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THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING By RUTH DOLEZAL

PART I: ALBANY COUNTY

Albany County was one of the original counties of Wyoming Territory. Initially the county was defined as a narrow strip of territory about 50 miles wide which ran the entire north-south breadth of Wyoming. As new counties were formed, and boundaries were adjusted, Albany County gradually assumed its present dimensions. The county presently occupies a land area of 4,248 square miles, and the Census of Population for 1970 reported 26,431 residents. Most of these residents are living in and around the City of Laramie.

The first post office to be established in Albany County was probably Rock Creek. Rock Creek's first postmaster was appointed on September 10, 1868, and it was to be July 15, 1869 before Lookout, the second post office, received a postmaster appointment. Laramie City's first postmaster was appointed on December 22, 1869.

The list of Albany County post offices contains 77 names, although it is not positively known that all of these offices were located within the present-day borders of the county. Many offices, such as Crazy Woman, Prager, and Saint Clair, were rather short-lived affairs, and were in existence at a time when Albany County covered a much larger portion of Wyoming. It has been possible through careful searching of historical records and maps to filter out many of the early day offices listed as being in Albany County, but actually located in other present-day counties. Unfortunately, this search is incomplete, and there remain questions regarding the actual locations of several early-day, short-lived post offices.

The Albany County Post Office Locator map is similarly incomplete. Of the 77 listed offices, locations have been determined for 53. Readers with information which could increase the number of located offices are respectfully requested to contact either the author or the editor of La Posta.

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This is the first installment of a planned series of articles which will provide La Posta readers with a complete up-to-date listing of the post offices of Wyoming. The author wishes to express her gratitude to her friend and co-research worker, Marie Kaminky, who was an active participant in much of the early record searching.

In all fairness to Mrs. Dolezal it should be emphasized that inaccuracies which might occur in the reporting of listing prior to 1930 should be blamed on your editor, not Mrs. Dolezal. Mrs. Dolezal's work deals with the post 1930 period, and results from a painstaking search of the Postal Bulletins for the entire 40 plus year period. As those of you who engage in postal history research know, it is this post 1930 era which is the most elusive, and the contribution of Mrs. Dolezal is indeed important. (Ed)
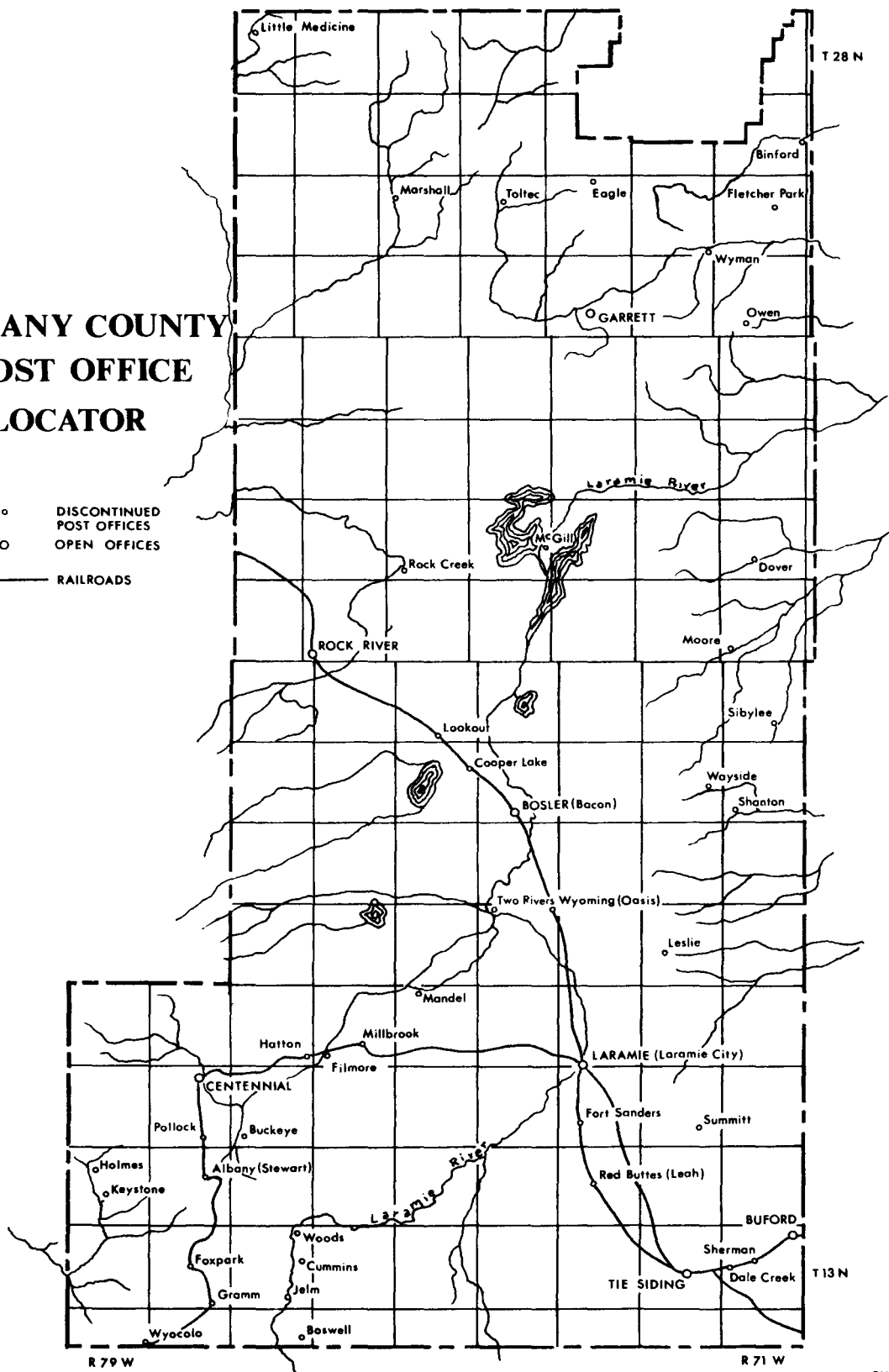
ALBANY COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Albany	31 Dec 1908	23 Jun 1961	Conv. to Laramie Rural Br.
Anchor	7 Nov 1904	---	Probably Never Operated
Bacon	10 Mar 1900	3 May 1900	Name Changed to Bosler
Big Laramie	6 Aug 1878	14 Dec 1885	M. to Laramie City
Binford	5 Feb 1897	31 May 1937	M. to Dwyer
Bosler	3 May 1900	Operating	
Boswell	21 Jun 1895	21 Apr 1896	M. to Woods
Buckeye	29 May 1909	30 Nov 1935	M. to Laramie
Buford	19 Jul 1880	Operating	Intermittantly to 1900
Centennial	23 Jul 1875	Operating	
Cooper	19 Apr 1880	25 Aug 1893	M. to Laramie
Cooper Lake	16 Jan 1878	21 Oct 1878	
Corbett	6 Aug 1878	21 Mar 1880	M. to Cummins
Craig	11 May 1886	27 Nov 1888	No papers
Crazy Woman	14 May 1880	24 Aug 1880	
Cummins	26 May 1880	10 Aug 1888	M. to Woods
Dale Creek	28 Aug 1903	15 Oct 1917	M. to Sherman
Dougherty	10 Apr 1890	9 Jan 1893	No papers
Dover	21 Apr 1900	31 Jul 1931	M. to Wheatland
Downey	29 Jul 1886	3 Nov 1886	M. to Rock Creek
Eagle	14 Dec 1910	28 Feb 1918	M. to Garrett
Elsie	24 Jul 1886	19 Nov 1888	No papers
Farrel	22 Jun 1876	2 Feb 1883	
Filmore	31 Mar 1909	30 Nov 1935	M. to Laramie
Fletcher Park	16 Nov 1920	30 Jun 1954	M. to Wheatland
Fort Sanders	21 Jun 1880	2 Jun 1882	M. to Laramie City
Foxpark	14 Jan 1910	11 Feb 1966	Conv. to Laramie Rural Br.
Garrett	9 Dec 1898	Operating	
Gillespie	28 Feb 1911	15 Jul 1913	M. to Rock River
Gramm	18 Jan 1915	31 Mar 1926	M. to Foxpark
Hatton	14 May 1883	15 Jul 1902	M. to Centennial
Henke	31 Mar 1893	21 Feb 1894	No papers
Holmes	3 Mar 1893	31 Oct 1950	To Summer P.O.-15 Feb 1947
Ionia	9 Sep 1901	---	Probably Never Operated
Jelm	20 May 1898	23 Apr 1965	Conv. to Laramie Rural Br.
Keystone	30 Nov 1889	30 Nov 1910	M. to Albany
La Plata	18 Oct 1892	22 Jun 1895	No papers
Laramie	25 Jul 1888	Operating	Name Changed from Laramie City
Laramie City	22 Dec 1869	25 Jul 1888	Name ch. to Laramie
Leah	13 Dec 1883	8 Feb 1896	Name ch. to Red Buttes
Leslie	8 Feb 1904	31 Jul 1909	M. to Laramie
Little Medicine	15 Feb 1893	30 Sep 1944	M. to Medicine Bow
Lookout	15 Jul 1869	30 Apr 1948	M. to Bosler
Mack	17 Feb 1898	2 Feb 1900	Authorizing Order Rescinded
Mandel	27 Aug 1898	31 Dec 1917	M. to Morgan
Marshall	29 Dec 1902	30 Nov 1944	M. to Medicine Bow

ALBANY COUNTY POST OFFICE LOCATOR

DISCONTINUED POST OFFICES
OPEN OFFICES
RAILROADS

Little Medicine

T 28 N

Binford

Marshall   Toltec   Eagle   Fletcher Park

Wyman

GARRETT   Owen

Laramie River

McGill

Rock Creek   Dover

ROCK RIVER   Moore

Sibylee

Lookout

Cooper Lake   Wayside
                Shanton

BOSLER (Bacon)

Two Rivers Wyoming (Oasis)

Leslie

Mandel

Millbrook

Hatton   Filmore   LARAMIE (Laramie City)

CENTENNIAL

Pollock   Buckeye   Fort Sanders   Summitt

Holmes   Albany (Stewart)   Red Buttes (Leah)

Keystone

Laramie River   BUFORD

Woods   Sherman

Foxpark   Cummins   TIE SIDING   Dale Creek   T 13 N

Gramm   Jelm

Wyocolo   Boswell

R 79 W   R 71 W   RWH 72

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Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
McGill	1 May 1900	15 Aug 1916	M. to Rock River
Millbrook	8 Feb 1908	29 Sep 1923	M. to Laramie
Moore	16 Sep 1896	31 Mar 1927	M. to Sibylee
Mountain Home	20 Nov 1886	22 Apr 1891	M. to Rock Creek
Oasis	14 Feb 1898	10 Mar 1900	Name changed to Bacon
Owen	19 Feb 1887	31 Oct 1929	M. to Wheatland
Pollock	14 Feb 1890	31 Mar 1903	M. to Centennial
Prager	24 Aug 1889	24 Nov 1890	
Pyramid	23 Jan 1902	11 Oct 1902	M. to Toltec
Red Buttes	2 Sep 1872	2 Jul 1879	
Redbuttes	8 Feb 1896	30 Jun 1902	M. to Laramie
Rex	26 Sep 1924	14 Jul 1928	M. to Centennial
Rock Creek	10 Sep 1868	31 May 1910	M. to Rock River
Rock River	9 Jul 1900	Operating	
Roseville	15 Apr 1884	20 Aug 1884	M. to Rock Creek
Saint Clair	4 Dec 1879	13 Oct 1881	
Shanton	17 Feb 1900	31 Jul 1901	M. to Laramie
Sherman	9 Sep 1868	30 Apr 1919	M. to Buford
Sibylee	16 Apr 1888	31 May 1932	M. to Wheatland
Stewart	27 Aug 1908	31 Dec 1908	Name changed to Albany
Summit	6 Jul 1891	31 Oct 1902	M. to Laramie
Tie Siding	21 Jan 1875	Operating	
Toltec	17 Jan 1891	30 Sep 1933	M. to Garrett
Two Rivers	17 Mar 1910	15 Aug 1913	M. to Laramie
Wayside	21 Jun 1905	31 Dec 1908	M. to Sibylee
Webber	23 May 1890	21 Nov 1890	M. to Silver Crown
Webel	15 Nov 1886	11 Aug 1887	M. to Labonte
Woods	19 May 1884	15 Mar 1914	M. to Laramie
Wyman	22 Sep 1904	31 Jul 1920	M. to Owen
Wyocolo	10 Apr 1912	14 Jan 1928	M. to Foxpark
Wyoming	13 Dec 1870	14 Feb 1898	Name changed to Oasis

University Station of Laramie established 19 Mar 1960.

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WANTED: Information about the Postal History of the

American West! Future issues of

LA POSTA will appear on an irregular

basis, BUT ONLY WHEN CONTRIBUTIONS

MERIT PUBLICATION. (See EDITOR'S COMMENTS)

A POSTAL HISTORY OF FORT LARAMIE
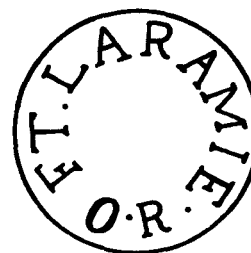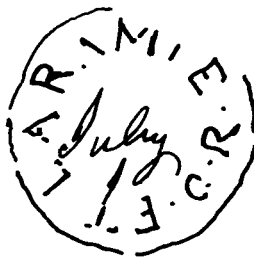
By Thomas E. White

Fort Laramie's recorded history begins in May 1834, with the construction of the first Fort Laramie, christened Fort William. Its successor, Fort John, another fur trading post, was built in 1841. Both of these were better known as "Fort Laramie." The military fort was established on the 24th of June, 1849, by Major Winslow F. Sandesson of the Regiment of Mounted Riflemen.

At first, there was only provision for deposit of letters at Fort Laramie for transfer to the East. The first mail for Fort Laramie arrived in August, 1849, by supply train. It is believed that this first mail train was accompanied by Company G, 6th U.S. Infantry. If this is so, then that company's First Seargent was eventually to have quite a bit more to do with the postal history of Fort Laramie: his name was Leodegar Schnyder and we will hear more of him later.

John S. Tutt, the Post Sutler, was appointed the first postmaster on March 14, 1850; but there is good evidence to prove that the Fort Laramie post office did not begin operation until some time later. Tutt was in Missouri at the time of his appointment. He had been since at least February 19th of that year. He would not return to the fort until around June 13th. In the meantime, his clerk, William A. McCarty, was alone at the Sutler's store. On July 15, 1850, John Tutt wrote his partner, "The mails going... it got here last night from the Dalles of the Columbia." At that point, he may have been acting in his capacity as postmaster. The earliest known cover with a Fort Laramie postmark in the hands of a collector is dated July 1, 1851; yet, it appears that the post office had been functioning for about a year before that date. Harry Fine does have a letter written at Fort Laramie on June 8, 1850, addressed to Mr. Jos. Porter, Pulaski (County), Somerset, Ky. The letter was carried to Jackson's Point, Missouri -- just north of St. Joseph -- and placed in the U. S. Mails on August 19th. The first mail contract serving Fort Laramie was let and inaugurated in the summer of 1850. The Contract to Carry U.S. Mails, #4965, from Independence, Missouri to Oregon City, Oregon Territory, via Fort Laramie and Salt Lake, was awarded to James Brown for $19,500 per year. At first, one set of animals was used from Independence to Salt Lake with the mail leaving each terminal point on the first of every month. However, in 1851, Fort Laramie became a division point, and horses and drivers were to be changed at Fort Laramie on the 15th of each month. Schedules were pretty much maintained during the summer, but became rather erratic during the remainder of the year. At the time Fort Laramie's post office began operation, the fort was located in "Unorganized Territory," and the post office was attached to Clackamas County, Oregon Territory for administrative purposes. Postmarks of that period bear the designation, "FORT LARAMIE, O. R." (See illustrations). The meaning of "O.R." is thought to be either "Oregon" or "Oregon Route." Harry Fine reports that in 1961, there were 9 known envelopes or folded letters in the hands of collectors with the "O.R." marking; one of which had just sold for $300 in 1961. Fort Laramie remained under the jurisdiction of Oregon in postal affairs until

the controversial Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 placed the fort within the
bounds of Nebraska Territory on May 30, 1854. Tutt continued to be post-
master until April 28, 1857, when he sold out his sutlering business to
Norman R. Fitzhugh. Fitzhugh also became the fort's new postmaster. Dur-
ing that span from 1850 to 1859, the physical location of the post office
was somewhere in the Sutler's store -- a building which is still in exist-
ence at Fort Laramie National Historic Site. Parts of this building have
been refurnished to periods ranging from 1876 to 1883.

Fitzhugh's term at sutlering at Fort Laramie was very short. By 1858 or
1859 he had sold out to Seth E. Ward. The position of postmaster passed
not to Ward, however, but to Leodegar Schnyder, Fort Laramie's Swiss-born
Ordnance Sergeant.

Normally, military troops moved too often to be considered for appointment
as postmaster, but as Ordnance Sergeant, Leodegar Schnyder was assigned to
the post; not to a regiment. He received his appointment on September 7,
1859, and his appointment certificate is in the collections of Fort Laramie
N. H. S. However it was not until October 1, 1859, that he posted bond and
assumed his duties as postmaster. The historic base map for Fort Laramie
N.H.S. shows a pair of small buildings labeled "Post Office" existed in the
quartermaster area of the post between 1860 and 1880. It is believed that
this "post office" was in use during the time Ordnance Sgt. Schnyder was
postmaster, which was from September 7, 1859 to June 21, 1876, except for
the period from May 8, 1861 to March 13, 1863, when Sutler Ward's business
manager, William J. Bullock, served as postmaster. It appears as though
Bullock's short term may have resulted from political patronage shortly
after Abraham Lincoln's Administration took office.

Ordnance Sergeant Schnyder resumed the postmastership just 10 days after a
new territory was created. Idaho Territory, which included Fort Laramie,
encompassed the present states of Idaho, Montana, and Wyoming. In 1961
Harry Fine reported the existence of at least one postmark for Fort Laramie
bearing the "N.T." for Nebraska Territory, but he knew of no examples of a
"Idaho Territory" cancel. Fort Laramie was only in Idaho Territory from
March 3, 1863 to May 26, 1864.

Before following on with our chronological postal history, a few notes about
Sgt. Schnyder's career at Fort Laramie and his habits as postmaster would be
in order. Schnyder was born in Switzerland on April 29, 1814. He migrated

to the United States in 1829. When he arrived at Fort Laramie on August 12, 1849, Schnyder already had seen 12 years, 1 and a half months service in the U.S. Army. He remained at Fort Laramie, with the exception of leave, until September 24, 1886, by far the longest tour of duty at the fort. In fact, Sgt. Schnyder saw all of the significant military action in the history of Fort Laramie. The appointment which insured his record tour of duty came on December 1, 1852, when he was made Fort Laramie's Post Ordnance Sergeant. Schnyder raised two famlies during his tour at the fort.

As postmaster, Sgt. Schnyder did everything by strict military protocol. As the mail arrived, he sorted it and began to deliver it by rank. First he began with the post's Commanding Officer and worked his way down through the youngest Second Lieutenant. It meant a lot of back-tracking for the mail was delivered to the officer's quarters, but protocol was preserved. After that, NCO's, all other enlisted men, and civilians could line up for their mail at the post office. Since Schnyder was the post's ranking NCO, all other enlisted men owed him the military courtesy of a sharp salute. If they failed in this courtesy, they were sent promptly to the end of the line with a strict admonishment to sharpen up on their military discipline. Once, a junior officer challenged Schnyder's routine by entering the business section of the post office and claiming that "as a commissioned officer, he had certain rights... one of them was the right to get his own mail." He proceeded to rummage for "his letters." Sgt. Schnyder then asserted that he too had rights as postmaster, and proceeded to bodily help the young officer over the barrier. Postmaster Schnyder's authority prevailed!

During the remainder of Schnyder's tenure, Fort Laramie was located in Dakota Territory from May 26, 1864 to July 29, 1868, and in Wyoming Territory from July 29, 1868 to July 10, 1890. Schnyder cancelled letters with an interesting postmark which read "Montana Territory" even though Fort Laramie was never in Montana Territory. Apparently Schnyder did not realize that the fort and the surrounding portion of Wyoming was attached to Dakota Territory and not the newly created Montana Territory as of May 26, 1864. It is not known how long the "Montana Territory" postmark was used; probably only for a few months. Postal records show that Schnyder was paid for services as postmaster at Fort Laramie in all three territorial jurisdictions in 1864: Idaho, Montana, and Dakota. It is also possible that for a time Fort Laramie was actually assigned to Montana Territory for administrative purposes. (The author understands that Mr. Harry Fine is currently concentrating his attention on this curious segment of Fort Laramie's postal history.) Mr. Fine also relates that in 1961 there were about 50 "Dakota Territory" postmarks from Fort Laramie known to collectors, but only 4 "Montana Territory" cancels, one of which sold at auction in 1958 for $150.00.

Between June 22, 1876 and March 31, 1880, five different men held the postmastership. They were: John S. Collins, June 22 to July 28,1876; John W. Ford, July 28, 1876 to April 23, 1878; Edward M. Bloomer, April 23, 1878 to September 13, 1878; John M. Read, September 13, 1878 to April 11, 1879; and, Benjamin M. Hurmans, April 11, 1879 to March 31, 1880. Collins was the Post Trader, the title which replaced Sutler, but nothing is known of the other four men. Presumably they were all employees of the Post Trader.

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Benjamin A. Hart became the postmaster on March 31, 1880, and it was probably at this time that the physical site of the post office was moved back to the Post Trader's Store. Hart held the position until January 19, 1891. During his tenure, Hart saw the abandonment of the fort on May 3, 1890, and the final change in the postmark legend to read, "Fort Laramie, Wyoming" when statehood was reached on July 10, 1890. If B. A. Hart was not a Post Trader's employee when appointed, we know at least that he became one later. He worked for both John London and John Hunton, Fort Laramie's last two Post Traders. The Census of 1890 - taken in June - lists Hart as a bachelor living at the Rustic Hotel, and his occupation is listed as "Postmaster". The Rustic Hotel was owned and operated by the Post Trader. Mr. Hart's postoffice of 1883 may be visited by those who tour Fort Laramie National Historic Site. The office has been re-stored and refurnished in the Post Trader's Store, and is located along side John London's office.

After the abandonment of the fort, and the end of B. A. Hart's tenture, the Fort Laramie postmastership was assumed by Mrs. Hattie Sandercock. She held the office from January 19, 1891 to July 25, 1901. The physical location of the post office remained in various buildings of the abandoned fort until 1907. At least two of those buildings still stand. Officer Quarters "A" and the Cavalry Building both housed the post office for various periods. In the mean-time, a railroad was built up the North Platte Valley. A new community grew at trackside about 3 miles from the abandoned fort, and this new settlement took the name Fort Laramie. Postmasters between July 25, 1901, and August 6, 1907 were: Nettie Rutherford (July 25, 1901 - January 24, 1903); John Purdy (January 24 to August 5, 1903); and Joseph Wilde (August 5, 1903 - August 6, 1907).

As Nettie Rutherford began her second term as postmaster on August 6, 1907, she moved the post office to the Rutherford Ranch just south of the railroad siding town of Fort Laramie. According to C. M. Sandercock, "While on the ranch, a cow bell was used by patrons to summon the Postmaster from her other work to deliver their mail and sell stamps." Later in her tenure, the post office was physically relocated in the young town of Fort Laramie.

During the time the post office has been located in the town, six persons have held the position of postmaster and the physical location of the office has been in six different places. These locations have been documented, but unfortunately they have little meaning to anyone not familiar with the layout of the town. The site of the post office often, but not always, changed as new postmasters assumed the job.
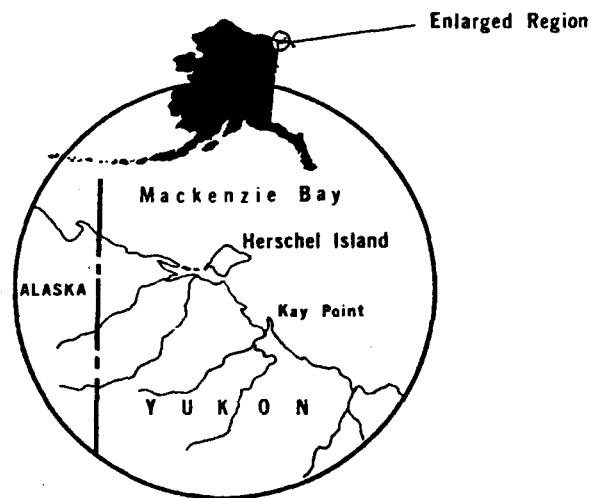
Nettie Rutherford's second tenure was completed October 3, 1917. The remaining five postmasters were: Dora Knott (October 3, 1917 - March 13, 1919); Hattie Peterson (March 13, 1919 - February 6, 1923); Frank G. Brown (February 6, 1923 to November 19, 1935); Mrs. Eva I. Fleenor (November 19, 1935 - October 27, 1967); and Mrs. Bessie E. Lieuallen from October 27, 1967 to the present.

Hanging in the lobby of the present day post office is a framed display which illustrates this long and glorious history of the Fort Laramie post office. It was prepared by one of my predecessors here at the National Historic Site for the post office. Fort Laramie has the distinction of being the first U.S. post office in the northern Rocky Mountains and High Plains, and because of its con-tinuous operation, it also has the distinction of being the oldest continuously operating post office in the same area.

WHALING AT HERSCHEL ISLAND

By A. M. Bergris

The recent excitement along Alaska's north slope occasioned by the discovery of oil reserves brings to mind another period of economic boom along North America's Arctic coast. This boom of an earlier day also brought men and equipment to the north supported by American investors, but the source of excitement was not the petroleum riches of the earth. During the "gay '90's" women of fashion wore corsets made from the baleen plate of the bone whale. As a result, baleen, or "whale bone," as it was commonly called, enjoyed an active market in the United States and Europe. Prices for whale bone were averaging between $4 and $5 per pound in 1889 when American whalers first pushed eastward beyond Point Barrow to begin hunting in the Beaufort Sea and wintering at remote Herschel Island.
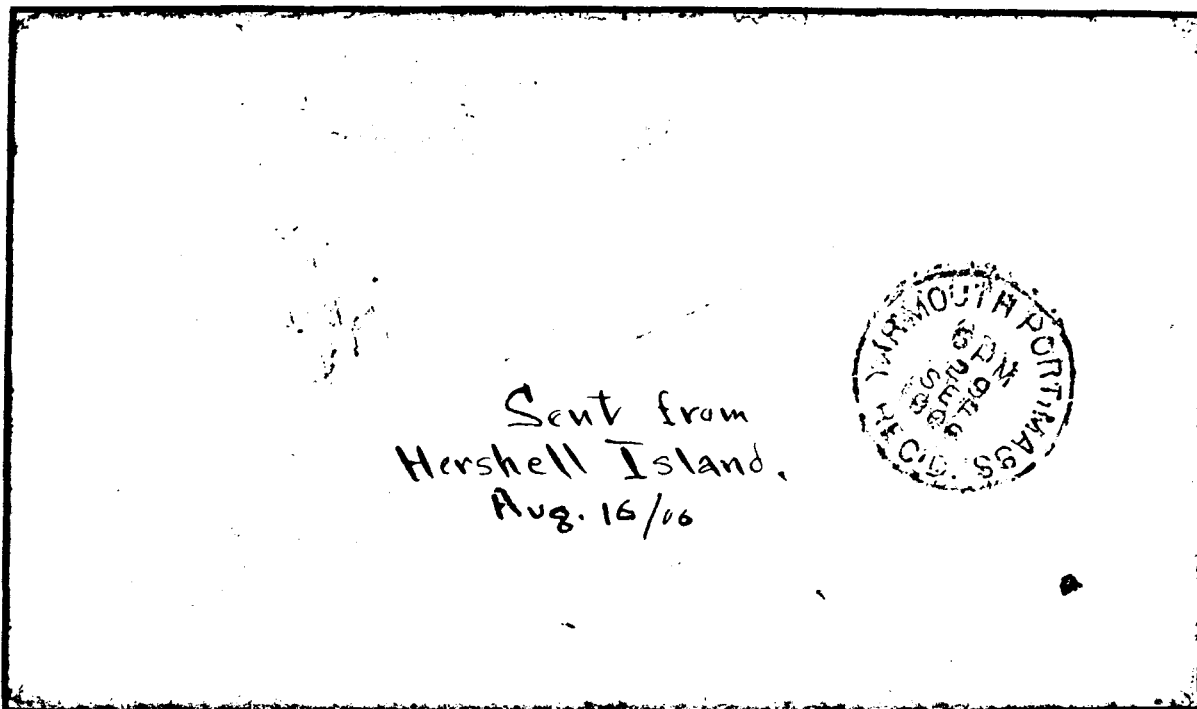

Map of Herschel Island and Vicinity

Herschel Island made a convienient, if somewhat barren, site for the wintering whalers. A large treeless island located nearby the mainland coast at the western edge of Mackenzie Bay, Herschel boasted a safe anchorage for the whaling ships. Perhaps even more important in the minds of the Americans, Herschel was believed to lie on the Alaskan side of the international boundary with Canada. The whalers would thus be free from the authority of Canada, which maintained the only law enforcement officers in the western Arctic at the time. Claims of the whalers, reinforced by their choice of Herschel Island for winter quarters, touched off a minor international dispute over the ownership of the island. The United States dispatched the Revenue cutter Thetis in 1889 to determine the position of Herschel, and put an end to the debate of ownership. A careful survey disclosed that Herschel Island lay well within Canadian territory, but the other advantages offered by the island apparently out-weighed this decision, for the whalers continued to occupy the island as a winter quarters.

Whaling in the Beaufort Sea was a lucrative business. A large bonewhale might provide $8,000 to $10,000 worth of bone, and many personal fortunes were amassed

during the boom period. Every year between 1889 and 1906, Herschel Island served as the winter quarters for a dozen or more American whaling ships. The Canadian government established a Royal Northwest Mounted Police detachment on Herschel Island to maintain order and protect the interests of the Eskimos.

Postal service to and from Herschel during the whaling boom was apparently on a catch-as-catch-can basis using the whaling ships, or a combination of the ships and the U.S. Mails. The cover illustrated here was mailed from "Hershell Island" on August 16, 1906, according to the manuscript notation. It was probably carried by one of the returning whaling ships to Seattle, Washington, where it was placed in the mail. The Seattle post office postmarked the cover September 24th, applied the markings "Ship Letter," and "Due 4 cents," and sent it off to Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts by railroad. On September 29th, the

cover arrived in Yarmouth Port where it was cancelled with a received marking, and delivered to the addressee who paid for the two 2¢ postage due stamps that were applied by the Yarmouth Port postal clerk. Yarmouth Port was an active whaling center located along the rugged shore of Cape Cod.

Booms have a way of becoming busts, and the Beaufort Sea whaling excitement was no exception. The bottom fell out of the baleen corset market in 1906, as steel replaced whale bone as the ideal material for corset making. Whale bone plummeted to 30 or 40 cents a pound almost overnight. That meant that a single bone whale was now worth only $600 instead of $9,000. The American whaling fleet disappeared from the Beaufort Sea in a single year.
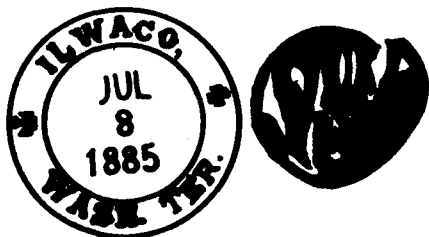
Herschel Island was not to be completely forgotten however. The whaling activity had brought into existence a concentration of Eskimos on the island, as well as, the establishment of Canadian law and order. In 1915, the Hudson's Bay Company,

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ever alert to new commercial opportunities in the north, established a trading post on Herschel. The island was visited several times and described by the famous Arctic explorer Vilhjalmur Stefansson during the 1914 to 1918 period.

Life on Herschel Island has continued to proceed at a quiet pace since the days of the whaling boom. A Canadian map of the mid-1950's showed the island to be the home of a Royal Canadian Mounted Police post, a trading post, and a sea plane anchorage. A letter addressed to the manager of the Hudson's Bay Company post at Herschel Island requesting recent information in preparation for this article reached only as far as Inuvik however. The inquiry was sent back with a notation by the manager of the post at Inuvik that no post existed at Herschel. To the best of my knowledge, there has never been a post office on the island, but with the recent interest in north slope oil and the search for safe anchorages for oil tankers, perhaps Herschel Island may see yet another chapter of postal history.

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What does this cancel show?

THE NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF WASCO COUNTY, OREGON

By Richard W. Helbock

Wasco County was created by the Oregon Territorial Legislature on January 11, 1854. As it was originally bounded, it covered all of Oregon Territory lying between the crest of the Cascades and the crest of the Rockies; a truly magnificent empire. A number of states and many counties have been carved from the territory which was once Wasco County, and the present borders encompass only 2,387 square miles. In other words, present-day Wasco County is about 300 square miles larger than the state of Delaware. The name of the county is derived from the name of a tribe of Chinook Indians who originally lived on the south bank of the Columbia River in the vicinity of The Dalles.

DALLES. Established November 5, 1851. Dalles post office was named for the stretch of the Columbia adjacent to the settlement. French-Canadian trappers applied the term dalles to this portion of the river, meaning that here the great stream passed through a series of rapids and flowed swiftly through a long narrow channel over flat, basaltic rocks. According to Lewis McArthur's, Oregon Place Names, the name was applied as early as April 1814 to describe the long narrows of the Columbia. The location became most important to new arrivals over the Oregon Trail, for it was here that the rafts coming from the east had to be unloaded and transported pains-takingly overland around the stretch of dangerous river. Settlement growth at this location was inevitable due to the heavy flow of traffic along the route, and the natural obstacle. Dalles post office was located in what is now incorporated as Dalles City, the community served by The Dalles post office. William R. Gibson was the first and only postmaster at this office while it was named Dalles. On September 3, 1853, the name of the office was changed to Wascopum.

WASCOPUM. Established September 3, 1853, by change of name from Dalles. The name change was made in an apparent attempt to honor the small tribe of Chinook Indians which had earlier inhabited the area. There exist many variant spellings of the name of this tribe, and, while the post office name did not long endure, the county name honors the same tribe. Three men served as postmaster of Wascopum: William R. Gibson(Sept. 3, 1853 - Nov. 14, 1854); Milo M. Cushing (Nov. 14, 1854 - March 7, 1860); and Jacob Juker (March 7 - 22, 1860). On the 22nd of March, 1860, the name of the post office was changed to The Dalles.

THE DALLES. Established March 22, 1860, by change of name from Wascopum. It is a testimony to the vast emptiness of the eastern part of Oregon Territory in its early days that the first three post offices established in the area of Wasco County were all located in the same place. This name change returned the post office name to about what it had been originally. The difference in form was apparently an attempt to avoid confusion with Dallas post office over in the Willamette Valley. The Dalles post office saw eight different postmasters during the 19th century. Only Henry J. Waldron(1862-1874) and Mrs. Elizabeth M. Wilson(1874-1886) held the position for longer than 5 years. The post office known as The Dalles continues to operate, and has been assigned ZIP code 97058.

DESCHUTES. Established July 2, 1868. It was over 14 years after the creation
of Wasco County that a second post office was established in the area that the
county presently bounds. Named for the river along which it was located, the
Deschutes post office was located at or near the west end of what is now known
as Sherars Bridge. The site is about 7 miles east of the community of Tygh
Valley. Ezra L. Hemingway was the first Deschutes postmaster, and he served
until January 11, 1872, when Joseph H. Sherar was appointed to succeed him.
Sherar remained postmaster until January 4, 1883, at which time the name of
the office was changed to Sherar Bridge(qv.) Postal records indicate that the
Deschutes post office was not in service from April 14 to May 5, 1873; perhaps
Mr. Sherar took a vacation.

WASCO. Established August 26, 1868. Wasco post office was in existence for
about 4 years. William D. Gilliam was its only postmaster. An early map shows
this office located on Fifteenmile Creek about 6 miles northeast of the small
community of Dufur. The post office was discontinued June 3, 1872.

ANTELOPE. Established August 7, 1871. The Antelope post office served an
early day farm center in Antelope Valley in the southeastern corner of Wasco
County. There were many more antelope living in eastern Oregon during the
time this valley was homesteaded than there are today. It seems logical that
the pioneer settlers were impressed with the abundance of the gentle creature,
and chose the name for their community on that account. A total of 9 differ-
ent people held the job of Antelope postmaster during the 19th century. None
of them served as long as 10 years, although the list includes names such as
Maupin, Wallace, and Silvertooth, which represent important families in the
colorful history of the county. With only two brief interuptions during the
1880's, the Antelope post office has continued to serve its small farming com-
munity until the present. It bears ZIP code number 97001.

MOUNT HOOD, Established May 27, 1872, The Mount Hood post office was appar-
ently named for the fine view of Oregon's loftiest peak offered by the site.
This post office was located in the vicinity of the present-day community of
Tygh Valley. William Hollandsworth was the first postmaster and he was fol-
lowed by five other people in the position during the brief 6 year life of
the post office. Mount Hood was discontinued January 11, 1878,

TYGH VALLEY. Established June 17, 1873. This post office was named for the
Tygh Indians, who formerly lived along the banks of Tygh Creek. The office is
located near the point where the Dalles-California Highway crosses Tygh Creek.
Tygh Valley's first postmaster, Benjamin C. McAtee, was also postmaster of the
Mount Hood office from November 21, 1872 to March 24, 1873. The record of ser-
vice for Tygh Valley postmasters during the 19th century goes to Charles J.
Vanduyn, who held the position for nearly 9 years from 1887 to 1896.

BAKE OVEN. Established December 1, 1875. Bake Oven was reportedly named as
a result of an incident which occurred during the Canyon City gold-rush of the
1860's. A trader with a pack train of flour was attacked by Indians after he
crossed the Deschutes River on his way from The Dalles to the mines. The at-
tackers drove off the traders horses, and left him stranded with his supplies.
Being an imaginative and resourceful man, the trader constructed an oven from

the clay and stones he found nearby. Once the oven was completed, he began baking his load of flour into bread and selling it to the miners and prospectors passing by on their way to the mines. The Bake Oven post office was located about 8 miles northwest of Shaniko, and on the old stage road from Canyon City to The Dalles. The office was operated by only one postmaster during the 19th century, and she was Mrs. Ellen Burgess. On October 30, 1913, the Bake Oven post office was discontinued with service to the locality being handled by the Flanagan post office.

DUFUR. Established January 11, 1878. This office was named for the Dufur family, who owned a farm upon which the community of Dufur was built. The office continues to operate, and is located on The Dalles-California Highway near the spot that the road crosses Fifteenmile Creek. Dufur had five different postmaster during the 19th century. Chauncey A. Williams was the first, but Thomas H. Johnston held the position for over 8 years, longer than any other postmaster at Dufur.

KINGSLEY. Established January 24, 1878. The Kingsley post office is reported to have been named by Mrs. Elizabeth M. Wilson, postmaster at The Dalles from 1874 to 1886. A delegation from the community which was applying for the new office asked Mrs. Wilson's advice about a name, and she suggested Kingsley for English clergyman and author, Charles Kingsley. This post office was located about four miles southeast of present-day Friend. On November 4, 1920, the Kingsley post office was discontinued.

WAPINITIA. Established March 21, 1878. The name of this office is a Warm Springs Indian word which is said to suggest a location which is near the edge of brush land or desert. Wapinitia post office was located near the creek of the same name, and about 10 miles southwest of Maupin. Jerry Young was the first postmaster at Wapinitia, but Hiram T. Corwin, who served from 1884 until 1900, takes honors as the person with longest service. The Wapinitia post office was discontinued during 1935.

THOMPSON. Established July 3, 1878. The Thompson postmaster was named for its first and only postmaster, Mary A. Thompson. This office was discontinued on October 2, 1879, and due to the brevity of its service this author has been unable to determine the location of the facility. It is even possible that the Thompson post office was located not within the present-day boundaries of Wasco County, but in one of the other counties which have been carved from Wasco.

CROSS HOLLOWS. Established May 23, 1879. Cross Hollows is reported to have been selected as a name descriptive of the local relief at the site of the post office. This office served the same locality as the present-day Shaniko post office. In fact, the Shaniko office derives its name from a corruption of the family name of the first Cross Hollows postmaster, Augustus Scherneckau. Aside from Scherneckau, Charles W. Haight and William Farre served as postmasters of this pioneer office. Cross Hollows post office was discontinued May 27, 1887.

PRATTVILLE. Established November 24, 1879. The Prattville post office was named in honor of the Pratt family, early day settlers in the vicinity of the present-day community of Wamic. This office, which functioned less than one year, was undoubtedly located in or near Wamic. Mrs. Mary J. Mackie was the only postmaster, and the office was discontinued September 1, 1880.

NANSENE. Established May 17, 1880. The Nansene post office was given the local Indian name for the stream now known as Fifteenmile Creek. Located on Summit Ridge, the office was about 8 miles southeast of present-day Dufur. William C. Adams was the first Nansene postmaster, and he held the position for nearly 12 years, longer than any other 19th century postmaster. There was an interruption of service at this office from Feb. 23, 1894 to Jan. 4, 1895, and on October 14, 1904, the Nansene post office was discontinued.

SHERAR BRIDGE. Established January 4, 1883, by change of name from Deschutes. Joseph Sherar became postmaster of the Deschutes post office about 4 years after it had been established. When Sherar's wife became postmaster in 1883, it was decided to rename the office for the Sherar family. Mrs. Jane Sherar was the only postmaster of this office under the name Sherar Bridge during the 19th century. On December 9, 1907, the office was discontinued, but on April 25, 1922, it was re-established as SHERARS BRIDGE. It operated with this slightly altered name until it was discontinued in January 1938.

MOSIER. Established January 31, 1884. The Mosier post office was named for Jonah H. Mosier, a pioneer of 1853, who homesteaded near the mouth of Mosier Creek on the bank of the Columbia River. A community gradually grew-up around the Mosier homestead, and the post office continues to operate in the extreme northwest corner of Wasco County. John J. Lynch was the first postmaster at Mosier. He served for over 7 years, and was succeeded by Jonah H. Mosier.

BOYD. Established March 6, 1884. This office was named for T. P. Boyd, who settled in the area in 1883, and operated a flour mill with his sons. The Boyd post office was located about 4 miles northeast of Dufur between The Dalles-California Highway and Fifteenmile Creek. John E. Barnett, James G. Boyd, and Charles H. Southern were the only three Boyd postmasters during the 19th century. The Boyd post office was discontinued on April 30, 1953.

WAMIC. Established November 25, 1884. The Wamic post office is said to have been named for a family of early settlers who were actually named Womack. Situated about 5 miles west of Tygh Valley, the Wamic post office was located on the banks of Threemile Creek. James W. Sanford was the first of five Wamic postmasters during the 19th century. On June 1, 1958, the Wamic office was converted to a rural branch of Tygh Valley. It continues to operate as such.

SINEMASHO. Established August 5, 1886. The name of this office was an approximation of the Warm Springs Indian word for "thorn bush." This postal facility was extremely short lived, and its exact location is not known. It would seem logical that it was in the same general vicinity as the later day office named Simnasho, which would place it on the Warm Springs Reservation some 10 miles southwest of Wapinitia. Simnasho is another variation of the same word. Mrs. Emily Sloan was the only Sinemasho postmaster. The office was discontinued June 4, 1887, papers to Wapinitia.

CELILO. Established November 27, 1889. The Celilo post office was named with an Indian word which was applied to a low falls of the Columbia River. There is uncertainty as to the exact meaning and derivation of the word. The post office was located at or near the falls, opposite the western tip of Miller Island. Irwin H. Taffe was the only Celilo postmaster during the 19th century. On March 15, 1914, the Celilo post office was discontinued. The following year, however, a new Celilo post office was established when the Dillon office changed

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its name to Celilo on May 20, 1915. This office was located in the same general vicinity as the original, and it continued to operate until discontinued on November 3, 1954. Today, even the falls which gave these offices their name have been submerged by the dammed waters of the Columbia.

RIDGEWAY. Established March 3, 1892. The Ridgeway post office was named because of the location of the office along the old stage road south of Bake Oven. The road ran along a high ridge until it reached the head of Cow Canyon, and the office was descriptively named. Ridgeway post office was about 10 miles west of Antelope. Mary L. Cooke was the only 19th century postmaster at Ridgeway. The office was discontinued October 31, 1905, with mail to Shaniko.

ENDERSLY. Established April 20, 1892. This office was named for W. E. Endersby, an early settler in the area. The variation in spelling was a result of a misunderstanding between postal authorities in Washington and the local applicants for the office. Endersly post office was located about 3 miles north by northwest of Dufur, and near Eightmile Creek. George W. Fligg was the only postmaster at this office during the 19th century. On October 13, 1906, Endersly was discontinued.

VICTOR. Established November 14, 1893. The Victor post office was located about midway between Tygh Valley and Wapinitia in an area known locally as Juniper Flat. The origin of the post office name is not certain, but it may have honored a local settler. Viola Jones was the first postmaster, and three other people held the position before 1900. The Victor office was discontinued October 12, 1912, papers to Maupin.

SIMNASHO. Established November 1, 1894, but began operations November 21, 1894. The name of this office is a form of the Warm Springs word _sinimassa_, meaning "thorn bush." The office was located on the Reservation about 15 miles northwest of the community knowns as Warm Springs. Nellie B. Speer was the first postmaster at Simnasho, and she was succeeded by Jennie McMorrow in 1896. The Simnasho post office was discontinued November 3, 1927, but was re-established June 13, 1930. It continued to operate until the 3rd quarter of 1954.

MATNEY. Established June 12, 1895. The Matney post office was named for its first and only postmaster, Isaac C. Matney. The location of the facility is not known, but it was probably located in the northern part of the county not far from The Dalles. Matney post office was discontinued April 23, 1896.
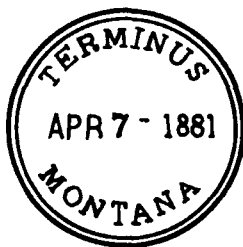
ENGLISH. Established July 2, 1896. The English post office was located about 8 miles southeast of The Dalles near Company Hollow. Christopher C. English was the first and only postmaster, and the office bore his family name. On August 12, 1898, the English post office was discontinued.

SMOCK. Established October 28, 1899. The Smock post office was the last to be established in Wasco County before the close of the century. It was named for its location on Smock Prairie between White River and Gate Creek. The first postmaster was Elizabeth Sedford. On May 11, 1909, the Smock post office was discontinued, and service to the area was by way of the Wamic office.

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DILLON, MONTANA TERRITORY: AN UPDATE

Robert D. Harris of Albuquerque sends along some information which sheds more light on the postmarks of Dillon, Montana Territory, the subject of a La Posta article in November-December, 1969. (Vol. I, No. 6) It isn't often that this kind of follow through effort has been made by our readers. So to you, R.D.H., kind thanks. Your thoughtfulness is a breath of fresh air.

Mr. Harris notes the following dates of usage and ink colors for the four post-mark type in the original article (reproduced below and numbered Types 1, 2, 3, and 5). He also notes a new type (Type 4 below).
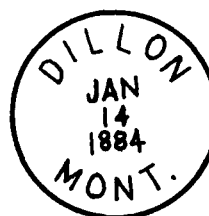

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TYPE	INK COLOR	EARLIEST DATE	LATEST DATE
1	Blue	3 Jul 1880	21 Sep 1880
1	Magenta	17 Jun 1881	20 Jun 1881
2	Black	19 Sep 1881	19 Nov 1881
3	Blue	12 Aug 1882	14 Aug 1882
4	Violet	22 Dec 1882	
5	Black	10 Jan 1884	4 Jul 1886

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

"The time has come," the walrus said, "to speak of other things." While we have no intention of launching into an essay on cabbages and kings, it is now time to turn to the small matter of the future of this publication. The nature of the problem has been treated at length in this column, so there will be no attempt to rehash it all over again. In the last issue of La Posta a plea for suggestions was made, and to those of you who responded, my sincere thanks. Here are a few of the suggestions received:

From Dr. Samuel Wagonfeld: establish a "sustaining ... category (of sub-scription) at $10 per year," and make "distrib-ution of sample copies to dealers to solicit subscriptions."

From Bill Rapp: an offer of combining La Posta with a new quarterly called Postal History - USA, which Bill and Jack Willard will be initiating this Spring.

From Art Rupert: "... present subscribers (might) consider taking out a donation subscription for a friend, club, or library to boost financial support."

In addition, Robert D. Harris and Owen H. Kriege both offered to work up articles for Volume 4 should it come into being, and Bob pledged support in bringing in new subscribers. There is no doubt in my mind that many of you would like to see La Posta continue, and that some of you would help to keep it going to the extent that you are able. Personally, it is a great pleasure to produce La Posta, and, if my situation were different, I would simply devote full time to writing and publishing postal history research. In the absense of a sudden acquisition of wealth and considerable leisure time, here is what I have been able to work out.

FIRST, La Posta will continue if enough of you are interested in keeping it alive on the revised basis which I propose. These revisions will include an irregular publication schedule. An issue of La Posta will be published when, and only when, sufficient postal history research is on hand and in presentable format.

SECOND, the volume format will be continued with six numbers per volume, but there can be no assurance that a volume will be completed in one year's time. The length of time covered by one volume will depend upon the amount of postal history research submitted for publication, its format (need for editorial assistance), and, frankly, the amount of personal time I am able to devote to La Posta.

THIRD, subscriptions will be accepted at the rate of $5 for one volume (six numbers). A new category of subscription, termed "sustaining" will be estab-lished for those who can donate $5 or more above the normal subscription rate. Sustaining subscribers will receive a complementary copy of each issue in add-ition to their regular subscription, and their names will appear in each issue as "sustaining subscribers."

FOURTH, This plan to proceed with Volume 4 will take effect only if approved by 2/3rds of you who are current subscribers. In other words, unless 40 of you decide to renew your subscriptions on the basis of my proposal, there will be no further issues of La Posta. The final decision will be made 6 weeks from the date of mailing of this issue. If, at the end of that 6 weeks, at least 40 subscription renewals have been received, we shall go ahead with a new volume. If 40 renewals have not been received, checks will be returned immediately to those who have renewed their subscriptions and La Posta will join the list of extinct journals.

Let me add one further bit in the way of clarification. It shall be my objective, if this new plan is adopted, to insure that La Posta appears at least 4 times per year. As most of you know, much of the material that has filled the pages of La Posta during the past 3 years has come from my own scribblings. There is no thought in my mind to stop writing as long as you will put up with it, but I have come to the point where there is simply not enough time for me to write, edit, and publish the bulk of 6 issues per year. Obviously, the problem with Volume 3, which began in February 1971 and is just now being completed, is that I did not have enough to do a proper job of it in one year. What my four point plan asks you for is your permission to continue on a relaxed publication schedule, so that I will not be concerned with deadlines and end up "manufacturing" postal history research.

It is possible, however, that one or two or three of you will decide to really pitch-in, and help produce 6 issues of La Posta in one year. Anybody could do what I've been doing, and most of you could do it better. If you would like to get more involved just drop me a line, and I'll send you full instructions. If you have a spare 100 hours or so, you might like to write, illustrate, and edit one whole number of Volume 4.

Whatever the final decision happens to be, there are a few things I would like to say in closing. This has been a terribly rich, rewarding experience for me. Through correspondence, and in a few cases in person, I have been privileged to meet some truly outstanding people who are giving of their time and effort to the pursuit of knowledge in our hobby. The list of their names would probably only embarass them, but they have appeared in these pages over the past 3 years and they know individually to whom these comments are directed. Whether or not La Posta continues to be published, I shall value the experience and the friendships it has made possible for me.

RICHARD WILLIAM HELBOCK

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