

# LA POSTA

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# POSTAL HISTORY OF NEW MEXICO DURING THE SPANISH & MEXICAN ERAS

By Otto C. Yag

## The Postal System of Spanish New Mexico

The origin of an organized postal route system and scheduled mail delivery in New Mexico dates from 1783. Prior to that year, Santa Fe, the provincial capital, and other settlements of the middle Rio Grande (see map), were considered to be outside the normal mail service area of New Spain. Mail to and from Santa Fe was limited to those ordinary and official letters which accompanied the annual caravan travelling along El Camino Real each autumn. Special messengers were also occasionally used to convey important official dispatches. Even after El Paso del Norte became integrated with the postal system of the south early in the 1780's, there was reluctance to extend scheduled service north along the Rio Grande due to the remoteness of Santa Fe and the ever present dangers of Indian attack.

In a letter dated December 18, 1783, Felipe de Neve, commandant general of New Spain's interior provinces, directed New Mexico's provincial Governor Juan Bautista de Anza to investigate means by which a regularly scheduled mail service could be established between Santa Fe and El Paso. Although he left operational decisions up to Anza, the commandant general offered the following suggestions:

"every two, three, or four months a detachment composed of soldiers from the Santa Fe presidio and of private citizens might escort the mail as far as El Paso; alternatively, it might prove more feasible to have the task performed by two or three men who would raise no dust on the trail nor leave tracks, and who could more easily hide from the enemy ... designate the exact route to be followed and prescribe the method to be used in nightly marches and the precautions to be taken; no definite times should be set for dispatching the mail lest the hostile Indians divine the pattern and lie in ambush for the escort; and advantage should be taken of troop detachments which passed between Santa Fe and El Paso periodically on other business to carry extraordinary posts outside the regular system."(1)

Governor Anza's postal system surely incorporated the suggestions of the commandant general, although few details of its early years of operation have been documented. Appointments of

the postmaster at Santa Fe were apparently made by the chief postmaster in Chihuahua, upon recommendation of the Governor of New Mexico. This procedure was followed in the appointment of one Miguel Ortiz as Santa Fe's postmaster in 1788, and it seems reasonable to expect that a similar procedure was employed throughout the Spanish period.

Mail service between Santa Fe and El Paso was operating on a fairly regular schedule by 1805. The provincial governor, Fernando de Chacon, reported postal departures in that year on April 1st, July 1st, September 1st, and in November with the annual caravan. Standard procedures for transport of the mail down the Rio Grande called for the formation of an armed guard composed of a dozen or so regular troops and about twice that number of private citizens. These New Mexican dispatch riders escorted the mail as far south as El Paso, where it was turned over to troops from the presidio at San Eleceario. Occasionally, the transfer point was located some distance north of El Paso. For example, in 1810 at least one transfer of mail pouches was made at the campsite of Fray Cristobal, some 40 miles south of Socorro.

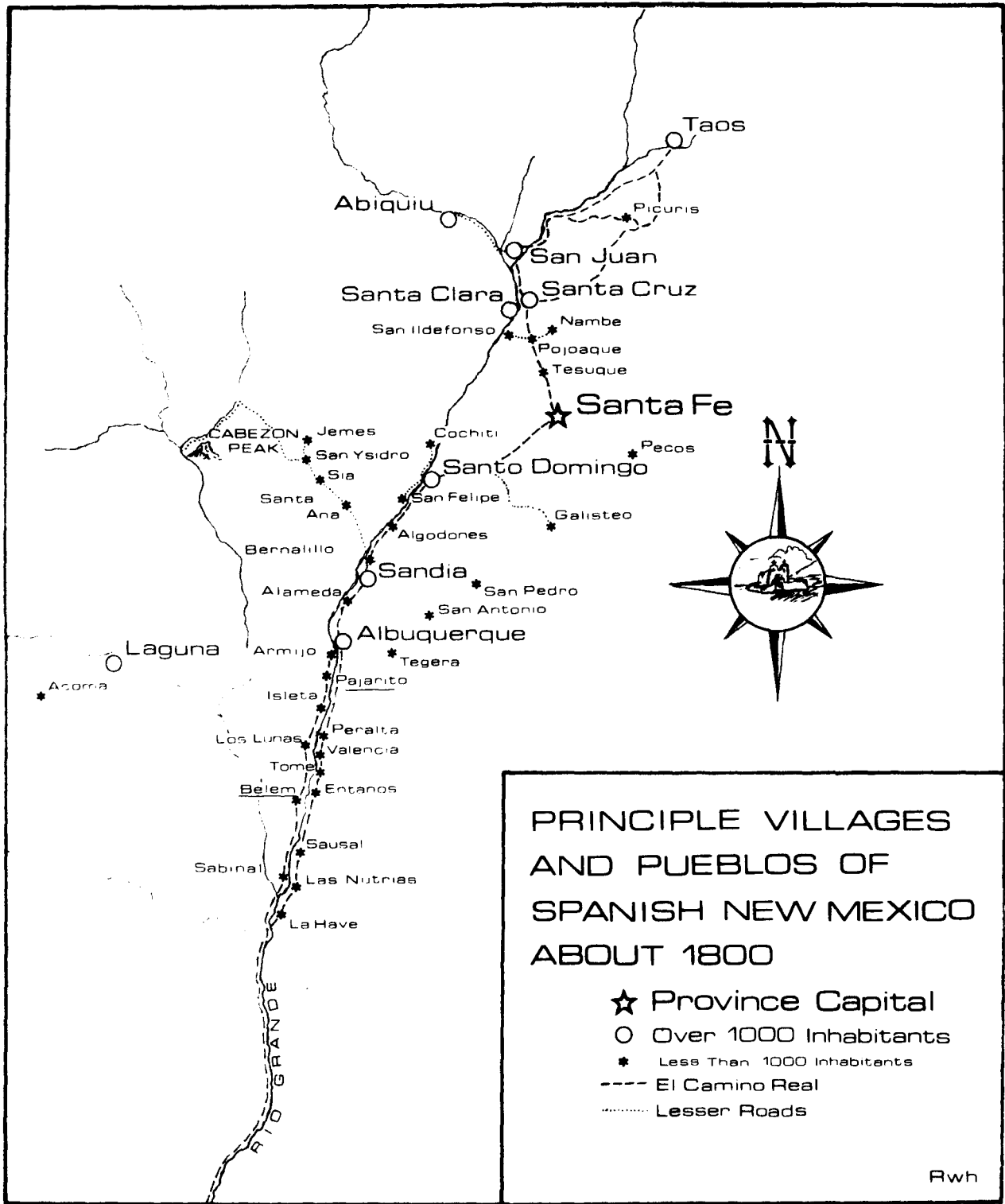
Frequency of mail service between Santa Fe and El Paso improved quite a bit in 1815. During the summer of that year Governor Alberto Maynez notified the alcaldes of his jurisdiction that, under orders of the commandant general, a monthly postal service was to be established to carry both official and public mail to El Paso. The initial departure was to leave Santa Fe at 10 A.M. on September 18, 1815.

These instructions from Maynes to his alcaldes indicate that by 1815 there existed within New Mexico some system of intraprovincial postal service. Details of this service, which may have begun early in the 19th century, are largely unknown. There are, however, a few covers in existence which were carried by this intraprovincial service, and from them we may infer some fragmentary information. (figures 1, 2, and 3)

### Postal Markings of the Spanish Period

All known postal markings from New Mexico dating from the time it was a province of New Spain are in manuscript. There are no handstamps known to have been used. There appear to be two different manuscript notations applied to mail originating from New Mexican settlements: "REAL SERVICIO," and "Con P. Po."

Of the two types of markings, more examples are known of Real Servicio (fig. 1), or its abbreviation "Real Servo".(fig. 2) The term translates simply as "royal service," and it was widely used throughout New Spain to mean transportation of the mails.



*Real Servicio*  
*Al Capitan de Milicia*  
*Don Lorenzo Gutierrez*

*Del Gov<sup>o</sup>*  
*Territorio*

*Pajarito*

Figure 1

Cover of a folded letter mailed from Santa Fe to Pajarito, New Mexico. in March 1811.

Addressed to Don Lorenzo Gutierrez from the Governor of the Territory

"Real Servicio" indicates transportation by way of the royal postal service.

*Real Serv<sup>o</sup>*  
*Al Capitan de milicia D<sup>o</sup>*  
*Lorenzo Gutierrez*

*Del Gov<sup>o</sup>*  
*Territorio*

*Pajarito*

Figure 2

Cover of a folded letter from Santa Fe to Pajarito, NM in May 1811.

Same correspondence as Fig. 1

"Real Servo". used to designate royal postal service.

*A D<sup>o</sup> Lorenzo Gutierrez*  
*Alc<sup>o</sup> del<sup>a</sup> Eleccion y Cap<sup>o</sup> de*  
*Militar*

*Con P Po*

*Pajarito*

Figure 3

Cover of a folded letter from Belem to Pajarito, New Mexico in 1808.

Addressed to Don Lorenzo Gutierrez from Jose Pino.

"Con P Po" indicates that the letter was carried by a special agent or carrier.

All known covers from New Mexico bearing this notation were posted at Santa Fe.

The second notation, "Con P. Po," (figure 3) is less clearly understood. Its meaning indicates handling by a special agent or carrier, but its use from a settlement other than Santa Fe - Belen in the case of figure 3 - raises a question. Did all letters originating from communities other than Santa Fe bear the notation "Con P. Po"? Santa Fe was the only settlement of the province known to have had a post office during the Spanish period, so it may be that mail originating from all other points travelled by special agent and was thus outside the royal postal service. It is also possible that "Con P. Po" was applied only to certain letters given special handling regardless of their origin. The answer to this and other questions await the results of future research.

### The Postal System of New Mexico During the Mexican Period

On December 26, 1821, word reached Santa Fe of the events of the previous summer which had transformed New Spain from a colony to the independent nation of Mexico. The immediate effects upon the people of New Mexico must have been slight, for the great distances separating Santa Fe from Mexico City had the effect of blunting the sharp edge of change.

Little is yet known of the postal system in New Mexico under Mexican government. It must be assumed that mail service between Santa Fe and the south followed the same pattern that it taken during the late stages of Spanish control. One small change, which has been documented concerns the transfer of mail pouches carried by the escorts from New Mexico. The transfer point was shifted north some 28 miles from El Paso to the Rancho del Bracito in the Mesilla Valley, but the reason for this change is not known.

### Postal Markings of the Mexican Period

Better known changes in New Mexico's postal procedures during the Mexican period involved the establishment of a second post office and the use of hand stamp postal markings.

The date which marked the first use of hand stamp markings is not known. Certainly the old notation, Real Servicio, was abandoned after word of independence reached Santa Fe. Some 20 years later, however, we find a single-line hand stamp reading "NUEVO MEXICO" being applied in red ink to letters posted at Santa Fe. (figure 4) Only a few of these markings are known to exist, and since they all date from the early 1840's it is difficult to generalize about the dates of use for the handstamp.

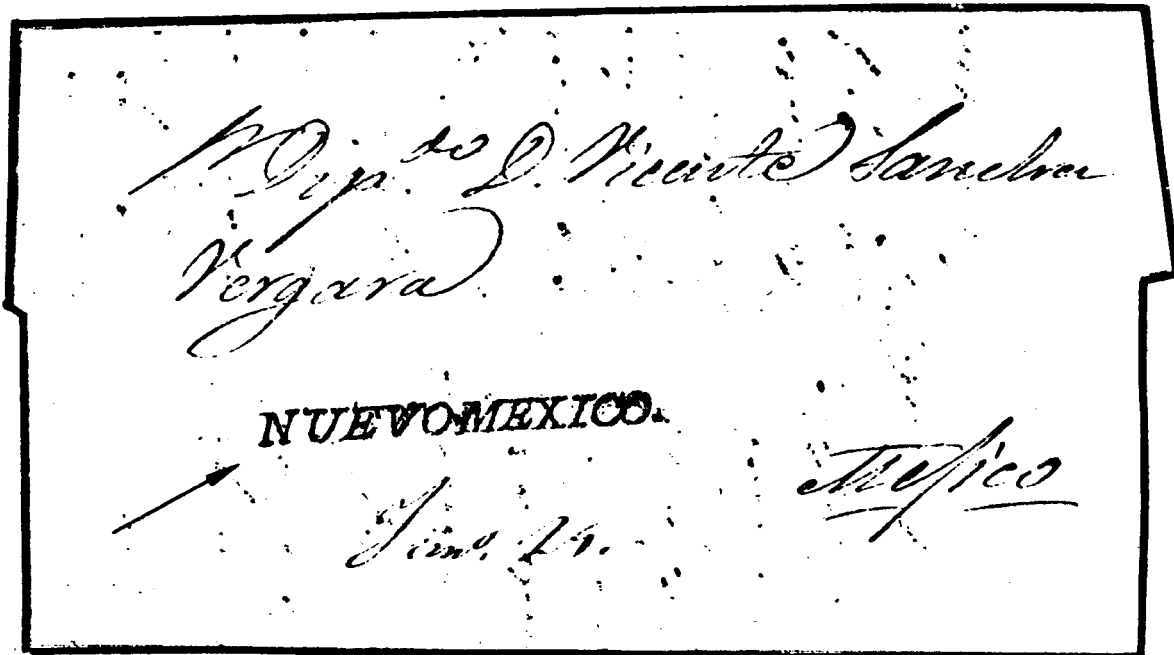


Figure 4

Cover of a folded letter from Santa Fe, New Mexico, to the City of Mexico in 1842. Addressed to Don Vicente Sanches Vergara from Manuel Armijo, Governor of New Mexico. The hand stamp marking, "NUEVO MEXICO" was struck in red.

It was during this same brief two-decade period that a second post office was established in New Mexico. This office, located at Tome (see map), apparently served Rio Grande settlements as far north as Albuquerque. Once again, there exists little concrete information about the Tome post office and its hand stamp postal marking. (figure 5)

### Conclusion

The period of Mexican government in New Mexico came to an end with the occupation of Santa Fe by the army of General S.W. Kearny on the afternoon of August 18, 1846. It would more than three years before the United States established a post office at Santa Fe, but the ties with the government of Mexico had been severed.

It is hoped that the foregoing brief discussion of New Mexico's postal history under Spain and Mexico will tempt some of you who read it into accepting the challenge. The many interesting questions yet unanswered beg research into the archival holdings to be found in museums and libraries throughout the Southwest and California. Rewards await those serious postal historians who are willing to pursue the mysteries of this earliest of Western American postal services.

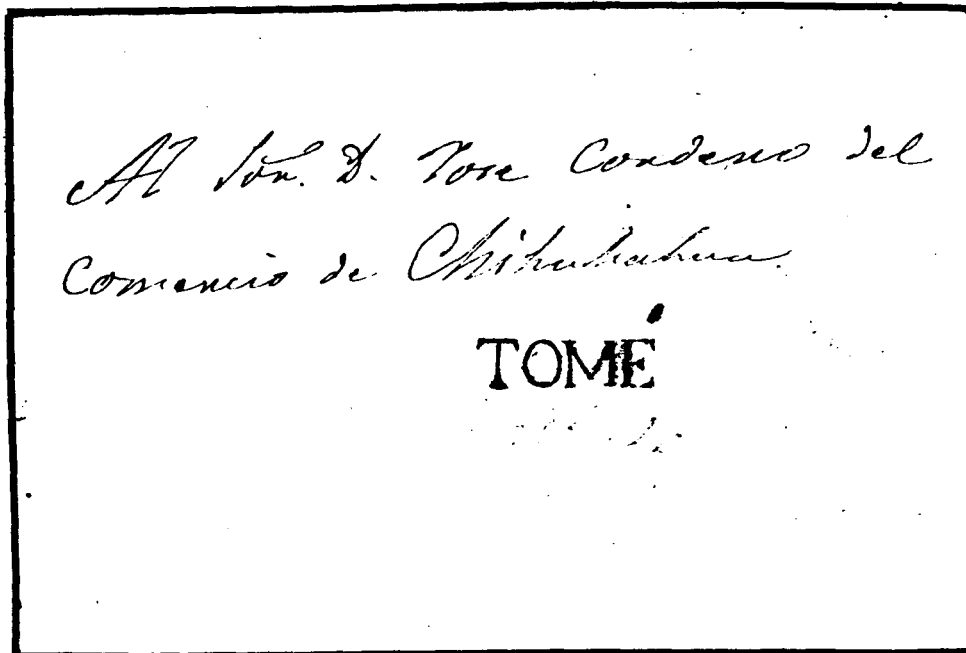


Figure 5

Cover of a folded letter from Albuquerque, N. M. to Chihuahua, Mexico in August 1845. Addressed to Mr. Jose Cordero from Manuel Armijo, who served as the last Mexican governor of New Mexico. The handstamp marking, "TOME," appears in red on the original.

Footnote:

(1) As quoted in Marc Simmons, Spanish Government in New Mexico, (Albuquerque: The University of New Mexico Press, 1968), p. 104.

\*\*\*\*\* \*\* \*\*\*\*\*

The following page displays the contents and a translation of the earliest of these folded letters. Lack of space unfortunately precludes a similar display of the other letters, but we will attempt to publish them in future issues for they are obviously of great historical significance. (ed.)



por don Lorenzo Gutierrez  
Belem 8<sup>a</sup> de Agosto

Mi am. Comrades Amigo Don  
Juan Pizarro, por el feliz éxito  
que obtiene en campaña, por. en...

TRANSLATION

Senor Don Lorenzo Gutierrez:

Belem, 8th (illegible) 1808

Dear Comrade and Friend: I thank you very much for the success that your campaign had, wish we could do the same in a few expeditions like yours - to bring back what is looked for and to punish the enemy. I have been filled with joy, so much, so much, so much that I have no words to tell it. We must repeat infinite hails to His Eternal Majesty for giving us such benefits He does each step He makes, and as in this instance, those through your efforts we have received.

I cannot come now in person because I have a trial (quite heavy) to attend tomorrow (and it is at Sausal) and that is why I use the pen meanwhile.

The same happiness I feel because you find your home without bad news and that everything is good. Hoping that the victories follow and you obtain new degrees without delay. This is what your extremely loving friend and comrad wishes.

That kisses your hand

Jose Pino

J. S. M. B.  
Jose Pino



## THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING, PART IV: CROOK & WESTON COUNTIES

By Daniel Meschter & Ruth Dolezal

After the first four Wyoming counties had been erected by the Dakota Legislature, Laramie County stretched from Colorado to Montana between the Nebraska state line on the east and the Union Pacific Railroad's Buford Station on the west. Albany County, adjacent to Laramie County on the west, also extended across the entire north-south reach of the Territory between Buford and Como stations.

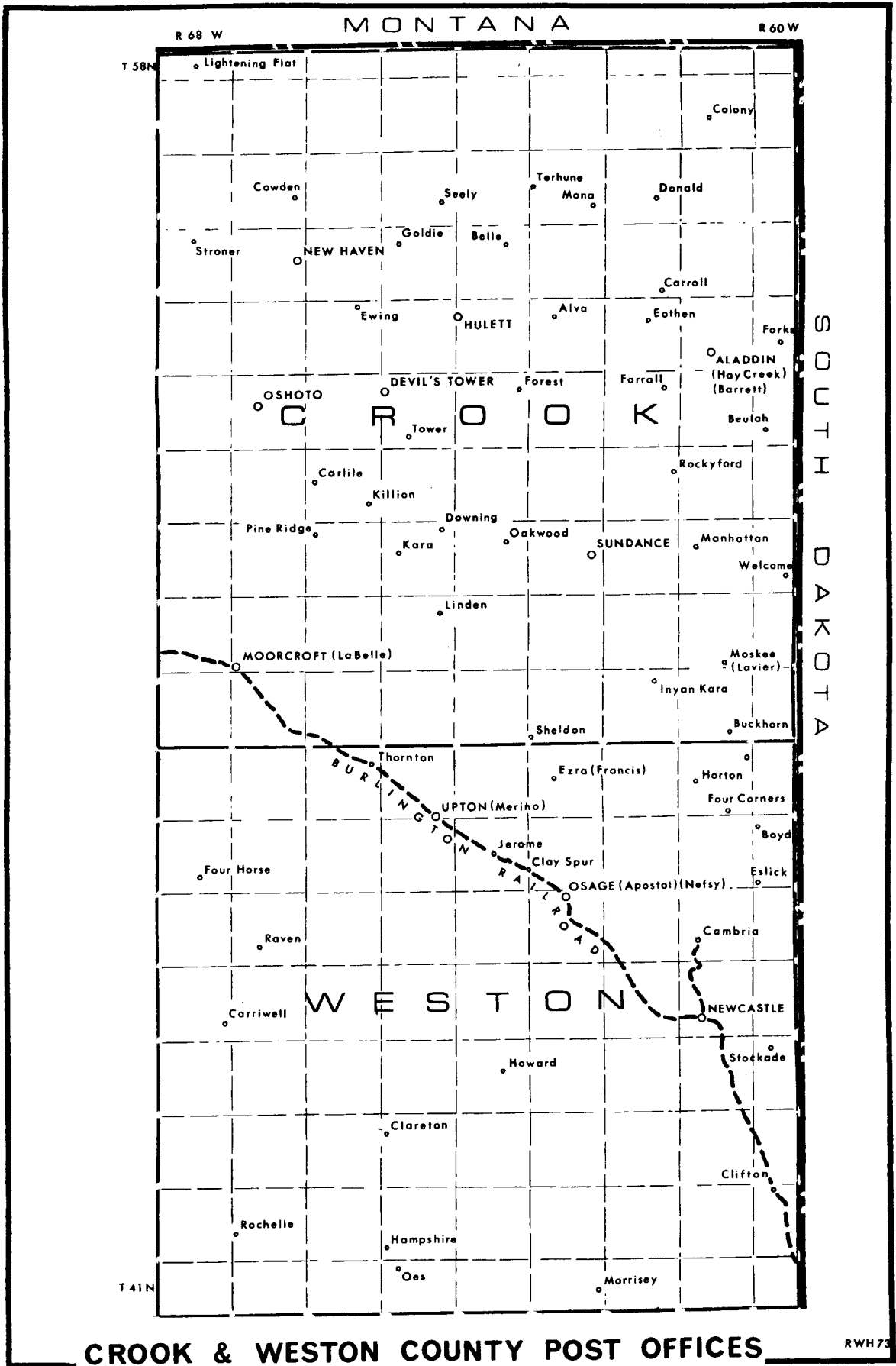
The first partition of Wyoming counties was made on the 8th of December, 1875, when the Fourth Wyoming Legislature erected Crook County out of the northern portion of both Laramie and Albany counties. There appears to have been little practical justification for this action, since the new Crook County contained no towns and had no legal settlers in 1875. In fact, it was still unceded Indian Territory under the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868.

The political organization of Crook County did not take place until almost 10 years later on January 22, 1885, after an influx of settlers and the development of an agricultural products market in the mining camps of the nearby Black Hills of South Dakota. Economic and social development in the eastern part of the county was rapid during the next five years. Arrival of the Burlington Railroad in 1890 spurred the final Wyoming Territorial Legislature to set apart the southern half of Crook County as a new county named Weston.

The western parts of Crook and Weston counties developed more slowly than the east, but within a few years political pressures led to the division of the older counties into less cumbersome units. On February 13, 1911, Campbell County was erected out of the western portions of Crook and Weston counties. It included all of what had formerly been the northern end of Albany County, plus a narrow strip of territory which was previously in Laramie County.

### Crook County

Crook County was named for the famous General George H. Crook, who was popularly identified with the Indian wars in progress in Wyoming and Montana at the time the county was created. Some have said that the name had a special and ironic significance because the creation of Crook County was probably motivated by the contemporary conflict between the white



man's lust for Black Hills gold and land, and the Indian's sacred regard for that lovely region.

Physically, Crook County is one of the most attractive parts of Wyoming. The eastern portion of the county is characterized by wooded hills drained by fertile valleys. It is studded with higher peaks such as Sundance and Inyankara mountains. Westerly, the hills flatten through an area of excellent grazing land that shades into the vast prairies typical of northeastern Wyoming. Devil's Tower, a unique monolith of volcanic rock, rises more than 800 feet above the land surface. With abundant game, Crook County is still the Hiawathan "happy hunting ground" the Indian Nations struggled so long to keep.

Grazing and farming have been the traditional mainstays of the county's economy. But these agricultural pursuits have been augmented by important mineral production of coal, oil, uranium, and bentonite clay.

The 51 post office names listed for Crook County include 5 name changes, and one office (Crowcreek), which is known to have never been in operation. Ezra and Buckhorn have been shared with Weston County from time to time. The maximum number of postal facilities operating at any one time was 24 in 1928. There are only 8 post offices operating today.

The vast majority of Crook County's post offices existed to serve ranch and farm communities. Only a few have been identified with other activities such as: Aladdin - coal mining; Colony - clay mining; Moorcroft - railroading; and Devil's Tower - the tourist industry. Sundance, the county seat, has always been the county's major town.

WYOMING POST OFFICES  
CROOK COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Aladdin	1 Dec 1898	30 Dec 1964	To Rural, Sundance
Alva	6 Jul 1891	Operating	
Barrett	9 Oct 1889	1 Dec 1898	N. ch. to Aladdin
Belle	18 Jun 1907	31 Jan 1918	Mail to Alva
Beulah	21 Feb 1883	Operating	
Buckhorn	19 Jan 1901	30 Jun 1949	Also in Weston Co. q.v.
Carlile	6 Oct 1887	15 Feb 1888	No papers
	26 Apr 1888	21 Feb 1894	
	26 May 1894	9 Apr 1965	To Rural, Moorcroft
Carroll	30 Sep 1896	30 Jun 1902	Mail to Aladdin
Colony	7 Apr 1908	30 Jun 1955	M. to Belle Fourche, SD
Cowden	21 Nov 1927	31 Aug 1933	Mail to Hulett
Crowcreek	14 Jul 1900	9 Feb 1901	Rescinded

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Devils Tower	25 Nov 1925	Operating	
Donald	28 Mar 1905	30 Jul 1921	Mail to Aladdin
Downing	17 Jan 1911	31 May 1930	Mail to Sundance
Eothen	11 Jan 1887	28 Feb 1913	Mail to Aladdin
Ewing	6 Jul 1914	30 Sep 1920	
	26 Sep 1921	29 Feb 1940	Mail to Hulett
Ezra	5 May 1898	30 Nov 1900	Moved to Weston Co. on 21 Feb 1900
Farrall	10 Nov 1894	29 Sep 1928	Mail to Aladdin
Field	18 Sep 1889	11 Jun 1895	No papers
Forest	24 Dec 1896	15 Jan 1901	Mail to Hulett
	4 Jun 1904	31 Aug 1911	Mail to Hulett
Forks	15 Jun 1883	20 Dec 1899	Mail to Aladdin
Goldie	17 Sep 1908	15 Sep 1909	Mail to Hulett
Hay Creek	12 Jun 1888	9 Oct 1889	N. ch. to Barrett
Hulett	1 Mar 1886	Operating	
Inyan Kara	17 Aug 1882	22 Jan 1895	N. ch. to Inyankara
Inyankara	22 Jan 1895	15 Dec 1905	Mail to Sundance
Kara	8 Sep 1927	15 Nov 1934	Mail to Moorcroft
Killion	13 Jan 1888	15 May 1888	Mail to Sundance
LaBelle	11 Jan 1888	20 Dec 1889	N. ch. to Moorcroft
Lavier	22 Nov 1924	25 Jul 1925	N. ch. to Moskee
Lightening Flat	13 Sep 1921	15 Aug 1936	M. to Rockypoint
	3 Aug 1936		Closing ord. resc.
		30 Sep 1937	M. to Rockypoint
Linden	27 Aug 1888	15 Sep 1910	Mail to Sundance
Manhattan	23 May 1892	14 Jan 1933	Mail to Sundance
	22 Dec 1932		Closing ord. resc.
		31 Aug 1933	Mail to Sundance
Mona	29 May 1897	5 Dec 1942	Mail to Aladdin
Moorcroft	20 Dec 1889	Operating	
Moskee	25 Jul 1925	8 Nov 1941	Mail to Lead, SD
New Haven	24 Jun 1909	Operating	
Oakwood	2 Nov 1898	30 Jun 1900	Mail to Sundance
Oshoto	6 Nov 1911	Operating	
Pine Ridge	28 Dec 1910	15 Oct 1912	Mail to Moorcroft
Riverdale	24 Jul 1886	27 Feb 1897	Mail to Forks
Rockyford	29 Jan 1901	30 Sep 1902	Mail to Beulah
Seely	2 Jun 1928	30 Apr 1942	Mail to Hulett
	16 Aug 1943	3 Nov 1967	Mail to Hulett
Sheldon	19 Jun 1900	15 Feb 1912	Mail to Upton
Springwood	25 Feb 1888	30 Nov 1888	No papers
Stroner	10 May 1919	16 Mar 1962	Mail to Oshoto
Sundance	17 Aug 1882	Operating	
Terhune	4 Oct 1913	30 Nov 1934	Mail to Alva
Tower	26 Sep 1908	30 Sep 1919	Mail to Carlile
Ward	20 Jun 1890	Unknown - prior to 1930	
Welcome	23 May 1892	30 Apr 1903	Mail to Finton, SD

## Weston County

Weston County is quite similar physically to Crook County, except that it lies a greater distance from the Black Hills. The hill country is limited to the northeastern corner, while the majority of the county's land is open prairie. The county was named for John B. Weston, a geologist whose surveys led to the discovery of coal north of Newcastle in 1887. The presence of this coal had much to do with the location of the Burlington Railroad through this part of Wyoming. In anticipation of the arrival of the railroad in late 1890, plus the early growth of Newcastle and the rapid development of coal mines at Cambria, Weston County was erected on March 12, 1890, and organized two months later on May 16th.

The economic growth of Weston County has been drawn from natural resources such as coal, oil, bentonite clay, and the prairie grasslands. Industries have traditionally included both sheep and cattle grazing, as well as, transportation. Even before the railroad arrived, the Cheyenne and Black Hills Stage line cut across the southeastern corner of the county.

Of the total of 32 post office names listed for Weston County, four resulted from name changes, and one (Milton), is known to have never been in operation. Ezra and Buckhorn have been shared with Crook County from time to time. The maximum number of Weston County post offices to have ever been in operation at one time was 15, and that occurred between 1925 - 1930. Today, only three post offices are operating in Weston County.

The post offices of Weston County served communities which performed quite a wide range of economic activities. Stockade was on the Black Hills stage road, and it functioned as a way station. Seven or eight offices, including Newcastle, served communities located on the railroad. Cambria, now a ghost town, was once a coal mining center, and several offices in the southwestern part of the county served settlements associated with the oil industry.

### WYOMING POST OFFICES WESTON COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Apostol	18 Apr 1919	5 May 1920	N. ch. to Nefsy
Boyd	10 Aug 1894	31 Dec 1917	Mail to Newcastle
Buckhorn	19 Jan 1901	30 Jun 1949	Mail to Newcastle
Burlington	7 Feb 1889	7 Oct 1890	Mail to Newcastle
Cambria	20 Feb 1890	31 Jul 1928	Mail to Newcastle
Carriwell	11 Nov 1918	13 Dec 1921	Mail to Upton
Cellers	2 Oct 1909	31 Jan 1911	Mail to Upton
Clareton	13 Apr 1921	31 May 1960	Mail to Newcastle

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Clay Spur	24 Mar 1930	24 Sep 1930	Mail to Osage
Clifton	26 Mar 1906	12 Sep 1906	Rescinded
	18 Jun 1907	15 Aug 1947	Mail to Newcastle
Eslick	25 Jun 1907	30 Apr 1908	Mail to Newcastle
Ezra	5 May 1898	30 Nov 1900	Mail to Merino
Four Corners	8 May 1916	22 Nov 1963	To Rural, Newcastle
Francis	11 Jan 1890	21 Feb 1894	Mail to Merino
Hampshire	14 Feb 1901	31 Jan 1940	Mail to Newcastle
Horton	12 Apr 1901	30 Sep 1943	Mail to Four Corners
Howard	3 Nov 1910	14 Nov 1918	Mail to Newcastle
Jerome	11 Jul 1891	5 Aug 1892	Mail to Newcastle
Merino	25 Sep 1890	3 Aug 1891	Mail to Newcastle
	10 Jun 1893	16 Oct 1900	N. ch. to Upton
	19 Oct 1900		Name ch. rescinded
		6 Apr 1901	N. ch. to Upton
Milton	26 Jan 1893		N. ch. from Francis, but never in opern.
		21 Feb 1894	M. to Merino
Morrissey	29 Oct 1923	15 Oct 1936	Mail to Newcastle
Nefsy	5 May 1920	29 Nov 1920	N. ch. to Osage
New Castle	12 Oct 1889	7 Feb 1890	N. ch. to Newcastle
Newcastle	7 Feb 1890	Operating	
Oes	25 Apr 1900	29 Nov 1902	Mail to Hampshire
Osage	11 Jul 1891	20 Jun 1895	Never in operation
	1 Dec 1906	8 Apr 1907	Rescinded
	29 Nov 1920	Operating	
Raven	10 Nov 1925	15 Oct 1936	Mail to Upton
Rochelle	13 Oct 1909	30 Jun 1911	Mail to Hampshire
	14 Mar 1924	30 Nov 1938	Mail to Clareton
Stockade	19 Apr 1880	6 Jul 1881	Formerly listed with Custer Co., Dakota
Thornton	24 Dec 1904	30 Jun 1942	Mail to Upton
Upton	16 Oct 1900	Operating	
@Four Horse	8 May 1916	15 Mar 1935	Mail to Moorcroft

\*\*\*\* \*\*

Notes: M. to - indicates "mail to" and signifies the name of the post office to which papers were transferred.

N. ch. to - indicates that the name of the post office was changed.

@ - indicates entry out-of-order

[Editor's Note: Several readers have sent in additions and corrections to the previous listings in this series. We urge you to please continue to do so. A complete list of additions and corrections will be published at the conclusion of the Wyoming post office study. Thank you.]

## ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS [Continued from 4/4]

By Dr. Sheldon H. Dike

Town type	Val. No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Earliest Owner	Latest Date	Latest Owner	Killer	Notes
FLAGSTAFF (Cont'd.)								
	10.	3	C1bN1B27	25 Apr 94	HHL	11 Mar 97	HHL	
	11.	3	C1bT1B28	31 Oct 98	?	25 Aug 99	?	
	12.	2	C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Sept 00	?	13 Mar 02	?	Grid
	13.	1	C1bT1B29	6 Oct 03	HHL	11 Oct 07	?	Grid
	14.	1	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	3 Nov 07	SHD	17 July 11	HHL	Grid
FLORENCE								
	1.	4-3	C1bA1BBR26	6 Feb 75	HHL	27 Apr 83	HHL	
	2.	4	C1eS1B30 $\frac{1}{2}$	6 Aug 85	HHL	4 Nov 86v	?	
	3.	3	C1eS1B31	22 Mar 87p	?	21 Sept 89	HHL	
	4.	4	C1eS1B33	6 May 86	*	25 Oct 90	SHD	1, 2
	5.	4	C1bN1B26 $\frac{1}{2}$	13 May 90	?			
	6.	4	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	1 June 91	SHD	9 July 91	HHL	
	7.	3	C1bN1B26 $\frac{1}{2}$	19 Sept 93	?	2 Jan 95	?	
	8.	3	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 July 95	?	12 May 97	NLP	
	9.	3	C1bT1B27	28 June 01	NLP			
	10.	3	C1bT1B29	25 Oct 01	HHL	25 Apr 02	JOT	Grid
	11.	2	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	9 May 04	SHD	28 May 08	NLP	Grid
	12.	3	C1bT1B29	26 Dec 09	HHL	29 Dec 09	SHD	Grid
	13.	3	C1bT1B29 $\frac{1}{2}$	14 Aug 11	HHL			Grid
FORT APACHE								
	1.	4	C31e10N1RRB26 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 Dec 79	?	25 July 84	?	Target
	2.	4	C31eN1B27	7 Dec 82	EBG	7 Jan 84	JOT	Target
	3.	4	C31eN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	12 Oct 84	DLJ			
	4.	3	C1eN1B24	12 Jan 88	JOT	6 Jan 98	HHL	Star-grid
	5.	4	C1bT1B28	5 Apr 98	NLP	18 Jan 02	*	
	6.	3	C1bT1B29	18 Aug 02	HHL	31 Jan 11	SHD	
FORT BOWIE								
	1.	5	C1e11N1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Apr 82	EBG	12 Sept 85	JOT	Star
	2.	6	C1bN1RRB26	4 Feb 86	SHD	21 Jan 87	?	Square grid
	3.	6	C1eN1B29	30 Nov 87	SHD	21 May 91	SHD	P.O.D. 3
	4.	5	C1bT1B28	22 Nov 92	FER	10 May 94	SHD	
FORT DEFIANCE								
	1.	6	C21eN1RRB28	11 July 86	FER			
	2.	6	C1bN1BBR27	28 Jan 93	NLP			
	3.	6	C1eS1B34	25 Sept 94	JOT			
	4.	6	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	? ? 96	HHL			
	5.	5	C1bN1B27	20 Aug 03	?	31 Aug 03	JOT	
	6.	4	A	5 Jan 04	SHD	25 July 04	SHD	
	7.	5	C?	24 Oct 07b	HHL	24 Aug 08b	*	
	8.	5	C	13 Oct 11	SHD			
FORT GRANT								
	1.	7-5	C1e11N1RBB28	13 Sept 79	?	1 June 82	EBG	Star in circle
	2.	5	C21eN1RRB27 $\frac{1}{2}$	7 Sept 82	?	10 Apr 83	HHL	Star in circle

## Notes:

1. Earliest listed is on piece.
2. Circle distorted.
3. Latest listed is on piece.



# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



13



14



1



2



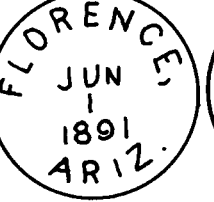
3



4



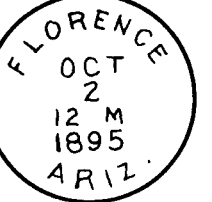
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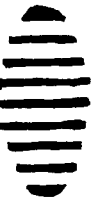
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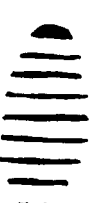
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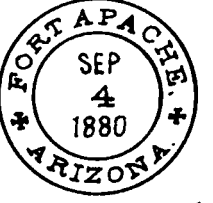
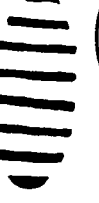
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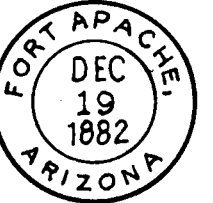
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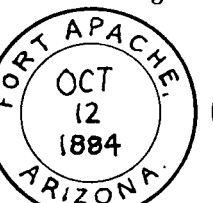
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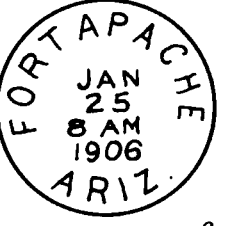
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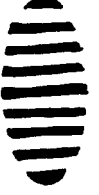
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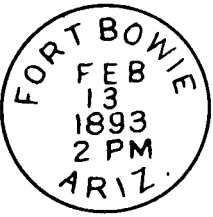
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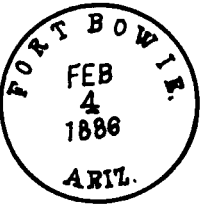
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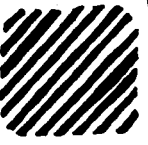
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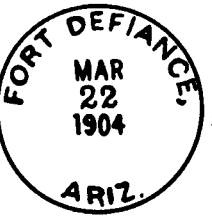
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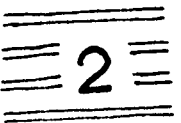
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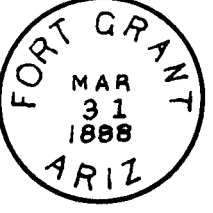
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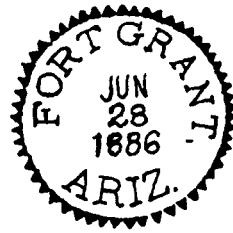
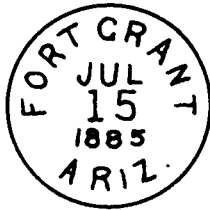
ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS

Town type	Val. No.	Postmark Code	Earliest Date	Owner	Latest Date	Owner	Killer	Notes
FORT GRANT (Cont'd.)								
	3.	5	C1bN1B26	3 Jan 83	HHL	15 July 85	SHD	Star in circle 1
	4.	5	C2bN1RRB28	5 May 86	HHL	17 July 86	HHL	Target
	5.	4	C1bS1BRB29 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 Nov 86	?	8 Aug 87	NLP	Square grid
	6.	4	C1bN1B27	31 Mar 88	?			
	7.	4	C1bS1RRB29	14 Dec 91	SHD	10 Aug 93	?	Star in star 2
	8.	5	C1bT1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 Aug 94	SHD			2
	9.	4	C1bT1B27	13 Dec 94	SHD	9 Nov 97	NLP	2
FORT HUACHUCA								
	1.	6	C41eN1B32	30 May 83	HHL			
	2.	6	C31bN1B26	24 Sept 86	?			
	3.	3	C1bS1bBB31 $\frac{1}{2}$	30 July 91p	JOT	9 June 92	?	Oval grid
	4.	5	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	23 Dec 93	*	? Oct 97	NLP	
	5.	5	C41eN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	? June 97p	HHL			
	6.	4	C1bT1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	16 Jan 00	?			
	7.	4	C1bT1B29	4 June 01	SHD	5 June 05	?	2
	8.	4	C	21 Dec 08	?	24 Oct 11	?	
FORT THOMAS								
	1.	7	C1fN1BBR29	27 Oct 82	NLP	13 Feb 84	SHD	
	2.	6-5	C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$	? Sept 87	FER	17 Sept 90	SHD	3
	3.	6	C1bN1BBR27	26 Nov 93	SHD			
	4.	6	C1bS1B29	29 Jan 95v	?			
	5.	5	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	5 Oct 96	*	8 Aug 99	?	
	6.	4	C1bN1B28 $\frac{1}{2}$	25 May 04	SHD	2 Sept 06	?	Grid
	7.	5	C?	13 July 09	HHL			
FORTUNA								
	1.	5	C1bN1b28	2 July 03	NLP			Grid
FREDONIA								
	1.	6-5	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	21 Sept 97	JOT	26 Apr 02	HHL	
	2.	5	C?	7 July 11	?			
GALEYVILLE								
	1.	7	C21cN1B29	23 May 81	NLP	16 July 81	HHL	
GANADO								
	1.	6	C1bN1BBR26 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 Mar 90	HHL	7 Oct 90	NLP	
	2.	4	A	19 Jan 05	NLP			
	3.	4	C	23 Apr 10	NLP			
GERONIMO								
	1.	5	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	18 Dec 96	HHL			
	2.	5	C1bN1B27 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 Aug 97	JOT	4 Sept 97	NLP	
GILA								
	1.	6	A	11 Sept 04	NLP			
GILA BEND								
	1.	6	C21nN1RRB28	28 Oct 82	*	29 Dec 83	HHL	Rose
	2.	5	C1cN1RRB25 $\frac{1}{2}$	27 Dec 86	HHL	27 Nov 87	*	4

Notes:

1. Seen in 1883 without star killer.
2. Earliest listed is on piece.
3. Also seen with block date.
4. Latest listed is on piece.

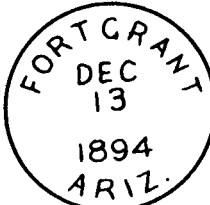
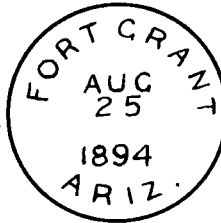
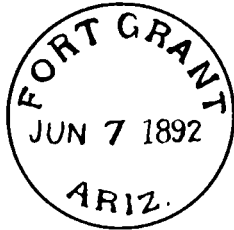
# ARIZONA TERRITORIAL POSTMARKS



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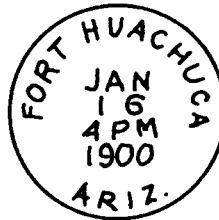
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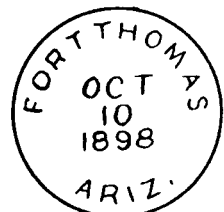
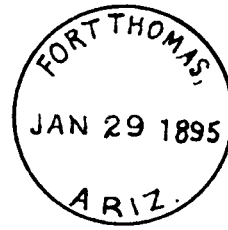
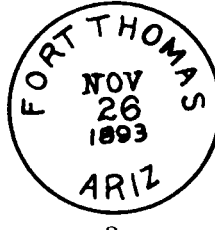
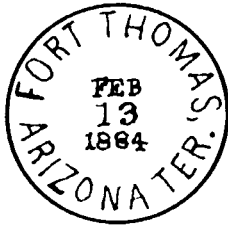


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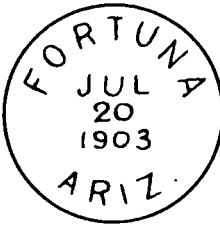
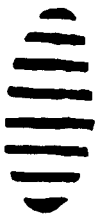
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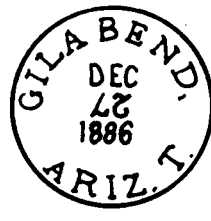
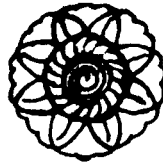
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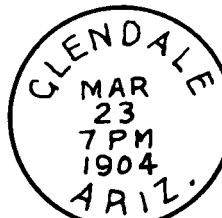
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## EDITOR'S COMMENTS

We welcome to La Posta's pages a new author in this issue. Otto C. Yag of Tucson is a noted authority on the postal history of the Southwest during the Spanish period, and his expertise is a most important addition to our collective research efforts.

La Posta recently received some non-philatelic publicity in the form of a complimentary article to Chuck Whittlesey for his work with Oregon postmarks of the 19th century. The write-up appeared in the Portland Oregonian, and it generated some interest, as well as, a couple new subscribers from the Rose City. We are looking forward to Chuck's next installment, and wish to add our congrats for your outstanding contributions.

You have undoubtedly noticed that the present volume of La Posta is flowing from the presses at a much more even rate than did our last volume. The reason for the improved schedule is very simple. Interesting and informative articles have been submitted to your editor in numbers never before encountered. Installments of the Wyoming Post Office study and the Arizona Postmark Catalog have given us the "meat and potato" menu necessary to sustain a steady flow of publication. These studies have been augmented by other fine pieces from the pens of Tom Todsén, Owen Kriege, Art Rupert, Otto Yag, and Chuck Whittlesey. The beauty of Volume 4 is that your editor has been permitted the luxury of serving primarily as an editor; not an author.

In our next issue we will feature an exceptional article by yet another new author - at least new to our pages. Robert Dalton Harris has completed a fascinating study of the Collins Overland Telegraph across the Bering Strait and its associated postal history. Amply illustrated by photos and line drawings by Susan Harris, Bob's wife, this article is sure to be received as one of the jewels of Volume 4. There is still more space available for Number 6, however. If you have been working on a postal history piece, and would like to see it appear in the pages of our last number of the current volume, please contact us in the next few weeks.

Our number of subscribers now stands at 80! That may not sound like a large number, but its more than we ever had before and I think its great. Press runs are now pegged at 120 copies per issue, and since our 21 Sustaining Subscribers receive 2 copies per issue there are not many extra copies after distribution. If subscriptions increase by 10 or more, we will increase press runs but in the mean time we will continue printing 120 copies per number. Until next time, my best regards...

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, 1635 MARIPOSA DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, NM 88001