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POSTAL HISTORY OF THE NAVAJO AND HOPI INDIAN RESERVATIONS

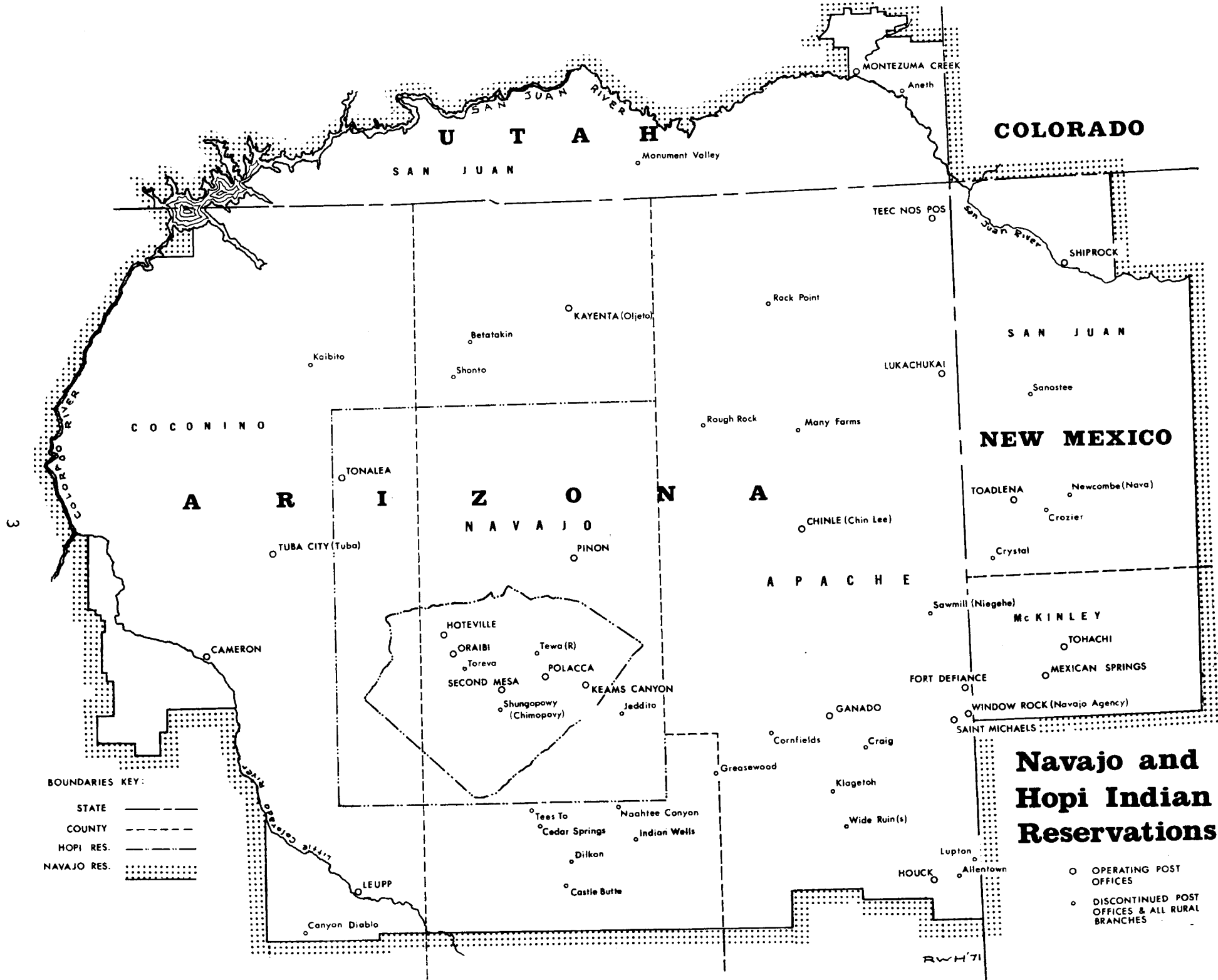
By Richard W. Helbock

The Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations occupy a vast canyon and desert region of 25,000 square miles (a little larger than the State of West Virginia) in northern Arizona, southern Utah, and northeastern New Mexico. There are some 100,000 Navajos and Hopis now living in small towns, villages, and scattered hogans across the sprawling reservations. Paved roads are few. The level of illiteracy is high. And the degree of isolation from mid-twentieth century America is exceptional, even for the Rocky Mountain West. Never-the-less, postal service has been available to residents and travellers of the region from a time which actually pre-dates the creation of the reservations.

The first post office established in the territory now occupied by the reservations was also the first post office established in what has become the State of Arizona. Fort Defiance accurately symbolized the earliest relationships between the Navajos and the government of the United States. In 1848 New Mexico became the property of the United States. The following year Colonel John Washington, military governor of the new Territory, led an expedition into the Canyon de Chelly region to retaliate against Navajo raids along the Rio Grande. Washington's expedition punished the Indians, but Navajo raiding parties continued to steal sheep and cattle from the New Mexicans. It was decided to build a military post at the door-step of Navajo Country that would keep the "pesky natives" in their place. During the summer of 1851, construction began on an installation situated on a grassy meadow of Bonito Canyon. This post, named Defiance for its purpose, served for the next decade and a half as the springboard from which numerous attacks against the Navajos were launched. Eventually, in 1864, a force led by Colonel Christopher "Kit" Carson dealt the Indians a massive defeat, and brought about the complete subjugation of the Navajo tribes. (Interestingly enough, Fort Defiance was chosen in 1964 as the base from which a reservation-wide "War on Poverty" was launched.)

The post office at Fort Defiance was established with the appointment of John E. Weber as postmaster on April 9, 1856. At the time, the site of the office was still in Bernalillo County, New Mexico Territory, and the Official Register of 1859 lists Weber receiving a compensation for his postmaster duties of \$63.52. Fort Defiance was temporarily abandoned during the Civil War. On April 25, 1861, the troops were withdrawn to Fort Fauntleroy, New Mexico, where they remained for the next two years. Postal records suggest that the office at Ft. Defiance remained open until October 21, 1863, but there are no returns reported in the Register for 1863, which suggests that the office did not function during 1862.

Kit Carson's devastating defeat of the Navajos in 1864 led to what is probably the blackest period of Navajo history. Beginning with the "Long Walk," in which some 6000 Navajos were marched 300 miles to the east under military guard, the strength of the Navajo people was confined in a prison camp at Fort Sumner on the Rio Pecos until 1868. Starvation, disease, and harassment by old enemies- the Comanches and Kiowas- characterized the Navajo's imprisonment at Ft. Sumner. Finally, on June 1, 1868, a treaty was signed which established the Navajo Reservation in the ancient homeland around Canyon de Chelly. The southern boundary of the Reservation ran "through the site of old Fort Defiance, in Canyon Bonito," and Fort Defiance was designated as the new Navajo Indian Agency.



BOUNDARIES KEY:

STATE ————

COUNTY - - - -

HOPi RES. - · - · -

NAVAJO RES. ······

Navajo and Hopi Indian Reservations

- OPERATING POST OFFICES
- DISCONTINUED POST OFFICES & ALL RURAL BRANCHES

RWH'71

Miss Charity Gaston, a school teacher recruited by the Presbyterian Church, opened a day school in an old adobe building at Fort Defiance in 1869. It was a dismal failure. Once they had been allowed to return, the Navajos had spread out widely across the Reservation to take up life in the old familiar way. It became impossible then to attract students to a day school, except perhaps from those few families who had re-settled in the immediate vicinity of the Agency. The Bureau of Indian Affairs decided in 1879 that the only way it could fulfill its obligation of education for the Indians was to build a boarding school. The first such school was constructed at Fort Defiance, and its doors were opened in the early 1880's. Other schools were established on the Reservation in succeeding years, and they remain today as the dominant form of education for the Navajo children.

The Post Office Department did not immediately re-establish service to the Reservation area after the Navajos had returned. In fact, it was not until August 4, 1880, that the Fort Defiance post office was re-established by the appointment of James R. Sutherland as postmaster. Sutherland was an agency clerk, and a man detested by the Navajos. The Indians called Sutherland "Tarantula Number Two," second in their hatred only to the Indian Agent himself. Government investigators listened to the complaints of the Navajos, and by February, 1881, Sutherland was replaced. With his departure, the post office was once more shut down, but it was re-established once more on March 12, 1883, with the appointment of Dennis M. Riordan. Since that date, the Fort Defiance post office has continued to function right up to the present with only one brief period of inoperation in late 1883 to mar its record of service.

The 1880's brought an expansion of the Navajo Reservation westward, as well as, the creation of the Hopi Reservation. An Indian Agent for the Hopis had been maintained at Fort Defiance since 1869, but on December 16, 1882, land was specifically designated as a reservation for the Hopis and the Agency was moved to the west. Expansion of the Navajo Reservation increased its size from the original 5000 square miles to 12,821 square miles by 1890. The added land was being occupied by the Navajos all along, and its addition to the Reservation was not contested by any special interest group.

Two new post offices were established on the reservations during 1883. Both were associated with trading posts. Ganado had been the site of a trading post since 1871. The place was originally called Pueblo Colorado, but when Juan Lorenzo Hubbell purchased the post in 1876, he changed its name to honor Ganado Mucho, great chief of the western Navajos. As Indian traders go, Juan Lorenzo Hubbell was a fair and just man. He went on to establish a chain of important trading posts on the Reservation, and eventually became known to the Navajos as Naakaii Saani, a respectful term meaning "Old Mexican." The Ganado post office was established February 15, 1883, with Charles Hubbell as the first postmaster. Charles was a younger brother of Juan Lorenzo, and he worked as a clerk for the elder Hubbell. The office was discontinued for a year between October, 1883, and October, 1884, but since that interruption, Ganado has continued to function.

In 1875 Thomas and William Keam chose a sheltered, well-watered site in the canyon which now bears their name. The site was excellent for a trading post for it lay astride a main trade route between the Navajos and the Hopis, and was situated about 12 miles east of the three Hopi villages of the First Mesa. When the Hopi Reservation was created, the Keams offered one of their buildings to house the newly appointed Agent, J. H. Fleming. Fleming was a newcomer to the West, and was sadly depressed by his surroundings at Keam's Canyon. His Annual Report of 1882 described the site of his Agency as being in a canyon with:

"... high winds and rugged walls... on either side, one is reminded of some medieval prison-house. We are not trammelled over by civilization and the restraints of fashion. Our nearest post-office, except one at a Mormon settlement(1), is Fort Wingate, 120 miles distant."

On March 12, 1883, at least the postal situation improved for Mr. Fleming, for on that date Alex M. Stephen was appointed the first postmaster at Keams Canyon. Stephen was a young scientist who lived with the Keams from 1880 until his death in 1894. During his 13 years in the Hopi country, Stephen compiled a rich ethnology of Hopi life. He served as postmaster at Keams Canyon for over 5 years.

Three additional post offices were established during the 1880's in the territory presently organized as the Navajo and Hopi reservations, although, at the time, the settlements they served were not directly connected with the Indian reservations. On July 31, 1884, a post office named Tuba City was established by the appointment of Thomas W. Brookbank as postmaster. The Tuba City office served a Mormon community which had been settled in 1875 with the blessings of Tivi, a chief of the Hopi Indians. Tivi became a close friend of the Mormon settlers, and the name of their community was derived from one of the variant pronunciations of the chief's name. The name of the post office was shortened to simply Tuba on April 4, 1894. When the Hopi Reservation was created, Tuba City found itself on reservation land, and a long period of agitation for the removal of the Mormons began. It was late 1902 before the U. S. government finally reached an agreement with the Mormon settlers remaining in Tuba City for their removal. The United States agreed to pay the settlers for their improvements to the land, and by 1903 all the Mormon families had moved away. The post office remained in operation, however, and in 1917 its name was changed back to the original form. Tuba City post office is currently operating.

A second non-Reservation postal facility was established at Houck's Tank on December 16, 1884. James W. Bennett was its first postmaster. J. D. Houck was a mail carrier on the rugged Prescott to Fort Wingate route during the mid-1870's. In 1877 he established a trading post along his former route, which, at the time, was not on the Reservation. The name of the post office was shortened to Houck on November 23, 1895, and the land on which the office sits was subsequently added to the Navajo Reservation. Houck post office is still operating.

¹There is some uncertainty as to which post office Fleming meant. It may have been Brigham City (10 April 1878 - 5 May 1882) which was located near present-day Joseph City, Arizona.

The third post office established during the 1880's, which is now located on Reservation land was situated at Canyon Diablo. On November 15, 1886, Charles H. Algert was appointed the first Canyon Diablo postmaster. At the time, the settlement was a Wells Fargo station and trading post on the Atlantic & Pacific Railroad. It was not until 1901 that the Reservation boundary was extended as far west as Canyon Diablo. The post office was discontinued February 28, 1918.

The only post office to be established on the New Mexico portion of the Navajo Reservation during the 19th century was located at Tohatchi. Created by the appointment of Emma H. Devore as postmaster on October 1, 1898, the Tohatchi office served a small settlement which grew up around a government Indian boarding school. The school had been opened in 1895. The name of the office is from the Navajo word, tqohachee, meaning "scratch for water," or "water in rock ledge." Tohatchi post office is currently in service.

These seven post offices were all that had been established during the first 32 years of existence of the Navajo Reservation. The first three decades of the 20th century were to see many more offices added to the list, but it has been only recently with the wide-scale use of rural branches and stations that postal service has been extended to some parts of the vast Navajo and Hopi reservations. The list which follows contains the names and dates for all post offices in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah known to have been located on territory which is now part of the Navajo and Hopi reservations. There may be some offices whose names have been omitted. This is particularly true in the Utah portion of the reservation. Readers having access to information which will expand this listing are requested to contact the author.

CHRONOLOGICAL LIST OF NAVAJO & HOPI INDIAN RESERVATION
POST OFFICES

Post Office, County, State	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Fort Defiance, Apache, AZ	9 Apr 1856	Operating	Not in service 1863-1880
Ganado, Apache, AZ	15 Feb 1883	Operating	
Keams Canyon, Navajo, AZ	12 Mar 1883	Operating	
Tuba City, Coconino, AZ	31 Jul 1884	4 Apr 1894	Name changed to Tuba
Houck's Tank, Apache, AZ	14 Dec 1884	23 Nov 1895	Name changed to Houck
Canyon Diablo, Coconino, AZ	15 Nov 1886	28 Feb 1918	
Tuba, Coconino, AZ	4 Apr 1894	1917	Name changed to Tuba City
Houck, Apache, AZ	23 Nov 1895	Operating	
Tohatchi, McKinley, NM	1 Oct 1898	Operating	
Tewa, Navajo, AZ	10 Aug 1900	15 Jan 1901	Authorizing order rescinded
Oraiba, Navajo, AZ	11 Aug 1900	11 Apr 1901	Name changed to Oraibi
Toreva, Navajo, AZ	1 Oct 1900	24 Jul 1937	
Polacca, Navajo, AZ	16 Feb 1901	Operating	
Oraibi, Navajo, AZ	11 Apr 1901	Operating	
Saint Michaels, Apache, AZ	29 Aug 1902	Operating	
Chin Lee, Apache, AZ	15 Jan 1903	1 Apr 1941	Name changed to Chinle
Crozier, San Juan, NM	6 Jun 1903	1919	Located @ Two Grey Hills
Crystal, San Juan, NM	25 Nov 1903	1914	
Shiprock, San Juan, NM	31 Aug 1904	Operating	
Leupp, Coconino, AZ	14 Sep 1905	Operating	
Cedar Springs, Navajo, AZ	1 Apr 1910	18 Jun 1930	Name changed to Tees To

Post Office, County, State	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Indian Wells, Navajo, AZ	1 Apr 1910	7 May 1965	Conv. to Rural Branch
Craig, Apache, AZ	24 Jan 1911	30 Sep 1912	
Oljato, Navajo, AZ	31 Jan 1911	21 Mar 1911	Name changed to Kayenta
Kayenta, Navajo, AZ	21 Mar 1911	Operating	
Dilkon, Navajo, AZ	15 Jan 1914	25 Sep 1916	Name ch. to Castle Butte
Hoteville, Navajo, AZ	24 Jul 1916	Operating	
Lukachukai, Apache, AZ	27 Jul 1916	Operating	
Castle Butte, Navajo, AZ	25 Sep 1916	13 Jan 1920	Name changed to Dilkon
Naahtee Canyon, Navajo, AZ	22 Nov 1916	31 Aug 1932	
Toadlena, San Juan, NM	7 May 1917	Operating	
Lupton, Apache, AZ	25 May 1917	1964	Now Rural Branch
Cameron, Coconino, AZ	7 Jul 1917	Operating	
Dilkon, Navajo, AZ	17 Dec 1920	13 Jan 1943	
Jeddito, Navajo, AZ	16 Feb 1921	28 Feb 1934	
Nava, San Juan, NM	30 Aug 1924	1 Sep 1929	Name changed to Newcomb
Allentown, Apache, AZ	11 Oct 1924	2 Jun 1930	
Tonalea, Coconino, AZ	21 Jan 1926	Operating	
Rock Point, Apache, AZ	10 Jun 1926	4 Jun 1930	
Chimopovy, Navajo, AZ	24 Jun 1926	1 May 1934	Name ch. to Shungopowy
Newcomb, San Juan, NM	1 Sep 1929	1944	
Tees To, Navajo, AZ	18 Jun 1930	28 Feb 1934	
Betatakin, Navajo, AZ	6 Jan 1932	28 Feb 1934	
Wide Ruin, Apache, AZ	20 Mar 1934	31 Mar 1938	
Shungopowy, Navajo, AZ	1 May 1934	30 Jun 1942	
Klagetoh, Apache, AZ	24 Jul 1934	15 Apr 1944	
Navajo Agency, Apache, AZ	30 Jan 1936	1 Aug 1936	Name ch. to Window Rock
Window Rock, Apache, AZ	1 Aug 1936	Operating	
Second Mesa, Navajo, AZ	15 Mar 1939	Operating	
Chinle, Apache, AZ	1 Apr 1941	Operating	
Niegehe, Apache, AZ	6 Sep 1941	30 Dec 1941	Authorizing Order Rescinded
Pinon, Navajo, AZ	1 Nov 1952	Operating	
Sawmill, Apache, AZ	3 Nov 1952	1962	Now Rural Branch
Teec Nos Pos, Apache, AZ	1961	Operating	

RURAL STATIONS & BRANCHES

			Parent Post Office
Greasewood, Navajo, AZ	1 Oct 1960	Operating	Ganado
Wide Ruins, Apache, AZ	1 Jul 1962	Operating	Chambers
Sawmill, Apache, AZ	22 May 1964	Operating	Fort Defiance
Indian Wells, Navajo, AZ	7 May 1965	Operating	Holbrook
Lupton, Apache, AZ	6 May 1966	Operating	Houck
Aneth, San Juan, UT	17 Jun 1966	Operating	Montezuma Creek
Kaibito, Coconino, AZ	1 Oct 1966	Operating	Tonalea
Many Farms, Apache, AZ	1 Oct 1966	Operating	Chinle
Shonto, Navajo, AZ	1 Oct 1966	Operating	Tonalea
Sanostee, San Juan, NM	16 Nov 1967	Operating	Shiprock
Rough Rock, Apache, AZ	1 Mar 1968	15 Dec 1969	
Monument Valley, San Juan, UT	1 Nov 1968	Operating	

THE ALASKAN RURAL STATIONS & BRANCHES

By Arthur E. Rupert

Alaska was admitted to the Union on January 3, 1959, as the 49th state. The postal history of Alaska's territorial days has been covered by many and documented in various papers and journals including La Posta. The modern day Rural Stations and Rural Branches open a new field of interest for the postal historian of our far northern state.

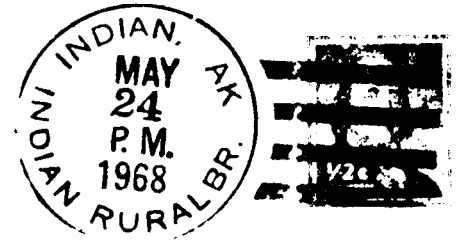
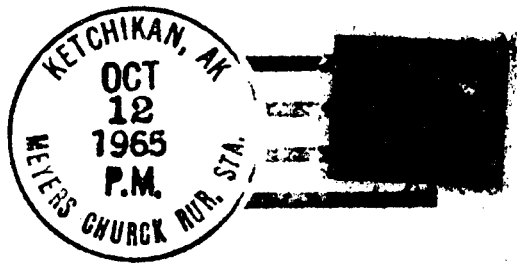
North Pole Rural Branch of Fairbanks has the honor of being the only rural facility in operation prior to statehood. North Pole was established on the 1st of March, 1954, and it has continued to serve as one of those postal facilities which enjoys particular popularity around the 25th of December each year. Since the establishment of North Pole, the list of Alaskan rurals has grown to number a total of 53. These are listed below in chronological order of their establishment dates. In cases where there has been a change in the parent post office, such changes are listed directly below the initial entry.

As everyone knows, Alaska is a huge state characterized by rugged terrain and a sometimes hostile climate. The rural stations and branches of Alaska reflect the character of the state as we find rurals located in some interesting and unusual places. For example, the Little diomedes Rural Branch of Nome is located on a tiny island in the Bering Strait only a few miles from the Soviet Union. Conditions must be difficult on the island, for in October of this year the author received a note from the post office at Nome which said in part:

"Our rural branch at Diomedes is not commissioned until about January for four months. Last year there was no post office there, as the person that got the contract did not go back to the island, and by the time he notified us it was too late to re-let the contract. When there is no post office, the mail is just sent to the village council, and we do their cancellations, etc., for them."

Other examples of unusual Alaskan rural locations include Bornite, now discontinued, which was the site of Bear Creek Mining Company operations near the Arctic Circle, and Amchitka, far out in the Aleutian Chain, which recently received much publicity as the site of U. S. nuclear weapons testing.

Cancellation types used by Alaskan rurals are similar to those used by rurals in other states. Many rurals are currently using 4-bar cancels without ZIP coding, or a 4-bar cancel reading "RURAL STA." when current POD Directories list them under a Rural Branch classification. A number of errors have also turned up among the cancellation devices used by Alaskan rurals. Many rurals bear unusual names, and the errors sometimes show an incorrect spelling of a native word. The list which follows calls attention to error cancels where they are known to have been used, but it can not be claimed that the dates of use are exhaustive. Some of these error cancels are also illustrated along with representative examples of the cancel types known from Alaskan rurals.



↑ ERROR

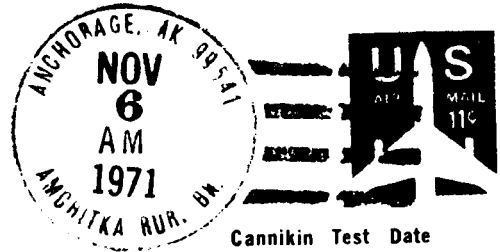
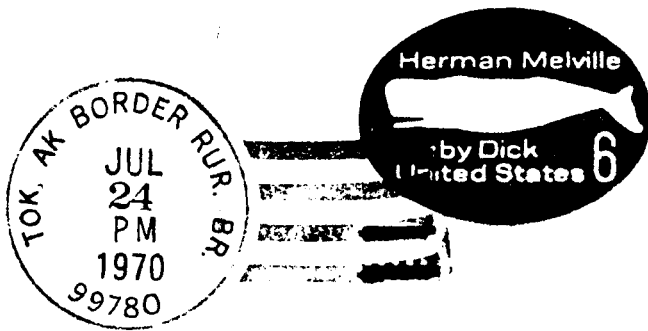
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TYPE 2



TYPE 3

TYPE 4



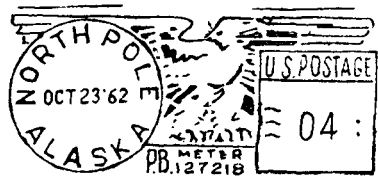
TYPE 5



Error

TYPE 6

TYPE 8



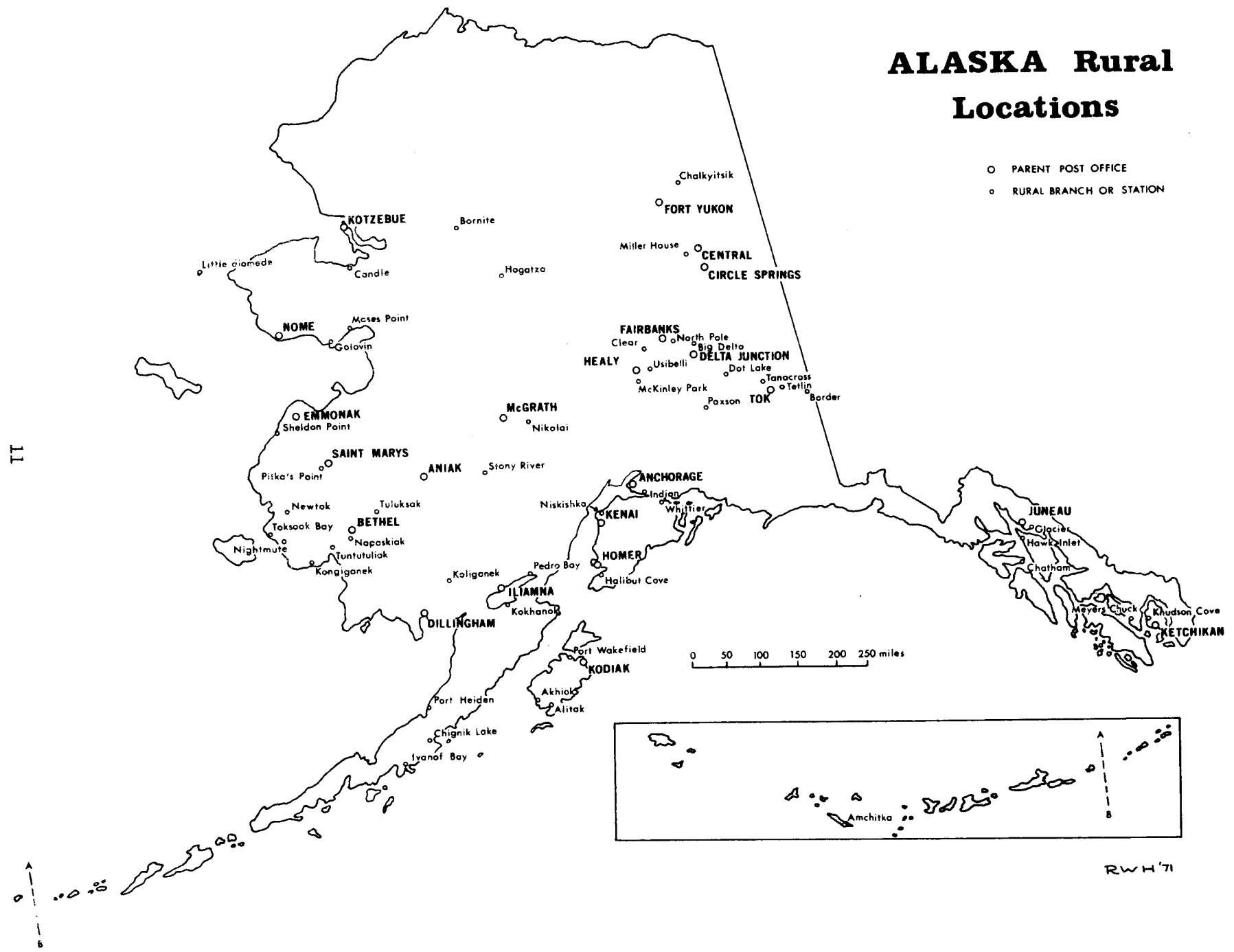
TYPE 9 (Meter)

ALASKAN RURAL CANCELLATION TYPES

No.	RURAL NAME	PARENT POST OFFICE	ESTABLISHED	DISCONTINUED
1.	North Pole* RB 99705	Fairbanks	1 Mar 1954	
2.	Clear	Fairbanks	15 Jun 1959	13 Aug 1960
3.	Big Delta (Ind)	Delta Junction	1 Nov 1959	18 Aug 1961
4.	Whittier	Anchorage 99501	10 Jun 1961	
5.	Knudson Cove	Ketchikan	1 Jul 1961	15 Mar 1964
6.	Halibut Cove RB	Homer 99603	20 Aug 1961	
7.	Dot Lake (Ind) RB	Delta Junction 99737	1 Sep 1961	
8.	Paxon RB	Delta Junction 99737	1 Oct 1961	
9.	Myers Chuck	Ketchikan	1 Nov 1961	1 Oct 1965
	Name Changed To:			
	Meyers Chuck# RB 99903	Ketchikan	1 Oct 1965	
10.	Golovin (Ind) RB	Nome 99762	30 Mar 1963	
11.	Usibelli (Ind) RB 99787	Healy Fork	16 Sep 1963	1 Jun 1968
	Name of Parent Changed To:			
	Usibelli** RB 99787	Healy	1 Jun 1968	
12.	Newtok RB	Bethel 99559	1 Aug 1963	
	(Winter Post Office, operates 1 Aug to 30 Apr)			
13.	Chatham RB 99823	Juneau 99823	3 Jan 1964	30 Nov 1967
	(Summer Post Office, operated 1 Jun to 15 Sep)			
14.	Miller House RB	Circle Springs 99734	1 Mar 1964	2 Dec 1966
	Transferred To:			
	Miller House RB 99730	Central	3 Dec 1966	
15.	Napaskiak RB	Bethel 99559	20 Jun 1964	
16.	Port Wakefield RB	Kodiak 99615	1 Oct 1964	30 Jun 1970
17.	Tanacross (RI) RB 99776	Tok	28 Aug 1964	
18.	Glacier RB	Juneau 99801	16 Sep 1964	16 Feb 1966
19.	Chalkyitsik (RI) RB 99788	Fort Yukon 99740	1 Nov 1964	
20.	Bornite (RI) RB 99789	Kotzebue	18 Feb 1965	12 Sep 1968
21.	Akhiok RB	Kodiak 99615	25 Mar 1965	
22.	Alitak## RB	Kodiak 99615	25 Mar 1965	
23.	Indian## (RI) RB 99540	Anchorage	1 Jun 1965	
24.	Moses Point (RI) RB 99759	Nome	2 Jul 1965	
25.	Klatt Road RB	Anchorage 99501	18 Sep 1965	
26.	Tuluksak*** (RI)RB 99679	Bethel	19 Nov 1965	
27.	Toksook Bay (RI) RB 99637	Bethel	3 Dec 1965	
28.	Candle RB 99728	Kotzebue	25 Feb 1966	18 Oct 1970
29.	Hogatza RB 99744	Fairbanks	15 Apr 1966	
30.	Hawk Inlet RB 99828	Juneau	16 May 1966	1 Sep 1967
31.	Tuntutuliak RB 99680	Bethel	7 Oct 1966	
32.	Tetlin RB 99779	Tok	7 Oct 1966	
33.	Nightmute RB 99690	Bethel	1 Dec 1966	
34.	Pedro Bay RB 99647	Iliamna	2 Dec 1966	
35.	Koliganek RB	Dillingham 99576	1 Feb 1967	
36.	Little diomede RB	Nome 99762	20 Dec 1967	
37.	North Kenai RB	Kenai 99611	1 Jan 1968	
38.	Amchitka RB 99541	Anchorage	4 May 1968	
39.	Nikolai RB 99691	McGrath	1 Jun 1968	
40.	Kokhanok RB	Iliamna 99606	24 Aug 1968	
41.	Kongiganak RB	Bethel 99559	1 Apr 1969	
42.	Border RB	Tok 99780	1 Jun 1970	
43.	Port Heiden RB 99549	Anchorage	1 Jul 1970	

ALASKA Rural Locations

- PARENT POST OFFICE
- RURAL BRANCH OR STATION



11

RWH '71

No.	Rural Name		Parent Post Office	Established	Discontinued
44.	Pitka's Point	RB	Saint Marys 99658	16 Jul 1970	
45.	Chauthbalak	RB	Aniak 99557	1 Aug 1970	31 Aug 1971
46.	Stony River	RB 99673	Aniak	31 Dec 1970	
47.	Niskishka	RB	Kenai 99611	16 Mar 1971	
48.	Atmoutluak	RB	Bethel 99559	1 Apr 1971	
49.	Sheldon Point	RB 99666	Emmonak	31 Jul 1971	
50.	Ivanof Bay	RB 99502	Anchorage	1 Aug 1971	
51.	McKinley Park	RB 99755	Fairbanks	1 Sep 1971	
52.	Portage Creek	RB	Dillingham 99576	16 Sep 1971	
53.	Chignik Lake	RB 99502	Anchorage	16 Sep 1971	

Notes: * A meter cancel is used by Santa Claus House. Meter No. PB 127218. Date recorded: 23 Oct 1962.

An error cancel reading "MEYERS CHURCK" was in use on 12 Oct 1965.

** A USPO cancel reading "USIBELLI, HEALY FORK" continued in use on 6 Sep 1968. It had been corrected to HEALY by 19 Feb 1971.

The Indian Rural has used an unusual cancel reading, "INDIAN, AK/ INDIAN RURALBR." Normally, the cancel should read, "Anchorage, Ak./ Indian Rural Br." This cancel has been seen with dates of 5 Sep 1968 and 30 Nov 1970.

*** An error cancel reading "BETHEL, AK/ TULUSAK", i.e., "K" MISSING is known with a date of 19 Sep 1968.

For those of you who are Alaska history buffs, and find yourself in Seattle, take time to visit the Seattle Civic Center located near the Space Needle. It houses the Pullen Alaska Museum, which has a fabulous collection of 19th cent. Alaskiana. The small admission price is well spent...

NOTES ON RURALS OF OTHER STATES...

1. The Discontinued Date for Fontenelle (Item #13) of the Wyoming listing was inadvertently omitted. It was discontinued on 30 Mar 1968. Please make the necessary correction, and accept the apologies of your editor.
2. Art Rupert requests some information regarding Utah rurals. His records show LINWOOD Rural of Dutch John being established in the Oct 1956 issue of the Postal Guide, but somewhere else he found a notation that the unit was established on 15 Sep 1958. Can anyone confirm a date of establishment for Linwood?
3. Art also needs Xerox copies of cancels from Linwood Rural of Dutch John, and Little Valley Rural of Ogden (1 Jun 1956 to 31 Jul 1959). Can any of our readers help out?

Art's address is: P. O. Box 645, Prosser, Washington 99350.

THE 19TH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG

Part II: YAMHILL COUNTY By Charles A. Whittlesey

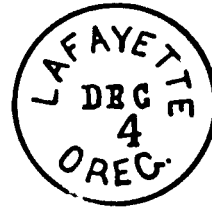
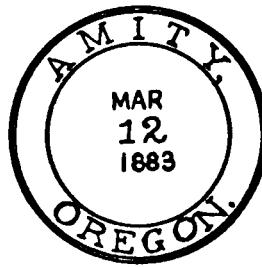
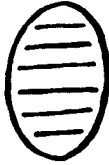
Yamhill County was organized by the Provisional Legislature July 5, 1843, and was one of the four original districts of Oregon Country. Initially, the county consisted of all lands lying west of the Willamette River and south of the Yamhill River to the California border. Creation of Polk County in 1845 greatly reduced the size of Yamhill County, and today the county has a land area of only 709 square miles. The name of the county is the subject of some controversy, but it is probably derived from a name early explorers gave to the Indians they found living along the banks of the Yamhill River.

The Records of Appointments of Postmasters lists 40 unique post office names established in Yamhill County during the 19th century. It may be misleading, however, to consider this to be the actual number of post offices which were in operation in the county during that era. For example, it is possible to consider that Yamhill County had two distinct offices named Willamina. The first Willamina was a territorial office established in 1855. It was located about a mile east of the present-day community of the same name, but in 1866 the office was moved even further to the east and its name was changed to Sheridan. In 1878 a second post office named Willamina was established, and it is this office which continues to function. A somewhat similar situation results in the listing of two offices named Dundee. The Ziegler post office was authorized, but apparently rescinded before it ever actually operated. Accordingly, the list below contains the names of 41 separate Yamhill County post offices. Postal markings have been recorded from 20 of the 41 offices.

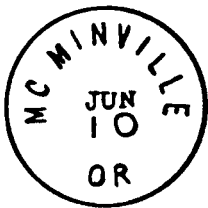
AMITY
BELLEVUE
BELLWOOD
BRIEDWELL
BYERSVILLE
CARLTON
CHASE
CHEHALEM
DAYTON
DEWEY
DUNDEE (1)
DUNDEE (2)
DUNDEE JUNCTION
EKINS
FAIRDALE
GOPHER
HOPEWELL
LAFAYETTE
LARCH

MANILA
MCMINNVILLE
MOUNT HOOD
MOUNTAIN HOUSE
MUDDY
NEWBERG
NORTH YAMHILL
ROBERTS
SAINT JOSEPH
SHERIDAN
SPRINGBROOK
WAPATA
WASHINGTON
WEST CHEHALEM
WHEATLAND
WHITES
WHITESON
WILLAMETTE
WILLAMINA (1)
WILLAMINA (2)
YAM HILL
YAM HILL FALLS

TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	INTEGRAL KILLER	NOTES
AMITY (1852 - Date)					
1.	M				Territorial Use
2.	M	3 Jan 60	15 Dec 68		
3.	C1EA1BBR24	20 Jul 69			
4.	C1EA1BBR24.5	5 May 74	12 Feb 76		Illustrated
5.	C41JN1RRB33.5	19 Mar 80r	12 Mar 88	Star-in-circle	Illustrated
6.	C1JS1B29	31 Oct 89p	5 Dec 91	Bars-in-oval	Illustrated
7.	C1JN1B28.5	20 Oct 93	18 Jan 98		
BELLEVUE (1869 - 1904)					
1.	C1EA1BBR24	6 Mar ??			On U277, ca. 1885
2.	C1JN1BBR27	7 Jan 94		Target	
CARLTON (1874 - Date)					
1.	M		76		
2.	C21J3,11,13N2RRB29	29 Nov 88	8 Feb 89	Star-in-circle	Illustrated
3.	C1E11N1B27	3 Dec 94			Illustrated
DAYTON (1851 - Date)					
1.	M		52	1 Sep 55	Territorial Use
2.	M	7 May 60		16 Aug 71	
3.	C1JA1BBR26	10 May 68		20 Dec 72	Illustrated
4.	C1JA1BBR25	12 Jul 74b		2 May 77	
5.	C1EA1BBR25.5	4 Oct 78r			Geometric
6.	C21J9NLRB32	19 Sep 79r			Circle of V's
7.	OC1EN1B25	14 Apr 87		12 Dec 92	Illustrated
8.	C1JT1B29	26 Apr 99			
DUNDEE (1897 - Date)					
1.	C1EN1B27	31 Aug 99			
DUNDEE JUNCTION (1887 - 1897)					
1.	C1EN1BBR28	18 Apr 88		20 Jan 90	
EKINS (1881 - 1882)					
1.	M	21 Mar 82			
HOPEWELL (1897 - 1903)					
1.	C1EN1B28	9 Jun 99		Target	Used after 1900
LAFAYETTE (1851 - Date)					
1.	C1HA1R32.5	11 Nov 56			Territorial Use
2.	M	17 Nov 57		4 Jan 59	Territorial Use
3.	M	26 Apr 59		29 Jul 62	
4.	C1AA1R32.5		59?		Terr. h/s w/"T" cutout
5.	C1CA1BBR26		63?	9 Apr 69	
6.	C1EA1BBR24.5	17 Sep 71		4 Sep 74	Illustrated
7.	C1EA1BBR26	4 Feb 75			Illustrated
8.	C1JS1B27.5	20 Aug 78			
9.	OC1EN6B25	17 ??? 79		19 May 80	



*Mr Hoell C. J.
July 22nd 1856*



TOWN TYPE NO.	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	INTEGRAL KILLER	NOTES
LAFAYETTE (cont.)					
10.	OV22E1S1RR'B38x23	1 Jul 82	4 Sep 83		Illustrated
11.	OV31J1S1RR'B44x25	29 Nov 83p	7 Jun 86		Illustrated
12.	C1EN1BBR27	15 Oct 86	26 Sep 92		
MOUNT HOOD (1854 - 1862)					
1.	M	22 Jul 56			On Postal Route Slip
MUDDY (1855 - 1869)					
1.	M	10 Apr 65			
McMINNVILLE (1855 - Date)					
1.	C1CA1BBR26	10 Jun ??			Reads "McMinville"
2.	M	3 Feb 62	21 Apr 62		
3.	C1EA1BBR25	30 Jun 72	18 Jan 77		Illustrated
4.	C1J11N1B28	4 May 79r	12 May 79r	Star-in-circle	Illustrated
5.	C1JN1B28	20 Sep 80r		Star-in-circle	
6.	C1JN1RRB28	28 Jun 84		Maltese Cross	Illustrated
7.	C1EN1B27	17 Nov 88			
8.	C1ET1B28.5	8 Aug 93	18 Jan 98		Illustrated
NEWBERG (1869 - Date)					
1.	M	3 Jan 74			
2.	C1EA1BBR26	27 Jul 76		Target	
3.	C1EN1B27	11 Feb 84	13 Nov 86	Target	
4.	C1JS1RRB31	15 Mar 87p	19 May 96	Target	Illustrated
5.	C1EN1BBR28	22 Oct 88			
6.	C1JT1B28	25 Jan 94	8 Jan 98		Illustrated
7.	C1JT1B29	9 Sep 99			
NORTH YAMHILL (1851 - 1908)					
1.	M	28 Jun 59	27 Jan 63		
2.	C1EA1BBR24.5		75? 78?		Both on U163
3.	C1EN1BBR26	1 Jan 79	27 Nov 79r		
4.	C1JS1RRB34	19 Feb 83b	21 Dec 88	Negative Star	Illustrated
5.	C1EN1BBR27.5	8 May 90	3 Apr 92		
6.	C1JT1B28	29 Jan 94	20 Oct 97		
SHERIDAN (1866 - Date)					
1.	M	11 Feb 67	21 Jul 71		
2.	C1EA1BBR24.5	14 Feb 76			
3.	OC1EN1RRB28	15 Apr 78r	1 Aug 84		Illustrated
4.	C1J10N1B29.5	1 Feb 86p	22 Sep 86	Star-in-circle	
5.	C1JN1RRB36	27 Sep 89b		Target	
6.	C1ES1B27.5	24 Sep 90g	14 Mar 91	Target	
7.	C1ET1B27.5	25 Apr 93			Illustrated
SPRINGBROOK (1893 - 195?)					
1.	C1JN1BBR28	9 Apr 94	15 Dec 97	Target	

TOWN TYPE	POSTMARK CODE	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE	INTEGRAL KILLER	NOTES
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WEST CHEHALEM (1865 - 1900)

- | | | | | | |
|----|------------|-----------|------------|--|------------------|
| 1. | C1EA1BBR25 | 30 Mar 87 | 23 Jan 87b | | With #210 & U163 |
| 2. | C1EN1BBR28 | 2 Jan 94 | 31 May 96 | | Illustrated |

WHEATLAND (1867 - 1903)

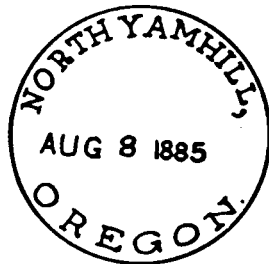
- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------------|
| 1. | M | 5 Jan 69 | 21 Apr 88 | | |
| 2. | C1E9N1RRB32 | 1 Jan 83 | 5 May 84 | Target | Illustrated |
| 3. | C1EN1BBR27 | 17 Jul 91 | | | |
| 4. | C1EN1B28.5 | 10 Sep 99 | | | |

WHITESON (1890 - 195?)

- | | | | | | |
|----|----------|-----------|--|--------|--|
| 1. | C1EN1B28 | 30 May 99 | | Target | |
|----|----------|-----------|--|--------|--|

WILLAMINA (1878 - Date)

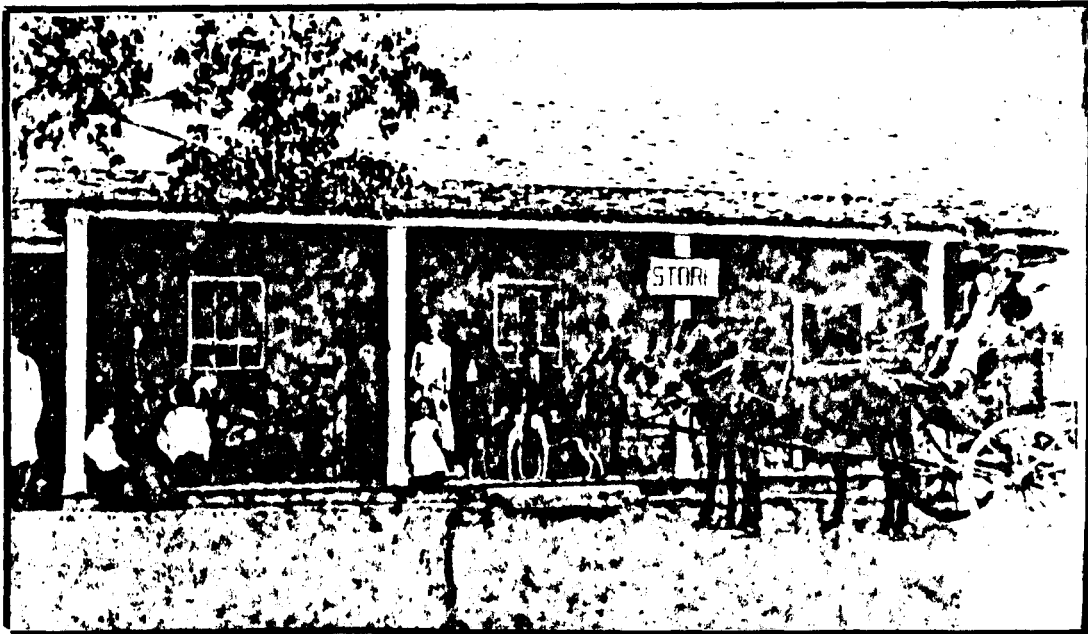
- | | | | | | |
|----|----------------|------------|----------|----------------|-------------|
| 1. | C1B11N1RRB28.5 | 23 May 83r | 3 Apr 88 | Star-in-circle | Illustrated |
| 2. | C1JN1BBR28 | 14 Aug 93 | | Target | |



Part III: Richard Hudson

In Grant County, New Mexico, about three miles southwest of the City of Rocks State Park, are Faywood Hot Springs, and the ruins of the hotel and baths once associated with the springs. Since this site was close to the valley of the Mimbres River, the springs were originally known as Mimbres Hot Springs when Richard Hudson purchased them from Virgil Maston. In 1878 Hudson applied for a post office at the springs, and his request was approved June 24, 1878. He first used the name Mimbres Hot Springs for his post office, but it was not long before Hudson requested a name change for the office to Hudson Hot Springs. The change became effective January 28, 1879, and Richard Hudson remained as postmaster until February 1, 1881. At that time the office was discontinued. Three months later, on May 19th, the office was re-established as Hudson with John Jacobi as postmaster. Richard Hudson became postmaster once again as he succeeded Jacobi on August 4, 1881. This time Hudson remained postmaster until November 2, 1887, when he was replaced by his wife.

Richard Hudson was born in England on February 22, 1839. He was orphaned at a young age, and moved to Brooklyn, New York, where he received his early education. He moved to California in 1852, being attracted by the Gold Rush craze. In 1856 he left his foster parents' home, and went to Oroville to engage in mining. When the Civil War began, Hudson enlisted in the First California Regiment as a private on October 9, 1861. Later, when it appeared

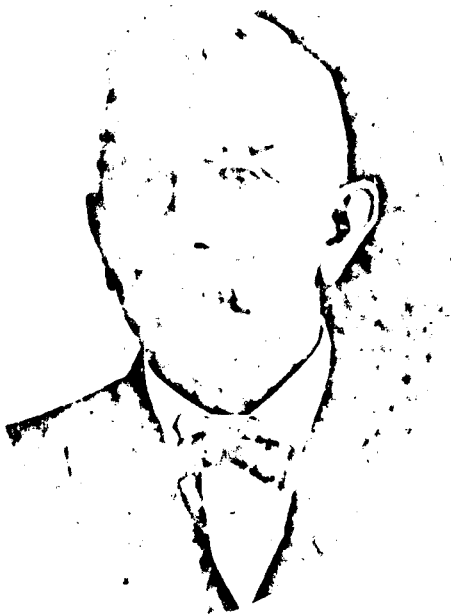


Hudson Hot Springs Hotel and Post Office. Richard Hudson seated in the wagon at far right.

that his unit would see no action, Hudson transferred to Company I, Fifth California Infantry as a sergeant. He was promoted to second lieutenant in 1863, and came to New Mexico that year with the California Column. In 1864 Richard Hudson became a first lieutenant and was made adjutant. Following his discharge on October 17, 1866, at Fort Union, he settled at Pinos Altos where he operated the hotel and engaged in mining, staging, and freighting. When Grant County was created in 1868, Pinos Altos became the county seat, and Richard Hudson was elected County Sheriff. That same year New Mexico's territorial Governor Mitchell appointed Hudson captain of the local company of Territorial Militia. In 1870 Hudson was elected Probate Judge of Grant County. He served in that capacity for four years. When the county seat was moved to Silver City in 1871, he moved with it, and set up a livery and freighting business. On September 24, 1871, Richard Hudson married Miss Mary E. Stevens of Silver City. Their only child, Mamie, was born during December, 1877. The Silver City Tribune of September 13, 1873 reported: "Twelve miles below Silver City we passed the haying company of Judge Hudson, where the men were working in beautiful meadows containing thousands of acres of blue grama."

Hudson bought the Mimbres Hot Springs sometime during the mid-1870's, and erected a resort hotel there in 1876. Governor Wallace made Hudson a major in the National Guard, and Governor Sheldon promoted him to colonel commanding the First New Mexico Regiment. After his hotel burned in 1892, Hudson returned to Silver City and managed the Timmer Hotel for a time. Shortly following President Harrison appointed Richard Hudson to be Agent for the Mescalero Apaches. He served at that post for one year, after which he retired to Deming, New Mexico. He died there at the home of his daughter, Mrs. H. H. Williams.

References: Twitchell, Leading Facts of New Mexico History, Vols I - III.
Anderson, History of New Mexico, 1905
New Mexico Magazine, Vol. 44, June-July, 1966, p. 18.
U.S. General Services Admin., Records of Appointments of Postmasters - New Mexico.



R Hudson

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Contrary to a growing popular belief, La Posta is still alive -- miles behind schedule, but alive. As we enter the second month of 1972, it is your editor's embarrassing job to place in the mails a journal dated Sept-Oct, 1971. Hopefully, the last number of the current volume can be mailed sometime in March, thus bring to a close a volume which will have spanned a year and a quarter.

A couple of very interesting pieces of work are already completed for Vol. 3, No. 6. Mrs. Ruth Dolezal of Cicero, Illinois, has completed a search of Postal Bulletins between 1930 and 1971, which completely updates Wyoming post office records. It is our hope to publish her work as complete county listings for each county in Wyoming. Albany County will appear in our next issue. A second piece of No. 6, which has already been prepared, deals with the story of a whaling cover mailed from Herschel Island in the Beaufort Sea in 1906. There is still more room in our next issue for your contribution.

Speaking of contributions, your editor would like to take this opportunity to publicly salute the contributing authors of this issue. Art Rupert, Tom Todsén, and Chuck Whittlesey have provided for us original research articles of outstanding value. These three men, as well as Mrs. Dolezal and a few other individuals who have made contributions to La Posta in the past, deserve the personal thanks of each one of us who reads their work. Without contributions such as these, there could be no La Posta. More importantly, there could be no postal history as we know it.

During the past several months your editor has been doing a good bit of soul searching with regard to the future of La Posta. No subscription renewals have been accepted for Volume 4, and there is serious question in my mind as to whether or not there will be a Volume 4. This evaluation process will continue until such time as the last number of the present volume is completed. Then, a decision will be reached, and announced in this column. The problems are the same ones you've all heard before; lack of contributing authors, lack of subscribers (we now have 55 paying subscribers), and the fantastic amount of time involved in putting it all together. Probably the most serious single problem in my mind is the lack of subscriptions. The plain fact is that after 3 years La Posta is just not close to financial self-sufficiency. Time runs a close second, but if the journal had wider appeal, it would be easier to justify the time spent working on it. If you have anything which you might like to suggest at this point in my soul searching, you are welcome to drop me a line. Your thoughts will be considered, for, as suggested, my decision has not yet been made.