



# LA POSTA

JULY-AUGUST, 1969

POSTAL HISTORY BULLETIN OF THE MOUNTAIN AND DESERT WEST

VOL. I, NO. 4

## NEW MEXICO POSTAL HISTORY: PART II - SAN JUAN COUNTY 1900 - 1912 AND ADDITIONAL NOTES

by William F. Rapp of Crete, Nebraska

This is a continuation of the information on the territorial post offices of San Juan County, New Mexico. Part I appeared in the March-April issue of LA POSTA, pages 5-6.

Cancels from this period of San Juan County postal history should not, in general, be too scarce. Probably the most difficult to find would be: Hood (1899-1905), La Boca (1903-1907), Liberty (1907-1911), Riverside (1909-1911), Rosing (1911), and Turley (1911). Of these, the most difficult cancel for this period is likely to be the La Boca postmark as this office was only in operation for three years, and the postmaster's compensation never reached \$25.00.

The following list of post offices operated in San Juan County between 1900 and 1912. Information has been compiled from the Official Register of the United States, 1901 to 1911.

### AZTEC

Postmaster: Lucy P. Waring, 1900-12

### BLANCO

Postmasters: Flora Daugherty, 1901-05  
Wm. A. Creager, 1906-12

### BLOOMFIELD

Postmaster: Myra Creamer, 1900-1912

### CEDAR HILL

Postmasters: James N. Taylor, 1901  
Frank W. Sharp, 1903  
Richard S. Ridenour, 1905-07  
William Craig, 1909-1912

### CROZIER

Postmasters: Robert B. Wright, 1905  
Lee S. Thayer, 1907-09  
Edward H. Davis, 1911-12

### CRYSTAL

Postmaster: Mrs. Marion A. Moore, 1905-12

### FARMINGTON

Postmasters: Wm. E. Estes, 1901  
L. L. Thomas, 1903  
Jas. A. Duff, 1905-07  
Jas. T. Fay, 1909  
Austin A. Ball, 1911-12

### FLORA VISTA

Postmasters: J. T. McQuillan,  
1900-04  
Wm. T. Mullarky,  
1905  
Mark C. Heflin,  
1907-09  
Jas. W. McMichael,  
1911-12

### FRUITLAND

Postmasters: Lilly Dean, 1901  
Florance Dean, 1903  
Wm. Evans, 1905-09  
Mrs. Sarah W. Evans,  
1911-1912

### HOOD

Postmaster: George S. Hood, 1900-1905

### JEWETT

Postmaster: Luisa DeLucke, 1901-1905

### KIRTLAND

Postmasters: Phebe Guymon, 1905-1909  
Wm. J. Walker, 1911

**LA BOCA**

Postmasters: Nasaris Aragon, 1903  
Socorro B. Garcia, 1905-07

**LA PLATA**

Postmasters: Elia Earle, 1900-03  
Charles Fischerdick, 1904-07  
Cyrus W. Fischerdick, 1908-12

**LARGO**

Postmasters: Helena R. Spinner, 1900-04  
James W. McDaniel, 1905-10  
Mrs. Ida C. Schultz, 1911-12

**LIBERTY**

Postmasters: Albert F. Koehler, 1907-08  
Manuel Marcelino, 1909-10  
Mrs. Ruth B. Johnson, 1911-12

**OLIO**

Postmasters: John M. Gallagher, 1900-01  
Phebe Gaymon, 1902-1903

**PENDLETON**

Postmasters: Will L. Paddock, 1905  
Wm. T. Gleckler, 1907  
Mary B. Schaaf, 1909  
Louis H. Miller, 1911

**PUTNAM**

Postmaster: Richard W. Wetherill,  
1901-1912

**RIVERSIDE**

Postmaster: Saml. T. Stephens,  
1909-1912

**ROSING**

Postmaster: Mrs. Finette McKinley,  
1911-1912

**SHIPROCK**

Postmaster: William T. Shelton,  
1905-1912

**TURLEY**

Postmaster: Mrs. Nina B. Turley,  
1911-1912

**Classification of San Juan County Post Offices:**

In the late 1870s the Post Office Department developed a classification system for all post offices in the United States. The classification was developed as a method for determining the salary of postmasters. Post offices were divided into four classes based upon a formula which used income from the sale of stamps, number of letters dispatched, and several other factors. This same system has been used down to the present time. The only major change has been to raise the income figures to reflect modern economic conditions.

Based upon information in the U. S. Official Postal Guides between 1880 and 1907, all San Juan County post offices during that period were 4th class offices. In 1908, Farmington became a 3rd class post office, and it was followed by Aztec which achieved 3rd class status in 1910. With these two exceptions, all the post offices to operate in the territorial period of San Juan County were 4th class offices.

**Additional Notes on Post Offices in San Juan County:**

There appears to be some discrepancies between the U. S. Official Register and the U. S. Official Postal Guide. The following San Juan County post offices are listed in the Postal Guide, but not in the Register.

ALCATRAZ - listed in 1893 and 1894.

JUNCTION CITY - listed in 1893 and 1894. The Official Register lists "Junction" in 1895, and this listing may refer to Junction City. The question is, what was the correct name for this post office, and what did the cancels read?

Editor's Note: Records of Appointments of Postmasters indicate Junction City estab. May 9, 1891; name changed to Junction - June 5, 1895; discontinued September 9, 1896, papers to Farmington. Dike reports no known postmarks reading either Junction City or Junction.

Rough and Ready was named for the small group of hills situated about 20 miles north and west of Las Cruces in Dona Ana County, New Mexico. The place was also known as Los Hornillos, Spanish for 'little ovens or fireplaces,' because the main building at Rough and Ready had two fireplaces.

Rough and Ready was established to provide a relay station along the 52 miles stretch of the Butterfield Overland Stage Line route between Picacho, on the west bank of the Rio Grande, and Cooke's Spring, located some 20 miles north of present-day Deming. The typical relay station along the Butterfield Line housed six or seven guards and a station keeper. The guards, who were paid about \$75 per month plus board, were responsible for the maintenance of the relay teams in addition to the safety of the line. Station keepers were reportedly paid \$125 per month in addition to board and room. The sole function of the Rough and Ready relay station was to service the tri-weekly east and west bound stages which carried mail, passengers and freight.

The relay station consisted of a stone and adobe building, which sported two chimneys (see diagram). Attached to the main building was an adobe corral for the relay teams. Water for the station was collected in a tank constructed of adobe and situated in a low place in the plain a short distance from the station house.

Rough and Ready was established during December, 1858, as a station in Butterfield's Division 6. Division 6 was supervised by William M. Buckley of New York. On March 6, 1861, the last east bound mail stage ever to travel the route left Tucson. Outbreak of the Civil War brought an end to the service, and the stage which left Tucson on the 6th reached El Paso on March 9th. This means that the Rough and Ready relay station probably serviced its last stage on March 8, 1861.

Under the provisions of acts passed by the United States Congress on March 2nd and 12th, 1861, the Southern or Butterfield Route was permanently discontinued with the service being transferred to the Central Route. After the Southern Route was discontinued, most of the stock and equipment in the Western Division (El Paso and west) was moved to the west and north.

It is possible to visit the site of Rough and Ready today, although nothing remains but a few foundation stones. Rough and Ready was located in the northern portion of section 28, range 2 west, township 22 south. The land now belongs to the New Mexico Land and Cattle Company, and the site is located about 20 miles west of Picacho on a dirt road.

References: Conkling, Roscoe P. & Margaret B., The Butterfield Overland Mail, 1857-69, Vol. II.  
Bloom, Maude E. McFie, A History of Mesilla Valley.

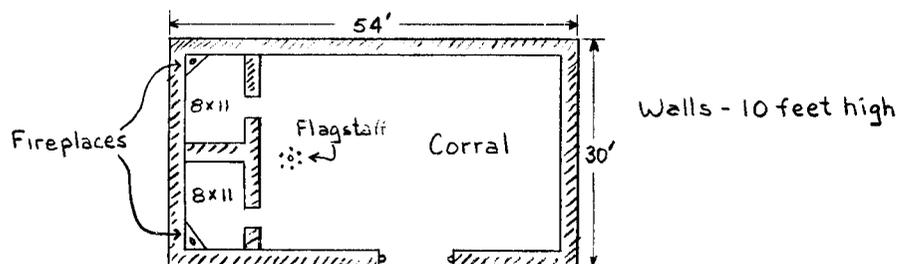


Diagram of the Rough and Ready Relay Station

SOME NOTES ON THE RURAL BRANCHES AND STATIONS OF ALASKA

In an earlier number of LA POSTA the editor stated his belief that the study of post offices currently extant and recently closed represents a fruitful and potentially valuable avenue of postal history research. The announced intentions of the U. S. government to convert the Post Office Department into a non-federal corporation, coupled with the rapid decrease in the number of 3rd and 4th class post offices in recent years, suggests that some proportion of our investigative efforts should be focused upon a recording and documentation of those small-scale facilities still in existence. By way of analogy, consider how we would value today the efforts of some far-sighted postal historian of the 1870s who had systematically recorded all the postal markings used in his state or territory in 1875.

Perhaps one of the features which tends to discourage wouldbe students of the modern postal marking is the high degree of standardization. If the post office is large enough, it has a machine cancel with the familiar 21mm. dial and wavy lines or slogan. If the office is too small for a machine cancel, it has a four-bar hand stamp. It's as simple as that, or so we are tempted to believe. Upon closer examination, however, the postal markings in use today prove to be anything but 'as simple as that.'

The particular fascination of this author in modern postal markings is the rural branch or station mark. Rural branches and stations vary in number from state to state; they are all listed in the annual Directory of Post Offices; and it is a relatively simple matter to procure cancels by writing directly to the Clerks in Charge. The challenge comes in trying to determine what you have when the covers return. There is really quite a wide variety in the style and lettering of four-bar handstamps. For example, the typical dial on a 4-bar measures  $33\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter, but the Indian Rural Branch of Anchorage, Alaska, uses a 4-bar measuring  $31\frac{1}{2}$  mm. Lettering or wording, too, is also far from standardized. Some branches and stations list the parent office at the top of the dial complete with zip code, some delete the zip code, some delete the name of the parent office but include their own zip code, and some simply have the name of the rural facility and state a la the pre-zip days. The answer to these disparities could be blamed on the transitional nature of the zip code, after all, its only been 4 or 5 years... But, even if that is the only explanation, which seems a bit unlikely, it is still an interesting question. Why should some facilities use zips, and others not? Is there a matter of choice involved, or is it simply the slow bureaucratic process at work? In 50 years these questions will be rather difficult to answer.

Apart from the four-bar cancel, some covers a returned showing only the double-circle parcel post cancel. Here too, there is a fair variety in the style of marking, and a new set of relevant questions pertaining to their usage. The message, then, says that postal history students should not be put off by the apparent standardization in todays postal markings for the standardization is just that - apparent.

The table below describes the returns from a recent (Spring, 1969) survey of Alaskan rural stations and branches. No claim is made for this list being exhaustive of all post marks currently in use. It simply relates a description of those received.

Rural Branch or Station	Postmark Description
AKHIOK Rural Station	Four-bar( $33\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) with parent office, no zip code
ALITAK Rural Station	Four-bar( $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) with parent office, no zip code
AMCHITKA Rural Branch	Four-bar( $33\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) with parent office and zip code
BORNITE Rural Branch	Listed in 1968 Directory, but not in operation
CANDLE Rural Branch	Four-bar( $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) in red ink with zip code, no parent office
CHALKYITSIK Rural Branch	Four-bar( $32\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) in red ink with zip code, no parent office
DOT LAKE Rural Station	Four-bar( $33\frac{1}{2}$ mm.) with parent office and zip code

(Concluded on page 16)

LA POSTA is indeed proud to present Mr. Bufkin's excellent postal history article on Arizona's lost county of Pah-Ute. This article first appeared in the ARIZONANA (now THE JOURNAL OF ARIZONA HISTORY), published by the Arizona Pioneers' Historical Society. It was later reprinted by the Arizona Philatelic Rangers for distribution to the members of that organization. Since the initial publication during the summer of 1964, Mr. Bufkin has maintained an active interest in the area, and has provided LA POSTA with some additional postal history information which appears as an addendum to the main article. Students of postal history can learn much, not only from the valuable and interesting information contained in this article, but from the techniques used to present postal history in a manner possessing broad appeal, and the rigid adherence to sound practices of scholarly research.

Twelve thousand square miles of present day Nevada, the equivalent of an area larger than the State of Maryland, was once the northwestern portion of Arizona Territory. The expansive tract of land involved in this somewhat obscure chapter of Arizona's historical geography was bounded on the north by the line of the 37th parallel north latitude, on the west by the eastern boundary of the State of California, on the southeast by the center of the Colorado River, and on the east by the line of  $114^{\circ} 2' 59''$  west longitude. Encompassed in the foregoing description is a triangular region of alternating barren desert and mountainous terrain of extreme southern Nevada.

It is not inconceivable that, but for the legislative wiles of Nevada's illustrious Senator William Morris Stewart aided by his colleague Senator James Warren Nye in the mid-1860's, Las Vegas might today be one of Arizona's principal cities rather than the Nevada gambling capital. If this area had not joined Nevada such features as the proving grounds of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission at Frenchman's Flat and its attendant headquarters at the town of Mercury, together with a portion of Death Valley National Monument and all of Hoover Dam and Lake Mead recreational area, would be within the boundaries of the State of Arizona. For a short period this section became a part of the new Territory of Arizona and comprised the "Lost County of Pah-Ute."

When New Mexico Territory was first organized in 1850 from a portion of the western lands acquired from Mexico under the terms of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, the 37th parallel of north latitude was determined as the northern boundary from the crest of the Rocky Mountains westward to an intersection with the eastern boundary of California. Thus New Mexico and Utah Territories were initially divided by a continuous line stretching some 600 miles east and west (Figure 1). The western 200 mile segment of that original boundary extended New Mexico, and later Arizona Territory, 150 miles farther west than the Colorado River, the present boundary.

The territory which later became Pah-Ute County was a part of New Mexico Territory from September 9, 1850, until the creation of Arizona Territory on February 24, 1863. During this period of better than twelve years only two settlements of any consequence were attempted. The first and most noteworthy, although not entirely successful, was a Mormon colony at Las Vegas (the meadows), a favorably located camping and watering site on the Old Spanish Trail from Santa Fe to Los Angeles, and on the Mormon Road from Salt Lake City to San Bernardino. The colonists, led by William Bringham, president of the Las Vegas Mission, arrived at the site in June of 1855, thirty-six days after departing Salt Lake City. The settlers constructed a "fort" and began farming and stock raising with some attempts in 1856-57 to work the rich lead and silver deposits in the Potosi District some twenty-five miles to the southwest of Las Vegas. After nearly two years of struggles with the elements and the constant thievery of the Indians, many of the Mormon brethren left the mission in March of 1857. A few who remained were recalled in 1858 during the Johnston-Army troubles in Utah. Sufficient activity during this first period of settlement at Las Vegas resulted in the

establishment of a post office under the name of "Bringhamurst, New Mexico Territory." This post office, active from August 1855 until September 1860, was the first established of eleven such offices in Arizona, which was still a part of New Mexico Territory, and it antedated the post office at Fort Defiance by eight months.

The other settlement occurring during the period prior to separate territorial status for Arizona was one of an entirely different nature from the agricultural mission at Las Vegas. It was located ten miles south of the line that later divided Pah-Ute and Mohave Counties. In the winter of 1857-58 Captain George Alonzo Johnson during his voyage of exploration proceeded up the Colorado from Yuma in the river steamer General Jessup, reaching a point as far north as a place on the west bank of the river he named El Dorado Canyon. In the following year the first promising ore specimens indicating the mineral potential of El Dorado Canyon were discovered, reportedly by soldiers stationed at Fort Mohave. Claims were located and sporadic mining began with sufficient activity in the Canyon during the early sixties to support a number of lesser camps in addition to the busy Colorado River port of El Dorado Canyon.

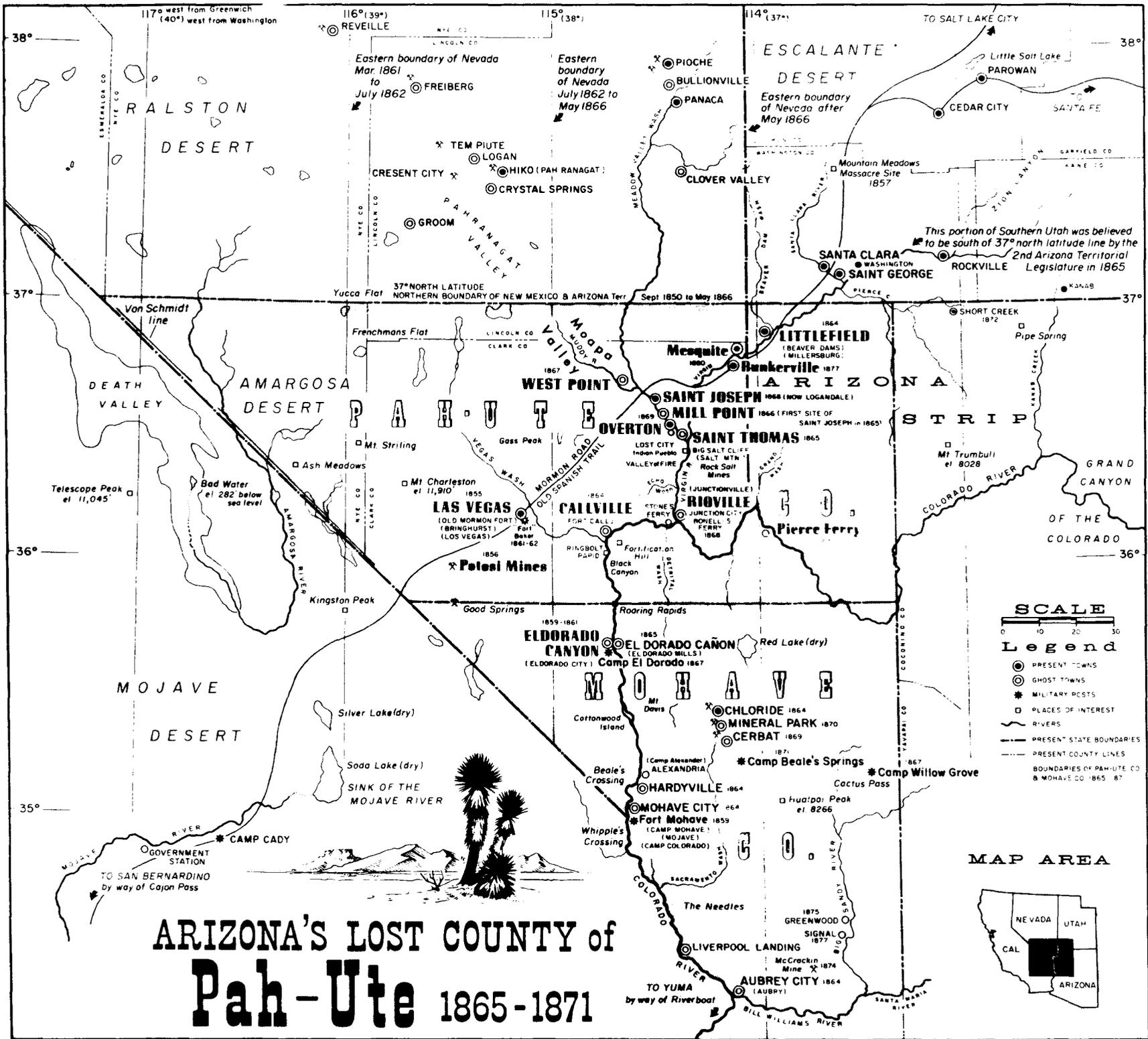
The Territory of Arizona was organized from that portion of New Mexico Territory lying west of a line to run south from the point where the southwest corner of the Territory of Colorado touches the north line of New Mexico Territory - i.e.,  $109^{\circ} 2' 59''$  west longitude - in February of 1863. A year and eight months later the First Territorial Legislature created the four original counties with the area north of the Colorado River and west of  $114^{\circ}$  west longitude being included in Mohave County (figure 2). It was during the Second Arizona Territorial Legislature that the act creating Pah-Ute County was approved on December 22, 1865. The boundaries of the new county were set forth as follows:

Commencing at a point on the Colorado River known as Roaring Rapids; thence due east to the line  $113$  degrees  $20'$  west longitude; thence north along said line of longitude to its point of intersection with the 37th parallel ... thence west along said parallel ... to a point where the boundary (of) ... the State of California ... strikes the 37th parallel ... thence southeasterly along said boundary line to a point due west from said Roaring Rapids; thence due east to said Roaring Rapids and the point of beginning.

The enactment specified Callville as the county seat and the governor was authorized to appoint the necessary county officers. Thus Pah-Ute County, as established, was simply the northern half of original Mohave County (figure 3).

It is of interest to note that the legal description of the new county utilized only one point of known location on the ground: Roaring Rapids. In a time when very few land surveys had been run in the western part of the nation, the use of un-monumented lines of latitude and longitude in boundary designations had little meaning beyond broad tolerances to the residents of the areas so described. It is not difficult to imagine the convenience of such lines clearly indicated on the early maps referred to by law makers in the territorial and state capitals as they established new counties and modified existing ones. The difficulty, however, of accurately locating in the field territorial and county boundaries that were based on lines other than those formed by natural geographical features was to lead to countless disputes, legislative memorials, and numerous proposals for transferring land area from one governmental jurisdiction to another.

The history of settlement in the northwestern corner of Arizona Territory lying generally north and west of the Colorado River was, with the exception of the mining ventures principally in El Dorado Canyon, coincidental with Mormon attempts to consolidate a corridor of communities between Utah and points to the southwest in California. Beginning in 1855, continuing until 1871, and occurring largely during

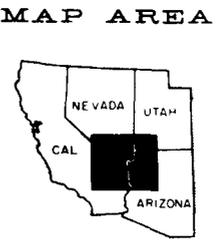


# ARIZONA'S LOST COUNTY of Pah-Ute 1865-1871

**SCALE**  
0 10 20 30

**Legend**

- PRESENT TOWNS
- GHOST TOWNS
- ⊙ MILITARY POSTS
- PLACES OF INTEREST
- RIVERS
- - - PRESENT STATE BOUNDARIES
- - - PRESENT COUNTY LINES
- - - BOUNDARIES OF PAH-UTE CO & MOHAVE CO 1865-87



the existence of Pah-Ute County, nine colonies were established.

As early as 1849 leaders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints envisioned a "State of Deseret" and took the first steps to make their hope a reality. At a convention held in Salt Lake City in March of 1849 a constitution was adopted, a provisional government organized, and boundaries proposed which encompassed all of what was later Utah and most of the present States of Arizona and Nevada, with generous portions of California, New Mexico, Colorado, and Wyoming also included. Congress was asked later in 1849 to admit this expansive region as a state. The dream, at least on this grand scale, was short-lived for on September 9, 1850, the proposed area was divided into the Territories of Utah (even the name Deseret did not survive) and New Mexico, and the southwestern portion was included in the State of California.

One of the important features of the Mormon concept of "Deseret" foresaw the desirability of a seaport on the Pacific Coast. Such a port would not only serve as an outlet for the goods produced in the Mormon heartland and a route of supply for needed importations, but would also provide a much needed alternate route to that rugged, expensive, and often inhospitable trip overland from the East Coast for those fresh converts to the Church who were traveling to Salt Lake City.

With the territorial organization of 1850 denying full realization of Deseret and the corridor to the sea for the Mormon brethren, a belated modification of the concept was implemented. Late in 1864 Anson W. Call was dispatched to the head of navigation on the Colorado River to locate a favorable site for a riverport and to build wharves and warehouse facilities for the transfer of goods and passengers traveling on the Colorado River between points farther inland and the Gulf of California seaports of Guaymas and Mazatlan, Mexico. The site he selected and the port subsequently founded was Callville. Indications of the initial success of Callville are noted in a story appearing in the Salt Lake Daily Telegraph of November 24, 1865, not quite a year after the founding of the town. The newspaper story credited the Pacific & Colorado Navigation Company with maintaining riverboat service via the steamers Esmeralda and Nina Tilden between Callville and the mouth of the Colorado river connecting with ocean vessels to San Francisco. Upon the organization of Pah-Ute County by the Arizona Territorial Legislature in December, 1865, Callville became the seat of the new county.

Waning activity at Callville in 1867 was apparent when the county seat was lost in October. The Colorado River also contributed to the eventual demise of the town. Navigation as far north as Roaring Rapids, Ringbolt Rapids, and Black Canyon had been hazardous at best and quite impossible when the river level was low. Although large river steamers had on occasion reached as far north upriver as Rioville, the true heard of practical navigation on the Colorado was at Hardyville. Callville was without inhabitants by June of 1869.

Other Mormon settlements founded in Pah-Ute County enjoyed a greater measure of success and permanency by their reliance on a traditional farming economy. The Virgin River, rising in southwestern Utah and traversing Pah-Ute County from the northeastern corner down to a junction with the Colorado in the south central portion of the county, and the Muddy River, branching off to the northwest at the midway point on the Virgin, offered the most favorable prospects for both agricultural development and missionary activities among the Indians. The northern and western reaches of Pah-Ute County contained no major river valleys; they were composed of desert country but scarcely explored. Only Las Vegas, first inhabited in 1855, and the Potosi Mines, worked sporadically after 1856, existed in the western half of the county. A chronology of settlements which were established in the area from 1855 until 1880 follows:

Las Vegas, June 1855  
El Dorado Canyon, 1859-1861  
Littlefield, September 1864  
Callville, December 1864  
Saint Thomas, January 1865  
Saint Joseph, May 1865

Mill Point, 1866  
West Point, 1867  
Rioville, 1868  
Overton, 1869  
Bunkerville, 1877  
Mesquite, 1880

Because of the predominance of Mormon colonization in the "Arizona Strip" country of northern Yavapai County, the Utah Legislative Assembly memorialized Congress in February of 1865 asking that some territory be attached to Utah (figure 5). They asked for an area lying between the Colorado River and the northern boundary of Arizona, east of the 38th meridian. The memorial stated as reasons for this action, that Utah was isolated from navigable waters and needed an outlet for its products and that such an action would also open up this formerly uninhabited area for settlement. Mention was also made of the topographical separation of the Arizona Strip from Arizona proper by the Grand Canyon of the Colorado River.

Prophetically fearing that action adverse to Arizona might be taken by Congress in response to a rising flood of proposals to alter the boundaries of the Western states and territories, a joint resolution of the Arizona Territorial Legislative Assembly was approved on December 28, 1865, six days after the creation of Pah-Ute County, asking that the boundary lines between California, Nevada, Utah, Colorado, and Arizona be fixed by government survey. Mentioned particularly were the disputes at Yuma arising from the description of the southern boundary line of California and the rather unique claim that the southern Utah communities of Santa Clara and Saint George on the upper Virgin River were actually south of the line of 37 degrees north latitude and thereby in Arizona. Reference also was made to the rapid settlement in conjunction with the rich mineral deposits and growing agricultural wealth being developed as necessitating a solution to the vague boundaries then in existence.

Foreboding of possible changes was also apparent by the organization of Lincoln County, Nevada, in February of 1866 (figure 4). Carved out of large and sparsely settled Nye County, the act creating Lincoln County provided that should the boundaries of the State of Nevada be extended in the future to the east and to the south, then the boundaries of that county were to be also so extended.

Nevada had achieved territorial status when separated from Utah in 1861. In July of 1862 she had gained one degree (approximately sixty miles) of area along the entire of the common boundary with Utah. On October 31, 1864, Nevada attained statehood and was represented in the Senate of the United States by her first two Senators, James W. Nye, the last Territorial Governor of Nevada, and by William M. Stewart, the able and forceful frontier mining lawyer. Upon assuming their seats in the Senate, both men began immediately to work for the further extension of Nevada territory at the expense of the neighboring territories. An initial proposal to extend one degree of longitude to the east into Utah passed the Senate but was bottled up in the House when no action was taken prior to adjournment. In the first session of the 39th Congress, Senator Stewart introduced a bill which proposed that Nevada's boundaries be extended one degree east from 115° to 114° west longitude and that a portion of Arizona Territory lying south of 37° north latitude, north of the Colorado River, and between the California boundary and 114° of west longitude also be attached to the State of Nevada. The bill passed the Senate but some opposition was encountered in the House of Representatives, principally from the Delegates of the two adversely affected territories.

John N. Goodwin, the former Territorial Governor, and at the time Territorial Delegate from Arizona to the House of Representatives, said in resisting the passage of the bill,

There is no natural connection between those Territories. This portion of the Territory of Arizona is part of the watershed of the Colorado River. All streams running through the Territory empty into the Colorado. The people receive their supplies up the Colorado River. The principal mail route into Arizona runs down through a settlement (Yuma) about two hundred miles distant from Prescott, which is the capital of the Territory. All their connections and business are with the Territory of Arizona. Now, if they were annexed to the State of Nevada they would be obliged, in order to reach the capital (of Nevada) either to go round by San Francisco or to go up nearly to the point of the overland mail route before they could get into the route leading to the capital ... It is separated from that State by a portion of the great desert ... It is so perfectly barren that it is called 'Death Barren' (a reference to Death Valley). That forms the boundary between the two.

William H. Hooper, Delegate from Utah Territory, spoke of the bill as further dismemberment of Utah and referred to continued persecutions of the Mormons by the United States Government. In support of the bill, Josiah B. Grinnell of Iowa said, "I hope we will by all means give Nevada a slice, thus securing more arable land to the State which is well governed and is now yielding a very large revenue to the Government." The same sentiment was expressed by James M. Ashley of Ohio, ironically the very man who introduced the bill in the House which provided for the creation of Arizona Territory just four years earlier. The arguments of the Delegates from Arizona and Utah were to no avail and the bill was approved on May 5, 1866, upon the condition of acceptance by the State of Nevada.

The Arizona Territorial Legislature twice protested by petitioning Congress to rescind its action. A memorial approved in November of 1866 stated, "It is the unanimous wish of the inhabitants of Pah-Ute and Mohave Counties that the territory in question should remain with Arizona for the convenient transaction of official and other business and on every account they greatly desire it." The Legislature of Nevada however, accepted this federal gift by an act passed on January 18, 1867. This action, however, did not end the existence of Pah-Ute County and the de facto Arizona authority over the area in question.

As evidence of the continued association with Arizona Territory, the county seat of Pah-Ute County was moved from Callville to Saint Thomas in October of 1867. Additionally, Pah-Ute County was represented in the Third Arizona Territorial Legislature in 1866. It was again represented in the Fourth Legislature in 1867 by Octavius Decatur Gass of Callville and later of Las Vegas, who had represented Mohave County in the Second Legislature and served as President of the Council in the Third and Fourth Legislatures; and by Royal J. Cutler of Mill Point and later Saint Joseph. Cutler, while designated a representative, did not attend the Third Legislature. Pah-Ute was again represented in the Fifth Arizona Territorial Legislature, meeting for the first time in Tucson, in November of 1868, the capital having been moved to that city by action of the Fourth Legislature. The same Mr. Gass and colleague Andrew S. Gibbons were the last representatives from Pah-Ute to sit in an Arizona Legislature.

It was while preparing to attend sessions of the Fifth Legislature that Gass and Gibbons made the most improbable and exhausting journey ever undertaken by elected public servants in the performance of their duties. The two men set out from Callville on November 1 in a 14 foot rowboat to make the arduous 400 mile trip down the Colorado River to Yuma and then an additional 300 mile trek over the desert to Tucson, reportedly arriving after a journey of about two weeks, some six days after the Legislature had convened.

The U. S. post offices at Saint Thomas, Saint Joseph, and Overton were listed in the federal records as located in Arizona Territory until the early 1870's when Saint Thomas was transferred to Nevada in April of 1871. The Saint Joseph post office was discontinued in October of 1871, and re-established in Lincoln County, Nevada, in May of 1876. Overton was carried in the records as located in Pah-Ute County as late as December 1872, when it also was discontinued, not being re-established until ten years later.

Nevada acceptance of the Congressional Act of May 1866 had extended the jurisdiction of Lincoln County over most of Pah-Ute County (figure 4) and created a general state of confusion that was to continue until 1871. The overlapping county governments, coupled with ill-defined state and territorial boundaries, made conditions exceedingly difficult for the residents of the disputed area. Apart from the Arizona-Nevada situation, a similar confusion existed between Utah and Nevada in the area. The Surveyor General of Nevada in his report of August 5, 1867, told of citizens in Lincoln County who refused to pay taxes, declaring they resided in Utah. The United States Surveyor General in a report of November 18, 1867, urged the establishment of the dividing line between Utah and Nevada. The Secretary of the Interior recommended and Congress appropriated the funds for a survey of the eastern boundary of Nevada in July 1868. Before the results of the survey could lend clarification, a third county jurisdiction was added over the area by the Utah Territorial Legislature.

In understandable sympathy with the plight of the Mormon farmers in the Virgin and Muddy river valleys, the Utah body established Rio Virgen County on February 18, 1869. Again a lack of accurate knowledge concerning the location and geography of the area contributed additional confusion. The wording of the act creating Rio Virgen County described only the western extremity of Washington County (figure 6), an area of approximately a hundred square miles, and obviously far too small to exist as a separate county. The intent of the Utah Legislature was, however, to attempt the extension of Utah jurisdiction over the disputed area in response to requests of the inhabitants, most of whom had originally emigrated from Utah. Saint Joseph was designated the seat of Rio Virgen County and officials were appointed to county offices. It is of interest to note that Royal J. Cutler, who had served in the Arizona Territorial Legislature representing Pah-Ute County in 1867, became a court clerk of the new Utah county, also functioning as postmaster at Saint Joseph from February to April of 1870.

In the same month that Rio Virgen County was established by Utah, the Nevada Legislature passed an act placing all tax transactions on a coin basis. This was a condition that the Mormon settlers found impossible to meet. One final attempt to seek relief from Lincoln County taxes was undertaken in 1870 when residents of the disputed area petitioned the Nevada Legislature to establish yet another county, Las Vegas County, which was to comprise the southern tip ("The Point") of Nevada. Congress was also petitioned by the residents for the return to Utah and Arizona of the area ceded to Nevada by the act of 1866. This latter action was in conflict with the request to the Nevada Legislature for organization of a new county.

The decisive year was 1870. Early in December the completed boundary survey established that Virgin and Muddy river communities were indeed in Nevada. Two months later the Sixth Arizona Territorial Legislature on February 18, 1871, repealed the act which created Pah-Ute County and thereby relinquished any lingering claims on the disputed area. The Mormon farmers secured the permission of the Church Elders, Brigham Young himself acknowledging the gravity of the situation, to return to Utah, leaving their towns and their farms to the mercy of the Lincoln County, Nevada, tax collectors. On February 20, 1871, James Leithead, leading a large group of farmers and their families, departed from Saint Thomas, bound for Utah, following the same route along the Virgin River toward Saint George, over which many had come seven years previously. Only the family of Daniel Bonelli remained. Bonelli took up some of the

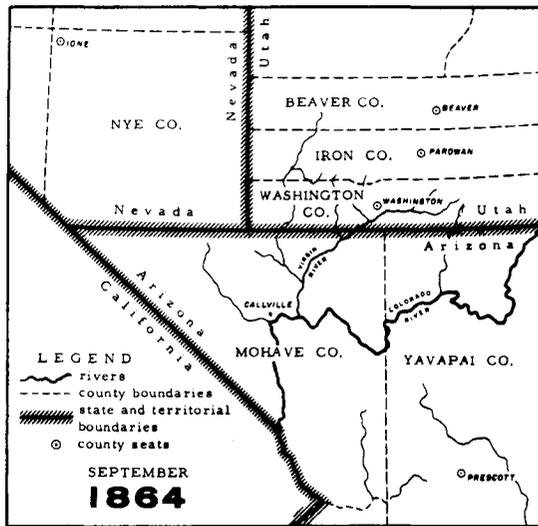


FIGURE 2

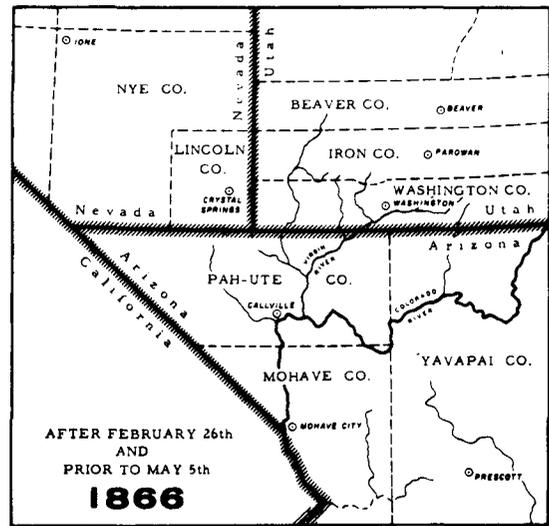


FIGURE 3

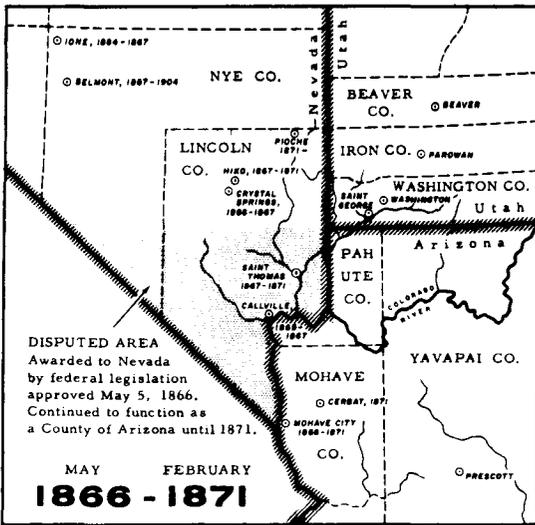


FIGURE 4

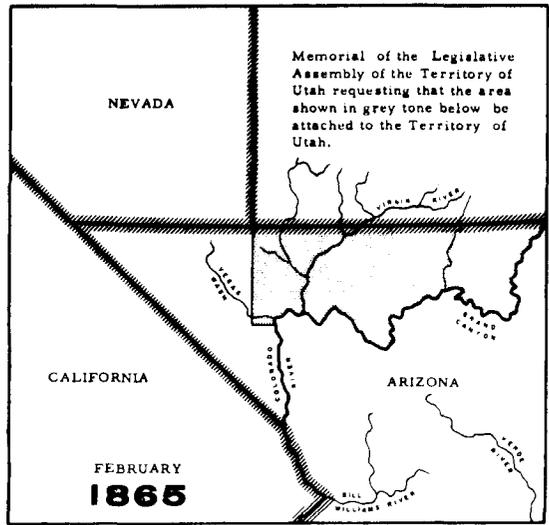


FIGURE 5

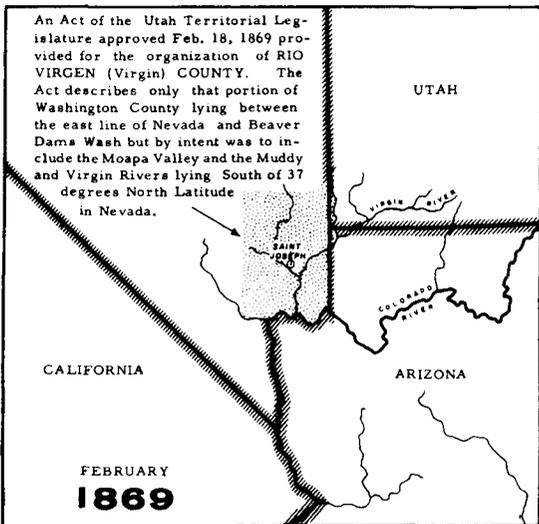


FIGURE 6

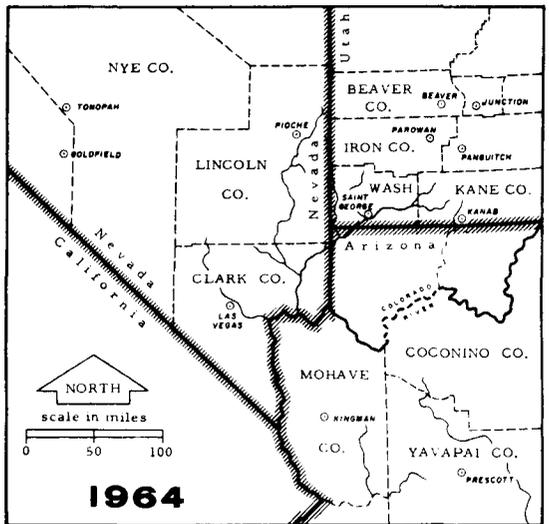


FIGURE 7

Don Buikin

abandoned properties at Saint Thomas but concentrated his farming and commercial enterprises at Rioville near the junction of the Virgin and the Colorado Rivers. The location later came to be known as Bonelli's Ferry.

The Mormon exodus retarded settlement and development in the area for over a decade. A few of the original families began to return to again take up farming and re-establish community life, this time as acknowledged citizens of Nevada.

A final postscript to the story is to be found in the aftermath of the construction of Hoover Dam in the 1930's. Upon completion of the dam, the waters began to collect behind the mighty structure and formed expansive Lake Mead. The rising waters first engulfed the surviving stone walls of long abandoned Callville, then covered the site of Rioville. An arm of Lake Mead reached northward up the Virgin River Valley and entered still active Saint Thomas in June of 1938, forcing the second and final abandonment of that former Arizona community. The walls and tree skeletons marking the site of Saint Thomas have on a few occasions reappeared as the huge lake receded during extended periods of drought, thus serving as a reminder to modern generations that a portion of Arizona's early history lies covered under the man-made reservoir which provides much of the water and electric power for today's Southwest.

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#### APPENDIX

The following is a list of communities founded in the area north and west of the Colorado River, west of 114° west longitude, south of 37° north latitude, and east of the California boundary.

#### I. Founded while this area was in New Mexico Territory

##### A. Founded in Rio Arriba County

##### 1. LAS VEGAS - June 1855

##### a. Post offices

1. Bringham: August 1, 1855 to Sept. 22, 1860
2. Los Vegas (Lincoln Co., Nev.) June 24, 1893 - Dec. 9, 1903
3. Las Vegas (Lincoln Co., Nev.) Dec. 9, 1903 to 1909
4. Las Vegas (Clark Co., Nevada) 1909 to present

##### b. Place names of this location

1. Cayatus; Los Bagos de Cayetana; Ojo del Gaetan; Vega Quintana; Vegas del Gaetan; Vegas Eretana; The Meadows; Bringham; Los Vegas; McWilliamstown; Old Town; and Ragtown Clark townsite.

##### B. Founded in Santa Anna County

##### 1. EL DORADO CANYON - 1859 to 1861

##### a. Post offices

1. El Dorado Canon (Mohave Co., Ariz.) Jan. 17, 1865 to September 27, 1867.
2. El Dorado Canyon (Lincoln Co., Nev.) Jan. 23, 1879 to August 31, 1907.

##### b. Place names of this location

1. Lucky Jim Camp; Whisper Ferry; El Dorado Mills; and Camp El Dorado.

#### II. Founded while this area was in Arizona Territory

##### A. Founded in Mohave County

##### 1. LITTLEFIELD - September 1864

##### a. Post office

1. Littlefield: October 25, 1894 to present.

##### b. Place names of this location

1. Beaver Dams; Millersburg. (In Pah-Ute Co. Dec. 1865 - 1871)

##### 2. CALLVILLE - December 1864

##### a. Post office

1. Callville (Pah-Ute Co., Ariz.) Jan. 25, 1867 to June 15, 1869.

##### b. Place names of this location

1. Fort Call; Collville; and Call's Landing.

##### 3. SAINT THOMAS - January 1865

##### a. Post offices

1. Saint Thomas (Washington Co., Utah) July 23, 1866 to Oct. 1, 1868
2. Saint Thomas (Pah-Ute Co., Ariz.) Oct. 1, 1868 to April '71
3. Saint Thomas (Lincoln Co., Nev.) April 1871 to 1909
4. Saint Thomas (Clark Co., Nevada) 1909 to June 16, 1938

- ##### b. Founded at the junction of the Virgin and Muddy river, the site was moved two miles up the Muddy in December 1865.

4. SAINT JOSEPH - May 1865

a. Post offices

1. Saint Joseph (Pah-Ute Co., Arizona) Aug. 26, 1867 to October 6, 1871.
2. Saint Joseph (Lincoln Co., Nevada) May 4, 1876 to November 13, 1883.

b. Place names

1. Also known as St. Joe

B. Founded in Pah-Ute County

1. MILL POINT - 1866

- a. Post office; None.
- b. Place names

1. Simonsville and Simondsville.

C. Founded in Disputed Area

1. WEST POINT - 1867

- a. Post office: None.
- b. Near present day Moapa.

2. RIOVILLE - 1868

a. Post office

1. Rioville (Lincoln Co., Nevada) Nov. 2, 1881 to June 30, 1906.

b. Place names of this location

1. Junction City; Junctionville; Saltwell; Bonelli's Ferry; Bonelli's Crossing; Bonelli's Landing.

3. OVERTON - 1869

a. Post offices

1. Overton (Pah-Ute Co., Ariz.) April 25, 1870 to Dec. 16, 1872.
2. Crosby (Lincoln Co., Nev.) Feb. 1, 1883 to May 24, 1883.
3. Overton (Lincoln Co., Nev.) May 24, 1883 to 1909.
4. Overton (Clark Co., Nev.) 1909 to present.

III. Other towns and post offices were later founded in this area, but they are beyond the scope of the present study.

As an interesting addendum to this story, Mr. Bufkin forwarded copies of two newspaper clippings from the Arizona Daily Star and the Citizen. Both were dated February 14, 1967, and report on a memorial introduced to the Arizona Legislature by Rep. Frank Kelley of Maricopa County. The memorial complained that Nevada had been illegally collecting taxes on the "Lost County" of Pah-Ute for over 100 years. Not only did the memorial ask that Arizona be given back the county, but that Nevada pay interest as well as the taxes collected.

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NOTES FROM MEMBERS OF M&LWPHRS

Bill Rapp writes, "I earn my living doing research and as a result spend a lot of time digging in libraries and always keep my eyes open for any data which I might use in my postal history research projects. For example, I am at present gathering data on former surface water supplies in Nebraska and the other day while working in the library of the State Historical Society found an article on the postal history of the pine barrens of New Jersey. I think that the beginning student of postal history needs to remember that data can be found almost everywhere, and often there is more in his "backyard" than he may realize."

Notes on Alaska Branches and Stations (Continued from page 4)

GOLOVIN Rural Station	Four-bar(32mm.) with zip, no parent office
HALIBUT COVE Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) no zip, no parent office
HOGATZA Rural Branch	Summer office only, no postmark received as yet
INDIAN Rural Branch	Four-bar(31mm.) Reads "INDIAN, AK/INDIAN RURALBR."
KIATT ROAD Rural Station	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office, no zip code
KOLIGANEK Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office, no zip code
LITTLE DIOMEDE Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with parent office and zip code
MEYERS CHUCK Rural Station	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office, no zip code
MILLER HOUSE Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) no zip, no parent office
NAPASKIAK Rural Station	Four-bar(33mm.) with parent office, no zip code
NEWTOK Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with parent office, no zip code
NIGHTMUTE Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with zip code, no parent office
NIKOLAI Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office and zip code
NORTH KENAI Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with parent office and zip code
NORTH POLE Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) no zip code, no parent office
PAXON Rural Branch	No postmark received after 2 month wait
PEDRO BAY Rural Branch	Double-circle parcel post cancel in red(30mm.)
PORT WAKEFIELD Rural Sta.	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office, no zip code
TANACROSS Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with zip code, no parent office
TETLIN Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with zip code, no parent office
TOKSOOK BAY Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with zip code, no parent office
TULUKSAK Rural Branch	Four-bar(33mm.) with zip code, no parent office
TUNTUTULIAK Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with parent office and zip code
USIBELLI Rural Branch	Four-bar(32mm.) with zip code, no parent office
WHITTIER Rural Branch	No postmark received after 2 month wait.

Some covers were returned with examples of the parcel post cancel in addition to the four-bar. Parcel post cancels have been listed as the postmark only in cases where they were used as the only postmark.

rwh

EDITOR'S COMMENTS & MEMBERSHIP REPORT

With the coming of vacation time, your editor is spending the month of June and a good bit of July in Oregon paying a long overdue visit to family and friends. This should explain why LA POSTA is being mailed from the Northwest instead of New Mexico. The vacation has also required that this issue be printed early (mid-May), and as a result we have only two new members to welcome. They are:

19. Lt. Col. Neil C. Schroeder, 8032 Rosewood, Tucson, AZ 85710
20. Mel C. Nathan (Editor of WESTERN EXPRESS), 94 Biscayne Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901

Due to the length of Don Bufkin's Pah-Ute County article, and our editorial policy of presenting a study in its entirety in a single number, the promised article on the postal history of the Lincoln County War, as well as, Postal History Research Techniques III have been postponed to the next number.

The editor has been extremely gratified by the kind words received from certain of the members of M&DWPFRS. It can not be believed, however, that everyone is completely happy with LA POSTA as it is, and critical comments and advise are heartily welcomed. Perhaps my only major criticism so far, is that you as members of a postal history RESEARCH society are not getting your money's worth, i.e., to date NO research problems have been submitted for possible solution by the group...rwh

Membership subscriptions still \$5 to receive all issues of LA POSTA for 1969.  
EDITOR: RICHARD W. HELBOCK, 930 LEES DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001.