

FOREWORD

I met Bill Bauer when I attended my first ROMPEX in 1977. A couple years earlier I had decided to bring some focus to my postal history collection and had chosen Colorado Postal History. I had bought the first edition of *Colorado Post Offices* by Bauer, Ozment and Willard. At the show I made a conscious effort to seek out these three doyens of Colorado postal history, asked them to autograph my book and point me in the right direction. Hours later I happened to sit down at a dealer's table next Bill. He turned to me with a postcard he had just retrieved from the dealer's box and asked, "Do you have a Bowerman yet?" I didn't and he handed it to me. I was happy to buy it and it was only recently I've learned the copy he'd found and brought to my attention was better than the one he owned himself! I'm sure the same would not have been true had it been a territorial cover!

I only saw Bill a half dozen times thereafter, always at ROMPEX and although I never spent any appreciable time visiting with him, he was always convivial and happy to talk Colorado postal history. His knowledge of the subject was enormous. Later we corresponded via email. When he began serial publication of *The Colorado Postal Encyclopedia* in 1998 I was overjoyed. Now at last I would have an idea of what ghost mining towns had surviving covers and when the earliest and latest dates were. In addition, his profession as a geologist allowed him to write knowledgably of the mining towns and I learned which were "true mining towns" and which were not.

It's been nearly six years since I decided to attempt to update *The Encyclopedia* and convert it into a searchable version. At the time, I had no idea what a huge task it would be. With the help of my co-editors Roger Rydberg and Joe Ditlow, we began delving into the voluminous files and tracings Bill left as part of his legacy. It is only now that we are offering the first quarter of the Colorado Counties in this format. My hope is that what we do in some way preserves and expands what Bill wrote.

It is with great admiration and respect that the editors dedicate this revision to the late Bill Bauer who did it in so much detail the first time and his close friend and fellow explorer the late Jim Ozment.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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