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IN THIS ISSUE:

Page

NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF LAKE COUNTY, OREGON	
By Richard W. Helbock	2

THE 19TH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG, PART V;	
LAKE COUNTY By Charles A. Whittlesey	9

BOOKS REVIEWED

Nevada Postal History	11
Ghost Towns & Live Ones: A History of Idaho	
Postoffices 1862 - 1973	11

UMPQUA COUNTRY: A POSTAL HISTORY

By Richard W. Helbock	12
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THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART VII, CONVERSE COUNTY

By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal	17
--	----

EDITOR'S COMMENTS	20
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NINETEENTH CENTURY POST OFFICES OF LAKE COUNTY, OREGON

By Richard W. Helbock

Lake County was created October 24, 1874, from territory which was formerly under the jurisdiction of Wasco and Jackson counties. The county was so named because of the large number of lakes within its borders. Originally, Lake County included all or part of the following lakes: the Klamath lakes, Lake Albert, Summer Lake, Silver Lake, Goose Lake, and the lakes of the Warner Valley. At present Lake County has a land area of 8,270 square miles, and is Oregon's third largest in area. The county is sparsely populated, with only 6,343 inhabitants in 1970 the overall density is less than one person per square mile. People are not evenly distributed throughout Lake County however, for over two-thirds of them live in and around Lakeview, the county seat.

Only 18 post offices were established in Lake County during the 19th century. Actually one post office was created by a name change, and there is some doubt as to whether another actually operated. In any case post offices were scarce in the vast empty county.

HOT SPRINGS. Established December 11, 1871. The Hot Springs post office was established almost three years before Lake County was erected. It was originally carried on the Jackson County list. The Hot Springs office was located about 5 miles south of present-day Lakeview on the northeast shore of Goose Lake. There are a number of warm mineral springs in this area, and the name of the office was suggested by the springs.

19th Century Postmasters: William Greenman, Dec. 11, 1871; Abram Tenbrook, Dec. 5, 1872; Robert H. Dunlap, April 21, 1873; Charles Hagerhorst, May 3, 1875; Robert H. Dunlap, July 23, 1875.

Status: The name of this office was changed to Goose Lake on September 24, 1875.

DREW'S VALLEY. Established November 17, 1873. The name of this early day post office was derived from the fact that it was located in Drew's Valley on or near Drews Creek. The stream, valley, and office were named for Lieutenant-Colonel C. S. Drew, who commanded the Owhyee Reconnaissance of the First Oregon Cavalry in 1864. The Drew's Valley post office was about 19 miles west of present-day Lakeview, and a mile or so upstream from the north end of Drews Reservoir.

19th Century Postmasters: Milton P. Garrison, Nov. 17, 1873; George H. Penland, Nov. 13, 1874; Thomas N. Lofton, Apr. 10, 1876; J. B. Phelps, Sept. 28, 1877; William Tullock, July 8, 1884.

Status: The Drew's Valley post office was not in service briefly from August 10 to September 28, 1877. It was discontinued March 1, 1886, papers to Lakeview.

GOOSE LAKE. Established September 24, 1875, by change of name from Hot Springs. This name change was undoubtedly made to provide the locality with a more distinctive name. There were many Hot Springs scattered throughout the nation, but few Goose Lakes.

19th Century Postmasters: Robert H. Dunlap, Sept. 24, 1875; Abram Tenbrook, Aug. 21, 1876; Charles Hagerhurst, May 28, 1877.

Status: The Goose Lake post office was discontinued August 28, 1877.

ANTLER. Established December 9, 1875. The Antler post office, possibly so named because the first postmaster had some deer or elk horns on the premises, was located about 15 miles north of Lakeview on or near Crooked Creek. When the office was re-established in the 1890s, it was a few miles further north on Loveless Creek.

19th Century Postmasters: Bezalia S. Chandler, Dec. 9, 1875; Robert A. Paxton, Nov. 24, 1891.

Status: The Antler post office was discontinued April 28, 1879. It was re-established November 24, 1891, but again functioned only a short time. It was finally closed October 29, 1892, papers to Lakeview.

CHEWAUCAN. Established December 9, 1875. This office was named for the Chewaucan Marsh and Chewaucan River which were prominent geographical features in its vicinity. The name is derived from the Indian words tchua, meaning "wild potato", and keni, a suffix indicating place. The Chewaucan post office was located on the western edge of the marsh, about 5 miles south of present-day Paisley.

19th Century Postmasters: Thomas J. Brattain, Dec. 9, 1875; John Blair, Aug. 9, 1877; N. A. King, Nov. 13, 1886; Stephen Moss, Feb. 2, 1887.

Status: The Chewaucan post office was discontinued March 17, 1887, papers to Paisley.

SILVER LAKE. Established December 9, 1875. The Silver Lake post office was originally located very near the western shore of the lake. At one time, Silver Lake had a surface area of about 20 square miles, but it has become much smaller, and is now classed as intermittent. Silver Lake post office is currently located some 6 miles east of the lake, and on the southern edge of Paulina Marsh.

19th Century Postmasters: George C. Duncan, Dec. 9, 1875; Charles P. Marshall, July 24, 1882; John P. Roberts, Nov. 11, 1886; Uriah F. Abshier, Dec. 14, 1886; Richard S. Mansergh, June 11, 1890; Francis M. Chrisman, July 2, 1891.

Status: The Silver Lake post office was not in service from March 31, 1880, to July 24, 1882. This office is currently in operation; ZIP code - 97638.

SUMMER LAKE. Established December 9, 1875. This post office was named for nearby Summer Lake, which in turn was named by Captain John C. Fremont who discovered the 60 square mile lake in 1843. Fremont's exploring party had approached from the west, and as they looked down upon the lake shining in the sun, they were struck with the contrast between the lake and the nearby mountains. They named the lake Summer Lake and the mountains Winter Ridge. The Summer Lake post office was initially located on the west shore of the lake, east and a little south of Fremont Point. The office has been moved several times, and is now 4 or 5 miles north of the lake.

19th Century Postmasters: William H. Averill, December 9, 1875; John N. Belknap, Aug. 23, 1880; Mary D. Clayton, Aug. 11, 1884; Anna J. Bagley, March 1, 1894; Flavia McDowell, Aug. 26, 1896.

Status: The Summer Lake post office was not in service from August 17 to October 17, 1877 according to P.O.D. records. This office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97640.

WHITEHILL. Established December 9, 1875. The Whitehill post office bore a descriptive name which was applied to a nearby small mountain with a chalk-like appearance. This office was located about 10 miles west-northwest of Paisley, and near the southern end of Summer Lake.

19th Century Postmasters: William H. Miller, Dec. 9, 1875; Julia D. Hayes, Apr. 17, 1877; William T. Hill, Nov. 12, 1877; Peter Withers, June 3, 1878.

Status: The Whitehill post office was not in service briefly between October 4 and November 12, 1877. It was discontinued April 28, 1879.

LAKEVIEW. Established December 8, 1876. At the time the post office was opened Goose Lake was much larger than it is today, and Lakeview was a new community on the north shore of the lake. The name was therefore a most logical choice, and was reportedly selected by a vote of the citizenry. The Lakeview post office is currently located some 7 or 8 miles north of the Goose Lake shore.

19th Century Postmasters: Charles U. Snider, Dec. 8, 1876; Andrew McCallen, Sept. 28, 1878; Sylvester Campbell, March 14, 1879; Joseph Frankel, Sept. 14, 1880; Thomas W. Colvin, Feb. 26, 1886; William N. Sutton, Sept. 10, 1888; Maggie L. Evans, July 3, 1889; Hugh A. King, Dec. 6, 1893; Dick J. Wilcox, Jan. 8, 1898.

Status: The Lakeview office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97630.

NEW PINE CREEK. Established December 8, 1876. It was originally intended to call this office Pine Creek for the nearby stream, but Oregon already had a Pine Creek post office in Wheeler County, so New Pine Creek was selected. This post office is located on U.S. Route 395 near the east shore of Goose Lake, and just north of the Oregon-California border.

19th Century Postmasters: Solomon A. Hamersly, Dec. 8, 1876; Enoch Loper, Nov. 24, 1877; Peter W. Reas, Feb. 1, 1882; Jacob R. Hamersly, Dec. 5, 1884; Alexander E. Boyse, Sept. 16, 1885; Jacob R. Hamersly, Nov. 13, 1889.

Status: The New Pine Creek post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97635.

PAISLEY. Established May 12, 1879. This office was reportedly named for Paisley, Scotland, but it is not clear who bestowed the name. McArthur in Oregon Geographic Names suggests stories which credit both Charles Mitchell Innes and Samuel G. Steele, both natives of Scotland, with naming the community. The Paisley post office is located on the Chewaucan River about 10 miles east of the southern shore of Summer Lake.

19th Century Postmasters: Samuel G. Steele, May 12, 1879; John P. Cochran, May 20, 1880; Virgil Conn, Dec. 10, 1883; William A. Currier, Dec. 27, 1894; Virgil Conn, Nov. 23, 1898.

Status: The Paisley post office is currently operating; ZIP code 97636.

JUNIPER. Established May 24, 1880. The Juniper post office was apparently named for the juniper tree which is a familiar part of the central Oregon landscape. This short-lived office was located on the northwest shore of Goose Lake, 7 or 8 miles southwest of Lakeview in the vicinity of the present-day community of West Side.

19th Century Postmaster: Albert Jones, May 24, 1880.

Status: The Juniper post office was discontinued January 3, 1881.

PLUSH. Established July 18, 1888. This office is reported to have been named for a local and popular Piute Indian called Plush because of his inability to pronounce the word "flush" without making it sound like "plush." The Plush post office is located near Honey Creek about 2 miles west of Hart Lake.

19th Century Postmasters: David R. Jones, July 18, 1888; Newton Roberts, July 3, 1889; Orry A. Hatton, Aug. 18, 1890; Fannie Tonningson, Oct. 30, 1891; Ida Patterson, Feb. 6, 1896; Daniel Boone, Oct. 28, 1898.

Status: The Plush post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97637.

WARNER LAKE. Established August 28, 1889. The Warner Lake post office was named for a string of lakes which occupy much of the Warner Valley, and are now known as the Warner Lakes. All of these features were named for Brevet Captain William Horace Warner who was killed by Indians in 1849, just south of the Warner Valley in northern California. While the Warner Lakes are now a string of lakes, ponds, and playas, military maps of the late 19th century depicted Warner Lake, a large body of water which occupied the bulk of the valley. The Warner Lake post office was located about 8 miles southwest of present-day Adel. It was on or near Twentymile Creek.

19th Century Postmasters: Alvin N. Bennett, Aug. 28, 1889; Amos Boyd, Nov. 21, 1889; George W. Wise, Sept. 18, 1890; Eliza E. Wise, May 6, 1898.

Status: The Warner Lake post office was discontinued July 22, 1924, papers to Adel.

LONELY. Established June 11, 1891. This post office bore a name which was apparently descriptive. Very few settlers had entered the Warner Valley by the 1890s, and there can be little doubt that the area was indeed lonely. The Lonely post office was in the general vicinity of present-day Adel, on or near Deep Creek.

19th Century Postmaster: Coelia Lemberger, June 11, 1891.

Status: The Lonely post office was discontinued June 10, 1895. There is some doubt that this office ever actually functioned. McArthur raises this question in Oregon Geographic Names, and postal records listed in the Official Register contain no entries for Lonely.

ADEL. Established April 9, 1896. The Adel post office was named for a former sweetheart of Bert Sessions, a pioneer settler who owned the land upon which the office was first established. This post office is located on Deep Creek at the point where it enters the Warner Valley.

19th Century Postmasters: Erastus C. Sessions, April 9, 1896; Coelia S. Lemberger, Dec. 17, 1896.

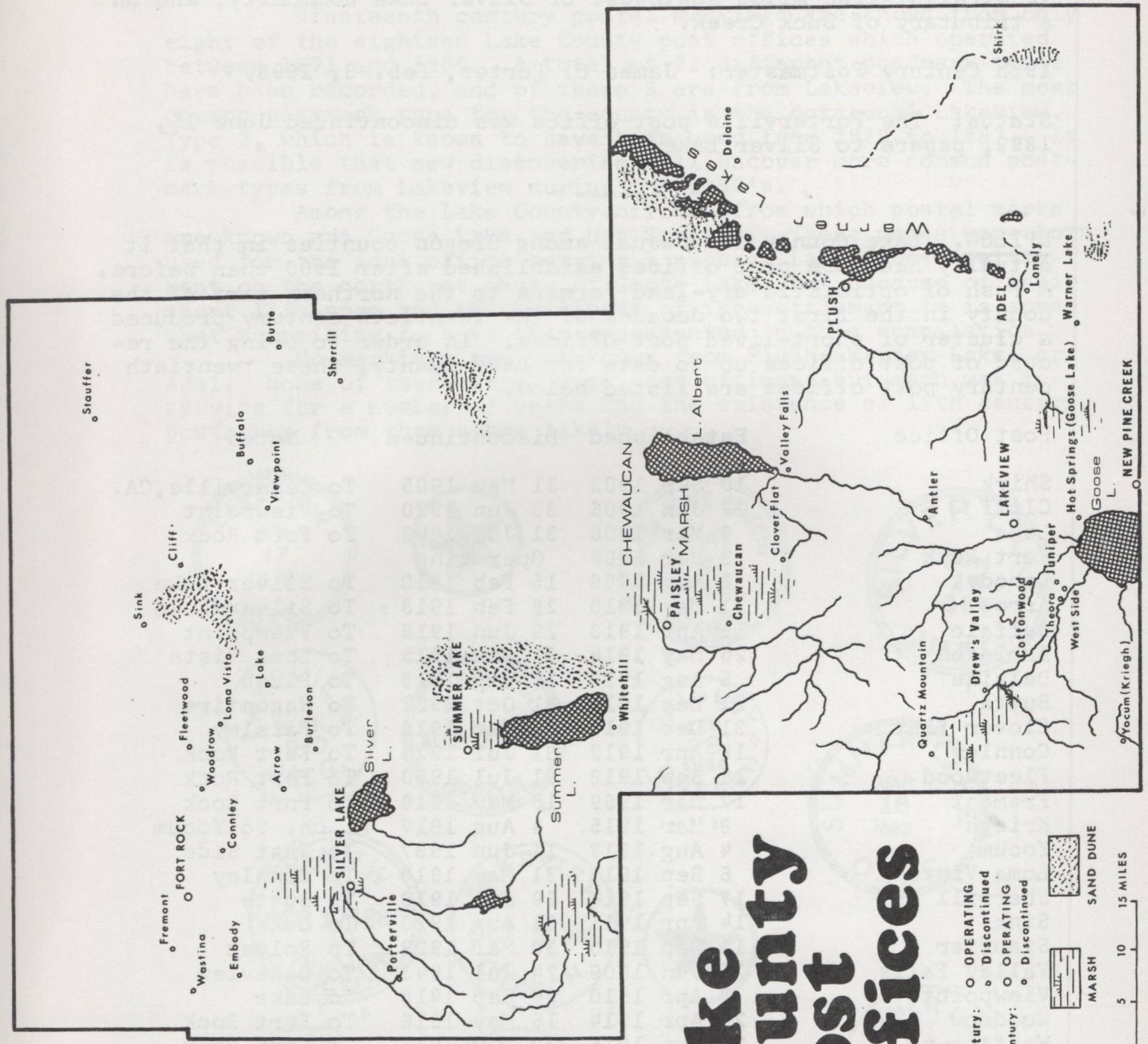
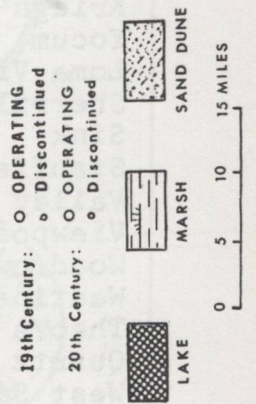
Status: The Adel post office is currently operating; ZIP code - 97620.

COTTONWOOD. Established May 1, 1897. This post office was named for nearby Cottonwood Creek. The Cottonwood post office was located about 10 miles southwest of Lakeview, and near the junction of Muddy Creek with Cottonwood Creek.

19th Century Postmaster: Rial T. Striplin, May 1, 1897.

Status: The Cottonwood post office was discontinued November 9, 1897, papers to Lakeview.

lake count post offices



PORTERVILLE. Established February 3, 1898. The Porterville post office was named for the Porter family, several members of which homesteaded this area. The short-lived office was located about 10 straight-line miles southwest of Silver Lake community, and on a tributary of Buck Creek.

19th Century Postmaster: James C. Porter, Feb. 3, 1898.

Status: The Porterville post office was discontinued June 15, 1899, papers to Silver Lake.

EPILOG. Lake County is unusual among Oregon counties in that it actually had more post offices established after 1900 than before. A rush of optimistic dry-land farmers to the northern part of the county in the first two decades of the twentieth century produced a cluster of short-lived post offices. In order to bring the record of post offices up to date for Lake County, these twentieth century post offices are listed below.

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Shirk	10 Sep 1903	31 May 1905	To Cedarville, CA.
Cliff	22 Jan 1906	30 Jun 1920	To Viewpoint
Lake	3 Mar 1906	31 Jul 1943	To Fort Rock
Fort Rock	9 Mar 1908	Operating	
Embody	3 Aug 1908	15 Feb 1910	To Silver Lake
Arrow	21 May 1910	28 Feb 1918	To Silver Lake
Buffalo	11 Apr 1913	29 Jun 1918	To Viewpoint
Burleson	25 May 1914	31 Jan 1915	To Loma Vista
Delaine	5 Aug 1912	15 Aug 1913	To Plush
Butte	21 Dec 1911	31 Oct 1922	To Wagontire
Clover Flat	31 Dec 1914	15 Mar 1918	To Paisley
Connley	18 Apr 1912	31 Jul 1920	To Fort Rock
Fleetwood	25 Sep 1913	31 Jul 1920	To Fort Rock
Fremont	17 Mar 1909	15 May 1919	To Fort Rock
Kriegh	8 Mar 1915	4 Aug 1917	N. ch. to Yocum
Yocum	4 Aug 1917	11 Jun 1937	To West Side
Loma Vista	6 Sep 1913	31 May 1918	To Connley
Sherrill	17 Sep 1914	29 Jun 1918	To Butte
Sink	14 Apr 1911	31 Aug 1920	To Lake
Stauffer	13 Sep 1913	30 Mar 1929	Tp Rolyat
Valley Falls	25 Jun 1909	24 Jul 1943	To Lakeview
Viewpoint	9 Apr 1910	30 Sep 1918	To Lake
Woodrow	24 Apr 1914	15 May 1916	To Fort Rock
Wastina	22 Sep 1915	30 May 1925	To Fort Rock
Theora	4 Dec 1916	15 Mar 1918	To Lakeview
Quartz Mountain	24 Nov 1930	31 Aug 1943	To Lakeview
West Side	25 Jun 1923	31 Jul 1942	To Lakeview

Christmas Valley Rural Branch of Silver Lake Est. 1 Jan 1963

THE 19TH CENTURY OREGON POSTMARK CATALOG, PART V: LAKE COUNTY

By Charles A. Whittlesey

Nineteenth century postal markings are known from only eight of the eighteen Lake County post offices which operated between 1871 and 1900. A total of 22 different postmark types have been recorded, and of these 8 are from Lakeview. The most common postmark type for the county is the octagonal Lakeview, Type 3, which is known to have been used from 1880 to 1887. It is possible that new discoveries will uncover more common postmark types from Lakeview during the 1890's.

Among the Lake County offices from which postal marks are known are Goose Lake and Hot Springs. These names were both used for the post office serving a pioneer Lake County settlement on the northeast shore of Goose Lake, but because of their short life-span and the smallness of the settlement it is somewhat surprising to have them represented in this compilation.

No markings are yet known from Plush, Warner Lake, or Adel. None of these were large post offices, but each was in service for a number of years and the existence of 19th century postmarks from them seems likely.



1



1



2



2



4



1



2



5



7



3



6



2



4

TOWN	TYPE	VAL		EARLIEST	LATEST	INTEGRAL	
NO.	NO.	POSTMARK	CODE	DATE	DATE	KILLER	NOTES
CHEWAUCAN (1875 - 1887)							
1.	6	M		10Feb76	24Jan78		
GOOSE LAKE (1875 - 1877)							
1.	8	M		30May76			
HOT SPRINGS (1871 - 1875)							
1.	8	M		9Nov73			
LAKEVIEW (1876 - date)							
1.	6	C21EN1B27		17Jan78r		Star/Circle	ill.
2.	4	C21EA1BBR26		20Mar80			ill.
3.	3	OC1EN1BBR24		10Aug80	28Feb87		ill.
4.	4	C21JS1B27.5		7Jun87	7Aug87	Bar Grid	ill.
5.	4	C21JS1B29.5		17Feb87	21Nov88	Target	ill.
6.	4	C1EN1BBR27.5		8Feb89	7Apr89		ill.
7.	4	C1JS1RRB29		9Oct89p		Star/Circle	ill.
8.	4	C1JN1B27.5		20May95	18Sep95		
NEW PINE CREEK (1876 - date)							
1.	6	C21JN1B30		30May83			ill.
PAISLEY (1879 - date)							
1.	5	C1J16N1BBR22		28Sep82p		Grid of Sq.	ill.
2.	5	C1JN1B23		24Dec83p		Grid of Sq.	ill.
3.	4	C1EN1B27.5		3Nov98		Target	
SILVER LAKE (1875 - date)							
1.	8-6	M		24Jun77	22Mar85		
2.	6	C21EN1B32.5		29Jun84b		Grid of Sq.	ill.
3.	4	C1?N1B27		?Mar99			
SUMMER LAKE (1875 - date)							
1.	7	M		17Mar77			
2.	4	C21EN1RRB32.5		16Mar82b	27Dec87	Bar Grid	ill.
3.	5	C1EN1BBR27.5		14May89			
4.	4	C1JN1BBR27.5		8Dec97			ill.

A NOTE ON VALUE NUMBERS: The numbers express relative value, not necessarily market value. These are based on the same procedure developed by Dr. Dike in his New Mexico & Arizona Territorial catalogs. Here is the scale:

VAL NO.	\$ Value	VAL NO.	\$ Value
1	less than 2	5	20-40
2	2-5	6	40-80
3	5-10	7	80-150
4	10-20	8	150-300
		9	greater than 300

BOOKS REVIEWED

In a continuing effort to call attention to new and recent items of postal history literature, La Posta herewith presents capsule reviews of some recent additions.

Nevada Postal History by Robert P. Harris. Bonanza Press, 3350 El Camino Real, Santa Clara, CA 95051. Cloth bound, 8.5x5.5 inches, 64 pages + 17.5x24 inch map. Price \$8.50 postpaid.

Bob Harris, an ardent collector of Nevada postal items and a long time La Posta subscriber, has produced a top-notch reference book. The core of the book is a compilation of openings and closings of all Nevada post offices since the first which opened at Carson Valley (now Genoa) December 10, 1852. In addition to the dates of operation, Bob has used to value system to assist collectors in evaluating the scarcity of discontinued post office markings. One of the unique features of Nevada Postal History is the locator map. All but 4 or 5 of the approximately 730 Nevada offices has been located on the large folded map which accompanies the book. The alphabetical list of offices is keyed to the map to facilitate location of the postal facilities. Bob's study also includes a section devoted to Nevada R.P.O. routes, and 43 routes are listed. All in all, Nevada Postal History is a dandy little reference, and well worth its price.

Ghost Towns and Live Ones: A History of Idaho Postoffices 1862-1973 by Frank R. Schell. Frank R. Schell, Coordinator of Curriculum Development, Area Vocational School, College of Southern Idaho, Twin Falls, Idaho. Paper bound, 8.5x11 inches, 109 pages. Price \$7.00 postpaid.

There is much that is useful in this book, but there is also much that is confusing and superfluous. The core is a 48 page alphabetical listing of Idaho post offices with date of establishment, first postmaster, original county, and remarks including dates of discontinuance, name change, and so forth. Unfortunately, only the year dates are given in all cases. Months and days have been ignored. In addition, the listing is run together in a confusing manner so that the information concerning a given office appears as a jumble of names and numbers. Other sections of Mr. Schell's book include a 17 page county by county reproduction of the 1890 Postal Route Map. The reproductions are of marginal quality, and since the original maps were printed in color, much is lost. There is a section featuring 18 pages of Idaho outline maps upon which the location of post offices has been plotted. This is a unique approach for the maps cover different time periods, and their study reveals the diffusion of post offices in Idaho through time. Two other sections list Idaho post offices by county, and Idaho post office name changes. It is obvious from a close examination of Mr. Schell's book that he commands a great deal of knowledge about Idaho postal history, but it is equally obvious that he is largely unaware of the format and content of state postal history listings.

UMPQUA COUNTRY: A POSTAL HISTORY (Continued)

By Richard W. Helbock

Pioneer Settlements at the Mouth of the Umpqua. The Umpqua Land Company members recognized the potential of townsite development at the mouth of the Umpqua, and in August 1850 surveyed two sites which they named East Umpqua and West Umpqua. As described above, the Umpqua Land Company was thwarted in their commercial venture by the Donation Land Act of September 1850. Shortly after the passage of this act homesteaders began claiming acreage near the mouth of the Umpqua. Amos E. Rogers took a claim of 320 acres, the maximum amount for a single man, which encompassed all of the East Umpqua townsite. Nathan Schofield and his wife claimed 640 acres, which included all of West Umpqua and bordered the river for a distance of three miles.

Town building at the mouth of the Umpqua began through the efforts of Samuel S. Mann and Henry J. Paine, both members of the Klamath Exploring Expedition. Paine and Mann formed a real estate firm and began promoting Umpqua City. The first buildings erected in Umpqua City were pre-fabricated zinc houses made in Boston, and brought to the site by the Umpqua Land Company's chartered brig Kate Heath. A contemporary visitor described the infant community in February 1851 as:

"...quite a little village composed entirely of galvanized houses. ... there were at least 300 men there at that time, but not a white woman in probably fifty miles. They were all seafaring men and men cutting timber for piles." (1)

On September 26, 1851, a post office was authorized for Umpqua City. Amos E. Rogers was appointed the first postmaster, but he apparently never held the position for he moved to Empire City to operate a coal mine with Patrick Flanagan shortly thereafter. On February 24, 1852, Samuel S. Mann was appointed the Umpqua City postmaster.

Paine and Mann had little success in their efforts to promote Umpqua City as the commercial center of the Umpqua. Scottsburg, benefited by its natural site advantages at the head of navigation, proved too much competition. As Scottsburg's prosperity boomed during the exciting years of 1851, 1852, and 1853, Umpqua City languished. Concern seemed to be centered on getting ships past Umpqua City rather than unloading there. In 1853 a pilotage was created for the mouth of the Umpqua, and Samuel Mann was appointed wreck master for Umpqua and Jackson counties. In 1855 construction of a lighthouse was begun at the mouth of the river. It had been authorized by the United States Congress in 1851, but given the problems and delays of the time it would be 1857 before the

light was finally completed.

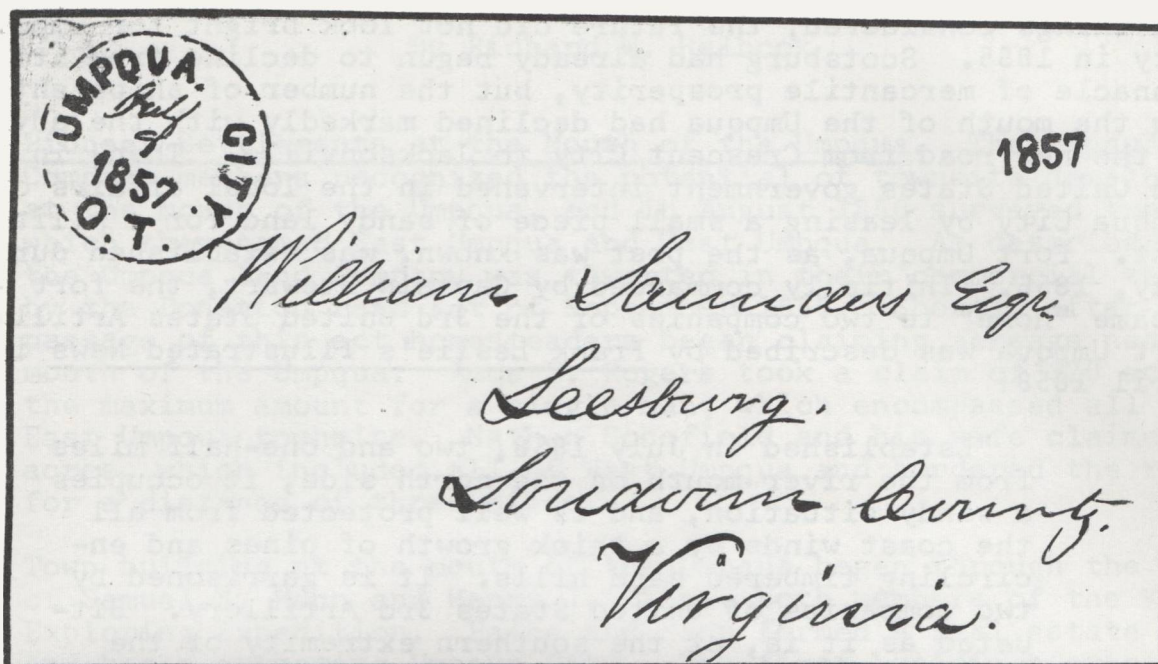
All things considered, the future did not look bright for Umpqua City in 1855. Scotsburg had already begun to decline from its pinnacle of mercantile prosperity, but the number of ships entering the mouth of the Umpqua had declined markedly with the advent of the new road from Crescent City to Jacksonville. Then, in 1856 the United States government intervened in the local affairs of Umpqua City by leasing a small piece of sandy land for a military post. Fort Umpqua, as the post was known, was established during July, 1856. Initially commanded by Captain Stewart, the fort soon became "home" to two companies of the 3rd United States Artillery. Fort Umpqua was described by Frank Leslie's Illustrated News in April 1858:

"Established in July 1858, two and one-half miles from the river mouth on the north side, it occupies a sandy situation, and is well protected from all the coast winds by a thick growth of pines and encircling timbered sand hills. It is garrisoned by two companies of United States 3rd Artillery. Situated as it is, at the southern extremity of the great coast reservation, and at the junction of the north and south trails with the river, its position is regarded strong and important as a barrier between the Indians on the reservation and the settlements south and east of it. Practically, the post is situated on an island, for all the communications with it from the lines of travel and the post routes must be made by water. Facilities for communication with the interior and San Francisco are quite abundant. Two small steamers ply between Scotsburg and the river's mouth. Ocean steamers and sailing craft direct to and from San Francisco." (2)

Fort Umpqua was never a large and important military post, and the soldiers garrisoned there never engaged in combat with the Indians, but as long as the post was occupied Umpqua City was assured its continued existence. The receipts of the Umpqua City post office reflect the importance of the fort:

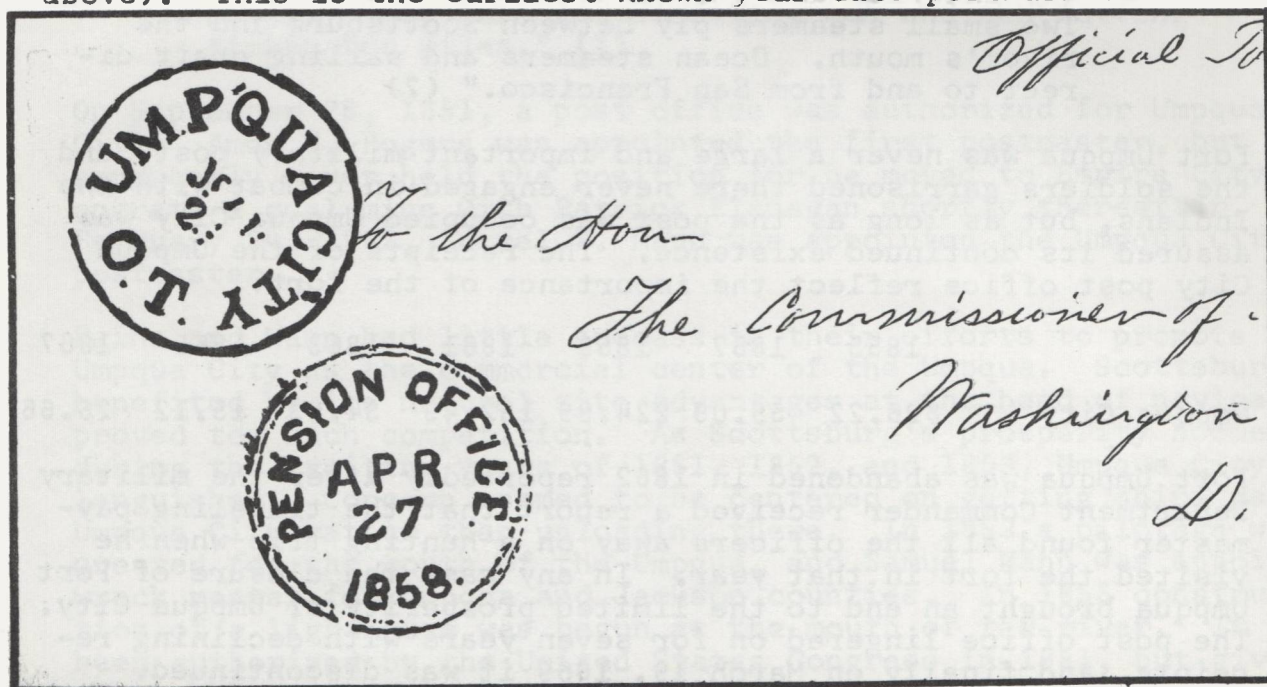
	1855	1857	1859	1861	1863	1865	1867
Umpqua City	\$36.22	59.09	224.99	132.49	34.03	15.12	26.66

Fort Umpqua was abandoned in 1862 reportedly after the military Department Commander received a report that the traveling paymaster found all the officers away on a hunting trip when he visited the fort in that year. In any case the closure of Fort Umpqua brought an end to the limited prosperity of Umpqua City. The post office lingered on for seven years with declining receipts, and finally on March 19, 1869 it was discontinued.



A cover mailed from Umpqua City July 8, 1857, to Leesburg, Virginia. The 10¢ green of 1851 was cancelled with a year date "1857."

Four types of postal markings have been reported in use at the Umpqua City post office. The earliest is a manuscript. The second type is a postmark featuring an 1857 year date (shown above). This is the earliest known year date postmark to have



A cover mailed from Umpqua City early in 1858 to the Pension Office in Washington, D.C. Franked with a 10¢ green of 1851.

been used by post offices in Oregon Territory. Recorded examples date from July 1 and July 8, 1857.

The third Umpqua City postmark type probably came into use early in 1858. It is a large, 37 mm., hand-carved single circle postmark reading "UMPQUA CITY/O.T." (second illustration). There is no year date, but known examples range from early 1858 to March 1859. Sometime after March 1859 the "T." was removed from the postmark die, and the same device was used during statehood to account for the fourth Umpqua City postmark type. Only one example of this fourth postmark type has been reported. It is dated Sept. 10, and the year is unknown.

During the fall and winter of 1850, as Umpqua City and Scottsburg were struggling to put down roots, a third community came into being on the lower Umpqua. This community was not planned and developed by the Umpqua Land Company. Early in 1850 an enterprising Boston merchant named Gardiner dispatched a schooner appropriately named the Bostonian for the Oregon coast with a cargo of merchandise. The merchant was secure in the knowledge that the ship was commanded by his nephew, Captain George L. Snelling. On October 1, 1850, while attempting to cross the bar into the Umpqua, the Bostonian floundered and sank. Fortunately no lives were lost, and Captain Snelling with his crew of nine were able to salvage most of the ship's cargo.

The crew of the Bostonian, presumably still led by Captain George Snelling, packed the cargo upstream to a point on the north bank about nine miles above the mouth. There they established camp, and named their camp Gardiner in honor of the merchant who had financed the voyage.

Gardiner benefited from the influx of settlers which came in 1851 to the Umpqua Valley. Land claims were filed in and around the camp, and the impromptu community began to share in the growth of the region. A post office was applied for, and on June 30, 1851, Captain George L. Snelling was appointed the first Gardiners City postmaster. The history of Gardiners City subsequent to its establishment differs from both Scottsburg and Umpqua City. Unlike Scottsburg, Gardiners City experienced little growth, but unlike Umpqua City, Gardiners City managed to survive as a viable community.

In reality, the initial thrust of town development at Gardiner was unsuccessful. Postal receipts for the decade of the 1850's reflect the absence of important activity:

	1851	1853	1855	1857	1859
Gardiner(s) City	--	\$6.48	13.54	31.43	--

On December 29, 1857, postal records indicate that the office was discontinued. It was re-established August 19, 1858, but

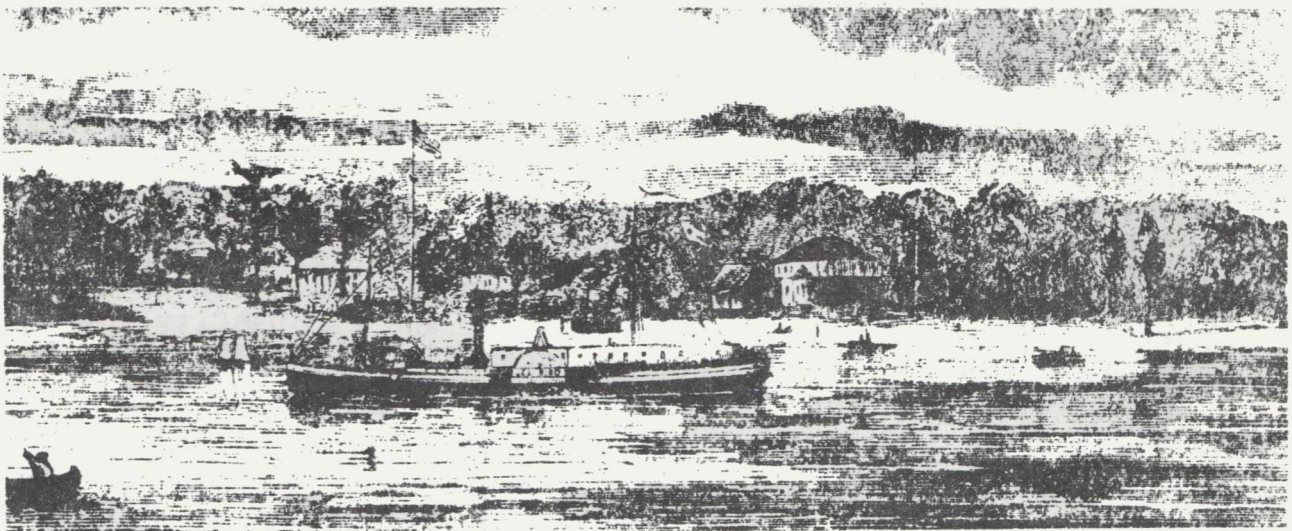
once again discontinued on December 31, 1858. The depression which had set in at Scottsburg and Umpqua City in the late 1850's had obviously effected Gardiners City as well. On February 21, 1857, James T. Cooper, who had filed one of the first claims in the Gardiner area and who served as the last Gardiners City postmaster, sold his 320 acres to Addison C. Gibbs for \$100. It must have looked as though Gardiners City was on its last legs. Oddly, this sale of the original Gardiner site to Gibbs was to figure indirectly in the re-birth of the town some half a decade later, but we shall examine that story in its proper historical context below.

Only one type of postal marking has been reported for Gardiners City. Edward R. Payne, in his Oregon Historical Quarterly listing reported a manuscript marking from Gardiner(s) City. The date is not known. It is entirely possible that the office never used a handstamp. Many short-lived post offices with low volumes of business used manuscript cancellations exclusively.

Footnotes: (1) Minter, Harold A., Umpqua Valley, Oregon and Its Pioneers. (Portland, Binfords & Mort, 1967), p.67.

(2) Frank Leslie's Illustrated News, April 24, 1858.

[To Be Continued]



A sketch of Fort Umpqua as seen from the Umpqua River. The hills behind the fort are sand dunes, and the Pacific lies beyond. From Frank Leslie's Illustrated Newspaper, April 24, 1858.

THE POST OFFICES OF WYOMING: PART VII, CONVERSE COUNTY

By Daniel Y. Meschter and Ruth Dolezal

The erection of Converse County on March 9, 1888 continued the partition of Albany and Laramie counties after their northern ends previously had been set off as Crook County in 1875 (La Posta, V.4,N.5,p.10). The new county was named for A. R. Converse, an influential Cheyenne banker and former business partner of Francis E. Warren who dominated Wyoming politics for more than 40 years.

The original Converse County was reduced in 1913 by the separation of Niobrara County (La Posta, V.4,N.6,p.10). It was enlarged slightly in 1955 by the addition of a part of Albany County in the drainage of LaBonte Creek where it flows northerly out of the mountains along the Converse-Albany county line. This was the last major adjustment of Wyoming county boundaries. Only the Esterbrook and the former Springhill post offices were affected by this change.

Except for the Laramie Mountains along its southern edge, Converse County is much like neighboring Campbell and Niobrara counties with broad treeless prairies and few notable geographic features. Like its neighbors, it is rich in cattle and coal and has produced uranium and oil as well. The Dave Johnson power plant east of Glenrock is the county's single most important industry.

The history of Converse County is enriched by the North Platte River which crosses it from west to east. The river provided an early route for explorers and traders, and it became the route of the Oregon and Immigrant trails at the end of the fur era. The Pony Express used the Oregon Trail road as did the first transcontinental telegraph line. The Bozeman Trail, opened in 1863, left the river near the site of Fort Fetterman and then angled northwesterly across the prairie toward the Montana gold mines. Fort Fetterman was established near the Oregon Trail at the mouth of LaPrele Creek chiefly to anchor the south end of the Bozeman Trail and to serve as a base of operations during the Indian Wars of the following decade.

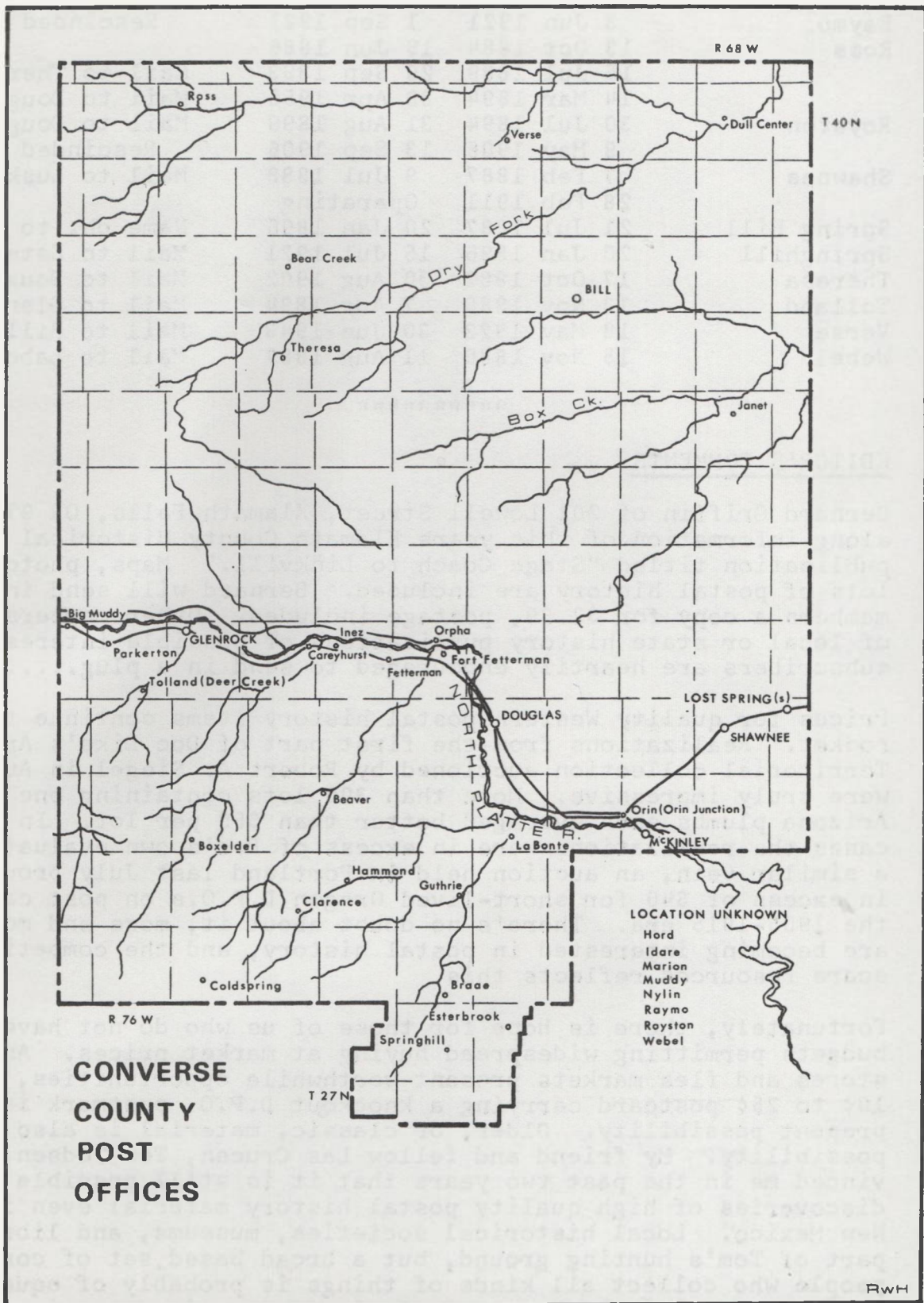
In 1887 the Chicago Northwestern Railroad extended its line from Lusk in Niobrara County to the North Platte Valley near Douglas and on west through Glenrock toward Casper. In 1914 the Burlington connected its lines in the Big Horn Basin far to the northwest with its Colorado Southern Railroad subsidiary (formerly the Cheyenne Northern) at Orin Junction by way of the North Platte River route.

The post offices of Converse County can be categorized as rural offices along the routes of the old Oregon and Bozeman trails such as LaBonte, Theresa, and Ross; widely scattered ranch post offices; and towns or sidings along the railroads, which, except for Douglas and Glenrock, served primarily as cattle loading points.

The total list of 45 post office names for Converse County includes 3 which were rescinded by the Post Office Department and never actually operated, and 5 name changes. The maximum number of offices in operation at any one time was 20 in the 1926-1930 period.

WYOMING POST OFFICES
CONVERSE COUNTY

Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Bear Creek	17 Nov 1921	28 Feb 1943	Mail to Douglas
Beaver	7 Feb 1887	27 Feb 1909	Mail to Douglas
Big Muddy	21 May 1902	31 Jul 1916	Mail to Glenrock
Bill	12 Sep 1919	Operating	
Box Elder	1 Jun 1888	27 Aug 1894	Name ch. to Boxelder
Boxelder	27 Aug 1894	30 Jun 1943	Mail to Glenrock
Braae	4 Feb 1926	30 Sep 1939	Mail to Douglas
Careyhurst	2 Dec 1896	15 Aug 1945	Mail to Glenrock
Clarence	25 Feb 1905	15 Feb 1908	Mail to Beaver
Coldspring	25 Mar 1907	22 Mar 1910	Moved to Albany Co.
Deer Creek	7 Aug 1879	13 Nov 1886	Name ch. to Tolland
Douglas	28 Jun 1886	Operating	
Dull Center	25 Mar 1921	15 Mar 1954	Mail to Bill
Esterbrook	1 Oct 1904	29 Nov 1957	Mail to Douglas
Fetterman	19 May 1896	27 Nov 1897	Mail to Douglas
Fort Fetterman	28 Jan 1873	26 Nov 1873	
	22 Mar 1875	24 Sep 1879	
	14 Oct 1879	14 Jan 1889	Mail to Douglas
	24 Jun 1889	5 Mar 1894	Mail to Douglas
Glenrock	25 Jan 1887	Operating	
Guthrie	23 Feb 1895	15 Oct 1902	Mail to Douglas
Hord	20 Oct 1892	22 Jun 1895	
Idare	19 Mar 1921	Not Known	Probably Never Operated
Inez	16 Oct 1888	31 Jul 1913	Mail to Careyhurst
Janet	26 Oct 1912	15 Jul 1916	Mail to Douglas
	27 Apr 1920	28 Feb 1930	Mail to Douglas
LaBonte	11 Feb 1878	26 Jan 1881	
	4 May 1881	2 Mar 1883	Mail to Fort Fetterman
Labonte	17 Jun 1884	31 Jan 1930	Mail to Douglas
Lost Spring	4 Feb 1896	31 Jul 1899	Mail to Orin
	31 Aug 1901	30 Apr 1902	Mail to Manville
	18 Oct 1906	1 Jan 1951	Name ch. to Lost Springs
Lost Springs	1 Jan 1951	Operating	
Marion	20 Apr 1897	1 Dec 1897	Never in Operation
McKinley	23 Apr 1908	30 Nov 1970	Mail to Douglas
Muddy	24 Feb 1898	30 Dec 1899	Mail to Glenrock
Nylin	17 Jun 1889	12 Jul 1895	Mail to Orin
Orin	18 Apr 1895	6 Aug 1962	To Douglas Rural Br.
Orin Junction	27 Feb 1891	18 Apr 1895	Name ch. to Orin
Orpha	26 Nov 1918	7 May 1965	Mail to Douglas
Parkerton	26 Jan 1918	31 Mar 1954	Mail to Glenrock




Post Office	Established	Discontinued	Notes
Raymo	3 Jun 1921	1 Sep 1921	Rescinded
Ross	13 Oct 1884	19 Jun 1886	
	15 Jul 1889	20 Sep 1893	Mail to Theresa
	14 Mar 1894	30 Apr 1955	Mail to Douglas
Royston	30 Jul 1894	31 Aug 1899	Mail to Douglas
	9 May 1906	13 Sep 1906	Rescinded
Shawnee	7 Feb 1887	9 Jul 1888	Mail to Lusk
	28 Feb 1911	Operating	
Spring Hill	21 Jul 1887	20 Jan 1896	Name ch. to Springhill
Springhill	20 Jan 1896	15 Jul 1921	Mail to Esterbrook
Theresa	17 Oct 1882	30 Aug 1902	Mail to Douglas
Tolland	13 Nov 1886	7 Aug 1894	Mail to Glenrock
Verse	18 May 1922	30 Jun 1943	Mail to Bill
Webel	15 Nov 1886	11 Aug 1887	Mail to Labonte

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Bernard Griffin of 201 Lowell Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97601 sends along information of this years Klamath County Historical Society publication titled "Stage Coach to Linkvill." Maps, photos, and lots of postal history are included. Bernard will send interested members a copy for \$2.39, postage included. Other members aware of local or state history publications of possible interest to our subscribers are heartily encouraged to send in a plug.....

Prices for quality Western postal history items continue to skyrocket. Realizations from the first part of Doc Dike's Arizona Territorial collection auctioned by Robert A. Siegel in August were truly impressive. More than 300 lots containing one or more Arizona plumbs each averaged better than \$50 per lot. In most cases the realizations were in excess of Doc's own evaluations. In a similar vein, an auction held in Portland last July brought bids in excess of \$40 for short-lived Oregon D.P.O.s on post cards from the 1905-1915 era. There's no doubt about it, more and more people are becoming interested in postal history, and the competition for scarce resources reflects this.

Fortunately, there is hope for those of us who do not have generous budgets permitting widespread buying at market prices. Antique stores and flea markets present worthwhile opportunities, and the 10¢ to 25¢ postcard carrying a knockout D.P.O. postmark is an ever present possibility. Older, or classic, material is also still a possibility. My friend and fellow Las Cruces, Tom Todsen, has convinced me in the past two years that it is still possible to make discoveries of high quality postal history material even in southern New Mexico. Local historical societies, museums, and libraries form part of Tom's hunting ground, but a broad based set of contacts with people who collect all kinds of things is probably of equal importance. The critical element in Tom's success is determined seeking! 

RICHARD W. HELBOCK, 1635 MARIPOSA DRIVE, LAS CRUCES, NEW MEXICO 88001

