FILE

DILLON, MONTANA TERRITORY

On the banks of the Beaverhead River, among the low, rolling, arid hills of southwestern Montana, lies the small wool market town of Dillon. Although the life of Dillon is, and historically has been, closely tied to the existence of the railroad, the selection of the townsite was largely the result of chance in the form of one stubborn rancher who refused to yield to the wheels of progress.

Late in 1879, the Utah and Northern Railroad was being pushed northward through the Redrock and Beaverhead vallies in a furious race with the Northern Pacific Railroad to tie the vast Montana Territory into the trancontinental rail system. Organized in 1877, the Utah and Northern began laying a narrow gauge line north from Ogden in order to eliminate the necessity of overland stage travel from Montana to the Union Pacific track which passed through the Utah city. As rail construction reached the junction of the Beaverhead River and Black Trail Creek in the early days of 1880, it was suddenly brought to a halt by an unexpected obstacle. One of the local ranchers, whose land holdings blocked the path of steel-wheeled progress, refused to sell to the railroad the land needed for a right-of-way.

After the initial shock and confusion caused by the sudden interruption of the great railroad race, a small group of enterprising men, whose affairs were closely tied to the construction of the railroad, pooled their resources and bought-out the recalcitrant rancher. They then gave the railroad permission to build on through.

The temporary halt in construction during the period of negotiations for right-of-way in effect spawned an instant community. Nineteenth century railroads were built on a rather massive scale which emphasized manual labor employing scores of workers, and an even larger number of support people, who provided a wide variety of services for the workers. Bringing this customarily mobile troop of people to a grinding halt in the middle of a sparcely populated ranching area, created what amounted to an instant town.

On March 30, 1880, postal records indicate the appointment of the new community's first postmaster, Thomas B. Warren. The new post office was named simply Terminus, a name used frequently in the West for the head of railroad construction. An early letterhead of the banking house of Sebree, Ferris & Holt listed the community's name as "Terminus Utah Northern R. R., Montana."

The group of enterprising businessmen, which had purchased the
ranch, elected to continue their join venture by executing a
trust deed. The deed, recorded on December 4, 1880, converted
the ranch land into a township. Lambert Eliel, who served as
trustee of the partnership, granted titles to town lots, which
were sold at public auction in early 1881. The new town was
named Dillon, in honor of Sidney Dillon, president of the Union
Pacific Railroad.

On May 31, 1881, the name of the community's post office was
changed from Terminus to Dillon. Thomas B. Warren continued to
serve as postmaster. Warren was succeeded some seven months
later by John Weightman, who received his appointment December
20, 1881.

Dillon grew rapidly as a rail center, and by 1883 it had become
one of Montana's larger settlements. In that year, James Kirk-
patrick, who was at that time postmaster, received a salary of
$1,700, one of the 10 largest paid in the territory. As the
railroad had by-passed the once booming mining town of Bannock,
Dillon was selected as the county seat of Beaverhead County.
Sheep ranchers of southwestern Montana brought their wool to
Dillon for market, and eventually transformed the community
into Montana's largest wool-shipping point. Dillon currently
has a population of about 4000, and is noted not only as a wool
market, but as the site of the Western Montana College of
Education.
                 rwh

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:

    TERMINUS - Thomas B. Warren, March 30, 1880

    DILLON - Thomas B. Warren, May 31, 1881
             John Weightman, December 20, 1881
             James Kirkpatrick, April 3, 1883
             John T. Yoe, February 6, 1885
             Thomas W. Poindexter, March 12, 1886
             David Lamont, February 19, 1890
             Grace Lamont, January 4, 1893

Territorial Postmark Types Known to Author:
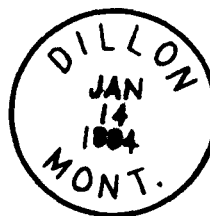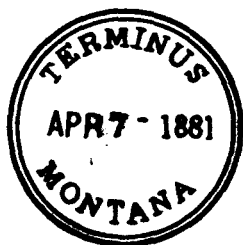
VOICES FROM THE MOUNTAINS AND DESERTS

From Jack Willard: Bill Bauer, James Ozment and myself are all
hard at work on various parts of the Colorado list of post off-
ices. We each have a different system, and yet, as the middle
man, I find the data fitting together quite well. Bill with
his microfilm has much information that Jim and I do not have
access to. Jim Ozment has access to a world of information in
the vaults of the Denver & Rio Grande RR., and has, in addition,
toured much of the state and is familiar with many places. I
guess I fall in that category too. I have poked my nose into
just enough places in Colorado that it is easy to identify places.
This is apparently going to be the key to the microfilm. It
states factually that the post office at "X" was changed to "Y".
Were "X" and "Y" the same place, or was "Y" a mile and a half
down the road? This is apparently how Oz and I will be of some
assistance to Bill. It is down right slow and tedious, and all
we can do is take it a place at a time. Where we have an edge
on Bill is that Jim's card file and my place name pages include
every place that had a name, regardless of whether or not it
had a post office. Well, enough of that. At least you know we
are all at work.

(Incidentally, Jack, is it true that Ozment really wanted to
name his new son Robert Percival Ozment (R.P.O.) ??) -- ed.

From Charles Sweeting: "The Library at the University of Missouri
in Columbia, Mo., has a set of the Official Registers complete
from 1865. The Registers are often bound and labeled "U.S. Dept.
of Interior."
(Note: Charles is the president of the Empire State Postal History
Society. He lives at 212 East 7th St., Oswego, N.Y. 13126).

From James Maxwell of Stevensville, Michigan (not yet a member of
the M&DWPHRS) comes an offer to let your editor use some documen-
tary material concerning postal service and facilities in Alaska.
The offer sounds rather exciting, and if all goes well, we can
look forward to some original work on our most northerly mountain
state.

From David Crawford: An offer to help answer questions on Nevada
postal history. Dave admits to a "small" library of about 100
volumes on Nevada and eastern California, as well as, a member-
ship in the Nevada Historical Society, which serve him as source
material. Send your questions to him at 1320 Tyler Way, Sparks,
Nevada 89431. If you are asking a question, a S.A.E. would be
polite.

That seems to be about it for this time. If you can share news
and information with our group, please drop your editor a note.
Don't worry about writing for print. Just write it as a letter
and I'll be happy to edit it if it needs it. Please keep those
cards and letters coming....

FORT CUMMINGS, NEW MEXICO TERRITORY: A POSTAL HISTORY

The exciting era of the Butterfield Overland Mail (1858-1861)
had ended, but the Butterfield Trail remained as one of the
most important east-west arteries in the Southwest. The place
where the trail passed through Cooke's Canyon - north of the
present-day town of Deming, New Mexico - was important to all
travelers as a source of water, and regarded as one of the
most dangerous sections of the route. Rugged mountains and
foothills surrounding Cooke's Peak provided ideal cover for
raiding bands of renegade Indians and whites. It was with
these considerations in mind that the U.S.Army established
Fort Cummings near Cooke's Canyon in 1863.

Designed by General George B. McClellan, Fort Cummings featured
a high adobe wall which entirely enclosed the barracks and
headquarters. A single arched sallyport was located in the
center of the fort's south wall next to the guardhouse and the
prison. The interior of the fort contained nearly 117,000
square feet of space devoted to offices, storage, corrals and
barracks. Fort Cummings was named in honor of Major Joseph
Cummings, an army surgeon who had been killed by Navajos during
the year previous to the establishment of the post.

Fort Cummings soon earned the reputation of being one of the
frontier army's most undesirable assignments. While sleeping,
soldiers were forced to hang rubber sheets above their tents
to keep tarantulas, scorpions and centipedes from disturbing
their sleep. Rattlesnakes were everywhere. In contrast with
life inside the fort, life outside was even worse. It was
extremely hazardous to ride more than a mile beyond the fort,
and the estimated 400 emigrants, soldiers and civilians who
were killed in the four-mile stretch of Cooke's Canyon bear
mute testimony to the danger that existed.

Postal records indicate that Robert V. Newsham was appointed
the first Fort Cummings postmaster on December 10, 1866. The
fort was then situated in Dona Ana County, as Grant County was
not organized until January 30, 1868. (The site of Fort Cummings
is now located in Luna County, but Luna was not organized until
March 16, 1901.) Three years later, on December 31, 1869,
Jacob Appelzoller was appointed the fort's second postmaster.
The earliest known postmark from Fort Cummings is dated Nov. 9,
1869. It is a single circle measuring 24mm. in diameter, and
is listed as Type 1 in the New Mexico Territorial Postmark
Catalog. Three examples of this postmark type are known with
the latest being dated April 12? on a 3¢ stamped envelope of
1874. (See illustration 1).

Samuel J. Lyons was appointed the third Fort Cummings postmaster
on February 28, 1871. Southwestern New Mexico apparently became
more peaceful during the early 1870s, for in 1873 the soldiers
were withdrawn from Fort Cummings and the fort remained unocc-
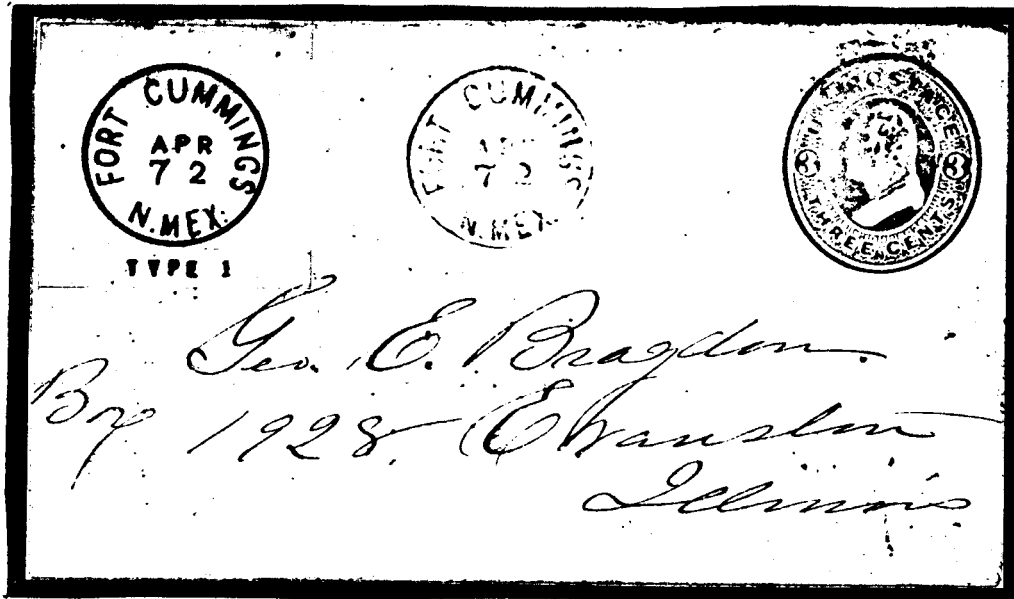upied by the military throughout the remainder of the 1870s.

Illustration 1
Fort Cummings, Type 1, latest date   (Manly Collection)

Sheldon Dike reports a second postmark type in use during the 1870s by the Fort Cummings post office. It is a small single circle measuring 22mm. in diameter. Only two examples are known. The earliest is dated August 4, 1872; the latest bears December 13th with no year date.

Postal records indicate a brief interruption of service at the Fort Cummings post office. On November 16, 1875, the office was listed as discontinued, but a little over a month later, on December 27th, the Fort Cummings office was re-established with Samuel J. Lyons still serving as postmaster.

In 1879, Victorio, a chief of the Mimbreno Apaches, fled with a band of about 30 braves when his tribe was ordered to report to the San Carlos Agency in Arizona. Thus began a campaign of terror which was to last some four years. The Army responded by re-occupying Fort Cummings in 1880. Coincidentally a new postmaster, A.S. Lyons, was appointed to operate the Fort Cummings post office on August 23, 1880. The second Lyons did not serve long however, and on February 7, 1881, Samuel P. Carpenter became the fort's new postmaster.

The third and fourth known Fort Cummings postmark types also date from the early 1880s. Type 3 is a single circle measuring 24.5mm. in diameter. This postmark was accompanied by a star-in-circle killer, which was an integral part of the cancellation device. Seven examples are known of Type 3, and their dates range from March 23, 1880 to March 22, 1882. The earliest known

5

date is struck in violet ink. Dike's postmark Type 4 is a double circle measuring 30mm. at the outer diameter. The earliest reported usage for this type is September 29, 1882, and so far, 14 examples of Type 4 have been recorded with dates as late as April 29, 1884. (See illustration 2). This postmark is typically reported in purple ink, and a post office department monogram was an integral part of the cancellation device.
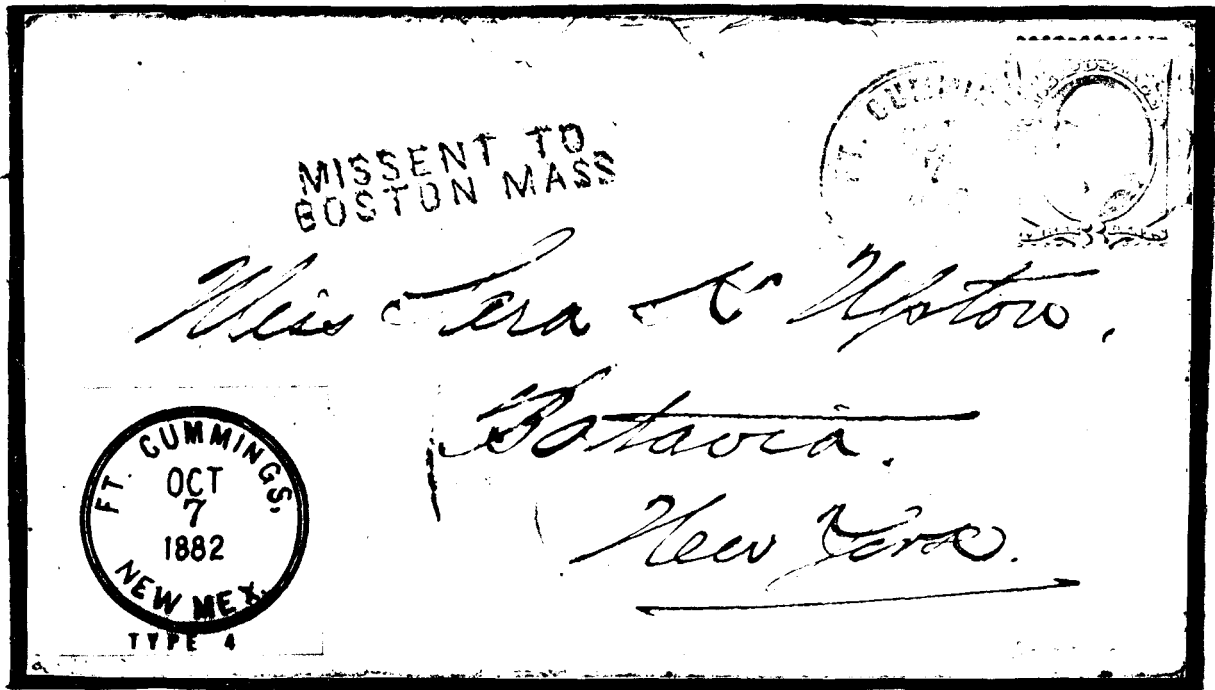

Illustration 2

Fort Cummings   Type 4   (Manly Collection)

Victorio, whose followers probably never numbered more than 100 fighting men, ravaged back and forth across the U.S.-Mexican border between 1879 and 1883. He is credited with killing 100 soldiers, 200 citizens of New Mexico and Texas, and 200 Mexican citizens. Finally, in a fight with Mexican troops, Victorio was killed, and his war-party disbanded. A kind of peace once again returned to southwestern New Mexico, and once more the Army abandoned Fort Cummings. The post was abandoned in 1884, and although Samuel P. Carpenter apparently remained postmaster, no postmarks are known from the 1884 to 1888 period.

The final re-occupation of Fort Cummings came in 1886. In that year, Geronimo, the most famous Apache warrior, was leading his band of Chiricahua on raids against settlements on both sides of the border between the United States and Mexico. Geronimo was convinced to surrender on September 3, 1886, and with the

pressure off once again, Fort Cummings was abandoned for the last time in October, 1886.

The postal history of Fort Cummings does not end in 1886, however. A fifth postmark type consisting of a single circle measuring 27.5mm. in diameter is known. Only one example of this type has been reported, and it is dated April 3, 1888. Samuel P. Carpenter continued to serve as the Fort Cummings postmaster until 1890. On June 25th in that year, Mrs. O. C. Carpenter was appointed to take Samuel's place. She declined, and on July 17, 1890, the Fort Cummings post office was discontinued with papers to Hadley, New Mexico.

The New Mexico Territorial Postmark Catalog classifies all the known Fort Cummings postmarks as fairly scarce items valued between $10 and $300. Information concerning types and dates not reported in this article would be greatly appreciated by either Sheldon H. Dike or the author.

<div align="right">Richard W. Helbock</div>

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Available free from the Director, Geography and Map Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C., is a 20 page booklet titled, "Facsimiles of Rare Historical Maps." The booklet lists reprints of various historic maps for sale by a variety of venders. Most maps cost less than $5, and many are worthwhile sources of information for postal historians of the West.

Available from the Superintendent of Documents, GPO, Washington, D.C. 20402, are two recently published state postal maps. Order number 49W. California-Nevada (northern section). 1969. 22 x 32 inches. $0.35; and order number 50W. California-Nevada (southern section). 1969. 22 x 32 inches. $0.35, were listed on the Oct. 3, 1969 selected publications list No. 20.

In addition to the nice write-up in Western Stamp Collector, our M&DWPHRS has also recently received mention in Linn's and the New Mexico Magazine. It should also be mentioned that The 4th Class Cancellation Club Newsletter and The Postal Historian were kind enough to help advertise our early efforts.

Available free from two publishers of books on the West and Northwest are their handsomely executed book lists. Ye Galleon Press, Fairfield, Washington 99012, reprints rare old books and sells them at moderate prices. Binfords & Mort, 2505 S.E. 11th Avenue, Portland, OR 97242, has a wide selection of books pertaining to the history of Oregon, Washington and Idaho. Perhaps other members can suggest regional publishers of Western non-fiction who provide book lists.

NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF CROOK COUNTY, OREGON

East of the snow-crested Cascade Mountain Range lies the vast, arid high lava plain of Oregon. At one time, this entire region was politically organized as Wasco County, Oregon. When Wasco County was organized in 1854, it encompassed all the territory between the Cascades and the Rockies bounded on the north by the Oregon-Washington border and the south by the Oregon-California border. Gradually, as more and more settlers came to live in the lonely intermontane region, new states and counties were organized, and Wasco County was reduced to a more reasonable area.

One of the counties carved from Wasco was named Crook in honor of Major-general George Crook, who had established himself as a distinguished Indian fighter in the campaigns of south-central Oregon. Organized October 24, 1882, Crook County was originally bounded by:

> The north line is drawn west from the bend of the John Day River, and east up the centre of the Wasco channel of said river to the west boundary of Grant County, thence on the line between Grant and Wasco counties to the southeast corner of Wasco, thence west to the summits of the Cascade Mountains, and thence along them to the intersection of the north line.[1]

Anyone who bothers to plot this border deliniation on a map will quickly see that Crook County, as originally constituted, was an impressive empire unto itself. The area of Crook County has since been diminished by the creation of both Deschutes and Jefferson counties, and the U.S. Bureau of Census currently lists an area of 2980 square miles for Crook.

Crook County has never experienced problems of overcrowding. The Census of 1890 listed only one community with a population count; Prineville with 351 persons. Several other places were listed by that census, but all were apparently too small to merit an enumeration. By 1965, the situation had not changed much. Prineville had grown to an estimated 3,650 inhabitants, and although the names and locations of the places listed as "too small to count" had changed, the county contained no other settlements of size.

The purpose of this brief article is to consider those "too small to count" places which managed to obtain post offices during the 19th century, and thereby learn a bit more about the history and postal history of Crook County, Oregon. The list is offered in chronological order, and it should be pointed out that dates are extracted from the Records of Appointments of the Appointments of Postmasters as compiled in Washington, D.C.

PRINE. Established April 13, 1871. The Prine post office was one of the first two facilities established to serve the postal needs of the territory which was later to be organized as Crook County. Named for Barney Prine, who was among the first group of settlers to establish a squatters' rights claim on the rich Ochoco lands, the Prine post office was initially housed in Prine's combination store, saloon, blacksmith shop and stable building. The building, a ramshackle affair of juniper logs with a roof thatched of rye-grass and willows, was located on the bank of Crooked River within the city limits of present-day Prineville.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
William Heisler - April 13,1871   J.L. Luckey - April 22,1872

Status: The name of this office was changed to Prineville on December 23, 1872.

UPPER OCHOCO. Established April 13, 1871. The Upper Ochoco post office was established to serve the growing number of settlers who were filing claims on the bottom lands of Ochoco Creek and up Mill Creek to the timber edge. The name of the office was derived from the stream, but it is somewhat deceptive for the headwaters of Ochoco Creek were some 15 to 20 miles northeast of the location of the post office. Upper Ochoco was located near the junction of Mill and Ochoco creeks.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
James H. Miller - April 13, 1871   Joseph Hunsaker - June 25,1877
George H. Judy - March 26, 1872   Mary Hunsaker - May 20, 1879
Daniel D. Gibson - Oct. 29, 1872   Wm. I. Clark - March 26, 1880
James H. Miller - Jan. 13, 1874

Status: The Upper Ochoco post office was discontinued August 2, 1880.

PRINEVILLE. Established December 23, 1872, by change of name from Prine. By this time, the embryonic community had added a hotel and was gaining a reputation as one of the foremost "watering places" among the men who rode the open ranges of central Oregon. The citizens decided that the time was right to select for themselves a more fitting name for their community. Prineville became noted as Oregon's most isolated town -- it was 120 miles from railroad and telegraph communication, at The Dalles on the Columbia River.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
James Luckey - Dec. 23,1872   James F. Moore - Sept. 25, 1885
W.G. Pickett - April 16,1873   Ahmond Palmer - April 13, 1889
Daniel Thomas - Sept. 1,1873   Perez B. Howard - April 3, 1891
A.J. Dillard - May 22,1883   Medford Moore - June 15, 1893
F.M. Baldwin - Aug. 9,1883   George Summers - June 11, 1897

Status: The Prineville post office is currently operating as a first class facility; ZIP code: 97754.

HOWARD. Established May 10, 1877. The Howard post office was named for Frankie E. Howard, a rancher and prospector, who discovered gold on Ochoco Creek near the mouth of Scissors Creek. Originally, the Howard post office was located near the site of the gold strike in the eastern part of township 14 south, range 18 east, but the office was closed and re-opened a number of times at different locations. During the last period of its operation, Howard was located some 18 miles east of Prineville on the Ochoco Highway.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Samuel W. Miller - May 10, 1877   Mrs. A.L. Wright - Sep. 19, '89
Frankie E. Howard - June 3, 1880   Amos Thompson - May 22, 1896
Mary C. Allen - Jan. 5, 1882   Victor Blodgett - Apr. 10, 1899
Julia A. Blevins - Aug. 14, 1884

Status: The Howard post office did not operate during the following periods: October 13, 1881 - January 5, 1882,
                Jult 23, 1890 - May 22, 1896.
Howard was discontinued May 2, 1918, papers to Prineville.

SILVER WELLS. Established August 16, 1878. Little is known about this short-lived Crook County post office. Its name was probably descriptive, and McArthur suggests that it referred to the white sand found near wells on Camp Creek. The Silver Wells post office was located on Camp Creek south of the east end of the Maury Mountains in township 18 south, range 21 east.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Joseph J. Brown - Aug. 16, 1878   Alice Miller - Dec. 30, 1880

Status: Silver Wells was not in service from August 16th to December 30th, 1880. The office was discontinued Jult 5, 1881.

HARDIN. Established May 23, 1882. The Hardin post office was named for one Colonel Hardin, a resident of Santa Rosa, California, who in partnership with Amos Riley, held extensive stock and ranch land in central Oregon. This office was located in the extreme southeast corner of Crook County on Grindstone Creek.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Seth Bixby - May 23, 1882   William McLagan - July 6, 1887

Status: The Hardin post office was discontinued July 31, 1890, papers to Paulina.

CROOK COUNTY OREGON 1892

After Symons

RWH '69

Waldron
Contention
Bridge Creek
Burnt Ranch
Mountain House
Caleb
Mitchell
Liberty
Scissorsville
Crescent
Hardin
Paulina
Maury
Silver
Wells
Howard
DALLES MILITARY Rd.
Ily Creek
Cross Keys
Willoughby
Grizzly
Upper Ochoco
Greene Ranch
Prineville
Haystack
Desert
Warm Springs
MILITARY
Camp Polk
Metolius
Bend
Des Chutes River
Crater
Pengra
North Fork
South Fork
Crooked River
13 Mile

11

PAULINA. Established May 23, 1882. This post office was named for Chief Paulina of the Snake Indians, who was apparently the spark behind most of the Indian insurrection in central Oregon from 1866 to 1868. The Paulina post office is located on Beaver Creek in east-central Crook County, and in section 33, township 16 south, range 23 east.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
John F. Bowen - May 23, 1882   John T. Faulkner - June 21, 1883

Status: The Paulina post office is currently operating as a fourth class facility in Crook County: ZIP code - 97751.

CROOK. Established June 16, 1886. Named for the recently organized county, the Crook post office became the first facility to be established in Crook, as opposed to Wasco, County. This post office was at one time located near the headwaters of Bear Creek in the southwest part of township 18 south, range 19 east, but the site of the office shifted with the availability of postmasters.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Nancy Hinton - June 16, 1886   Sarah Milliorn - Sept. 7, 1895
Thomas Milliorn - Dec. 20, 1889

Status: The Crook post office was not in service from Oct. 3, 1905 to Jan. 10, 1906. The office was finally discontinued on November 11, 1908, papers to Prineville.

CRESCENT. Established July 31, 1886. The Crescent post office, which was in operation for three brief periods during the late 19th century, was located some 35 miles east of Prineville in the area known as Big Summit Prairie. This prairie is rather extensive, covering most of township 14 south, range 21 east, and the exact site of the post office is not known. The origin of the name of this office is similarly a mystery, but it seems likely that the office location shifted from ranch to ranch in the region, and it is possible that the name referred to one of the ranches.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Nettie Powell - July 31, 1886   Leslie Powell - Dec. 17, 1888
Mary Hedgpeth - Nov. 28, 1887   Henry D. Jory - May 21, 1891
David Elliott - June 2, 1888   Edward Merritt - Jan. 4, 1894

Status: The Crescent post office was not in operation during the following periods: September 13, 1888 - December 17, 1888
                         October 1, 1890 - May 21, 1891.
Crescent was discontinued April 23, 1895, papers to Mitchell, Wheeler County.

STEWART. Established September 18, 1886. This post office was named for the Stewart family, who were early settlers in the eastern part of Crook County. Stewart was located in the extreme eastern portion of the county, not far from the Paulina postal facility.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Joel Abbott - Sept. 18, 1886   John Stewart - Dec. 31, 1891
Samuel Laughlin - Jan. 11, 1890

Status: The Stewart post office was discontinued July 14, 1893, mail to Paulina.

PRICE. Established November 16, 1886. The Price post office was named for T.B. Price, one of the local land holders who had signed the petition to obtain the post office. The office was located in the southern part of Crook County in section 15, township 19 south, range 20 east.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Elmira Logan - Nov. 16, 1886   Hiram Richards - Dec. 10, 1888
Minnie Logan - Apr. 26, 1887

Status: The Price post office was not in operation from Aug. 30, 1890, to April 28, 1891. The office was finally discontinued July 11, 1902, papers to Crook.

MOWRY. Established August 16, 1887. This office was named for the Crook County mountains which bear the name of Colonel R.F. Maury, an Indian fighter. It was intended to honor Maury with the post office name, but error crept in to confuse intent, and the post office was named Mowry. The Mowry post office was located near the northeast base of the Maury Mountains on, or near, the Crooked River.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Mark Carson - Aug. 16, 1887   Walter Carson - Sept. 19, 1891
Henry Stewart - Aug. 21, 1890   John Bennett - March 8, 1892

Status: The Mowry post office was discontinued February 1, 1899, mail to Paulina.

PERHAM. Established December 26, 1888. The Perham post office was named for Ad Perham, a sheep rancher in the vicinity of Bear Creek Buttes about 20 miles south of Prineville. This office was located at, or near, the ranch, as its only post-master was the wife of one of the ranch hands.

19th Century Postmaster and Appointment Date:
Sadie E. Moore - December 26, 1888

Status: The Perham post office was discontinued November 1, 1890, papers to Prineville.

POST. Established June 6, 1889. This post office was named for its first postmaster, Walter H. Post. The Post post office is located on Crooked River, about a mile and a half west of the mouth of Newsome Creek, and in scetion 30, township 16 south range 19 east.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Walter H. Post - June 6, 1889   Annie Pickett - July 29, 1899
David Pickett - July 22, 1893

Status: The Post post office is currently operating as a 4th class postal facility; ZIP code - 97752.

FIFE. Established May 17, 1890. The Fife post office was named for Fife County, Scotland, the former home of Thomas M. Balfour, the first local postmaster. This office was located in the southeastern part of Crook County, on or near Buck Creek.

19th Century Postmasters and Appointment Dates:
Thomas M. Balfour - May 17, 1890   Martha Balfour - March 16, 1898
Elizabeth Merritt - Feb. 25, 1896

Status: The Fife post office was not in operation from May 7, 1903, to May 3, 1909. Postal records indicate that this office operated in Deschutes County for a time in the early 20th century, but on July 25, 1919, the office returned to Crook County. The Fife post office was discontinued in November, 1937, mail to Roberts.

MANSE. Authorized December 5, 1896. A post office with the name of Manse was authorized with Frank Hereford as its first postmaster. For some reason, this office never came into existence, because an entry in the postal record dated April 4, 1899, rescinded the authorizing order. It is in fact possible that this office was intended to be in either Jefferson or Wheeler counties, as neither of those administrative units had yet been created, and no locational information is available for the proposed Manse office.

A table appears on the following page. While it is dangerous to read into this table too much in the way of relative scarcity of Crook County postmarks, it is interesting to note the wide range in pay received by the county's 19th century postmasters.

Footnote and Selected References

[1]Bancroft, Hubert Howe, History of Oregon, Vol II, San Francisco, 1888, p. 710.

McArthur, Lewis A., Oregon Geographic Names, 3rd ed., Portland, 1965.

COMPENSATION OF CROCK COUNTY POSTMASTERS (1871 - 1899)

Post Office	1871	1873	1875	1877	1879	1881	1883	1885	1887	1889	1891	1893	1895	1899
Crescent	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	20.32	NL	**	9.55	NL	--
Crook	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	19.68	31.73	34.33	56.16	53.46	82.16
Fife	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	4.89	78.11	$102	$143
Hardin	--	--	--	--	--	--	11.29	21.70	61.63	93.54	--	--	--	--
Howard	--	--	--	**	34.34	25.84	12.00	18.57	21.62	25.57	--	--	--	32.87
Manse	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mowry	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	33.98	38.76	35.01	39.58	--
Paulina	--	--	--	--	--	--	2.11	33.53	$148	$138	$206	$266	$227	$248
Perham	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	NL	--	--	--	--
Post	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	NL	28.42	63.73	52.06	94.58
Price	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	7.26	27.27	**	6.93	23.87	43.38
Prine	12.00	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Prineville	--	12.00	$115	$203	$330	$409	$527	$569	$761	$825	$940	$905	$745	$985
Silver Wells	--	--	--	--	9.54	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Stewart	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	14.44	37.01	27.76	8.34	--	--
Upper Ochoco	12.00	12.00	23.40	35.12	**	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--.

Notes: NL - not listed; ** - listed, no compensation
Source: Official Register, 1871-1899.