

# LA POSTA

Whole No. 21

NOVEMBER, 1972 POSTAL HISTORY JOURNAL - MOUNTAIN & DESERT WEST VOL. 4, NO. 3

### SUSTAINING SUBSCRIBERS:

- |                           |                        |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dr. Sheldon H. Dike       | Mr. William H. Bauer   |
| Mr. Ernest S. Peyton      | Dr. Robert D. Harris   |
| Mrs. Ruth Dolezal         | Dr. Samuel Wagonfeld   |
| Mr. Arthur E. Rupert      | Mr. Edward B. T. Glass |
| Mr. Robert Potts          | Dr. Owen H. Kriege     |
| Mr. Daniel Y. Meschter    | Dr. Joseph F. Rorke    |
| Mr. Charles W. Jones      | Mrs. Marion Herlihy    |
| Mr. Charles A. Whittlesey | Mr. John H. Willard    |
| Dr. Robert L. Landis      | Mr. N. Leonard Persson |
| Mr. Robert P. Doddridge   |                        |

### IN THIS ISSUE:

|   | Page |
|---|------|
| THE 19TH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG,<br>Part III, MULTNOMAH COUNTY By Charles A. Whittlesey.....             | 2    |
| IDAHO RURAL STATIONS & RURAL BRANCHES<br>By Arthur E. Rupert .....  | 9    |
| THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING, PART II,<br>GOSHEN & PLATTE COUNTIES<br>By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal ..... | 14   |
| EDITOR'S COMMENTS .....   | 20   |

LA POSTA is the research journal of the Mountain & Desert West Postal History Research Society. It is published irregularly with six issues per volume. The subscription rate is \$5.00 per volume. Single copies are available at the rate of \$1 per issue. For additional information, or to place a subscription, write: Richard W. Helbock, Editor, 1635 Mariposa Drive, Las Cruces, New Mexico 88001.

THE 19TH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG, Part III: MULTNOMAH  
COUNTY By Charles A. Whittlesey

Multnomah County, Oregon's largest according to population and smallest according to land area, was created December 22, 1854. The county's name is of Indian origin, and was applied by Lewis and Clark to the river now known as the Willamette. An early day Indian village on the east side of Sauvie Island was also known as Multnomah. The creation and subsequent growth of the county has been closely tied to the City of Portland, which today occupies much of the 424 square miles of Multnomah County.

The Portland post office was established November 8, 1849, by the appointment of Thomas Smith as its first postmaster. In a short time Portland became the busiest post office in the territory. The U. S. Auditor's report of compensation and net proceeds at each post office for the period July 1, 1850, to June 30, 1851, listed Portland behind Oregon City in total volume of business, but each subsequent report showed Portland to be the most active postal facility.

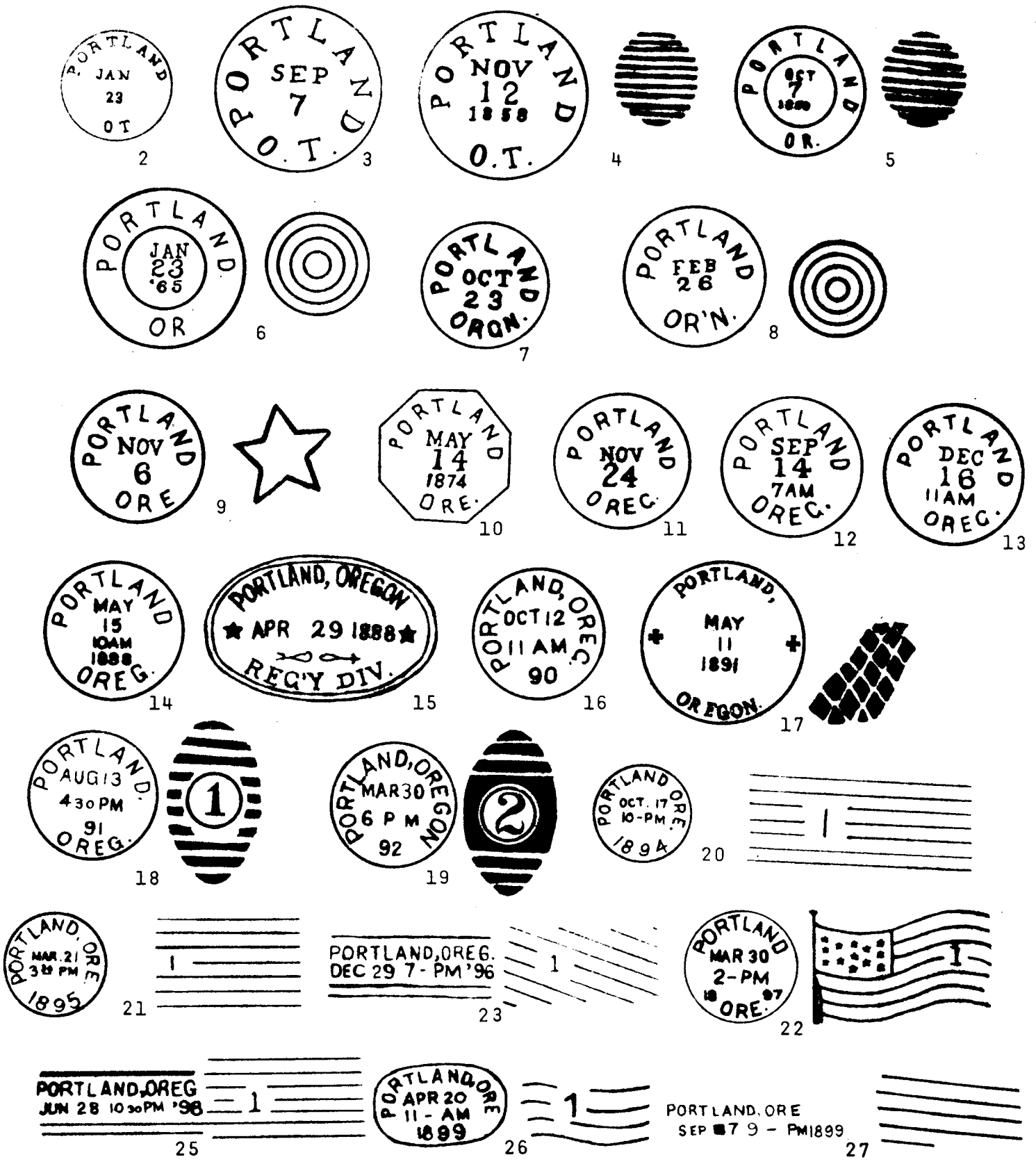
Three other post offices were established in the territory which was to be organized as Multnomah County before the county was created. They were Slough, a short-lived office at the home of John Switzler on the south bank of Oregon Slough; Souvies Island, first called Mouth of the Willamette and located on the south end of the island opposite Post Office Bar; and, Sandy, a pioneer office on the bank of the Sandy River in the vicinity of present-day Troutdale.

Counting name changes and all short-lived post offices which are believed to have actually been in operation, there were a total of 64 different postal facilities in Multnomah County during the 19th century. Postmarks have so far been reported for 40 of the 64, and many of those office for which no postmarks have been discovered were in existence only a short time. There are, however, some surprising deletions such as Gresham and Troutdale. The list identifies 28 different postmark types used at Portland, but again there are some gaps and uncertainties.

[This listing is not complete. No one knows that better than I. It is only a beginning, and if the Postmark Catalog project is ever to produce a useful reference for students of 19th century Oregon postal history, then the help of many is needed. You can help. If you have covers of cards from Multnomah County post offices dated up to 1900, check your dates and postmark types against this listing. You may well discover new dates and new types, and if you do please write me, Chuck Whittlesey, so that I might update my records. Thank you. Address: 6531 S.E. Ivon St., Portland, OR 97206.]

| TOWN<br>TYPE<br>NO.          | POSTMARK CODE | EARLIEST<br>DATE | LATEST<br>DATE | INTEGRAL<br>KILLER | NOTES |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| ALBINA(1876 - 1892)          |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | M             | 23Jun77          |                |                    |       |
| 2.                           | C1JN1B24.5    | 16Jul83          |                |                    |       |
| 3.                           | C1EN1B27      | 12Feb89          | 24Oct91        |                    |       |
| ARTHUR(1880 - 1904)          |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | M             | 23Mar95          |                |                    |       |
| BRIDAL VEIL(1887 - Date)     |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1ES1B28.5    | 27Mar94p         |                | Star-in-circle     |       |
| 2.                           | C1DS1B28.5    | 19Mar95          | 16Aug97p       | Target             | Ill.  |
| BROWER(1889 - 1896)          |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 14Apr94          |                | Target             |       |
| CLEONE(1883 - 1914)          |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1JN1BBR27.5  | 30Aug86          |                | Star-in-circle     |       |
| 2.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 11Mar90          |                | Target             |       |
| EAST PORTLAND(1866 - 1892)   |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1GA1BBR24.5  | 11Sep71          | 17Nov76        |                    | Ill.  |
| 2.                           | C1EA1B25.5    | 14Oct78          | 84?            |                    | Ill.  |
| 3.                           | C1JN1B27      | 23Jan86          | 4May88         | Wheel of fortune   |       |
| 4.                           | C21JN1B28     | 26Jul87          |                |                    |       |
| 5.                           | C31JN1B32     | 13Sep87          |                | Wheel of fortune   |       |
| 6.                           | C1EN1B27.5    | 19Apr89          | 27Jan92        |                    |       |
| FULTON(1883 - 1906)          |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | M             | 19Dec84          |                |                    |       |
| 2.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 22Jul89          | 22Feb00        | Target             |       |
| HILLSDALE(1886 - 1934)       |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27    | 29Dec87          | 12Jun89        | Target             |       |
| KILLGAVER(1886 - 1899)       |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 2.                           | C1JN1BBR27.5  | 4Feb95           |                | Target             |       |
| 1.                           | C1JS1B33      | 14Dec86          |                | Target             | Ill.  |
| LATOURELL FALLS(1887 - 1960) |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1JS1B31.5    | 3Aug93p          | 21Dec93        | Target             | Ill.  |
| 2.                           | C1JS1RBB34    | 1May95           |                | Target             | Ill.  |
| 3.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 18May97          | 21Oct99        | Target             |       |
| LENTS(1886 - 1917)           |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | M             | 8Mar87           |                |                    |       |
| 2.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 26Feb91          |                |                    |       |
| 3.                           | C1JN1B27.5    | 29Mar97          |                | Target             |       |
| LINNTON(1889 - ca.1936)      |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 6Apr95           |                | Target             |       |

| TOWN<br>TYPE<br>NO.        | POSTMARK CODE  | EARLIEST<br>DATE | LATEST<br>DATE | INTEGRAL<br>KILLER | NOTES               |
|----------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| MONTAVILLA(1891 - 1902)    |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C1EN1B27.5     | 19Apr97          | 4Feb99         |                    |                     |
| MOUNT TABOR(1879 - 1901)   |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C1J10S1RRB30.5 | 16Nov86r         |                | Star               | Ill.                |
| 2.                         | C1EN1BBR27.5   | 26Oct89          | 12Mar90        |                    |                     |
| 3.                         | C1JS1RRB30     | 18Oct90          | 23Sep91        | Target             |                     |
| 4.                         | C1JN1B28       | 14Dec95          | 28Feb99        |                    | Ill.                |
| ORIENT(1896 - 1908)        |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C1EN1B28       | 27Jan99          |                | Target             |                     |
| PALESTINE(1891 - 1903)     |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C1EN1B27.5     | 24Feb96          |                | Target             |                     |
| PENINSULAR(1890 - 1903)    |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C1EN1BBR27.5   | 11Jun94          | 21May99        | Target             |                     |
| PLEASANT HOME(1876 - 1896) |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | C41JN1RRB34    | 7Jul87           |                | Target             | Ill.                |
| PORTLAND(1849 - Date)      |                |                  |                |                    |                     |
| 1.                         | M              | 23Nov49          | 4Apr51         |                    |                     |
| 2.                         | C1HA1R21.5     | 19Jan52          | 10Apr52        |                    | Ill.                |
| 3.                         | C1HA1R32.5     | 15Jun52r         | 26Sep58        |                    | Ill.                |
| 4.                         | C1HN1R32.5     | 22Nov58          | 16Jul59        |                    | Ill.                |
| 5.                         | C31CN1BBR25.5  | 24Sep59          | 3Aug63         | Circular grid      | Ill.                |
| 6.                         | C31CN2BBR30    | 31Mar64          | 23Feb66        | Target             | Ill.                |
| 7.                         | C1FA1BBR24     | 1Feb66           | 8Oct75         |                    | Ill.                |
| 8.                         | C1GA1BBR27.5   | 14Jan69          | 26Feb69        | Target             | Ill.                |
| 9.                         | C1DA1BBR25     | 25Jun69          | 11Oct75        | Negative star      | Ill.                |
| 10.                        | OC1DN1BBR25.5  | 14Mar74          | 29May74        |                    | Ill.                |
| 11.                        | C1EA1BBR25.5   | 2Jun76           | 20Jun78        |                    | Ill.                |
| 12.                        | C1ET3BBR26.5   | 11Mar80          | 18Oct83        |                    | Ill.-Tall,thin ltr. |
| 13.                        | C1ET3BBR26.5   | 10May84          | 16Dec85        |                    | Short,thick ltrs.   |
| 14.                        | C1ET1B27.5     | 21Dec85          | 23Dec88        |                    | Ill.                |
| 15.                        | REG 1          | 29Apr88          |                |                    | Ill.                |
| 16.                        | C1E'T8B25      | 19Jul89          | 9Nov93         | Barred oval        | Ill.                |
| 17.                        | REG 2          | 6Oct90p          | 6Aug92         |                    | Ill.                |
| 18.                        | C1ET8B25       | 13Aug91          |                | Barred oval        | Ill.                |
| 19.                        | C1J'T8B24.5    | 30Mar92          | 4Oct97         | Num. in oval       | Ill.                |
| 20.                        | C1D'T9B18.5    | 23Aug94          | 21Nov94        | 7 Hor. bars w/1    | Ill.                |
| 21.                        | C1D'T9B20      | 28Jan95          | 17May95        | 7 Hor. bars w/1    | Ill.                |
| 22.                        | C1DT6B21.5     | 96               | 98             | Flag with 1        | Ill.                |
| 23.                        | SLES2B         | 29Dec96          | 15Oct97        | Diagonal bars w/1  | Ill.                |
| 24.                        | C1DT6B21.5     | 98               | 99             | Flag w/o 1         |                     |
| 25.                        | SLES2B         | 31Mar98          | Jun98          | 7 Hor. bars w/1    | Ill.                |
| 26.                        | OV1T6B25X15.5  | 10Apr99          | 20Apr99        | Wavy lines w/1     | Ill.                |



PORTLAND POSTMARK TYPES (1852 - 1900)

| TOWN<br>TYPE<br>NO.          | POSTMARK CODE | EARLIEST<br>DATE | LATEST<br>DATE | INTEGRAL<br>KILLER | NOTES |
|------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| PORTLAND (CONT'D)            |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 27.                          | SLDS2B        | 9Sep99           |                | Diagonal bars      | Ill.  |
| 28.                          | C1DT6B22.5    | 99               | 00             | Flag with 1        |       |
| PORTLAND STATION A           |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1ET7B25      | 10Dec92          | 26Mar00        | Oval w/numeral     | Ill.  |
| PORTLAND STATION C           |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1ET8B25      | 28May97          | 22Aug98        | Oval w/numeral     |       |
| POWELL VALLEY(1894 - 1903)   |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1B27.5    | 18Sep97          | 22Feb99        | Target             |       |
| POWELL'S VALLEY(1873 - 1894) |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | M             | 4Oct75           | 12Dec91        |                    |       |
| ROCKWOOD(1882 - 1903)        |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C22EN1B32     | 27Nov84p         | 30Apr92        | Target             | Ill.  |
| ROOSTER ROCK(1876 - 1887)    |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C31JN1RRB25.5 | 10Oct81p         |                |                    |       |
| RUSSELLVILLE(1889 - 1904)    |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 25Jan90          |                | Target             |       |
| 2.                           | C1JS1RRB31    | 17Mar92r         |                |                    | Ill.  |
| SAINT JOHNS(1873 - 1912)     |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR25    | 19Oct79          | 12Mar80        |                    |       |
| SAUVIES(1882 - 1906)         |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1B26.5    | 19Oct86          |                | Target             |       |
| SELLWOOD(1883 - 1901)        |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C41JN1B30     | 23Dec86          |                | Target             | Ill.  |
| 2.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 13Dec88          | 20Dec95        |                    |       |
| SHATTUCK(1891 - 1896)        |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 24May93          |                |                    |       |
| SPRINGVILLE(1860 - 1873)     |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C31JN1RBR27   | 23Aug67          | 25Jun70        |                    | Ill.  |
| SUNNYVIEW(1890 - 1894)       |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 5Jan91r          | 21May94        | Target             |       |
| SYCAMORE(1889 - 1901)        |               |                  |                |                    |       |
| 1.                           | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 9Jun94           | 25Feb99        | Target             |       |



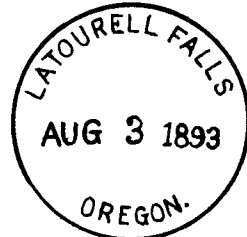
2



1



2



1



2



1



1



4



1



93



1



2



1



1



1



1



4



1



1



2



3

MULTNOMAH COUNTY POSTMARKS

| TOWN<br>TYPE<br>NO.                  | POSTMARK CODE | EARLIEST<br>DATE | LATEST<br>DATE | INTEGRAL<br>KILLER | NOTES |
|--------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------|--------------------|-------|
| SYLVAN(1890 - 1906)<br>1.            | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 8Aug94           | 98             | Target             |       |
| TAYLOR(1882 - 1895)<br>1.            | C1EA1BBR26    | 26Nov83          |                | Target             |       |
| TREMONT(1892 - 1903)<br>1.           | C1JN1BBR27.5  | 20May94          | 20Mar00        |                    | Ill.  |
| UNIVERSITY PARK(1891 - 1903)<br>1.   | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 13Jun93          | 5Jan95         | Target             | Ill.  |
| WARRENDALE(1894 - 1942)<br>1.        | C1EN1B27.5    | 26May98          |                | Target             |       |
| WILLAMETTE SLOUGH(1873 - 1887)<br>1. | C1EA1B25      | 7Oct7?           |                |                    | Ill.  |
| WILLSBURGH(1883 - 1900)<br>1.        | C1EA1BBR27    | 16Dec??          |                | Target             |       |
| 2.                                   | C31J15N1B32   | 3Mar86           | 4Dec91         |                    | Ill.  |
| WOODLAWN(1890 - 1908)<br>1.          | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 5Feb94           |                | Target             |       |
| WOODSTOCK(1891 - 1912)<br>1.         | C1EN1BBR27.5  | 6May95           |                | Target             |       |

\*\*\*\*\*

ADDENDA:

|                   |              |         |  |  |      |
|-------------------|--------------|---------|--|--|------|
| SAINT JOHNS<br>2. | M            | 12May80 |  |  |      |
| 3.                | C1EA1BBR25   | 7Apr81  |  |  | Ill. |
| 4.                | C1JS1RBB31.5 | 13Mar93 |  |  | Ill. |

\*\*\*\*\*



**Don't forget!**

Dike's ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG

Seventy-eight fact filled pages, over 1000 different illustrated postmarks of the territory.

Only a limited printing has been made, and it is not likely to last long. Priced at only \$15



IDAHO RURAL STATIONS AND RURAL BRANCHES  
By Arthur E. Rupert

The rurals of the Gem state were first documented in an article by David R. McCord and the late David M. Kirk, which appeared in Western Stamp Collector September 2, 1961. At that time there were only 20 rurals which had operated in Idaho. Today, the total stands at 52.

Rarest by far are postmarks from the Huston Rural Station which functioned for less than five years prior to 1920. But Idaho has had other short-lived rurals, and postmarks from places such as Mohler, Kilgore, Gifford, Edgemere, and Greer must be considered scarce. In addition to these, and other, rurals of short duration, there are a few interesting irregularities which can be reported among the postmarks of Idaho's branches and stations. The Fenn Rural Branch is known to have used a postmark which had a period at the end of the place name. Examples of this style are reported with dates ranging from August 1, 1957, to August 10, 1964.

A particularly interesting irregularity occurred with regard to the Big Bar Rural Branch. Initially, the parent post office was designated as Oxbow, Oregon, on September 1, 1965. It is, of course, unusual to have a rural in one state with the parent in another, but even more unusual was the wording of the postmark first used at Big Bar (see illustration). Reading "BIG BAR, OR" and displaying a ZIP code of 97840, the postmark clearly suggests that Big Bar had been moved across the Snake River into Oregon. The misleading postmark was quickly replaced (by at least Jan. '66) and eventually Big Bar was reassigned to Cambridge, Idaho.

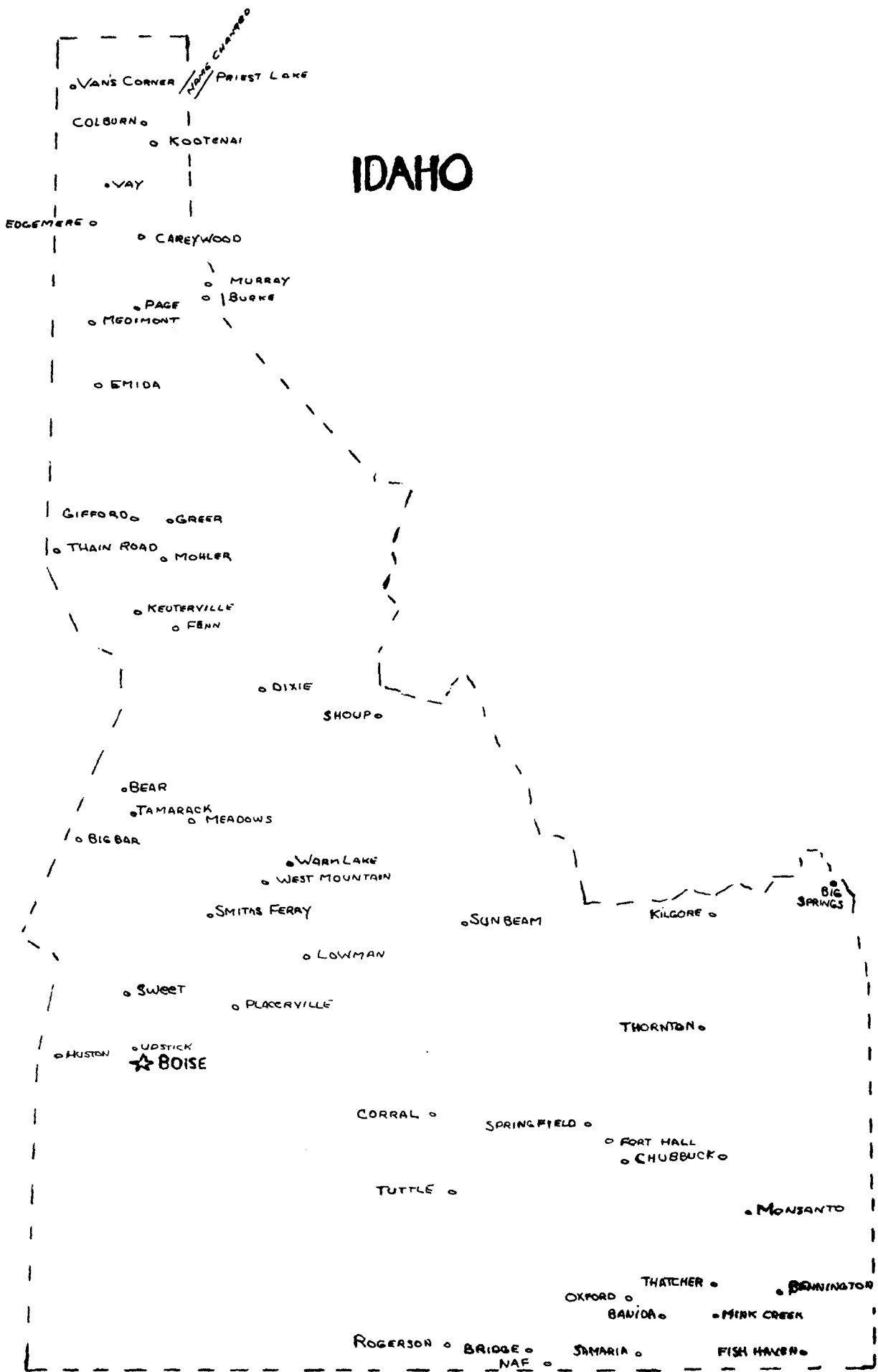
Postmark types used by the Idaho rurals are similar to those used by other states and described in earlier articles in this series. There are, however, some previously described types not reported in use in Idaho. So far, no examples of rural postmark types 1, 8, or 9 have been reported. In addition, there are three new types, which were used in Idaho, but have not previously been described in this series. An oversized four-bar was used at Chubbuck (see illustration), and this type shall be designated Type 0. The postmark used at the Huston Rural Station is designated Type (P-1), and the roller postmark styles used at Fort Hall are designated Type 10.

References: Kirk, David M. and David R. McCord, Western Stamp Collector, September 2, 1961.

U.S. Post Office Department, Directory of Post Offices.

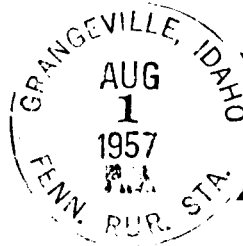
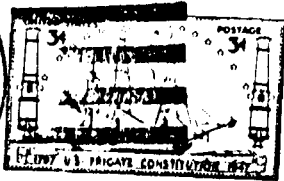
IDAHO RURAL STATIONS AND RURAL BRANCHES

| Rural name                       | Parent P.O.       | Established | Discontinued |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|-------------|--------------|
| Huston                           | Caldwell          | 1 Aug 1915  | 31 Mar 1920  |
| Thain Road RB                    | Lewiston 83501    | 1 Jul 1948  |              |
| Chubbuck RB                      | Pocatello 83201   | 1 Apr 1952  |              |
| Monsanto                         | Soda Springs      | 1 Jul 1952  | 8 Dec 1961   |
| Greer                            | Orofino           | 25 May 1957 | 12 May 1961  |
| Fenn* (Ind)RB 83531              | Grangeville       | 1 Aug 1957  |              |
| Ustick RB 83702                  | Boise             | 1 Jul 1958  |              |
| Vay                              | Priest River83856 | 1 Dec 1958  | 30 Jun 1963  |
| Fort Hall RB 83203               | Pocatello         | 1 Apr 1959  |              |
| Colburn(Ind)RB 83865             | Sandpoint         | 1 May 1959  |              |
| Tamarack (Ind)RB                 | New Meadows 83654 | 1 Jun 1959  | 31 Aug 1967  |
| Mohler (Ind)                     | Craigmont         | 1 Jul 1959  | 5 Oct 1960   |
| Banida (Ind)RB 83264             | Preston           | 1 Sep 1959  |              |
| Minkcreek                        | Preston 83263     | 1 Sep 1959  | 30 Apr 1965  |
| Oxford (Ind) 83265               | Preston           |             |              |
| Page (Ind)RB                     | Pinehurst 83850   | 1 Sep 1959  |              |
| Murray (Ind)RB 83874             | Wallace           | 1 Jan 1960  |              |
| Edgemere                         | Priest River83856 | 1 Mar 1960  | 30 Jun 1963  |
| Dixie (Ind)RB                    | Elk City 83525    | 1 May 1960  |              |
| [S.P.O. from 1 Jun to 30 Sept.]  |                   |             |              |
| Big Springs (Ind) RB             | Ashton 83420      | 1 Jun 1960  | 15 Sep 1967  |
| [S.P.O. from 1 Jun to 15 Oct.]   |                   |             |              |
| Warm Lake (Ind) RB               | Cascade 83611     | 15 Jun 1960 |              |
| [S.P.O. from 15 Jun to 15 Sept.] |                   |             |              |
| Rogerson RB 83302                | Twin Falls        | 1 Mar 1961  |              |
| Van's Corner RB                  | Priest River83856 | 1 Sep 1961  | 31 May 1968  |
| name changed to:                 |                   |             |              |
| Priest Lake RB                   | Priest River83856 | 1 Jun 1968  |              |
| Sunbeam                          | Stanley           | 1 May 1962  |              |
| [S.P.O. from 1 May to 31 Oct.]   |                   |             |              |
| Fish Haven RB                    | Paris 83261       | 1 Oct 1962  |              |
| Samaria RB 83252                 | Malad City        | 16 Mar 1963 |              |
| Kilgore                          | Dubois 83423      | 16 Mar 1963 | 15 Sep 1965  |
| Bear RB 83603                    | Council           | 30 Mar 1963 |              |
| Kootenai RB 83840                | Sandpoint         | 14 Sep 1963 |              |
| Medipoint RB 83842               | Harrison          | 26 Oct 1963 |              |
| Springfield RB 83277             | Blackfoot         | 1 Dec 1963  |              |
| Keuterville RB 83538             | Cottonwood        | 14 Feb 1964 |              |
| Smiths FerryRB 83668             | Cascade           | 22 May 1964 | 31 Jan 1970  |
| Gifford RB                       | Lenore 83541      | 19 Jun 1964 | 31 Oct 1966  |
| Shoup (RI) RB 83469              | North Park        | 30 Dec 1964 |              |
| Tuttle (RI) RB 83354             | Hagerman          | 1 May 1965  |              |
| Thornton RB 83453                | Rexburg           | 2 Jul 1965  |              |
| Big Bar** RB 83678               | Oxbow, OR. 97840  | 1 Sep 1965  | 30 Sep 1966  |
| transferred to:                  |                   |             |              |
| Big Bar RB 83678                 | Cambridge         | 1 Oct 1966  |              |
| Corral RB 83222                  | Fairfield         | 25 Feb 1966 |              |
| Lowman RB 83637                  | Boise             | 6 May 1966  |              |
| Bennington RB 83219              | Montpelier        | 17 Jun 1966 |              |

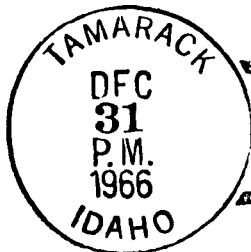


| Rural name                            | Parent P.O.     | Established | Discontinued |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Thatcher RB 83283                     | Grace           | 12 Aug 1966 |              |
| West Mountain RB                      | Cascade 83611   | 16 Aug 1966 |              |
| [S.P.O. from 1 Jun to 30 Sept.]       |                 |             |              |
| Burke RB 83807                        | Wallace         | 2 Dec 1966  |              |
| Meadows RB 83640                      | New Meadows     | 30 Dec 1966 |              |
| Placerville RB 83666                  | Idaho City      | 24 Feb 1967 |              |
| Emida RB 83828                        | Saint Maries    | 21 Apr 1967 |              |
| Careywood RB 83909                    | Sandpoint       | 20 Oct 1967 |              |
| Sweet RB 83670                        | Horse Shoe Bend | 31 Dec 1967 | 28 Feb 1968  |
| name change of parent post office to: |                 |             |              |
| Sweet RB 83670                        | Horseshoe Bend  | 1 Mar 1968  |              |
| Bridge RB 83315                       | Malta           | 31 Aug 1971 |              |
| Naf RB 83345                          | Malta           | 10 Dec 1971 |              |

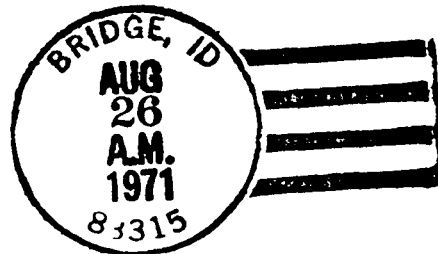
NOTES: 1) S.P.O. - Summer Post Office operating during dates shown.  
 2) RB - Rural Branch  
 3) (Ind) and (RI) - Independent Rural designations.  
 \*An error postmark reading "FENN ." was in use from 1 Aug 1957 to at least 10 Aug 1964.  
 \*\*An error postmark reading "BIG BAR, OR. 97840" was in use on 1 Sept 1965.



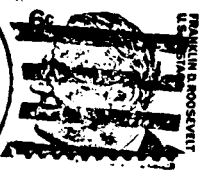
TYPE 2



TYPE 3



TYPE 4



TYPE 5



TYPE 6



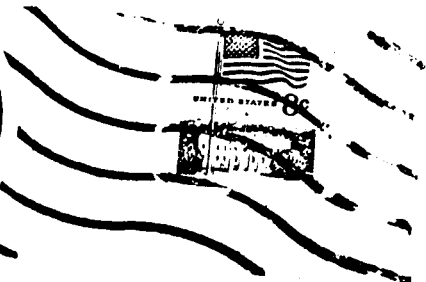
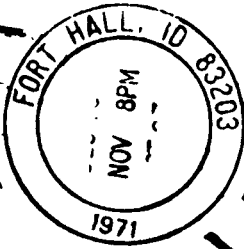
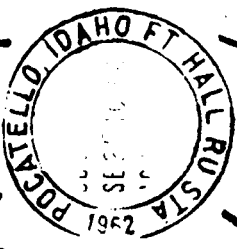
SHOUP RURAL STA.  
NORTH FORK, ID 83469

SHOUP RURAL STA.  
SHOUP, ID 83469

TYPE 7



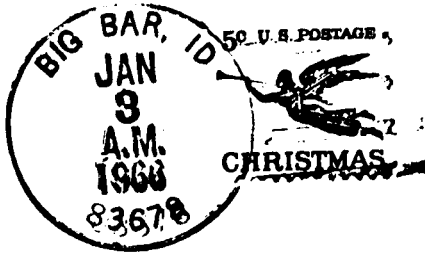
TYPE 0



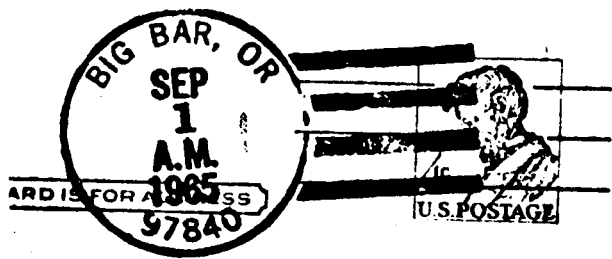
TYPE 10

RETURN TO

Mr. & Mrs. Albert P. Ayotte  
Box 202  
Big Bar Rural Station  
Oxbow, Oregon 97840



BIG BAR



BIG BAR, OR.  
ERROR

## THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART II, GOSHEN & PLATTE COUNTIES

By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal

(Editor's Note: In order to insure credit where credit is due, it is worthwhile to provide a little of the background behind this epic study of Wyoming post offices. Mrs. Ruth Dolezal was the first to become involved when she worked up a list of the post office changes between 1930 and 1971 from the weekly Postal Bulletins. Your editor was very impressed with Mrs. Dolezal's fine effort, and attempted to present the data on Albany County as a comprehensive listing. [La Posta, Vol.3, No.6] Unfortunately, my knowledge of the history, geography, and settlement of Wyoming is superficial at best. What we needed was a dedicated student of Wyoming, who had the background and experience necessary to flesh-out the county listings with accurate historical information. Daniel Y. Meschter, author of Wyoming Territorial and Pre-Territorial Post Offices, has agreed to serve as our authority. What follows, then, is the first part of a research project conducted by three people, who are largely unacquainted with each other and who live in widely separated parts of the nation. Mrs. Dolezal, living in Cicero, Illinois, has been responsible for the 1930 - 1971 post office data. Mr. Meschter, former resident of Wyoming now living in Beaverton, Oregon, has written the county introductions and corrected the pre-1930 data and post office locations. Your editor has prepared the locator maps.)

Goshen and Platte counties are political twins. Both were erected by the Legislature on February 9, 1911, and both were organized on January 6, 1913. They were the last partition of Laramie County. The land is high rolling prairie, broken by steep-walled valleys along the North Platte River and its tributaries, and by a line of hills, known to geologists as the Hartville Uplift, stretching northward from Guernsey along the line between the two counties.

Historically, cattle grazing has dominated the economy of the two counties. Herds established in 1868 near Fort Laramie generally are credited with being the first permanent herds in Wyoming, and the real beginning of the state's cattle industry.

Mining also has played a continuing role in Platte County. Copper ores found near Sunrise at least as early as 1881 proved to be unimportant in the long run, but their discovery led to rich iron deposits nearby, which have been mined almost continuously since about 1898.

The transportation industry has always been important in one form or another. The North Platte River was the river road followed by explorers and trappers in the 1820's and 1830's to

lead them from St. Louis to the Rocky Mountains and back. The Oregon Trail on the south side and the Mormon Trail on the north were crowded in the 1840's and 1850's when the American frontier moved west. Pony express riders thundered this way with the mails briefly only to be replaced by the first transcontinental telegraph line along the same route. With the opening of the Black Hills of Dakota to mining in 1876, a stage road north from Cheyenne through Fort Laramie gave rise to post offices at such stage stations as Chugwater, Bordeaux, and Raw Hide Buttes. A decade later railroads were built northward through both counties to the North Platte River. Later, the Burlington Route was built along the river.

Except for the Hartville mining towns, this part of Wyoming still has a rural aspect, and even the post offices along the stage routes and railroads were more closely identified with ranching and farming than with industry.

\*\*\*\*\*

There is reasonable assurance that all of the post offices appearing on the following lists were actually located in Goshen and Platte counties, although those established prior to 1913 were obviously listed in Laramie County according to postal records. All have been approximately located on the postal locator map with the exception of Goshen\* and Castle in Goshen County, and Moran, Hematite, Hubert, and Tisch in Platte County. No locations have been positively identified for these six offices. Some of the locations can only be approximated since ranch post offices usually moved a matter of miles with each change of postmaster.

A substantial problem for postal historians is a list of a dozen or so early post offices in Laramie County which have not yet been located. It is possible, even probable, that several of these will prove upon further research to have been situated in what is now Goshen or Platte County.

#### GOSHEN COUNTY

Goshen County has never been very populous and its population has declined from a maximum of about 12,500 in 1950, to just under 11,000 in 1970. The shift from ranch to town is demonstrated by a correlation of population to the number of operating post offices. The maximum number of post offices operating at any one time was 19 in 1913, when the population was about half the 1970 total. In the meantime, no new post offices have been established since 1923, and the total number has declined to 9 presently operating.

Altogether, 42 post office names are listed for Goshen County including two - Goshen and Hawk Springs - which are listed twice in the belief that their two periods of operation were at distinctly different locations. Also, the list includes two name changes.

The county has a rich postal history if for no other reason it includes the site of Fort Laramie. This was the first post office opened anywhere in Wyoming, and, after a short move in 1907 from the military reservation to a railroad siding of the same name, is still operating after more than 120 years. Its unique role in the history of the American West has been described by T. E. White (La Posta, Vol. 3, No. 6), and in many other articles.

Most of Goshen County's post offices were at ranches, and served a rural, dispersed population. Those operating today are located in towns to which the rural residents have migrated. The county's residents who remain on farms and ranches are served by rural carriers.

\*NOW LOCATED

\*\*\*\*\*

| <u>Post Office</u> | <u>Established</u>  | <u>Discontinued</u> | <u>Notes</u>                  |
|--------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|
| Allen              | 7 Jul 1908          | 15 Jul 1924         | (Torrington)                  |
| Athol              | 1 Oct 1900          | 15 Aug 1910         | (Torrington)                  |
| Banks              | 28 Jul 1899         | 15 Mar 1906         | (Torrington)                  |
| Burge              | 2 Oct 1913          | 15 Feb 1921         | (Van Tassell)                 |
|                    | Re-est. 23 Apr 1921 | 28 Feb 1930         | (Torrington)                  |
| Castle             | 31 Mar 1915         | 31 Oct 1916         | (Meriden)                     |
| Cottier            | 27 Feb 1923         | 15 Feb 1938         | (Torrington)                  |
| Delta              | 11 Feb 1880         | 6 Jun 1881          | Name changed from Little Moon |
| Eaton              | 9 Aug 1912          | 15 May 1915         | (Fort Laramie)                |
| Empire             | 10 Apr 1912         | 14 Aug 1920         | (Torrington)                  |
| Fort Laramie       | 14 Mar 1850         | OPERATING           |                               |
| Francell           | 19 Aug 1911         | 31 Mar 1914         | (Torrington)                  |
| Frederick          | 25 May 1894         | 31 May 1923         | (Sunrise)                     |
| Fulton             | 11 Mar 1915         | 29 Sep 1923         | (Torrington)                  |
| Goshen             | 17 Jun 1886         | 15 May 1895         | (Lagrange)                    |
| Goshen             | 31 Mar 1909         | 15 Mar 1911         | (Lingle)                      |
| Hagie              | 26 Apr 1905         | 16 Aug 1928         | Name changed to Hawk Springs  |
| Hargraves          | 13 Feb 1899         | 29 Jun 1901         | (Patrick)                     |
| Hawk Springs       | 24 Jun 1874         | 5 Apr 1877          |                               |
| Hawk Springs       | 16 Aug 1928         | OPERATING           | Name changed from Hagie       |
| Huntley            | 2 Aug 1922          | OPERATING           |                               |
| Iowa Center        | 5 Aug 1911          | 31 Jul 1916         | (Chugwater)                   |
| Jay Em             | 24 Mar 1909         | OPERATING           |                               |
| Lagrange           | 25 Oct 1889         | OPERATING           |                               |
| Lakeview           | 20 Jun 1891         | 14 Oct 1905         | (Wheatland)                   |
| moved from Platte  | 16 Mar 1920         | 15 May 1926         | (Rockeagle)                   |
| Lingle             | 18 Jun 1910         | OPERATING           |                               |
| Little Moon        | 7 Aug 1876          | 11 Feb 1880         | Name changed to Delta         |



| <u>Post Office</u> | <u>Established</u> | <u>Discontinued</u> | <u>Notes</u>                               |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--|
| Meriden            | 15 Jul 1889        | ca. 1921            | Moved to Laramie Co.                       |
| Patrick            | 7 Sep 1887         | 15 May 1914         | (Torrington)                               |
| Phillips           | 29 Jan 1884        | 31 Aug 1937         | (Lagrange)                                 |
| Pleazal            | 27 Aug 1915        | 31 Oct 1921         | (Van Tassell)                              |
| Prairie Center     | 29 Mar 1919        | 15 Nov 1919         | (Burge)                                    |
| Pratt              | 18 Oct 1892        | 15 May 1900         | (Collins, Nebr.)                           |
| Re-est.            | 3 Jul 1900         | 19 Nov 1909         | Name changed to Henry & moved to Nebraska. |
| Raw Hide Buttes    | 24 Jun 1878        | 22 Jan 1895         | (Lusk)                                     |
| Re-est.            | 13 Feb 1899        | 30 Jul 1910         | (Jay Em)                                   |
| Rockeagle          | 17 May 1918        | 30 Sep 1920         | (Lingle)                                   |
| Re-est.            | 17 Aug 1922        | 31 Oct 1954         | (Lingle)                                   |
| Springer           | 2 Oct 1909         | 31 Mar 1914         | (Torrington)                               |
| Stewart            | 22 Dec 1911        | 29 Sep 1923         | (Torrington)                               |
| Torrington         | 20 Jul 1889        | OPERATING           |  |
| Trelona            | 25 Oct 1889        | 31 Jan 1912         | (Meriden)                                  |
| Van Kleeck         | 11 Oct 1917        | 14 Dec 1918         | (Torrington)                               |
| Veteran            | 2 Aug 1922         | OPERATING           |  |
| Wyncote            | 15 Nov 1900        | 30 Jun 1919         | (Lingle)                                   |
| Yoder              | 1 Sep 1921         | OPERATING           |  |

\*\*\*\*\*

## PLATTE COUNTY

Platte County, like Goshen, is thinly populated. Its population has declined by one-third from a maximum of a little over 9,500 in the 1930's, to less than 6,500 in 1970. The largest number of post offices ever operating at one time was 20 in 1914. Currently, there are only 7 offices in operation indicating that the county's population has become more concentrated.

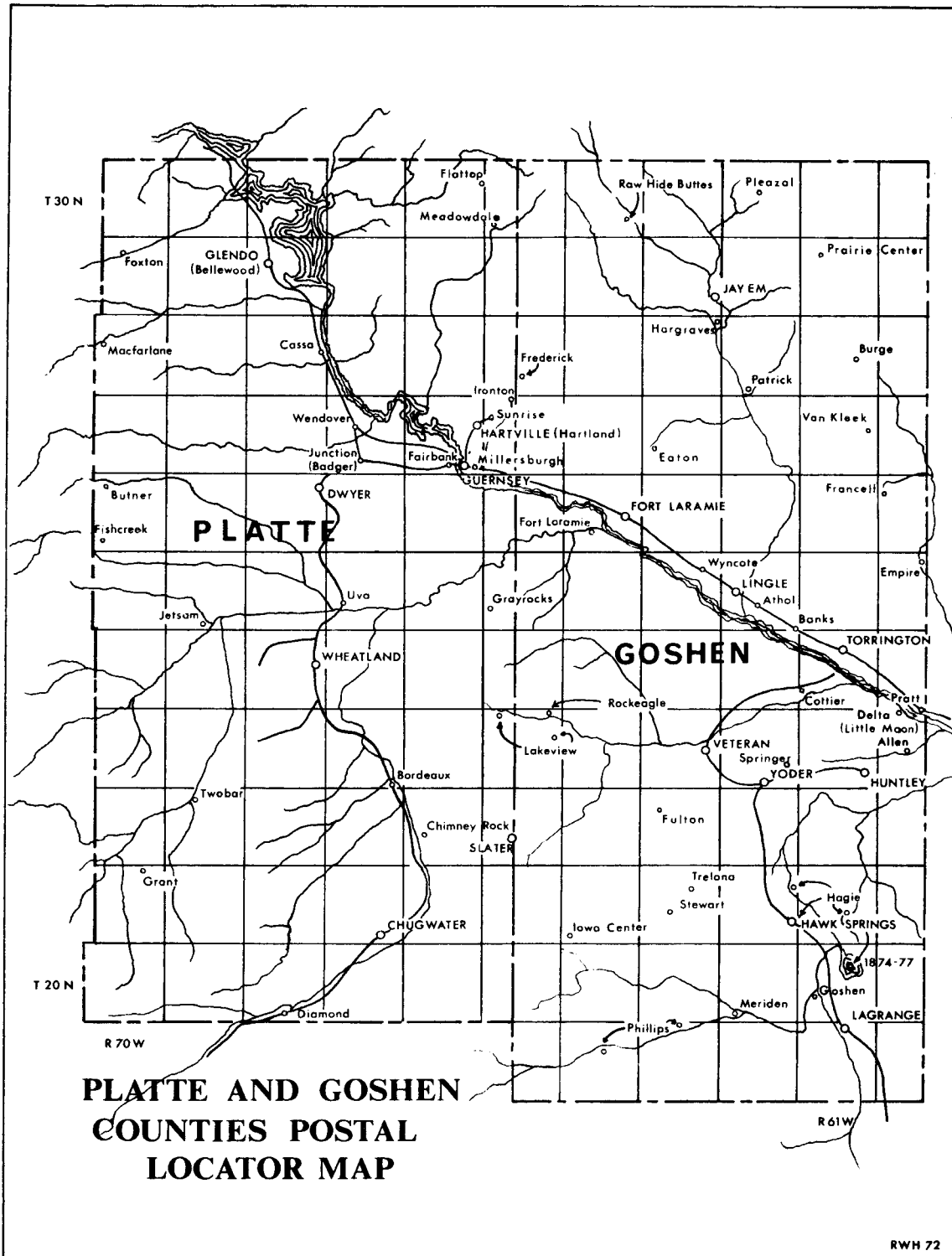
The 38 post office names listed for Platte County include 4 name changes. Several post office names such as Hematite, Sunrise, and Ironton suggest the importance of mining to the county. Copper ore was mined near Hartville and Sunrise in the 1880's, and smelted at nearby Fairbank. The copper boom did not last long, but Sunrise found new prominence when iron mining began. Many of the miners at Hartville and Sunrise were immigrants from southern Europe. They gave these communities a social and cultural flavor distinct from any other part of Wyoming, and they represent a valuable part of Wyoming's heritage.

Chugwater and Bordeaux were important stage stations on the Cheyenne to Fort Laramie route. The postmaster at Bordeaux for a time was John Hunton, a man who has gained special interest from western history buffs through the detailed diary he kept. Hunton's diary, now published, presents a unique account of day-to-day life in the old west.

Guernsey, which was named for Charles Guernsey, legislator, rancher, author, and mine promoter, along with Wheatland and Glendo are today the principal towns of Platte County. Many of the discontinued post offices of the county were located at farm and ranch houses to serve the rural population.

\*\*\*\*\*

| <u>Post Office</u>   | <u>Established</u> | <u>Discontinued</u> | <u>Notes</u>                |
|----------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| Badger               | 20 Mar 1890        | 18 Nov 1901         | Name ch. to Junction        |
| Bellewood            | 31 May 1889        | 26 Dec 1890         | Name ch. to Glendo          |
| Bordeaux             | 16 Feb 1877        | 14 Feb 1896         | (Wheatland)                 |
| Re-est.              | 9 Jun 1896         | 3 Jul 1899          | (Chugwater)                 |
| Re-est.              | 22 Mar 1902        | 14 Oct 1939         | (Slater)                    |
| Butner               | 20 Sep 1916        | 31 Dec 1919         | (Dwyer)                     |
| Cassa                | 3 Feb 1913         | 17 Feb 1961         | (Glendo)                    |
| Chimney Rock         | 18 Jun 1874        | 15 Apr 1878         |                             |
| Re-est.              | 10 Jun 1878        | 22 Apr 1880         |                             |
| Chug Water           | 12 Jul 1872        | 14 Feb 1894         | Name ch. to Chugwater       |
| Chugwater            | 14 Feb 1894        | OPERATING           |                             |
| Diamond              | 9 May 1891         | 30 Sep 1940         | (Chugwater)                 |
| Dwyer                | 24 Mar 1911        | OPERATING           |                             |
| Fairbank             | 26 Feb 1883        | 15 Oct 1900         | (Guernsey)                  |
| Fishcreek            | 23 Mar 1900        | 13 Apr 1900         | Rescinded                   |
| Re-est.              | 17 Apr 1900        | (in Albany County)  |                             |
| Moved from Albany Co | 1 Jul 1904         | 15 Feb 1921         | (Fletcher Park)             |
| Flattop              | 10 Jul 1914        | 28 Feb 1954         | (Keeline)                   |
| Foxtan               | 13 Feb 1903        | 15 Aug 1918         | (Orin)                      |
| Glendo               | 26 Dec 1890        | OPERATING           | Name changed from Bellewood |
| Grant                | 18 Jun 1891        | 30 Nov 1922         | (Wheatland)                 |
| Grayrocks            | 24 May 1899        | 14 Jul 1934         | (Uva)                       |
| Guernsey             | 18 Apr 1900        | OPERATING           |                             |
| Hartland             | 10 Apr 1882        | 3 May 1882          | Name ch. to Hartville       |
| Hartville            | 3 May 1882         | 15 Jun 1887         | (Sunrise)                   |
| Re-est.              | 10 May 1888        | 22 Jan 1889         | (Fairbank)                  |
| Re-est.              | 24 Mar 1890        | 27 Jan 1967         | (Guernsey)                  |
| Re-est.              | 24 Feb 1967        | OPERATING           |                             |
| Hematite             | 15 Feb 1890        | 16 Jul 1890         | (Raw Hide Buttes)           |
| Hubert               | 24 May 1886        | 3 Oct 1890          | (Uva)                       |
| Ironton              | 6 Apr 1906         | 31 Dec 1907         | (Sunrise)                   |
| Jetsam               | 27 Feb 1893        | 31 May 1900         | (Wheatland)                 |
| Junction             | 18 Nov 1901        | 31 Aug 1916         | (Wendover)                  |
| Lakeview             | 20 Jun 1891        | 14 Oct 1905         | (Wheatland)                 |
| Re-est.              | 6 Jun 1910         | 16 Mar 1920         | Moved to Goshen Co.         |
| Macfarlane           | 21 Jul 1894        | 30 Dec 1933         | (Glendo)                    |
| Meadowdale           | 15 Feb 1935        | 28 Feb 1945         | (Glendo)                    |
| Millersburgh         | 8 Feb 1883         | 14 Apr 1884         | (Fairbank)                  |
| Moran                | 1 Mar 1886         | 18 Apr 1894         | (Glendo)                    |
| Moran                | 15 Jun 1891        | 18 Apr 1894         | (Hubert)                    |
| Slater               | 28 Jul 1911        | OPERATING           |                             |
| Sunrise              | 14 Jan 1884        | 23 Apr 1884         | (Hartville)                 |
| Re-est.              | 27 Mar 1900        | 24 Feb 1967         | (Hartville)                 |



| <u>Post Office</u> | <u>Established</u> | <u>Discontinued</u> | <u>Notes</u>            |
|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Tisch              | 28 Sep 1901        | 14 Feb 1903         | (Grant)                 |
| Two bar            | 31 Dec 1889        | 30 Apr 1903         | (Wheatland)             |
| Uva                | 30 Jun 1880        | 9 Jul 1883          | (Bordeaux)              |
|                    | Re-est.            | 17 Jun 1886         | 30 Apr 1951 (Wheatland) |
| Wendover           | 24 Apr 1888        | 31 Jul 1891         | (Glendo)                |
|                    | Re-est.            | 2 Jul 1915          | 31 Jan 1945 (Guernsey)  |
| Wheatland          | 9 Sep 1887         | OPERATING           |                         |

\*\*\*\*\*

NOTES: 1) Post offices shown in parentheses() in the "Notes" column are the office to which a discontinued p.o. was closed out.

-----

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

First a quick plug for Doc Dike's ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARK CATALOG. The \$15 price tag is really a bargain when you consider the potential value of the catalog's contents. Just imagine trying to collect stamps without a Scott's, or Minkus, or Gibbon's. That's where its at for A.T. if you don't have a copy of the new Dike catalog. From a less crass commercial view, the catalog also is a beautiful scholarly piece of research.

A letter comes our way from Mr. Charles "Pat" Hall, Director of the Wyoming Bicentennial Commission. Mr. Hall came by a couple copies of La Posta from our member Dan Stone in Denver. The Bicentennial Commission has decided to publish a "Postal History of Wyoming" as one of its projects, and Mr. Hall would like to contact any collector or dealer who specializes in Wyoming covers or is knowledgeable of Wyoming's postal history. Please write him direct at the State Office Bldg., Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

Now, if Wyoming can publish a postal history for the Bicentennial why not our other western states? Just imagine the boost it can be if by 1976 we had a complete series of state postal histories for reference. This looks like a unique opportunity. Let us, as citizens of our respective states, write our various Bicentennial Commissions to tell them what Wyoming is doing. Let us persuade our commissions what a fine project it would be to have the postal history of our states published as a handsome volume in honor of the bicentennial. Publishing postal history research is very expensive during normal times, but if our state commissions could be convinced to use some of their bicentennial grants for such a project, our avocation could benefit greatly. Remember, this is not pure fantasy. Wyoming is already moving in this direction. The precedent exists; it is up to us to spread the idea.

EDITOR: RICHARD W. HELBOCK, 1635 MARIPOSA DR., LAS CRUCES, NM 88001