of the Missouri at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas considered this an act of treason and promptly ordered that the name of the fort was to be changed to "Fort Lyon," to honor General Nathaniel Lyon, a Union Officer who was killed August 10, 1861 at the battle of Wilson's Creek, Missouri.

During the Civil war Fort Lyon, essentially a cavalry post, was vital to communications along the Santa Fe Trail. Fort Wise was a staging area from which the Colorado Volunteers marched into New Mexico to defeat the advancing Confederate Army at the battle of Glorietta Pass. Later the fort would play a part in the infamous Battle at Sand Creek.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

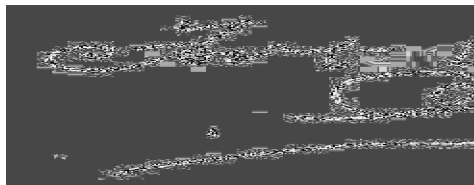
<b>Sep 5 1860</b>	<b>Established</b>
<b>Sep 5 1860</b>	<b>Miller, A. B.</b>
<b>Mar 5 1862</b>	<b>Mead, Francis</b>
<b>Aug 2 1862</b>	<b>Name changed to Fort Lyon (I)</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1      **FORT WISE C.T.**  
         **MS**

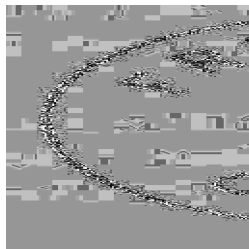
**Sep 15 1861   Oct 6 1861**

**Mscp   Pen cancel**





**Fredonia – Continued**



**GEM**

In 1907 Gem was established around a station on the newly constructed Santa Fe Railroad line serving the north side of the Arkansas River. The station name was “Lubers” and that name can still be found on some maps of the late twentieth century. The post office survived for six years, but was soon overshadowed by the growth of Hasty, less than two miles away. Another possible reason for the demise of Gem could have been a shift of railroad activities to Hasty.

For the few years of its existence, the post office would have served farmers and ranchers and a small group of residents around the railroad station.

From the center of Hasty, drive north one mile, turn east for two miles to the intersection of Bent County Roads LL and 24. There are some older buildings at this location, one of which is a Dunkard Brethren Church.

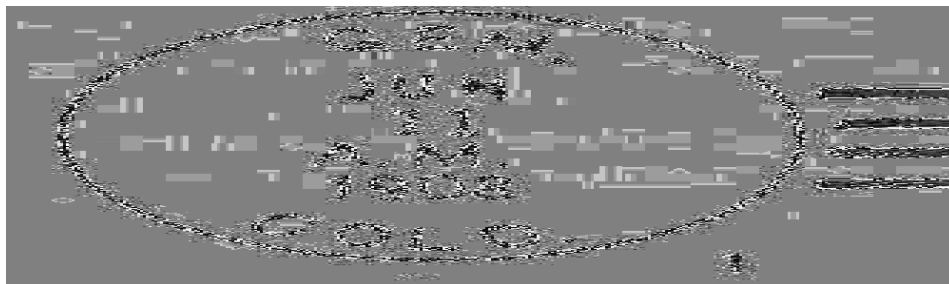
The establishment of Gem is attributed to a Mr. Flynn (or Flinn) whom it is claimed took part in the Colorado Gold Rush. Is it only coincidence that an Eva Flinn and a Mary Flinn were postmasters at nearby Hasty in the 1913-1916 time period? The name Lubers, selected for the railroad station, was probably for a functionary of the Santa Fe. The name Gem was likely chosen to qualify and promote the settlement.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

<b>Jul 19 1907</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NE/4 Sec 20 T22S R49W; New town on new railroad</b>
<b>Aug 30 1907</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Aug 30 1907</b>		<b>Orme, Annie E.</b>
<b>May 15 1908</b>		<b>Flinn, George A.</b>
<b>Nov 27 1908</b>		<b>Flinn, Sydney</b>
<b>Nov 26 1909</b>		<b>Verhoeff, Garrett L.</b>
<b>May 31 1913</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to McClave</b>

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

<b>1</b>	<b>GEM, / COLO.</b> <b>CI 10P 31.0</b>	<b>4bars S-23x14mm</b>	<b>Mar 12 1908</b>	<b>Mar ? 1912</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>GEM, / COLO.</b> <b>CI 10P 32.0</b>	<b>4bars S-19x24mm</b>	<b>Apr 20 1912</b>	



## **HARBOURDALE**

One reference states that "Eda and Grant (Harbour) left Cripple Creek and homesteaded the town of Harbourdale, south of La Junta. The name Grant was possibly an error for George, the name that is on the original Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Report.

Another reference classifies Harbourdale as a "Railroad Post office, 8 miles southwest of Ninaview." Again, there is some confusion. Ninaview was on the railroad, Harbourdale was not; which is some eight miles west of Ninaview. From these comments and a visit to the site, it seems most likely that Harbourdale was another of the ranch post offices so prevalent in eastern Colorado in the early twentieth century.

From La Junta, drive south on Colorado 109 to the Bent County line. 1.3 miles east of the county line, the road begins to curve from southeast to east. The vicinity of this curve in the highway is the plotted location for Harbourdale but there are no easily visible remnants. There is a sign for the "San Jose Ranch." Perhaps that is the modern successor to Harbourdale.

A short distance further southeast is County Road 90 to the east. This will take you by the site of Opal and eastward to Ninaview.

The choice of this name may seem strange for a site on the high plains and extremely remote from any navigable body of water. However, the first applicant to be postmaster was George Harbour, who requested the post office to be named "Harbour." The Post Office Department altered the name to "Harbourdale.

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

<b>Jul 15 1915</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>NW/4 Sec 32 T27S R53W; 2-3 miles east of Smith Canon</b> <b>Proposed as HARBOUR, altered to HARBOURDALE</b> <b>NOTE: " Opal is not regularly served by a carrier; they simply go to Higbee, Colo., a distance of 16 or 18 miles, and bring the mail themselves whenever it suits them. The patrons of Opal can be served from Harbour."</b> <b>Applicant for postmaster - George Harbour</b>
<b>Sep 20 1915</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Sep 20 1915</b>		<b>Harbour, Grant</b>
<b>May 14 1925</b>		<b>Ordered closed</b>
<b>Jun 15 1925</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Higbee</b>

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

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

## **HASTY**

Frank Edbrooke took up a homestead here in 1886 but it was not until 1907 that an attempt was made to establish a town. W. A. Hasty and George Hill platted a townsite. At that time, the Santa Fe Railroad was building a rail line to serve the agricultural lands on the north side of the Arkansas River. The railroad assigned the name "Hasty" to the new settlement. There is some confusion in the published literature as there are claims that the town name honors either a "Lon" or a "Lou" Hasty.

Hasty remained small for many years, although it apparently did attain enough prominence to cause the post office at nearby Gem to close in 1913. In 1939 the U. S. Corps of Engineers began construction of the John Martin Dam. Hasty became the primary community to serve the construction workers. With completion of the dam, Hasty slid back to its original status as an agricultural community. However, it gradually became a support community providing supplies, campsites and cabins for people participating in recreational activities at the John Martin Reservoir.

Hasty is on Highway US-50, about fourteen miles east of Las Animas.

Latitude = 38:06:45 North Longitude = 102:57:25 West

## HASTY – Continued



Post Office Hasty, Colorado

Photograph by J. L. Ozment

October 5, 1997

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jul 21 1910	---	NW/4 Sec 30 T22S R49W	
Dec 7 1910		Established	
Dec 7 1910		Hill, George A.	
Sep 4 1911	---	NW/4 Sec 30 T22S R49W; On south side 150 feet from station platform of Arkansas Valley RR	
Dec 4 1911		Glahn, Dinah M.	
May 10 1912		Ralston, Nanette	
Feb 5 1913		Flinn, Eva G.	
Feb 27 1914	---	NW/4 Sec 30 T22S R49W	
Oct 28 1914		Flinn, Mary	
Jun 6 1916		Gilbert, Lizzie D.	
Feb 12 1923		Maclin, Minnie H.	Acting
Mar 6 1923		Maclin, Minnie H.	Confirmed
Mar 21 1923		Maclin, Minnie Hasty	Commissioned
Jan 6 1942	---	NE/4 Sec 25 T22S (north sic) R50W; 2 blocks southwest of railroad station	
Oct 14 1943		Maclin, Minnie Hasty	Nominated
Oct 19 1943		Maclin, Minnie Hasty	Confirmed
Oct 20 1943		Maclin, Minnie Hasty	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Jul 1 1944			Relegated
Jun 30 1944		Baldwin, Mrs. Dale	Possession
Jul 7 1944		Baldwin, Mrs. Dale	Appointed
Jul 12 1945		Johnson, Mrs. Pearl I.	Appointed
Aug 14 1945		Johnson, Mrs. Pearl I.	Commissioned
Aug 21 1945		Johnson, Mrs. Pearl I.	Possession

**HASTY – Continued**

Nov 30 1962	Deason, Mrs. Ruth J.	Acting
May 28 1964	Deason, Mrs. Ruth J.	Commissioned
Jun 5 1964	Deason, Mrs. Ruth J.	Possession
Jan 12 1979	Westbrook, Nellene A.	Officer in charge
Jun 16 1979	Foster, Mrs. Roberta H.	Appointed

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	HASTY, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Mar 30 1912 Aug 8 1921
2	HASTY / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x19mm	Feb 2 1940 Apr 22 1941
2.1	HASTY, COLORADO SL 50.0 x 10.0		Aug 12 194-
3	HASTY / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Oct 15 1941 Apr 5 1943
4	HASTY, / COLO. CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-23x20mm	Jan 10 1948 Mar 31 1950
5	HASTY / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Nov 16 1953 Jul 6 1956
6	HASTY, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 28.0/18.0	Hstp No killer	Mar 31 1958
7	HASTY / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-24x20mm	Feb 17 1962 Sep 6 1963
8	HASTY, CO / 81044 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Jan 27 1966 Nov 21 1968
9	HASTY, CO / 81044 CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-24x18mm	May 28 1970 Dec 21 1989
10	HASTY, CO / 81044 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x18mm	Oct 11 1991 Mar 31 1995
11	HASTY CO 91044 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 13 1997



**HASTY – Continued****LAS ANIMAS (I)**

Las Animas came into being shortly after the relocation of Fort Lyon to the present site on the north side of the Arkansas River. It was settled across the river and just east of the junction of the Purgatoire River with the Arkansas River. William Craig, an agent for the Vigil and St. Vrain Grant, is credited with the platting of Las Animas City in 1869. Las Animas was preceded in the area by the settlement of Boggsville.

The community flourished for a few years, taking the county seat from Boggsville and eagerly anticipating the arrival of railroads: the Kansas Pacific from the northeast and the AT&SF from the east. In 1873 the Kansas Pacific was the first to arrive in the area, but it crossed the Arkansas 6 miles to the west and platted a new town called "West Las Animas." The growth of West Las Animas was accompanied by the downfall of the original and in 1875 the county seat was moved to West Las Animas.

The post office was briefly discontinued in April 1877 and was finally "moved" to West Las Animas in 1883.

The name of the community came from that of the river: *Rio de Las Animas en Purgatorio*, "The River of Lost Souls in Purgatory."

The legend of the name is as follows: A Spanish exploration party was journeying to Colorado in search of the mythical "Lost Cities of Gold". Several greedy members of the party deserted and went ahead on their own. Some time later when the main party reached Colorado in the vicinity of Trinidad, they found the bodies of the deserters on the banks of this river. Indians apparently had killed them. The priest in the party "Condemned their souls to hell" for their acts, hence the name of the river.

From Las Animas, drive south on Colorado 101 (Carson Avenue). Cross the Purgatoire River to Road DD 50. Go east to Road 13. Drive north to road FF and turn east crossing a railroad grade. You will then be forced to turn north to the main line of the Santa Fe Railroad. Although the roads are poorly marked, I believe that this represents a turn from Road 13.50 onto Road FF 50. A mile east is an intersection with another road (14.50). Here there is a rough railroad crossing. My plotted location for Old Las Animas is north of the railroad in what are today bottomlands at the western end of the John Martin Reservoir. I have been told that a diligent search through the brush and cattails will turn up evidence of the town that once flourished here.

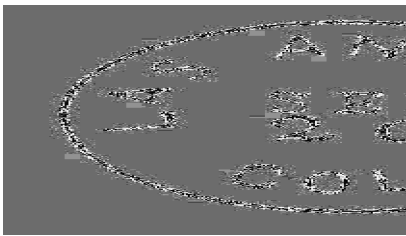
**LAS ANIMAS (I) – Continued  
Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 24 1870	---	NE/4 Sec 8 T23S R51W; South bank of Arkansas River, 1-1/2 miles east of Purgatoire River
Apr 4 1871		Established
Apr 4 1871		Peniston, Rienzi E.
Mar 30 1876		Hickman, S. C.
May 27 1876		McMurray, Richard M.
Apr 11 1877		Discontinued
May 1 1877		Re-established
May 1 1877		Drummond, David B.
Jun 2 1879		Bradford, Joseph
Jan 10 1881		Lindsey, David J.
Apr 5 1882		Lindsey, Daniel L.
Jun 8 1883		Discontinued Papers to Fort Lyon

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 LAS ANIMAS / COLO.  
CI 10P 25.0

Dec 27 1875 Sep 20 188-  
Hstp Target, 4-ring; Seen on 3-cent Banknote covers.  
This device was also used at the new Las Animas



**LAS ANIMAS(II)**

THE FIRST POST OFFICE [Ed. Note SRM: as related in *Bent County, Colorado History*]

*The first post office in present day Las Animas was opened November 3, 1873. It was located in and operated as part of a hardware and furniture store owned by J. W. Wilbraham and Abram Rhoses. It remained there until the first of April 1877, when it was moved to W. E. Culver's new drug store and Mr. Jackson Lane is reported to have been the postmaster at that time.*

*In the same year, March 2, 1877, the first mail route out of West Las Animas was started. One trip a week was made with the mail to Bent's Canyon; 47 miles south and a bit west of town, where a small office was maintained for the distribution of the mail.*

*Eugene Rourke, grandfather of today's District Attorney, Fred O. Sisk, of Las Animas, was the postmaster there. Rourke owned and operated a ranch and his place served as a stage station between Las Animas and Trinidad. The desk Rourke used in his station post office is still in the possession of the family. (Mr. Sisk has retired from the office of District Attorney since the writing of the article.)*

*The post office in Las Animas was later moved to Jacob Weil's store with Louis Weil the postmaster. So far as is known, this was the last time the office was conducted as a part of another business establishment.*

*When F. M. Teague became postmaster a separate location was rented and officially designated as a U. S. Post Office. The first site selected for this was in the 600 block of Carson Avenue, where Dr. Durbin Cover later had his dental office.*

*Miss Bessie Robinson was the first woman clerk to go to work in the office. The second woman clerk was Mrs. Cliff McVay, who was hired in 1898 to be Teague's assistant.*

**LAS ANIMAS (II) – Continued**

*The post office had two more moves before the present building was erected in 1938. Both of the next moves were to locations in the Odd Fellows Building, the first on the ground floor near the center of the large stone building and the last at the north end. With the construction of the new post office, the office was moved to its present permanent location.*

The Kansas Pacific Railroad built southwest from Kit Carson, crossing the Arkansas River at a point about five miles west of the existing Las Animas. The railroad platted a new town and called it West Las Animas. It was claimed that the acquisition of the land was fraudulent, but the new town grew and prospered. The presence of the railroad attracted the residents of Old Las Animas to move west. In 1875 West Las Animas became the county seat. Two years later West Las Animas was incorporated and with the old community nearly abandoned, the “West” disappeared and present day town of Las Animas emerged. Las Animas was incorporated in 1886.

Las Animas has continued to prosper from agriculture and is one of the principal towns in the eastern Arkansas Valley. It is located on the south side of the river on US-50 where that highway crosses the river.

Latitude = 38:04:00 North Longitude = 103:13:20 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 7 1887	---	Sec 3x10 T23S R52W; sketch map indicates it occupies portions of sections 3 and 10	
Sep 4 1886		Established	
Sep 4 1886		Campbell, Leroy M	
May 4 1887		Macey, Joseph P.	
May 18 1888		Macey, Joseph P.	Re-appointed, P&S
Mar 21 1889		Culver, William E.	P&S
Jan 10 1894		Weil, Jacob	
Jan 15 1896		Weil, Jacob	P&S
Oct 18 1897		Tague, Francis M.	Presidential
Jan 10 1898		Tague, Francis M.	P&S
Feb 28 1902		Cooper, William E.	P&S
Mar 3 1903		Tague, Francis M.	P&S
Jan 30 1907		Tague, Francis M.	P&S
Feb 23 1911		Tague, Francis M.	P&S
Jun 19 1912		Malloy, Daniel H.	Acting
Jul 18 1912		Murphy, John A.	P&S
Mar 10 1914	---	NE/4 Sec 10 T23S R52W	
Jun 17 1916		Wicks, George B.	P&S
Mar 7 1922		Moore, John W.	P&S
Dec 21 1926		Moore, John W.	P&S
Dec 18 1930		Moore, John W.	P&S
Dec 21 1933		Harkrader, William H.	Acting
Dec 30 1933		Harkrader, William H.	Assumed charge
May 23 1934		Harkrader, William H.	Nominated
May 31 1934		Harkrader, William H.	Confirmed
Jun 29 1934		Harkrader, William H.	Commissioned
Apr 29 1938		Harkrader, William H.	Nominated
May 3 1938		Harkrader, William H.	Confirmed
May 28 1938		Harkrader, William H.	Appointed Presidential
May 31 1938		Harkrader, William H.	Commissioned
Oct 24 1941	---	SW/4 NE/4 Sec 10 T23S R52W; 501-509 Sixth St.	
Mar 31 1942		Dean, Arthur S.	Acting
Apr 1 1942		Dean, Arthur S.	Assumed charge
Jun 22 1944		Dean, Arthur S.	Nominated

**LAS ANIMAS (II) – Continued60**

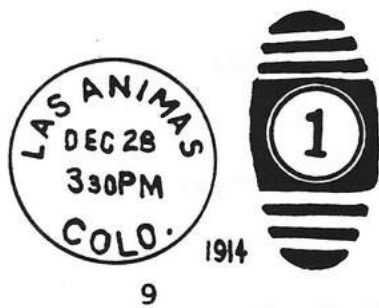
Jun 23 1944	Dean, Arthur S.	Confirmed
Jun 24 1944	Dean, Arthur S.	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Sep 30 1944	Dean, Arthur S.	Assumed charge
Apr 30 1951	Samuelson, Carl Eric	Assumed charge
May 21 1951	Samuelson, Carl Eric	Acting
Sep 14 1951	Samuelson, Carl Eric	Nominated
Sep 26 1951	Samuelson, Carl Eric	Confirmed
Sep 27 1951	Samuelson, Carl Eric	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Dec 31 1952	Deal, Floyd W., Jr.	Assumed charge
Jan 15 1953	Deal, Floyd W., Jr.	Acting
Feb 4 1954	Woods, Phillip J.	Nominated
Mar 1 1954	Woods, Phillip J.	Confirmed, Apptd Presidential & Commissioned
May 15 1954	Woods, Phillip J.	Assumed charge
Jul 20 1973	Deal, Floyd W., Jr.	Officer in charge
Nov 10 1973	Deal, Floyd W., Jr.	Appointed
Dec 28 1974	Fulton, Don	Officer in charge
May 24 1975	King, James R.	Appointed
Jul 30 1976	Czillinger, Robert	Officer in charge
Dec 3 1976	Jung, Edward T., Jr.	Officer in charge
Mar 12 1977	McNichols, Ronald A.	Acting
Mar 31 1980	Malo, William	Officer in charge
Aug 1 1980	Hansen, Barbara	Officer in charge
Apr -- 1983	Hansen, Barbara	Appointed

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Nov 14 1887 Feb 24 1889 Hstp Target, 4-ring; This device, without year date, was also used at the original Las Animas
1.1	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 27.0	Jul 18 1889 Hstp Cork, pattern [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
2	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 26.5	Dec 19 1886 Mar 1 1896 Hstp Cork, negative X-roads
3	LAS ANIMAS, COLO. // P. O. REG. CI 10P 33.0	DEPT. (CORRECT. / WM E. CULVER, P.M.) Jan 14 1891 Hstp No killer, registry receipt
4	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 28.0	Mar 12 1898 Oct 3 1899 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 & circle
5	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. // R.F.D. SL 00R 27.0x17.0	Mar 4 1901 Mar 19 1902 RFD 5 bars with 1
6	LAS ANAMAS / COLO // R F D SL 00R 31.0x18.0	Apr 25 1907 RFD 5 bars with 1 Note misspelling of "Animas"
7	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 29.0	Sep 10 1906 May 15 1909 Dplx Grid, 9-bar oval
8	LAS ANIMAS, COLO. / M.O.B. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Dec 22 1915 Hstp No killer [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
8.1	LAS ANIMAS, / COLO. RC 10P 35.0x19.0	1910s Hstp No killer, Parcel Post Box [NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
9	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 26.0	Jan 23 1911 Nov 14 1920 Dplx Grid, oval with circle and 1
9.1	LAS ANIMAS / COLO CI 10P 25.0	Nov 9 1920 Sep 10 1923 Dplx Grid, oval with circle and 1
10	LOS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	Oct 11 1921 Oct 14 1921 Dplx Grid, oval with 1 & circle [Misspelling "LOS"]
10.1	LAS ANIMAS, COLO. CI 10P 20.0	Aug 22 1923 Flag 13 star waving flag [short field of stars]

LAS ANIMAS (II) – Continued

11	LAS ANIMAS, COLO. CI 10P 22.0	Dec 28 1925 May 11 1931 Flag 13 star waving flag [Extended field of stars] Apr 3 1933 May 20 1948
12	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 20.5	Mach 6 wavy lines
13	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 25.0	May 10 1935 Jul 7 1948 Dplx Grid, oval with circle and 1
14	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. I 10P 30.0	Mar 11 1952 Dplx Grid, diamond with 1
15	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Dec 2 1958 Nov 29 1965 Mach 6 wavy lines
16	LAS ANIMAS / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	Jan 16 1963 Jun 3 1965 4bars S-24x20mm
17	LAS ANIMAS, CO / 81054 CI 10P 33.0	Jun 11 1968 Nov 10 1971 4bars S-24x20mm
18	LAS ANIMAS, CO / 81054 CI 10P 20.5	Mar 3 1966 Jul 2 1990 Mach 6 wavy lines
19	LAS ANIMAS, CO / 81054 CI 10P 20.0	Dec 30 1972 May 9 1973 Mach Slogan in box with bars: LAS ANIMAS / CENTENNIAL / 1873 - 1973
20	LAS ANIMAS, CO / 81054 CI 10P 31.5	May 30 1975 Jul 16 1976 4bars S-23x18mm
21	LAS ANIMAS, CO / 81054 CI 10P 31.0	Feb 17 1987 4bars S-25x17mm
22	LAS ANIMAS CO 81054 / USPS CI 11P 30.0/19.0	Apr 14 1987 May 13 1997 Hstp No killer
23	LAS ANIMAS CO / 81054 CI 10P 34.0	Jun 27 2000 4bars S-12x23mm



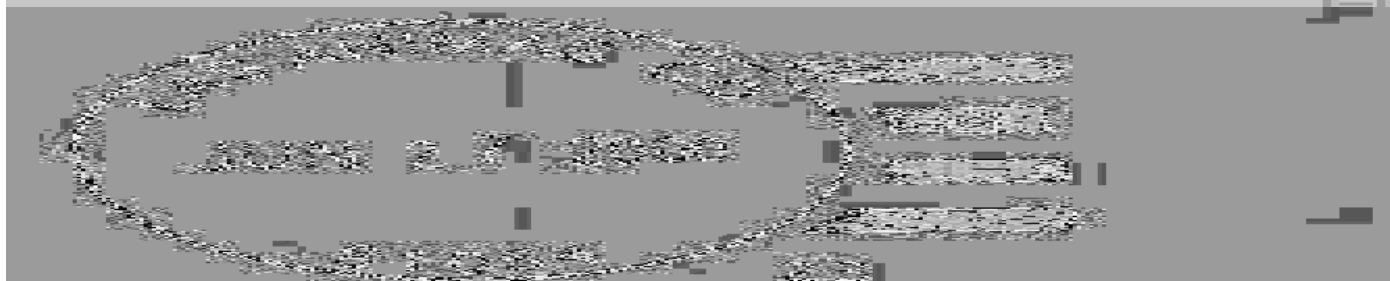
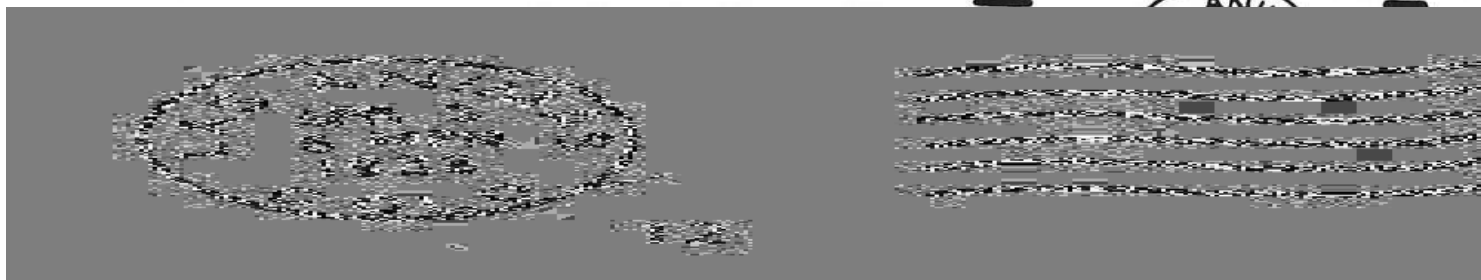
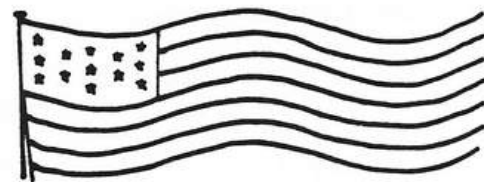
LAS ANIMAS (II) - Continued



10.1



11



## LAS ANIMAS (II) STATIONS

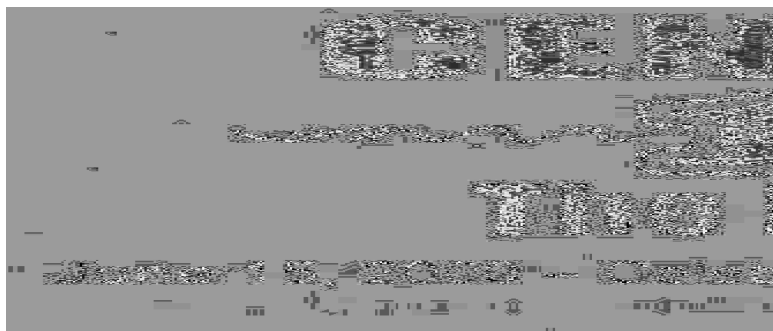
## CELEBRATE THE CENTURY STATION

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 2000      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

## Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Las Animas CO 81054 // Celebrate the Century Station<br>SL 00R 99.0x3.0 | Jun 15 2000    Jun 15 2000<br>Pict Text only - CENTENARIAN / -- 100 -- /<br>The Life of a Century |
|---|---|---|



## FORT LYON RURAL STATION

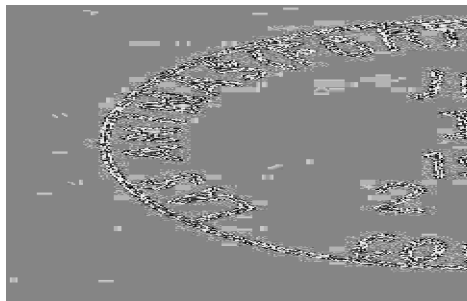
## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 12 1918      Established [Rural Station of Las Animas]  
Jun 14 1920      Discontinued [See U. S. Fort Lyon, below]  
Nov 1 1921      Re-established [Rural Station of Las Animas]  
Discontinued [Prior to 1924]

See Fort Lyon for later re-establishment as an independent office

## Confirmed types of postal markings

- |   |  |                            |
|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | LAS ANIMAS (FORT LYON RUR. STA.) / COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-24x18mm                                   | Nov 27 1917    Jan 27 1922 |
| 2 | LAS ANIMAS (FORT LYON RUR. STA.) COLO.<br>CI 10P 32.0      4bars S-??x19mm<br>[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION] | Jan 7, 1922                |



**LAS ANIMAS (II) STATIONS – Continued  
FORT LYON RURAL STATION – Continued**



**LAS ANIMAS (FORT LYON RUR. STA.) / COLO.      February 14, 1918**

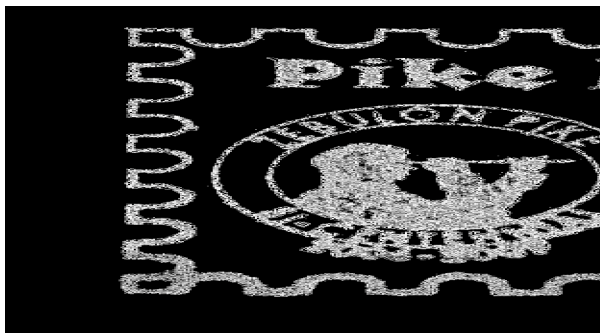
**PIKES MARKER STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 15 2006      Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1      Las Animas, CO 81054 // Pike Marker Station      Nov 15 2006
- RC 10T 68.0x35.0      Pict Scene - Pike Bicentennial emblem; Text - Dedication of marker / locating Pike's first view / of the "Blue Mountains"      Frame is a simulated stamp with perforations



LAS ANIMAS (II) STATIONS – Continued

**PLEASURE BEACH STATION**

Very little is known about this Branch Office. It may have been located on Adobe Creek Reservoir north of Las Animas. If it operated and that is questionable, it was during 1921, probably the summer months only.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- 1921                      Established as a Branch of Las Animas
- 1921                      Discontinued [May have been rescinded before it began operation]

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM PLEASURE BEACH

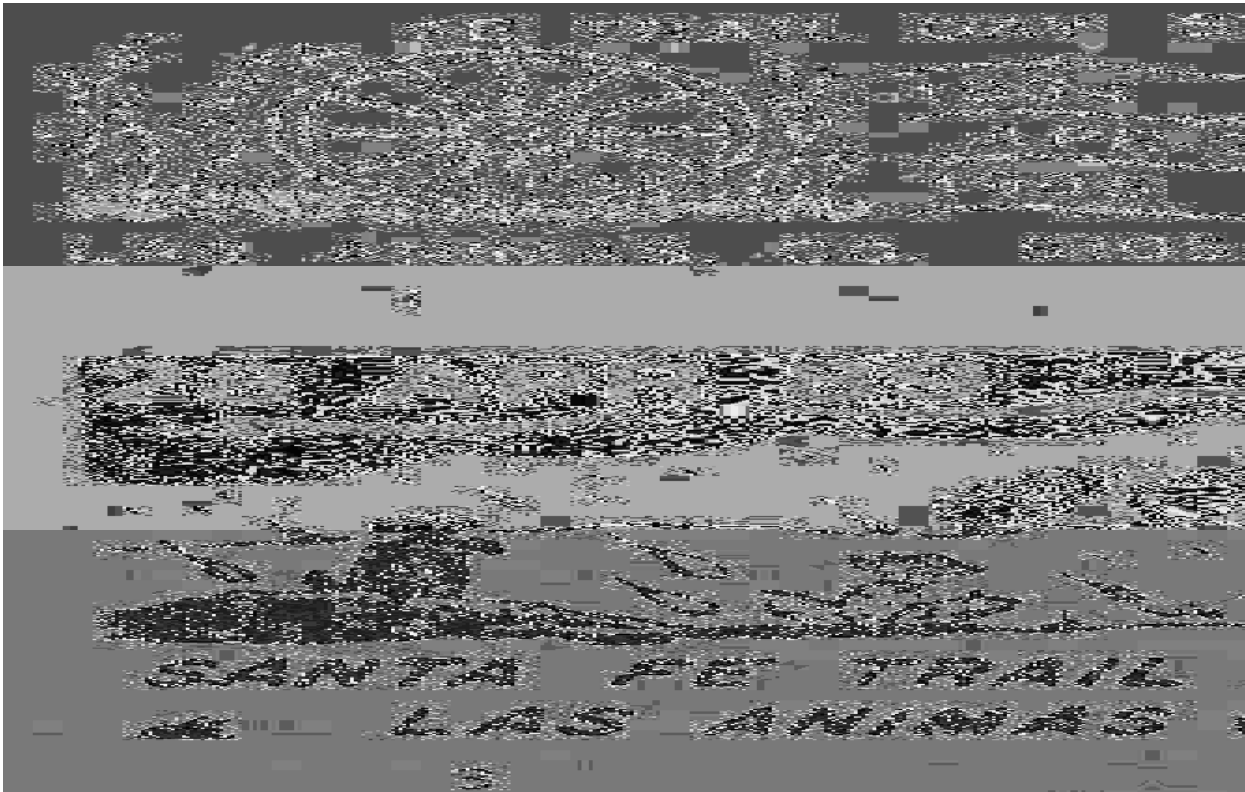
**SANTA FE TRAIL DAY STATION**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

- Apr 25 1986            Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
- Apr 24 1987            Operated as a Special Commemorative Station
- Apr 28 1989            Operated as a Special Commemorative Station

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- |   |   |  |                            |
|---|---|--|----------------------------|
| 1 | LAS ANIMAS, CO 81054 // SANTA FE TRAIL DAY STA.<br>IR 00R 68.0x32.0   | Pict Scene - Wagon wheel, barbed wire; 1934 / 1986 | Apr 25 1986    Apr 25 1986 |
| 2 | LAS ANIMAS, CO. 81054 // SANTA FE TRAIL DAY STA.<br>IR 00R 61.0x31.0  | Pict Scene - Man wearing Stetson hat               | Apr 24 1987    Apr 24 1987 |
| 3 | LAS ANIMAS CO 81054 // SANTA FE TRAIL DAY STATION<br>IR 00R 90.0x50.0 | Pict Scene - Storm scene on the plains             | Apr 28 1989    Apr 28 1989 |



LAS ANIMAS (II) – Continued

U.S. FORT LYON BRANCH

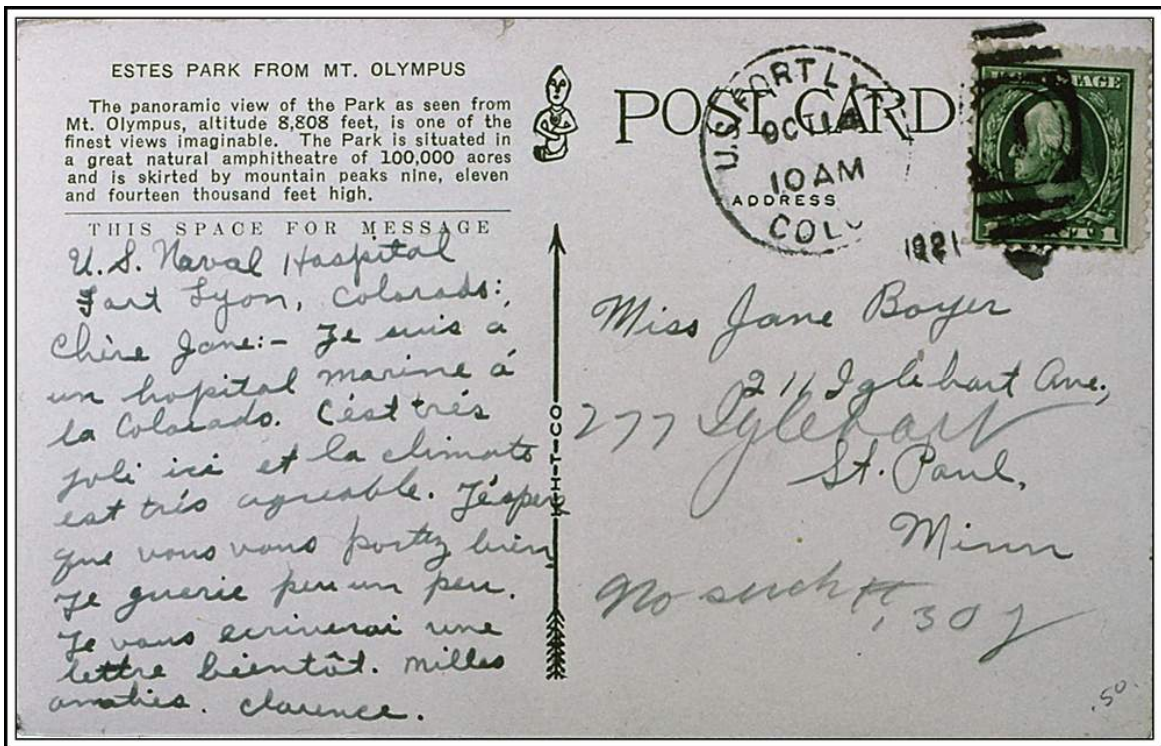
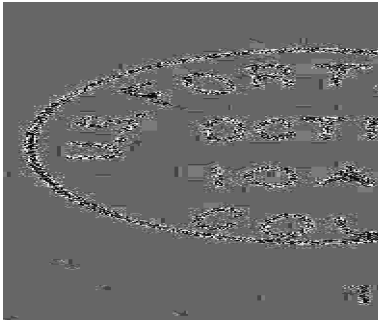
Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 15 1920      Established as a Branch of Las Animas  
Oct 31 1921      Discontinued

See also Fort Lyon (II) and Fort Lyon Rural Station of Las Animas

Confirmed types of postal markings

1      U.S. FORT LYON / COLO.      Jul 15 1921    Dec 22 1921  
         CI 10P 25.0      Dplx Grid, oval with 1 & circle



U. S. FORT LYON / COLO.      October 14, 1921  
Duplex handstamp, barrel grid with "1"

## McCLAVE

This small community began in 1896 with the arrival of the Santa Fe Railroad. Bayard T. McClave, rancher and businessman, was the owner of the townsite and the McClave family has continued to play an important part in the life of McClave.

The plat for McClave was filed on October 7, 1907. McClave was primarily a beet dump for the American Beet Sugar Company.

From Hasty drive six miles east on US-50 to Colorado 196. Drive north one and one-half miles to McClave. McClave is still an active community with a number of residences and a small business district providing limited services for the residents and the surrounding farms and ranches.

Latitude = 38:08:15 North Longitude = 102:51:00 West



**Post Office McClave, Colorado**

Photograph by J. L. Ozment

October 5, 1997

### Chronology of the Post Office

Sep 30 1908	---	NW/4 Sec 18 T22S R48W	
Oct 10 1908		Established	
Oct 29 1908		Strain, Oscar G.	
Sep 5 1911	---	Center Sec 18 T22S R48W; 75 feet north of Railroad	
Mar 30 1914	---	West center Sec 18, T22S R48W; 125 feet north of AT&SF	
Dec 22 1914		Walker, Robert N.	
May 24 1920		Bruce Bernard H.	Confirmed
Jun 10 1920		Bruce Bernard H.	Commissioned
Jul 1 1920		Bruce Bernard H.	Assumed charge
Jun 1 1932		Smartt, John H.	Assumed charge
Jun 9 1932		Smartt, John H.	Acting
Sep 20 1932		Smartt, Mrs. Caithness	Confirmed

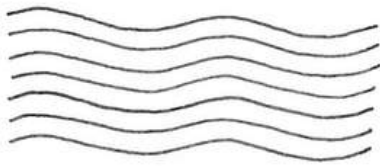
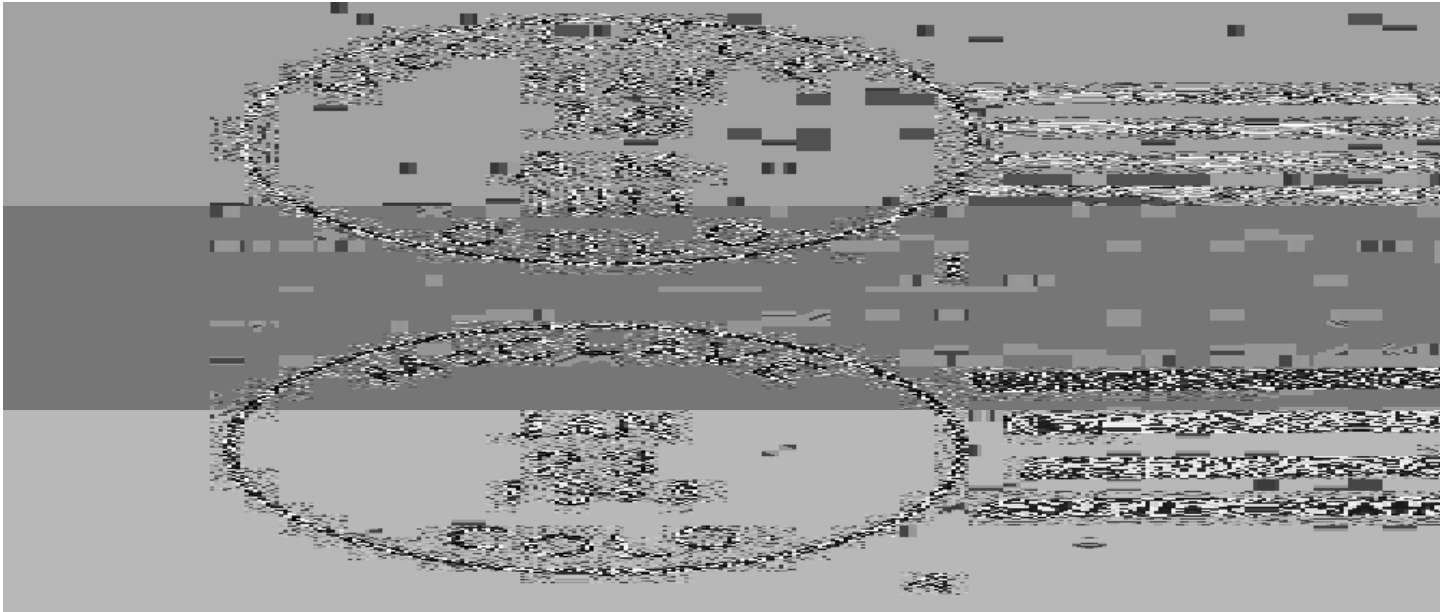
**McCLAVE – Continued**

Oct 10 1932	Smartt, Mrs. Caithness	Commissioned
Oct 31 1932	Smartt, Mrs. Caithness	Assumed charge
Oct 20 1941 ---	NW/4 Sec 18 T22S R48W; 1 block north of railroad	
Jan 9 1944	Harris, Arthur G.	Assumed charge
Jan 15 1944	Harris, Arthur G.	Acting
Jul 11 1944	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Assumed charge
Jul 26 1944	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Acting
Aug 15 1944 ---	NW/4 Sec 18 T22S R48W New site; 240 feet west of old site; 2 blocks north of railroad	
Oct 16 1944	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Confirmed
Nov 7 1944	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Commissioned
Dec 31 1944	Tweedie, Frances	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1945		Presidential
Sep 26 1945	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Nominated
Oct 29 1945	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Confirmed
Oct 30 1945	Tweedie, Mrs. Frances	Appointed Presidential & Commissioned
Mar 31 1946	Tweedie, Frances	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1948		Relegated
Oct 7 1948	Tweedie, Frances	Confirmed
Dec 8 1948	Tweedie, Frances	Commissioned
Dec 31 1948	Tweedie, Frances	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1949		Presidential
Sep 13 1957	Lirby, Alice Marie	Assumed charge
Oct 2 1957	Lirby, Alice Marie	Acting
		Relegated
Feb 10 1959	Foster, Walter R.	Appointed
Mar 27 1959	Foster, Walter R.	Assumed charge
Jul 1 1959		Office advanced

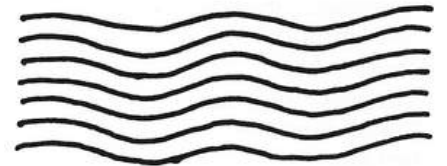
**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	McCLAVE, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x14mm	Apr 8 1908 Mar 15 1911
2	MCCLAVE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Mar 4 1912 Oct 20 1916
3	MCCLAVE, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-25x20mm	Mar 3 1922 Oct 19 1938
4	McCLAVE / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-23x19mm	Nov 21 1939 Oct 13 1950
5	McCLAVE / COLO. CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	Sep 15 1948
6	McCLAVE / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-23x18mm	Nov 20 1956 Dec 28 1962
6.1	McCLAVE, COLO. CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Sep 21 1965 Dec 4 1965
7	McCLAVE CO 81057 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Nov 8 1967 Aug 30 1978
8	McCLAVE, CO / 81057 CI 10P 32.5	4bars S-23x20mm	Apr 30 1971 Sep 10 1981
9	McCLAVE, CO / 81057 CI 10P 21.0	Mach 7 wavy lines	Mar 11 1987
10	McCLAVE, CO / 81057 CI 10P Distorted	4bars S-27x22mm, distorted dial	Apr 15 1988
10.1	McCLAVE, CO / 81057 CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-20x23mm	Jun 14 1993
11	McCLAVE CO 81057 / USPS CI 11P 29.0/19.0	Hstp No killer	May 13 1997 May 25 2007

McCLAVE – Continued



6.1



7



## **MEDFORD SPRINGS**

Medford Springs was a remote rural post office in the southeastern quarter of Bent County. The site of Medford Springs is a mile and a half east of the closest road. From that road, there is an old windmill visible on the ridge to the east at the approximate location of Medford springs. There is no sign of buildings, although there could be something on the other side of the ridge. This portion of Bent County is grazing land with only occasional areas of cultivation.

It seems certain that the name of the post office was a combination denoting springs at the site with of the family name of the first postmaster, Minnie B. Medford.

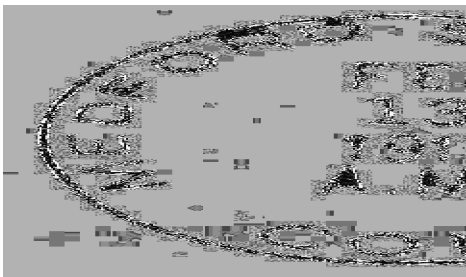
It is a long drive through very sparsely settled countryside to get to Medford Springs. Beginning at Hasty, drive south to and across the John Martin Dam. Bear to the west about a mile and a quarter along the railroad to a crossing then south for two and one half mile to an intersection. Turn left one half mile and then south. I believe this is County Road 23 but it is really the only choice. Go south fifteen miles. This is a mostly straight road with a couple of short jogs. At thirteen miles there is a longer jog to the southeast, at which point you will then be on County Road 24. Another mile and you might be able to discern a small cemetery on the west side of the road. The windmill, if still standing, should be visible to the east on the ridgeline. This is the best you can do for Medford Springs without a long walk up hill. It is possible to continue south into Baca County intersecting Colorado 101 and eventually US-160.

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

<b>Jun 10 1916</b>	<b>---</b>	<b>SW/4 Sec 17 T26S R49W; 1 mile west of West Mud Creek</b>
		<b>Applicant for postmaster - Mrs. Nina B. Medford</b>
<b>Nov 8 1916</b>		<b>Established</b>
<b>Nov 8 1916</b>		<b>Medford, Minnie B.</b>
<b>Jan 30 1920</b>		<b>Lukens, Chester F.</b>
<b>May 31 1922</b>		<b>Discontinued Mail to Caddoa</b>

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

**1 MEDFORD SPRINGS, / COLO. Feb 13 1917**  
**CI 10P 33.0 4bars S-??x19mm**



## **MUD CREEK**

Mud Creek is one of several Colorado Post Office locations that have escaped historical mention. None of the Bent County sources that I have read make mention of such a settlement. Thus I have to rely on the location given in the Post Office Department Geographic Site Location Reports.

Using the site location report, I was able to get within “viewing” distance of where the office was supposedly located. The surrounding countryside is rangeland and there is an active ranch at the end of the road, a couple miles south of the Mud Creek location.

**MUD CREEK – Continued**

To get within sight distance of Mud Creek, start at the Bent-Prowers County line [SRM: [where on the line?](#)]. Drive west one mile and turn south for one mile, then west one-half mile and again south, crossing the Arkansas River and the Santa Fe Railroad. Before crossing the river, you will be passing the sites of Fort Wise, Old Fort Lyon and Bent's New Fort, to the west of the road. After crossing the railroad, you will be at the site of Prowers. Turn west from what remains of Prowers one-half mile and then turn south. Go about three and three-quarter miles and turn west. Go six miles west and turn south. This road will go due south for two miles then angle to the southeast down into the Mud Creek Valley.

The valley is fairly gentle and reasonably wide. From this southeast bearing stretch you can look northeast up the valley and in the distance see remnants of something, perhaps a building, water tank, or corral. I suspect that was where the Mud Creek ranch post office would have been located.

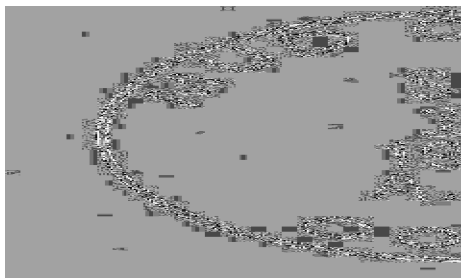
After returning to the road from which you last turned south, you can go west another two miles, then north to Caddoa, the John Martin Dam and Hasty.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

May 17 1911	---	SE/4 Sec 35 T23S R49W; on Mud Creek
Sep 4 1911		Established
Sep 4 1911		Pierce, Mary
Jun 20 1913		Toothaker, Myrtle E.
Mar 3 1916		Moorhouse, Leon
Mar 30 1918		Discontinued Mail to Caddoa

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1 MUD CREEK, / COLO. May 29 1914 Sep 14 1914  
CI 10P 32.0 4bars S-25x19mm

**NEW FORT LYON**

In October 1889 the second Fort Lyon was abandoned by the military and on January 20, 1890 the reservation was turned over to the Department of the Interior.

The buildings of the fort remained vacant until October 25, 1906 when the United States Navy assumed control. It was operated as a Naval Hospital, primarily for tubercular patients. In 1922 the United States Health Service briefly assumed operation, after which the Veterans Administration became the operators. The hospital is still in operation as a Veterans Administration facility.

For about twenty years after Fort Lyon became a hospital site, the designation of its post office was frequently changed. At first it was called "New Fort Lyon." Subsequently it was designated as Fort Lyon Rural Station of Las Animas and then as U. S. Fort Lyon. Finally, on or about March 22, 1928 Fort Lyon was re-established as an independent post office and has been in uninterrupted operation since then. Prior to 1928 there were periods when there was no operating post office at the fort and mail was handled directly from Las Animas.

Please refer to the discussion of Fort Lyon (II) for additional information and directions to New Fort Lyon.

**NEW FORT LYON – Continued**

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 1 1907 --- NE/4 Sec 4 T23S R51W; 1-1/2 miles south of AT&SF.  
 Sketch map seems to confirm location at site of present veterans' hospital

Jan 17 1908 Established  
 Jan 17 1908 Dorne, Lester H.  
 May 16 1908 Ordered closed  
 May 31 1908 Discontinued Mail to Las Animas

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

0.1	New Ft Lyon, Colo.		Apr 1 1908
	MS	Mscp Pen cancel	
1	NEW FORT LYON / COLO.		Apr 11 1908 Apr 20 1908
	CI 10P 31.0	4bars S-23x13mm	



**NINAVIEW**

First established in 1915, Ninaview often moved to a new location. It was first at the ranch of T. R. Jones, an early settler, blacksmith and storeowner. There is question about the selection of the name although it is certain that it was for the wife of Mr. Jones. One report states that the name requested was simply "Nina." This was not accepted but the Post Office Department added "view" to Nina to create the name. Another version claims that Mr. Jones wife had a favorite view from the ranch, hence "Ninaview." However, the initial Geographic Site Location Report makes it clear that the initial request was for "Verona." This was an obvious tie to Mr. Jones' wife, Nina *Verona* Jones who was to be the first postmaster. Verona was rejected, so perhaps one of the other explanations is the basis for the name.

More confusion comes from the claim that Ninaview was first in Las Animas County. However, the stated location is in Township 27 South and the accompanying sketch map shows it to be located almost due west of Rule. This would place the site in Bent County, not in Las Animas County.

My visit to Ninaview was in October 1999. To get there, drive south from La Junta on Colorado 109 through Otero County into the extreme southwest corner of Bent County and continue the short distance to the line with Las Animas County. At that point Bent County Road A goes east. Take that road seven miles to the intersection with Bent County Road 10 (north) and Las Animas County Road 209 (south). The 1920 and later site of Ninaview was in the northwest corner of this intersection. At the time of my visit, there were occupied buildings at this location—an emu or ostrich ranch. Two other sites of Ninaview can be reached by driving north on Road 10. One mile north is the 1918 site at which, in 1999, there were some older buildings and a newer trailer on the east side of the road. Three miles further north is the plotted 1915 site of Ninaview. There was a large two-story, three-ridged metal building, abandoned and of undetermined purpose. The final site of Ninaview was a mile south of the intersection and one mile east of Las Animas County Road 209. There is no road access to that site and nothing is visible from the county road.

Latitude = 37:38:38 North Longitude = 103:14:25 West

## NINAVIEW – Continued

## Chronology of the Post Office

Jun 30 1915	---	Las Animas County; NW/4 Sec 15 T27S R52W. 300 feet east of Johnny Creek [Something confusing here - this would be in Bent County. Could it have been in T28S ?] Sketch map shows it nearly due west of Rule, Colo. Proposed as VERONA - Name rejected Applicant for postmaster - Nina Verona Jones	
Sep 20 1915		Established	
Sep 20 1915		Jones, Nina V.	
Mar 6 1917		Gould, Abbie M.	
Jan 14 1918	---	Move to NW/4 Sec 34 T27S R52W; 2-1/8 miles west of north from old location. Old location was in Las Animas County	
Mar 28 1918		Bailey, Herman A.	
Apr 21 1925		Wilson, Emily V.	Acting
May 18 1925		Wilson, Emily V.	Appointed
Nov 8 1927		Warren, Mary E.	Confirmed
Dec 3 1927		Warren, Mary E.	Commissioned
Dec 9 1927		Warren, Mary E.	Assumed charge
Apr 4 1929	---	SE/4 Sec 33 T27S R52W; New location, moved from SW/4 NW/4 Sec 34 to SE/4 SE/4 Sec 33	
Sep 1 1938		Hindman, John	Assumed charge
Sep 14 1938		Hindman, John	Acting
Oct 5 1938		Hindman, John	Confirmed
Oct 31 1938		Hindman, John	Commissioned
Jun 8 1940		Allen, Mrs. Mary E.	Acting
Jun 22 1940		Allen, Mrs. Mary E.	Assumed charge
Jun 27 1940		Allen, Mrs. Mary E.	Confirmed
Aug 13 1940		Allen, Mrs. Mary E.	Commissioned
Oct 17 1941	---	SE/4 Sec 33 T27S R52W; 1/8 mile east of Chihuahua Creek	
Jul 19 1942		Williams, Mrs. Lulu Belle	Assumed charge
Jul 28 1942		Williams, Mrs. Lulu Belle	Acting
Nov 19 1942		Williams, Mrs. Lulu Belle	Confirmed
Dec 16 1942		Williams, Mrs. Lulu Belle	Commissioned
Jun 30 1946		Widup, Eldrid E.	Assumed charge
Sep 5 1946		Widup, Eldrid E.	Confirmed
Sep 27 1946		Widup, Eldrid E.	Commissioned
Apr 14 1947		Jones, Kate Gentry	Assumed charge
Apr 29 1947		Jones, Kate Gentry	Acting
Jun 9 1947		Jones, Kate Gentry	Appointed
Oct 17 1947		Jones, Kate Gentry	Commissioned
Dec 31 1947		Jones, Kate Gentry	Possession
Jun 29 1951		Coverdell, Sloan E.	Possession
Jul 12 1951		Coverdell, Sloan E.	Acting
Sep 18 1951		Coverdell, Sloan E.	Appointed
Dec 28 1951		Coverdell, Sloan E.	Commissioned
Dec 31 1951		Coverdell, Sloan E.	Assumed charge
Dec 18 1953		Enlow, James L.	Possession
Feb 10 1954		Enlow, James L.	Acting
May 6 1955		Coverdell, Katherine E.	Appointed
Jun 8 1955		Coverdell, Katherine E.	Commissioned
Nov 13 1959		Blundell, Donna M.	Possession
Nov 17 1959		Blundell, Donna M.	Acting
May 27 1960		Blundell, Donna M.	Appointed
May 27 1960		Blundell, Donna M.	Possession
Nov 30 1962		Hasty, Rosella M.	Possession
Dec 14 1962		Hasty, Rosella M.	Commissioned
Jul 30 1965		Discontinued Mail to Las Animas	

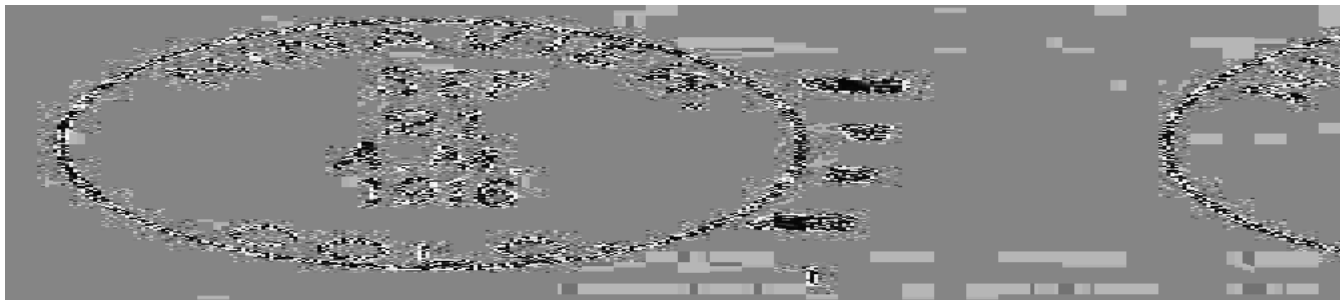
**NINAVIEW – Continued**

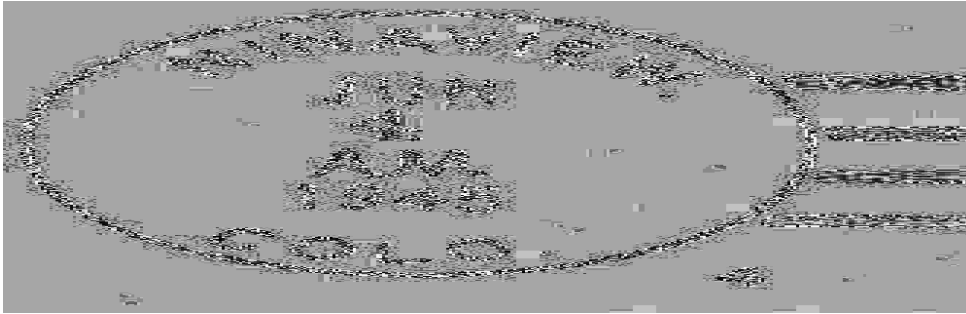


**An ostrich or emu ranch at the 1929 site of Ninaview, Colorado**  
 Photograph by W. H. Bauer May 12, 1999

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	NINAVIEW. / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x20mm	Sep 21 1916
2	NINAVIEW, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x19mm	Jul 16 1935
3	NINAVIEW / COLO CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x18mm	Nov 4 1940 Oct 25 1943
4	NINAVIEW / COLO. <a href="#">[Is there a comma?]</a> CI 10P 34.0	4bars S-24x20mm, large letters	Jun 4 1945 Aug 17 1953
5	NINAVIEW / COLO. <a href="#">[Is there a comma?]</a> CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm, thin letters	May 1 1945 Nov 5 1956



**NINAVIEW – Continued****OPAL**

Other than a mention that Opal was a rural post office three miles northwest of Ninaview, there is no historical information available.

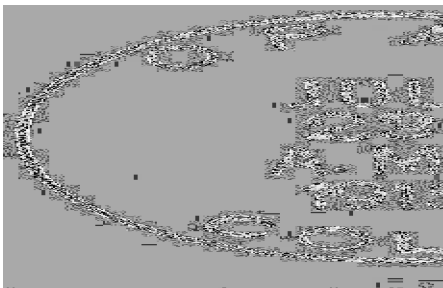
To reach the vicinity of Opal, follow the directions given above for Ninaview. After turning east from Colorado 109 on to Bent County Road A, drive two miles. At that point you will be about two miles south of the locations for Opal, to the north in the valley of Muddy Creek. There is no road access to those sites but the area is visible. In the distance there is a lone tree and possibly remnants of something. That may be all that remains of Opal. From the setting, it is obvious that the designation of a rural post office is proper and that it was intended to serve ranchers in the southwestern corner of the county and in nearby portions of Otero and Las Animas Counties.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Jun 5 1913	---	NE/4 Sec 27 T27S R53W; 1/2 mile south of Muddy Creek; sketch map agrees
Oct 28 1913		Established
Oct 28 1913		Moffett, Rufus
Sep 28 1916		Parsons, Olive V.
Apr 1 1920	---	NE/4 Sec 21 T27S R53W; 1-3/8 mile west of Muddy Creek
Jun 27 1923		Ordered closed
Jul 31 1923		Discontinued Mail to Ninaview

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	OPAL, / COLO.	Feb 19 1915	Dec 24 1918
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-25x20mm	

**PROWERS**

For many years Prowers was a prominent town in the Arkansas Valley, located on the Santa Fe Railroad. The railroad station was named The Meadows (See the discussion of the post office of that name). Prowers lasted for a bit more than 50 years—1881 to 1933. During that time it was a supply point

**PROWERS – Continued**

for ranchers and farmers and a shipping point for produce and livestock. The post office did have periods when it was not operating and the final closure in 1933 may have been an effect of the Dust Bowl years.

Prower was named for John Powers who was an early rancher who was significant in the development of the Arkansas Valley agricultural industry.

The directions to Prowers are the same as the initial portion of the trip to Mud Creek. Prowers was on the south side of the Arkansas River and the Santa Fe Railroad.

When I visited Prowers in 1997 there were still buildings there, some occupied. The old store, possibly the post office site, was still standing and appeared to be used sometimes as either a grain storage site or a feed supply.

Latitude = 38:04:55 North Longitude = 102:46:02 West

**Chronology of the Post Office**

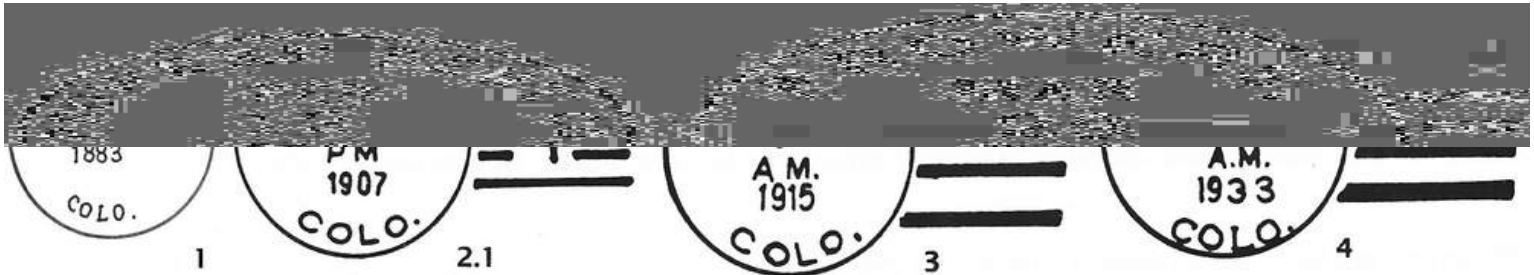
- Feb 25 1881 --- NW/4 Sec 1 T23S R48W  
Proposed postmaster - George R. Steele  
[According to the sketch map he clearly thought he was in T23N, not T23S]
- Mar 3 1881 --- NW/4 Sec 1 T23S R48W; on line of AT&SF]
- Mar 11 1881 Established
- Mar 11 1881 Steele, George R.
- Jul 9 1883 Colby, Frank
- May 6 1884 Kirkpatrick, Ryus N.
- Aug 4 1886 Discontinued Papers to Blackwell
- Jan 31 1891 --- NE/4 Sec 2 T23S R48W; 100 feet from track AT&SF  
Proposed Postmaster - Mrs. Anna Yaylor [Taylor?]
- Feb 24 1891 Re-established
- Feb 24 1891 Taylor, Anna
- Jul 11 1893 Discontinued, Mail to Lamar
- Apr 30 1898 --- NE/4 Sec 2 T23S R48W; 85 feet north of Prowers Station on AT&SF.  
Proposed postmaster - Rosa B. Stoughton
- May 20 1898 Re-established
- May 20 1898 Stoughton, Rosa B.
- Jun 13 1899 Towers, William A.
- Apr 8 1904 Towers, Frances H.
- Oct 7 1904 Miller, Karl S.
- Nov 29 1904 --- NE/4 Sec 2 T23S R48W; 200 feet north of AT&SF
- Nov 26 1907 Deem, Lawrence E.
- Mar 11 1914 --- NW/4 NE/4 Sec 2 T23S R48W; 1/2 mile south of Arkansas River;  
150 feet north of AT&SF tracks
- May 29 1916 Lashier, Allen F.
- Jul 22 1918 Simpson, Colin C. Declined
- Oct 26 1918 McDermott, Edythe
- Apr 21 1923 McDonald, Mary E.
- May 2 1933 Order closed
- May 15 1933 Discontinued Mail to Lamar

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

- 1 PROWERS' BENT CO. / COLO. Aug 10 1882 May 21 1886  
CI 10P 26.5 Hstp Pen cancel
- 2 PROWERS, / COLO. Nov 2 1904 Jan 14 1905  
CI 10P ???.? Doane Type 2, with 1;  
[NOT AVAILABLE FOR ILLUSTRATION]
- 2.1 PROWERS, / COLO. Feb 22 1907 Dec 25 1908  
CI 10P 30.0 Doane Type 3, with 1;

**PROWERS – Continued**

3	PROWERS, / COLO. CI 10P 33.0	4bars S-??x13mm	Oct 6 1909 Apr 20 1915
4	PROWERS, / COLO. CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-??x??mm	Feb 8 1933

**RAWLINGS**

I have found no reference to this place in any historical literature; further, there is no document in any of the Geographic Site Location Report files.

Since the initial and only postmaster was named James B. Rawlings, I assume the office was to take his name and was likely located at his home, perhaps a ranch.

An additional complication is that the period of the Rawlings post office, 1886-1887, was prior to 1889 when Kiowa, Otero, Prowers and parts of Lincoln and Cheyenne Counties were carved away from the larger Bent County that had existed since 1870. The site of Rawlings could be in any one of those newer counties.

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Apr 24 1886	Established
Apr 24 1886	Rawlings, James B.
Jul 7 1887	Discontinued No papers

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

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

**RULE**

As with Opal and Mud Creek, Rule is another of the post offices in southern Bent County that rate no mention in the historical literature other than a classification as a “rural post office.”

I attempted to visit the site of Rule in May of 1999. The road that would take me the closest to the site was blocked by a locked gate. A short distance from the entrance to that road there is a low bluff projecting to the south. The plotted site of Rule was either on the south end of that bluff, or just around behind it, so I do not know if anything remains at that location. However, visible from that gate, were the remnants of a couple of stone buildings about a thousand feet to the northeast and near the bluff. I was able to drive close to those and photographed them as at least being in the vicinity of Rule.

To get to this point, the best choice is to drive south from Las Animas on Colorado 101. About 20 miles from Las Animas you come to a fork in the road. The few buildings at this point are known as “Toonerville” (no post office). The right hand fork is Bent County Road 10, so an alternate choice would be to drive north on that road from Ninaview. The left-hand fork, Colorado 101, angles to the southeast. Seven to eight miles further on you will find a side road to the east. Only two miles north of the southern Bent County line this may be designated as County Road C. That is where I encountered the locked gate, but you should be able to see the remnant stone buildings from the gate.

**RULE – Continued**



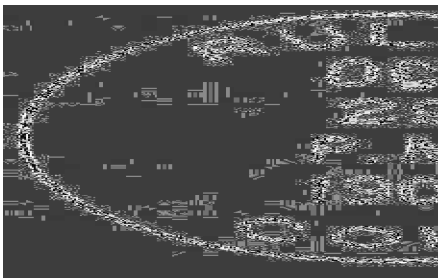
**Ruins of a stone building near the site of Rule, Colorado**  
Photograph by W. H. Bauer May 12, 1999

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Feb 16 1909	---	NE/4 Sec 24 T27S R51W
Mar 12 1909		Established
Mar 12 1909		Thomas, Albert M.
Mar 25 1918		Buckey, Maud
Apr 4 1921		Brailley, William P.
Jun 1 1921		Ordered closed
Jun 30 1921		Discontinued Mail to Deora

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	RULE, / COLO.	Oct 29 1909 Jun 29 1914
	CI 10P 32.0	4bars S-24x14mm



## TEXAS RANCH

Like Rawlings, Texas Ranch is another post office for which I have found no information and for which there is no document in the Geographic Site Location Reports.

The period of Texas Ranch, 1871-1873 was after the original creation of Bent County in 1870 and prior to the consolidation to Bent County of a portion of Greenwood County in early 1874. Therefore, the site of Texas Ranch could be within present day Otero, Bent or Prowers Counties.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Dec 19 1871	Established
Dec 19 1871	McMun, G. S.
Jun 16 1873	Discontinued

### Confirmed types of postal markings

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM TEXAS RANCH**

## THE MEADOWS

There is reference to a place called "The Meadows" as being nine miles west of Pueblo; however, this place was in Bent County at what later became known as Prowers. When the Santa Fe Railroad built through the area they named their station "The Meadows." The post office by that name closed in 1876, when a new office opened in 1881 it took the name of Prowers. Apparently the station and the community continued to be known as the meadows for several years after the Prowers post office opened.

The name was a reference to the lush grasslands and meadows along the Arkansas River. Its location across the river from the site of Bent's New Fort may have contributed to the original settlement in the area.

The directions to The Meadows are the same as for Prowers.

### Chronology of the Post Office

Mar 11 1873	---	NE/4 Sec 2 T23S R48W; Note: "This point is directly opposite Old Fort Lyon and is on the point [?] at a river"; 300 yards south of Arkansas River, 2 miles west of Dry Creek. [This would seem to confirm that "The Meadows" was located at what was later known as "Prowers."]
Apr 10 1873	Established	
Apr 10 1873	Ripley, Charles H.	
Oct 2 1876	Discontinued	

### Confirmed types of postal markings

**NO POSTAL MARKINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED FROM THE MEADOWS**

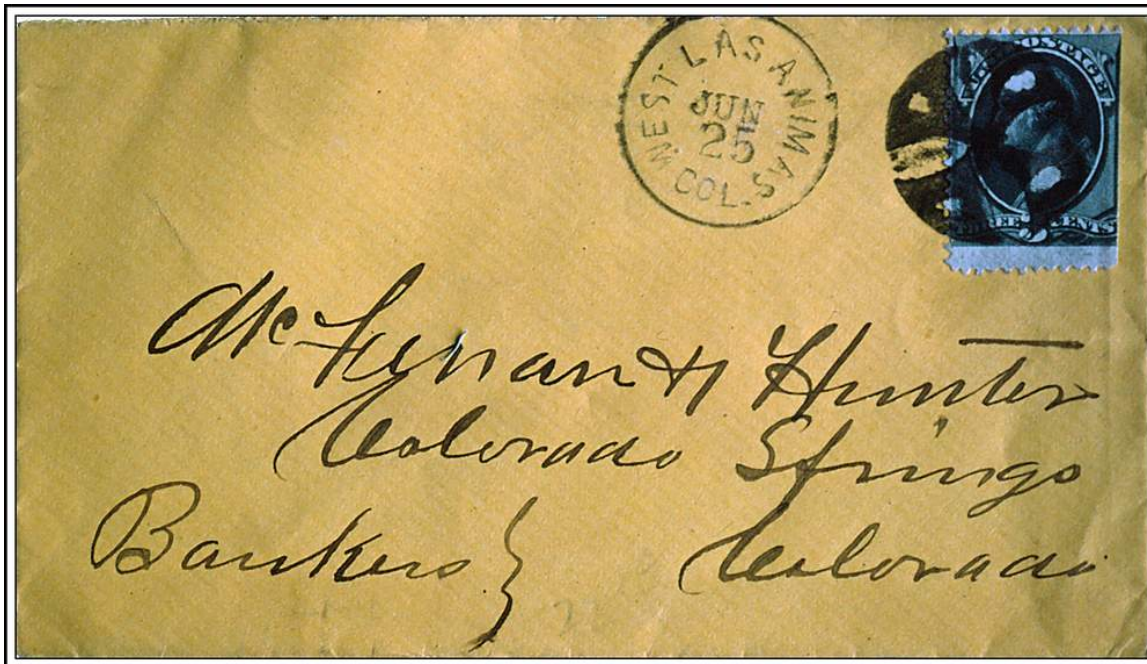
## WEST LAS ANIMAS

This community on the south side of the Arkansas River was founded in 1873 with the arrival of the Kansas Pacific Railroad. It was six miles west of Las Animas City and with the presence of the railroad West Las Animas soon dominated the area. The county seat was moved to West Las Animas in 1875.

David H. Moffat, Jr. and Robert E. Carr, an official of the Kansas Pacific Railroad controlled the West Las Animas Company. The town was incorporated in 1882 as West Las Animas. By 1886 when the older settlement had faded into obscurity, the "West" was dropped and the community re-incorporated as Las Animas.

Please refer to Las Animas for additional discussion of Las Animas and West Las Animas.

WEST LAS ANIMAS – Continued



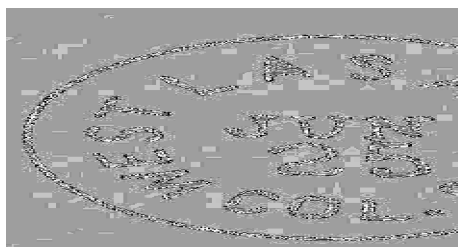
WEST LAS ANIMAS / COL.      June 25      with fancy “pinwheel” killer

**Chronology of the Post Office**

Nov 11 1885	---	NE/4 Sec 10 T23S R52W	
Nov 3 1873		Established	
Nov 3 1873		Wilbraham, Joshua	
Feb 23 1877		Lane, Jackson J.	
May 19 1877		Lane, Jackson J.	Presidential
Oct 31 1877		Lane, Jackson J.	P&S
Jan 17 1882		Culver, William E.	
Feb 20 1886		Campbell, Leroy M.	
Sep 4 1886		Moved to Las Animas	Name changed to Las Animas

**Confirmed types of postal markings**

1	WEST LAS ANIMAS / COL.	Dec 7 1875	Sep 9 1886
	CI 10P 25.5	Hstp Cork, negative X-roads; grids	Fancy, 4 blade pinwheel with circle



**BIBLIOGRAPHY – BENT COUNTY****REFERENCES - BOOKS**

- BECKNER, Raymond M. *Old Forts of Southern Colorado*; 1975; O'Brien Printing & Stationery; Pueblo, Colorado; 60pp; illus.
- BENSON, Maxine *1001 Colorado Place Names*; 1994; University Press of Kansas; Lawrence, Kansas; 237pp; sketches
- BRANDES, Don *Military Posts of Colorado*; 1973; The Old Army Press; Fort Collins, Colorado; 348pp; illus.; map
- BRIGHT, William *Colorado Place Names*; 1993; Johnson Books; Boulder, Colorado; 162pp
- CROFUTT, George A. *Croffutt'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
- EICHLER, George R. *Colorado Place Names*; 1977; Johnson Publishing Co.; Boulder, Colorado; 109pp; illus.
- GRISWOLD, Don and Jean *Colorado's Century of Cities*; 1958; Smith-Brooks; 307pp; illus.
- LAVENDER, David *Bent's Fort*; 1954; Doubleday & Company; Garden City, New York; 450pp
- LONG, Margaret, *The Smoky Hill Trail*; 1943; W.H. Kistler Stationery Co.; Denver; 336pp
- PROPST, Nell Brown *Forgotten People, A History of the South Platte Trail*; 1979; Pruett Publishing Co.; Boulder, Colorado; 244pp; illus.; map
- SHAFFER, Ray *A Guide to Places on the Colorado Prairie 1540-1975*; 1978; Pruett Publishing Co.; Boulder Colorado; 386pp; illus; maps

**REFERENCES - MAPS**

- THAYER, H.L. *Thayer's Map of Colorado 1877*; Richards & Co.; Denver, Colorado
- NELL, Louis *Nell's New Topographical & Township Map of Colorado* in Croffutt's above

**REFERENCES TO ARTICLES IN THE COLORADO HISTORICAL SOCIETY BULLETIN  
COLORADO HISTORY**

- More About Bent's Old Fort*; April 1957, Vol. 34, No. 2, pp144-149
- HUDNALL, Mary Prowers *Early History of Bent County*; November 1945, Vol. 22. No. 6, pp233-247
- HAFEN, LeRoy R. *When Was Bent's Fort Built?*; April 1954, Vol. 2, pp105-119
- TAYLOR, Morris F. *Fort Wise*; Spring 1969, Vol. 46. No. 2, pp93-119; illus.

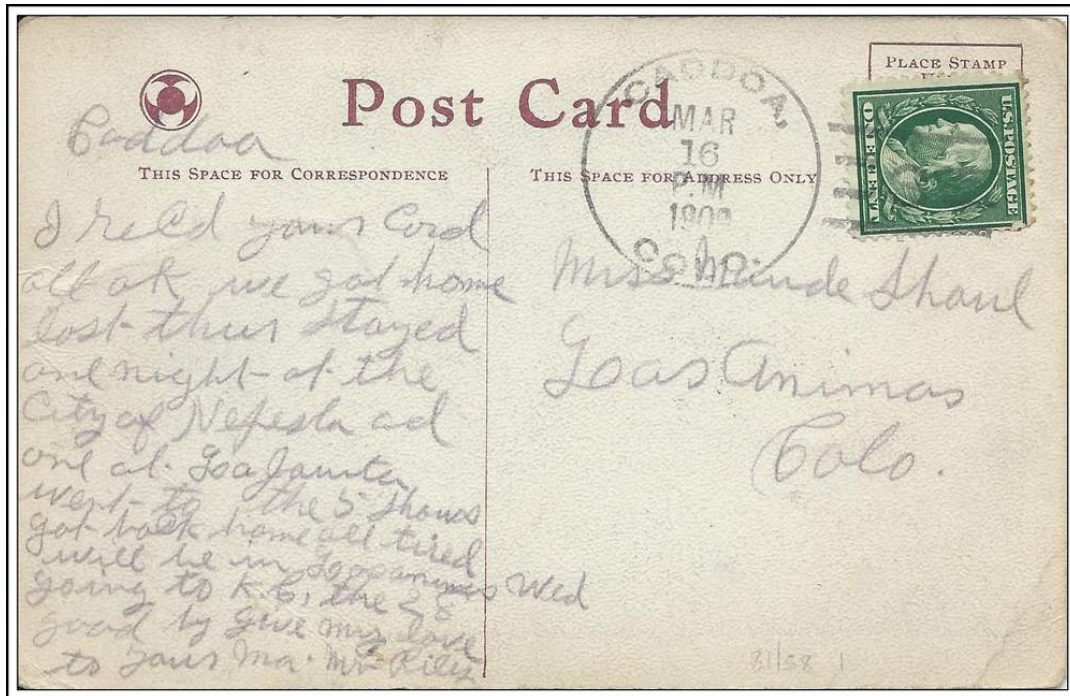
**REFERENCES - COLORADO MAGAZINE**

- Place Names in Colorado* [Alternate Title: *The Names of Colorado Towns*]  
Prepared by the Colorado Writers Project; *Colorado Magazine*; Serialized in Volumes 17-20  
*Bent's Old Fort* Various authors; Fall 1977; *Colorado Magazine*; Vol. 54, No. 4, 180 pp; illus.

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

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

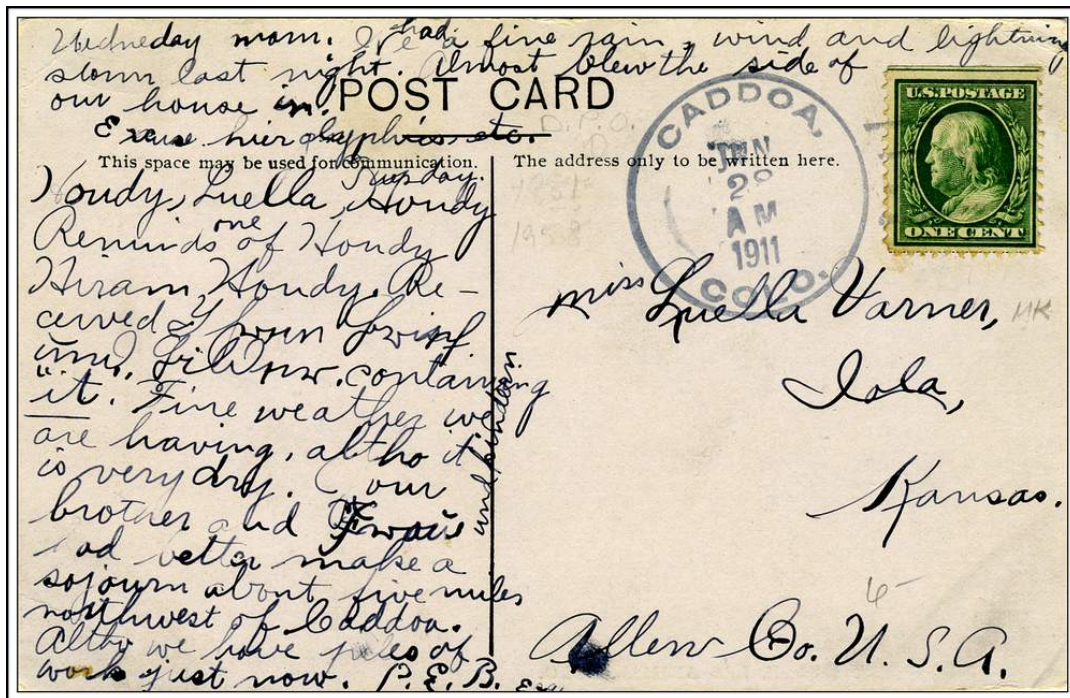
A GALLERY OF BENT COUNTY COVERS



CADDOA, / COLO.

March 16, 1908

Doane Type 3 with 3

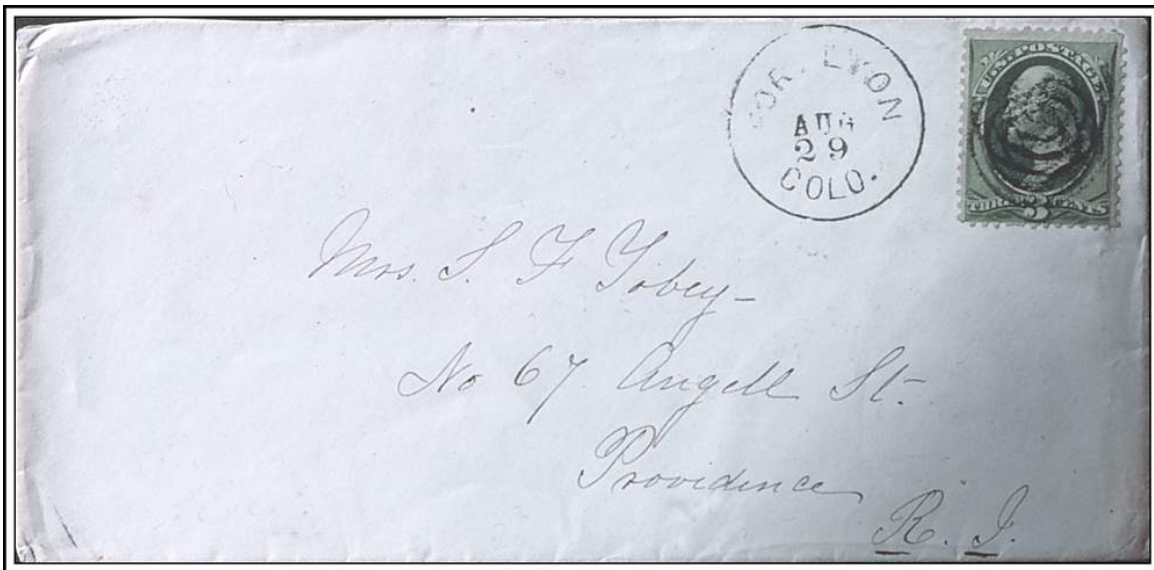


CADDOA, / COLO.

January 2-, 1911



FORT LYON. C.T. May 8, 1863

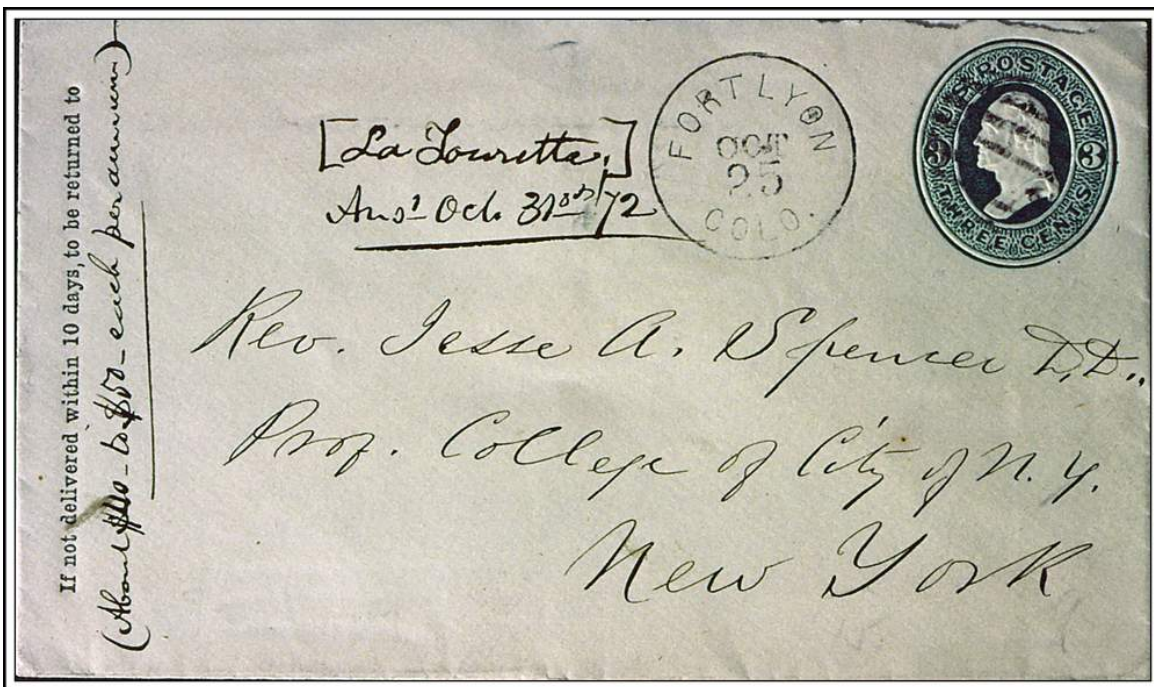


FORT LYON / COLO.

August 29

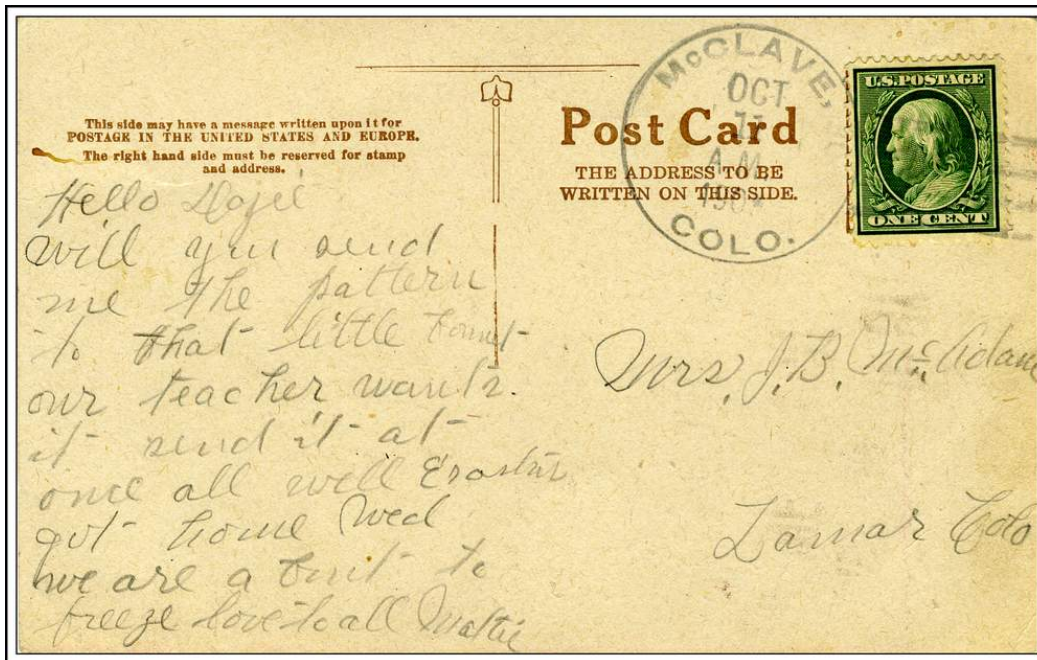


FORT LYON, / COLO.      September 22, 1884    Wheel of Fortune killer



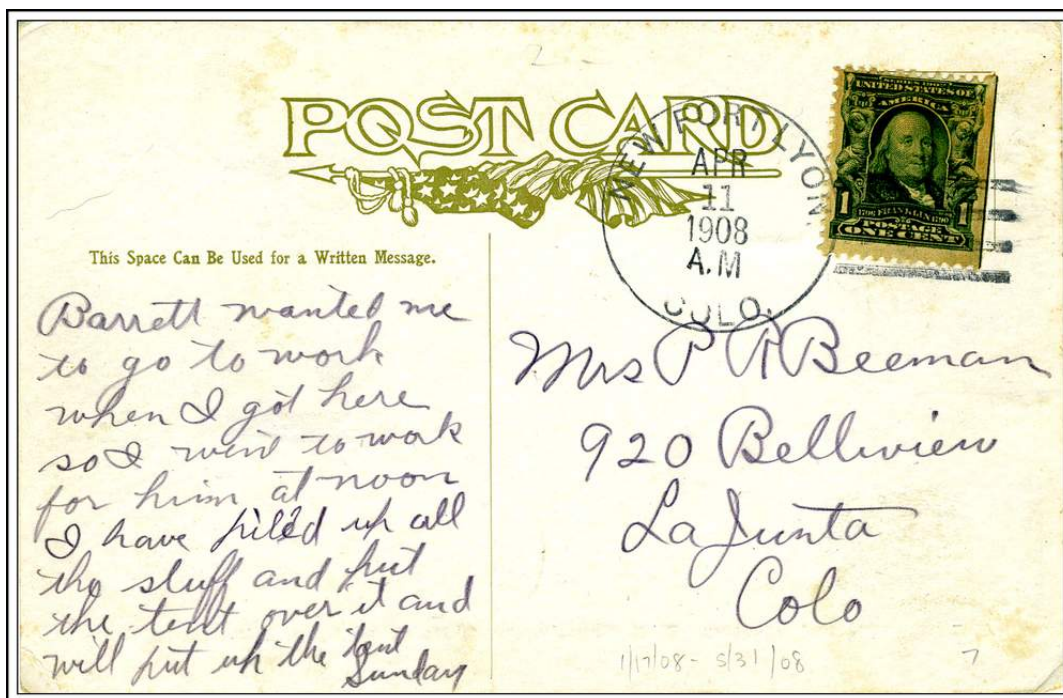
FORT LYON / COLO.

October 25



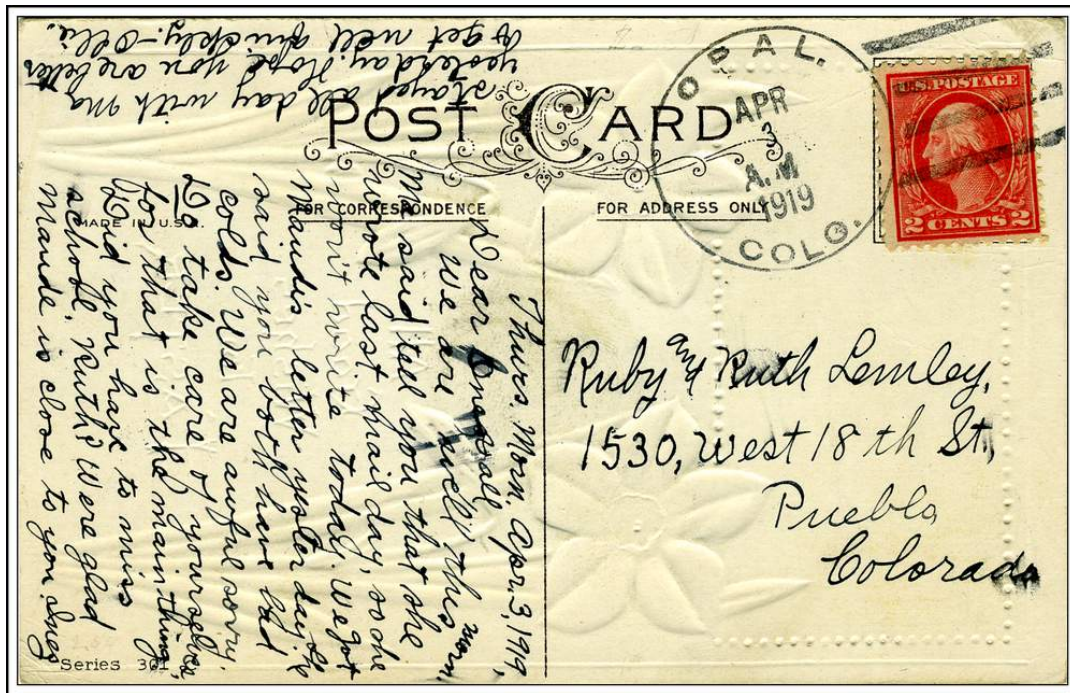
McCLAVE, / COLO.

October 11, 190-



NEW FORT LYON / COLO.

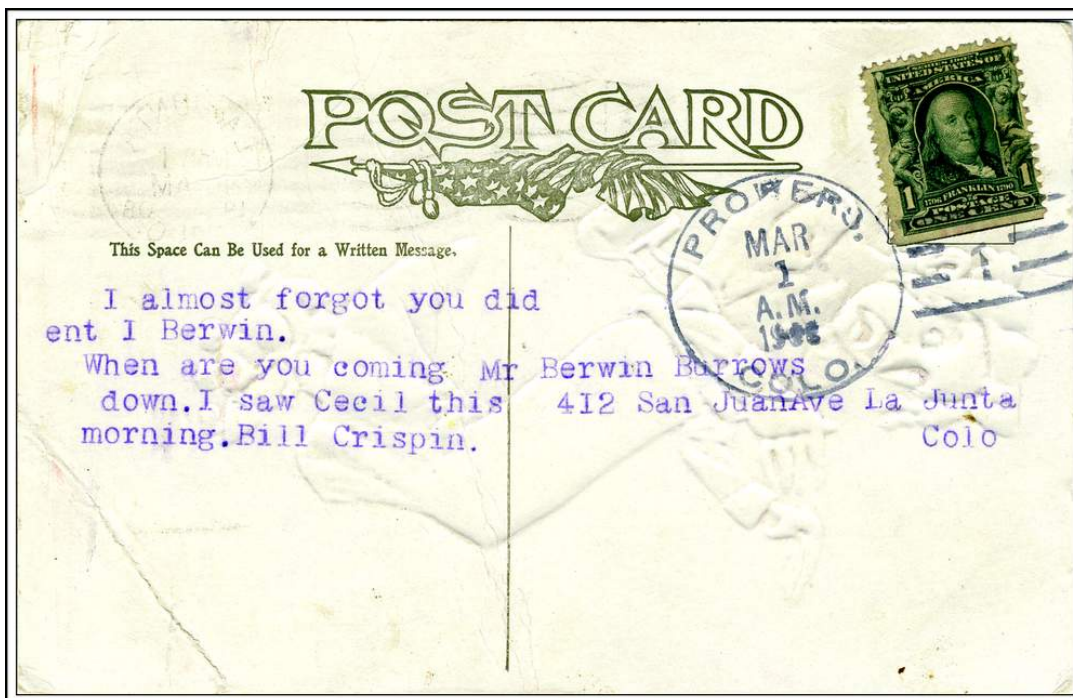
April 11, 1908



OPAL, / COLO.

April 3, 1919

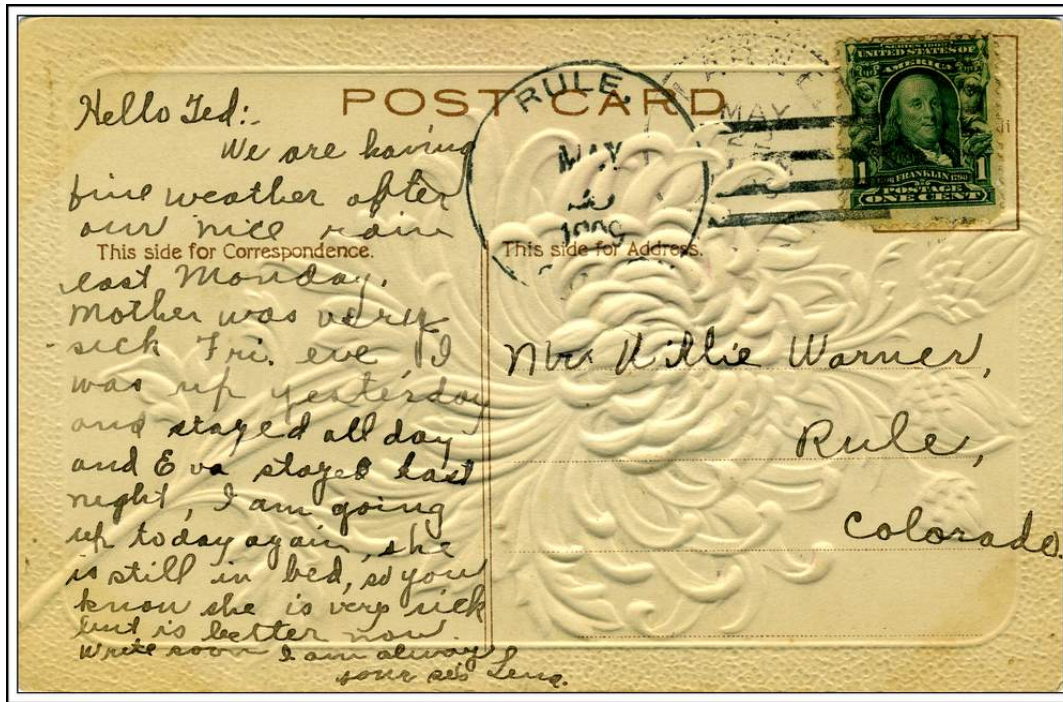
with mscp date



PROWERS, / COLO.

March 1, 1908

Doane Type 3 with 1



RULE, / [COLO.]

May 2-, 1909

